

## 2020

**THE MAGAZINE OF GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**







**T**hinking back to January of this year, no one could have predicted what challenges would lie ahead. Virtual meetings, hybrid classrooms, and telework all sounded like more of an idea than a way of doing business. Though maybe not with fondness, when I reflect on 2020, I am proud of how we worked together to overcome obstacles and how we strengthened our resolve. The value of our University today has never been clearer to me.

One consistent thread throughout this year has been the countless stories of perseverance, innovation, and service from our amazing Hurricane family. You will read about many of those stories in this edition of the *Aeolian*.

Also clearly illustrated is the generosity of the GSW community, the creativity of our faculty and staff, and the exciting days ahead with record enrollment and several campus construction and renovation projects underway. In all, 2020 has been quite the year. I hope you enjoy flipping through these campus updates and are reminded of how strong our Hurricane spirit truly is as we head into 2021.

Neal Weaver  
President

🐦 @CanesPresident

🔊 What's in the Cup? podcast



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# AEOLIAN 2020

The Aeolian is published by the Department of University Relations at Georgia Southwestern State University. GSW is a member of the University System of Georgia and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution.

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, GSW serves traditional and non-traditional students across the state, the nation and the world.

## Aeolian

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Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the GSW community rose to the occasion together in a true display of Hurricane resilience and determination.

See pg. 12 for full story.



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**H**ello GSW Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff! I do hope that this current issue finds you and your families well. It has been, to say the least, an interesting year since our last *Aeolian* publication. Graduation for our seniors resembled nothing of what one would call normal pomp and circumstance. Like many institutions of higher learning across the nation, GSW held its first virtual graduation ceremony in Spring 2020, conferring 259 well-deserved degrees.

Graduates, please know this is an amazing and worthwhile accomplishment you have made in your lives, just without the

traditional fanfare. For our freshmen, the fall semester also looked a little less like a typical first-time college experience. At GSW, there are many amazing faculty and staff, fellow students, and even alumni that truly care about you and will be here to help in any way. Many of you are already well-versed in the available social media outlets and various tools of communication. I encourage you to use these resources to stay in touch with family and friends, classmates and teachers. It is through these bonds and open lines that we find the support and strength we sometimes desperately need.

Like the leadership at GSW, I do not take lightly the situation of the pandemic we are experiencing, as the health and lives of so many are affected. It is through times like these that we find deep down inside what we are made of, and we will hopefully be a little wiser, a little stronger and maybe a little kinder for having experienced all that we have.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay strong and be positive!

**Kathleen Tucker, Class of '00 and '03**  
President, GSW Alumni Association



**Kathleen Lang-Tucker,**  
Class of '00 and '03

**Save the Date:**  
**Homecoming 2021**  
**February 15-20, 2021**

Visit [gsw.edu/Homecoming](https://gsw.edu/Homecoming) for more information as it becomes available. #GSWHoCo21



## GSW BY THE NUMBERS

### ONE OF THE BEST

value colleges in Georgia

(TextbookRush)

.....

### #1 BEST

RN to BSN program in Georgia

(RegisteredNursing.org)

.....

### #3 MOST

affordable online MBA program in the nation

(College Consensus)

.....

### in TOP 10

best online schools in Georgia

(EDSmart and Study.com)

.....

### LARGEST ENROLLMENT

in University history

(Fall 2020)

.....

### 16:1

student-teacher ratio

.....

### 60+ certified programs

.....

### \$91 MILLION

economic impact on region

.....

### 250 scenic acres



# Virtual Graduation Celebrations

In 2020, GSW graduates celebrated like never before. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the move to remote learning, our Spring 2020 graduates celebrated from home as part of GSW's first-ever virtual graduation ceremony. Graduates shared their photos with us on social media before, during and after the ceremony. #GSWGrad



**Amy Pride** shared a photo of her Virtual Graduation celebration as she watched her name scroll across the screen at the end of the ceremony.

Follow GSW on [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) [v](#)



**Keeley Bruer**, elementary education



**Isaiah Givens**, exercise science



**Kristina Arnold**, long-term care management, & **Drew Flanders**, political science



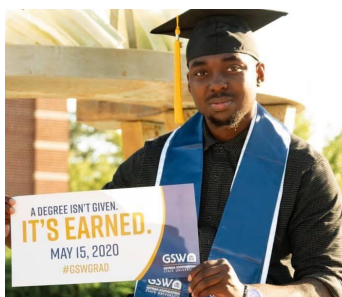
**Christina Catchings**, nursing



**Linda Kent**, English



**President Dr. Neal Weaver** during the ceremony



**Shon Martin**, fine arts



**Katie Fox**, nursing



**Alisa McCall**, MSN nursing



**Tristan McKelvey**, computer science



**Katie Wimberley**, nursing



**Jasmin Harris**, elementary education



# CAMPUS UPD



## College of Nursing and Health Sciences

### #1 RN-BSN PROGRAM IN GEORGIA

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been recognized as having the **#1 Best Online RN to BSN Program in Georgia** by RegisteredNursing.org in its 4th Annual Nursing School Program Rankings. This prestigious ranking is based on the nursing program's graduation rate, tuition and fees, quality of faculty, acceptance rate, and accreditations. RN to BSN programs allow registered nurses (RNs) to advance their career, earn a higher salary, and assume more leadership and responsibility in the workplace by earning a baccalaureate degree in nursing.



## College of Business and Computing

### STUDENTS PRESENT TO JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Six students in Dr. Jim Aller's Performance Management class **presented human resource management solutions to the Jacksonville Jaguars** in a one-of-a-kind class project. Throughout the Fall 2019 semester, the students put together a number of solutions to better manage and retain both full-time and seasonal Jaguars employees. Martin Bech, Christian Bostick, Andrew Carter, Raquel Kenyon, McKenzie Simmons, and Tucker Smith met with the Jaguars' Vice President of People Development and Administration Jessica Jones and Manager of People Development Victoria Croy at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville, Fla. Their solutions for the organization included changes to talent acquisition, team building, succession planning, orientation and onboarding for new employees and contractors, and cultivating the Jaguar culture. Following their presentation, the students took a personal tour of the stadium, which included the owner's box, press boxes, and the inner workings of the facility.



## College of Arts and Sciences

### FACULTY AND STUDENTS HOST SCIENCE DAY

GSW hosted **Science Day for more than 250 local high school students** in November 2019. Students participated in hands-on science experiments and lab demonstrations led by GSW science majors and professors. Students from Americus-Sumter High School, Furlow Charter School and Schley County High School explored science firsthand through a series of 18 rotational sessions that covered biology, chemistry, mathematics, anatomy, astronomy, physics and glassblowing. The rotational sessions included viewing the sun from the Agerton Observatory atop the Roney Science Building, holding snakes and other reptiles in the biology lab, and igniting gas-filled bubbles in the chemistry lab. The event was sponsored in part by an Innovative Project Grant from the American Chemical Society and was hosted by GSW's Chemistry Club, glassblowing studio and science programs.



## College of Education

### NEW TEACHER LEADERSHIP DEGREE OFFERED

The College of Education has established a **new specialist degree in Teacher Leadership**. These types of programs ensure teachers learn the skills of effectively mentoring fellow teachers, including pre-service candidates, fostering a culture of professional development in schools, analyzing data, and designing instruction. The Teacher Leadership program will allow teachers to earn a higher degree status and pay without the commitment of becoming an administrator. Graduates will be able to stay in their classrooms, build a stronger culture of leadership among their peers, and serve as effective mentor teachers for GSW's future undergraduate teacher candidates.



# ATES

## GSW raises more than \$33,000 in second annual Day of Giving

**G**SW's Day of Giving, which ran midnight to midnight on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020, exceeded the initial goal of \$25,000, netting \$33,700.50 for the University. In just the second year of hosting a Day of Giving, the total number of donors increased by nearly 65%. The 24-hour giving challenge was mostly focused online and through social media to bring the campus community together in an effort to raise money and showcase Hurricane pride. Last year's effort raised nearly \$19,000.

"Each year, I am blown away by the energy and enthusiasm on our Day of Giving," said GSW President Neal Weaver, PhD. "I love seeing the Hurricane community come together to make a difference in the lives of students and in the future of Georgia Southwestern. I am so grateful for the hard work of the committee and the unwavering support from our neighbors. Your contributions will continue to improve the University and enhance student success."

Hurricanes around the country – alumni, community members, parents, friends, neighbors, faculty, staff and students – made gifts ranging from \$5 to \$5,000. Contributions were mostly directed to the Day of Giving's six funds which supported athletics, scholarships, student success in either academics or engagement, and facility improvements, among others.

Particular funds of interest this year were the Florrie Chappell Gymnasium and Griffin Bell Conference Center renovations, with each acquiring nearly \$7,000.

