



ALUMNI EGSC

July 2018 • Forever a part of the family

EGSC holds Spring Commencement Ceremony

On Friday, May 4, 2018, East Georgia State College held its Spring Commencement Ceremony, seeing 143 students cross the stage to receive their degrees. For the first time, the ceremony was split into Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree recipients, with 128 students receiving an Associate of Arts degree, 13 receiving an Associate of Science degree, and two students receiving a CHOICE Program Certificate of Accomplishment in Work Readiness Skills. Alumni speaker Sara Young told graduates, "This was the beginning for me, and tonight, this is the beginning for you. Today, you have proven that you made the right decision to come to East Georgia State College." She went on to say, "Follow your passion, chase your dreams, and just do it. I wish you all nothing but success, best wishes, and please come back and visit us at East Georgia State College. You are full of greatness and excellence, and now it is time to go and be great." Student Speaker and SGA President Krystal Perry said to graduates, "This is the start of your journey. Looking forward, remember that each and every one of you are destined for greatness no matter who speaks against your goals. Your greatness is instilled within you, but it's up to you to make use of it." Commencement Speaker and EGSC Foundation Chairman Denny Key then addressed graduates, sharing his theme of foundations. "Whether they relate to buildings, learning, theology, your family, or your life, foundations are the base upon which everything else is dependent upon." Congratulations to all of our Spring 2018 graduates!



Distinguished Alumna - Dr. Gail Hooks Greenway



Dr. Gail Hooks Greenway graduated from East Georgia State College in May, 1989, with an Associate of Arts degree. She decided to attend EGSC after high school graduation because of its hometown location and significant cost saving and was an active member of the SGA during her days as a student. Dr. Greenway noted that she had a great couple of years at East Georgia and made life-long friends during her time on campus. Her husband, Wayne, and three of her children all graduated from East Georgia State College. She encourages young people in our area to take advantage of all the opportunities that East Georgia State College has to offer: the quality of larger universities while still maintaining a personal relationship with each of the students. There are huge advantages to being known by name rather than a social security number. Dr. Greenway feels that East Georgia State College is a perfect starting point for anyone beginning their college journey.

After graduating from East Georgia State College, Dr. Greenway went on to attend Georgia Southern University. While at GSU, she obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Middle Grades Education in 1991. She continued her studies at GSU through the years and received a Master's of Education in 1994, an Education Specialist degree in 2000, and a Doctorate degree in Education Leadership in December, 2017.

Dr. Greenway has worked in the Emanuel County School System since 1991. She was a classroom teacher at Swainsboro Elementary and Swainsboro Middle School. She served as School Improvement Specialist, Assistant Principal and Principal of SMS. In 2015, she moved to the position she currently holds as Director of Federal Programs for Emanuel County Schools.

Dr. Greenway and her husband have a blended family with 6 children: Jessica Greenway Beddingfield & her husband Eric, Bryson Greenway, Laura Ellis, Seth Greenway, Anna Ellis, & Jacob Ellis; two grandchildren: Eric Lee Beddingfield and Wyn Beddingfield. She is a member of Twin City First Baptist Church, Delta Kappa Gamma - Beta Beta Chapter, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, Georgia Compensatory Educational Leaders, The EGSC Alumni Association, and the Swainsboro High Booster Club.

EGSC receives grant to establish plant growing facilities

The East Georgia State College Foundation was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Mill Creek Foundation to establish a plant growing facility, which will include raised beds and a hoop house on the EGSC-Swainsboro campus. This project will enhance the educational opportunities for students from local schools and will be performed by Terry Moye, a Boy Scout and local student from Swainsboro High School. Moye will use this as his Eagle Scout project. EGSC has been part of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA) since August of 2015. GPCA is a consortium of universities, plant societies, museums, botanical gardens and state and federal agencies. As a non-profit organization, the goal of this consortium is the preservation and propagation of endangered plant species. As a member of GPCA, EGSC and its members, including students and faculty, are interested in preserving endangered Georgia native species and reaching out to inform the local community about Georgia native plants and their habitats, such as the Ochoopee Sand Dunes. The EGSC greenhouse provides limited space to grow plants and is not a natural habitat for many. In addition, the greenhouse is too small to tour and teach students from local schools. The new growing facilities on the EGSC campus will be used to propagate native plants and reintroduce them back into their natural habitat, such as the Ochoopee Sand Dunes, which are located within 10 miles of the EGSC campus. The raised beds and hoop house will also be used as an outreach for the surrounding primary and middle schools. The facilities will be used to teach students about native plants and educate them on the importance of plant conservation.



