

The HOOPEE BIRD

Wednesday, May 27, 2015



THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

WWW.EGA.EDU

Volume 40, Number 5

131 College Circle, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401

Price: FREE

Record Number Graduate from EGSC



Spring Commencement Ceremonies at East Georgia State College were held on Friday, May 8, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the EGSC Gymnasium of the Physical Education Center. One hundred sixteen students received their associate degree and two received their Bachelor's Degree in Biology. This marks the largest graduating class in the history of EGSC.

Dr. Robert G. Boehmer, president of East Georgia State College, presided over the ceremony. Dr. Tim Goodman presented the candidates for graduation. The commencement speaker was Senator Jack Hill, Georgia Senate District 4. The alumni speaker was Kristin Cannady Hall, Emanuel County Clerk of Court and 2007 EGSC Graduate. The student speaker was Allison Durden, current Miss EGSC. Mr. Gilbert Westberry, Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Swainsboro and part time EGSC music instructor, provided the invocation and led the Alma Mater. Malaikia Brantley, one of the evening's graduates, performed "God Bless America." Mrs. Susan Westberry was the pianist. A memorial candle signified the remembrance of those in the EGSC family who are close in our hearts yet no longer with us.

Senator Hill provided words of inspiration to the students, encouraging them to commit and engage in their communities. He recounted many milestones in the history of EGSC and told the students to be proud of their connection to the college and take seriously the opportunity they had ahead of them. Senator Hill and Senator Jesse Stone, along with Representative Butch Parrish, the speaker at Fall Commencement, have been a crucial part of the past and present at EGSC. According to President Boehmer, "We consider our legislative delegation to be one of the best in the capitol. Without their constant support and action, we would not be breaking ground on new residential housing and anticipating our academic building expansion. They clearly see the vision of opportunity that EGSC brings to the region."

The following EGSC students earned the Associate of Arts Degree:

Ashley N. Adams	Dustin B. Coursey	Tierney Haythe
Alexander Kelley Alley IV	Keyatta Michelle Crittenden	Kimberly B. Heath
Areli P. Alvares	Sean Cuyler	Whitney Sloan Heath
Mariela Alvarez	Cashmere B. Davis	Ann Marie Hendley
Taylor Faith Babb	LaJanae Davis	Kaitlynn Ann Hester
Brenda Louise Bacon	Devin D. Dekle	Lonza L. Hightower
Edgar Owen Battiste Jr.	Kelly Bernard Doyle	Cyairra Hill
Ashley Batton	Justin T. Dukes	Tabitha Hopkins
Brittany S. Bell	Preshonda Janay Dupree	Archie Howell III
Melina Bell	Kayla Jina Easley	John Humphrey
Victoria K. Braddy	Joel D. Elder	Anna R. Hutcheson
Deondria Brantley	Whitney Carter Farrow	Christi L. Hutchings
Ma'Laikia De'Shawn Brantley	Stephen Ferntheil	Anna Jackson
Joseph Brown	Jennifer Alicia Fields	Hayley Jackson
Jasmine Lakin Brundidge	Marquita Freeman	Victoria A. Jackson
Dallas Bryson	Lucas Frink	Jerusha James
Khayla Kenesha Bynes	James Tyler Good	Laura Kathryn Johnson
Albert Callwood	Shanna Green	Tondric Johnson
Kathy E. Carpenter	Charles William Gutzmer	Kristin Jolin
Tylicia Cheeks	Jenna Hardee	Brittany Joy
Justin Conway-Staley	Kimberly Haskins	Arkedus "Kedo" Kelly
Travis Copeland	Michael J. Hatzisavvas	Daniel Luke Kennedy

Melissa Kirby	Adam K. Patrick
Alan Watson Lark	Vianey Perez
Valerie Leland	Kaleb Perry
Keamoney Locke	Morgan Pickett
Richard Lovelady	Loran Coley Pope
Anthony Lovett	Whitney D. Pope
Witalij Martynow	Travelle Primus
K.C. McAdoo	Blake Pulliam
Jessica Morgan McCord	Jasmine Reese
Jaleesa McCray	Shantea Denita Reeves
Lindsay Nicole McElroy	Danielle Rheaume
Noah M. McGowan	Rontavis DeSean Rich
Emily Margaret Mizell	Ivy James Roberson
Sha'Quana Myers	Timothy Roszell
Hayden T. Neese	Ronnie Dylan Royal
Nicollette M. Newton	Summerjoy S. S. Scott
Sabrina Paige Ogletree	Ethan Sewell
Bianca Jalisa O'Neal	Shakira Simmons
Janique T. Owens	Ashley Charnae Smith
Joseph Oxenreider	Jaynelle Smith
Amanda M. Parker	Kerry Snyder
Megan Mimbs Parrish	Chandler Richard Starling

Barri K. Stevens
Cenitra Stevenson
Kelly Lynn Sutherland
Ashleigh Lynn Sutton
Amanda R. Tanner
Sophia K. Tarver
Ronny Daniel Tiner II
Crystal Jenee Tisby
Megan Toole
De'Angela C. Veal
David Austin Wade
Rebecca Hudson Warren
Garrett Dennis Waters
Tommy Way
Kayla Marie Waycaster
Mark David Wilkerson
Andrew Jordan Williams
Tara Egan Williams
Jeremy Wohlgenuth
Angela J. Wolff
Shanae Cierra Youmans

EGSC students earning the Bachelor of Science Degree were Joshua B. Herndon and Spencer W. Salter. Rebekah Crews was the student marshal for the ceremony. The ushers were William Rudy Kaht, IV, A'Mad Meshach Ogletree, Brooke Ashley Nusall, Kelli Lane Kirby, Sarah Beth Cates, Ashley Maria Francis, Caitlan Elizabeth Coleman, Keshon Jenise Hinkins, Gabrielle Presley Hudson, Arielle Rhea-Lynn Griffin, Jonpaul Bruner and Amriah Nicole Riley. Ushers serving at the ceremony are East Georgia State College Ambassadors who are committed to promoting pride in the college and interest in the various programs available to students at East Georgia State College.

Following the commencement, celebratory balloons were released honoring the graduates as they recessed through a corridor of faculty and staff. Student Life then hosted a reception honoring the graduates and their families.

In Memory of Caitlyn Baggett

Last month, a tragic accident took the lives of five Georgia Southern University Nursing students. Caitlyn Baggett, one of the casualties, was also a recent alum of East Georgia State College, and we are deeply saddened by the loss of such a kind, compassionate, and promising young woman. Caitlyn attended high school at Emanuel County Institute in Twin City, only about 12 miles from East Georgia State College in Swainsboro. She graduated cum laude from EGSC in December 2014 with an Associate's Degree in Nursing and had transferred to Georgia Southern's highly competitive nursing program.

Even in such a brief span of time, Caitlyn left a lasting impression on those she left behind. East Georgia State College joins together in extending our thoughts, prayers and willingness to help in any way possible the families, friends, and classmates of these five young women and the two other students accompanying them who were injured. We wish them a full recovery as they deal with the aftermath of this tragedy. Flags on campus were flown at half-staff in memory of the students. Moments of silence and reflection were held at the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Induction on April 23. During commencement on May 8, Caitlyn and others were remembered with a memorial candle.



