Over the past 100-plus years, Georgia Southern University has grown from modest beginnings into a nationally renowned institution of higher learning built upon deep roots that provide stability, strength and a foundation for growth. Today, we embrace those roots – our legacy – as we plan for the future and the future of our University. The Eagle Nation exists because of you, and the unique and talented Georgia Southern faculty and students we’re able to attract, some of whom you’ll “meet” in this 2014 Foundation Report.

To all of Georgia Southern, and the remarkable people who make it special, I say “thank you” once again for your dedication and loyalty. Thank you for a 2014 Fiscal Year that surpassed last year’s. Assets passed $60 million, donations increased nearly 16 percent, scholarship dollars increased 92 percent, and scholarship endowments rose 56 percent, all record levels. This success – our measured success – is a result of you.

In addition to the Foundation fundraising team, all areas of our Division staff work collaboratively to ensure successful results. The Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving increased their special events by 93 percent over last year. We have established “An Evening with the President” and luncheons in major cities throughout Georgia and in Jacksonville, Florida, and will continue to explore other outreach efforts. Annual Giving is expanding their reach and now offer an online option to give to our annual “A Day for Southern” campaign. Under new leadership in the Office of Marketing and Communications, Associate Vice President Jan Bond is developing innovative marketing plans and spearheading creative branding initiatives. Meanwhile, Donor Relations has focused on improving outreach through college scholarship dinners, annual giving society events, and expanding Trustees participation in stewardship that benefits donors. Visit our online giving page to see one of their videos.

Continuing with what we started last year, our efforts this fiscal year will focus on Campaign planning, as we target a Spring 2016 Public Phase Campaign announcement.

As always, thank you so much for supporting Georgia Southern through your gifts to the University Foundation. We look forward to sharing conversations, seeing you at future events and celebrating successes with you again next year. Thank you for making Georgia Southern and our outstanding students a priority in your giving. If you want to share your thoughts, I urge you to email me at sarthur@georgiasouthern.edu. I’d love to hear from you directly. I may not have all of the words today, or all of the answers for tomorrow, but together, we’ll continue to help Georgia Southern add to its legacy and accomplish even greater levels of success.

Salinda Arthur
President, Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc.

About the UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

The Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. exists to assist Georgia Southern University in fulfilling its multifaceted mission and in its efforts to achieve educational excellence. The Foundation primarily accomplishes this mission by providing leadership in obtaining the resources needed to attain University goals and through responsible stewardship of funds and other assets entrusted to it.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established in 1963 to raise and manage private dollars to meet the needs of Georgia Southern that are not funded through state allocations.

The Foundation is qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) corporation.

Contact us:
912-478-2000
GeorgiaSouthern.edu/foundation
A note from our Chair

It is truly an honor to serve as Chair of the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees. Every day, students are being inspired to reach for their dreams, and wonderful new research and learning opportunities are unfolding at the University. The bold vision of University President Brooks Keel is contagious, as I have personally experienced his enthusiasm and spirit, and seen his positive effect among our Eagle Nation faculty, staff, students and supporters.

In addition to Dr. Keel’s ongoing leadership, we have made tremendous strides under the strong guidance of Foundation President Salinda Arthur. Over the past year, supported by a devoted Board, Salinda has implemented a series of “best practices” initiatives that will continue to drive the Foundation’s mission forward for years to come.

Our Trustees give generously of their time and resources because they remain committed to funding and maintaining Georgia Southern’s tradition of excellence. In 2014, donations are up nearly 16 percent, while scholarships, endowments and the Foundation’s overall assets sit at record levels. The generosity of all of us in Eagle Nation makes it possible to educate more students, fulfill more dreams and fortify our reputation as Georgia’s premier center for higher education within the state and beyond.

Committees have also played an active role in the Foundation’s success this year. I want to commend Pat O’Connor, and the Membership Committee, for identifying strong and diverse leaders with a passion for Georgia Southern, who have recently joined our Board to help further support our cause. In addition, I want to acknowledge the Investment Committee, led by Martin NeSmith, for their prudent management of your investments.