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Alumni Updates



Jacob Yarbrough

Jacob Yarbrough is a 26-year-old former student who attended East Georgia State College from 2010-2014 following graduation from Jenkins County High School in 2010. During his time as a student, he was very active on campus, participating in the Music Club, East Georgia State College Choir, Theater Club, AAMI, Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM), and Circle K Club. While at EGSC, he also worked as a Peer Tutor in the AIR Center, which later became the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE). It was at East Georgia and the ACE that Jacob began to discover his taste for Mathematics, moving on to become a Mechanical Engineer upon graduating EGSC in 2013. Jacob returned to take a few remaining classes and earned accredited hours for Mathematics, Biology, and Pre-nursing.

Upon leaving East Georgia, Jacob transferred to Georgia Southern University to pursue an engineering degree and continued to participate in GSU's Baptist Collegiate Ministries worship band. At GSU he grew accustomed to hiking and continues to hike throughout the year. His other hobbies include meeting new people, binge watching Netflix, buying shoes, and spending time with his family and friends.

As a student at GSU, he was encouraged to participate in internships and interned at Gulfstream Aerospace during the summer of 2016. In May 2017, Jacob graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and accepted a full-time position with Nordson Corporation, located in Swainsboro, GA. He has worked at Nordson for exactly one year as a Manufacturing Engineer and continues to grow his skills today.

Morgan Sammons Henry

Morgan began her time at EGSC much earlier than most, growing up within the EGSC community after her mother accepted a secretarial position in the Vice President's office when Morgan was 4 years old. As a child, she spent her summers attending College for Kids, Culture Fest, and any other children's activity offered by the college. As a teenager, she began volunteering as a leader with College for Kids.

Morgan began her student career with East Georgia State College during her senior year of high school through the Post-Secondary Options program offered to eligible high schoolers at that time.

While at EGSC, Morgan was involved with the Baptist Student Union and served as the chapter President during the 2005-2006 school year. She graduated with her Associate of Arts in 2006 and obtained a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from Georgia Southern University in 2008.

During her time at Georgia Southern, she began working as a part-time data clerk with The Roderick Group - Herff Jones, Inc. in Statesboro, GA. After graduation, she accepted a full time position with the same company. Over the last 11 years she has served in many different positions within the company, eventually evolving into the company's accounting manager in 2016.

Morgan resides in Statesboro, GA with her husband William and their Australian Shepherd, Boomer.



Alumni Family Spotlight

Michael Wedincamp

After obtaining an Associate of Art degree from East Georgia College in 2010, Michael Wedincamp went on to receive his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia. After leaving GCSU, he continued his education by obtaining a Master's of Public Administration degree, with a focus in public management, from Georgia Southern University.

Michael is currently employed by East Georgia State College as an Admissions Recruiter. He enjoys making connections and building relationships with education professionals across the state. He does this to enhance EGSC enrollment and to enrich the lives of the students seeking to better themselves through secondary education.



Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp and son, Michael Wedincamp

Jimmy Wedincamp

Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp, Dean of the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, graduated with his associate degree from EGSC in 1988, then earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biology from Georgia Southern University and his Ph.D. in Entomology from Louisiana State University. He served in the United States Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom and has been in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Services Corps since 1998. He is a member of the Georgia Entomological Society, Georgia Academy of Science, the Altamaha River Keeper Association, Entomological Society of America and the Ogeechee River Valley Association.

The Entomological Society of America recognizes Dr. Wedincamp as a Board Certified Entomologist (BCE) with a specialty in Medical and Veterinary Entomology. He has authored numerous publications and, in 2012, was named Distinguished Faculty of the Year in the Mathematics and Sciences Division of East Georgia State College. In 2013, he was recognized with the Georgia Southern University Department of Biology Distinguished Alumnus Award.

"East Georgia State College is proud to have Dr. Wedincamp serve as Dean of our School of Math and Natural Sciences," said EGSC President Bob Boehmer. "He is one of our own, having earned his first college degree at East Georgia. Since returning to EGSC, he has excelled in teaching, research and leading our biology department. We are confident that the School of Math and Natural Sciences will continue to flourish under his leadership."