AEOLIAN 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Heather Simpson

Educational Excellence
Well into my second year as president of Georgia Southwestern State University, we are gaining momentum. Students are progressing in their majors more efficiently than ever before, state and privately-funded construction projects are becoming a reality rather than simply being on the horizon, and our branding development campaign is now complete. We are taking tomorrow by storm!

Georgia Southwestern’s history is well established, storied, and you are the author. The strides we are making now are thanks to the reputation you helped build. In order for the story to continue and the momentum to endure, we need you to stay plugged in – now more than ever. Tell your friends about GSW, encourage your children and family members to apply for admission, respond to inquiries for feedback, and when the time comes, be willing to give back.

This issue of the Aeolian is bigger than usual, largely because of how much activity has taken place over the last year. We hope you enjoy what you read and gain a sense of pride because of the good work from our student body and the great accomplishment from your GSW alumni family.

If you have an idea for content in a future issue, please let us know. There is nothing we would rather do than share how you have taken your career by storm, taken your community by storm and taken tomorrow by storm!

Neal Weaver
President

IT’S TIME TO SHOW YOUR CANES SPIRIT!

SHOP THE GSW Bookstore for all the latest Georgia Southwestern Alumni merchandise.

Visit gswbookstore.com or on campus inside the Marshall Student Center.
The Aeolian is published by the Department of University Relations at Georgia Southwestern State University. The name Aeolian is derived from Aeolus, who was appointed by the mythological god Zeus to be the keeper of the winds—both to calm and to arouse them. He was the King of the Aeolian Islands.

Continuing its mission begun in 1906, Georgia Southwestern State University serves traditional and non-traditional students across the state, the nation and the world.
Before taking over as president of the GSW Alumni Association, I must admit I had a totally different perspective on what it meant to be an alum. Back in the 70’s when I attended GSW, students went to classes on campus, listened to lectures in classrooms and showed up to take their tests with their classmates. But as Bob Dylan wrote, “The times they are a-changing.”

The internet has changed all that. Now you can take classes and graduate, all without ever setting foot on campus. Some may say that makes online students less of alumni than conventional, on-campus students. I would have to disagree.

Here is what changed my perspective about our online alumni. Back in the spring when I was getting ready to speak at graduation, I met a lady, about 45 years old, who was about to graduate. She spoke with such excitement about how her family and her children were all there to watch her graduate. I could hear the pride in her voice as she explained that she was an online student, and this was her first time on campus. If it had not been for the opportunity to take classes online, as an older student, she would never have realized her dream of earning a degree and becoming an alumnus of GSW.

Next, I met Jaha Dukureh, another GSW online graduate. She was recently nominated for a 2018 Nobel Peace Prize, and spoke at the Griffin Bell Convocation as part of President Neal Weaver’s Investiture celebrations. In her speech, Jaha explained how her mission to end female genital mutilation in The Gambia all began. During the time they were filming her documentary in Africa, she was an online student at GSW working on her Master’s in Business. She explained how they would have to stop filming so she could take a test. She would sit in hallways of hotels late at night, just so she could get an internet connection to turn in assignments or email professors. She was just as engaged with her teachers and the educational process as conventional students, if not more. Jaha also shared it was the Excel classes and statistics courses she had taken at GSW that gave her the skills she needed to set up and run her own foundation.

Whether online or on-campus, an education from Georgia Southern can make a difference. And you can help make a difference in the lives of future students by giving back to the school that has given you so much. The Alumni Association has worked hard over the last year, and we are excited we have been able to increase and expand the endowed scholarship program. We have given more scholarships than ever to deserving students!

So, yes, “the times they are a-changing.” You can be a part of that change and make a difference for future alumni. By enabling others to attend GSW, whether online or on-campus, that’s the way that we can make a real difference.

Ricky Arnold, Class of ’76
President GSW Alumni Association
For the first time in its history, Georgia Southwestern launched a comprehensive branding campaign — “Take Tomorrow by Storm” — complete with a fresh new logo.

Capturing the power of the GSW brand story was no small task. In partnership with the ad agency Tailfin out of Atlanta, GSW’s branding development process gathered wide-ranging research which included feedback from students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community through focus groups, phone interviews and online surveys. In total, more than 1,300 members of the GSW community contributed, helping develop the University’s new brand story.

We heard what makes us powerful, inspiring and uniquely attractive to people in our backyard and across the globe. Through the branding process, we uncovered several common threads and key story elements that detail what makes GSW unique.

“I liked this process because it came from our people,” said GSW President Neal Weaver, Ph.D. “We talked to our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members and they told us ‘this is who you are.’ From their feedback came our message — we are going to ‘Take Tomorrow by Storm.’ We are looking forward to the rollout of our new message, and we hope you see it in your area.”

The research for the branding development process began in early 2018. During the summer, a handful of concepts were presented to GSW and tested with constituent groups. The brand launch timing was strategically selected to coincide with the Presidential Investiture Week festivities.

To complement the new brand story, GSW’s new logo and design elements are bold and contemporary, and they’re built to work seamlessly across a variety of digital and traditional applications. These elements work together to simplify and amplify the brand messages.

Leading the process for GSW were Chelsea Collins, director of marketing and communications, and Stephen Snyder, special assistant to the president for advancement. “This is an exciting time for the GSW community, and we are thrilled to finally share it,” Collins stated. “I encourage everyone to help us spread our story. There are many ways to get involved and show pride for this institution — work it into everyday conversations, attend our events, share our social media posts, wear the new merchandise.”

“Developing a new mantra with a comprehensive approach was a big, necessary step for GSW,” said Snyder. “We believe the message — ‘Take Tomorrow by Storm’ — will energize our students, and we are confident they will be eager to share it with their friends. We also believe our alumni will wear it with pride.”

The first phase of the brand launch is on campus and in the local community. In the weeks and months to come, GSW will release more robust and wide-ranging media outreach to deliver the new brand messaging with all target audiences.
College Of Nursing And Health Sciences
LONG-TERM CARE MANAGEMENT

The newly reorganized College of Nursing and Health Sciences is offering a new Bachelor of Science in Long-Term Care Management (LTCM), the first program of its kind in the nation. Associate Dean Leisa Easom, Ph.D., explained that a better prepared workforce is needed to care for our nation's aging and disabled populations. The LTCM degree, offered both online and the classroom, will prepare graduates to assist patients and families to connect with community resources, transition from hospital to home, and manage the care of residents in an institutional setting. As a four year interdisciplinary degree, students will take courses from a variety of disciplines – nursing, caregiving, psychology, sociology, and business. They will become knowledgeable in palliative care, hospice, gerontology, family issues, caregiving support, counseling, health promotion, business management, health funding, and cultural competency.

College of Arts and Sciences
KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL

The Department of Theater, Communication and Media Arts hosted the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Region IV's 50th anniversary festival in February 2018. The festival brought over 1,000 students, faculty, guest artists and presenters from colleges and universities across the ten-state region to GSW's campus. Department Chair and Professor Jeffrey Green noted festivals such as KCACTF heighten the visibility of GSW, its theater program and the Americus community across the multi-state southern region. The festival also gives students the opportunity to participate in an industry conference and compete in different areas. In all, over 60 GSW students participated in this year's festival.

College Of Education
AUTISM EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT

The School of Education is offering a new post-Baccalaureate Autism Education Endorsement program for certified teachers. Dean and Associate Professor Rachel Abbott, Ph.D., noted that with the increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism or on the autism spectrum, it is essential for educators to have the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of children with autism spectrum disorder. The online program consists of three courses that focus on the identification of characteristics, classroom and behavioral strategies, and planning for instruction for individuals on the autism spectrum. Upon successful completion of the program, certified teachers will apply for the autism education endorsement add-on to their Georgia teaching certificate.

School of Computing and Mathematics
MATHEMATICS TOURNAMENTS

This spring, the School of Computing and Mathematics hosted its 44th Jay Cliett and Bill Kipp High School Mathematics Tournament (formerly the High School Mathematics Tournament). The tournament was the first named in honor of Professor Emeritus Bill Kipp, Ph.D., and the late Professor Emeritus Jay Cliett, Ph.D. Both Kipp and Cliett have been instrumental to the success of the tournament since its inception in 1974. This year’s event brought over 500 high school students from across the state to GSW's campus. Held a month later, the Junior Mathematics Tournament had a large turnout as well, with over 2,500 student, parents and faculty from 59 schools attending.
GSW secures $3.4 million in Georgia state budget for building renovation

In May 2018, GSW announced the inclusion of $3.4 million in Georgia’s Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget to fund the renovation of the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), GSW’s primary advisement building.

The legislative delegation that represents the region where GSW resides (Sen. Freddie Powell Sims, Sen. Greg Kirk, Rep. Bill McGowan and Rep. Ed Rynders) worked diligently to make sure this project was included in the final version of the FY19 budget.

“More than 50 percent of GSW students are first generation college students,” noted President Weaver. “The renovation of the ACE Building, which includes accessibility improvements, will vastly enhance our ability to help students succeed academically. It also communicates to our students that we care about their future.”

The scope of the ACE Building project will include modernizing the HVAC system, remodeling the interior to meet the current needs of students, and construction of two elevator shafts — one for the ACE Building and one for the adjacent English Building. These are currently the only two structures in use on campus that do not have upper floor handicap access.

School of Business Administration

JAHA DUKUREH

Jaha Dukureh, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and GSW alumna, visited campus in October 2018 as the speaker for the annual Griffin Bell Convocation and Distinguished Lecture Series. Dukureh was nominated for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize for her work towards ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in her home country of The Gambia in West Africa and across the world. Dukureh earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration and management online at GSW in 2013. That same year, she founded the non-profit Safe Hands for Girls, which provides support for survivors of FGM and advocates to end FGM practices. She was then part of the movement that successfully banned FGM in The Gambia in 2015. During her time on campus, Dukureh met with students, faculty, staff, members of the community and fellow GSW alumni former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

MAULDIN & JENKINS CLASSROOM

The School of Business Administration and the Georgia Southwestern Foundation recently unveiled the newly renovated Mauldin & Jenkins classroom in the Business, History and Political Science (BHP) Building. With support from Mauldin & Jenkins, an accounting firm based in Atlanta, BHP 205 was outfitted with state-of-the-art technology requested by the accounting faculty. The renovation also included new flooring, paint, ceiling and a Mauldin & Jenkins mural on one wall.
GSW GETS A CAMPUS FACELIFT

Major improvements have been made to Georgia Southwestern’s campus over the past year with numerous ongoing projects that both accelerate academic success and contribute to the overall student life experience.

Education Lobby

The School of Education received new carpet and furniture in the downstairs lobby and upstairs lounging areas.

Biology Lab

The Science Building underwent a complete biology lab renovation, including state-of-the-art equipment, with funds from the GSW Foundation.

Outdoor Basketball Court

An outdoor basketball court was installed in Fall 2018 to enhance the campus experience for students with funds provided by the Student Government Association. The first game played on the new court was C-A-N-E-S with GSW President Neal Weaver and a special selected group of students.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria received upgraded pendant lights, new seating with charging stations, a fresh paint job, tile flooring, and chilling stations to keep the food fresh longer. Additionally, a wall mural was installed reflecting the new campaign message, Take Tomorrow By Storm.
Other projects include:

- New arena lights and a sound system inside the Storm Dome
- Updated furniture in the Oaks I residence hall multipurpose rooms
GSW welcomed two new Vice Presidents on July 1, 2018. Suzanne Smith, Ph. D., is the new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). Smith comes to GSW from Washington State University Vancouver (WSUV) where she was employed for over 20 years.

