

SPOTLIGHT

Summer 2017

On South Georgia State College

A close-up portrait of Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, a woman with short, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a bright blue jacket over a white top and small, round earrings. The background is a neutral, light gray.

SGSC's New President

*Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers Receives
Full-Time Appointment*

SGSC Women's Swimming Ranked 2nd In The Nation



South Georgia State College

SPOTLIGHT

Issue 5 Summer 2017

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

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From The Editor

Greetings!

It's hard to believe it's been a year since I last wrote to you. A lot has happened during that time, and I can't wait for you to dive into this edition of SPOTLIGHT to take it all in!

The biggest story of the last year happened just recently. The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents extended a full-time appointment to our Interim President, Dr. Ingrid-Thompson Sellers, and we couldn't be more pleased! Dr. Sellers has brought SGSC forward in many positive ways since she first walked onto campus last July. She has made it her priority to ensure our students receive the campus experience they deserve – both inside and outside of the classroom. I look forward to watching how SGSC benefits from Dr. Sellers's leadership in the years to come.

You will find many more insightful stories in this issue. The Class of 2017 celebrated with family and friends during commencement ceremonies in Douglas and Waycross, our swim teams continue to excel on the national stage, and you'll get to find out a little bit more about our 2017 commencement speakers – both of whom are SGSC alumni. That's just a small sampling of what you'll find as you browse the pages of YOUR magazine.

Your feedback is always welcomed so that, together, we can make SPOTLIGHT better. Don't hesitate to give me a call, send me an email, or drop an old-fashioned note in the mail to let me know what you'd like to see in future issues. I'd love to hear from you.

Enjoy the magazine! Go Hawks!

Sincerely,
Taylor Hereford
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It is my distinct honor to bring you greetings in my newly-appointed role as President of South Georgia State College. I am humbled by the confidence extended to me by Chancellor Steve Wrigley and the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, and I am proud to call SGSC home.

When I first began in this role 12 months ago, I was quick to discover that our faculty and staff take their respective roles seriously and are united in one purpose – to help our students succeed in their academic pursuits. No matter if our students engage in an academic pathway for transfer or stay with us to earn one of our three bachelor's degrees, we are here to help them achieve their ultimate career goals.

In addition to our academic focus, we also provide our students with a college experience that is convenient and affordable. We have options for everyone – the Move On When Ready program for high school students, residential

life on our Douglas Campus, the flexibility of our Waycross Campus, our entry programs in Americus and Valdosta, and our online course offerings.

We have made great strides in the last 12 months to enhance SGSC's position in the higher education marketplace. However, we're just getting started. I count you as among the College's most esteemed constituents, and I value your continued support and invite you to join us in our work of preparing our students for higher education excellence.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.
President

SGSC Foundation Hosts Gala To Benefit Scholarships & Celebrate Alumni

The South Georgia State College Foundation Gala, "An Evening of Opportunity," was held May 23, 2017, in Engram Hall on SGSC's Douglas Campus. The event featured a dinner and awards program and raised funds to support SGSC Foundation student scholarships and to help transform the lives of SGSC's student population.

The Gala was attended by nearly 120 community supporters, SGSC faculty and staff, and scholarship recipients. The night included a silent auction of items donated by community partners with proceeds benefiting the scholarship fund.

Mr. Shane Shook, president of the SGSC Foundation, recognized three scholarship recipients who were guests of the Foundation and who shared their stories of success. Miss Erika Franco, a 2015 graduate of Coffee High School, received the Hanna Family Scholarship and recently graduated from SGSC with an associate's degree. Franco will continue her education at SGSC this fall in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Mr. Charles (Ky) Meeks, a 2015 honor graduate of Coffee High School, is also a recent graduate of SGSC, where he received an associate's degree. Meeks plans to attend the University of Georgia this fall and pursue a degree in animal and health care science and become a veterinarian. Miss Danielle Sumner, a 2015 honor graduate from Citizens Christian Academy, received the Buck Morris Scholarship and graduated with her associate's degree in nursing. Sumner will be interning at Coffee

Regional Medical Center (CRMC) and plans to obtain the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at SGSC.

For the culminating highlight of the Gala, the SGSC Foundation announced recipients of its 2017 Alumni of the Year awards. Mr. Luke Christian, a 1998 alumnus, received the Business Alumni of the Year Award. After graduating from the University of Georgia, Christian returned to his hometown of Douglas to open his first restaurant, Ranchero's, in 2007. Additional Ranchero's locations have since opened in Waycross and Tifton, along with Fireside Pizza in Douglas in 2012. Ranchero's was recently renamed Surchero's, and Christian expanded his reach by creating Surchero's Franchising Corporation. Christian has served on the SGSC Foundation Board of Trustees and has been a key supporter of SGSC's athletic teams and student activities.