I trust you’ll take pride, as I do, of the recognitions our University is receiving in so many areas, including the arts, athletics, engineering and research. The support from alumni and friends makes these achievements possible. Scholarships provided by the Foundation, through our generous donor family, enable us to continue to attract the best and brightest students. You’ll “meet” some of those scholars in the pages that follow.

On behalf of our Trustees, faculty, staff, and students, thank you for your continued generosity and support of Georgia Southern University. Your gifts are an investment in the future of our students and in the broader community impacted by Eagle Nation around the globe.

You are truly making a difference!

Barbara Christmas Golden, Ph.D.
Chair, Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc.
Student Government Association (SGA) President and Master of Science in Applied Engineering student Azell Francis ('13) recently spoke about the importance of providing scholarship opportunities during a press conference to celebrate the University’s renewed partnership with The Coca-Cola Company. “Eagles for Eagles is an initiative to raise funds for students in extreme financial hardships,” said Francis. “We as the Student Government Association represent all of the students, so we need to make sure we reach out to them in any way or capacity. Yes we’re SGA. Yes we’re government, but we are Eagles first.”

Like so many of our exemplary students, Azell wanted to be exposed to new cultures, different ways of thinking and push her own boundaries, obstacles and perceived limitations. Azell says we challenged her to think about where she fit in, not just as a resident of Georgia and citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, but on a global scale and as a global citizen. We challenged her, as we do all of our 20,000-plus students, to think bigger, and she has done just that.

Azell is the first international student to serve as SGA president and the first female president since 2009. She ran on the idea of “We the Eagles,” which encompassed Eagles being elected by Eagles to better serve Eagles. “It’s amazing that students here care so much about other students. Time and time again we have an amazing team of students who volunteer their time and energy into putting on great events to help raise money for students in times of need.”

Azell is one of five children. Most of her family is still in Trinidad, but she has one sister in Atlanta and another sister in London. Her ultimate goal is to one day become an United Nations ambassador. But until that day comes, Azell would like to work for a global company so she can exercise her passions for language and diplomacy.

“I encourage everyone to journey with me to the future,” said Francis. “I encourage people I meet to always remember their purpose. Embrace their journey. You are the author of your story and what greater purpose is there than that of sincere gratitude.”

Together, as Eagles, we are grateful for Azell as well as the generous donors who continue to make dreams and journeys come true.
THE NEXT GENERATION

Leadership. Teamwork. Self-confidence. In her eighth year at Georgia Southern, Misty L. Loughry, Ph.D., teaches organizational behavior and strategy to undergrads and at the MBA level. Her primary research includes working on an online system to help faculty and students be more successful with classroom teamwork.

“Our goal is to create better teams, have students like team activities and experience better satisfaction in groups. When students learn the right things to be successful together, there is lower conflict and greater outcomes across the board.”

Loughry believes Georgia Southern creates value for these students. “We have a really big impact,” she says. “We reach students at a time when they’re developing as human beings and getting ready to go out into the job market and change the world. The best moments are when they write back once they’ve gotten a job or started a family. The most exciting times are when you hear back from students and they tell you that the things you’ve taught them have made them successful. That’s really as good as it gets from a teaching standpoint.”

And Dr. Loughry feels especially passionate about teaching first-generation students because she can see the immediate difference her influence can make. “I was a first-generation college student myself so I see that need and appreciate the value. I know these students sometimes need to build self-confidence. They need to know how to navigate life and feel comfortable to ask questions and use resources to their advantage. They just usually have to learn a lot more, and not just about subject matter.”

“The students are really special here,” Loughry continues. “I know Georgia Southern makes them better prepared and more self-confident, so they can find their way and choose a path that’s a good fit. Private donations still fund the sorts of things that make quality better and that really matters the most for our students and their future success.”

SOUTHERN PRIDE

Camden Batchelor, Logistics & Intermodal Transportation Major

When Camden Batchelor looked around for a university that would provide him with an outstanding logistics/intermodal transportation program, he knew Georgia Southern was the right place for him. He wanted to pursue his education in a logistics program that had connections to companies in his field, and the University’s proximity to the Port of Savannah and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta did just that.