As the new provost and VPAA, Smith is responsible for the instructional program of the university and the daily administration of academic affairs for both faculty and students. She serves as the chief academic officer for the university, reporting to GSW President Neal Weaver. Working closely with the president and an extensive group of campus colleagues, she guides strategic planning and policy development as well as promote campus-wide academic initiatives.

Laura Boren, Ph. D., also joined GSW on July 1 as Vice President of the newly-formed Division of Student Engagement and Success (VPSES). Boren comes to GSW from Tarleton State University, part of the Texas A&M University System, located in Stephenville, Texas, where she served as vice president for Student Affairs. Previously, Boren served as vice president for Student Affairs at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.

As the VPSES, Boren is responsible for providing innovative and strategic leadership, as well as, administrative direction for student engagement and retention priorities across institutional lines. Reporting to President Neal Weaver, she serves as the chief student affairs and retention officer at the institution.

At the 98th Annual Sumter County Chamber of Commerce Awards Celebration, GSW received the Community Partner of the Year award alongside South Georgia Technical College (SGTC).

The Chamber highlighted GSW’s $89 million economic impact on the Sumter County region, the 2,300 alumni who reside and work in the community, and the educational programs on campus that enrich the community.

GSW President Neal Weaver and SGTC Assistant to the President Don Smith accepted the award for their respective institutions.

“We are honored to receive this award from the Chamber of Commerce and are thankful for their ongoing support,” said Weaver. “The partnership between the Americus community and GSW is critical to the university’s success.”
2017-2018 Faculty and Staff Awards

FACULTY EMERITI
Dr. Brian Adler, Vice President Emeritus
Dr. Brian Heshizer, Professor Emeritus
Dr. J. Thomas Wright, Professor Emeritus of Biology
(Posthumously)

FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE: 5, 10 and 15

5 YEARS
Shayne Allegood
Robert Bennett
Catalina Casaru
Darcy Donaldson
Mark Grimes
Heather Kemp
Michael Moir
Michele Ragsdale
Jayme Roseth-Penn
Reda Rowell
Sammy Stone

15 YEARS
Queen Brown
April Dodson
Elizabeth
Gurnack
Stephanie
Harvey
Brian Heshizer
Chuck Wells

FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE: 20, 25 and 40

20 YEARS – Plaque
James Edmonds
Karen Holloway
Boris Peltsverger
Bob Slenker
Amy Wise

25 YEARS – Plaque
Polly Conger
Mary Cooper
Alma Keita

40 YEARS – Plaque
Deborah Standridge

PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR
Dr. Catalina Casaru, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was named the 2018 Professor of the Year. Voted on by the students, Casura was recognized at the annual University Honors and Recognition Ceremony on April 16, 2018.

FACULTY AND STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2018 Staff Excellence in Advising Award:
LaToya Stackhouse

2018 Staff Excellence in Service Award:
Kina Davis

2018 Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award:
Dr. Carol Bishop

2018 Faculty Excellence in Advising Award:
Dr. Ellen Cotter

2018 Faculty Excellence in Service Award:
Dr. Stephanie Harvey

2018 Faculty Excellence and Commitment to Teaching Award: Dr. Judy Orton Grissett

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Oris Bryant Staff Member of the Year: Diane Trice
Faculty Member of the Year: Ru Story-Huffman

Donor-Scholar Luncheon

The Annual Donor-Scholar Luncheon was held on March 8, 2018 where current scholarship recipients joined their GSW donors. The luncheon featured student speakers and scholarship recipients Mitchell Holloway, a senior special education major and baseball player; Amelia Cornell, a senior marketing major; and Shayan Kalladanthyil, a senior nursing major.
Alan Arnett, a former GSW standout basketball player who graduated in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences, took his talents overseas in 2015 to play in a professional Slovakian basketball league. During the 2015-16 season, Arnett helped his team win the league title and earned Eurobasket.com’s All-Slovakian 1.Liga Player of the Year award. He also had a memorable 2017-18 season with the BC Yambol basketball team in Yambol, Bulgaria, winning the league’s scoring title and Most Valuable Player award. In October 2018, Arnett signed with BC Cherkaski Mavpy, a Ukrainian professional basketball club.


Heather Ashberry, a 2010 GSW graduate with a degree in art from the College of Arts and Sciences, recently started her own home decor and fashion accessory company, Beatrice Wormwood Ink, to add to her already full slate of professional projects and business ventures. Ambitious and multitalented, Ashberry is also a trained makeup artist for high-profile gigs like music videos, TV shows and fashion events. In addition, she works as a seamstress for Thomasville-based SouthLife Supply Co., which specializes in high-quality leather goods.

(Source: Albany Herald, May 19, 2018)

K. Scott Collins, CPA, owner of Collins/Moody + Company PC of Athens, has been elected chair of The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants (GSCPA) Board of Directors for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Collins graduated from GSW in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the School of Business Administration. A 38-year member of GSCPA, Collins has served as president of the organization’s educational foundation and as a former chair of GSCPA’s Bylaws and Budget committees. He also has served on the board and as president and treasurer of the Sandy Creek Nature Center, and next year will serve as president of the Sons of the American Revolution.

(Source: prurgent.com, Aug. 16, 2018; The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants)
Guy A. Daughtrey, who in 1998 earned a bachelor’s degree in business from the GSW School of Business Administration, has been appointed to the state board for the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, which helps develop, promote and provide comprehensive planning and development services that seek to make Georgia communities better places in which to live and work. An energy systems auditor for Georgia Power, Daughtrey has worked for Southern Company for more than 30 years, serves as chairman of the board of directors for AgGeorgia Farm Credit and sits on the board of directors for South Central Primary Care Center. He previously sat on the Cook County Planning and Zoning Board and the board of directors for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.

(Source: Middle Georgia CEO, July 30, 2018; Southern Georgia Regional Commission)

Andrew W. Pope, who graduated from GSW in 1996 with a degree in political science and history from the College of Arts and Sciences, was appointed as solicitor general of Thomas County, Ga., in May 2018. The owner and managing attorney of Andrew W. Pope PC in Thomasville, Pope earned a law degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and previously served as solicitor general of Thomas County from 2006-2012.

(Source: STL.News, May 10, 2018; Thomasville Times-Enterprise, May 19, 2018)

Michael Dykes, MBA, BSN, RN, has been named director of emergency services for Coliseum Health System. A graduate of GSW with an Associate of Science degree in nursing from the School of Nursing, Dykes has 18 years of experience in critical care and emergency nursing. He has been with Coliseum Health System for more than six years, serving most recently as director of the emergency department at Coliseum Northside Hospital. In addition to his nursing degree, he also earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Middle Georgia State University and a Master of Business Administration from Ohio Christian University.

(Source: Middle Georgia CEO, July 23, 2018)

State Rep. Alan Powell, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from GSW College of Arts and Sciences in 1973, was recently appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to the Board of Homeland Security, which advises the governor on a wide range of security-related issues. Representing the citizens of District 32, which includes Franklin, Hart and Madison counties, Powell currently serves as the chairman of public safety and homeland security. He also serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety, as well as the Governmental Affairs, Motor Vehicles, Regulated Industries, Rules and Small Business Development committees.

(Source: Georgia House of Representatives Facebook page, Sept. 14, 2018)
Kanese Rachel, a social studies teacher at Lincoln Elementary Magnet School in Albany, Ga., was named 2018 Teacher of the Year by the Dougherty County School System (DCSS). Rachel graduated from GSW in 2008 with a master's degree in early childhood education and a 2010 specialist degree in education from the School of Education, after earning her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Albany State University. As the DCSS awardee, Rachel will represent the district in the state’s Teacher of the Year competition. 

(Source: Albany Herald, April 15, 2018)

Tomekia Reed, a 2004 GSW graduate who earned her bachelor’s degree in exercise science and wellness education from the School of Education, has been named head women’s basketball coach at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss. A former standout GSW basketball player who was named the team’s most valuable player in 2003, Reed began her coaching career as assistant women's basketball coach and recruiter at South Georgia Technical College. She later served as Jackson State’s women's basketball recruiting coordinator, followed by assistant coaching stops at Southern Miss, Louisiana Tech, Louisiana-Lafayette and the University of New Orleans. Her most recent position was a successful three-year stint as women's basketball coach at Hinds Community College, during which she led the team to the 2017 NJCAA Region 23 title game.

(Source: Albany Herald, April 15, 2018)

Ryan Roney, who graduated from GSW in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the College of Arts and Sciences, was hired as curator for Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville, Ga., in early 2018. Overseeing the more than 12,000 items at the museum, which includes major exhibits in a number of scientific areas, Roney is also responsible for seeking out new material and guiding the future growth of the collection. In addition to his degree from GSW, he holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of West Georgia and a Master of Science in geology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). He is also a Ph.D. candidate at UTK.

(Source: The Daily Tribune News, Aug. 11, 2018)

Adam Ruh, who graduated from GSW cum laude in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in marketing from the School of Business Administration, was selected as one of the resident inspectors at the Oconee nuclear power plant near Seneca, S.C. Ruh also holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master of Engineering degree from Old Dominion University. Since 2014, he has served as a Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Alabama. Before joining the agency, Ruh served as a U.S. Navy civilian engineer for seven years.

(Source: NRC News, Office of Public Affairs, Region II, June 25, 2018)
Three GSW graduates were recently recognized as finalists for the Albany Under 40 Awards, which were sponsored by the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. **Jodie Kretzer**, who earned a bachelor’s in business administration in 2014 and a master’s in business administration in 2016 from the School of Business Administration, was nominated in the Technology category. **Kanese Rachel**, who graduated in 2008 with a master’s degree in early childhood education and a 2010 specialist degree in education from the School of Education, was nominated in the Youth & Education category. **Joseph Wade**, who earned his degree in marketing from the School of Business Administration in 2008, was nominated in the Manufacturing, Service Industries, Energy & Architecture category. Congratulations to all the nominees!
Heather is pictured with Michael Kratsios, Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer, and Dr. France Cordova, Director of the National Science Foundation.
One of Georgia Southwestern’s own was recently honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Heather (Burgess) Simpson, a 2007 magna cum laude graduate of GSW’s School of Education, is currently a Kindergarten teacher at Hueytown Elementary in Hueytown, Alabama just outside of Birmingham. Simpson received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (also known as PAEMST) in June for her outstanding work in teaching mathematics to her students. As one of only 104 teachers nationwide to receive this award, Simpson received a certificate signed by the President of the United States and $10,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Another perk of the award was a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend several recognized events and professional development opportunities. She referred to the award events as “breathtaking,” and she loved the time she got to spend at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery and the White House. Since she had not been to our nation’s capital since middle school, she was able to see it all with a new perspective. Another bonus of the trip was gaining the friendships of dozens of fellow educators from all over the country with whom she has remained in contact.
Simpson says that her view of teaching mathematics has changed since she started teaching 11 years ago at Sumter County Primary School. “As a kindergarten teacher, I get to teach all subjects! When I began teaching, my favorite thing to teach was reading. However, as I have grown as an educator and learned more about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education and the way children conceptualize numbers and develop number sense, I absolutely love to teach math! Math instruction is no longer about teaching procedures or memorizing facts... it’s about understanding numbers and their relationships to each other! We can teach children to think like a mathematician, to use strategies that make sense to them, to model with mathematics, and to think critically,” says Simpson.

