THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE Wednesday, October 9, 2019 Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Volume 44, Number 1

131 College Circle, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401

Price: FREE

Annual Academic Convocation held

by KELSEY SELLERS AND S.D. LAVENDER

On Thursday September 5, 2019, at 11 a.m. the Annual Academic Convocation, free and open to the public, was held at East Georgia State College's Swainsboro Campus in the Luck F. Gambrell Center's Auditorium. The subject was Ray Bradbury's dystopian novel, Fahrenheit 451, chosen by the faculty and staff of East Georgia State College at the end of the Spring 2019 semester. The guest speaker was Dr. Robert M. Woods, who served as a member of the Board of Advisors on the Center of Ray Bradbury Studies for five years. Dr. Woods earned his Ph. D from Florida State University and has been a teacher at Faulkner University for almost twenty years where he is a lecturer and fellow in the MA/ Ph. D in the Humanities

at Faulkner University.
Dr. Woods spoke about his book Book Burning Without Kerosene: The Real Dangers of Anti-Intellectualism. He asked, "Is it possible that the greatest danger facing books and learning is not a



strong-arm government of the left or right but a mass culture that subversively undermines that reflective life on the mind?" He explained that, "widespread popular misinterpretations of the work often lead to missing some of the deeper and more richly humane themes present in the novel." One of the reasons for this is the spectacular images often presented on the novel's covers over the years: books on fire, which brings to mind Nazi Germany, where book burnings actually took place.

However, as Dr. Woods explained, Bradbury himself said the novel "is not...a story about government censorship. Nor was it a response to Senator Joseph McCarthy, whose investigations had already instilled fear and stifled the cre-

ativity of thousands... the culprit in Fahrenheit 451 is not the state—it is the people." Dr. Woods pointed out passages not only from the novel, but from Bradbury's earlier short stories for support. This idea has been gaining traction across the world, that the decline in literacy has led to a dumbing down of humanity. Much of the blame in today's culture, Dr. Woods believes, is daily distractions such as social media with its lack of meaningful conversations and the fact that "we can't endure five minutes of silence, five minutes of reflection, five minutes of quiet, five minutes of contemplation. Noise is omnipresent, isn't it?"

EGSC was extremely honored to host Dr. Robert M. Woods.



THE WINNING BOAT IN THE DUCT TAPE REGATTA, USS GA 1842 TRAIL LIFE'S "SWORD OF THE SPIRIT"

Family & Friends Fun Day a success!

A great time was had by all at the Annual Family and Friends Fun Day on Saturday, September 21st. The event lasted

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stacey Grant, Director of Student Life says,
"The Family & Friends
Fun Day was a huge success. We had one of the biggest turn outs ever and were extremely excited to see the support from our students, families, faculty and staff, EGSC clubs and community."

"We had free food, bouncy houses, water slides, Euro bungee, kids train rides, trolley rides, rock wall climbing, zip lining, duct tape regatta, a sidewalk chalk competition, a DJ, Sno Cones, cotton candy, popcorn, a photo booth, face painting and much more. This year was BIG and I am super thankful that our institution was able to offer this experience. We are definitely looking forward to next year."

Congrats to USS GA 1842 Trail Life – Sword of the Spirit, who took The Peter & Margie Shedd Overall Winner Award! Other winners were: The Peter & Margie Shedd Most Creative Award to "The Profes-

sor," constructed by the EGSC STEM Club, The coveted Peter & Margie Shedd Titanic Award to the "Mystery Machine," constructed by the Student Government Association, and the Community Award to The Boy

Winners of the Chalk Art Competition were Marla Ramirez with her art of a sculpture that gave a 3-D illusion in first place, Makayla Wilder and Shawn Smith in second with their colorful fish design, and third place to Niara Dorian for her heart design.

Dr. Boehmer presents State of the College Presidential Address

On Tuesday, September 24, 2019, East Georgia State College held the Annual State of the College Presidential Address in the Luck F. Gambrell Center Auditorium.