“Everything in transportation involves logistics and my interest in the planning and implementation of the flow of goods started when I was in elementary school,” he said. “We used to vacation on cruise ships, and I was always fascinated by the big container ships at the ports, however, I love all modes of transportation, regardless of whether they are ships at a port, trains, trucks or airplanes.”

Logistics is a rapidly expanding field with plenty of opportunities, which is one of the reasons Batchelor is earning his degree in it. “There are so many options available to you,” said Batchelor, who envisions a career in supply chain analytics at a freight brokerage firm.

The Eagle Scout from suburban Atlanta has a 4.0 GPA, and is a member of the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society and of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society for business. He is the recipient of several scholarships including the Robert Cox Scholarship in the College of Business Administration. “The scholarship means the world to me,” he said. “Nowadays college is so expensive, so receiving it has really helped me prepare for my future. I would encourage anyone to give because there are so many talented people out there whose dreams may not be realized because they can’t afford college.”

The Georgia Southern senior credits faculty for helping him achieve his goals.

“I have enjoyed all my professors and think they do a great job of conveying in class what happens in the real world so that we know what to expect before we start our careers,” he said. “I am in their offices all the time, asking questions and they are very open to students.”

With graduation only a few months away, Batchelor says what he will miss most is participating in the Southern Pride Marching Band and playing before thousands of people at halftime.

“I have enjoyed all my professors and think they do a great job.”

-CAMDEN BATCHELOR
Helping, Healing, Honing skills. Nurturing. “Number one, I love to teach,” says Moya Alfonso, Ph.D., an assistant professor in her fifth year at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. “I came to Georgia Southern because I wanted to teach. I had a research position for over a decade and I didn’t really have the opportunity to teach then. But it was something I always loved and wanted to pursue.”

Alfonso believes students benefit most when they have access to faculty and can build both a strong working and personal relationship. “I know that after our students graduate they really know how to communicate and apply the information they’ve learned to real-world situations. They are able to go out and make a difference in the communities they serve.”

For the past three years, Alfonso has worked at promoting Bulloch County physical activities programs. The VERB Summer Scorecard (VERB) is a free program for youth, ages 8 to 13, which encourages outdoor activity during the summer months, a time when physical activity tends to decrease. It is incentive-based and currently in more than 22 locations across the United States. “I was the first to bring it to the local area and to rural Georgia,” says Alfonso. “I’ve involved students in that research and every summer I offer a practicum in which students from public health can act as service coordinators. In this role, they go out into these communities to get children registered, as well as conduct program evaluation and research.”

Alfonso is pleased that Georgia Southern faculty still focus on students. “We have time for them and can help develop their practical knowledge and skills in the public health profession so they can truly help the communities in which they serve,” says Alfonso. “Recently, I completed a number of community health assessment evaluations at the Willow Hill community in the Portal area. I worked with my community health assessment class to conduct a pretty extensive health assessment of the needs of youth in that community. They talked to teachers, parents, leaders, and school staff about what the needs were to specific children in that community. To get my students out of the classroom and use program evaluation methods in the field to serve the needs of such a unique community was really powerful. Students told me at the end of the semester that the experience had changed their lives forever.”

Alfonso is also proud of the contributions she’s made to service-learning at the University. “Everybody that I’ve met at Georgia Southern has really inspired me to do even greater things for the surrounding area, for the state and beyond,” says Alfonso. “Everyday, I’m surrounded by people in our College who really want to improve the community we live in. If people don’t have their health, they can’t be contributing members of society. We’re really doing our best with limited resources to change the lives of people around us. And we need support to do that. We’re taking students with us on this journey to help create public health practitioners that can do even greater things that we can accomplish by ourselves.”

