

SPOTLIGHT

on South Georgia State College

Summer 2013



FIRST CLASS!

Class of 2013 first to graduate from SGSC



SPOTLIGHT

Vol. 1, Issue 1 Summer 2013

SPOTLIGHT is produced for alumni and friends of South Georgia State College by the Office of External Affairs.

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CONTENTS

President's Spotlight
Dr. Virginia Carson.....3

Campus Spotlight
The 10.....4-5

Commencement Spotlight.....6

Faculty Spotlight
Dr. Anthony Hendrix, Dr. Leonard Steverson.....7

Athletic Spotlight
2012-2013 Seasons in Review.....8-9

Alumni Spotlight
Class Notes, In Memoriam, Reunion.....11

On the cover (from left): A pair of exceptional student-athletes - Aaron Drew, left fielder for the SGSC baseball team, and Shelby Rumker, a member of the SGSC swim team and one of the best female junior college swimmers in the nation - smile after graduating from the SGSC Douglas Campus on Thursday, May 2, 2013.

Dear Alumni & Friends,

I am very proud to share with you the first issue of *SPOTLIGHT*, our new South Georgia State College magazine. The past six months have been an incredible journey to lay the groundwork for our consolidated institution. The national landscape of higher education and the state's current fiscal environment have required us to evaluate every aspect of the institution.

As a result of this thorough analysis, I believe SGSC is well-positioned to enter the 2014 fiscal year on July 1 as a multi-campus institution with an expanded mission throughout southern Georgia. With stronger academic offerings and expanded student services, we are looking forward to providing more choices to meet the current needs of our over 3,000 students.

In this issue, you will get to know some of our top-notch faculty as well as see a snapshot of our top stories. Honestly, there are so many newsworthy items, it was quite difficult to select the items for the "Top 10" feature. Above all, we hope you will take a moment to read about our most special celebrations of all - the 2013 commencement ceremonies on each campus. Our recent alumni, the Class of 2013, will certainly make their mark.

I encourage each of you to stay in touch and come visit SGSC to learn more about who we are and our current projects. Let us know how you, or your organization, can be involved or partner with us. Our mission and success will be further enhanced by working with you. So let's work together and take SGSC to new heights!

Regards,



Dr. Virginia M. Carson

From the Editor

Greetings, alumni and friends of South Georgia State College!

It is with a strong dose of humility and a dash of pride that I present to you SPOTLIGHT, the new magazine of South Georgia State College. When I was asked to shepherd the magazine's creation, I knew I wanted to develop a new look. At the same time, I wanted to showcase the heart and soul of SGSC - its students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Inside this issue, you'll celebrate with SGSC's first graduating class, hear from two accomplished faculty members and catch up with the many successes of our student-athletes. You'll also have a chance to read about the achievements of our alumni. If you're an alumnus of the Douglas or Waycross campus, why not send us a "class note?" We'd love to brag about you, too.

As you thumb through the magazine's pages, I hope you'll like what you see. I welcome your feedback so that, together, we can make SPOTLIGHT the best source of what's happening on campus and in the lives of our alumni.

I consider it an honor to serve as editor of SPOTLIGHT. Enjoy the magazine!

Sincerely,
Taylor Hereford
Editor



A Life of Joy

By Dr. Scott Thigpen
Dean, School of Nursing

Linda J. Mullis passed away Monday, April 8, 2013. She had been a part of the South Georgia State College School of Nursing for 34 years. She began her career on Oct. 13, 1978 and was here through the tremendous growth of the nursing program.

Ms. Mullis was initially employed as a temporary secretary but became the longest serving employee in the nursing school. She championed the growth of the ASN program when it expanded to the Waycross campus and also helped to establish the highly successful LPN-RN Bridge program on both campuses.

This past fall, Ms. Mullis welcomed the first RN-BSN class. She loved the nursing students, knew each one by name and served as the ex-officio historian of SGSC due to her love for the institution. Ms. Mullis truly loved the nursing program and supported and mentored new faculty. The hearts of each nursing program employee and student were broken with her passing, but her commitment to excellence will live on through the legacy that she left at SGSC. Faculty and students are working with the Office of External Affairs to establish the Linda M. Mullis Nursing Scholarship. Contact External Affairs at (912) 260-4274 to learn how you can support this scholarship.

Ms. Mullis was born on Dec. 25, 1954 in Macon to Leland and Betty Mullis. She is survived by her parents as well as her sister, Brenda (Brian) Lamy of Douglas, and a host of aunts and cousins. Her funeral was held at First Baptist Church in Douglas. Rev. Shep Johnson officiated, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Carl McDonald gave the Eulogy.