Mr. Oscar Street, a 1967 alumnus, received the Education Alumni of the Year Award. Street earned a bachelor's degree from Fort Valley State University and both a master's and specialist's degree from Valdosta State University. He began his educational career in 1970 as a math and science teacher at Coffee Junior High School. Since that time, Street has been a math teacher and assistant football and basketball coach at Coffee High School. He has also been assistant principal at Broxton High School and principal at Westside Elementary and Coffee Middle School. Street retired as principal of West Coffee Middle School in 2001 after 31 years

of service to the Coffee County School System. Street has been a constant advocate for SGSC and education in Douglas and Coffee County.

Ms. Sherry Thomas, a 1973 alumna, has spent a career helping to serve and care for others. Thomas holds a Master's Degree in Nursing and began her career in Austell, Ga., where she worked in the nursery at Cobb General Hospital. Thomas returned to Douglas in 1975 to begin work as a nursery supervisor at CRMC. She has held numerous positions at CRMC, the most recent being Executive Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Executive. Thomas's commitment and leadership have brought great success to CRMC, including the construction of a new medical center in 1998 and being named 2016 Top Small Hospital in Georgia by Georgia Trend Magazine. SGSC has partnered with CRMC to allow clinical training for students as well as career opportunities once students graduate from SGSC.

Other notable guests attended the Gala, including donors and supporters of the Foundation. The Foundation would like to offer sincere thanks to the Gala's key sponsors – ABL Educational Enterprise, Inc., (presenting sponsor); Ameris Bank, First National Bank of Coffee County, and Lyon Management Company (platinum sponsors). The Foundation is also appreciative of the Gala's table sponsors as well as businesses who donated items for the silent auction.



(L-R) Oscar Street, Sherry Thomas, and Luke Christian



(L-R) Donnie Smith, Oscar Street, and Dr. Grace James



(L-R) State Senator Tyler Harper and Dr. Sellers



(L-R) 2011 Alumni of the Year Recipient Romeo Reyes and his wife Tammy

Suzie Brown Wins Silver At USG Customer Service Excellence Awards



SGSC's Deputy Chief Information Officer Suzie Brown (right) was named a silver finalist at the University System of Georgia's (USG) Chancellor's Service Excellence Awards in October 2016. Brown's project, "A Ticket To Service Excellence In

Technology," created a new system to make it easier for faculty and staff to submit technology requests in a more efficient way. Since the system's launch, efficiency has increased, whereby 99.6% of submitted tickets are reviewed and assigned by application development in one business day. Technical services has reviewed and assigned 99.8% of tickets in one business day. Brown's award was presented by then USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby.

SGSC Named To Victory Media's 2017 Military Friendly Schools List

SGSC has earned the 2017 Military Friendly School designation by Victory Media, publisher of *G.I. Jobs*, *STEM Jobs*, and *Military Spouse*.

Institutions earning the designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media's proprietary survey. SGSC was one of 1,160 institutions to be awarded the designation. The list was first published in 2009 and is provided to service members and their families, helping them select the best college, university, or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.



Academic Quiz Team Competes At National Championship

SGSC's Academic Quiz Team competed in the



two-year schools division at the 2017 Community College Championship Tournament in Minneapolis, Minn. SGSC was seeded 18th for the tournament and finished with a 3-8 record, winning two of the last three matches. Three of SGSC's players finished in the top 50 out of 119 players. Team Co-Captain Hailey Williamson finished 30th, while first-year player Saadia Akram finished 44th. Other team members included Alejandro Briceno and Hong "Rose" Nguyen. The team is coached by Dr. Frank Holiwski, associate professor of psychology. (L-R): Saadia Akram, Alejandro Briceno, Hong "Rose" Nguyen, and Hailey Williamson.

Selby, Smith Awarded Second Grant From Affordable Learning Georgia

Sara Selby (right), professor of English and academic affairs projects specialist, and Dr. Molly Smith, professor of biology, have been awarded a second Textbook Transformation Grant



from Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG). Selby and Smith are using the funding to adapt an OpenStax textbook for Smith's microbiology class. The project's goal is to make the course content and its delivery geared more to students studying in allied health fields. The traditional microbiology textbook content is being "remixed" with content Smith plans to use, and delivery will be a hybrid format, or 50-50 split between face-to-face and online instruction. It is projected that the new hybrid course and remixed textbook will be offered during the fall 2017 semester. Selby and Smith were awarded their first grant in 2015, which allowed them to create the electronic *Instructor's Guide to Concepts of Biology*.



PTK Students Attend Annual Convention

SGSC students Zac Elz (right) and Mark Freeman attended “Catalyst,” Phi Theta Kappa’s Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Convention attendees participated in educational forums and spent time with chapter members from all parts of the world as they learned leadership skills and ways to engage students on campus as part of the Phi Theta Kappa mission. Elz represented the Kappa Sigma Chapter on SGSC’s Douglas Campus, while Freeman represented the Waycross Campus’s Alpha Rho Omega Chapter as President. Freeman is also vice president for the Georgia region. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, located in Jackson, Miss., is the largest honor society in higher education.