A total of 129 gifts rolled in from across Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, Washington State, and even Canada. Out of the 120 donors, 21



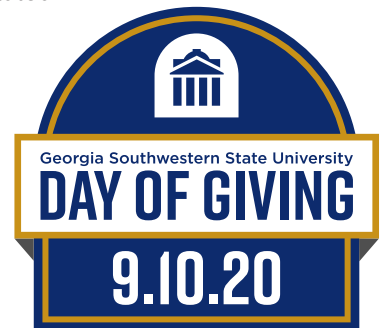
were first-time donors. GSW alumni across numerous generations also showed their support, with the oldest alumni gift coming from the Class of 1950 and the most recent alumni gift coming from the Class of 2019.

"Georgia Southwestern's second annual Day of Giving was a great success," stated GSW Foundation Executive Director and Assistant Vice President for Advancement Stephen Snyder. "Thanks to the work of our committee, our donors, our community partners and our volunteers, we surpassed our fundraising goal by nearly 30 percent. In only its second year, the GSW Day of Giving has easily become one of my favorite days of the year. Seeing the Americus community rally around GSW, along with our alumni and friends out of town, makes me so proud to be a Hurricane."

Day of Giving Committee members included Stephen Snyder, Chelsea Collins, Sydney Scott, Angela Smith, Kim Comer, Stacy Dominick, Katie Hoffman, Signe Coombs, Bob Slenker, Lou Chase, Paula Martin, Nichole Buchanan, Kristi Weaver and Qaijuan Willis.

Throughout the day, those wanting to support GSW on the Day of Giving in addition to online giving, dined at one of the participating local restaurants who donated a portion of their sales throughout the day to the campaign.

For more information about opportunities to give back to GSW, visit [gsw.edu/give](https://gsw.edu/give).





# GSW sees **exciting growth** across campus



## Renovations and new construction brighten campus

Over the past year, campus has continued to change and grow as a number of facilities are in various stages of renovation.

Most recently, construction of the new **Baseball and Softball Training Facility** was completed thanks to generous donations from alumni and supporters. The building will offer indoor training space for Spring sports as well as a safe haven during inclement weather.

Originally constructed in 1962 as the University's library and classroom building, the **Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)** renovation that is underway includes a major remodel of the interior, modernization of the HVAC system, and construction of two elevator shafts. The renovation is expected to be completed in Spring 2021, with the offices of Recruitment and Admissions, Student Financial Aid, Student Accounts, and First-Year Experience relocating to this new "one-stop-shop" for student services.

The **Florrie Chappell Gymnasium** renovation project is next on the calendar, with work expected to begin in 2021. Originally built in 1939, the "old gym" will be restored as a modern student recreation center complete with space for strength training and group fitness. The project's objective is to return this building to a place where students come together to improve themselves in body and mind.

Further down the line, a planned renovation of the **Griffin Bell Golf and Conference Center** will reinvent the space for local entrepreneurs and events.

## GSW records highest enrollment in school history

Georgia Southwestern made history in Fall 2020 with the highest total enrollment since the institution's founding in 1906 with 3,162 students. This is a 7.2 percent increase from Fall 2019, as reported by the University System of Georgia (USG) in November 2020.

GSW was **among the USG's top five increases** across the system's 26 institutions and the second highest in state universities. In addition to the overall increase, GSW also saw huge gains in freshmen, graduate and dual-enrolled students. Over 600 students represent GSW's largest freshman class, and graduate enrollment jumped from 139 students in 2014 to 528 students in 2020, growing by 279 percent. Another positive demographic trend is the increase among Hispanic, Asian and African American students.

Much of GSW's enrollment success this fall can be attributed to an aggressive recruitment strategy, expansion of scholarships, student success initiatives, and quality programs that are both top-ranked regionally and nationally at an affordable cost.



President Neal Weaver presented incoming students with challenge coins, encouraging them to complete college in 4 years, at the 2020 Freshman Convocation.



# 2019-2020 Faculty and Staff Awards

## FACULTY EMERITI

Dr. Bonnie Simmons, Professor Emerita  
Dr. Phillip Szmedra, Professor Emeritus  
Dr. Liz Wilson, Professor Emerita

## FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE:

### 5 YEARS

Dr. Carol Bishop  
Angie Christmas  
Chelsea Collins  
Jason Cribbs  
Dr. Michelle Dykes  
Kirk Granthem  
Dreena Hoffmann  
Ethan Johnson  
Michele McKie  
William NeSmith  
Rocky Roquemore  
Dr. Maggie Wang

### 10 YEARS

Dr. Rachel Abbott  
Dr. Jason Berggren  
Janie Mooney  
Christie Ward

### 15 YEARS

Dr. Svilen Kostov  
Evelyn Oliver  
Jonathan Scott  
Dr. Anh-Hue Tu  
Deon Williams

### 20 YEARS

Tishana Andrews  
Dr. Ellen Cotter  
Mashalah Fathi  
Jeffrey Green

### 25 YEARS

Pauline Gillis  
Dr. Jeff Waldrop  
Yonni Williams

### 30 YEARS

Dana Payne

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

**Oris Bryant Staff Member of the Year:**  
**Ethan Johnson**

**Faculty Member of the Year:**  
**Dr. Suzanne Smith**



Dr. Alanna Bowie receives a plaque from President Neal Weaver at the annual Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony on October 9, 2020

## 2020 PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Voted on by the students, **Dr. Alanna Bowie**, Lecturer of Middle and Secondary Education, was named the 2020 Professor of the Year.

## FACULTY AND STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**2020 Staff Excellence in Customer Service and Personal Interaction Award:**

**Dr. Gaye Hayes**

**2020 Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award:**  
**Dr. Alexander Yemelyanov**

**2020 Faculty Excellence in Advising Award:**  
**Jennifer Dickens**

**2020 Faculty Excellence in Service Award:**  
**Dr. Ramona-Mulleins-Foreman**

**2020 Faculty Excellence and Commitment to Teaching Award:**  
**Dr. Bonnie Gary**

# GSW bids farewell to retirees

This year, GSW said goodbye to a number of longtime administrators. **Dr. Liz Wilson** (top left), dean of the College of Business and Computing, retired in June 2020 after serving GSW for 30 years. She shepherded the business program into the nationally-recognized and AACSB-accredited program it is today.

**Dr. Boris Peltzverger** (top right), former dean of the School of Computing and Mathematics, retired in 2019 with 22 years at GSW under his belt. During his tenure, he saw students go on to work for companies like Microsoft, IBM, and Google.

**Cody King** (bottom left), vice president for Business and Finance, retired after 24 years at GSW. He had served as VP since 2007.

**Mike Tracy** (bottom right), director of Public Safety, retired in July 2020. He began his career on campus 26 years prior, joining GSW's Department of Public Safety in 1993.



# ATHLETICS

## Darcy Donaldson named National Coach of the Year

**D**arcy Donaldson, head coach of GSW's men's golf team, was named 2019-20 National Coach of the Year by the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA). The Hurricanes won four tournaments in 2019-20 and finished in the top four of all seven events played. GSW controlled the No. 1 spot in the Golfstat computer rankings since Oct. 23 and closed out the year as the **top-ranked team** in the GCAA Bushnell Golfweek Coaches Poll. The Hurricanes' 284.25 team stroke average was the **lowest in PBC history** by over three strokes. Donaldson was also named Men's Golf Coach of the Year by the Peach Belt Conference as he completed his eighth season at the helm for GSW.



## Hurricanes assemble over 655,300 face shields

**A**t the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, GSW's Department of Athletics did their part to address the nationwide shortage of protective masks and face shields. Beginning in March 2020, Athletics staff partnered with Americus-based equipment manufacturer TSG Resolute to assemble face shields. Within the first 10 days, the assembly line inside the Storm Dome had finished over 112,500 shields, effectively increasing the amount of PPE being delivered to healthcare providers across the country. As student-athletes



returned to campus for Fall semester with their seasons hanging in the balance, many of them were recruited to assist in the assembly efforts. Working nearly 6 months in total, the Hurricanes **assembled over 655,300 face shields** in 2020.

## GSW mascot Surge celebrates 10th birthday

**G**SW's mascot, Surge, celebrated his 10th birthday on Nov. 16, 2019. First introduced at a home women's basketball game in 2009, Surge has been a staple at numerous campus and athletic events ever since. Although GSW has had other mascots before, Surge was specifically created to serve as **a symbol for the GSW Hurricanes** and the University as a whole. In honor of this milestone, a birthday party was hosted for Surge, and he enjoyed a special birthday recognition at the men's basketball home opener. The crowd sang "Happy Birthday," and Surge was surprised by his friends, the Southland Academy Raider and Sparky the Fire Dog.



## Golf team claims #1 spot in NCAA Division II

**G**SW's golf team finished their 2019-20 season as the top program in the NCAA Division II. The Hurricanes closed out the season early with back-to-back wins in their final tournament in March 2020, just before the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of all collegiate and conference championships. **Senior Vincent Norrman** was also selected to play in the prestigious Arnold Palmer Cup. The Sweden native won five tournaments this year, finishing in the Top 10 of all seven events played, to end the year ranked the No. 1 NCAA Division II individual according to the Golfstat computer rankings. His Golfstat adjusted scoring average of 69.25 was the lowest across all divisions of the NCAA. He currently has a World Amateur Golf Ranking of No. 47.