Though many would say Simpson is a natural in the classroom, she credits
her time at GSW (as well as her time earning her Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education and Specialist degree in teacher leadership from the University of Alabama at Birmingham) for helping her earn such a prestigious award and gain recognition as being a leader in the education field. Referring to GSW’s School of Education as “family,” Simpson says that her time as a Hurricane gave her many opportunities to cultivate her leadership skills by working in Admissions, as a board member for the Orientation Team, and serving in various positions through the Baptist Student Union (now known as the Baptist Collegiate Ministries). When asked about her biggest takeaway from her education classes, she stated, “A specific quote I remember from class was that instead of teaching us to ‘make spaghetti,’ our teaching professors would help us ‘learn to cook!’ What the professor meant by that was they were teaching us how to be an effective educator, not just pick up a teacher’s manual. To be an effective educator you not only have to know the content you teach, but you also have to know your students (their strengths and struggles, their preferences, their circumstances that may serve as barriers, etc.). And just like a good chef tastes and seasons as they cook, good teachers are continuously assessing the needs of their students and tweaking their instruction to fit those needs.” As far as GSW staff, Simpson claims that the former Dean of the School of Education Dr. Lettie Watford left a lasting impression on her, in spite of the fact that she never took a class under Dr. Watford. Simpson said Dr. Watford, “set the tone that we were a family with a substantial and significant mission. She impressed on us that we were about to embark on a career of immense importance. Though teaching can be challenging and exhausting at times, Dr. Watford’s kind words of encouragement and wisdom were always present!”

While GSW equipped Simpson to lead in the classroom, she says she has wanted to be a teacher ever since she was a teenager when she taught swim lessons. (Simpson grew up swimming for the Americus Blue Tide and was a member of the Southland Academy swim team in high school.) Her love of teaching is evident to all who enter her classroom as they observe her interacting with her students, coming down to their level to sit on the floor with them and encouraging them. She is known for treating her students with respect and always modeling kindness. When asked what they love about Mrs. Simpson, her young students say “she’s nice, she gives me hugs, she reads stories to us, and she moves my clip up” which is Kindergarten-speak for “she models forgiveness and gives me second chances because she knows that sometimes we make mistakes.” Also present in Mrs. Simpson’s classroom are her strong classroom management style and her sacrificial nature; her students always come first. Former Hueytown Elementary School principal Angela Watkins has this to say, “Mrs. Simpson is a good listener, communicator and is extremely kind to all she encounters. On top of all of those characteristics she is extremely knowledge-

“Connect with your students. Make sure that when they leave for the day, they know without a doubt that you care for them.”
able in her content and what children need to succeed."

When asked what she enjoys about teaching, Simpson doesn’t hesitate to respond that one of her favorite things about working with her students is watching her students set goals and then helping them work toward achieving those goals. And Simpson’s contributions toward education don’t stop in the classroom. She leads professional development sessions at the school, district, and state levels. She works as a trainer for the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative, serves as the Grade Level Chairperson, and is a member of Hueytown Elementary School’s Lighthouse Team. As if all of that weren’t enough,
winning the PAEMST has opened even more doors for her. Since receiving the award, she has been asked to present at a state-wide assessment and grading conference on standards-based assessment, and she was chosen to serve on a regional in-service board for the state of Alabama.

Simpson knows the importance of staying grounded as a teacher. She says she always keeps perspective. She states, “If something doesn’t go as planned or a lesson crashes and burns today, I know that I can start over tomorrow.” And as many teachers do, she relies heavily on her fellow teachers who work as a team to plan and execute lessons.

Simpson also owes a bit of her personal life to GSW as well, as she met her husband Micah Simpson there. A GSW accounting alum, Micah went on to attend Beeson Divinity School at Samford University which led to their move to Alabama after their marriage in 2008. Micah is a chaplain at Brother Bryan, a mission in downtown Birmingham, and is self-employed in glassblowing and fine woodworking. Heather and Micah have two young boys, Daniel, a kindergartener at Hueytown Elementary, and Nathan who is one year old.

While Simpson’s time in the classroom has only just begun, she has some words of wisdom and encouragement for future educators: Buckle up! She says, “You have signed up for a profession that will challenge you physically, mentally, and emotionally... but it’s worth it! Your work will have a lasting impact on this world. Connect with your students. Make sure that when they leave for the day, they know without a doubt that you care for them.”

Years from now, when her trip to Washington, D.C. and her Presidential Award are just a memory, there is no doubt that Mrs. Simpson will have countless students who can say she made them feel smart, capable, and loved. And for Heather Simpson, that is the real award.

When asked what they love about Mrs. Simpson, her young students say:

“She’s nice, she gives me hugs, she reads stories to us, and she moves my clip up” which is Kindergarten-speak for “she models forgiveness and gives me second chances because she knows that sometimes we make mistakes.”
Jaha Dukureh, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize nominee and GSW alumna, delivered the annual Griffin Bell Convocation and Distinguished Lecture at GSW on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 during Presidential Investiture Week.

Earlier this year, Dukureh was nominated for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize for her work towards ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in her home country of The Gambia in West Africa and across the world. Dukureh was herself a victim of FGM at just one week old. Her arranged marriage to an unknown older man at age 15 brought her to New York City. After two months, Dukureh was able to leave her husband and continue her education in the U.S., where she became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2015.

Dukureh earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration and management online at GSW in 2013. That same year, she founded the non-profit organization Safe Hands for Girls, which provides support for survivors of FGM and
advocates for an end to FGM practices. She was then part of the movement that successfully banned FGM in The Gambia in 2015, a journey chronicled in the 2017 documentary “Jaha’s Promise.”

“We are extremely honored to have Jaha on campus to share her experiences with activism and her thoughts on leadership,” said GSW President Neal Weaver in the introduction.

During her lecture, Jaha told GSW students, “You are never too young to make a difference. If you see something wrong in this world, stand up for it. It’s our responsibility to make sure we don’t pass this along to the next generation. My biggest advice to you is to believe in yourself and use your voice.”

Jaha went on to thank GSW for allowing her the opportunity to come and share her story, and America for giving her a place to call home. “Because of this country, I was able to get an education. This country allowed me to be brave and think for myself.”

Following the Convocation, Jaha had a private meeting with fellow GSW alums, former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

The Bell Lecture Series, which brings notable individuals and outstanding alumni to campus to share their experiences, is made possible through a gift from the late Griffin B. Bell, GSW alumnus and former U.S. attorney general.
Dr. Neal Weaver was inaugurated as GSW’s 11th President on October 5, 2018 in a formal investiture ceremony. An investiture formally marks the beginning of a president’s tenure, traditionally held during or at the conclusion of the president’s first year in office. It was a special time for GSW to welcome a new era of leadership and celebrate as a community.

The week leading up to Weaver’s ceremony was full of events that celebrated GSW and the community. The theme for the event was Gaining Momentum: Storming into a New Era. As GSW is powering through Momentum Year, the theme emphasized the hard work and dedication that is launching GSW into a new era of leadership and success.

1. Canned Food Drive: Investiture Week began with a canned food drive, where over 1,000 items were collected for the GSW campus food pantry and Harvest of Hope and spelled out G-S-W.


3. Greek Service Project: Greek students came together to apply fresh blue coats of paint to benches around campus.


5. Glow Canes: The “Glow Canes” Golf Cart Parade featured carts decorated by student organizations and departments, followed by a glow party at the GSW Lakehouse.

6. Brand Reveal: GSW unveiled its new logo and branding campaign, Take Tomorrow by Storm, on the Marshall Student Center patio.
7. **Pre-Concert Reception:** Special guests, including Dr. Weaver’s parents (left) and other friends and family, gathered for a reception before the Chamber Concert.

8. **Chamber Concert:** The GSW Department of Music hosted performances by faculty and friends as a part of the 2018 Chamber Concert Series.

9. **SurgeFest:** SurgeFest Music festival brought the GSW community out for a night of fun and music featuring food trucks, yard games and a fantastic show from Unbreakable Bloodline and Cloud9 Vibes.

10. **Weaver Family:** Dr. Weaver’s sons, Blake, Brett and Austin, were in town for the festivities.

11. **Investiture Ceremony:** Dr. Neal Weaver was officially inaugurated by University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Steve Wrigley.

12. **Luncheon on the Lawn:** Following the ceremony, Investiture guests were invited to a luncheon on the front lawn featuring some of Dr. Weaver’s favorite foods and music.

13. **First Friday:** GSW’s mascot, Surge, enjoyed exploring Downtown Americus during the GSW-sponsored First Friday festivities.

14. **Roller Skating:** GSW sponsored a glow-in-the-dark roller skating rink during First Friday in Downtown Americus.
GSW finishes third nationally in Community Service

The GSW Department of Athletics finished third among NCAA DII schools nationwide for the Team Works/Community Service Competition in the last standings of the 2017-18 academic year released by the NCAA. Every GSW team completed more than 100 volunteer hours with a 95 percent participation rate from athletes across the department. Athletes volunteered at a number of community organizations, including Magnolia Manor, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Southland Academy, Furlow Charter School and Head Start at Sumter County Schools. In all, more than 3,722 hours were served by Hurricane athletes in 2017-18.

Polly named Peach Belt Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year

GSW men’s soccer standout Silvio Polly was named the 2017-18 Peach Belt Conference Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year at the league’s annual awards dinner. The Scholar-Athlete award is the highest individual honor given by the PBC to a student-athlete during the year. A native of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Polly graduated from GSW in Spring 2018 with a degree in Exercise Science and Wellness and a 3.90 GPA. Named the GSW Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year, he also received the Dr. Richard Litwhiler Award for Exercise Science and Wellness. A three-time PBC Presidential Honor Roll member, including twice as a Gold Scholar, he was also named to the GSW President’s List and was a member of the GSW Honors Society. Polly becomes the third Hurricane to be named the PBC Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year and the second in a row, joining Nick Ward who won in 2017.

Norrman earns awards at both division and conference levels

GSW sophomore golfer Vincent Norrman has been recognized for excellence both on and off the course this year. Norrman was named First Team All-Conference and a semifinalist for the NCAA Division II Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award. A native of Stockholm, Sweden, Norrman broke the GSW 18-hole scoring record of 65 previously shared by Craig Gibson and Michael Harris with a Round 1 score of 64 (-8) at the Hurricane Invitational. He followed that up by breaking the 36-hole scoring record of 136 the next day that was previously held by Adam McKenny, shooting a two-round score of 134 (-10).

School-record 32 make All-Academic teams in 2017-18

GSW tied a school record with 32 student-athletes named to Peach Belt Conference All-Academic teams during the 2017-18 school year. The Peach Belt All-Academic teams are part of a season-long program recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Peach Belt student-athletes in the classroom as well as on the field. Men’s and women’s soccer, along with baseball, led the way with six honorees each. The mark of 32 ties GSW’s tally from 2015-16. A total of 15 first-timers made this year’s list.
Josh McDonald to lead GSW Baseball

Josh McDonald is returning to where his collegiate baseball career began as the Hurricanes Head Baseball Coach. McDonald returns to GSW from Georgia Southern University, where he served as Assistant Coach working primarily with the catchers and hitters, coached first base and helped coordinate the Eagle baseball camps. Georgia Southern finished with 30 or more wins in six of the seven seasons McDonald was on staff and 270 victories overall. McDonald, originally from Fitzgerald, Ga., played at GSW from 2001-06 and earned a degree in Health and Physical Education. He was a four-year letterman for the Hurricanes, playing first base and was a three-time All-Academic selection. He also helped lead the Hurricanes to two regional appearances in 2005 and 2006.

Tierce tabbed First Team All-Conference

GSW Softball player Hayley Tierce has been named First Team All-Conference as a utility player by a vote of the league’s coaches announced at the tournament banquet in May 2018. Tierce, a junior from Warner Robins, Ga., is the all-time home run leader for the Lady Canes and leads the Peach Belt with 14 in the season. Tierce started all 51 games and leads GSW with a .323 batting average to go along with 47 runs batted in. Tierce hit three grand slam home runs this past spring. She tallied five games with four runs batted in while posting three RBIs in five different games for the Lady Canes.