SGSC Dual-Library Internship Program Recognized In American Libraries Magazine

The William S. Smith Library on SGSC’s Douglas Campus has been featured in *American Libraries Magazine*. Michael Oden, who recently received his Master’s Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi, completed a dual-library internship with SGSC and the Satilla Regional Library System in Douglas. Oden wrote about his experience for the magazine and said he “absorbed a variety of skills” at both locations and would recommend a dual-library internship to other students. “My internship opened up more options for me career-wise, and I now feel confident in applying to both academic and public library positions,” he wrote.



SGSC Celebrates Homecoming Weekend With Athletic Victories

SGSC hosted Homecoming 2017 in February, which featured a lot of activities, including a swim meet and doubleheaders in softball and baseball.

The respective teams welcomed alumni and honored nurses and law enforcement at different games. SGSC’s women’s swim team took first place honors during the meet with Thomas University, while the men finished second. SGSC’s women’s softball team swept a doubleheader against USC-Salkehatchie, and the baseball team swept USC-Salkehatchie in its doubleheader. *Pictured during Homecoming Weekend festivities are (L-R) Mitchel Graham, men’s swimming alumnus, and Dr. Sellers.*



SGSC Faculty And Students Participate In Rivers Alive Cleanup Project



Faculty and students from SGSC participated in a Rivers Alive Satilla River Cleanup during the past academic year. Participants walked along the creek areas on the west side of Douglas and picked up 30 bags of trash along with many large items. The cleanup was in partnership with Rivers Alive, Georgia’s annual volunteer waterway cleanup event that targets all waterways in the State - streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands - while creating awareness and involvement in the preservation of Georgia’s water resources.

SGSC'S NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers Ready To Lead SGSC Into The Future





Dr. Sellers with country music artist Thomas Fountain during SGSC's Homecoming Weekend.



Dr. Sellers stands in the hallway outside her office in Thrash Hall on the Douglas Campus.



Dr. Sellers stands with members of the Waycross Campus Student Government Association prior to a home basketball game.

Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers has been appointed permanent president of South Georgia State College following 10 months of service in an interim role. Sellers's appointment was approved by the University System of Georgia's (USG) Board of Regents and announced by USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley May 17.

"Ingrid has done an incredible job leading South Georgia State," said Wrigley. "She has strengthened ties with the south Georgia community and worked to ensure the health and growth of the College. We are thankful for her vision and commitment to higher education in south Georgia."

Sellers said she was humbled by the appointment.

"The confidence that Chancellor Wrigley and the Board of Regents have extended to me is a testament to the work of our faculty and staff whose job is to help our students achieve academic success," she said. "I am proud to call SGSC home."

Under Sellers's leadership, SGSC has established new initiatives to increase enrollment, reduce expenditures, and increase investment in technology infrastructure. Expanded online course offerings have resulted in a 125 percent increase in online student enrollment in 2017. New technology systems for financial aid and recruiting, admissions, and enrollment have been added to better serve students. Additionally, the College underwent a reorganization that resulted in cost savings of over \$700,000, adding to the financial health of the institution.

"SGSC's position in higher education has strengthened in the last 12 months, and our efforts to keep moving the institution forward have only just begun," she said.

Sellers's passion for education developed while in high school where she served as a math tutor during her senior year.

"I always had a passion for helping people to develop themselves and believed that education would be the key for anyone who desired to achieve in life," she said.

After college, Sellers worked in corporate America for a time before teaching high school math and computer science. She

received her first full-time faculty appointment at Iona College in New York.

Sellers's career brought her to the Atlanta, Ga., area in 1998 for a faculty position at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC). While at GPC, Sellers held the positions of department chair, dean of business, campus dean for multiple GPC campuses as well as GPC online, and interim vice president for academic affairs.

Prior to her interim appointment at SGSC, Sellers served as senior associate dean and professor of business information systems at Georgia State University.

When Sellers first set foot on SGSC's Douglas Campus, she knew SGSC's students would be her priority throughout her tenure as leader of the institution.

"Whenever I meet with (our) students formally or informally, I always seek to learn about them, who they are, (and) what concerns them. I look in my tool kit as an educator to see how best I can help," she said. "I've (also) witnessed how talented, smart, and eager (our) students are to make a difference in their community, and I will continue to support and champion their work to the best of my ability."

Sellers holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physics, a Master's Degree in Telecommunications, and a Doctorate in Instructional Technology. Her doctorate was earned through Georgia State University.

Sellers and her husband Calvin have two children – Danielle and Torrence.