## Chris Cogan to lead Women's Soccer



**C**hris "Topper" Cogan recently joined GSW as **head coach of the women's soccer team**. He comes to GSW from Mercer University, where he served on the women's soccer staff. Cogan's coaching career started in 2001 at Texas Tech

University as an assistant women's soccer coach and led to stops at Angelo State University (2005-08) and Sam Houston State University (2008-12), before he joined the Oxford City F.C. of Texas Professional Indoor team. Cogan played at Miami University and Houston Baptist University. While at Houston Baptist, he had the most shutouts in a season, most shutouts in a career and the lowest career goals-against average. He played professionally for 10 seasons before jumping into the coaching ranks.

## GSW places third in DII for NCAA Community Service Challenge

**G**SW's student-athletes showed their commitment to community outreach by earning **third place** in all of Division II for the NCAA Team Works Community Competition. The competition, which ran from September 2019 through November 2019, is based on the number of service hours completed and the number of participating student-athletes. Combined, athletes from all institutions competing came together and made a huge **\$6.5 million economic impact** in their respective communities. Throughout the year, GSW partnered with many in the community such as: Furlow Charter School, Habitat for Humanity, Magnolia Manor, Salvation Army, First United Methodist Church of Americus and GSW Pre-K to name a few.



## Second annual Hail Storm rescheduled for May 2021

**G**sw's second annual Hail Storm event is scheduled for May 7, 2021 at Providence Springs Plantation after being postponed due to the pandemic. Join the Hurricanes for a fun-filled evening of food, music and a chance to walk away with cash prizes. During the event, 2,000 golf balls are dropped from a helicopter. The closest ball to the target takes home the **first prize of \$25,000**, with second, third, and last place taking home generous prizes as well. Proceeds directly benefit capital improvements of Hurricane athletic facilities. Tickets and golf balls are on sale now. Visit [gswcanes.com/hailstorm](https://gswcanes.com/hailstorm) to purchase balls or learn more about corporate sponsorships.



## Baseball Locker Campaign in search of sponsors

**T**he Baseball Locker Campaign, launched summer 2020, aims to have a sponsorship for all 44 lockers inside the new locker room at the Baseball and Softball Training Facility. By sponsoring a locker for a current student-athlete, the name of the donor's choice will be a permanent fixture on the front of the Hurricane locker. Each locker can be sponsored with a **\$5,000 commitment over a five-year period**. The completion of this project will help propel the baseball program forward and continue the legacies of baseball alumni and supporters. For more information, contact Signe Coombs at (229) 815-6392.

# ALUMNI IN THE



## **Jaha Dukureh '13**

has been named international spokesperson for L'Oreal Paris. She joins a roster of other notable brand ambassadors for the cosmetic company, including actresses Viola Davis and Helen Mirren. Dukureh was also honored as one of L'Oreal's Women of Worth, a

philanthropic program that recognizes women who "embody the spirit of the brand" and make a difference in the lives of others. Dukureh is a women's rights activist working to end the practice of female genital mutilation worldwide.

(Source: Good Morning America, May 14, 2020)



## **Stephen Tyler Williams '11**

was named CEO of Habersham Medical Center in Demorest, Ga. He previously served two years as the hospital's vice president for business development and strategy and has worked in various roles within hospital administration since 2014. Williams has extensive experience in physician practice management, hospital operations and finance, and grant initiatives supporting Georgia's rural health network.

(Source: Now Habersham, April 15, 2020)



**Judy Parks '97** was honored with the Reach for the Star Award, which is the Georgia Charter Schools Association's own version of a Teacher of the Year recognition. Parks currently serves as the music advisor for Kindergarten through fifth grade at Furlow Charter School in Americus, Ga.

(Source: Georgia Charter Schools Association, March 5, 2020)



**Richard Mahone '81** was inducted into Chattahoochee Valley Community College's (CVCC) Hall of Fame. Mahone retired in 2019 after 15 years as head coach of CVCC's men's basketball team. He has also been recognized as Georgia's Winningest Coach and inducted into the Georgia Hoops Hall of Fame during his coaching career. Mahone coached at Spencer, Columbus and Carver high schools, then was an assistant coach at Columbus State University before moving to CVCC. At his retirement, Mahone's record was 341-138. Hall of Fame inductees are individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their professions, their communities, and CVCC.

(Source: WLTZ, March 9, 2020)



## **Jonneshia Pineda '11**

assistant coach for the University of Louisville's women's basketball team, was named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association 2020 30-Under-30 list. She helped lead the Cardinals to a 28-4 record in 2019-20 and

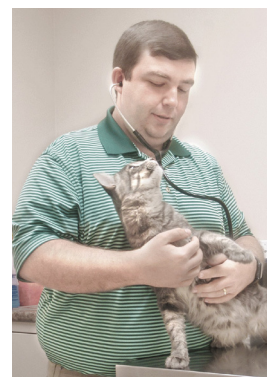
the program's first outright Atlantic Coast Conference regular season title. Pineda joined the Cardinals in 2019 after six seasons at Georgia Tech, having served two seasons as an assistant coach.

(Source: Louisville Cardinals, March 18, 2020)



**Casey Kimbrell, Jr. '15** joined his family's veterinary hospital in Blackshear, Ga. He specializes in reproductive medicine, sports medicine, soft tissue surgeries and large animal practice. Kimbrell attended veterinary school on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts.

(Source: The Blackshear Times, October 2, 2019)





# NEWS

**Ivy Oliver '10** was named executive director of the One Sumter Economic Development Foundation in Americus, Ga. She has been with the organization since 2017 and served as interim executive director since April 2019. Prior to her employment at One Sumter, Oliver served in several capacities with the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce and Sumter County Development Authority focusing on business development, marketing and community program management.

(Source: Americus Times-Recorder, January 10, 2020)



**Sen. Dean Burke '77**, chief medical officer of Memorial Hospital and Manor in Bainbridge, Ga., received one of the Georgia Hospital Association's (GHA) highest honors: the Distinguished Service Award. The award recognized Sen. Burke for being a tireless advocate for hospitals and the communities they serve. Burke oversees medical staff, employed physicians and physician practices. He has also served Senate District 11 since being elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2013.

(Source: The Post Searchlight, July 9, 2019)



**Jordan Waller '12, '18** was featured in the Ledger-Enquirer for her creative efforts in staying connected with her students at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Waller, a second-grade teacher at Dorothy Height Elementary School in Columbus, Ga., communicated with students and parents whenever they needed her, even outside traditional working hours. Waller was committed to maintaining some sense of normalcy for her students throughout remote learning.

(Source: Ledger-Enquirer, March 25, 2020)

**Danny Minick '98** was chosen by his peers as president-elect of the Georgia Bankers Association's Leadership Executive Committee, which is focused on developing future leaders in banking through leadership development, networking, and involvement in the legislative process. Minick currently serves as executive vice president and commercial lender at Citizens Bank of Americus.

(Source: Albany Herald, August 1, 2019)



**Tomekia Reed '04** was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference's 2019-20 Coach of the Year. Head coach at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., Reed finished her second season with the Lady Tigers with the university's first regular-season title in over a decade. She led the team through a 13-game win streak, an overall record of 18-10, and a conference record of 16-2. The all-conference awards are voted on by the league's coaches and sports information directors.

(Source: HBCU Sports, March 12, 2020)



**Carla Turner '90** was named director of development at Thomas University in Thomasville, Ga. In this new role, Turner will lead fundraising efforts, manage grants and foundation relations, and oversee the university's annual campaign. She previously worked in higher education development at South Georgia Technical College, where she helped to raise over \$2.5 million for a successful capital campaign.