This in-depth year-inreview and look forward for the college was presented by EGSC's President, Dr. Bob Boehmer, to an assembled crowd of EGSC faculty, staff and students, as well as members of the community.

Dr. Boehmer began his presentation by recognizing some of the important figures in EGSC's history, including Luck F. Gambrell, Jean and Jimmy Morgan and Ada Lee Correll, all of whom have had a hand in the college's success through their philanthropy and involvement in the college's life.

"The state of the college is good, in significant part, because of the generosity of people like the Morgans, the Gambrells and the Corrells," said

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Dr. Boehmer. "However, higher education in the United States is currently undergoing a period of rapid transformation and change and today we need to have a serious discussion about how to respond to that change."

He outlined how critical it was to understand why, while students in rural high schools are doing quite well, far fewer of them are choosing to attend college in comparison to their urban and suburban counterparts, and those that do attend are graduating from college at lower rates than urban students. He then challenged the community, saying "Are we

willing to do the hard work necessary to build on and retain our culture of providing high quality education with a personal touch while,simultaneously, changing dramatically to become a nationwide leader in meeting the unique and emerging needs of students in rural America for access to an affordable college education which prepares them for a digitized, automated future workplace?"

To view Dr. Boehmer's entire speech, visit our YouTube page at https://youtu.be/dOGGiIdwyDI. For a copy of Dr. Boehmer's speech, visit http://www.ega.edu/offices/presidents_office/

East Georgia's "voice of the students" wants to hear from <u>you!</u>

If you are interested in writing for The Hoopee Bird, contact: STEVE LAVENDER slavende@ega.edu



STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENJOY THE FAMILY & FRIENDS FUN DAY ACTIVITIES

ALUMNI CORNER

by ELISE RANSOM

EGSC alumni Matt Donaldson graduated Cum Laude with an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration and went on to earn a BBA in finance from Georgia Southern University followed by studies at UGA's Georgia Banking School and the Georgia Academy of Economic Development, and the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

He is President of the EGSC Alumni Associations and the Friends of George L. Smith State Park, serves on the boards of the Development Authority of Twin City, The Georgia Southern Universi-



ty College of Business Young Alumni Board, and is treasurer of the Adam Brinson Historical Society.

In August of 2019, he was appointed Mayor of Twin City. Congratulations to Matt Donaldson, another EGSC alumni success story!







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AROUND CAMPUS

Gamers invade East Georgia!

by LOGAN LEE

Because East Georgia State College is split into three campuses, students can sometimes feel out of place or even isolated. In order to combat these feelings of loneliness, certain clubs are instituted among students under the guidance of faculty with the same in-

The gaming club on the Statesboro campus is one such club. Under the leadership of president Mattie Buist and the guidance of Professor David Altamirano, the club aims to give students the opportunity to meet and bond over gaming and explore the

gaming subculture.

Every Thursday at 3 p.m., the group meets in an alcove that functions as the campus library, first as friends, then as gamers. Altamirano will suggest a new game, Buist will put it to a vote, then a discussion will be held about a time to play said game. Club members say that being in the club has made them feel more at home in Statesboro and helped them to build lifelong friend-

The club's treasurer, Logan Lee, had this to say, "Yeah gaming club is pretty cool. We went to a vampire Savannah



once, and that was fun." The East Georgia Gaming Club is a wonderful addition to campus life.

You need not be a gamer to join, but you will almost certainly leave with

Fall into great movies this Autumn

by ESSENCE JACKSON

It's September, and autumn is just around the corner. Along with enjoying colorful trees, crunchy leaves, and cooler weather, many students find it the perfect time to catch up on great

Good Will Hunting (starring Matt Damon and Robin Williams) embraces difference and encourages a beautiful northwestern United States autumn back drop, providing an uplifting sto-

ry, which many people remember for its powerful, moving dialogue and inspirational story of a young man who must deal with personal issues in order to achieve his full potential.