“The experience changed their lives.” - MOYA ALFONSO, PH.D.
LEADING RESEARCH

Sungkyun Lim, Ph.D., and Graduate Cameron Cato ('14)

The Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT) is named in honor of one of Georgia Southern’s most generous benefactors—the founder of Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation. Paulson not only donated $1 million toward construction of the football stadium, which bears his name, he also endowed scholarships for the University’s engineering students. Because of his generosity, faculty and students are able to conduct leading research in the University’s newest college. An example of this is the research underway in CEIT’s Antennas and Wireless Propagation laboratory. Electrical Engineering Professor Sungkyun Lim, Ph.D., and his team of graduate and undergraduate students share a common goal of turning the lab into a nationally recognized research facility.

“This research is a cutting-edge field of study in that it provides a pathway into the future in the effort to send power wirelessly,” said Lim, who earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Lim added that antenna design is a unique science, and described it as art based on science. Recent research has focused on electrically small antennas for networked wireless communications and sensing applications, including environmental monitoring, intelligent transport systems, and aircraft and satellite systems. Lim has developed novel design methodologies for electrically small antennas and tested them with digital radios and ad hoc networks in real-world communication environments. He has designed supergain arrays with close spacing between the elements and with electrically small antenna elements. The professor and his research team are studying how wireless sensors can automatically be charged wirelessly using electromagnetic fields and using electrically small supergain arrays.

Lim said he involves students in his work because it allows them to build their professional careers by presenting at conferences and writing their thesis or journal papers in the field of antennas and wireless propagation.

One of those students, Cameron Cato ('14) received the Averitt Award, which is the highest honor bestowed within the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. Honored for Excellence in Research, Cato’s research explored a variety of areas including the design of several electrically small antennas and UHF wireless power transfer systems for the remote powering of wireless sensors. What that means he explained is simply to “transfer power wirelessly to remote sensors with the goal of eliminating or extending battery life.”

Cato grew up in McDonough, Georgia, and said his fascination with radios and wireless communication began in high school as he pursued his amateur radio operator license. “I started experimenting with antenna design and decided that it would be my profession,” said Cato. “To be able to take a large antenna to shrink it down to a small package so it is more portable and easy to carry, and to integrate it into a mobile or portable communication platform is an exciting field of study.”

Because his research involved computer simulation, design, prototyping and physical measurements, Cato said the top-notch technology in the University’s Laboratory for Antennas and Wireless Propagation provided him with invaluable experience. Lim said Cato always displayed a strong responsibility and willingness to complete projects, even working on them after hours and on weekends. “He always maintained a positive outlook regardless of the amount of work we tended to throw at him,” said Lim.

Cato graduated in May 2014 and acknowledged he couldn’t have asked for anything more than what he received from the Georgia Southern program. “This department is growing in reputation and from my experience you get a lot of hands on experience and real-world education that you may not get elsewhere.”

The College of Engineering and Information Technology depends on the support of donors to continue to expand its research opportunities, scholarship funds and to prepare new generations of students for lifelong careers and service.
It is important for us to support these deserving men and women.

-JAMES VAN EPPS

A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Van Epps and the Wounded Eagle Fund

James Van Epps (’77) is following in the tradition of many other Georgia Southern alumni who have endowed a fund at the University to benefit generations of students. Van Epps, a successful executive in the finance and insurance industry, decided he wanted to do something to help military veterans who face challenges as they transition back into civilian life and navigate the nuances of higher education. The business administration graduate has endowed the Wounded Eagle Fund to benefit Georgia Southern veteran students and their dependents.

“As alumni, I feel it is important that we act as good stewards and make sure our wounded veterans are given support,” Van Epps said. “Donors will know where their money is going, and they have the potential to meet the people the Fund assists.”

Military students eligible to receive assistance from the Wounded Eagle Fund include veteran Wounded Warriors from any branch of service who maintain a 3.2 GPA, Purple Heart recipients or veteran students with a demonstrated financial need.

Van Epps explained that being at Georgia Southern “was an exceptionally important period in my life. I made many good friends there, received a great education and it helped start my career in the business world. Georgia Southern provided me with a good foundation.”

That foundation is what he wants for the University’s wounded veterans.

It was established to supplement the benefits provided by the G.I. Bill.