The School of Nursing as well as the South Georgia State College family mourns the loss of this great lady. Her legacy lives in the hearts of each student, faculty and staff member who were honored to meet her.

1

Regents finalize consolidations

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia officially approved the consolidation of eight institutions into four at its January 2013 meeting. South Georgia College and Waycross College were brought together to form South Georgia State College, a multi-campus institution serving 3,000 students, with the appointment of Dr. Virginia Carson as president. The official approval for consolidation was preceded by the December 2012 required approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Other consolidations included North Georgia College and State University and Gainesville State College to form the University of North Georgia; Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University to form Georgia Regents University; and Macon State College and Middle Georgia College to form Middle Georgia State College.

3

Selby named director of Waycross campus



Dr. Virginia Carson named Sara Selby director of SGSC's Waycross Campus. Selby is responsible for making sure day-to-day operations in Waycross run smoothly. Selby also said she is committed to maintaining quality instruction and service to students. She joined the faculty of the former Waycross College in 1991 and has earned the rank of Professor of English.

4

Students select Hawk as new mascot

The students of SGSC have selected the Hawk as the new institution's mascot. The selection resulted from an online vote in which students chose between two finalists - Hawk or Lion. With over 300 votes cast, Hawk received 52 percent of the vote. Over 450 initial suggestions were received during the fall 2012 semester. The new mascot will be available for use June 30, 2013.



2

Senior administration leading institution

In addition to President Dr. Virginia Carson, five vice presidents have formed SGSC's senior administrative team. (L-R) Walda Kight, vice president for external affairs; Mark Latham, vice president for fiscal affairs; Keith Newell, vice president for operations; Dr. Carl McDonald, vice president for academic affairs; and Wes Brown, vice president for student success.



Dr. Carson receives PTK's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction

SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson was among 21 college presidents/campus CEOs who received the 2013 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at Phi Theta Kappa's (PTK) Annual Convention in San Jose, Calif., April 4-6. Selection for the award is based on outstanding efforts given toward promoting the goals of PTK. The award is named for the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, PTK's longest serving Board of Directors Chair and President Emeritus of Highline Community College in Des Moines, Wash. PTK has 1,285 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, plus other countries and territories around the world. SGSC is proud to provide student opportunities through two PTK chapters - Kappa Sigma on the Douglas campus and Alpha Rho Omega on the Waycross campus. *The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society contributed to this story.*

5

6



Dr. Carl McDonald retires after 19 years

Dr. Carl McDonald, vice president for academic affairs, has retired after 19 years of distinguished service. McDonald began his career in higher education at Gordon College in the fall of 1974. He also taught at Middle Georgia College and Emory University before coming to Douglas. McDonald began his career at then South Georgia College as a professor in the Humanities Division. He was named interim Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) in 2007, becoming full-time VPAA in 2008. During his tenure, the institution added two new associate degrees, one bachelor's degree, consolidated with the former Waycross College, and hosted several visits with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, all with positive outcomes. To commemorate McDonald's contributions, SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson announced that an award will be named in his honor. The Dr. Carl B. McDonald Excellence in Teaching Award will be given each year to one faculty member.

9



Lightfoot makes second presentation at Interstellar Workshop

Dr. Robert Lightfoot, associate professor of criminal justice/sociology on SGSC's Waycross Campus, recently presented at the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop in Huntsville, Ala. Lightfoot's topic covered "how small, seemingly insignificant objects from another culture can cause massive disruptions in unpredictable manners." This was Lightfoot's second presentation at the workshop, his first being in 2012.



7

Engram Hall renovation receives award

The Engram Hall renovation project on SGSC's Douglas Campus received a Sustainability Award at the University System of Georgia's 2012 Facilities Officers Conference last fall. Engram Hall was constructed in 1971 and served as the Douglas campus' Student Union. The \$4.9 million project was completed in time for the fall 2012 semester and is a "one stop shop" for enrollment services - admissions, financial aid and the registrar. The building also includes the bookstore, meeting rooms and a large multi-purpose room. Sustainability Awards are presented to an institution, project or individual who demonstrates a significant impact to the institution or system in the areas of historic preservation, energy efficiency, operations, technical innovation or environmental stewardship.