Set in a small town in Iowa, What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Johnny Depp) is a coming-of-age story about a young man named Gilbert who, after the death of his father, must take care of his mentally disabled brother and morbidly obese mother. As if these challenges weren't enough, love walks into his life.

In Stepmom, Jackie (Susan Sarandon) struggles with a terminal cancer diagnosis while her ex-husband (Ed Harris) is set to marry Isabel (Julie Roberts) a much younger photographer. The film follows Jackie's reluctance to accept Isa-

You've Got Mail, star-

ring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan is many people's favorite romantic comedy. It's about two business rivals who, though they can't stand each other in real life unwittingly fall in love over the internet.

All these movies can be streamed on multiple sources such as YouTube, iTunes, Google Play movies and TV, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, and Vudu, so get the apple cider and popcorn ready!

See you there!

EVENTS AT EGSC

Oct. 9 Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty - SW/ST Arrive Alive Tour 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Oct. 10 Fall Pause - Augusta Only Georgia National Fair Trip 12 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Oct. 11 Student Leadership Meeting 1 p.m. Student Government Association Meeting

3 p.m. Oct. 15 Downtown Fall Festival

6 p.m.

Oct. 18 Mike Harper Exit Art Show 6 p.m.

Oct. 19 Men's Basketball vs. Brewton Parker JV 12 p.m.

Oct. 21 - 25 Jaycees Fair All Week Oct. 22 Breast Cancer Awareness Softball Game

4 p.m.

Oct. 25 Student Government Association Meeting Hannah Parrish Exit Art Show

Oct. 27 Softball vs. Thomas University 2 & 4 p.m.

Oct. 29 Open Mic Night 6 p.m.

Oct. 30 Bookstore Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening 10:30 a.m. Fall Costume Party

Oct. 31 Healthy U Health Fair

Swainsboro-Emanuel County Recreation Department

See familiar Georgia sights on the big screen

by HUNTER CARTER

Thanks to generous tax incentives offered to Hollywood, Georgia's film industry is booming, especially in Atlanta, but there have been several movies filmed in the heart of Savannah. If you ever find yourself on River Street in the summer, you might just luck out and find a movie set.

Although some Hollywood folks called for a boycott of Georgia production because of the "heartbeat" bill Governor Brian Kemp signed, that hasn't stopped the filming. I bet you can guess what show I am talking about: *Stranger Things,* a show that has been raved about since July 15th, 2016, when it first aired on Netflix. Some scenes should look familiar to those who have shopped at the Gwinnett Place Mall. So, if you live by or you're just visiting, it's definitely a detour you want to make.

A remake of the 1955 Disney classic Lady and The Tramp, called Goodbye Stranger, featuring Kiersey Clemons and Thomas Mann was filmed in Savan-

nah last year. Locations such as Johnson Square and Wright Square were used. It will be cool to see these familiar places on the screen.

Some other films shot in Savannah over the years: The Longest Yard (1974), Glory (1989), Forrest Gump (1994), Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (1997), The General's Daughter (1999) and The Conspirator (2010).

For those interested in working in our state's burgeoning film industry, Georgia Film Academy offers certificates and internships in craft courses such as set construction, lighting & electric, grip & rigging, make-up & special effects, post production, and production accounting. Some participating institutions are Atlanta Metropolitan State College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State, Georgia College, Georgia Piedmont, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Savannah Technical College and University of West Georgia.





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The Hoopee Bird East Georgia State College

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Wiregrass: the literary and arts journal of EGSC

by S.D. LAVENDER

The first issue of Wiregrass appeared in 1974, way back when EGSC was still called Emanuel County Junior College, and each year since then, students, faculty, and staff have found a home, a place to display their poetry, plays, short stories, photographs, and artwork.