For Van Epps, the Wounded Eagle Fund is a family affair. He and his wife Buff (’77) have hosted events for Wounded Warriors, and their son Jason (’10) helped design the Wounded Eagle Fund website. “I want alumni to know that this fund is a unique opportunity for them to make donations that go directly to wounded veterans on Georgia Southern’s campus,” he said. “Donors will know where their money is going, and they have the potential to meet the people the Fund assists.”

Today, the former Staff Sergeant is a thriving business major at Georgia Southern. “I was born in Statesboro,” said John. “As a kid I always looked to this University with a feeling of awe. I imagined going here. I’m thankful to be home with my family but also for the opportunity to further my education.”

After several tours of duty, John received numerous commendations, including a Purple Heart. “When I was 18, I knew my service to the Marines was my first calling in life,” said John. “I’m chasing that next calling at the moment, and I hope to inspire and influence everyone around me in the process. My family is my number one priority. I don’t know where I would be without my wife and our two children.”

Indeed, the numbers of wounded veterans are at times overwhelming. But you can help. To Georgia Southern University and the Wounded Eagle Fund, our veterans are not just a number. They are family. They are part of the Eagle Nation.

“Veterans returning home need support,” said John. “The G.I. Bill alone is not always enough and coming home to a new way of life can be difficult. The funds given directly impact veterans like me and help them continue to chase new dreams. This scholarship gives me peace of mind but also gives me confidence in knowing that the University is actively supporting our wounded veterans.”

To do your part to support the Wounded Eagle Fund, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/woundedeagle.

Writer Jose Narosky once penned: “In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.” John L. Kitchens enlisted in the Marine Corp. in 2002, not long after 9-11. In 2012, Kitchens was wounded by an enemy hand grenade, while conducting counter-insurgency operations in Fallujah, Iraq. He served as long as physically possible before eventually being Medically Retired, diagnosed with both a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as well as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

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To do your part to support the Wounded Eagle Fund, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/woundedeagle.
MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Steven A. Harper, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Music

Music performance majors, as well as Department of Music faculty, are among the hardest working and most disciplined individuals at Georgia Southern University. “The Department of Music is comprised of exceptionally talented and creative faculty members,” says Curtis E. Ricker, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. “They strive to provide the best educational and performance curricula to students.”

One such professor is Steven A. Harper, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Music. Harper provides overall leadership, helps build the Department of Music’s community profile and reputation, and teaches upper division music theory. “At Georgia Southern you’re going to get a lot more personal attention and a lot more opportunities,” says Harper of our music majors. “That’s especially important for singers interested in opera or musical theater, because they get a lot more stage time here than at a bigger school. A place like Georgia Southern gives younger students the chance to move into their careers a little faster.”

The demands on music majors of their time are enormous; the dedication required and time commitments make it difficult for them to hold a job while honing their craft. Scholarships create more time and energy for Georgia Southern musicians to improve and enhance their skills.

Harper says that in music, the recruitment of students is much more like what happens in athletics programs. “With musicians, we have to go out and find specific people,” says Harper. “We might need bassoonists or organists or violinists. It’s more like a football player, where you have to find a quarterback or linebacker...there’s a lot of competition for students who play instruments in which there aren’t as many candidates available. The scholarships allow us to have a better chance of getting talented people here, so that we can keep the program balanced and we have what we need to be successful, but that students have what they need to be at their best.”

“Music is everywhere,” Harper continues. “If you think on a daily basis how much music you run into even if you’re not trying. It all affects us... the quality of the music that gets put into people’s ears. It’s important that we make the real effort that we preserve this cultural heritage that we have of really first-rate, wonderful music. In order to preserve that we have to have a critical mass of people who perform regularly and understand the material so they can educate the next generation. Students learn how the works of Bach differ from the works of Mozart or from the works of Wagner. It places their music-making in a larger historical context... We have a lot of music education majors at Georgia Southern so by training them to help the next generation, we can keep this hopeful tradition alive.”