(Source: Albany CEO, July 18, 2020)



# HURRICANES

## *Rising Together*

By Chelsea Collins

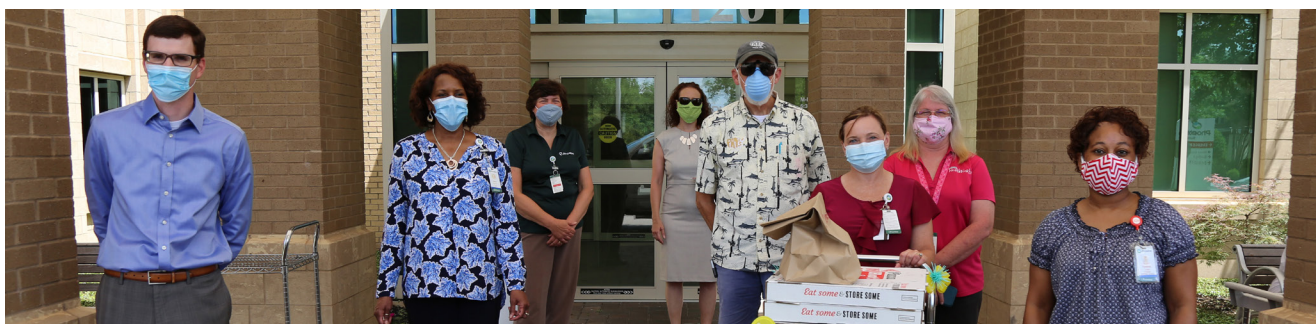
**Resiliency. Determination. Grit. Creativity. Innovation.**



**T**hese are all things the GSW family displayed when life as everyone knew it flipped upside down in the early months of 2020. Students forced to move home, leaving their friends behind and thrust into an all-online learning environment practically overnight. Student-athletes' and coaches' seasons ending abruptly, some seniors never to play their beloved sport again. Graduation, concerts, senior shows, and sporting events cancelled. Faculty compelled to suddenly migrate all academic courses online and pivot to remote learning. Staff tasked with navigating how to deliver student services and communicate with each other in a virtual environment. Alumni-owned small businesses forced to close, some temporarily and some to never open their doors again.

While these things proved challenging, the Hurricane community is a force to be reckoned with. Everyone immediately pulled together for a common purpose, and the GSW spirit extended beyond what we've ever seen before. A worldwide pandemic revealed our strengths, affirmed our core values, unveiled new talents, fostered growth, and united each and every one of us.





## “...things moved swiftly. But the GSW family sprang into action.”

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, Georgia Southwestern announced the suspension of face-to-face classes for two weeks. On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Peach Belt Conference cancelled the remainder of the 2019-2020 Season. On Monday, March 16, 2020, the University System of Georgia (USG) released that all 26 institutions, including GSW, would move to remote learning for the remainder of the semester, which would later include summer classes as well. On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the cancellation of Spring 2020 Graduation was communicated. The same day, all residential students were notified of the plan to move out of the residence halls. And then on April 3, 2020, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp issued the statewide shelter in place executive order.

As you can see and will recall, things moved swiftly. But the GSW family sprang into action.

Moving all classes to the online format (or other alternative delivery methods) was a transition made easier by GSW's decades of success as an online education leader. The talented faculty and staff from the College of Business and Computing and the Office of Information and Instructional Technology helped rapidly shift everyone to remote instruction and a successful teleworking environment.

With PPE (personal protective equipment) shortages across the nation, the GSW community stepped up and put their personal talents and newfound idle hands to work. Longtime GSW employee Mary Cooper began sewing masks out of old GSW t-shirts, first for high-risk family members and co-workers, then for local healthcare workers. While still continuing to work full-time and take care of her elderly aunt, Mary has managed to sew over 300 masks and counting.

With spring sports cancelled, coaches and a few student-athletes assisted Americus-based equipment manufacturer TSG Resolute in assembling face shields. The local company shifted their focus back in March to help address the nationwide shortage of protective gear and found themselves in great need after a tweet from Gov. Kemp boosted sales. The Athletics staff worked day and night, in four-hour shifts to maintain social distancing, turning out roughly 10,000 face shields per day and have successfully assembled more than 655,000 in 2020.

Also helping to address the PPE shortage was GSW's College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Department of Public Safety. The USG, in partnership with Governor Kemp and GEMA, requested the state's





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1. **Landis Seagraves ('19)**, GSW's first Long-Term Care Management graduate, has served and protected residents at St. Gabriel of Athens Assisted Living and Memory Care Center. 2. **Mark Todd ('81, '93)**, President and CEO of Magnolia Manor, continued to support and care for their 1,500 residents. 3. **Lisa Jenkins ('99)**, RN at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, had never witnessed anything like COVID-19 in her 20+ years of nursing, but said there was no way she'd run from this fight. 4. **Valerie Duff ('82, '94)** and the Grateful Threads Quilting and Sewing Guild stitched 5,000+ face masks for local healthcare workers. 5. **Jordan Waller ('12, '18)** continued to teach and stay virtually connected to her 2nd grade students at Dorothy Height Elementary School. 6. **Dr. Ben Andrews ('80)**, has served on the front lines of the pandemic as a doctor of Emergency Medicine at Phoebe Sumter Medical Center. 7. **Matt Johnson ('99) and his daughter Hannah Cannon ('16)** partnered with Swamp Fox Distilling Co. to produce hand sanitizer through their family wine business at Wolf Creek Plantation. 8. **Qaijuan Willis ('15)**, Americus Main Street Director, repurposed grant funds to assist downtown businesses when they were forced to close their doors. 9. **Adjutant General Tom Carden ('92)**, oversees Georgia's Army and Air National Guards, who developed and deployed infection control teams to long-term care facilities and medical support teams to short-staffed hospitals across the state. 10. **Andi Reid ('17)**, pediatric nurse at Dwaine & Cynthia Willett Children's Hospital of Savannah, said working on the front lines as a nurse can be scary and isolating, but is reminded to always be thankful for the gift of life. 11. **Brannon Parks ('99)** noticed local restaurants being overlooked, so he posted a handwritten list on Facebook of which were open. With the help of Café Campesino CEO Tripp Pomeroy, the AmericusEats website was created. 12. **Eshonda Blue ('98)**, CEO of Innovative Senior Solutions, utilized one of their personal care homes to care for seniors and their caregivers recovering from COVID-19.



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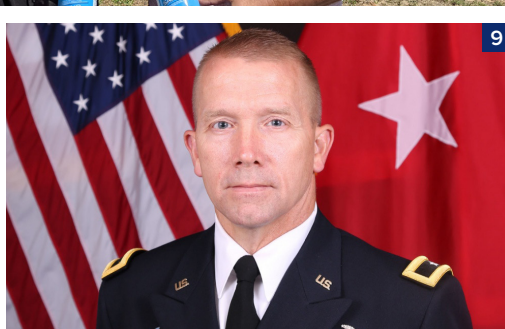
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public universities to redirect any spare PPE and other critical medical supplies to healthcare workers fighting COVID-19. The two departments gladly coordinated efforts to inventory and collect their supplies, which are typically used for research, campus maintenance, nursing programs and on-campus health clinics, and distributed them to Phoebe Sumter Medical Center and Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare. Between the two entities, GSW was able to donate 4,000 gloves, 900 surgical face masks, 600 shoe covers, 600 hair covers, 300 polyethylene gowns, 75 surgical gowns and 75 N95 masks.

Whether on the battlefield or in a New Jersey hospital, Lieutenant Colonel Ramona Muellins-Foreman, D.N.P., always answers the call to serve on the frontlines. Ramona, assistant nursing professor at GSW, was one of 85 medical professionals in the U.S. Army's Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces to assist clinical staff at University Hospital in Newark, N.J. back in April to help combat their staff shortage.

With healthcare workers and essential personnel working around the clock in the ongoing fight against the coronavirus, members of the GSW community saw a unique opportunity to support local small businesses while also fueling the hard-working individuals within our community. Numerous departments and student organizations ordered food from local restaurants such as Pat's Place, Roman Oven Pizzeria and Café Campesino which was delivered to hospital staff, postal workers, first responders, and those still working on GSW's campus.

Another need recognized was that of international students unable to leave campus and still living in the residence halls. GSW's Baptist Collegiate Ministry was looking forward to a Spring Break mission trip which was cancelled, but found another way to minister through gift bags, care packages, and weekly to-go meals for those who found themselves thousands of miles away from home during such a scary time.

And then are our alumni – our amazing, resourceful, and compassionate alumni. They came up with creative and inspiring ways to keep their small businesses afloat,

serve their communities' immediate needs, and use their hard-earned GSW education to fight COVID-19 head on. Stories began to roll in of all the remarkable things they were doing. We wanted to recognize these remarkable individuals – and so, Amazing Canes was born. This was a series on social media highlighting the incredible acts of our Hurricane alumni in their line of work or in their personal time. Find the full stories of these outstanding alumni on GSW's Facebook page using #AmazingCanes.

While we may not look back on 2020 with fondness, there was plenty to boast about. GSW recorded the highest enrollment in school history with 3,162 students. We successfully completed AACSB reaccreditation in the College of Business and Computing and CCNE reaccreditation in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. GSW's Men's Golf

Coach Darcy Donaldson was named National Coach of the Year and led the golf team to a #1 ranking within the Peach Belt Conference. We held our first-ever virtual commencement ceremony for Spring and Summer graduates, and were able to invite them back to join Fall graduates as we celebrated the culmination of their college journey with four in-person ceremonies in December to proudly finish out the year. The second annual Day of Giving raised \$33,000 for the University. Multiple renovation and construction

projects are underway. But most importantly, we worked together to overcome many obstacles and predictions of failure, strengthen our resolve, and deepen our belief in the value of our century-old institution.