“Refreshed” Surge unveiled at September soccer game

SGW’s mascot Surge unveiled a new look at the September 5th men’s soccer season opener. Surge is sporting a new hairdo, goatee and a friendlier face. After the big reveal, he handed out new Surge frisbees, bags and shirts to kids on the sidelines.

Under the Lights

The GSW men’s soccer team ushered in a new era on September 5th as they played the first-ever home night match in program history. The new field lights were installed in late August 2018, and the night match made for a much more accessible game time for the community. GSW men’s soccer emerged victorious with a 2-0 win over Brewton-Parker College. The festivities also included tailgating, yard games, food provided by Grub Club, a ribbon cutting with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, the unveiling of a “refreshed” Surge and a huge fireworks show to close out the night.
1950s

1950

Jim Tanquary is retired and resides at The Woodlands at Furman Retirement Facility.

1959

Sandra Griffin Wardell moved to Utah in 2014 to be near her daughter, who is GM of City Creek Center in Salt Lake.

1960s

1965

Bruce Garey is retired from the Marine Corps Logistics Base and lives in Albany, Ga.

1968

Addison “Sonny” Freeman will be celebrating 50 years of marriage to Georgiann Murphy Freeman on December 27, 2018. To celebrate, they took an eight-day trip to Paris in August.

Roscoe Googe is married to Pam Krohne Googe, and they have four children and seven grandchildren. Roscoe spent his career (1968-2010) as a high school coach in cross country, track and girls basketball. His teams won seven state championships and four second place trophies. He was a 2006 inductee into the Atlanta Track Club Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Georgia High School Coaches Association Hall Of Fame in 2010.

Tom Upton worked as an IRS revenue agent for 31 years and retired in 2014 as an Auditor with the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

1970s

1970

Ed Cooper is the author of The Okinawa We Lost and Vietnam by the Light of the Moon. He is currently co-writing another book with a medical doctor who was born and spent his early years in Afghanistan.

Jane Peel Sibler is retired and living in Louisville, Ky. She enjoys golf, gardening, Art & Environment for church, bible study and photography.

1971

Jane Scott Finney retired from teaching at the end of the 2016-2017 school year from Saint George’s Independent School, where she had taught since 1982. She was named the 2017 recipient of the Connie Owen Order of the Rose Award, which honors spouses of Pi Kappa Phi brothers who have themselves exemplified sustained involvement and shown an uncommon dedication to the fraternity.

1972

Daria Patterson Stahl, her husband, Terry, and son, Brian, reside in Centerville, Ga., where she is a retirement planner. She is also an avid golfer.

Joseph Mulligan and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in Savannah, Ga. They have been married since 1971 and are the proud parents of two daughters and four grandchildren (2 boys and 2 girls). Joseph is retired from U.S. Bank N.A. and also from the Army National Guard.

1973

Malcom McRainey currently resides in Smyrna, Ga., where he was in industrial sales.

Henrietta Rabon Drew married John Addison Drew on March 25, 1973. They were married for 38 years. John also graduated from GSW in 1972 with a B.S. in Social Science and from Valdosta State in 1976 with a Master’s degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice.

1974

Ed Joseph Holmes served as the 2018 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Augusta, Ga.

Bill Weldon currently resides in Meigs, Ga. and is a general contractor for Allstate Construction, Inc. His company built GSW’s Allstate Construction, Inc. at a Logistics Company, GEODIS INC. He has raised many funds for these programs in the past 35 years. He enjoys family time and grandchildren. He loved his time in the south playing baseball with some of the finest men around and remembers many great times at GSW.

He and Carol have a new grandson, Barron Denham, their first grandchild. Needless to say, Mike says he and Carol are very happy!

1975

Lonnie Wise resides in Plains, Ga. He is Payroll Manager at Georgia Power Company.

1976

Paul Ristow resides in Donalsonville, Ga. and has a grown daughter. He is retired from the State of Georgia.

Angelia Winge Coleman has been an instructional supervisor at Georgia Southern University (formerly Armstrong State University) since 2008.

1977

Diane Dale Dempsey has been married to Ron Dempsey since 1983. She has two daughters, Amanda and Lauren. She is the school counselor at Mandarin High School in Jacksonville, Fl.

Al Bonagura, has been involved with youth programs in football, baseball and softball since retiring from IBM working at a Logistics Company, GEODIS INC. He has raised many funds for these programs in the past 35 years. He enjoys family time and grandchildren. He loved his time in the south playing baseball with some of the finest men around and remembers many great times at GSW.

He and Carol have a new grandson, Barron Denham, their first grandchild. Needless to say, Mike says he and Carol are very happy!
1979

Tom Giddens and his wife, Carol, also an alum, reside in Miramar Beach, Fl., and Kennesaw, Ga. Tom is retired from AFLAC, where he was director of sales.

1980

Jane Hodges is a lecturer for the Department of Psychological Sciences at Augusta University.

1981


Ralph Goethe retired from a 35-year career in retail management. Currently, he is serving as a church youth minister and as the CEO of two Boys & Girls Clubs in Toombs County, Ga.

1982

Mary Harden resides in Martinez, Ga. and is director of home health at the University Hospital at Augusta University. After graduating from GSW, she obtained a B.S.N. from Liberty University, a B.S. in health care management from Southern Illinois and a Master’s degree in management from Southern Wesleyan University.

1984

Lisa Williams, R.N., M.S.N., CPAN, has been named surgical services/critical care educator at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence, R.I., effective March 2018.

1987

Valerie Roberts, received her B.S. in psychology, her master’s in special education in 1990, her specialist’s degree in 1997 and her doctorate in 2007. Dr. Roberts is superintendent of Stewart County Schools.

Denise Bearden is English Department Chair at Statesboro High School in Statesboro, Ga. She works with the Curriculum Development Team of Bulloch County Schools and is a member of the GaDOE/GaPSC Teacher Leadership Taskforce.

Lisa Holloway is retired from teaching special education after over 30 years. She currently works part-time for Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare with adults with disabilities.

James Dennard is campus administrator at Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville, Ga. In March, he was installed at the American College of Healthcare Executives as Regent for the State of Georgia. He looks forward to working with Georgia Healthcare Leaders in assisting them in their professional journey of connecting, learning, succeeding, advancing and leading.

1989

Ayesha Lakes has been married since 1999 and has a 13-year-old son and a chocolate lab named Jazz. She and her family reside in Stone Mountain, Ga., where she runs her own photography business called PhoArtgraphy, LLC.

1990

Ginger Rollins is employed as a senior accountant with E.T.C. Schools, Inc. in Blackshear, Ga.

1991

William Kobs resides in Albany, Ga. He is a retired social studies teacher for grades 6-12 and special education K-12.

1992

Terri Battle resides in Americus, Ga. and is employed as an athletics assistant at South Georgia Technical College.

Moses James is a member of the Georgia Prison Wardens Association, the chairman of the Seminole County High School Council and has served as chairman/vice-chairman for Seminole County Elementary School. Moses has a Master’s degree in public safety administration from the Columbus State University Command College, is a graduate of the UGA Carl Vinson Institute for Correctional Leadership Institute (CLI) and a member of Raman Lodge No. 136 (Prince Hall Affiliate). Moses has been married to Laverne Greene-James for 20 years, and they currently reside in Donalsonville, Ga. They have three sons, RaShawn, Moses III and Dillon.

1994

Lori Griggs resides in Villa Rica, Ga., where she is office manager for Berkel and Company. She is also the creative director and part owner of Memory Fortress.

1995

David Wicker resides in Brunswick, Ga. and is a captain/EMT with the Glynn County Fire Department.

Patrick Mugridge is the band director at Central High School in Helena, Ark.

1996

Chris Hicks and his family reside in Charlotte, N.C. Chris recently took a position with the Sigma Chi International Fraternity as a regional chapter support coordinator for North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. He assists each chapter in these states with education programming and leadership development.

1997

Allison Kidd is married to Patrick Cross, and they have a young son. They live in Chattanooga, Tn. After graduating, she worked for TSYS for 11 years, then fell into branch banking while living in Eufaula, Al. Her husband was transferred to Chattanooga, and she is now
vice president/business development officer for Atlantic Capital Bank. She specializes in small business lending, deposits and personal loans and lines of credit.

1998

**Andrea Thompson** resides in Kathleen, Ga. and is a family nurse practitioner.

**Crystal Gaines** is a claims examiner residing in Duluth, Ga.

**Vikram Natarajan** joined SPH Analytics as senior vice president of Development & IT. Previously, Natarajan held leadership roles in in tele-health, clinical research and other related healthcare companies.

**Stephanie Whigham** Bennett resides in Americus, Ga., where she is Probate Court Judge for Sumter County. Her husband of 20 years, Blake Bennett, also graduated from GSW in 1996 and is president of First State Bank in Americus. They have an 11-year-old son, Perry, who Stephanie says “has benefitted for many years from summer camps offered by the University.”

**Rama Srinivasan** resides in Aldie, Va. She teaches physics at Loudoun County Public Schools in Ashburn, Va.

**Derek Wright** resides in Statesboro, Ga., where he is inventory control manager at Hugo Boss.

1999

**Scott Arnett** is an associate professor of exercise science at Western Kentucky University.

**Brannon Parks** works as a school psychologist at Chattahoochee-Flint RESA and served as 2017 President of the Georgia Association of School Psychologists.

2000s

2000

**Eric Holland** is principal at Rome High School in Rome, Ga.

**Arthur Clark** retired from GSW in 2015 with nearly 40 years of service. He started off as the grounds superintendent and retired as the assistant director of Physical Plant, landscape development and design, director of environmental health and safety and risk management. Since his retirement, Arthur works part time at a local funeral home in Leesburg. He is very involved with the Leesburg United Methodist Church.

2001

**Jenise Searcy Watts** resides in Forsyth, Ga., where she is a kindergarten teacher employed by the Monroe County Board of Education.

**Kristy Stone** is a teacher and academic coach at Tift County’s Omega Elementary School. Kristy was chosen as Teacher of the Year in Turner County in 2005 and again in 2018 at Omega Elementary School in Tifton, Ga. Kristy resides in Tifton with her husband, Chad.

**Lori Grant** is a foot and ankle surgeon residing in Longwood, Fl.

2002

**Robert Thompson** lives in Marietta, Ga. and is employed by VMware as senior technical instructor. He helped release the brand new VMware Certified Professional Digital Workspace certification along with his co-workers, while sponsoring a related student capstone project during the Spring 2018 semester at Kennesaw State University.

2003

**Michael Jenkins** resides in Leesburg, Ga. and is employed by U.S. Screen Printing and Signs.

**Rosa Davis** resides in Cuthbert, Ga. and is director of Student Affairs at the Albany Technical College-Randolph County Learning Center.

2004

**Natalie Williams** left GSW with degrees in psychology and nursing and continued on to Troy University, where she earned a Master’s of Science in Nursing with a concentration as a family nurse practitioner in 2007. In May 2017, she graduated from Brandman University in Irvine, Ca. with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice, along with an additional Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification. Her dissertation won an award for being the most innovative in her graduating class. Natalie gave birth to a son, Nicholas, in 2003 before graduating from GSW and raised him as a single mother. She credits GSW for giving her a solid foundation that has enabled her to grow as a person as well as a professional registered nurse.

**Panupat Chavananikul** studied at GSW in 2004 as a member of the Georgia Rotary Student Program, continued on to law school at Indiana University, Bloomington and Cornell Law School. He came back to the States and worked at the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C., just a few blocks away from the White House and Capitol Hill.