8

Swim teams qualify for national meet



Men's and women's swimming each qualified for the 2013 NJCAA National Championship meet in Buffalo, N.Y. The men's team placed seventh overall and set six school records during the four-day event. The women's team placed sixth and was led by Shelby Rumker, who had three top-10 finishes.

William S. Smith Library Awarded Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Collection from NEH, ALA

The William S. Smith Library at SGSC's Douglas Campus is one of 840 libraries and state humanities councils across the country recently selected to receive the *Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys* from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). The program aims to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world. The books and films comprising the Bookshelf were selected with the advice of librarians and cultural programming experts, as well as distinguished scholars in many different fields. For more information, contact Jacqueline Vickers, director of libraries, at (912) 260-4324 or jacqueline.vickers@sgsc.edu.

10

Bragan encourages Douglas campus graduates to live with purpose

Faculty and staff welcomed an influential alumnus -- graduation speaker Pedro Bragan -- back to campus May 2 for commencement.

Bragan, president of the Jacksonville Suns minor league baseball team, played baseball at the former South Georgia College in the late '60s under Hall of Fame coach George Cook and made two appearances in the Junior College World Series. Bragan encouraged the graduates to celebrate their achievement with their friends and family and to use their graduation as a springboard to something greater in life.

"You have been given a great opportunity, not only by your own hard work but by that of your teachers and family. The goal of life is not to just be successful but to live with a purpose. That's what everyone should strive for - to live a purposeful life," he said.

Erica Roberson, a 2013 honor graduate and Peterson Scholar, reflected on what the day and SGSC meant to her following the ceremony.

"This was an important day for me, one that I have been anticipating for a long time. I have enjoyed my time at South Georgia State College, and I know that I now have an excellent foundation that I can build on over the next two years of my education. I've had a good time here, and I'm looking forward to what the future holds," she said.



Daniel Chavez is a 2013 graduate of SGSC's Douglas Campus.

Douglas Campus



DR. ANTHONY HENDRIX
Professor of Psychology/Sociology

Dr. Anthony Hendrix always knew he wanted to teach. When, in 1988, he met the late Dr. James Dye, founding president of the former Waycross College, little did Hendrix know that meeting would lead to a full professorship in psychology and sociology almost 25 years later.

"I had just received my doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and was working for the South Georgia Baptist Counseling Center's satellite office in Waycross, which was located at First Baptist Church," said Hendrix. "It was at First Baptist where I met Dr. Dye."

Hendrix learned that the College was seeking an instructor to teach psychology and sociology, and he applied for the position. Hendrix was hired in 1989 and has been teaching ever since.

"It has been an amazing experience," he said. "Former students have come back to thank me for what they learned in my classes and how much they have applied what they learned to their jobs. I'm glad to have had a small part in the success of the students I have taught."

Hendrix said he has been a part of many significant events during his time on the Waycross campus, two of which were enrollment milestones.

"Shortly after I came to campus, we hit a record of 600 students. At the time of Dr. Dye's retirement, we had reached 1,000 students. It was great to be a part of that growth," he said.

One of Hendrix's biggest highlights was the construction of the James M. Dye Student Services Building in 2000 and being able to attend the dedication ceremony with Dr. Dye and his family.

"I was glad Dr. Dye was able to be at the dedication and to see the finished product," he said.

Hendrix just completed the Governor's Teaching Fellows Program, which provides faculty from public and private institutions the opportunity to enhance their teaching skills. The program is hosted by the University of Georgia's Institute of Higher Education.

Waycross campus graduates challenged to make a difference



Jonathan Jaime and Emily Fleming are 2013 graduates of SGSC's Waycross Campus.

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby challenged Waycross campus graduates to never stop learning and to use their education to make a difference during the campus's May 10 commencement.

"You well-educated graduates are Georgia's most important resource for the future," said Huckaby. "We need you to use the power of your education to help us meet the challenges that lie before us."

Huckaby said a key component to meeting those challenges is through continued education.

"The degree you (received) today does not mark the end of your education - only a milepost along the way," he said. "The world around us is changing rapidly, and the approaches and solutions that succeeded in the past can no longer be counted on to work in the future. So it is essential that you never stop learning."

Increased knowledge and the desire to "be more," Huckaby said, are the ingredients to successfully make a difference locally and beyond.

"When each of you uses your education not only to serve your best interests but also to serve the best interests of your community, then you will help to transform your community," he said. "And the difference you make will radiate out to help change Georgia, the United States and the world for the better."

Waycross Campus



DR. LEONARD STEVERSON
Associate Professor of Sociology

After 15 years at South Georgia College/South Georgia State College, Dr. Leonard Steverson retired at the end of the spring 2013 semester.