Phi Theta Kappa welcomes new members

By The Hoopee Bird Staff



On April 23, the Beta Iota Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa inducted the honor society's newest members from each of the three campuses of East Georgia State College. Family and friends gathered in the EGSC Library on a Thursday evening as students pledged to uphold the standards of the honor society of two-year colleges.

Faculty Advisor Jessica Palumbo welcomed students and guests, explaining the mission of Phi Theta Kappa and the many opportunities for service, scholarship and development that are available to members. She and Chapter President Lucas Frink then inducted the new members, who lit candles to signify the knowledge that new members carry from the ceremony. They recited the Phi Theta Kappa pledge and signed the roster of new members before receiving certificates and congratulations from EGSC President Dr. Bob Boehmer and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Goodman.

In order to join Phi Theta Kappa, students must complete at least 12 hours with a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Each semester, a select group of East Georgia students receive invitations to join this society. This spring, Beta Iota Beta inducted 40 students.

EGSC Shines Bright on the Miss Georgia Stage

By Taylor Edenfield, Assistant Director of Student Life



Each year, hundreds of young women compete in preliminary pageants across the state of Georgia in hopes of one day making it to the Miss Georgia Scholarship Pageant stage. This year, 43 of Georgia's most talented, intelligent, and beautiful young women have turned their dreams into reality, and will compete for the title of Miss Georgia 2015 in June. Of those 43 outstanding queens, six of them are either current or former East Georgia State College students! Harley Strickland, Austin Carruth, Allison Durden, Morgan Lothridge, Amanda Lawler, and Caitlan Coleman will all proudly represent not only their current individual titles, but their East Georgia State College roots as well.

see page 8 for Q&A with contestants



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DEADLINES

News items:
by the 9th each month.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must be accompanied by the author's name, phone number and email address. All columns and letters to the editor are the opinion of the author. The views expressed in the Editorial section do not necessarily express those of The Hoopee Bird.

Gammon named Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

East Georgia State College has hired Wiley A. Gammon, Jr., as its new Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police. His appointment is effective May 1.

President Robert G. Boehmer said the College is fortunate to have Gammon's experience and qualifications. A Lieutenant with the Georgia Institute of Technology Police Department since 2007, Gammon is also a Georgia POST certified Manager and certified Supervisor, as well as a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College.

"I'm excited to announce Gammon's appointment as Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police. He is an excellent law enforcement professional and strong leader. Importantly, he understands the vital role Public Safety plays in serving students and the college community," Boehmer said.

Gammon, who was hired following a state-wide search, has been a police officer for 22 years. He succeeds Major Wendell Bell, who graciously accepted and professionally carried out the responsibilities of Interim Chief of Police, following the retirement of Geroude "Drew" Durden, who served as EGSC's Chief of Campus Police for 14 years.

Under Chief Durden's leadership, the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council recognized East Georgia State College as having a Public Safety Office in June 2010 after rigorous planning and preparation by the College. EGSC's Public Safety department employs Georgia POST certified police officers who provide 24/7 service to the campus.

Gammon previously worked for the Lilburn Police Department and retired from



Bell South in 2004 with 31 years of service and perfect work attendance.

"I am honored to serve in this role with the highly professional officers and staff to provide a safe, secure and accessible environment for the entire East Georgia State College community," Gammon said.

"Being employed at a Division 1A University in a large metropolitan city has given me a unique opportunity to interact with students, faculty, staff, and alumni. I've received training in a wide variety of law enforcement subjects and am well versed in campus policing and the Clery Act," said Gammon.

Gammon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Georgia State University and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

During his employment at Georgia Tech, Gammon received numerous awards and recognitions, including, Chief's Above and Beyond Award in 2011, Supervisor of the Year in 2010, and Perfect Work Attendance for 9 Years.

Palumbo completes USG Executive Leaders Institute



Palumbo (far right) with his ELI cross-mentoring group

Dr. Carmine Palumbo, Dean of the School of Humanities, recently completed the fifth cohort of the University System of Georgia's Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) along with 39 other participants. These scholars were honored at the ELI luncheon hosted by Georgia College and State University on Monday, April 20.

The Executive Leadership Institute is a comprehensive 120-hour development program facilitated by experts in leadership. Scholars enhance their leadership skills to prepare for potential high-level advancement within the University System. The ELI requires approximately 120 hours of the scholar's time over an eight-month period in group learning formats, independent study, teleconferences, and action learning. In order to be eligible for the institute, participants must be employed for a minimum of three years in higher education with consecutive positive evaluation ratings for the last three years and demonstrated potential based on the USG leadership competencies.

Dr. Palumbo served as the Chair of the Division of Humanities at EGSC since 2007 and was formerly the Chair of the Division of Humanities at Middle Georgia College in Cochran from 2001 to 2007. A native of Fredericksburg, Va., he attended the Virginia Military Institute before earning his bachelor's degree in English from Greensboro College in Greensboro, North Carolina. He earned his Master of Arts degree, also in English, from Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Va. He earned his Ph.D. in American Literature and Folklore at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Dr. Palumbo entered the University System of Georgia as an Assistant Professor of English at Middle Georgia College in 1998. In addition to his teaching and administrative duties, Palumbo also directs EGSC's Costa Rica program, a study abroad experience for EGSC students to travel to the University of Georgia's campus in San Luis, Costa Rica, and other locations in the country. He has been leading this annual trip since 2009.

EGSC Statesboro hosts "The 1940's Comedy Hour"



East Georgia State College recently hosted Professor Sebastian Verdis' play "The 1940's Comedy Hour." This show consisted of comedy routines, Vaudeville sketches, a Soap Opera spoof, and commercials of the 1940's. Everything is performed live, including sound effects, in front of an audience, as if it were being broadcasted over the airwaves into homes and faraway places around the world. The audience had a

comedy Cavalcade Players were: students - Sydni Collins, Jeff Jackson, Nathanael Lambert & Harley Strickland, faculty - Mr. Antre Drummer, Dr. Jeff Howell, Professor Bob Marsh & Dr. Sandra Sharman Price, and community members - Deanna Ryan, Grace Santiago and Andrea W. Verdis. Professor Verdis even made an appearance performing in his dear friend Ted East's signature routine, "The System. East was a Vaudeville comic

each performances.

The secret of the show's success is that it transports the audience back in time to a period that drew the country together due the World War II. People made sacrifices and worked together for the war effort. Food, gas, tires and other commodities were rationed. Families received ration books with points to apply to what they may need that week. The entertainment of that time concentrated on the positive. Themes of hope, look on the brighter side or we can do it, where all part of Americans daily life, even if you had a father, son, mother or daughter fighting overseas. The music was upbeat and carefree and the comedians made everybody laugh. Radio was king and everyone had to have one: it brought the news from around the world as well as all kinds of delightful entertainment into our homes and even the battlefields in Europe and the Pacific. It was a medium that, by its nature, forced us to listen, focus, concentrate, which allowed us to use our imaginations in order to be entertained.