“A PERFECT MATCH: The Music Matching Fund

In the spring, the Department of Music at Georgia Southern University received an anonymous $500,000 gift that will transform the lives of some of the nation’s most promising musicians. The gift is designated as a dollar-for-dollar match toward other scholarship donations made to the Fund. “Scholarships enable the Department of Music to be more competitive in attracting the most talented young musicians to its programs,” says Curtis E. Ricker, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The anonymous donor was inspired to give by the quality of the performances they were attending. Music groups at Georgia Southern include the Southern Chorale, Georgia Southern Opera, the Symphony, and both the Jazz and Wind Ensembles.

“This matching scholarship is a unique opportunity that only comes up once in a generation,” says Department of Music Chair Steven Harper, Ph.D. “It’s going to make a gigantic difference in the ability of the Department to grow and flourish. We’re really grateful for this donor... everybody’s contribution is going to mean that much more, if they can participate in this program.”

“Music is everywhere.”

-STEVEN HARPER, PH.D.
Fortenberry equates it to a simple crime. He says if a criminal breaks into a house and there are fingerprints left behind, then that’s a great clue to help law enforcement solve that crime. But if you don’t have anything to compare the fingerprints to then it doesn’t do you a lot of good. “My research is working on trying to generate those astrochemical fingerprints through spectra,” says Fortenberry. “James was able to do this in relation to the collision of argon cations with hydrogen atoms.” Their joint effort produced a paper that was accepted for publication by the prestigious journal Spectrochimica Acta Part A. Along with another student, sophomore Riley Theis, the team started work on the project the beginning of June. They finished their research in mid-July and the paper was accepted in August. “In just three months we went from an idea with only the students involved, to then it doesn’t have anything to compare the findings,” says Fortenberry. “I really feel like we were able to contribute to the larger body of science. I was ecstatic.”

Fortenberry admits he’s been blessed to have some of the brightest young people working on “this stuff with me.” Fifty percent of the research in the last year has come from students, says Fortenberry. He’s been able to train James, who in turn has trained Riley. Now Riley is training other students. “I invested in one student, but by doing that I invest in them all,” says Fortenberry.

Dr. Fortenberry sees his role at Georgia Southern as twofold: to provide students with high-quality instruction and to “make the University look good,” largely through research. Fortenberry truly believes in Georgia Southern. He left a research position with NASA Ames Research Center in California to join the faculty after visiting campus and seeing the impressive research the University is doing firsthand. And he believes all of Eagle Nation helps get the “good stuff done” that we’re capable of doing. “The best chance we have is through the alumni, the donors and the people who are interested in seeing Georgia Southern succeed,” says Fortenberry. “Georgia Southern is unique, with a chance to make a unique impression on the future. We need other people who are interested in seeing us succeed.”

Fortenberry knows students like James have been given the chance to do “good things” through the money that is given each year but also “through the perspective about the quality of education at Georgia Southern and the experience that students receive when they’re here. And it’s the standard of quality they give back when they leave that speaks volumes.”
A seven-week hospital stay for Crohn’s disease first ignited Georgia Southern nursing major Samantha Goldberg’s desire to become a nurse. The former business major says that’s when she met a nurse who changed the course of her life. “She was so caring, so compassionate and truly inspiring,” Goldberg says. “I decided I would dedicate my life to making a difference to others the way she made a difference to me.”

With her graduation coming up in December, Goldberg remembers feeling an immediate connection to the University and the School of Nursing. “I started at a much bigger school in Georgia where I felt lost,” says Goldberg. “The first thing that stood out to me at Georgia Southern is our beautiful campus and how everything and everyone feels connected. The nursing program has been the highlight of my time here. You are in a class with 45 people for two years and they become your family and your source of support. This program is what everyone would want from their undergraduate experience.”

The student from Eagle River, Alaska, has maintained a 4.0 GPA and made the President’s List every semester. She says her achievements would not have been possible without a scholarship through the University Honors Program. “Because of the scholarship I haven’t had to worry about working while in school. The generous support I’ve received through scholarships has allowed me to dedicate myself 100 percent to my studies,” she explains.

Goldberg says she and other students count on the University’s generous donors because “they are helping to build a better future not just for students like me, but also for the communities where we hope to go out and make a difference. You could say they are helping us pay it forward.”