**Laurel Myers** welcomed baby Max Boston on January 23, 2018. Max joins big sisters Chloe and Allison.

2005

**Brad Clark** resides in Leesburg, Ga. and is the owner of U.S. Screen Printing and Signs.

**Deitra Wright** is a physical therapist. She graduated from Utica College, N.Y. in May 2018 with a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

**Judy Orton Grissett** is an associate professor of psychology at GSW. She also serves as internship coordinator for the Department of Psychology and Sociology, as well as campus champion for Affordable Learning Georgia. She is married to Robert Ashley Grissett (‘11).
2006
Leonas Kontvainis is the European sales director for Remacro Machinery & Technology (Wujiang) Co., Ltd. based in Suzhou, China. He is also general manager and shareholder of GFC (Global Furniture Components), UAB based in Siauliai, Lithuania, and he runs a consulting company named MB Mekana based in Vilnius, Lithuania. Leonas resides in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Elijah Brantley resides in Nashville, Tn. with his wife and daughter. Elijah is a regional training supervisor at Sprint.

Stephen Moreno is a loan officer with BrandMortgage and recently opened a new BrandMortgage location in Americus, where he hired two GSW alumni, Lance Childers and Josh Tondee, as loan officers. All three are graduates from the GSW School of Business Administration.

2007
Tamra Brown is a corporate event and media coordinator at Valco Melton.

Gloria Askew resides in Hamilton, Ga. where she is lead high school teacher at Edgewood Student Services Center in the Muscogee County School District. She was named Teacher of the Year for 2017-2018 for AIM at Edgewood Student Services Center.

2008
Brenda O’Steen currently resides in Blackshear, Ga. and is vice president of clinical operations at Memorial Satilla Health in Waycross, Ga.

Remmecya Lavant has been selected for promotion to the rank of technical sergeant in the Air Force. She is currently serving as standardization and evaluation non-commissioned officer in charge with the 71st Security Forces Squadron at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

2009
John Wright resides in Smyrna, Ga. where he is a Cloud Solutions Architect with Slalom Consulting.

2010s
2010
Caleb Powell resides in Fitzgerald, Ga. and is a teacher at Ben Hill County Elementary School.

Kari Holloway is an author who has over 10 publications, including novels, anthologies, a magazine and a nonfiction book on how to use Microsoft Word.

Sean Howe has been selected as assistant director of a coaching academy for soccer. Sean played soccer while attending GSW, and he also served as assistant soccer coach from 2011-2012.

2013
Jephry Milloy is a freelance videographer and locations assistant involved with the production of short films in Georgia.

Tony Miller has recently taken a new position as director of student conduct and deputy Title IX coordinator at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Al. after having served as coordinator of student conduct and community standards at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Tx.

Logan Collins resides in Americus, Ga. and is an accountant at Perry Brothers Oil Company. He is married to Chelsea Collins, Director of Marketing and Communications at GSW. They have an 8-year-old daughter, Kynslee, and a two-year-old son, Keller.

Will McKenzie is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Saint Simons Island, Ga.

2014
Beau Barrett is a CPA with the firm McNair, McLemore and Middlebrooks in Macon, Ga.

Jodie Kretzer, his wife, Katie, and their 1 1/2-year-old son, Kase, reside in Fitzgerald, Ga. Jodie is employed at Albany State University in dual roles as director of technical services and interim director of project management. He is in his final semester at Middle Georgia State University for his second Master’s degree in Information Technology. He was recently selected for Leadership Albany’s 2019 class.

Courtney Matthews loves teaching 1st grade at her dream job at Schley County Elementary in Ellaville, Ga. She also loves spending time with her husband, Logan, and their 2-year-old son, Mack.

Brandon Vann joined the staff of Southwest Georgia Farm Credit as a Relationship Manager.

Rebekah Adair graduated from the University of West Georgia with a master’s degree in psychology in April 2016. Presently, she works as a paralegal helping veterans get compensation for injuries they obtained in service. Rebekah was recently accepted into the legal psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). She moved to El Paso, Tx. in August 2018.

2015
Stephanie Dunbar Hudson resides in Greenwood, Sc. and is the IT director at Erkskine College and Theological Seminary.

Rachel McElroy currently resides in Lawrenceville, Ga. where she is a middle school health teacher at Duluth Middle School in the Gwinnett County Public Schools.

2016
Kara Hawkins resides in Americus, Ga. and is marketing director for Chick-fil-A in Cordele, Ga.
Tim Coley is now employed as a logistics manager with the Department of Defense.

Jake Revell and his wife, Haley Strange Revell, married in 2017 and have a one-month-old daughter. Jake is an insurance representative with Country Financial in Americus, Ga. and Haley is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Crisp Regional Urology in Cordele, Ga.

2017
Zachery Ward, his wife and their son, Cannon, reside in Cordele, Ga. Zachery is a 3rd grade teacher at Worth County Elementary School. Zachery’s goal as a teacher is to make learning fun and meaningful for his students.

Laurie Tison plans to pursue an occupational therapy doctorate degree.

Shirley Harpe is working as a vaccine coordinator at Albany Area Primary Healthcare and enjoys spending time with family, traveling and doing medical mission trips.

Kristina Davis recently graduated with a degree in sociology and works as a child care counselor.

Clefira McComas is a kindergarten teacher at Cox Elementary in Moultrie, Ga.

Crystal West resides in Dacula, Ga., where she is employed as an academic advisor at the University of North Georgia.

Tyler Pennington is employed by GSW as an out-of-state admissions counselor.

2018
Allison Stewart resides in Meansville, Ga. and is an executive assistant at Innovative Senior Solutions in Americus, Ga.

Tristan Wiggins resides in Americus, Ga. and is employed at Flint Ag and Turf as an office administrator.

Ashley Childress, 2016
Americus, GA

Callie (Fletcher) Satterfield, ’39
Americus, GA

Carlton McAlvin
Hoschton, GA

Carolyn Barbree, ’85
Albany, GA

Elizabeth Anne Turner, ’87
Rome, GA

Frances (Cherry) Bishop, ’53
Albany, GA

Glynn Mathis, ’51
Americus, GA

Hoyt Smallwood, ’70
Jacksonville, FL

James Purks
Americus, GA

Jeanette (Strange) Knowlton, ’40
Americus, GA

John Bruce Colston, ’77
Americus, GA

John McDuffie, ’64
Tuscaloosa, AL

Joseph Edwards, ’69
Plains, GA

Miriam (Rossman) Branan, ’76
Savannah, GA

Plez Hardin, ’93
Americus, GA

Robert Dillard, ’57
Buena Vista, GA

Robert E. Lee Watson, ’72
Jacksonville, FL

Samuel Thames, ’79
Jacksonville, FL

Victoria (Ondo) Burnfin, ’15
Watkinsville, GA

Elliott Cole Varnum
of Americus
August 17, 1996 - June 2, 2018
Cole was a senior psychology major, seeking a minor in Spanish. He was very active on the GSW campus as a member of the Orientation Team, a volunteer with students from the GSW English Language Institute, a member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM), and he had recently participated in GSW’s first Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Cole lived with joy, was friendly to everyone and enjoyed making others laugh.
Class of 1968

50th anniversary of the first class to graduate from Georgia Southwestern State University with four-year degrees.

Brenda Shipp
I currently live in Murray, Ky., home of Murray State University. We’ve lived here since 1979, when my husband, Andy, took the position of plant engineer at Vanderbilt Chemical Co. After graduation from GSW in 1968, I started teaching business education at LaGrange High School in my hometown of LaGrange, Ga. I graduated from LHS, so teaching there was very special for me. After three years in LaGrange, we moved to Opelika, Ala., so my husband could complete his degree in chemical engineering at Auburn University. While in Opelika, I taught for a year at Glenwood Academy in Phenix City, after which I stayed home to raise our daughter.

I have been married to my husband for 50 years! We have one beautiful daughter, Staci Shipp Koenig. She and her husband, Steve, have two beautiful children: Caroline, 14, and Carter, 12. They are our world, and we’re fortunate that they live here in Murray as well! The most memorable adventure we have been on was a trip to Europe.

Georgiann and Sonny Freeman
My wife, Georgiann, and I currently live at Sun City Peachtree, an outstanding over-55 active adult community in Griffin, Ga.

The year I graduated from GSW, 1968, was a busy year, during which I was drafted into the Army and married my current bride of nearly 50 years. We have one daughter, Melanie, who passed away in 1999.

After Army training, I was sent to Korea for the next 13 months. When I returned, I began working for Citizens & Southern National Bank, and then took a position as a business assistant to a multimillion-dollar real estate owner/developer. I then had the opportunity to move to Florida to work for the U.S. government.

I stayed there until 2005, when I retired as a regional manager for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Financial Services Division, NOAA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce. We moved to Sun City Peachtree in 2008.

Our most memorable trips since retirement include our trip to Israel and Jordan, our river cruise down the Danube, and visiting the Christmas Markets in Germany and Austria. We have an upcoming trip to Paris to celebrate 50 years of marriage.

George Woodall
My wife, Patty—who taught in the nursing program at GSW for twelve years—and I reside in Lee County, Ga. I am an attorney and have been in private practice in Albany since 1974. Patty was the program director for Albany Community Hospice until her retirement in 2013.

Ron Wheelis
After graduating from GSW in 1968, I earned my master’s degree in educational leadership from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga. My professional career included positions as a teacher/coach for Lowndes County Schools in Valdosta and Macon County Schools in Oglethorpe, Ga.; assistant principal of Fernandina Beach High School in Fernandina Beach, Fla.; principal of Dunnellon High School in Dunnellon, Fla.; principal of Fort McCoy School in Fort McCoy, Fla.; a position in district management development/school improvement for Marion County Schools in Ocala, Fla.; and consultant for school improvement and reform for the International Center for Leadership in Education.

My wife, Sonja, and I have two children and five grandchildren.

Roscoe Googe
After receiving my degree from GSW, I earned a master’s degree in education and a degree as an education specialist from the University of West Georgia.

Following my studies, I enjoyed a 40-year teaching and coaching career in Georgia public schools. I was inducted into the Track and Field Coaches Hall of Fame in 2006, the Georgia Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010, and the Marietta Athletic Hall of Fame, and I received 32 coach of the year awards from the Atlanta Track Club and the Georgia High School Association. The GHSA also recognized me with a plaque for 40 years of officiating high school basketball. My teams won seven state championships and four second-place finishes.

I also strived to be a pioneer in the development of girls’ sports—specifically cross-country and track and field—and my team won two state championships in cross-country.

In terms of personal competition, I am a masters track and field...
champion in the 70-74 age group in shot put, discus, hammer and weight. This year I won three events in Mississippi, three in Georgia, and three more at the Georgia Games. It has been an exceptional year for a man who has not competed in more than 50 years.

I currently live in Marietta, Ga., with my wife, Pam Shearer Googe. We have three sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren. The most interesting trip we have taken was to the British Isles. Needless to say, I have had a great life.

TOM UPTON
After my years at GSW, I worked as a revenue agent for the Internal Revenue Service from 1968-1999, and then as a tax auditor for the Tennessee Department of Revenue from 2000-2014. I also earned my CPA certificate in 1975.

I currently live with my wife, Christine Stinchcomb Upton, in Stone Mountain, Ga. We have a daughter, son, stepdaughter, grandson and two stepgrandsons. The most interesting place we have visited was Israel in 2013.
Georgia Southwestern honored alumni from each college/school on campus, inducted one former athlete into the GSW Athletics Hall of Fame, and recognized the Leewynn Finklea Alumni Award at the 2nd Annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet on October 20, 2017.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards were developed to recognize the distinguished personal accomplishments and professional achievements of Georgia Southwestern Alumni. The Leewynn Finklea Alumni Award recognizes outstanding alumni who have demonstrated exceptional service to the Alumni Association and the University. It is named in honor of the first Alumni Director, Leewyn J. Finklea.