The "1940's Radio Comedy Hour: Verdis Comedy Cavalcade" was a version on my "1940's Radio Show: Verdis Variety Cavalcade" that Professor Verdis created and has been performing for about 20 years. In 2004, by invitation of the People's Republic of China, the show successfully toured central China and Beijing for 14 days. The show's largest audience, for one performance in Chengdu, was for over 5,000 people.

2015 EAST GEORGIA BOBCAT BASEBALL CLOSES SEASON FILLED WITH FIRSTS



The East Georgia State College Bobcat Baseball team ended the season with a record of 16-30 overall and a 12-20 record in conference. The season began with the Bobcats beating the Chattahoochee Valley Pirates, who were the sixth-ranked team in the nation, and ended with a conference sweep. The four-game sweep against the Andrew College Tigers marked the first conference sweep in EGSC Baseball history. The Bobcats also accomplished another first by beating every team in the conference this year.

EGSC starting shortstop, Andrew Claxton, was named the GCAA conference Gold Glove shortstop and overall GCAA Conference Defensive Player of the Year. Left-handed pitcher Richard Lovelady and outfielder Jamal Cummings were named to the 2nd Team All-Conference and Stephen Ferntheil received an Academic Honors award for his academic achievements. Slade Walker had one of the lowest starting ERAs of any starting freshman in the conference and was the team's Tuesday starter. The 14-15 season also saw the first D1 signees in program history with left-handed pitcher Richard Lovelady signing with the Kennesaw State Owls and corner infielder Knox Marchman with the Savannah State Tigers.

The recruiting class for the 2015-2016 season will be met with a sense of excitement and anticipation. With the signing of Cameron Hearn from Parkview High School, the number one high school team in the country, along with players from various parts of Georgia, EGSC Baseball is set to reach even more milestones next year.

The Hoopee Bird East Georgia State College

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role to play. They needed to let the people listening at home know what was happening by their responses. The audience was cued by a sign that told them when the show was "On The Air" and when to "Applaud" and "Laugh." Announcers would introduce the acts and perform the commercials along with the Comedy Cavalcade Players.

The production starred students, faculty and community members as part of the "new" Performing Arts Club of EGSC - Statesboro that produced the show. The members of the Verdis Com-

before he passed away many years ago. Prior to East's death, Verdis was the only actor East ever allowed to perform East's signature routine. Verdis always performs this routine in East's honor.

The show was a huge success drawing on people from all over EGSC Statesboro's service area: Savannah, Metter, Pooler, Swainsboro, Statesboro, etc. The cast performed before full houses both nights on Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 1, at 8:00 p.m. with standing room only. The "1940's Radio Comedy Hour" brought down the house with long standing ovations for

Stranded Astronauts and Other Summer Reading Adventures

By The Hoopee Bird Staff

Summer is an exciting time for people who love to read. One can dream of sunny days on the beach, a comfortable chair, sandy toes, the quiet groan of the ocean, and just the right book to keep the mind occupied between applications of sunscreen. Whether you are a student or a professor, summer is a time to take a look at the books that have been piling up on the bedside table all year, to take a break from the required reading of day-to-day life. Yes, that Tom Clancy novel that you unwrapped on Christmas morning will feel great in your hands on a lazy Saturday afternoon in July. So, for all of you who still like to read good books, here are a few suggestions:

1. *1984* by George Orwell. This is the official reading material for the 2015 EGSC Convocation, so if you have never read it before, you might want to pick up a copy, and if you have read it before, you might want to figure out which shelf you left it on and dive in again. There is going to be a lot of talk about BB (no, not Bob Boehmer) in the fall.
2. *The Martian* by Andy Weir. If you do not need to be at school or work early the next morning, then you will be safe reading this book because you will not want to put it down. Originally published as an e-book, this one has earned its place on your reading list. If you like tales of survival and the TV series *MacGyver*, then you might like this one. If that's not enough, read it in preparation for the movie starring Matt Damon to be released this fall.
3. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. For those of you who loved Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, Hawkins' novel offers a similarly thrilling unreliable narrator. The story of a London train commuter who watches people from the tracks as her own life unravels pulls the reader in to the investigation of a woman's disappearance.
4. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. A Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that is worth adding to your reading list, Doerr's story weaves the tales of a German boy and a blind French girl before and during World War II. The fate of a valuable jewel lies in their hands, though the real jewel here is the beautiful description, writing that will make you want to linger over each page.
5. *Cop Town* by Karin Slaughter. If you have not read anything by this best-selling Atlanta author, then you might want to give her a try. Slaughter, a small-town-Georgia-native, sets her gritty crime in localities that might seem familiar. She has been writing at a breakneck pace since her 2001 breakthrough novel, *Blindsighted*, gained huge success. If not *Cop Town*, then try one of her others.

Dr. Jim Wedincamp participates on panel for Life Sciences Career Pathways Discussion

On Friday, April 24, 2015, Dr. Jim Wedincamp, Chairman of the Department of Biology at East Georgia State College, participated in the Life Sciences Career Pathways Panel discussion at the Georgia Southern University Research Symposium held at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center. The Research Symposium is a conference style showcase of student and faculty research across multiple disciplines. The event included speakers, poster and presentation sessions from all academic disciplines. This marks the 14th year that Georgia Southern University has hosted the Annual Research Symposium showcasing graduate research efforts as coordinated by the College of Graduate Studies.



The Life Sciences Career Pathways Panel was sponsored by the Molecular Biology Initiative (MBI). Dr. Laura Regassa, Director of the MBI program, is a professor of Biology in the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University. The MBI program offers professional enrichment opportunities, intensive mentoring and structured community outreach to area high schools. This program also supports 14 graduate student fellows each year who participate in mentor-directed research and course work, professional development, and community outreach. Fellows serve as content experts to area high school teachers. The Career Pathways Panel consisted of a diverse group of Georgia Southern University science alumni and fielded questions from graduate students regarding best practices and tips on career advancement in the sciences.

The Life Sciences Career Pathways Panel photo left to right: Dr. Jim Wedincamp, Professor/Chair Department of Biology at East Georgia State College; Dr. Marina Eremeeva, Associate Professor in Environmental Health Science at the Jiann-Ping College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University; Ms. Sherrie Cannon, Instructor of Biology at Savannah Technical College; Brett Rabenek, Research Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); and Dr. Laura Regassa, Professor of Biology and Director of the MBI Program at Georgia Southern University.

EGSC STATESBORO CLASS VISITS STATESBORO CITY COUNCIL

On April 17, Dr. Tom Caiazzo and his students attended the monthly Statesboro City Council meeting. Mayor Jan Moore and Mayor Pro-Tempore Will Britt recognized the students in attendance and gave Dr. Caiazzo kudos for introducing students to city government. Dr. Caiazzo, an Associate Professor of Political Science at EGSC Statesboro, has escorted his students to city council meetings for the past two decades. "It is very important that students become familiar with how public meetings are conducted, as well as whom their local elected officials are and where they stand on the issues," Dr. Caiazzo said. While attending council meetings, students take notes, follow the agenda, and then introduce themselves to each member of the council when the meeting concludes. Likewise, in an effort to promote critical thinking, students then expand on their analysis of the public meeting observation by writing a paper and integrating the course readings and their own civil dialogue experience. "All politics is local. To truly understand their community and how the government works, it is imperative that students get to know all their local officials - from the school board to their county commissioners to the city council. And I can promise you that my students do, and they also enjoy learning about who they are and understanding what they do," said Dr. Caiazzo. The Statesboro City Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and the third Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. All meetings are held on the second floor of City Hall, 50 E. Main St., Statesboro, Ga.