Welcome to SGSC, Dr. Sellers!

The University System of Georgia's Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs and Coffee County Magazine contributed to this story.

SGSC SWIMMING SHINES AGAIN ON NATIONAL STAGE



Head coach CM Jenkins (far right) and SGSC's men's and women's swim teams competed in the 2017 NJCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in March.



SGSC's women's swim team captured second place at the NJCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. (L-R) Miranda Henderson, Skylar Tafelski, Jessica Dunton, Kiana Ocasio-Molina, Kailyn Carver, Bekah Morris, Nikki Daley, Madison Elliott, Delaney Smith, and Brittany Herndon.



South Georgia State College's men's and women's swim teams once again competed at the 2017 NJCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Buffalo, N.Y., in March.

The women's team finished second in the nation for the second consecutive year. The women's team's 563 points defeated Iowa Central Community College (498 points) and Southwest Oregon Community College (480 points). Monroe Community College from Rochester, N.Y., rounded out the top five teams in the women's meet. During the four-day meet, the women's team set nine school records in individual events and had several second place finishes in relays behind eventual national champion Indian River State College.

SGSC's men's team placed fourth in the meet, just 36 points behind third place Iowa Central. Indian River State College's men's and women's teams finished first for the 45th consecutive year.

"I am proud of our men and women for a great showing at the meet," said head coach CM Jenkins. "They represented themselves, our program, and our institution in the highest fashion. It was fantastic that our women were able to achieve their goal of a second straight second place finish. Our men slipped to fourth, but they really had a great meet and gave it their best effort."

In just seven seasons, Jenkins has built SGSC swimming into a top NJCAA program. In the last three seasons, the women's team has garnered two second place national finishes and one third place finish. The men's team has had second, third, and fourth place finishes in the same three years. This solidly places SGSC as a perennial top tier program in the NJCAA ranks.

The future looks even brighter for the Hawks.

"This year's recruiting class of incoming freshmen may be the best we have had," said Jenkins. "We have a very solid class of sophomores returning, which should make the 2017-18 team one of our best teams ever."

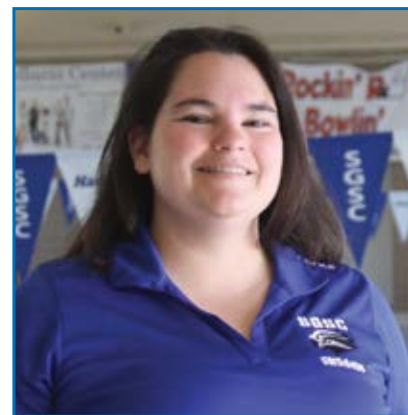
About Head Coach CM Jenkins

CM Jenkins is retired from teaching and coaching in the public school system where he coached various sports and garnered an extensive background in strength and conditioning. He started SGSC's swim program in 2010 and has built his teams into national contenders. In addition to his head coaching role, Jenkins is also a mainstay with the Coffee County Summer League team. The team has won two state championships and several state runner-up titles. Jenkins has also assisted the Coffee High School swim program, which has won five region championships in six years.



About Assistant Coach Sarah Maley

Sarah Maley is originally from Hazlehurst, Ga. She is a 2012 graduate of the University of Georgia where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology with a minor in sociology. After graduating from UGA, Maley started working with Jenkins as a part-time assistant for SGSC's swim teams in 2013 while also pursuing a Master's Degree in Sports Management from Georgia Southern University. After earning her master's degree, Maley began work as a full-time assistant for SGSC's swim program. She leads the distance and individual medley swim groups. She brings more than 14 years of swimming and coaching experience to the program. Maley also serves as Student Activities Coordinator for SGSC.



SGSC Celebrates Graduates At Spring Commencement Ceremonies



(L-R) Dr. Tracy McClelland and Move On When Ready student and SGSC graduate D'Carius Clark



(L-R) Dr. Sellers and Dr. Josh McCarthy, Waycross Campus commencement speaker



(L-R) Move On When Ready student and SGSC graduate Joseph King and Dr. Sellers

Douglas and Waycross Campus, South Georgia State College added approximately 325 new alumni to its numbers during the summer and fall 2016 and spring 2017 terms. These newly-minted alumni were celebrated at the 88th annual Commencement ceremonies held on both the Douglas and Waycross Campuses, where they were charged to uphold the principles and academics standards they learned at SGSC.

At the Douglas Campus ceremony, SGSC President Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers highlighted the accomplishments of SGSC's academics by recognizing just a few of the numerous individual academic achievements of the recent Honors Night, including Tiffany Morgan, honoree at the University System of Georgia Academic Recognition Day. Move On When Ready students Marisol Rivas, D'Carius Clark, and Emma Page were congratulated for obtaining an associate's degree from SGSC two weeks before graduating with their senior class at Coffee High.