The 2017 GSW Outstanding Alumni Award recipients were:

- **Jeff Benton, ’92 and ’96**
  School of Business Administration

- **Calvin Rhodes, ’90**
  School of Computing and Mathematics

- **Allen Fort, ’75 and ’78**
  School of Education

- **Greg Slappey, M.D., ’88**
  College of Arts and Sciences

- **Judy Tingley, D.N.P., ’97**
  School of Nursing

- **J.P. Griffin, ’14**
  GSW Athletics Hall of Fame

The 2017 Leewynn Finklea Award recipient was:

- **Liz Harpe Ruf, ’76**

**Jeff Benton**

With more than 20 years of experience in the lighting industry, Benton is the vice president of operations for Eaton’s residential and wiring devices division, a $1 billion dollar operation. Immediately prior, Benton was the president of ALP Lighting Components for two years.

A U.S. Army veteran, Benton earned a Bachelor and Master of Business Administration from Georgia Southwestern after being in service three years. A member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity while at GSW, Benton received the 25-year Volunteer Service Award at the Kappa Sigma Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, Nevada in July 2017. He is currently the president of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity Alumni Council.
Allen Fort

Fort is the superintendent for Taliaferro County Schools in Crawfordville, Ga. Prior to that, he was a consultant for the Southern Regional Education Board (Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama). He also served as superintendent of Quitman County Schools and as a school improvement specialist for the Georgia Department of Education. He ran for state superintendent of schools in 2014.

Fort’s career and experience in Georgia K-12 spans more than 40 years as a teacher and administrator dating back to when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from GSW in 1975. His work in the classroom earned him “Teacher of the Year” honors three different times. Fort also holds a master’s degree from GSW and Valdosta State University and an education specialist degree from the University of Georgia.

Calvin Rhodes

Rhodes is the chief information officer (CIO) for the state of Georgia and serves as the executive director of the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA). He entered state government in January 2011 from Paladin Investments, where he served as founder and managing partner. Prior to that, he worked with Fulton Paper Company for 27 years.

“Computerworld” magazine named Rhodes a 2016 Premier 100 Technology Leader, and Government Technology selected him as one of the nation’s Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers of 2016. Rhodes is a graduate of Darton College and he holds a Bachelor of Science in computer information systems from GSW. He earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

J.P. Griffin

Griffin is currently a PGA Professional at the Capital City Club in Atlanta, and he serves as the vice president of the PGA of Georgia’s Assistant’s Division. Griffin’s success while a member of the GSW golf team has firmly placed him as the latest inductee into the GSW Athletics Hall of Fame.

Griffin was a three-time Peach Belt Conference Golfer of the Week and a two-time All Conference selection. He was a member of the All Region team; he was third team All American; he placed second at the 2012 NCAA Division II Southeast Regional; and he finished ninth overall at the 2012 NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament. Griffin served as an assistant coach for the golf team prior to graduating with a degree in human resource management in 2014.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS
Judy Tingley, DNP

Tingley is the vice president and chief executive officer for Erlanger Health System’s Heart and Lung Institute in Chattanooga, Tenn. Additionally, Tingley serves as an assistant clinical professor of nursing for the Columbia University School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Prior to joining Erlanger, Tingley was the chief operating officer of Columbia Heartsource.

Tingley earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from GSW, a Master of Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York, N.Y., and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Tingley has 20 years of experience in healthcare, including clinical experience in cardiac surgery intensive care, transplant intensive care, and the cardiac catheterization laboratory.

Greg Slappey, M.D.

Slappey has been on staff at the Carrollton Orthopaedic Clinic as an orthopaedic surgeon since 1998, specializing in sports medicine. He received a Bachelor of Science in biology from GSW where he played football (three-time All American), baseball (two-time All American) and was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Inducted in the GSW Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995, Slappey earned an M.D. at the Medical College of Georgia.

A member of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, Slappey serves as the team physician for the University of West Georgia.

Liz Harpe Ruf

Ruf is an active member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors since joining in 2014, serving on the scholarship, awards and nominations committees. A faithful attendee and active board member, she views her role as an opportunity to better the board and advance the goals of the Alumni Association and the University.

As a GSW Zeta, she keeps in touch with her sisters and communicates alumni activities to the organization such as organizing and hosting a Golden Isles alumni gathering in St. Simons. She recently created an endowed scholarship in honor of her mother, Ms. Betty Pryor Harpe, in commemoration with Ms. Harpe’s 50 year graduation from the Georgia Southwestern Teacher Education Program. Liz also serves her home community as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in foster care, as a tourism volunteer, and as a member of Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church Choir.
The Chosen Path of a Caregiving Family

Following the Path of Our Mother

BY Sunni Zemblowski

Most people fear that they will grow up to become their parents. However, this was, and is, not the case for Derrick and Mitchell Easom. For them, following the path of their mother, the path of a nurse, has always been a dream and aspiration. And the path their mother, Dr. Leisa Easom, has taken is one of great caring, ambition, and hope.

Over the past four decades, Leisa Easom has devoted her life to nursing, caring for others, and educating future caregivers. Leisa earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Valdosta State University before going to the Medical College of Georgia for her PhD. After spending eight years working for a hospital, Leisa pursued her interest in becoming an educator. When she moved to Americus with her husband in the late 1980s, she applied for a teaching position in the School of Nursing at Georgia Southwestern. Since that time, Leisa has occupied a variety of roles, including her eight years as the executive director of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) and her most recent appointment as the associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at GSW and the lead developer of a new four-year degree, the Bachelor of Science in Long-Term Care Management (LTCM).

Leisa’s work as a caregiver and educator followed her home, where it left a lasting impression on her children. Leisa reflected on how they may have been impacted by her occupation: “They have always had a ‘nurse’ in

Sharing the same career with my mother and brother has made our bond even stronger.

— Derrick
the home and I have always tried to explain what was happening whenever they were ill ... Perhaps a good role model? Hard to say.”

However, it is not hard to say according to her daughter, Derrick: “Growing up, I always saw my role model, my mom, as a nurse. Naturally, I wanted to be just like her when I grew up, so I decided at a very early age that I wanted to be a nurse.”

And, making that dream a reality, Derrick attended her mother’s alma mater, Valdosta State University, for two years before transferring to GSW, where she earned her BSN in 2015. She recently returned to GSW and completed the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program this past May. Now, Derrick works at Aesthetic Specialty Centre - Plastic Surgery and Dermatology as a cosmetic and aesthetic nurse practitioner. Mitchell, Derrick’s younger brother, also graduated this May alongside his sister, earning his BSN. Mitchell has started his career in nursing working at Phoebe Sumter Medical Center in the intensive care unit.

“Sharing the same career with my mother and brother has made our bond even stronger,” says Derrick.

Having a mother who was also an educator has had an impact on Leisa’s children as well. Derrick reflects back to her school work at GSW: “My mom definitely was able to help me with my studies in nursing school. [She] is so patient and truly loves to teach so she was always willing to help.”

Leisa, who has inspired and impacted so many future and current caregivers, hopes that she has influenced Derrick and Mitchell in a lasting way: “I hope that I inspired them to care for others, that care requires that one has the knowledge and critical thinking skills to provide the best for the care recipient.” Based on the evidence, this hope has been fulfilled. For Derrick, the influence of her mother and of nursing goes much further than one generation: “I would love to see the cycle of nursing continue through the family legacy.”
2017 Outstanding Alumni Dinner

For the second year, GSW recognized outstanding graduates from each of the five colleges and schools, and inducted a new member into the Athletics Hall of Fame.
Greetings

Greeks Go Irish

GSW Greek Alumni traveled near and far to see old friends again for the ‘Greeks Go Irish’ event on St. Patrick’s Day in March 2018.
Crazy 8’s Reunion

The GSW Alumni Association hosted the “Crazy 8’s Reunion” in Feb. 2018 for GSW alumni and friends with special recognition for alumni with class years ending in “8.”
Homecoming Fun Run

A 1 mile fun run/walk and 5K was hosted by the Alumni Association during Homecoming Week in Feb. 2018.
### President's Circle
($1,000.00 +)

- AT&T Foundation - Georgia
- Accelerated Physical Therapy
- Sam & Margaret Adams
- Allen, Mooney & Barnes
- Aromark
- John and Alice Argo
- Ricky and Jane Arnold
- Augusta Warren Fund
- Andrew Austin
- Richard & Abby Baringer
- Bell Family Foundation
- Jeff & Amy Benton
- Paul & Sherry Blue
- Bob Woodruff Foundation
- Bill & Shary Bradshaw
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
- Jimmie & Joyce Buchanan
- Margaret Fite
- First State Bank of Americus
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Emory University
- EMC Engineering Services
- Elisabeth Elder
- Jim & Freddie Dudley
- Draw Products
- Michael Denney
- Arthur & Sandra Daniel
- Joe Daniel
- Arthur & Sandra Daniel
- Daniel, Robert & Associates
- Citizens Bank of Americus
- Clinic Drug Store
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated
- Bud & Anne Cofer
- Courtesy Chrysler
- Cousins Catering
- Timothy D. Cranford
- Charles R. Crisp
- CSC ServiceWorks
- Kelly P. Church
- minced Meats
- Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund
- Clyde & Sharon Morris
- Tony & Lou Chase
- Jon & Lou Chase
- GSW Kappa Sigma Alumni Fund
- Jim & Judy Rylander Foundation
- Randy & Nancy Jones
- Jr. Service League of Americus
- GSW Kappa Sigma Alumni Fund
- Jin-Sung Kim
- Jimmy & Diana Skipper
- Donna & Sandy King
- Larry & Jane Comer Foundation
- Mike & Jodie Leeder
- Lynn Greenleaf Brown Fund
- Danny & Kathy MacQuirter
- Magnolia Manor
- Mary O. Marshall
- Martin McDonald State Farm
- Masimo Foundation
- Maggie Marshall Foundation
- Wallace & Kitty Mays
- Marty & Paula McDonald
- Kara McKelvey
- MetroPower
- Sam Miller
- Danny & Sallie Minick
- Rebecca Moore
- Doug & Yolanda Moses
- Jerry & Marjorie Newman
- Newton & Vivian Allen Foundation
- OK Beauty & Fashion
- Peach State Depression Glass Club
- Georgia & Anne Pegelet
- Jimmy & Marianne Peel
- Boris & Svetlana Petscherger
- Will & Brook Peterson
- Lee & Faith Pinnell
- JoAnn Pope
- Kerri K. Post
- Michael E. Pruett
- Randy Roderick & Associates
- Raymond James Charitable Trust
- Joseph W. Reid
- Glenn Robins
- Rotary Club of Americus
- Kelly & Reda Rowell
- Roy L. Parker Family Foundation
- Joe & Liz Ruf
- Randal & Karen Sanders
- Jonathan & Megan Scott
- Howard & Diane Sheppard
- Linda Shingler
- Jimmy & Diana Skipper
- Charles & Eugene Smith
- Herschel & Pam Smith
- Steven & Brandi Snell
- South GA Tech. College Found.
- Patricia Starck
- State Farm Companies Foundation
- Steven-Kaye II
- John Stovall
- Subers Charitable Untrust
- Synovus Financial Corporation
- Jim Tanquary
- TCI Powder Coatings
- Russell & Andrea Thomas
- Thomas & Irene Kirbo Foundation
- William & Mildred Tietjen
- Alt & Marianne Tuggle
- Ty & Carla Turner
- USG Foundation
- Michael & Janet Weston
- Wes & Jean Wheeler
- AEGON Transamerica Foundation
- Ervin & Debra Anderson
- Ben & Michelle Andrews
- Arrow Extterminators
- David Bales
- Greg and Katherine Barnetson
- William H. Bieler
- Bill & Jan Bird
- Carol C. Bishop
- James H. Blanchard
- David Reed
- Richard & Lucia Ross
- Joseph & Jane Sellers
- Southern Land & Realty
- Studio 8 Design
- Tape Specialists of Georgia
- The Scott Law Foundation
- Molly T. Thomas
- Tom & Lynn Welland
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Michael & Janet Weston
- Wes & Jean Wheeler
- Liz Wilson
- Windsor Hotel
- Ryan & Mandy Young