Despite a worldwide pandemic that required unprecedented decisions and actions, the GSW community rose to the occasion together with resiliency, adaptability and determination. Georgia Southwestern stayed true to its mission of providing an excellent educational and co-curricular experience for our deserving students. No matter how long COVID-19 has the world in its grip, GSW will persevere and continue to provide students with the opportunity to earn their degree, realize their potential, and be positive contributors to society. ★

**“...we worked together to overcome many obstacles and predictions of failure, strengthen our resolve, and deepen our belief in the value of our century-old institution.”**

# HOMECOMING

## HOMECOMING 2020 — THE ROARING '20S —

February 17-22, 2020

**Homecoming Week** was full of glitz and glamour as we rang in a new decade with the Roaring '20s theme. Flapper dresses and newsboy caps were out in full force at a number of events, including the Fashion Show, Murder Mystery and Speakeasy. The festivities culminated in a great Homecoming Weekend, with alumni returning to campus for the annual tailgate and basketball games. Saturday also saw a special reunion, with members of the 1964-65 Hurricane basketball team meeting up on campus to tour their old haunts and reminisce.



**1. Midnight Bash:** Students kicked off Homecoming Week with a gathering at the Lakehouse, where they enjoyed food and live music from student musicians and a DJ.

**2. Fashion Show:** Students and staff showed off their 1920s and 2020s fashion on the catwalk.



**3. Murder Mystery:** Students worked together to solve an interactive murder mystery, complete with 1920s mobsters and flappers in costume.

**4. Blood Drive:** Faculty, staff, students, & community members donated blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive.



**5. Chili Cook-Off:** Despite rainy weather, students gathered in the Intramural Gym to enjoy hot dogs, chili, music, and lawn games.

**6. Speakeasy:** High atop campus in the unfinished space above the Marshall Student Center, students enjoyed a night of dancing and fun in a 1920s-style speakeasy - if they knew the secret password to enter!



# WEEK 2020



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## **7. Gatsby's Gathering**

**Spot:** Alumni gathered at the Windsor Hotel on Friday evening to socialize and enjoy drinks and appetizers.

## **8. Flappers & Fellas 5K & 1M Fun Run**

This annual event put on by the GSW Alumni Association drew a crowd of nearly 60. Cash prizes were awarded to the top male & female runners.

**9. Tailgate:** Greek students and alumni packed Centennial Plaza for the annual Homecoming Tailgate, enjoying hotdogs, hamburgers, and the Hurricane spirit.

**10. Alumni Stroll-Off:** NPHC alumni competed in a number of rounds before the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta were crowned Stroll-Off winners by a panel of student judges.

## **11. Women's Basketball:**

The Lady Hurricanes notched a 65-56 win over Flagler on Homecoming weekend, coming hot off a 66-62 win over Young Harris earlier in the week.

## **12. Homecoming King & Queen:**

Sophomore Tripp Larkey and Senior Cassidy Shipp were crowned Homecoming King and Queen between the women's and men's basketball games.

## **13. 1964-65 Basketball Team Reunion:**

Members of GSW's 1964-65 basketball team reunited and met the current Hurricane players.

**14. Baseball:** The Hurricanes split a double-header vs Young Harris, winning the first game 2-0.



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# 2020 Outstanding ALUMNI AWARDS

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Georgia Southwestern honored outstanding alumni and inducted one contributor into the GSW Athletics Hall of Fame at the 4th Annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet on February 22, 2020.

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## The Watford Family

2020 Family Legacy Award

With four family members across two generations graduating from GSW and seven GSW degrees between them, the Watford family have established themselves as leaders in local higher education and workforce development.

**Dr. Lettie Watford** ('82) served as dean of the School of Education from 2007-2013, where she established a professional network of partner schools and new graduate programs. Lettie continues to teach GSW dual enrollment courses at Lee and Sumter County High Schools.

After earning two degrees at GSW in Mathematics and Management, Lettie's brother **Dr. John Watford** ('86 and '89) went on to earn a graduate degree and a doctorate. He is currently president of South Georgia Technical College in Americus, Ga. John met his wife, **Barbara Watford** ('85 and '89) while they were both students at GSW. After graduating with a Reading Specialist degree, Barbara spent 30 years at Sumter County Schools in Americus, Ga., retiring as principal in 2015. She is currently a part-time instructor in the College of Education.

**Mark Watford** ('13) one of John and Barbara's three children, graduated with two bachelor's degrees, one in Music and one in Mathematics. After graduation, he served as a mathematics instructor at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. He is currently a teaching assistant at Florida State University where he is pursuing a doctoral degree in music.

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## Robert Martin, Sr., '90 and '91

2020 Visionary Award

After graduating with a BBA in Marketing, Robert "Rob" Martin spent 13 years with Motion Industries, Inc., working his way up from a sales/management trainee to operations manager. From 2004-2015, he put his customer service experience to use as director of hospitality and head chef at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga. Martin revitalized the church bookstore with a new online webstore and designed and opened a new church coffee shop.

Martin now works for the University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center in Albany, Ga. as area director, where he directs outreach and assistance to small businesses in the 27-county region of Southwest Georgia. He resides in Sylvester, Ga.







## Heather Burgess Simpson, '07

2020 Young Alumni of the Year

A 2007 Education graduate, Heather Burgess Simpson went on to earn master's and specialist degrees in education and teacher leadership. In 2018, Simpson received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She received a certificate signed by the President of the United States and \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation for her outstanding work teaching mathematics to kindergarten students.

Outside the classroom, Simpson is actively involved within her education community. She leads professional development sessions at the school, district and state levels and works as a trainer for the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative. Simpson resides in Pelham, Ala. with her husband Micah ('03) and sons Daniel and Nathan.

## Ronald Nix, '72

2020 Aeolian Award

After earning a degree in recreation education from GSW, Ronald "Ronnie" Nix began a successful career in parks and recreation. He has worked for departments in Macon, Statesboro and Dalton, Ga. In 2012, the Dalton Athletic Complex Park, where Nix served as director of parks and recreation for 25 years, was renamed in honor of him and is now known as the Ronald R. Nix Athletic Complex Park. Since 2011, Nix has served as a consultant for the recreation planning firm Barge Design Solutions.

Nix has also been active in his community, serving as president and charter member for the Dalton Morning Rotary Club, deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Dalton, and a variety of leadership positions in the Georgia Parks and Recreation Association.



## Chris Fenn, '78

2020 Hall of Fame inductee, Contributor

A 1978 history graduate and an Americus native, Chris Fenn is now known as the "Photographer of the Hurricanes." When he's not keeping track of all the keys on campus as a locksmith with GSW's Physical Plant, Fenn can be found volunteering his time, equipment, and talent as the official photographer for the GSW Department of Athletics. Since 2002, he has covered hundreds of athletic events and has spent countless hours promoting the University and its athletic programs through his photography.

Fenn has been inducted into the GSW Athletics Hall of Fame as a contributor for his dedication to the Hurricanes over the years.



# ALUMNI EVENTS 2021

## GSW Night at Truist Park

**June 5, 2021**

GSW alumni and friends are invited to Atlanta to watch the Braves take on the Los Angeles Dodgers at 4:10pm on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Seating is limited so purchase your ticket for \$25 at [gsw.edu/AlumniEvents!](https://gsw.edu/AlumniEvents!)



## Athletics Reunions

### **GSW Baseball Reunion**

**March 5-7, 2021**

### **GSW Softball Reunion**

**April 2-3, 2021**

## Homecoming 2021

**February 15 - 20, 2021**

Celebrate GSW with classic Homecoming events like the Alumni 5K and 1M Fun Run and Tailgate on Saturday. Visit [gsw.edu/Homecoming](https://gsw.edu/Homecoming) for more information as it becomes available.

## 2021 Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner

**March 13, 2021**

Join us as we celebrate our honored alumni at the annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Dinner. Tickets are \$50 per person, and tables of 6 are available. Reservations required.

## Greek Reunions

### **Zeta Tau Alpha 50th Anniversary**

**October 1 - 2, 2021**

### **Sigma Chi 50th Anniversary**

**October 22 - 24, 2021**

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For more information about upcoming Alumni events, contact Angela Smith, Alumni Affairs Specialist, at 229-928-1373 or at [angela.smith@gsw.edu](mailto:angela.smith@gsw.edu).

## ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP Now Accepting Applications!

The Alumni Legacy Scholarship, developed by the GSW Alumni Association, is open to current and incoming students with family members who are alumni. The deadline to apply for the 2021-22 academic year is 5:00pm EST on February 15, 2021. Visit [gsw.edu/AlumniAssociation](https://gsw.edu/AlumniAssociation) to apply.

