Academic Distinction

The average composite SAT score -- a combination of verbal and math scores - for first-time freshmen rose to 1,056 in Fall 2003, a four-point increase over last year's average score of 1,052. The average was 1,028 in 2001 and 1,009 in 2000. For Fall 2004, the minimum SAT score for entering freshmen is increased by 40 points to 960, and the average SAT is projected to increase to 1078.

The Admissions Office hosted the Second Annual Scholars’ Day in February 2004 to recruit higher ability students (SAT 1200+) by front-loading scholarships. Of the two hundred fifty-six students (average SAT 1276), two-thirds (n=169; 66%) have enrolled for Fall 2004 with an average SAT of 1273. One hundred nine students with an average SAT of 1300 were offered and accepted scholarships. (Please note that this number does not include the University Honors Program Scholarships or Out-of-State Fee Waivers). It is interesting to note that despite having seventeen fewer scholarships to offer, the Admissions Office recruited thirty-two more students with a 1200+ SAT compared to last year.

SOAR adjusted its presentation schedule to bring academic distinction to the forefront of the SOAR experience by having a faculty member address classroom expectations within the first ninety minutes of the program.

In an effort to better manage enrollment of first-time students, the Office of Admissions has recommended an earlier application deadline (April 1 or May 1) for freshman students entering Fall 2005.

The Registrar’s Office issued mid-term academic progress reports to freshmen beginning fall 2003 in an effort to improve student performance and retention. The progress reports help students assess their performance, and those performing unsatisfactorily are encouraged to seek support services and to develop strategies for academic success.

Student-Centered Campus

Admissions hosted three Southern Exposure events for 165 students, compared to only one event serving 50 students in each of the two previous years.

Admissions accommodated an increased number of freshmen students (2487) and their parents at seven-and-a-half two-day SOAR sessions throughout the summer by expanding the sessions to a maximum of 345 participants.
For Summer 2004, Admissions implemented the Eagle Incentive Program (EIP), an early start program for first-time students. EIP allows students to get a jumpstart on their college career by earning academic credit toward graduation and assists students with their transition to the academic rigor of college life. The program, a residential experience incorporating two core academic classes and a freshman orientation course, resulted in a ninety percent success rate and an additional enrollment of 150 students for Fall 2004.

Georgia Southern has gained a reputation in the state as a “transfer-friendly” school as a result of improved customer service for and personal attention to transfers on-the-road and in the office and as a result of cultivating strong relationships with two-year colleges.

The Academic Success Center (ASC) utilized volunteer University Honors Program (UHP) students to conduct study groups for thirteen sections of MATH 1111 and three sections of History 1112 and to staff the ASC computer lab.

The Tutoring Center’s staff conducted over 7100 tutoring sessions during the past year, a significant increase over last year’s 4500 sessions.

Career Services and Graduate Studies sponsored the second Graduate School Fair on November 11, 2003, attended by 446 students, 37 universities, and 19 departments.

For the first time in Georgia Southern’s history, resident advisors automatically received a private room at the double occupancy rate in order to facilitate their interactions with residents.

The residence hall newspaper readership program was expanded in 2003-2004, to include four newspapers (Statesboro Herald, Atlanta Journal Constitution, USA Today, and the George-Anne) provided daily in each residence hall.

The Student Disability Resource Center which provides individualized accommodations developed on a case-by-case basis experienced a nineteen percent increase in demand for its support services.

Georgia Southern University ranks second in the state in number of HOPE Scholars awarded and fourth in dollars disbursed.

Financial Aid implemented an electronic summer financial aid application process which eliminated the need for students to complete a separate summer application.

Financial Aid initiated a student peer financial counseling program to educate and counsel student loan borrowers on loan repayment responsibility, debt management, and personal credit as part of Default Prevention Awareness sponsored by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.
Technological Advancement

With RecTrac software in its first full year of operation, many facets of operating the RAC became more efficient by providing management with the tools to enhance communication with participants, monitor traffic, track income, schedule and bill facility space, print receipts, and generate extensive reporting and statistical data.