### Southwestern Society
($500.00 - $999)

- Rachel Abbott
- AEGON Transamerica Foundation
- Ervin & Debra Anderson
- Ben & Michelle Andrews
- Arrow Extterminators
- David Bales
- Greg and Katherine Barnetson
- William H. Bieler
- Bill & Jan Bird
- Carol C. Bishop
- James H. Blanchard
- Al & Pam Bonagura
- Thomas Bornemann
- Alan & Michele Campbell
- Ron L. Chaffin
- Chattahoochee Turf Products
- Ann Cofer
- Colleen & Sam Nunn Family Foundation
- Culpepper Development
- Denham, Edwards & Foshee Insurance
- Lauren DiPaula
- Will & Mary Elizabeth Eastertin
- Darrell Ford
- Gatewood, Skipper & Rambo, P.C.
- Georgia Power Company
- Barbara Grogan
- Royce & Melinda Hackett
- John & Gaye Hayes
- William & Diane Heys
- Clint & Lisa Holloway
- Ronald B. Hubbard
- Ron & Donna Hudson
- Philip D. Jennings
- Heiko Kallenbach
- Stephen & Barbara Kieran
- Cody & Sharon King
- Bill & Glenda Kipp
- Walter & Annie Lanter
- Martha S. Maddox
- Sosa S. McLoine
- Jem & Cathie Morris
- Ronnie & Mary Nix
- Clyde & Sharon Owens
- Robert & Kristi Patrick
- Charles & Colleen Patterson
- Jack L. Perry
- PharmaCentra
- Phoebe Sumter Medical Center
- Precision Automotive
- Stephen & Cathy D. Purser
- R & S Sports
- David Reed
- Richard & Lucia Ross
- Joseph & Jane Sellers
- Southern Land & Realty
- Studio 8 Design
- Tape Specialists of Georgia
- The Scott Law Foundation
- Molly T. Thomas
- Torbert Electric
- Lettie J. Watts
- Hugh & Elaine Watts
- Nelson & Paula Williams

### Tower Club
($250.00 - $499)

- James & Deborah Abbott
- Abercrombie Landscaping
- Adkins Rental Holdings
- After Hours Care of Americus
- Americus Veterinary Hospital
- Lynn Bailey
- Bales Financial Group
- Reagan & Taylor Barksdale
- Greg Barnetson

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**2017 Giving**

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Reid Baynard
James & Vicki Birdsong
James & Mary Bishop
Kendall & Connie Blanchard
Barry & Tammi Blount
Robert & Kathleen Bolton
Tom Bower
John & Shirley Bretch
Ricky & Denise Burgess
Cal Duke & Associates Publishing
Calhoun Landscaping
Dewey W. Cannon
Century 21 Americus Realty
Chandler-Morgan Eyeworks
Christ Chapel Church
Charles & Kim Christmas
Bob C. Clark
Ronald & Suzann Culpepper
D D Gahman
Ronald & Suzann Culpepper
D D Gahman
Bryan P. Davis
Log J. Day
Cam & Kelsie Deiter
Michael & Carol Denham
Gordon & Jessica Duff
Cal & Patty Duke
Sarah C. Duncan
L Eugene Dunmon
EE Retirement Management
Elberton Animal Hospital
Steven & Luann Enstrom
Karen Evans
Farmers Seed & Feed
FireLine
Flint River Fuel Center
Greg Fricchione
Gardiner W. Garrard
Gatewood’s Flowers
Robert J. Gilbert
Ginger Starlin Agency
Ron E. Graham
Claude Greene
David & Kay Dee Green
Mark & Pam Grimes
John & Gisele Gunderman
Buddy & Cherilyn Guth
Boyd & Renee Hagerson
Tommy & Jan Harrell
Home Depot
Charles & Maria Hough
Houston Orthopedic Surgery
Scott & Ramona Hunt
Sam & Reba Hunter
Michael Greene, PC
Bobby & Sherri Jenkins
David C. Jenkins
Emil & Christine Jensen
John P. Spann, Inc.
Eric Johnson
Wally Joiner
Kennebrew Company
Kiwanis Club of Americus
Brad & Mary LoFevers
Tracy & Lisa Law
LCH Realty Company
Leonard’s Farmer Market
Nicole J. Levering
Don & Miriam Lollar
Marguerite Rodgers Interior Design
Danny & Terry Maxwell
Bryan & Carmen McLain
Nancy A. Negians
Parker’s Heating & Air Conditioning
Pat’s Place
Paul Steinwachs MD
Tami J. Peavy-Owen
Pediatric Partners of Columbus
Michael & Dephne Perkins
Betty Pope
Frank & Lynda Lee Purvis
Vivian Ragsdale
Rick Davis Automotive
John A. Roberts
William & Susan Robinson
Rush & Rush, CPAS, PC
Mileidys Sanchez
Alex & Mandy Saratsiotis
SB&T
Brennon & Luanne Sewell
Thomas & Ruth Shewmell
Sherwin Williams Foundation
Shiver Lumber Company
Don & Jane Sibler
Donald & Rhonda Slocumb
Justin & Jennifer Smith
Rucker Smith
Stephen & Leah Snyder
South GA State College Found.
Pat & Judy Spann
James & Tracy Spinks
Christopher Spivey
Steve & Jeannie Stanfield
Sam & Sue Stephens
Doug Stinson
Sunbelt Ford of Americus
David & Julie Suppes
Milton & Beverly Sutherlin
Christine L. Taylor
Mark & Francie Taylor
The Staffing People
The William Bailey Agency
James H. Timberlake
George & Shay Torbert
Ray & Donja Tripp
Brandon & Lauren Vann
Jody & Judy Wade
Eddie & Betty Anne Ward
Sandra A. Wardell
John & Barbara Watford
James L. Watkins
Webb Investment Services
Welden Enterprises
Jimmy & Morgan Whaley
Rick & Ginny Whaley
Jason A. Wicker
Philip J. Wise
Russell & Valerie Wynn
Alex & Alla Yemelyanov

★ Century Club
($100-$249)
2131 N. American St. Assoc.
John & Kimberly Adkins
Scott Adkins
John & Julianne Alderman
Tristam & Janell Aldridge
Charita Allen
ALP Lighting Components
Gayle Alston
American Telecom. Co.
Ameris Bank
Tom Andre
Steve Austin
Auto Cosmetic Specialist
B B Realty Investments LLC
Gail Barksdale
David & Carolyn Barlow
Pamela Barnett
John Bates
Laura Bauer
Connie Baughman
George & Barbara Bell
Ben Collinger Insurance Agency
Robert Bennett
Marvin and Mildred Benson
Alan & Marcia Bone
Hary Bottka
Nicholas Bottka
William & Willene Bourn
Stephen Boyd
Jim and Sonja Bradley
Darcy Bragg
Douglas Brand
Brewer Servicing and Contracting
Carolyn Brewster
Brickyard Plantation
Ronald & Sandra Brinkley
Kelly Britsky
Dorothea Britt
Jim Britt
Neil & Karen Brown
Curtis & Paula Bryant
Hugh & Barbara Bryant
Richard Burgess
Hoyt Ray and Glynis Burrow
Charles and Jo Bush
Clay Caldwell
George Capo
Burt Carter
George & Carol Casion
Cataula Towers LLC
Catholic Church of St. Gabriel
Chief Manufacturing
William & Janet Childs
Jennifer Christie
Arthur & Belinda Clark
Arthur and Hazel Clark
Jamie Collins
Kimberly Comer
Cookman Enterprises, Inc.
Larry Cooley
Jarrod & Melissa Crum
Josh Curtin
David Curto
Jesse Davis
Frank and Sharyn Davis
Matt Dennis
Sebastian Dixon
DLI Mechanical
Rita Doll
Mike & Lisa Donalson
Dorado Design & Construction
Dorcas A. Godwin Inc.
Larry & Cathy Doyle
Walt & Hellen Driggers
Arnold and Mara Durham
Michelle Dykes
Early Bloomers Garden Club
Madeline Earnest
Easterlin Pecan Co.
Family Tradition Steakhouse
Bill and Jane Finney
James & Kimberly Fletcher
Janis Flens
Allen and Lisa Fort
Donald and Judy Gallops
Earl and Barbara Gammage
Bonnie Gary
Jeffrey & Selina Gaston
Schleg and Karen Gatewood
Geiger E.D.M., Inc.
Tom & Carol Giddens
John and Rebecca Gladden
Erika Gonzalez
Roscoe & Pam Googe
Grebel Pecans Nursery
Jeffrey Green
J.P. and Leah Griffin
Rachel Griggs
Chadwick & Mei-Chuang Guig
Joe Hall
Lemond & Teketa Hall
Reagan Hall
Richard Hall
Barbara Harberger
Courtney Harmon
Willie Harper
Anthony Harris
Dalton & Misty Harris
Bill Harris Jr
Harrod Tree Services
Stephanie Harvey
Bo & Jan Hatfield
Richard and Connie Haugabook
Ronald & Gail Heath
Carolyn Henderson
Jim and Nancy Herron
Elizabeth Hewitt
Frank Hines
Dreena Hoffman
Katie Hoffman
Tyler Hogan
Jill Hohnecker
Michael Holdren
Eric & Melissa Holland
Karen Holloway
Ed Holmes
Horizontal Solutions
Don & Elaine Horsley
Ray & Diane Hough
Deanna Hubbard
Robert & Catherine Hubbard
Kevin Huet
Patricia Hutto
Innovative Senior Solution
J & K Global Graphics
Barbara Jabaley
Anne Jacobs
Jeff Hinson Paint
Michael & Michelle Jensen
Joe Hall Used Cars
Douglas Johnson
Larry & Earlene Johnson
Tara Johnson
David and Susan Johnson
Johnstone Supply
Charles Jones
Keri Jones
Paul & Phillip Jones
Baek Joo
K & K Trucking
Jeff Keefe
Randolph & Vivian Keefe
Mamadou and Alma Keita
Linda Kesselring
Patty Kicklighter
David Kipp
Glenn Kirbo
John & Carol Kolata
John E Kolata
Bill & Meda Krenson
Nancy Kroop
Elizabeth Kuipers
Richard & Kristie Lacell
Michael Lance
Carol Langford
Wayne Langford
Tony Longley
Brenda Lee
Mike Lewis
Carl Little
Gail Long
Randolph & Gloria Long
Robert & Diane Long
Frank and Robin Lowrey
Walker & Saralyn Lundy
Jimmy Lunsford
William Lynn
Bernice Lyster
Donald & Mita Mackey
Jack & Christine Madray
Cecilia Maldonado
Thomas & Pam Marrott
David & Lisa Martin
Kelly & Therese McCoy
James & Elizabeth McDonel
Thomas & Ashley McKenna
Michele McKie
Robert and Barbara McLendon
Wanda Meerman
James & Dianne Messer
Mobley Greenhouse
Alexis Montgomery
Melissa Montgomery
Stephen Moore
Jack & Morgan Morgan
Beth Morris
Michael Moses
Jim and Victoria Moyd
Erin Myers
Myron Jones Farms
Jimmy & Debra Nelson
Gerald & Jane O’Buckley
O’Buckley & Steed Associates
Mark Pace
Sandy Page
Cheri Paradise
Horrace & Terri Park
Ignatius & Bonita Passantino
Karla Pearstein
Samuel Peavy
Phil Pendergrass
Charles Pennington
Peoples South Bank
Larry Perry
Jim & Melissa Posey
Thomas Poudrier
Barrett Powell
Michael Powell
Gerald & Carolyn Powers
RBR
Sparky and Allene Reeves
Riccardi & Riccardi, DMD
Rick Davis, Inc.
Patsy Roberts
Mary Rodgers
Rooster’s Cafe
Joyne Roseth-Penn
Vickie Ross
Nancy Ruscitti
Linda Ryder
Sandra’s Beauty Shop
Kay Sassi
Rodney and Sheila Saunders
Andrea Schaub
Mark Schilling
R. W. Scruggs
A. H. Sells
Sells Plant Company
Douglas Shaw
Michael & Roseann Shea
Sonny & Mary Lynn Shealy
Jeffrey Sherry
Leslie Shipley
Claire Simmerson
Bonnie Simmons
Willard and Sue Sisson
Helen Slaughter
Bob & Jennifer Slenker
David & Betsy Whitaker
Mark Wicks
John & Bertha Wilks
Alton Wilson
Jason Wisenbaker
Keaton Wynn
Zunbai Products LLC
Sparks Advisors and Consultants
Jimmy Spinks
Debbie Standridge
Carolyn Stark
Lawson Stewart
William and Cathy Stewart
Franklin & Jeanne Stottlemeyer
Strands for Hair
Buddy Strickland
Robby & Susan Stripling
Jane Sullivan
Synergy Sports Academy
D & C Typers
Phillip Smedra
Keith and Teresa Teasley
Manoj Thapa
The Hooks Agency
Sarah Timberlake
Triad Mechanical Company
Joseph & Judy Tripp
Dave & Kathleen Tucker
Ryan Tucker
Andrea Tyler
Bobbie Tyler
Tystanic Custom Paint & Body
U. S. Screen Printing & Signs
Michelle Underwood
Tom and Christine Upton
Olivia Urbina
Benny and Merle Wade
Jane Walsh
Qian Wang
Timothy & Donna Weeks
Henrietta Weimer
Paula Wells
Teresa Whitaker
David and Betsy Whitaker
Mark Wicks
John & Bertha Wilks
Alton Wilson
Jason Wisenbaker
Keaton Wynn
Zunbai Products LLC
ATHLETICS UPGRDES
$1.5 million combined project