EGSC DEAN CHEEK PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON MAJOR 20TH CENTURY SOUTHERN THINKER



Dr. Lee Cheek, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at East Georgia State College, recently published with Sean Busick on the scholarly legacy of Mel Bradford, a significant figure in recent scholarly studies of the American South, in the current issue of *Modern Age*, a leading academic journal.

His books include *Political Philosophy and Cultural Renewal* (Transaction/Rutgers, 2001, with Kathy B. Cheek); *Calhoun and Popular Rule*, published by the University of Missouri Press (2001); *Calhoun: Selected Speeches and Writings* (Regnery, 2003); *Order and Legitimacy* (Transaction/Rutgers, 2004); an edition of *Calhoun's A Disquisition on Government* (St. Augustine's, 2007); a critical edition of *W. H. Mallock's The Limits of Pure Democracy* (Transaction/Rutgers, 2007); a monograph on Wesleyan theology (Wesley Studies Society, 2010); an edition of the classic study, *A Theory of Public Opinion* (Transaction/Rutgers, 2013); *Patrick-Henry Onslow Debate: Liberty and Republicanism in American Political Thought* (Lexington, 2013); and, *The Founding of the American Republic* (Bloomsbury, 2016). Cheek is a Senior Fellow of the Alexander Hamilton Institute in New York, and he has been a Fellow of the Wilbur Foundation, the Earhart Foundation, the Center for Judicial Studies, and the Center for International Media Studies.

How would you like to receive 20 Bobcat Bucks? In Fall 2015, read The Hoopee Bird for an opportunity to have \$20 added to your CatCard!

MORE DETAILS NEXT SEMESTER!

Runners can now go the distance in Swainsboro on EGSC's 10K course

By The Hoopee Bird Staff

Towering pines invite visitors, students, and faculty and staff as they drive onto the Swainsboro campus, but perhaps the best way to experience their beauty is on foot. East Georgia State College has been home to a 5-kilometer course for several years, and now it offers twice the distance for those looking to explore the pristine corners of the main campus.

Before the development of the 5K course, local high schools had used the campus to host region meets, but there was not an "official cross-country" course, according to Dr. Walt Mason, Professor of Exercise and Health Science.

After discussing the possibility of a course for both college classes and high school teams, Mason, along with Johnna Eaton, began working on the design.

"About six years ago, we started walking the 'fire breaks' on campus, the fence line, and other known possible areas," said Dr. Mason. "We purchased a wheel to measure the distances and tied the fire breaks, fence line, and other locations together. This was hardest part of the design—where to start and where to finish. After we measured and re-measured, we finally had a course design. A local sign company was hired to make the signage and we spent several summer mornings putting up signs in the appropriate locations."

During the fall, Swainsboro High School's cross-country team uses the course along with several other schools. East Georgia students participate in jogging and fitness walking classes there, and others use the course on a regular basis for personal fitness.

Although the distance of 5 kilometers, or approximately 3.1 miles, has been sufficient for these uses, a course of 10 kilometers is required to accommodate a college cross-country team. The added distance can also host a variety of events. However, creation of the 10k course was not as simple as adding another 3.1 miles.

"The challenge was to develop a course where the runner never repeated the same course and, if it was necessary, did not run the same direction," said Dr. Mason. "Also, the challenge was to start and finish at the same locations as the 5K. Attaching the additional 5K to the initial 5K could be completed with appropriate signage, but where was the extra land? It was behind the baseball field in the woods along the 'fire breaks.' The area was measured and re-measured until we found the additional 3.1 miles. It took almost three years to complete this design and agree on what would be the best route." EGSC's 10K course includes internationally-recognized colors on all signage. Although many courses use flags, there are directional arrows in the appropriate colors—red for left turn, yellow for right turn, and blue for straight ahead.

"The 10K course will have the number/letter 10K in the upper left corner of the sign to indicate which course you are on," Dr. Mason said. "Both the 5K and 10K start at the same point and finish almost at the same finish -10K is about 40 feet short of the 5K finish (it is marked with a half-yellow and white post). Mileage indicators on the 10K have a 12-inch wide yellow line around the post. As a runner crosses EGSC streets, they will see bobcat tracks (white) and arrows (green) on the surface so they will know which course they are on and which direction they should be running. At some point on the back side of the 10K, the bobcat tracks disappear and there are green arrows crossing the roads."

A map of the course is in production, but anyone interested in viewing the course can contact Dr. Mason.

"The back portion of the course is one of the most beautiful areas," he said. "The run through the woods with the branches of the trees draped over the course makes for great photography. The course is a combination of sand, hills, flat surface, and—if you keep your eyes open - nature."

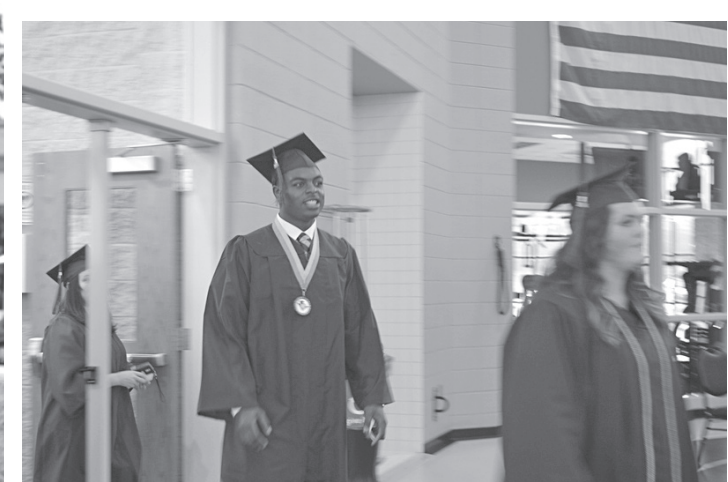
Solution to Crossword:

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STUDENT LIFE: THE 2014-2015 YEAR IN REVIEW





ATHLETIC BANQUET CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF BOBCAT SPORTS



As the spring semester came to a close, so did the fifth year of Bobcat Athletics. To celebrate this milestone as well as the achievements of individual student-athletes, an Athletic Banquet was held on Sunday, May 3, in the Richard L. Brown Room. The banquet was opened by Assistant Director of Student Life and banquet coordinator Taylor Edenfield, who introduced East Georgia State College President and avid athletics supporter Dr. Bob Boehmer. Dr. Boehmer expressed sincere appreciation for the student-athletes and their families, as well as the coaches, administrators, faculty, and staff who support and guide these students. Dr. Boehmer also discussed his long-term goals for the Bobcat Athletics program and the fundraising needed to achieve these goals, but his remarks primarily focused on the ideals and attributes of an EGSC Bobcat. These attributes, showcased on magnets given to each banquet guest as a token of appreciation, are as follows:



- WE ACT WITH INTEGRITY ON AND OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY
- WE GRADUATE
- WE ARE A FAMILY
- WE GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY
- WE SERVE AS MODELS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES
- WE COMPETE WITH INTENSITY AT ALL TIME
- WE WIN THE DAY EVERY DAY

Following the inspirational words of Dr. Boehmer was an uplifting and motivational keynote address by Dr. Darryl Gray. Dr. Gray is the Chief Appraiser of Emanuel County and has been a part-time mathematics instructor at East Georgia State College since 2004. He grew up playing ball in neighborhoods in Chatham County and continued playing and coaching for many years while acquiring his education. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University and a Ph.D. from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Gray entertained the crowd with tales about his days as a “neighborhood baseball player” that ultimately led to a career in the minor leagues. The address was made even more special because many of the athletes in attendance were current and former students of Dr. Gray, and these students credit him with helping them through College Algebra.