The nursing major adds that she is grateful to Georgia Southern for allowing her to chart her own career path. Goldberg plans to become a pediatric nurse with the goal of becoming a traveling nurse. She says her long-term goal is to become a nursing director at a camp for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, where she works over the summers.

“I am extremely passionate about the power of camp and the power of being with people who have such positive, bright, hopeful spirits,” she notes. “Kids who are sick are not often understood or accepted by their peers and camp is a place where they can be themselves, feel loved and learn and grow. Being a part of that experience for a child is the most amazing and rewarding thing I’ve ever done.”

“Charting a New Path”

Samantha Goldberg, Nursing Major

“The nursing program has been the highlight of my time here.”

- SAMANTHA GOLDBERG
IN OUR DNA

Kori Williams, Biology Major

Senior Kori Williams has had a lifelong fascination with how life systems function and is confident the field of developmental biology will allow her to fulfill her academic and professional research goals.

The biology major from Augusta, Georgia, says the undergraduate research opportunities available at Georgia Southern helped guide her decision to attend this University. “I thought I only liked genetics, but I am also passionate about neurodevelopmental disorders,” she says. “I want to understand how they happen, where they happen and if there is a way to prevent them from occurring. Imagine if we could detect autism at its inception? My goal is not to change the disorders once they’ve occurred, but to find preventative measures and more natural treatments for neurodevelopmental disorders.”

Trained in zebrafish research by Professor Vinoth Sittaramane, Ph.D., Williams is currently working on a project stemming from an observational study in a Northern Finnish human population. Some individuals in the population have autistic behavioral tendencies and a mutation in a certain gene has been found to be a common thread. “Our research is working to modify and understand expression of this protein during brain development in zebrafish embryos, in hopes of relating it back to the Northern Finnish study and autism,” Williams explains. “Professor Sittaramane has great ideas and is very knowledgeable on how experimental design needs to be executed,” she says. “His expertise is key in interpreting and understanding the results we receive. It is evident that he enjoys the research he conducts, and helps the other lab members to become successful research scientists.”

Williams has a 3.79 GPA, is a member of Beta Beta Beta, National Biological Research Honor Society, and is a recipient of a Chandler Foundation research scholarship, which was made possible through the generosity of Charles and Sandra Chandler, a retired couple who moved to the Statesboro area in 2001. The scholarship provides a stipend, along with travel expenses for conferences and compensation for lab supplies.

“I had the opportunity to meet the benefactor at a reception and was happy to express my gratitude because the scholarship is a real confidence booster,” Williams says. “It means a lot to receive a research scholarship because it shows that what we are doing is important, and getting this type of support to fund my passion is simply amazing and encouraging.”

Kori is making plans to attend graduate school once she graduates next spring.

A popular aquarium pet is proving to be just the right model for the complex embryonic development research being performed by Professor Vinoth Sittaramane, Ph.D., and several graduate and undergraduate students in the new Biological Sciences building. The sturdy zebrafish has been used in scientific research for nearly two decades, but it was introduced to Georgia Southern students when Sittaramane joined the faculty two years ago. The developmental biologist says the tiny fish is a great model because it is genetically similar to humans, and is easy to produce, maintain, manipulate and study in the lab.

Sittaramane explained his student researchers are able to observe from day one the entire range of a living embryo as it grows from a single cell into a newly formed fish. This holistic perspective gives students invaluable direct hands-on experience in the new field of developmental biology. And this type of research could lead to the design of therapeutics for several human neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism.