I have had the pleasure to serve as faculty advisor since 2009, when I took over from Mark Dallas, coordinating the efforts of my student editors as they pour over all the submissions, and I am always amazed by the amount of talent we have in our part of the region -- the Wiregrass Region, named for the sand-loving plant Aristida stricta that covers the Carolinas, southern Georgia, southeastern Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle.

So, ATTENTION all you writers and artists,



LAST YEAR'S WIREGRASS COVER

we are now accepting submissions for the 2020 issue of Wiregrass. Please send your poetry and prose as word docs and

your photos and artwork as jpeg files to *slavende*@ ega.edu by February 14, 2020.

In addition, we are

proud to publish the winning entries from the annual Emily Pestana-Mason Memorial Poetry Contest. Emily was a beloved East Georgia poet and English professor. First place receives \$100, Second place \$50 and Third place \$25. Various poets and educators have been kind enough to serve as judges. For the last several years, Chris Mattingly, a former professor of English at EGSC who now teaches in Kentucky, has performed this role admirably. The contest is open now, so for more information contact Dr. Alan Brasher at abrasher@ega.edu. The deadline is December 6.

We are looking forward putting out another great issue in April. To access past issues you can go to the EGSC home page, click on the Student Life and then on Student Publications.

Want to write for the Wiregrass? Email slavende@ega.edu for details!

STUDENT VOICES

Opinion: Staying on track

Fall semester, there are new freshmen who may feel overwhelmed. The main thing to remember is that whoever you are, freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior, you should always stay organized. Write down important dates, check your D2L daily, make sure you stay on top of online classes, and most importantly, don't get distracted. Make your schoolwork your number one priority. Here are

two important resources to help you succeed:

- Most of you know the Academic Center for Excellence as the "A.C.E.," which is located the library. The A.C.E. is somewhere students can go to seek help when struggling with an assignment. I know a lot of people, including myself who have gone to the A.C.E. They have some fine tutors who are very eager to help
- Also, talk with your advisors and professors.

They are there to guide you in the right direction. They create their office hours just for you, so go when you need to. If you are having trouble in a class, email them and ask questions, that's what they are there for. Ask them about ways to improve your grade. They are on your side and want to make sure you're on the right track so you can graduate on time and be successful.

 Make sure you're in class. Be present and

Kelsey Sellers

fects your attitude. Your friends need to have the same goals as you. Find someone to study with who makes going to

• Make sure you're as involved as you can be. Ask for ways to volunteer and join clubs. This not only keeps you out of trouble, but you gain more friends and get dence doing this, which works in your favor. That way you'll be more positive and excited about going to school and will have something to look forward to.

• Remember to discipline yourself, by doing this you're teaching yourself to be more independent. Remember important dates



deadlines. It is your responsibility to turn in assignments on time. Schedule study time. If you know you have an assignment due, you should study instead of spending time on distractions. Set goals and reach them by being independent.

Opinion: Students need more

Fall Semester 2019 has officially began. Students can be seen hustling to classes, trying to find parking spots, and studying like mad.

This year there are approximately 2,000 students attending the EGSC Swainsboro campus. These students are spending many hours preparing for classes and studying for tests creates a stressful environment. These fatigued students start looking for something fun and exciting to do. They also want to find ways to meet new people, and make

Finding fun and exciting activities and reducing stress of a long week can be met through student life activities. To find out what students on EGSC Swainsboro's campus want to do, I decided to survey students for activity interests. You'll never believe

Samantha O'Connell

and took tallies of what everybody wrote down. The top five activities that they wanted to have here was a: haunted house, a bonfire, a powfootball intramural, and a talent show.

Imani Williams, a female student says, "Karaoke for the student body would be a great



college it can be hard to put yourself out there."

Opinion: *Ultimate study hack for student success*

The only thing worse than cramming for that exam worth 40% of the final grade is failing said exam. The 24 hour a day structure has been generally accepted by society. The hardest part of that 24 hours is learning how to make the most of that time, especially when engaging in something that is time consuming and not very enjoyable.