The Athletics Award Ceremony came next, and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Donald Avery took the opportunity to recognize several special guests for their ongoing support of Bobcat Athletics. Among those recognized were Dr. and Mrs. Boehmer, Vicki Sherrod, Elizabeth Gilmer, Tara Rogers, Darryl and Susan Gray, and Jason Kohler. A special award was also given to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sasser and their grandson Andrew Murphy for being Bobcat “super fans.”

The coaches from each individual sport were on hand to present awards to their players. Bobcat Baseball Coach Matthew Passauer presented the Wardog Award to Dayton Beasley, the Captain’s Award to Stephen Ferntheil, and the Character Award to Cal Young. Megan Smith, Head Softball Coach, presented Megan Rouse with the Best Offensive Player Award and Danielle Rheame with the Best Defensive Player Award, and the Bobcat Award went to Railey Waddell. Head Women’s Basketball Coach Brad Childers awarded Domonique Clune with Offensive Player of the Year and A’Shunti Jack and Valerie Leland with Co-Defensive Players of the Year. From Bobcat Cheerleading, Head Coach Taylor Edenfield presented the Outstanding Leadership Award to Sophia Tarver and the Outstanding Spirit Award to Harina Kesete. Head Men’s Basketball Coach Leroy Jordan named Jaquez Motley the Best Offensive Player, Tondric Johnson the Most Improved Player, and Deshon Nails the Best Defensive Player.

Although still a fairly young program, Bobcat Athletics is a force to be reckoned with in the NJCAA. Over the past five years, each team has set and broken records, achieved milestones, and raised the bar for future Bobcats. The next five years will most certainly be even more exciting and successful. This is a truly a great time to be an East Georgia Bobcat.



FITNESS CENTER ON SWAINSBORO CAMPUS OFFERS THE PERFECT WORKOUT

By Stacey King, PE Complex Coordinator



The East Georgia State College fitness center has many great things to offer on the Swainsboro campus. The fitness center has five up-to-date C550 treadmills with TVs and fans. We also have five flat-screen TVs for our students’ enjoyment while they work out and exercise. Other equipment includes two elliptical machines, five bikes, and two wave steppers. Don’t forget about weight benches, a squat machine, and great leg machines for that perfect workout. The fitness center has a variety of awesome equipment to offer to faculty and staff, students, and members of our community.

The fitness center is a wonderful place for people to come together and get a great workout! This is a place where people want to better themselves and to make a change in their lifestyles. Many people do not just go to any gym; they want to go to a gym that fits their needs, a place they feel comfortable. Give our fitness center a try; we hope you will discover it is the place for you!

MILITARY RESOURCE CENTER ACTIVITIES ON THE SWAINSBORO CAMPUS

• Members of the Armed Forces, Active and Veterans alike came out to test the mettle of East Georgia State College’s Spartan Challenge participants. U.S. Army SGT Phelon and Marine Corp SGT Smith, both recruiters stationed out of Statesboro, were joined by former Army SGT Schenk and members from the Emanuel County Chapter of the American Legion, Richard Claxton and Don Hall, to conduct a series of stations designed to push competitors to the edge of their physical limits. In a trial not only of strength but of endurance, willpower, and mental fortitude, our competitors faced new obstacles at every turn. Thought the task was daunting, the teams’ vigor and determination won out in the end.

• **Pizza! Pizza! Pizza!** The East Georgia State College Military Resource Center (MRC) held an end of semester “Eat and Greet” on April 22, hosting over 80 people.

Solution to Sudoku

6	1	2	9	4	3	5	7	8
4	3	5	2	8	7	6	9	1
8	7	9	1	5	6	3	2	4
7	5	4	6	3	9	1	8	2
2	6	8	4	1	5	9	3	7
3	9	1	7	2	8	4	6	5
9	4	6	8	7	1	2	5	3
1	8	3	5	9	2	7	4	6
5	2	7	3	6	4	8	1	9

The entire student body was invited to the MRC to enjoy a free lunch and spend time with their fellow students. This was also an opportunity to inform the campus of the variety of resources available at the EGSC MRC.

SOFTBALL TEAM CONCLUDES SEASON WITH THIRD PLACE IN TOURNAMENT



The fifth season of Bobcat Softball included fierce competition that made the program’s best tournament placement even more impressive. This season, the Bobcats competed against several nationally recognized junior colleges. They opened their season against Spartanburg Methodist, a team that has been ranked in the NJCAA poll the past several years. After taking two close losses against this nationally ranked team, Coach Megan Smith knew it would be a good season. The Lady Bobcats competed in the Chipola Classic Tournament, playing against two Florida teams and one Mississippi team, and ending the tournament with two wins and one loss. In March, the Bobcats started region play, and finished the season 11-7, placing them as the fourth seed in the tournament.

The GCAA tournament was held in Locust Grove at Strong-Rock Christian School March 23 -26. The Bobcats opened the tournament with a loss against South Georgia State College. They went on a two-game winning streak on Friday, taking them into Championship Day on Saturday. After a weather delay on Saturday, the championship game was held on Sunday, and the Bobcats lost to ABAC on the final day. The Bobcats finished the tournament in third place, which is the best in school history. The Bobcats will have six returning freshmen and have signed twelve players for the 2015-2016 season. Coach Smith is proud of what the team accomplished this year and believes that it is just the beginning of what the Bobcats have in store for the upcoming seasons.