As a result of their research, Georgia Southern students have been able to publish their data in important journals and present their findings at regional and national meetings. Sittaramane acknowledges it is expensive to provide students with top-notch research opportunities like these. “We are doing a good job venturing into this new field, but it takes a lot of money to maintain what we are doing here,” he said. “Your gift to Georgia Southern will help introduce more students to this exciting field of research.”
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
### June 30, 2014 and 2013

### Assets (for fiscal year)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Designated Reserve Fund</td>
<td>128,700</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>5,394,115</td>
<td>3,222,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted</strong></td>
<td>5,522,815</td>
<td>4,422,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temporarily restricted</strong></td>
<td>19,752,133</td>
<td>13,584,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanently restricted</strong></td>
<td>33,753,544</td>
<td>32,661,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$60,519,056</td>
<td>$52,111,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>195,244</td>
<td>88,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift annuities payable</td>
<td>95,320</td>
<td>104,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unearned revenue</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held for Athletic Foundation</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1,490,564</td>
<td>1,442,724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets**

- **Unrestricted**
- **Temporarily restricted**
- **Permanently restricted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$60,519,056</td>
<td>$52,111,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FOUNDATION ASSETS

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ending June 30, 2014, with summarized financial information for the year ending June 30, 2013

### Support and Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>2014 TOTAL</th>
<th>2013 TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>312,258</td>
<td>2,027,073</td>
<td>1,056,789</td>
<td>3,396,120</td>
<td>3,496,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed services and materials</td>
<td>49,360</td>
<td>101,091</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150,451</td>
<td>539,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends, net of investment expenses of $168,904</td>
<td>169,907</td>
<td>507,411</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>677,318</td>
<td>835,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments</td>
<td>1,260,049</td>
<td>6,122,492</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,382,541</td>
<td>3,733,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>81,490</td>
<td>442,308</td>
<td>9,381</td>
<td>533,179</td>
<td>467,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets transferred</td>
<td>19,220</td>
<td>(44,654)</td>
<td>25,434</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of restrictions for University support</td>
<td>2,103,470</td>
<td>(2,103,470)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of restrictions for awards and scholarships</td>
<td>884,993</td>
<td>(884,993)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>4,880,747</td>
<td>6,167,258</td>
<td>1,091,604</td>
<td>12,139,609</td>
<td>9,073,244</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

- **Awards and scholarships** | 1,205,369 | - | - | 1,205,369 | 1,145,983 |
- **University support and operational costs** | 1,933,345 | - | - | 1,933,345 | 2,534,173 |
- **Fundraising and advancement** | 641,325 | - | - | 641,325 | 412,138 |

**Total Expenses** | 3,780,039 | - | - | 3,780,039 | 4,092,294 |

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$60,519,056</td>
<td>$52,111,646</td>
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### AND NET ASSETS

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<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$60,519,056</td>
<td>$52,111,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING COMMITMENTS BY FISCAL YEAR

- $2,000,000
- $1,500,000
- $1,000,000
- $500,000
- $0

PERCENT INCREASE IN NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS (by year)

- 33.3% increase from FY10 to FY11
- 60% increase from FY12 to FY13
- 25% increase from FY11 to FY12
- 56.2% increase from FY13 to FY14
- 92.3% increase from FY13 to FY14

PERCENT INCREASE IN DOLLARS RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS (by year)

- 25.7% increase from FY12 to FY13
- 349% increase from FY11 to FY12

SCHOLARSHIPS
The asset allocation decision is the primary point in the investment process where the Georgia Southern University Foundation manages risk. Macro risks to the investment program are best hedged by thoughtfully creating a structure that includes asset classes that react indifferently to each risk factor. A consistent and disciplined approach to maintaining the policy target allocation should increase the probability of the investment program’s long-term success.

Each asset class was selected for the Georgia Southern University Foundation’s portfolio to perform a specific function:

**DOMESTIC EQUITY**
- Real Growth

**INTERNATIONAL EQUITY**
- Real Growth

**ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES**
- Private Equity: Real Growth
- Absolute Return and Hedged Equity: Flexible Capital/Dislocation Hedge

**FIXED INCOME**
- U.S. Treasuries: Deflation Hedge
- Global Government Bonds: Dollar Hedge

**INFLATION HEDGING**
- Real Estate, Natural Resources, Commodities, and TIPS: Inflation Hedge

**INVESTMENT ASSET ALLOCATION**

**FOUNDATION DONATIONS**

*Gifts by Constituency - FY2014*
Sources of donations to Georgia Southern University Foundation. Donations include outright gifts and pledges during Fiscal Year 2014.

*Foundation Donations by Fiscal Year*