An idea first recognized by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi is "flow" or "flow state." From the expression

used by athletes, "I'm in the zone," the "zone" is the "flow state." It's a point of peak performance. A maintained state of concentration is required to reach this psychological state.

When it is reached, better results are achieved for whatever activity is being engaged in. This isn't difficult to do with sports, music or video games because those things are fun. When it comes to other tasks such as study time or reading text that isn't particularly interesting, it might seem daunting or even exhausting. This issue can be resolved easily.

Consider this: the mind works like a rubber band. To make the rubber band bigger, it must be stretched. However, if it is stretched too far too quickly, it will break. Expansion and contraction are the best way make the rubber band bigger. The elastic would have to be stretched and held it in its expanded state and then contracted. Following this analogy, cy-

Shadeenah McCleary

of rest allows for deeper and more concentrated

A disclaimer: if peak performance is the desired outcome, focus is required. Referring to the rubber band exercise, the goal is to make the rubber band bigger. Breaking concentration would be the equivalent to letting the rubber band go before it's ing that rubber band expand any more. In other words, log off your social media accounts. Turn off your every distraction.

It goes without saying that students should be spending time and focused attention on studying and completing assignments/ projects; however, being aware of "flow state" can be the difference between



having a headache at the end of a 6 hour study session and completing assignments with what feels like less effort. This technique of studying is worth a try. I have certainly benefited from it.

More Bobcats go digital

by REBECCA FERRON

Digital learning has been expanding wildly over the last decade. Originally, only a handful of major university systems were able to offer the flexibility of online learning; even if their major and course selections were limited. Now in 2019, the options of online schooling is seemingly endless. East Georgia State College offers an array of online courses to accommodate their students of any age who want to pursue a degree.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) projects that of the 20 million undergraduate students attending college in 2019, over 3 million undergraduates are enrolled in at least one online course. Attending classes online may not be for everyone. Some students benefit from the personal interaction offered on campus, while other students may be relieved to find

that the one class they aren't able to take on campus is still available online. Online classes are also beneficial to both the traditional and non-traditional aged students with homes, families, and personal responsibilities where spending time commuting to on-campus courses, simply isn't feasible.

Attending classes online can be difficult. Professors who instruct online make it clear from the beginning that online classes require dedication, planning, and perseverance. Online classes are not easier simply because you don't have to sit in a traditional classroom. Quizzes, tests, and research papers are still required on specific due dates. While attending college online can feel a little isolating at times, the user-friendly interface of Brightspace D2L allows students to message each other or their professors. Conversations carried

through threads and posts, allows professor and their students to easily communicate ideas and

Although EGSC's online courses may not be as publicized as some of the larger institutions in the country, EGSC is working hard to provide a valuable education for a fraction of the cost.

The bonus to attending online courses at EGSC, for many students, is the proximity to any of the three area campuses. A short commute is ideal on a tight schedule when a student needs to meet with administration, professors, or tutors.

An online student at EGSC receives a quality education and should be proud to be a digital Bobcat.

Sources for this story include Online Education Post Second-Tables from https://nces. ed.gov/programs/digest/d17/tables/ dt17_311.15.asp?current=yes

2019 - 2020 Bobcat Basketball roster

The 2019 - 2020 roster for the East Georgia State College Men's Basketball team has been announced. The Bobcats are heading into the season with a team made up entirely of freshman.