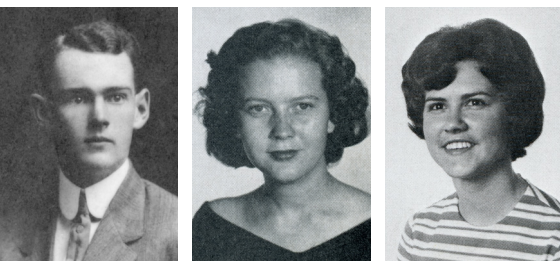
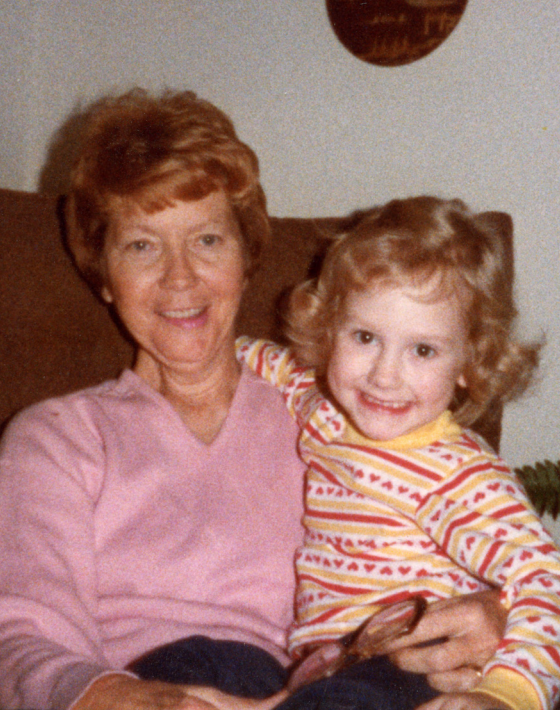
In addition to the Alumni Legacy Scholarship, GSW offers over \$1 million in scholarships to students each year. Prospective students may be eligible for scholarships like the Southwestern Promise, the Guaranteed Acceptance Program for nursing, and the President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program. For more information, visit [gsw.edu/Scholarships](https://gsw.edu/Scholarships). The deadline for many scholarships is February 1, 2021, but this may vary.

**Your gifts make an impact. Give to GSW's scholarship funds at [gsw.edu/Give](https://gsw.edu/Give).**



# Heritage and HOME

By Sydney Scott



The early 20th century was an influential time for the United States. 1912 in particular saw the sinking of the RMS Titanic, the founding of the Girl Scouts and Paramount Pictures, the election of President Woodrow Wilson, and the construction of Fenway Park in Boston. It was also the year that Ralph Bernard Heath graduated from the Third District Agricultural and Mechanical School in Americus, Ga., unwittingly beginning a family tradition that would span five generations.

R.B., as he was affectionately known to family and friends, was a member of the third graduating class at the Third District A&M, which was Georgia Southwestern's name in its first 20 years. Family tradition holds that R.B. and his classmates were tasked with creating, designing, and constructing the iconic circle drive in front of GSW's Wheatley Administration Building. After graduation, R.B. returned to his hometown of Dawson, Ga. where he worked as a farmer, served in WWI and raised a family.

Fast forward three decades, and GSW had undergone two name changes and grown to over 550 students. One of those was Dawson native Betty Hufstetler, who was active in a number of campus organizations and was fond of the campus architecture, particularly the winding staircase of the Wheatley Administration Building.

Betty graduated from GSW in 1948 and went on to marry R.B.'s son, John Glenn Heath. The couple lived

in Dawson, where Betty worked as an elementary school teacher for over 40 years.

The GSW tradition continued into the next generation through Betty and Glenn's son, John A. Heath and wife, Kay Strickland. While John only attended GSW for one summer in the 1970s, Kay earned her Master's in Education in 1975 and a Specialist degree in 1991. Like her mother-in-law, Kay worked 30 years as a teacher and now writes children's books.

When it came time for John and Kay's daughter Leann Heath Miller to attend college, her family's history on campus factored into her decision. "I wanted to attend a school with that small-town feel," Leann said. "Being that many of my family members attended GSW, it seemed like the perfect choice for me."

Over 20 years later, Leann is still a Hurricane. Since graduating with her BBA in Marketing in 2001, she has worked in both the GSW Bookstore and Student Financial Aid. She and husband Matt Miller, a 2005 graduate, hope to continue the GSW tradition through their children. Their son Maddox and daughter Kayden are already Hurricanes, both having attended GSW's Pre-K program.

Leann's office in Sanford Hall is now home to a prized piece of family history – the original 1912 diploma of her great-grandfather, R.B. Heath.

"I'm beyond proud of my family's heritage on campus and their accomplishments off campus. GSW is my home, just as it was for the generations before me." ★

From top: Leann with grandmother Betty ; R.B. at age 17 (1908); Betty in college (1948); Kay in college (1972); Leann with R.B.'s 1912 diploma





# ALUMNI SCENE

## GSW Night at the Hawks Game

GSW alumni, family and friends enjoyed an Atlanta Hawks game from a reserved tower at State Farm Arena on January 18, 2020.



## Delta Sigma Theta Founders Day Celebration

Delta Sigma Theta celebrated their 107th Founders Day and 30th Chapter Anniversary with a program on February 1, 2020.





## Kappa Sigma Founder's Day & 50th Anniversary Reunion

Over 400 brothers and their families attended celebrations November 22-23, 2019 with members from 1969 to 2019 represented.



## Homecoming 2020

Alumni were out in full force at the Alumni Association's 5K and 1M Fun Run and Homecoming Tailgate on February 22, 2020.





## 1950s

1952

**Geneva (Johnson) Sparling** served as an educator from 1950-1992 and was a principal from 1975-1992. She worked in both Ga. and Ind. After retiring, Geneva served as a Wal-Mart Greeter and a volunteer for a major hospital.

1957

**Loraine (Clark) Boatwright** earned a master's in Public Administration and a doctorate in Ministry.

## 1960s

1962

**Tommy Surles** and his wife Jan have been married for 55 years. They have two adult sons, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He has been retired from St. Regis paper company in Pensacola, Fl. for almost 21 years.

## 1970s

1971

**Joe Phillips** is now retired, but served as the CEO/Chairman of the Board, Old Courthouse, Inc., and Douglas County Museum of History and Art. He served on the Douglas County Tourism and History Commission, the Douglas County Library Board, and the West Georgia Regional Library Board of Trustees.

**William Moore** retired from Hajoca Corp after 42 years.

1973

**Sherry (Welch) Hendon** retired in 2009 with a credit of 38 years in education. She taught a number of grade levels, from 3rd grade to 8th grade, throughout her career, all in Stewart County, Ga.

1979

**Joe Miller** earned his Doctor of Optometry from the University of Alabama-Birmingham in 1985. He retired in 2019 due to complications from military service in Vietnam (1972-76).

## 1980s

1984

**Lynn (Greenleaf) Brown** received the annual Cindajo Overton Outstanding Nurse Educator Award from the Alabama State Nurses Association. She is an assistant clinical professor in Auburn University's School of Nursing. She has worked in Ala., Tenn. and Ga. and most recently worked at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital from 2003-2015.

1989

**Robby Whaley** serves as Vice President of Sales for Smart Lighting Solutions. He is an avid snow skier, water skier and hiker.

**Gina (Wilkerson) Barnes**

is a retired kindergarten teacher from the Crisp County School System. She holds a bachelor's and master's of education in early childhood education.

## 1990s

1995

**Wesley Wellons** has been promoted to chief financial officer of ReadyOne Industries. He joined the company in March 2019 as assistant chief financial officer. Previously, he was the chief financial officer and Vice President of Operations for Container Marketing Inc., an international furniture manufacturing company. Wesley earned an MBA from GSW and a certification in business analytics from The Wharton School of Executive Education.

**Carla Linkous** serves as a Public Health Consultant.

1996

**Paul Higgs** accepted position at Valdosta State University as an instructor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences teaching in the Health Sciences and Athletic Training majors, with a dual appointment as Director of the Center for Exercise Medicine and Rehabilitation Athletic Training Clinic (CEMR). He had previously spent 20 years as the Head Athletic Trainer at Georgia College & State University.

1997

**Judy (Clements) Parks** was awarded the 2020 Reach for the Stars (Teacher of the Year) Award from the Georgia Charter Schools Association. She holds a Master of Education from GSW.

1998

**Danny Minick**, executive vice president and commercial lender at Citizens Bank of Americus, has been elected by his peers in the state as president-elect of the Leadership GBA Executive Committee for the Georgia Bankers Association (GBA). Danny began his banking career at Columbus Bank and Trust in 1998 as a management trainee. He has been with Citizens Bank of Americus for more than 12 years and is an executive vice president primarily focusing on commercial and agricultural lending. He serves on the GSW Foundation board and is also on the Foundation's Executive and Finance Committee.

## 2000s

2000

**Kevin Yancy** was named principal of Oconee County High School.

2001

**Allison Jones** is a missionary educator working with the Network of International Christian Schools and is currently the Director of the



International Christian Academy of Nagoya.

**Sam Holland** is currently employed as a Service Desk Analyst and resides in Donaldsonville, Ga. His personal interests include Taekwondo.