Dr. Tracy McClelland, alumna of the former South Georgia College (SGC), spoke to the graduates in Douglas. McClelland continued her education

after SGC at Valdosta State University (VSU) earning her Masters of Science in Nursing. She completed her Doctorate of Business Administration, majoring in Health Care Management and Leadership, at California Intercontinental University. She currently owns Ycarte' Health Career Center that she founded in 2006 to help develop nursing curriculum for training and is responsible for coordinating nursing workshops. McClelland shared her story of the obstacles and challenges she faced on the road to her current profession and success. She summarized her message to the graduates by saying, "Follow your heart. Create peace. Fall in love. Show gratitude. Enjoy the little things. Dream big. Believe in miracles. Discover your passion. Be spontaneous. Embrace every possibility. Believe in yourself. Your life is now!"

At the Waycross Campus ceremony, Sellers recognized the accomplishment of Joseph King, a home-schooled student receiving his associate's degree and high school diploma simultaneously. Basketball player Zaquavian Smith was recognized for being named as a second team NJCAA All-American and for leading the GCAA in scoring this past season.

The Waycross keynote speaker was Dr. Joshua Wade McCarthy, a primary care physician affiliated with Georgia Physicians South in Waycross. McCarthy is also a member of the Georgia Army National Guard, where he has served as a flight surgeon since 2013. He graduated from the former Waycross College in 2005 and went on to obtain his bachelor's degree from VSU, followed by his Doctorate in Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia in 2012. McCarthy challenged the Waycross Campus graduates to exhibit loyalty and wisdom to their family, friends, and in their work as they move forward with their lives. McCarthy encouraged the graduates to learn from those who came before them and then to share what they learned with others. "Wisdom and loyalty will be two characteristics by which you will be known," said McCarthy.

All members of the graduating class of South Georgia State College have worked hard to earn this achievement, and their dedication and determination have made it possible.

Congratulations to the South Georgia State College class of 2017!

For photos of both ceremonies, please find SGSC on Facebook.



CONGRATS!



South Georgia State College

Class of 2017

Congratulations





Academics at SGSC is divided into three distinct schools – the School of Arts and Professional Studies, the School of Nursing, and the School of Sciences. Below are just a few highlights from each school's work during the 2016-2017 academic year.



SCHOOL OF ARTS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES | Dr. Ruth Ellen Porter, Dean

The Bachelor of Science in Management degree is the newest addition to SGSC's baccalaureate programs. Under the leadership of program chair **Dr. Charles Smith**, the program has already exceeded expectations, enrolling 50 students as of Fall 2017.

Dr. Dana Caldemeyer, assistant professor of history, joined the SGSC family recently and has already developed a rapport with students. Her recently launched History Club has also become very popular.

Dr. Thom Brucie, professor of English, and **Andrew DiNicola**, instructor of English and learning support, hosted a Creative Writing reading night to provide creative writers and other interested faculty and students the opportunity to share their work. Brucie also provided a free creative writing course for students and the community.

Ellen Dyal, associate professor of reading and teacher education, retired at the end of the spring 2017 semester to spend more time with family.



SCHOOL OF NURSING | Dr. Scott Thigpen, Dean

Dr. Bobby Jean Musgrove, associate professor of nursing, presented her doctoral dissertation from the University of Alabama, *The Effect of Virtual Patient Simulations on Student Learning Outcomes in an Associate of Science Medical-Surgical Nursing Course*, at the Georgia Association of Nurse Educators Annual Conference this past spring.



SCHOOL OF SCIENCES | Dr. Charles Johnson, Dean

Over 400 students attended the Regional Science Fair on the Douglas Campus. The fair was led by **Dr. Dean Thornton**, assistant professor of anatomy & physiology.

The Douglas Campus hosted eight schools during the Middle School Science Olympiad, led by **Randy Yonz**, instructor of physical education. Seven elementary schools participated in the Science Olympiad on the Waycross Campus.

Over 100 students from area high schools participated in the annual Waycross Campus Mathematics Tournament. The tournament was coordinated by **Dr. Lisa Howell**, professor of mathematics.

Over 60 students from Coffee High School participated in a STEM Day on the Douglas Campus. STEM Day was funded by a STEM grant through the University System of Georgia.

Dr. Bryson Dye, assistant professor of chemistry, **Dr. Rosa Guedes**, assistant professor of biology/ecology, and **Dr. Kimberly Hunt**, assistant professor of biology/ecology, hosted hands-on science activities at the Boys and Girls Club of Coffee County.

Duane Benson, associate professor of mathematics, **Dr. Luck Watford**, associate professor of mathematics, and **Dr. Derek Westwood**, associate professor of mathematics, all retired from their service to SGSC this academic year.

Our three bachelor's degrees come with endless opportunities.
Let us help you get to that next level.