Steverson received his bachelor's degree in sociology from Georgia Southern University. He obtained his master's in sociology from Valdosta State University and Ph.D. from Capella University. He became particularly acquainted with the areas of deviance, family dysfunction and dating/sexual abuse. Those are the areas, he stated, "that intersect the social, behavior and criminal aspects of my field."

He began teaching part-time at the former Waycross College and South Georgia College.

"I realized I enjoyed academia much more than my other occupational pursuits and was fortunate to have the opportunity to obtain a full-time position [teaching]," he stated.

Steverson has taught introductory courses in sociology and criminal justice. His unique work experience in the criminal justice and mental health systems provided him with keen insight and perspective into the particular subjects he taught. His intuitiveness and desire to challenge the status quo of his students made his classes among the most demanding - and popular - on campus.

"I would like for my students to learn to think for themselves and remember this dictum: It is a moral and ethical imperative that we educate ourselves to the best of our ability. Our society has provided us with the opportunity to learn, and we have an obligation to use that education to benefit others," he stated.

Steverson received a prestigious Excellence Award from the University of Texas's National Institution for Staff and Organizational Development in 2011.

An avid guitar and mandolin player, Steverson will continue teaching at two institutions in Florida, spend time with his family and get to the beach as much as possible during retirement.

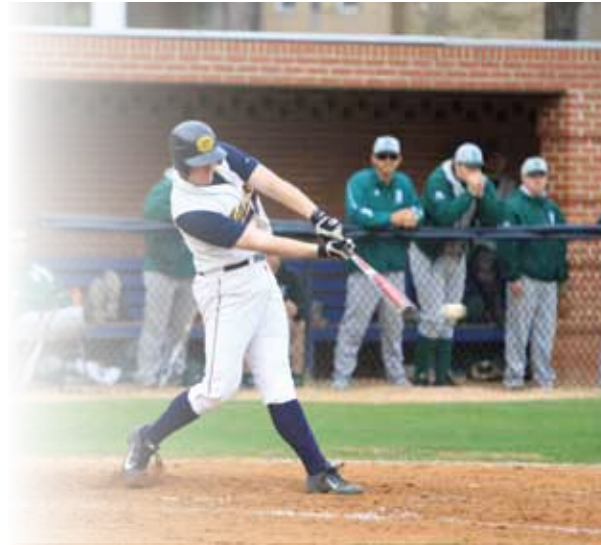
"I have truly enjoyed teaching here, and I am grateful for the relationships I have fostered with my colleagues, past and present. This has been a great experience for me," he added.

CROSS COUNTRY
BASKETBALL
BASEBALL

(25-32, 14-18 GCAA)

(16-15, 8-12 GCAA)

The Tigers clinched a spot in the GCAA Conference Tournament by defeating Andrew College in the last game of the regular season. It was the Tigers' second tournament berth under head coach Jeff Timothy. The team lost tournament games to Darton State College and Gordon State College to bring the 2013 campaign to a close. Charles Sikes finished in the top five overall in the GCAA in home runs (5) and RBI (42). Sikes and Tyler Bashlor were both named to the All-Region's second team.



Men's basketball has enjoyed four consecutive winning seasons since the program began in 2009, including a third straight trip to the GCAA Conference Tournament this past season. Chad Ross was a second team All-Region selection, while Lydell Manigo, KeShaun Mayfield, Robert Powell and Ross received All-State Awards from the Georgia Basketball Coaches Association. Five players with game experience return in 2013, as well as four players who redshirted in 2012.



Men's cross country finished second in the GCAA for the first time in school history. Timmy Evans, Lyndon Jones, Pedro Martinez, Richard Smith and Wesley Worthy all broke school records and were All-Region selections. Charley Harrison of Wayne County won the women's individual cross country championship and was a first team All-Region selection. The women's cross country team finished fourth in the GCAA.



Men's soccer finished second in the GCAA, and multiple players were selected to the All-Region team. Moussa Ba and Lloyd Matthews were first team selections, while Theodore Brown, Johnny Clifford and Jordan Crown were named to the second team. The women's team finished third in the GCAA. Courtiesha Ebanks and Taylor Rushworth were first team All-Region selections. Taylor Green, Tiffany Morris and Ashley Mosher were named to the second team.