## 2003

**Sarah (Vestal) Massey** serves as a Revenue Agent for the Georgia Department of Revenue.

## 2007

**Patrice Little** obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University (GBCN) in Atlanta, Ga. Patrice serves as GBCN's Part-time Adjunct Clinical Instructor for their new Accelerated Bachelor of Science (ABSN) and MSN programs, as well as a Perioperative Nurse Practitioner for Atlanta Ophthalmology Associates (AOA). She and her husband Sean have two children who are dancers; Kaitlyn is 11, and Caleb is 5.

## 2010s

### 2013

**Erin (Vick) Blackwell** earned her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University in 2019. She is a Physical Therapist at Total Rehab in Auburn, Ala. and teaches anatomy and physiology at Columbus Technical College. She has taken two medical mission trips to St. Mary's in Jamaica, and enjoys camping, hiking, and kayaking with her husband.

## 2014

**Ceunte (Carithers) Johnson** is currently employed by the Dougherty County Department of Human Services as an Economic Support Specialist II and resides in Albany, Ga. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, watching and playing sports, and playing video games.

**Laura Chambley-Shadrack** was named Extension Center Director for Georgia Military College's (GMC) Zebulon campus. She holds associate degrees in both Fine Arts and Business Administration from Gordon State College, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from GSW, and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University.

## 2015

**Leigh Swords** serves as House Supervisor/PCC at Crisp Regional Hospital and as an Adjunct Clinical Instructor at GSW. She plans to return to GSW to pursue her master's in Nursing Education with hopes of becoming a full-time faculty member of the University. She enjoys spending time with her family, baking cakes and attending church.

**Christopher Gilstrap** is an actor, producer and dramaturge in Los Angeles, Calif. He serves on the executive board of Pints & Players, a theatre company that performs "drunk Shakespeare" in bars around the city.

## 2016

**Kristin (Robinson) Suggs** teaches third grade at Lake Park Elementary in Albany, Ga. and is working towards a master's of Education at GSW. She is married to Matthew Suggs ('15) who is a special education teacher and varsity baseball and softball coach at Lee County High School. The couple resides in Leesburg, Ga.

## 2018

**Allison Stewart** serves as a Human Resources Specialist & Executive Assistant at Innovative Senior Solutions. She is a graduate of the Advancing Sumter 2019 cohort.

**Dana McCarter** serves as the Human Resources Assistant at Columbus State University.

**Erica (Torrence) Florence** married Bennie Florence, Jr. in August 2019. She is the Senior Business Operations Manager at Kennesaw State University.

## 2019

**Michelle Casarrubias** hopes to open her own tax services business that will also provide an opportunity for people to learn the English language. Her hobbies include drawing, painting, arts & crafts. She enjoys spending time with family and her American Bulldog, Luna.



**Have you moved?  
Gotten married?  
Had a baby?  
Started a new  
job or earned a  
graduate degree?**

Let us know! Feel free to pop us an email at [alumni@gsu.edu](mailto:alumni@gsu.edu) or go online and submit a class note to let us know where you are and how you're doing. We love to keep up with the Canes Nation!

# IN MEMORIAM

**Katie Rodgers Burke, '39**  
Centerville, GA

**Pauline "Polly" (Rustin) Knepley, '41**  
Kokomo, IN

**Ruth (Kidd) Cheatham, '42**  
Sandersville, GA

**Sammie (Harp) Cox, '42**  
Oglethorpe, GA

**Martha "Rena" (Heys) Wood, '43**  
Americus, GA

**Ann (McMickle) Battle, '46**  
Ellaville, GA

**Thomas "Gil" Gilchrist, '46**  
Griffin, GA

**Marjorie (Hambric) Easterlin, '47**  
Americus, GA

**Joseph "Toby" Reid, '47**  
Americus, GA

**Betty (Hufstetler) Heath, '48**  
Woodbury, GA

**Betty (McCoy) Knight, '48**  
Woodbury, GA

**Holmes Pyles, '48**  
Dunwoody, GA

**John Randolph Hodges, Jr., '49**  
Americus, GA

**Walter Freeman Alsobrooks, Jr., '50**  
Peachtree City, GA

**Howard Gossett, Jr., '50**  
Griffin, GA

**Barbara (Cofty) Jones, '50**  
Cantonment, FL

**McTyier Salter, '50**  
Dawson, GA

**Carol (Worley) McKinney, '51**  
Arabi, GA

**Mary Anne (Harrison) Wingard, '51**  
Americus, GA

**Moss "Gene" Chambers, Jr., '55**  
Kingsport, TN

**Dorris (Barnes) Snider, '55**  
Oak Ridge, TN

**James "Buddy" Dunn, '56**  
Butler, GA

**E. W. "Bill" Holloway, '56**  
Macon, GA

**Shepard Hugh Gibson, '57**  
Americus, GA

**Clinton M. Holloway, '57**  
Plains, GA

**Sondra (Dawson) Littlefield, '57**  
Americus, GA

**Charles Samuel Smith, '57**  
Americus, GA

**Bige Donald Veal, '57**  
Cordele, GA

**John Arthur Battle, '58**  
Guyton, GA

**Charles "Doodle" Thomason, '59**  
Tifton, GA

**Frances Virginia Underwood, '59**  
Birmingham, AL

**Charles K. "Ken" Williams, '59**  
Albany, GA

**Idus "Brown" Small III, '60**  
Fair Haven, NJ

**George L. Whitten, '60**  
Richland, GA

**James "Pete" Arrington, '61**  
Americus, GA

**Ann (Almon) Findlater, '61**  
Phenix City, AL

**Cary (Collins) Christian, '62**  
Americus, GA

**C. Stephen "Steve" Gurr, '62**  
Gainesville, GA

**James "Jimmy" Spinks, '63**  
Warner Robins, GA

**Marsha (Morgan) Wright, '63**  
Americus, GA

**Margaret "Peggy" Rogers, '64**  
Deland, FL

**Shirley Turner (Pike) Darden, '69**  
Savannah, GA

**Donald Ray "Donny" Jackson, '69**  
LaGrange, GA

**Annie Ruth (Stone) Moore, '71**  
Macon, GA

**Rebecca L. McNeill, '72**  
Americus, GA

**Calvin Edward Starlin, '72**  
Americus, GA

**Edd Larry Anthony, '74**  
Americus, GA

**Terrell R. "Terry" Bankston, '74**  
Covington, GA

**Vicki (Blizzard) Coley, '74**  
Ashburn, GA

**Sharon (Market) Hartsfield, '74**  
Americus, GA

**Audrey Lynn (Burnam) Murray, '74**  
Byromville, GA

**Thomas L. Teate, '74**  
Vienna, GA

**Aileen Connor, '75**  
Albany, GA

**Cathy (Pinson) Mooney, '75**  
Thomasville, GA

**Rose (Sykes) Nether, '75**  
Sylvester, GA

**Michael "Mike" Joiner Allen, '76**  
Cobb, GA

**Alan Anderson, '76**  
Americus, GA

**David Clayman Bankston, '76**  
Americus, GA

**Dewey W. Cannon, '76**  
Blakely, GA

**Marinel (Young) Hickman, '76**  
Smithville, GA

**Theo Harris Peddy, Jr., '76**  
Leesburg, GA

**Shirley (McLendon) Poole, '76**  
Oglethorpe, GA

**Ina (Hudson) Wilson, '76**  
Leslie, GA

**Jeffrey William Beard, '77**  
Warwick, GA

**Ashby Joe Moon, '77**  
Fayetteville, GA

**Mary Jane Tipper, '77**  
Ty Ty, GA

**Mary Etta (Turner) Williams, '77**  
Abbeville, GA

**Kenneth Ray Henderson, '78**  
Tifton, GA

**Gwendolyn (Dech) Eckert, '81**  
Americus, GA

**Annie (Thaggard) Thompson, '85**  
Pine Mountain, GA

**Mary Jane (Hamilton) Simmons, '87**  
Cordele, GA

**Alice (Cheek) Griffin, '88**  
Pinehurst, GA

**Anne (Moore) Reaves, '88**  
Dublin, GA

**Dawn (Woods) McCullough, '89**  
Woodbine, GA

**Deborah Gail Green, '93**  
Pitts, GA



**Richard "Ricky" Burgess, '76**  
*Aug. 11, 1956 - Oct. 8, 2019*

Ricky Burgess was the long-time "Voice of the Hurricanes," covering GSW athletics on the radio for over 45 years. Burgess began his radio work for the Hurricanes while he was a student at GSW in 1973. Some of his most memorable quotes during broadcasts included "Canes win! Canes win!" and "Put the dogs in the truck, the hunt is over." He was named to the GSW Hall of Fame in 1998, and a banner was raised in Storm Dome after his passing in 2019.