Career Services improved its delivery of student services by offering on-line career assessment programs, career fair registration, and résumé critiquing for students to access any time and any place. Additionally, the Student Participation Collection System utilized to facilitate check in and track participant information was enhanced to print a name badge.

The Registrar’s Office has replaced hours of manual data entry and risk for input errors with an automated process, designed by Information Technology Services, to populate the anticipated graduation date for students based on their term of entry and hours earned.

The Office of Admissions implemented an on-line student admissions status site to allow prospective students to track the status of their undergraduate or graduate admissions application, to view materials received and receipt date, and to register for SOAR (Summer Orientation, Advisement, and Recruitment). The use of technology to communicate admissions decisions resulted in savings in postage, paper, and personnel resources.

The Office of Admissions launched the on-line SOAR reservation system complemented with Touchnet, a secure electronic payment engine, to allow students to register for an orientation session and automatically pay registration fees via the web.

Drs. Prentiss Price, Ellen Emerson and Jodi Caldwell, Counseling Psychologists, developed an online workshop for faculty and staff on how to deal with difficult students and crisis situations. The Counseling Center also added to its web site twelve relaxation exercises in the form of audio clips that are easily accessible for students.

University Housing has added or improved technologies to deliver services more efficiently and effectively to its residents and applicants. Students desiring on-campus can now complete the housing application on line. Imaging was implemented in the assignments area. Formsite, a web service, was utilized to design and mount many fill-in forms on Housing’s web site. The maintenance work order system was re-written in Oracle to improve tracking and reporting capabilities.

The Registrar’s Office continued building and testing the Curriculum, Advising, and Program Planning (CAPP) degree audit module in Banner. This program assists students in monitoring their progress in meeting degree requirements and assists
academic advisors in guiding their advisees. More testing with the advisement staff and students is planned once CAPPweb becomes available.

The Student Disability Resource Center completed the first year of its freshman tracking system designed to chart the academic progression and performance of an entering freshman cohort through graduation.

The Registrar’s Office contracted with the National Student Clearinghouse to provide immediate, affordable on-line enrollment verifications in order to improve efficiency and reduce costs and workload.

Campus Recreation and Intramurals utilized IMTrack, an advanced league and tournament scheduling software that creates and maintains web pages with schedules, standings, results, and statistics, for over 3500 students equating to 32,000 participations.

Health Services completed the evaluation and purchase of a state-of-the-art ambulatory care practice radiology (x-ray) system to replace the current x-ray generator, generator control unit, and x-ray table. The Quantum Quest QG-500 digital system will allow the Health Center to perform a greater variety of studies with enhanced speed, accuracy, and safety.

Office of Information Systems has implemented ZENworks, a server-based, directory-enabled workstation management software to manage network applications and PC workstations thus improving staff efficiencies and resources. Roughly twenty percent of the computers in the Division are locked down so that technical support can install, update, and troubleshoot remotely.

University Housing purchased RMS (Residential Management Systems), a web-based housing management software that includes automated functions to track applications, assign rooms, change rooms, change rates, report on occupancy, and manage inventory. Three staff members have been trained and Housing will go live with the software in September 2004.

Transcultural Experiences

International Admissions collaborated with the Center for International Studies to improve services for international students. The Center now sends the student’s acceptance letter in a packet with immigration information and advises the student to obtain evaluation of academic credentials from World Education Services, which specializes in assessing foreign credentials so admissions professionals can make prompt, well-informed decisions regarding admission and/or transfer credit for students with international credentials.
Amanda Oliveira, Sign Language Interpreter, provided 751 hours of classroom interpreting last year and spent 42 hours providing instruction in American Sign Language to the staff of the Student Disability Resource Center and the campus community.

Fifty diversity workshops were given to approximately 1200 students. This is an increase of sixty-six percent (66%) over the number of presentations in the previous year and a thirty-three percent (33%) increase in the number of students, faculty and staff reached through these presentations.