SEE YOU THERE! EVENTS AT EGSC

May 27	.....	Summer 2015 Orientation, Swainsboro, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
May 28	.....	Jumpstart, Augusta
May 29	.....	Swainsboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
May 30	.....	EGSC COMPASS testing, Swainsboro, C128, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
June 1	.....	Summer 2015 Full term and session II classes begin
June 13	.....	Swainsboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
June 19	.....	Statesboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
June 22	.....	Session II classes end, all campuses
June 23	.....	Session II finals, all campuses
June 23	.....	Swainsboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
June 25	.....	Session III begins, all campuses
June 26	.....	Graduation applications due
June 26	.....	Augusta Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
July 1	.....	Fall registration for all campuses, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
July 3	.....	Campuses closed
July 4	.....	Independence Day
July 5 - 8	.....	Fall registration, all campuses 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
July 15	.....	Augusta Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
July 16	.....	Classes end Session II and Summer
July 20 - 22	.....	Finals, all campuses
July 22	.....	Augusta Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
July 23	.....	Swainsboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
July 29	.....	Statesboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
July 30	.....	Statesboro Orientation, 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Aug 6	.....	Augusta Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Aug 7	.....	Statesboro Orientation, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Aug 8	.....	Statesboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
Aug 8	.....	Swainsboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Aug 11	.....	Swainsboro Orientation, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Aug 12	.....	Former student Registration, Swainsboro and Augusta, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Aug 13	.....	Former student Registration, Statesboro, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
Aug 17	.....	Full term and Session I classes begin, all campuses, 8:00 a.m.

Wedincamp becomes Board Certified Entomologist

Dr. Jim Wedincamp, Professor and Chairman of the East Georgia State College Department of Biology, recently passed the qualifying exam and the specialty exam to become a Board Certified Entomologist (BCE) with a specialty in "Medical and Veterinary Entomology." The certification program was developed by the Entomological Society of America. The ESA is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and individuals in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA has nearly 7,000 members affiliated with educational health agencies, private industry, and government. Members are researchers, teachers, extension service personnel, administrators, research technicians, consultants, students, pest management professionals and hobbyists.



The professional certification is designed for those who hold a Ph.D. in entomology or a related field, and the requirements are at least one year of full-time work experience in the entomology field, a copy of academic transcripts, a current curriculum vitae, two letters of reference, and a willingness to abide by ethical standards set forth in the BCE Code of Ethics. To maintain the certification requires 190 hours of continuing education every three years. Becoming board certified helps one to be recognized as an expert in the field of entomology. Upon becoming a BCE, the applicant is entitled to use the moniker "BCE" or "Board Certified Entomologist" in all materials that reference the applicant.

Groundbreaking Held For New Student Housing

East Georgia State College broke ground Wednesday, May 6, at 10 a.m. for its second student housing complex on the Swainsboro campus and its first construction project under a new Public-Private Partnership (P-3) initiative with Corvias Campus Living.

Special guests for the ceremonial groundbreaking included Hank Huckaby, chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Senator Jack Hill, Representative Butch Parrish, Senator Jesse Stone, Swainsboro's Mayor Charles Schwabe, and Jimmy Scott of Corvias Campus Living. Along with EGSC's President Bob Boehmer and Residence Hall Association President Maurice Brantley, the group was joined for the occasion by a large audience of students, faculty, staff, business leaders, and community members.

The new 212-bed residence hall is slated to open fall semester 2016. Similar in design, the new student housing facility will be built adjacent to Bobcat Villas, EGSC's 200-bed residence hall. Students will experience a seamless transition with the College retaining day-to-day operation and management of the residence hall.

"Quality, safe, affordable housing for students is our priority," said Chancellor Hank Huckaby. "We expect our initiative will generate innovation, operating efficiencies and best practices in student housing to improve the quality of the on-campus housing experience for our students."

"Corvias will help us build an even stronger living and learning community, and we believe that their passion for what they do means that we can focus on what we do best - educating Georgia's next generation of leaders," said EGSC President Bob Boehmer.

The Board of Regents selected Corvias as a campus-housing partner for the initial phase of the University System's Public-Private Partnership (P3) initiative for on-campus student housing. The initiative's purpose is to help maintain the affordability of housing for students and improve the fiscal health of the University System by providing financial tools and resources while reducing student-housing debt by nearly \$300 million.

"Though we broke ground on a new building today, the benefits of our partnership will extend for generations of students to come. The University System of Georgia and East Georgia State College are taking a fresh approach to its student housing that includes short term solutions, like this new residence hall, but also investing in the long-term prosperity of its assets through a partnership model that ensures no facility falls into disrepair. We're extremely excited to begin this program in earnest today," said Jimmy Scott, portfolio director for Corvias.

After a competitive bid process began in April 2014, the University System selected Corvias Campus Living for a \$517 million agreement to develop 3,683 new beds and manage 6,195 existing beds of on-campus housing for nine institutions with the University System for the next 65 years. The new beds are scheduled to be ready for students in fall 2016.

"We are always looking at ways to keep costs down and still provide a quality education and student services," said Huckaby. "The Public-Private Partnership initiative will help keep the cost of student housing provided by our colleges and universities low and affordable."

The participating campuses are: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Armstrong State University, College of Coastal Georgia, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, East Georgia State College, Georgia Regents University, Georgia State University and the University of North Georgia.

WILLIAMS NAMED SCHOOLDUDE CAMPUS CHAMPION

Angie Williams, Event Planner for East Georgia State College, has been selected by SchoolDude as a 2015 Campus Champion in Facility Use Management. Campus Champions is a collaboration of elite education professionals who have demonstrated excellence, leadership and achievement by adopting industry best practices.

Out of 6,000 institutions in the SchoolDude Nation, Angie was one of 154 top performers chosen to make up the 2015 class of Campus Champions. Qualification for the Campus Champion program is based on Dude Data for the previous calendar year and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with more weight given to KPIs that relate to productivity, efficiency, and customer service. Campus Champions are consistently above average in most if not all related KPIs and at or above the top 20 percent in the most important KPIs for each category, more specifically FS Direct.

Founded in 1999, SchoolDude has served as the market leader in education enterprise asset management to over 1 million education professionals in public and private schools, colleges and universities. East Georgia State College has utilized the SchoolDude cloud-based applications to manage our facilities, IT, and maintenance operations more effectively and efficiently since 2004.



The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17				18						19			
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			23		24		25						
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59					60		61						
62						63					64		
65						66						67	

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Barnyard baby
 - 5 Brazilian port
 - 10 Botch up
 - 14 In ___ of flowers...
 - 15 Thrill
 - 16 Simpson sibling
 - 17 Lump in one's throat
 - 19 "You said it!"
 - 20 Portray
 - 21 Old-style window opener
 - 23 Fancy party
 - 25 "Vamoose!"
 - 26 Agent of change
 - 30 Highly decorative
 - 34 Taper off
 - 35 Terrier type
 - 37 Go a few rounds
 - 38 Hotel amenity
 - 39 Search party
 - 40 Fill up
 - 41 Do a voice-over
 - 42 Monopoly piece
 - 43 Show-off
 - 44 Confound
 - 46 Danger signal
 - 48 Crafts partner
 - 50 Carryall bag
 - 51 Talk radio callers
 - 55 Assign new actors
 - 59 Wholly absorbed
 - 60 Newspaper ad unit
 - 62 Evangelist
 - 63 Greet the day
 - 64 Celestial body
- DOWN**
- 1 Iron follower
 - 2 White House staffer
 - 3 Ballet move
 - 4 Debug?
 - 5 As Felix Unger would
 - 6 Chalet backdrop, perhaps
 - 7 Soldier's lullaby
 - 8 Mythical strongman
 - 9 Potential shipwreck spot
 - 10 Perfume bottle
 - 11 Fancy ride, briefly
 - 12 Computer operator
 - 13 Boston or Chicago, e.g.
 - 18 Justice symbol
 - 22 Triceratops feature
 - 24 Knotted neckwear
 - 26 St. Louis team, familiarly
 - 27 More or less
 - 28 Certain housecat
 - 29 Police weapon
 - 31 Put down
 - 32 Bellhop, often
 - 33 Make an effort
 - 36 Archipelago part
 - 39 Like Byron's words
 - 40 Grammatical slip
 - 42 Bring on board
 - 43 Eucharist plate
 - 45 Yankees legend
 - 47 Projecting window
 - 49 Siesta sound
 - 51 Stage item
 - 52 Fabled loser
 - 53 October birthstone
 - 54 Lose traction
 - 56 Pay to play
 - 57 Peruse
 - 58 Drive-___
 - 61 Kind of tax

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty : Easy

		2				5		
		5				6		
	7		1					4
7		4	6					
	6				5	9		
			7	2				
9		6			1			3
		3				7	4	
	2						1	9

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HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

(Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)



Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!