Baseball/Softball Indoor Practice Facility and Lightning Safe Space

- GSW Baseball and Softball will stand above their competitors
- First facility of its kind within the Peach Belt Conference
- Safe space for GSW Soccer teams during lightning storms

Ground-breaking ceremony on March 2, 2019

Baseball press box & concession stand

- Press box
- Concession stand
- Bathroom facilities
- Storage

Next phase of project based on funding

Benefits of both projects

- Positive enrollment impact: will serve to keep GSW on targeted 3-4% annual growth
- Competitive impact: to stay on par with rival conference schools
- Community impact: to offer a better viewing experience for GSW fans
- Functional impact: to allow athletes to practice during inclement weather and the Sports Information staff to work baseball games away from the elements
GSW alumni had the opportunity to meet new GSW President Neal Weaver at a series of Mix and Mingle events in Americus, Albany, Cordele, and Thomasville.
Canyon Country Featuring Arizona & Utah

August 2 – 9, 2019

A journey through Canyon Country brings you into a colorful world of stunning southwestern vistas and the unique topography of three national parks: Zion, Bryce and the Grand Canyon. Take time to shop in Sedona’s marketplace and travel through Kaibab National Forest. Spend a night at the South Rim of the magnificent Grand Canyon. Luxuriate at the Lake Powell Resort for two nights. Personalize your Arizona travel by choosing to either take in the stark beauty of Monument Valley on a narrated ride or take a cruise through the canyons for a different perspective on the spectacular scenery. End in the neon-lit spectacle of Las Vegas.

Deposit due date is January 26, 2019.

Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria

October 10 – 19, 2019

Journey through spectacular mountain scenery and picturesque cities as you experience the enchanting Alpine cultures of Switzerland, Austria, and Bavaria. Spend four nights each in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bern and the charming Alpine city of Innsbruck. Walk the halls of the 13th century Château de Chillon, a princely residence on the shores of Lake Geneva. Ride the legendary GoldenPass Panoramic Train from Montreux to the Alpine ski resort, Gstaad. Explore Lucerne, the “Swiss Paradise on the Lake.” Visit Mozart’s birthplace and the Mirabell Gardens, featured in the “Sound of Music,” during your time in Salzburg. See the fairy-tale castle, Neuschwanstein. Visit Oberammergau, a picture-perfect traditional German Alpine village. Sample traditional regional cuisine, including cheese fondue, at some of the oldest and most famous restaurants in Europe.

Deposit due date is April 4, 2019.

For more information on Travel Tours, contact: Angela Smith, Alumni Affairs Specialist, 229-928-1373. Angela.Smith@gsw.edu
Alumni who have contributed $1,000 or more, cumulatively, to GSW

**ESTEEMED ($15,000+)**
- Newton Allen
- Ricky and Jane Arnold
- Gregory and Karen Austin
- Susan Beger
- William Belford
- Brenda Browning
- Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter
- Daphne Chambless
- Henry Crisp
- Charles Crisp
- Mike and Carol Denham
- Gatewood and Cindy Dudley
- Mary Foegelle
- Sandra Gillis
- Kay Dee Green
- Thomas Holman
- Sam and Reba Hunter
- Billy King
- Glynn Mathis
- Larry Moore
- Jerry Newman
- Robert and Jennifer Parks
- Norman Race
- Randall Roderick
- Elizabeth Ruf
- Jimmy and Diana Skipper
- Calvin and Ginger Starlin
- Sam Stephens
- Jim Tanquary
- Andrea Thomas
- William Tietjen
- William Weldon
- Michael Weston
- Rick and Ginny Whaley
- Wes and Jean Wheeler

**EMINENT ($10,000-$14,999)**
- James Akins
- Herbert Allen
- Sharon Anderson
- William and Tina Anderson
- William Anderson
- Ben and Michelle Andrews
- Lynn Ansley
- H. Stephen Austin
- Raymond Baggerly
- Ray and Janis Baldwin
- David Bales
- Ichabod Balkcom
- Katherine Barnetson
- Alma Beckham
- Timothy Bellury
- Marvin Benson
- Randy Benson
- Carol Bentley
- Jeff and Amy Benton
- William Bieler
- Louise Blanks
- Eshonda Blue
- Robert Bolton
- Al Bonagura
- John Bretch
- George Brown
- Lucas Budny
- Ricky and Denise Burgess
- Hoyt Ray Burrow
- Robert Busby
- Charles Byrd
- Everett Byrd
- Carlos Camp
- Marilyn Campbell
- Joel Carter
- Ron Chaffin
- William Chappell
- Gaynor Cheokas
- Russ Childers
- Sue Childers
- Charles Clark
- Marilyn Clements
- Janice Clett
- Gary Clinkscales
- Jo Collins
- Reginald Comer
- Donald Compton
- Patricia Cook
- Joseph Cook
- Gloria Coppinger
- Michael Cotter
- Gladys Crabb
- Joshua Curtin
- Larry Davis
- Sharyn Davis
- Gregory Davis
- Jane Dean
- Cam and Kelsie Deiter
- James Dembowski
- Merle Dennard
- George Dieckmann
- James Dodds
- Jaclyn Donovan
- Melba Downs
- Michael Doyle
- Hellen Driggers
- Cal and Patty Duke
- Bobbie Duncan
- James Dupree
- John Durham
- Joseph Eason
- Ben Easterling
- Ellen Elder
- George Ellis
- Robert Evans
- Charles Faulk
- Bill and Jane Finney
- James Milton Fletcher
- Sharon Forshey
- Allen Fort
- Ronald Fountain
- Claude Frazier
- Karen Gatewood
- Marion Goodman
- Eddie Gordon
- Mike and Kathy Greene
- Jesse Griffin
- John Gunderman
- Buddy and Cherilyn Guth
- Lemond Hall
- William Hargrove
- Evelyn Harrington
- Deborah Haynes
- Michelle Haywood
- William Heys
- Len Hicks
- Mary Hill
Virginia Hinton
Judith Hodnett
Emory Holloway
Karen Holloway
Lisa Holloway
Ed Holmes
Ronald Hudson
David Jenkins
Jean Johnson
W. Frank Joiner
Wally Joiner
Jeffrey Joiner
Ruth Jones
Richard Jones
Freida Jones
Robert Jones
Melvin Kinslow
Rance Kirkland
Dawn Knapp
Mildred Lapeza
Tracy Law
Joel Lightner
Sammy Long
Tyler Lorig
James Lunsford
Alan Mackey
Richard Maddox
Theodore Maloof
Martha McBurney
Sharon McFarland
Barbara McLendon
Patricia Mescher
Carolyn Miller
Daniel Minick
W. Harold Moon
Allen Mountjoy
Nimmish Muljibhai
Johnny Muljibhai
Deborah Mullis
J. Frank Myers
Cecil Myers
Roger Myers
Ronnie Nix
James Norton
Clyde Owens
Paula Paquette
Emory and Lynde Parker
Gary Peacock
Tom Perdue
John Peterman
Sheila Phillips
Irvin Pinnell
Barbara Pope
Robert Poupard
Robert Powell
Howard Rainey
Sparky and Allene Reeves
Joseph Reid
James Reid
Candy Riccardi
John Rockhill
Donald Roland
Richard Ross
Tucker Rush
Ronald Scott
Jonathan Scott
Joseph Sellers
Brennon Sewell
Arvind Shah
Howard Sheppard
Jane Sibler
Bonnie Simmons
Sue Sisson
Rhonda Slocomb
Sybil Smith
Steven Snell
Stephen and Leah Snyder
Donnie Spence
James Stafford
Stephen Stanfield
Charles Strickland
Cecil Strickland
Neil Suggs
Helen Summey
R. Larry Sumner
Milton Sutherlin
Miranda Thomas
Mark and Tina Todd
Donja Tripp
Robert Tucker
Kathleen Tucker
Alf and Marianne Tuggle
Ray Turner
Norma Turton
Marcus Tyler
Joseph Upton
Lori Urbani
Benny Wade
Daniel Wall
Eddie and Betty Anne Ward
Sandra Wardell
Charles Warren
Tonya Watson
Hugh Watts
Walter Weaver
Darrell Weldon
Thomas Wheeler
David and Betsy Whitaker
Betty Whittier
Thomas and Jerrie Wichman
Reba Wiggins
Michael Williamson
Alton Wilson
Susan Woods
Russell Wynn
Gwen Yakots

GSW Alumni Association
Lifetime Membership

One full payment of $1,000 (individual) or $1,250 (jointly)

Clyde and Dell Bridges
Everett Lewis Byrd
Bill Chappell
Cam and Kelsie Deiter
Bill and Jane Finney
Mary Wysochansky Foegelle
Len Hicks, III
Chris Hicks
Karen Dillard Holloway
Billy King
Jimmy Lunsford
Mary Marshall
Larry Moore
Jerry Newman
Jimmy and Marianne Peel
Jeryl Pinnell, Jr.
Liz Ruf
Ken Stafford
Larry Sumner
Samuel Thames (deceased 8/6/2017)
Dave and Kathleen Tucker
Alf and Marianne Tuggle
Joseph Upton
Upcoming Events

Homecoming Week
Monday, February 27 – Friday, March 1

2018 Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner
Friday, March 1

Alumni 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run
Saturday, March 2

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Baseball/Softball Indoor Practice Facility
Saturday, March 2

Pi Kappa Phi 50th Anniversary
Friday, May 17 – Saturday, May 18