Women's softball battled until the very end for a spot in the GCAA Conference Tournament, falling just short by finishing seventh in the conference standings. Allison Smith's overall 0.85 ERA was the best in the GCAA. Kylie Tierce was a first team All-Region selection, while Kathryn Dunn and Lyndsey Young each were selected to the All-Region's second team.



The Tiger swim teams enjoyed another record-setting season in 2012-2013, which included a third-place finish at the Berry Invitational in Rome, Ga. Ryan Hinojosa finished first in both the 200 and 400 meter individual medleys, while Nathan King won the 1,650 meter freestyle. Shelby Rumker captured first in the 100 meter backstroke. Rumker will continue her swimming career at Brenau University in Rome, Ga. She is the first Tiger swimmer to compete at the four-year level. Both teams also qualified for the NJCAA National Championship meet in Buffalo, N.Y. (see page 5).

Men: (12-3, 8-2 GCAA); Women: (12-5, 10-4 GCAA)

(16-18, 6-10 GCAA)

SOCCER

SOFTBALL

SWIMMING



Helping SGSC is our passion. Let it be yours, too.



The Foundations of South Georgia State College provide financial assistance to students, faculty and staff in Douglas and Waycross through scholarships, grants and other initiatives not funded by the state of Georgia. By making a tax-deductible gift, you, too, can impact the SGSC community.

Contact a Foundation representative to learn about the many giving opportunities available through The Foundations of South Georgia State College.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOUTH GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

South Georgia College Foundation | 912.260.4274

Waycross College Foundation | 912.449.7510

1966

Mr. Wayne Miller has retired from Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. after 33 years of service.

1967

Ms. Sue Rowe is the Purchasing Manager at St. Vincent's Healthcare in Jacksonville, Fla.

1970

Ms. Sharlene McIntyre is a retired educator of 34 years and loves playing with her grandson and traveling.

1984

Judge Michael Boggs was elected statewide to serve a six-year term on the Georgia Court of Appeals beginning in 2013.

1998

Congratulations to **Mr. Luke Christian**, owner of Fireside Pizza, which opened in Douglas, Ga. on Sept. 28, 2012.

1999

Ms. Stacey Dockery Hill is currently the administrator of Shady Acres Health & Rehabilitation.

Mr. Jamie Tanner is the new Director of Human Resources for South Georgia State College.

2000

Congratulations to **Mr. Winn Morgan**, owner of Satilla River Outdoors in Douglas, Ga.

2004

Ms. Lyndsay Jakse and her husband have adopted two children. She is currently a stay-at-home mom.

Ms. Casey Johnson is an RN Options Counselor at the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Area Agency on Aging.

2006

Ms. Brittany Trowell works at Nova Southeastern University in the Office of Alumni Relations and Special Events.

2012

Mr. Jeremy Sweat was named Albany State University's 2013 Middle Grades Education Student of the Year.



REUNION

CLASSES OF 1961-1963
October 11-12, 2013

For More Information:
912.260.4269

IN MEMORIAM

Ashton Cassidy
Class of 1952

Richard Bruschke
Class of 1954

Charles Daniel
Class of 1955

Michael "Mickey" Lewis
Class of 1955

Cynthia Wynn Shuman
Class of 1957

Linda J. Mullis
Administrative Assistant, School of Nursing

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ALUMNI EVENTS • April 2013

CLASSES OF '73-'76 ALUMNI RECEPTION



Members of the classes of '73-'76 pose with SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson and the 2013-2014 SOBUs recipient, Jessica Buford.



South Georgia College alumnus Larry Ramsey and his wife Cheryl of Grovetown, Ga., enjoy their visit back to the Douglas campus.

The alumni classes of '73-'76 gathered for a reception in Engram Hall April 18. During the event, the group presented Ms. Jessica Buford with a Student Organization for Black Unity (SOBU) Scholarship. The scholarship was established through the generosity of this group, who were active members of the SOBU organization during their time on campus. Buford is from Hampton, Ga., and graduated from Lovejoy High School in 2012. She currently serves as a Residential Assistant at SGSC and is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. This is the fourth scholarship provided through the generosity of the classes of '73-'76.

CLASSES OF THE 50'S



Wendell Durrence (left) from Glennville, Ga., catches up with former classmate Orpha Lee Studstill Fountain and her husband Lewis.

A reunion of the classes of the 1950's took place April 19-20 with approximately 45 attendees. The event included a luncheon and class memorial and tribute. SGSC President Dr. Virginia Carson presented special remarks on recent SGSC news and accomplishments.



Attendees gather on the steps of the Clower Center where many attended basketball games and took physical education classes.