COMPASS TESTING
SWAINSBORO, Rm C128
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
May 23rd and May 30th

COMPASS TESTING
STATESBORO, H Building
June 6th.....1:00 pm
COMPASS TESTING
STATESBORO, H Building
June 6th.....1:00 pm
SUMMER 2015—Full-Term Classes
June 1st..... Classes begin
June 23rd... Last day to withdraw
July 16th.....Classes end
July 20th - 22nd..... Finals

SUMMER 2015—Full-Term Classes
June 1st...Classes begin
June 23rd...Last day to withdraw
July 16th.....Classes end
July 20th - 22nd..... Finals

SWAINSBORO ORIENTATION
May 29th9:00 am - 4:00 pm
June 13th9:00 am - 4:00 pm
June 23rd...9:00 am - 6:00 pm
July 23rd...9:00 am - 5:00 pm
August 8th...9:00 am - 4:00 pm
August 11th ..9:00 am - 4:00 pm

AUGUSTA ORIENTATION
June 26th9:00 am - 5:00 pm
June 19th9:00 am - 5:00 pm
July 15th.....9:00 am - 5:00 pm
July 22nd9:00 am - 5:00 pm
July 29th.....9:00 am - 1:00 pm
July 30th.....9:00 am - 1:00 pm
August 6th9:00 am - 5:00 pm
August 7th8:00 am - 4:00 pm

STATESBORO ORIENTATION
June 19th... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
July 29th... 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
July 30th... 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Aug 7th.... 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Aug 8th.... 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Professors' Picks: SUMMER READING

"The one novel I wish everyone would read is Ayn Rand's magnum opus *Atlas Shrugged* (1957). It is a—if not—magisterial tour de force of conservative economic philosophy."

—Dr. Upchurch

"My recommendation for summer reading is *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt. Teacher Man chronicles Frank McCourt's thirty plus years as an English teacher in New York City high schools. His spunk, his uncertainty, and his irreverent wit make for a lively read. And most of all, teachers will find a comrade-in-arms as he questions the role of teacher. Often, he gives voice to the questions that never make it past a teacher's lips except in hushed mutterings to other teachers. And, he's brave enough to ask the questions we all ask ourselves, 'What are schools for anyway? ... Are we shaping packages for the corporate assembly line?' (211). Unique in its style and honesty, *Teacher Man*, is a good read for everyone—teacher or student, roles that we all are called upon to fill, officially or unofficially, at some point in our lives."

—Pat Homer

"My pick for this month is *The Space Trilogy* by C.S. Lewis. The trilogy includes *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Perelandra*, and *That Hideous Strength*. The series combines all the best elements of science fiction, fantasy, and mythology with a dash of steampunk and a healthy dose of philosophy. Thoughtful, exciting, suspenseful—these books make for great summer reading."

—Dr. Boudreau



Q and A with EGSC's Miss Georgia Contestants



HARLEY STRICKLAND: MISS COASTAL EMPIRE

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF BEING MISS EGSC?

I cannot think of one memory that stands out as my favorite during my time as Miss EGSC. I enjoyed every moment, trip, speaking engagement, etc. I will always hold this title close because of the people I gained with the title. I gained a family at East Georgia State College that will forever support me in anything I ever decide to do. My East Georgia family is probably my fondest memory.

WHAT DID HOLDING THE TITLE OF BEING MISS EGSC MEAN TO YOU?

Holding the title of Miss East Georgia State College meant so much to me. Being able to represent my wonderful college and the community at many events and at the Miss Georgia Pageant was something I will never forget. The opportunity to be Miss EGSC opened so many doors for me and allowed me to meet so many people. It was an opportunity I will forever be thankful for.

WHAT IS YOUR MISS GEORGIA PLATFORM?

My Miss Georgia platform is Hospice: A Servant's Heart. I chose this platform because my grandfather was placed on hospice when I was 12. At the time I didn't understand the positives and benefits of hospice. Through volunteering and speaking about hospice, I have been able to educate others like myself about the wonderful services hospice can provide.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Currently, I am transferring to Georgia Southern University to major in Multimedia Communication. In January I was crowned Miss Coastal Empire and will be attending the Miss Georgia Pageant for my second time.



AUSTIN CARRUTH: MISS MIDDLE WEST GEORGIA

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF BEING MISS EGSC?

I wish I could pick just one memory, but I have so many incredible memories as Miss EGSC that I have to choose two! Being able to partake in the Investiture of Dr. Boehmer as EGSC's fifth president was just incredible. I was given the opportunity to meet so many people, as well as being a member of his personal platform party. Singing the National Anthem at this event was a moment I could never forget. My second memory would have to be meeting a young girl named Rebecca at the CURE Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Kickoff. She was a high school senior who wanted nothing more than to be a "princess." Being able to crown her in that moment and make that small dream come true for her will always be one of my most cherished memories.

WHAT DID HOLDING THE TITLE OF BEING MISS EGSC MEAN TO YOU?

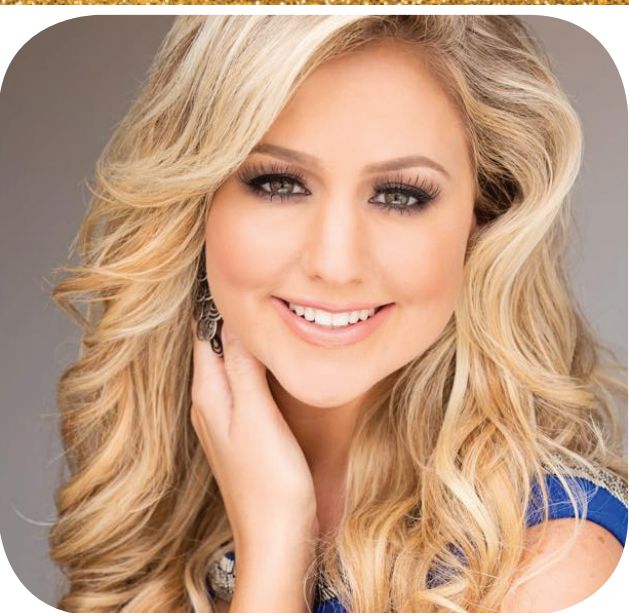
Holding the title of Miss East Georgia State College meant the world to me. As my first title within the Miss America Organization, it gave me the opportunity to make a true difference not only on my school's campus, but within the community as well. When asked to participate in an event or volunteer my time, I would never say no to anything. Participating in everything I could, I feel that I represented my school well and now carry memories to last forever because of it. (Also, it was really cool to be the first Miss East Georgia State College...I was the first to carry the title after the school officially added 'state' into the name!)