**Victor Marquis Daniel, '95**  
Vienna, GA

**Alan Dale Ford, '95**  
Albany, GA

**Jennifer (Thomas) Mashburn, '95**  
Perry, GA

**Richard D. Davis, '03**  
Buena Vista, GA

**Patrick "Pat" Bonz, '05**  
Des Moines, IA

**Michael "Mike" Cochran, '05**  
Americus, GA

**Nancy (Neighbors) Hall, '08**  
Vienna, GA

**Devyn Ray Newberry, '16**  
Ochlocknee, GA

**Amber Caldwell, '18**  
Newnan, GA

**Willa (Johnson) Fitzpatrick**  
Americus, GA

**Michael Joseph Radcliff**  
Fayetteville, GA



# ★ 2019 GIVING ★

## ★ President's Circle (\$1,000 +)

Pat & Gaile Allen  
AMB Wealth  
Americus Civitan Club  
Americus Sumter Hospital Authority  
Ervin & Debra Anderson  
John & Alice Argo  
Ricky & Jane Arnold  
Arrow Exterminators  
Augusta Howard Warren Fund  
Andrew Austin  
Greg & Karen Austin  
David & Deborah Bales  
Richard & Abby Baringer  
Jeff & Amy Benton  
Bill & Jan Bird  
Bob Woodruff Foundation  
Shane & Laura Boren  
Bill & Shay Bradshaw  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation  
Jim & Jean Buchanan  
Jimmie & Joyce Buchanan  
Calhoun Landscaping  
Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter  
Jack & Jean Carter  
Center For Educational Adventure  
Century 21 Americus Realty  
CGM Construction Group  
Charles L. Mix Memorial Foundation  
Lou Chase  
Chattahoochee Turf Products  
Citizens Bank of Americus  
Janice Cliett  
Jane & Larry Comer Foundation  
Cooper Lighting Solutions  
Cousins Catering  
Tim Cranford  
Skeeter & Sandra Daniel  
Joe Daniel  
Rick Davis Automotive  
Delta Air Lines  
Draw Products  
Gatewood & Cindy Dudley  
Jim Dudley  
Jewell Duncan  
Eaton Corporation  
Thomas & Elisabeth Elder  
First State Bank of Americus  
Margaret Fite  
Flint Energies Foundation  
Darrell Ford  
Allen & Lisa Fort

Tamlin Fortner  
Georgia Power Foundation  
Ellis & Linnie Gilliam  
Harold & Sandra Gillis  
David & Kay Dee Green  
Linda Grimsley  
Royce & Melinda Hackett  
Bruce & Betty Hall Charitable Foundation  
Bill & Ann Harris  
Ralph & Nancy Harvey  
John & Gaye Hayes  
Dan & Anne Helms  
Herff Jones  
Kelsey Holland  
Thomas Holman  
Sam & Reba Hunter  
Innovative Senior Solutions  
Phillip Jennings  
Johnson & Johnson  
Louis & Mary Kaye Jordan  
Kappa Sigma Alumni Foundation  
Cody & Sharon King  
Billy & Sandra King  
The Kinnebrew Company  
Thomas & Irene Kirbo Foundation  
Danny & Kathy MacQuirter  
Magnolia Manor  
Mary Marshall  
Rodger Martin  
Martin McDonald State Farm  
Glynn Mathis Estate  
Matrix Department  
Mattie H. Marshall Foundation  
Mauldin & Jenkins  
Wallace & Kitty Mays  
Thomas & Ashley McKenna  
Danny & Sallie Minick  
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Lamon & Jean Moates  
Larry & Jan Moore  
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Jerry & Marjorie Ann Newman  
Newton & Vivian Allen Foundation  
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Mark Pace  
Roy L. Parker Family Foundation  
Peach State Depression Glass  
George & Anne Peagler  
Jimmy & Marianne Peel  
Will & Brook Peterson  
Phoebe Putney Health System  
Clifford & Ann Pierce  
Lee Pinnell  
Ed & JoAnn Pope

Pope Charitable Remainder Trust  
Kerri Post  
Michael & Candice Pruett  
Frank & Lynda Lee Purvis  
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Bodine & Lillie Sinyard  
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Studio 8 Design  
Sumter Broadcasting Company  
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Synovus Financial  
Russell & Andrea Thomas  
Hap & Mildred Tietjen  
Mark & Tina Todd  
Dan & Mary Torbert  
TSG Resolute  
TSYS - Total System Services, Inc.  
Dave & Kathleen Lang Tucker  
Alf & Marianne Tuggle  
Wes & Alex Riccardi Turner  
Ty & Carla Turner  
University System of Georgia Foundation  
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Enrique & Susan Valdes  
Jody & Judy Wade  
Eddie & Betty Anne Ward  
Robert Ward  
Lettie Watford  
Butch & Elaine Watts  
Neal & Kristi Weaver  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Scott & Michelle Westbrook  
Mike & Janet Weston  
Wes & Jean Wheeler  
Linda Wiggins  
Wil-Mil Farms  
Liz Wilson

Frances Wood Wilson Foundation  
Ken Wurtz  
Ryan & Mandy Young

## ★ Southwestern Society (\$500 - \$999)

Alan Mackey Real Estate, Inc.  
Americus High School Class of 1964  
Alan & Katherine Anderson  
Ben & Michelle Andrews  
Raymond & Susan Baggarly  
Thomas & Linda Bateman  
Bill & Rebecca Binneveld  
Carol Bishop  
Kendall & Connie Blanchard  
Al & Susan Bonagura  
Mark Bowen  
Chambliss, Sheppard, Roland & Associates, LLP  
Ann Cofer  
Ted & Sandy Deiter  
Susan Derison  
Bill & Vanessa DeVane  
William & Nancy Dismuke  
Jerry & Janet Dowdy  
EMC Engineering Services, Inc.  
John & Lynda Fields  
Alex Fiveash  
Friends of Downtown Americus  
Gatewood, Skipper & Rambo, P.C.  
Gatewood's Flowers  
John & Rebecca Gladden  
Buddy & Cheryl Guth  
Ricky & Connie Haugabook  
Nellie Iordanova  
J. Michael Greene, P.C.  
David Jenkins  
Jon L. Roby, Inc.  
Walter & Annie Lanter  
Jimmy Lunsford  
Guerry & Michelle Mashburn  
James & Elizabeth McDonel  
Thomas McKenzie  
MetroPower, Inc.  
Carter Meyers  
Kelvin Moses  
Moss Orthodontics  
Roger & Susan Myers  
Ronnie & Helen Nix  
O. Wayne Spence, P.C.  
Parker's Heating & Air Conditioning  
Boris & Tatiana Peltsverger  
Philema Turf

*\*Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of these giving records. We apologize if any names are listed in error.*

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, Inc.  
 Pineland Foundation, Inc.  
 Jeryl Pinnell  
 Pope Land Company, LLC  
 Precision Automotive  
 R & S Sports, Inc.  
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 Rick & Pam Ross  
 Sam Service, Inc.  
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 Mike Self  
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 Bob & Debbie Strange  
 Sumter County Development Authority  
 Synovus Bank  
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 Texas Caregiver Support Services  
 The Scott Law Foundation  
 Paul & Molly Thomas  
 John Thomas  
 Turner's House of Carpets  
 Robby & Deannie Whaley  
 Frank & Patricia Whitaker

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 Adkins Rental Holdings, LLC  
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 Reagan & Taylor Barksdale  
 Greg & Katherine Barnettson  
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 Ted & Ursula Kiser  
 Kiwanis Club Of Americus  
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 Daniel & Deidre Nelson  
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 Pat's Place  
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 Scott's Jewelry  
 JB & Luanne Sewell  
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 George & Peggy Carson  
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Gyro City Mediterranean Grill  
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Kimberly Holder  
Karen Holloway  
Edward Holmes  
Joe & Jarrett Hooks  
Hot Heads! The Art of Hair, Etc. Inc.  
Houston Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine, P.C.  
Joy Humphrey  
Slade & Ramona Hunt  
Patsy Hutto  
Keith Hyndshaw  
Illingworth Engineering Company  
Ingram & Associates Consulting Engineers, LLC  
Tzvetelin Iordanov  
Anne Jacobs  
JJ's Wings & Things  
John Simmons & Sons  
Claude & Lisa Johns  
Martavious Johnson  
David & Susan Johnson  
Johnson Controls Security

Bob & Dianna Jones  
Alma Keita  
KGA Laurens Enterprises, LLC  
Christy Kight  
Marilyn Kindred  
Bill & Meda Krenson  
Lang Mechanical, Inc.  
Keith & Donna Lee  
Mike & Jodie Leeder  
Billy & Linda Lewis  
Jamie Lineberry  
Little Brother's Bistro  
Judy Lloyd  
Robert & Diane Long  
Leslie Lucas  
Sonia Lyles  
M. Alex Peavey Jr., PC, LLC  
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Cecilia Maldonado  
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Richard McGhee  
Michele McKie  
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Wanda Meerman  
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John Miller  
Mark Minick  
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Sai Mukkavilli  
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GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

### Aeolian Magazine

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