South Georgia
State College



Biological Sciences • Management • Nursing



ARE YOU READY TO FLY?

Zaquavian Smith Named NJCAA Second Team All-American

For the third consecutive season, a member of South Georgia State College's men's basketball team has been selected as an NJCAA All-American.

Zaquavian Smith, a 6'0" redshirt sophomore from Statesboro, Ga., was a second team NJCAA All-American selection for 2016-2017. He joins Tyrone Sam (second team; 2015-2016) and Jovante Spivey (first team; 2014-2015) as NJCAA All-American selections. Reco Lewis, who played for the former Waycross College, was an honorable mention selection in 2010-2011.

"It's an honor to be named second team All-American," said Smith. "Juco basketball has prepared me more for life than anything. Without my team and the SGSC coaching staff, none of this would be possible. I'm grateful for my Hawk family."

Head coach Cory Baldwin is proud of Smith's selection.

"I am very proud of Qua," he said. "He has battled through injuries to constantly improve his game and to help us win games."

Smith led the GCAA in scoring this past season, averaging 19.6 points per game. He averaged 3.7 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game. He also shot 50 percent from the field, 43 percent from beyond the arc, and 66 percent from the free throw line.

Smith earned several additional honors this season, including first team All-GCAA, GCAA Player of the Year runner-up, and four-time GCAA Player of the Week.

Smith has signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career next season at Nicholls State, a Division I member of the NCAA based in Thibodaux, La.



2016-2017 SGSC ATHLETICS SIGNINGS

Congratulations to the following SGSC athletes who have committed to play in their respective sport at the four-year level! GO HAWKS!

BASEBALL SHAWN BLUE

Florida A&M

JACOB SCHMIDT Columbus State

O'SHOWEN WILLIAMS Appalachian State

BRADLEY CAMMACK Georgia College

BASKETBALL KHALIL ABDULLAH Middle Georgia State

SHAQUILLE WILLIAMS Webber International University

CAMERON COFFEY Lee University

DJ BRYANT Florida National University

JORDAN YOUNG King University

LINCOLN HEWETT Greenville University

MCKINLEY CHAMBLESS Middle Georgia State

SOFTBALL CHELSEA LYONS Presbyterian College

CHASE HINSON Thomas University

JARRED HEARD University of Arkansas- Monticello

ABBY TODD Truett McConnell University

ZACH REFUSE University of South Carolina-Aiken

BRANIELUS ROSS Albany State

CHANDLER ROGERS University of South Carolina-Aiken

ZAQUAVIAN SMITH Nicholls State



Ready to fly?

BASEBALL

Hawks Baseball (38-22, 12-12) finished fifth in the GCAA during the regular season. The Hawks were 2-2 in the conference tournament and were one game away from playing for the championship. This is the team's sixth straight postseason appearance under head coach Jeff Timothy. The Hawks were led by KC Brown (.400 avg., 6 home runs, 49 RBI) who was a first team All-GCAA selection and a Gold Glove recipient. Chase Hinson (.341 avg., 32 RBI, 14 SB) was a second team All-GCAA selection.



BASKETBALL

Hawks Basketball (22-10, 9-7) clinched the fourth seed in the conference tournament and made it to the semifinals before losing to top seed Georgia Highlands 101-91. Zaquavian Smith received multiple postseason honors, including NJCAA All-American (second team), first team All-GCAA, and runner-up for GCAA Player of the Year. Smith led the GCAA in scoring and was named Player of the Week four separate times. Other players to receive GCAA honors included O'Showen Williams (All-GCAA honorable mention and GCAA All-Freshman Team) and Jordan Young (GCAA All-Defensive Team).



CROSS COUNTRY

Hawks Cross Country captured the GCAA Cross Country Championship in both the men's and women's divisions. Two male runners finished in the top 25. Expectations are high for the fall 2017 season with ten new incoming runners, one of whom will be a transfer from Armstrong State University. The program's goal is to have male and female runners finish in the GCAA top ten.



SOCCER

Hawks Soccer made it to the GCAA Conference Tournament play-in game before losing to Georgia Military College. The team is very positive as players prepare for the 2017-2018 season. The Hawks will return four very talented players and bring in great local talent as well as high-level international players. Next season will also mark the beginning of a new period for the program as head coach Jacob Crawford leads the program.



SOFTBALL

Hawks Softball (31-20, 15-13) finished fifth in the GCAA. Chelsea Lyons has signed a letter of intent to continue her career at Presbyterian College, while Abby Todd will join Truett McConnell University. The team will have a roster of 20 players for the 2017-2018 season. Eight of those players will be returning sophomores, while 12 will be incoming freshmen. Confidence is high that the 2017-2018 team will win the regular season and make a return appearance at the GCAA Tournament.