WHAT IS YOUR MISS GEORGIA PLATFORM?

"Conquering the Future One Day at a Time: CURE Childhood Cancer" is not only my Miss Georgia platform, but something that I live by. Upon my brother's diagnosis of osteosarcoma at the age of 10, I and my family stepped up to help others going through the same thing in our community. For the last two years, I have organized an Annual Gold Out Game at Emanuel County Institute to raise funds for the CURE Organization and families of local pediatric cancer patients. CURE was there for my family throughout my brother's cancer journey. I love being able to give back to them in any way possible, and will continue to do so for many years to come (even after my time in MAO is up).

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

After graduating from EGSC in December 2013, I transferred to Columbus State University. I am currently a senior, majoring in integrated media and minoring in business administration. In September 2014, I was crowned Miss Middle West Georgia 2015 and will be competing for the title of Miss Georgia again in just about a month! I was recently accepted to the Disney College Program for the Fall of 2015 to be a Fairy Godmother In-Training at the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique. This will fulfill my senior internship requirements and will, I hope, push me forward to graduate with my degree in Spring 2016. Upon graduation, I plan to return to my original hometown of Savannah, Ga., to find a PR Management position or possibly a position as a Video Editor.



ALLISON DURDEN: MISS EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF BEING MISS EGSC?

My fondest memory of being Miss EGSC was the night I was crowned! It was such an incredible honor and I know I will never forget that night. I am so excited to represent my amazing school at Miss Georgia in June.

WHAT DOES HOLDING THE TITLE OF BEING MISS EGSC MEAN TO YOU?

Being Miss East Georgia State College means the absolute world to me. I have only held the title since February of this year, and I feel so fortunate to have already had so many opportunities and experiences in this short time that I wouldn't have had without the title. One of these opportunities was when I was asked to be the student speaker at East Georgia State College's Spring 2015 Graduation. I loved being able to speak on the entire student body's behalf and congratulating the graduates and letting them know how proud we were for their accomplishments.

WHAT IS YOUR MISS GEORGIA PLATFORM?

My Miss Georgia Platform is "Youth Empowerment through the Boys and Girls Club of America". I am an active member on the committee focused on starting a Boys and Girls Club of Emanuel County. I have promoted the cause by speaking at the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club and the Twin City Lions Club, where we have gained additional committee members. The committee and I have met with multiple civic and recreational organizations to begin the step-by-step process of starting a Boys and Girls Club of Emanuel County. We have obtained donors and we will be meeting with a grant specialist in the hopes of this being a speedy and successful process. During my time as a mentor at Boys and Girls Clubs in surrounding counties, I saw firsthand how beneficial the Club was to each and every one of the children and young adults that attended. I cannot wait to be able to mentor at a Club in my own county, and see all of the positive aspects it will bring to the boys and girls of Emanuel County.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I am currently a student at East Georgia State College, and I am working towards my Bachelor's Degree in Biology.



MORGAN LOTHRIDGE: MISS GOLDEN ISLES

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF BEING MISS EGSC?

My fondest memory of being Miss East GA College (it wasn't East GA State College yet) was being able to meet and spend time with Stephen and Matthew Huffman. The twins were the 2011 CMN Miracle kids, each weighing less than one-and-a-half pounds at the time of their birth and faced many difficult health problems. Watching them grown into active little toddlers truly inspired me, and helped me realize that if they can overcome such hard times as infants, I can face any of my small "stresses" in life.

WHAT DID HOLDING THE TITLE OF BEING MISS EGSC MEAN TO YOU?

Miss East Georgia College was truly an amazing title to have. I was not only able to represent a community but I was able to represent my school and my peers. Being Miss East GA College means I always have a home to go to, literally, because Ms. Vicki still treats me as if I am her queen. That is the best feeling in the world knowing you are always a part of a lasting family.

WHAT IS YOUR MISS GEORGIA PLATFORM?

My platform is Mind, Body, and Soul. Living a healthy lifestyle is so important and greatly impacts every person. However, being healthy isn't just about eating correctly and exercising it is also about having a healthy mind. Overall, I want to encourage everyone to live a healthy lifestyle in whatever way possible. Let's face it, HAPPINESS is the only thing we desire for its own sake. HAPPINESS is an inside job. If the body, mind and soul are happy, you are happy! If you would like to know more please email me: molo09@yahoo.com

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I graduated last December from Georgia Southern University with a degree in journalism. As Miss Golden Isles, I am currently getting ready for the Miss Georgia Scholarship pageant next month and working at N'Shape fitness in Statesboro. If I win scholarship money at Miss Georgia, I will definitely go back to school for a Master's degree. If I do not, I will be on a serious job prowl. Basically, I am waiting to see which road opens first.



AMANDA LAWLER: MISS WAYNE COUNTY

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF BEING MISS EGSC?

I have quite a few memories from East Georgia. First off, I would like to say it was by far my favorite to attend, and I went to three different colleges/universities. What I enjoyed most are the friends I made at East Georgia and feeling like one big family on campus. Of course, I could tell you little details of each of my favorite professors, such as Ellison, Benton, Dr. Brown, and of course the late Dr. Bartram. I will always recommend East Georgia being the first college to attend after high school.

WHAT IS YOUR MISS GEORGIA PLATFORM?

My platform is "When You Make-A-Wish, Dreams Do Come True". With this platform, I am raising donations and increasing awareness for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I am actually holding a one mile fun walk on May 30 in Vidalia to raise money to donate to give to Make-A-Wish Georgia Foundation, so that more kids' wishes can be granted. Over the last 20 years the state of Georgia alone has granted 7,000 wishes.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I graduated from Georgia Southern University with my Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations in December. I am currently doing an internship with The Walt Disney Company at Disney World as a Character Attendant through the Disney College Program. My internship will soon come to an end, so I plan to find a career anywhere in the surrounding areas. I enjoy working and networking with the public, and I am looking for a job that will allow me to start a future for myself.



CAITLAN COLEMAN: MISS EMANUEL COUNTY

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF EGSC?

My fondest memory was working with the children who visited our campus through a program called Second Grade Experience! It was so fun watching them play and have a great time while meeting some of our student athletes and of course "Bob" the Bobcat.

WHAT IS YOUR MISS GEORGIA PLATFORM?

My Miss Georgia Platform is "Youth Empowerment through the Boys and Girls Club of America". I am an active member on the committee My platform is "Impacting Youth Through Mentoring."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I have just finished my freshman year here at EGSC and plan to finish my schooling here in May of 2016. In the fall of 2016 I hope to attend the University of Georgia and finish my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.