Hitting the court at 5′11″, Amari Harris from Wayne County will serve as a guard and hold jersey number 0. Jersey number 1 will be held by Jamar Moore, a 6'5" forward from Loganville. Preson Crisp will wear jersey number 2 as a 6'5" guard from Savannah. Jersey number 3 will be Maliek Sadler, a 6'2" guard from Atlanta. Leesburg native Javian Johnson, standing at 6' even, will serve as guard. Jaylin Jones, a 6'1" guard from Valdosta, will wear jersey number 5, while Lithonia native Brison Rockliffe, standing at 5'11", will wear jersey number 10 and play guard. Daniel Vieira, a 5'11" guard from Hinesville, will wear jersey number 11. Houston County native Shamar Rouse, standing at 6'5", will play forward in jersey number 12. Soperton native Arkavius Lovett, standing at 6'5", will play forward as number 13 and number 14 will be worn by 6'3" Tattnall County native Darien Cone. Xavier Duncan, a 6'5" Houston County native, will sport number 20 and play forward and center. Joshua Moore, a 6'6" Americus native, will don number 21 and play center and forward, while Javonte Lecounte, a 6'4" guard and forward from Hinesville, will wear number 23. Number 24 will be sported by Sandersville native Keith Foster, standing at 6'7", and the team is rounded out by number 25, Jerquaveon Dillard, a guard from Savannah who stands at 6'3".

The Bobcats are under the direction of Head Coach Leroy Jordan, Jr., and Assistant Coaches Kowaski Brooks, Johnnie Wright and Adolphus Oglesby. Don't miss them in action this sea-

2019 - 2020 Bobcat Softball roster announced

The fall roster for the and Stefanie Ruffin have 2019-2020 Lady Bobcats Softball Team has been announced!

The team is made up of sophomores Alaina Lee, Reese Stalvey, Casey Simms, Dani Wells, Haley Taylor, Jana Crews, Olivia Christian, Taylor Morgan, Mina Watkins and Madison Poole. Freshmen McKenzi Wilkerson, Allana Hooks, Madelyn Denning, MacKenzie Crews, Taylor Elliot, Tashawyne Lattimore, Madison Bussle, Payten Strickland

joined the team, which has already seen victories and defeats on the diamond this season. For a full schedule of the Lady Bobcats' Fall scrimmage games, see page four of this edition, and don't miss the Lady Bobcats in action at home versus Thomas University on October 27 at 2 and 4 p.m. right here at East For more information

Georgia State College! about athletics at EGSC, visit www.ega.edu/athlet-



LADY BOBCATS IN ACTION

Don't miss a moment OF BOBCAT ATHLETICS

FEATURES

An artist speaks: Hannah Stanfield

Hello, my name is Hannah Stanfield, and I am currently in my final semester of pursuing an associate's degree in art. Though I wish I would like to say with 100 percent certainty which university I plan to attend after I graduate from EGSC, I have to admit that my decision is reliant on finances, which means it is a toss-

up between two schools: SCAD and Georgia Southern University. Regardless, I plan to pursue a degree in animation, and if not that, then a studio art major with an animation/new media minor.

Since I was young, I have always been a creative and cartoon-obsessed person, but it wasn't until a few years ago that I decided I wanted to take art more seriously and become an animator. The realization hit me while I was working toward an RDH degree. I always want to make people happy or at least contemplative when they experience my work, and being a dental hygienist wasn't cutting it.

As I have been learning more about art, I've come across countless texts that say to animate, you must first learn to draw, which is good because I tend to replicate what I see, though I am trying to develop my style as I go. That being said, a strong influence of mine would be Stan Prokopenko, a painter and online influencer from whom I have been attempting to learn to draw the human figure. As my artwork may suggest, I'm still trying to "figure" it out.

I'm thankful I came to EGSC because it allowed me the opportunity to grasp the fundamen-

tals of drawing, which is vital for animation, while also receiving the one-on-one experience I needed. I also learned how important it is to have a message/idea/story behind each piece. Every artwork has meaning

I believe that artists are

storytellers, in that we write novels without as much as a single word. Heartbreak, tragedy, happiness, satisfaction, etc.; onlookers can recognize and resonate with these and other feelings as they experience art. If the viewer is invested, then I've done well.

scenes from Family & Friends Day - september 21, 2019



Photos by Harley Strickland and Katelyn Moore EGSC office of Institutional Advancement

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