Dr. Tracy McClelland ('94)

A Resilient Visionary



Dr. Tracy McClelland was the keynote speaker at the 2017 Douglas Campus commencement.

Dr. Tracy McClelland graduated from the former South Georgia College (SGC) in 1994 and Valdosta State University (VSU) in 1998. She earned her Master of Science Degree in Nursing from VSU and then completed her Doctorate of Business Administration, majoring in Health Care Management and Leadership, at California Intercontinental University.

As she made her way through her educational journey, McClelland realized what a strong foundation she gained at SGC. She says, "I chose SGC because I wanted to be a registered nurse (RN). I knew the program was great, and I felt staying home to attend college was my best avenue while raising a small baby."

Once she completed SGC, McClelland knew she had the knowledge not only to complete her RN but also to go all the way to graduate level training. She says of her time at SGC, "My fears of math, science, and history became a thing of the past, and I am grateful for the

faculty at SGC who sewed into me good fruit." She recalls many great instructors who challenged her to do her best. Dr. Scott Thigpen of the nursing program was a great resource of inspiration for McClelland, and Mr. Harrington was someone she considered to be a favorite. "Mr. Harrington would light up when he taught us about the human body. This made it possible for me to be interested and learn so much in his class," says McClelland.

When asked of her favorite memories at SGC, McClelland states, "They were the nursing pinning ceremony and graduation." She adds, "Besides the memories, one thing I took away from my education at SGC was increased resilience. I learned to be patient and to be steadfast and persistent at everything worthwhile, especially my education. The most rewarding part was the friendships that were developed."

McClelland holds professional certifications with many societies such as ITI Training Institute as a Certified Nursing Educator, the Georgia Board of Nursing as a Registered Professional Nurse, CLNC Certification Program, Vickie Milazzo Institute as a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant, and her Health Career Training Coordinator Certification.

In 2017, McClelland received several awards, including the Community Hero of the Year Award, the Community Leader and Advocate Award, and Entrepreneur of the Year sponsored by the Douglas-Coffee Chamber of Commerce. She has served as a Professional Registered Nurse with experience in clinical patient care, healthcare training, and nursing leadership for 23 years, during which time she held positions as an educator at Coffee Regional Medical Center, East Central Technical College, and Satilla Regional Medical Center.

McClelland explains, "None of my successes would have been possible without the support of my family. My mother, Louise Denning, and my husband, Leroy McClelland, have been there for me. I cherish my daughter, Brianna Faulk, along with her husband, Michael, and my newest granddaughter, Lailah Addison." McClelland enjoys the time they spend on cruises as a family. They love to travel and see the world, so they travel frequently to different vacation spots. An upcoming trip for the family is with the Douglas-Coffee Chamber of Commerce on a trip to Italy to visit Rome, Florence, and Venice.

Currently, McClelland serves as the Owner/CEO of Ycarte' Health Career Center that she founded in 2006 to help develop nursing curriculum for training and is responsible for coordinating nursing workshops. Her school has trained thousands of students, many of whom are now successfully working in their chosen occupations.

Dr. Joshua McCarthy ('05)

Serving Family, Community, & Country

Home is very important to Dr. Joshua McCarthy. A native of Waycross, McCarthy's educational story began at the former Waycross College and has since brought him back to his hometown to practice medicine.

"I started at Waycross College due to the relationship (the College) had with Ware County High School," said McCarthy. "I had no regrets about it due to knowing others who attended. I knew they were well-prepared for moving on to work or to further their education."

McCarthy said three faculty members were very impactful in preparing him for the educational road that lay ahead – Ed Flowers (History), Dr. James Helms (Mathematics), and Howard Potts (Political Science and Government).

"Mr. Flowers has been helping me learn since I was in seventh grade," McCarthy said. "I've always enjoyed history, and he knows how to keep someone interested."

McCarthy said Potts helped him be a more informed voter.

"I remember a project of writing a letter about any issue of our choice to 12 levels of government officials," he said.

But it was Helms who seemed to have the most lasting impact on McCarthy's time in Waycross.

"The hardest 'A' I earned was in Calculus," he said. "Dr. Helms was gracious in giving guidance on how to study and get past stumps. He also provided great insight into my desire to pursue higher education."

After receiving his associate's degree from Waycross, McCarthy earned degrees from Valdosta State University (VSU) and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) School of Medicine. McCarthy said his time in Waycross prepared him for the challenges of a four-year institution and medical school.

"My years at Waycross were the first time I had to continuously study for multiple classes," he said. "It was not a skill I was used



In addition to his practice with Georgia Physicians South, Dr. Joshua McCarthy is also a flight surgeon with the Georgia Army National Guard.

to. Without it, I would not have finished medical school and residency."

McCarthy completed a family medicine internship at MCG, followed by a family medicine residency at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross. He joined Georgia Physicians South in Waycross as a resident physician in July 2015.

In addition to his regular work with Georgia Physicians South, McCarthy has been a flight surgeon with the Georgia Army National Guard since 2013.

"Primarily, a flight surgeon keeps the aircrew (pilot, co-pilot, crew chief(s), and flight medic) in the air," said McCarthy. "We are also trained to help supplement the flight medics in the air during actual medical transports or air evacuations."

One of McCarthy's favorite moments in this role occurred earlier this year during training at Fort Stewart. He was able to be a part of the training of a new officer on landing and speed drills.

"Hitting max speed with fast landings/takeoffs from Statesboro to Hinesville in a Blackhawk had me cheering the whole way home," he said.

McCarthy and his wife Kristin, who is also from Waycross, have three children. The family enjoys church, visiting Laura S. Walker State Park near Waycross, archery, riding go-karts, reading books, playing cards/board games, and swimming.

Class Notes

2016

Kaitlin Spivey will graduate from the University of Georgia summer 2017 with a degree in biology. Kaitlin plans to attend dental school.

2015

Sarah Hulett is a 2017 graduate of Mississippi State University (MSU), where she received a degree in kinesiology. Hulett was a member of the SGSC soccer team and the MSU soccer team.

2014

Nicole Spivey has completed her courses in pharmacy school at the University of Georgia and will begin pharmacy rotations this year.

2013

Austin Vickers is a 2017 graduate of Valdosta State University, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in theatre with an emphasis in musical theater. He also minored in music and deaf studies.

2011

Hilaria Taft is currently pursuing a master's degree in foreign language teaching at Michigan State University and learning Portuguese through an online course with the University of Texas. Taft teaches Spanish at Coffee High School.

2010

Hunter Ross has been teaching science at Wiregrass Regional College & Career Academy since July 2016.

2007

Ryan Leggett and his wife **Alexis (McLoon) Leggett (2008)** welcomed a baby girl, Brooklyn Alexis Leggett, on November 27, 2016.

2003

Rachel Pace will serve as assistant principal for Irwin County Elementary School in Ocilla, Ga., for the 2017-2018 school year. Pace was the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year for Coffee Middle School and the Coffee County School System.

1999

Jason Brown is a customer service manager for Walmart. Brown has been with the company for 21 years.

1998

Adam Smith was recently appointed district supervisor to the Altamaha Soil and Water Conservation District. Smith is a commercial lender and officer at First National Bank of Coffee County.

1996

Lee Taylor serves as director of human resources for Premium Peanut.

Alumni Reunions



Alumni Day with Hawks Basketball – February 4, 2017

SGSC alumni gathered at Atlanta Metropolitan State College to enjoy a basketball game between SGSC and Atlanta Metro.



Classes of the 1950's – April 21-22, 2017

The alumni classes from the 1950's enjoyed a great time at a "meet & greet" in Douglas April 21. The group gathered again April 22 for lunch in Engram Hall on the Douglas Campus. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful time of memories and fellowship.

In Memoriam

Mr. Ray Williams ('54)
May 2, 2016

Ms. Brenda Blue ('74)
September 10, 2016

Rev. Bobby Dixon ('56)
February 28, 2017

Mr. Dawson Mathis ('60)
April 17, 2017

Ms. Carolyn Troupe Jones ('57)
May 29, 2017

Mr. Carl Highsmith ('56)
May 2017

Mr. Harold E. Bailey, Sr. ('42)
June 1, 2017



SGC Tigers 1973-1977 Reunion – May 5-6, 2017

Members of the 1973-1977 South Georgia College Tigers baseball team enjoyed a weekend of fun and fellowship, which included watching the Hawks play ABAC. The former players threw out the ceremonial first pitch and donned their old jerseys for the festivities at Crider Field. The players were coached by Clyde Miller. Former player John Brown said, "(Clyde Miller) taught us about managing our lives. This was family here." Brown also said he looked forward to returning to campus after every school break.

Coming Soon

**Classes of 1970-1971
Baseball Team Reunion**

October 6-7, 2017
SGSC Douglas Campus



(L-R) Ann Bowden, Dr. Sellers, Bobby Bowden

(L-R) Dr. Sellers and Diana Highsmith

Bobby Bowden Reunion – June 2-4, 2017

The annual reunion of Coach Bobby Bowden's 1955-1958 teams was held on SGSC's Douglas Campus. The weekend kicked off with a cookout in the SGSC Dining Hall Friday evening followed by a golf outing Saturday morning at Blueberry Plantation and a banquet Saturday night. Some special guests were also in attendance – Mrs. Diana Highsmith, daughter of SGC President William Smith. President Smith hired Bowden for the job at the former South Georgia College. Also in attendance was Mr. Keith Graham, son of the late Everett Graham who played for Coach Bowden.



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