The Multicultural Student Center took the lead in coordinating the Board of Regents Minority Advisement Program (MAP) and Minority Recruitment Officer’s (MRO) Annual Conference. Conference attendees included professionals working with the MAP/MRO program across the state of Georgia, several University System Office administrators, student participants, Regent Cleveland, and Regent Nessmith.

**Physical Environment**

The RAC Expansion project achieved many milestones during 2003-04. The program statement was completed, architectural and construction management firms were hired, the Board of Regents approved a $75.00 student fee increase, schematic drawings were completed, and design development has begun.

Phase II of the Outdoor Pavilion at M.C. Anderson Park added a meeting room, a catering kitchen, and restrooms and provided an outdoor venue for over 1800 students attending 24 events who utilized the new facility last year.

The Housing Master Plan calling for an increase in on-campus residency from 19% to 40% by 2010 is on an aggressive schedule. Capstone Development Corporation designed and completed the construction of two new facilities (Southern Courtyard and Southern Pines), providing 1100 beds, opened in August of 2003. The current planned construction of Eagle Village, a freshman residence hall with 700 beds, is scheduled to open in August 2005.

**Public-Private Partnerships**

The Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and Georgia Southern entered into an agreement in which MCG will provide psychiatric services one day per week for our students through the use of telemedicine beginning September 2004. This collaboration has been brought to the attention of the Board of Regents as a potential model for service of this type to community health centers and smaller schools throughout the state where a full range of medical services are not available.
Admissions and Academic Affairs partnered in the recruitment of transfer students by developing a new system of sending admissions evaluations to Academic Advisement Centers and by implementing “fast track advising” prior to SOAR which allowed advisors to provide better, more one-on-one academic advising to transfer students and which assisted departments in planning for course seat availability. In its first year, fast track advising had 110 transfer students participate.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a new Corporate Partner for Career Services, pledged $5,000 a year for the next five years for a total of $25,000.

Health Services continued many collaborative arrangements with other colleges by serving as a teaching/preceptor site for MCG medical students, Georgia Southern School of Nursing practitioner students, and Ogeechee Technical College radiology technology/imaging science students.

University System of Georgia Office of Information and Instructional Technology has requested Georgia Southern’s College Work Study interface program as a Banner release to other University System of Georgia institutions.

Office of Financial Aid served as a beta test site for the state’s HOPE Scholarship invoicing process.

Student Media alumni at Statesboro Herald, Albany Herald, Sylvania Telephone, and Savannah Morning News were instrumental in providing internship and employment opportunities for students.

**Other Highlights and Accomplishments**

A centerpiece of Student Media’s activities was the initiation of the Archive Project, an effort to preserve and make available seventy-seven years of student-produced material (George-Anne and Reflector) on the web. Student Media has researched and designed and will maintain a web site with accessible versions of newspapers and yearbooks since 1926. The goal of this project is to have these resources available in honor of the centennial celebration of the school.

University Housing won a regional award from SAACURH (South Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls) in November 2003 for its “Old Hendricks-New Hendricks” flag football game in which the 2002-03 Hendricks residents competed against the 2003-04 residents.

The Greek students performed a record high 19,227 hours of community service this year and raised an amazing $106,440 for various charities.

For the sixth time in ten years, *The George-Anne* was named the top collegiate newspaper in Georgia by the Georgia College Press Association (GCPA).
Over 100 student applications were submitted for Southern Ambassador positions for the 2004-2005 academic year, and 27 new members were selected to serve as a link between prospective students and the Georgia Southern community. The Ambassador program, based on student volunteers who assist prospective students with the admission process, provide campus tours, and act as “hosts” at presidential receptions, is an effective recruitment tool.

The SOAR Team traveled to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in March 2004 and placed 1st in the song competition and 4th in the Educational programming competition at the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop.

The federally funded-Upward Bound program received an expansion grant, increasing the number of students served from 85 to 105 and extended its services to 9th graders.

Curt Erwin, Assistant Director of University Housing for Residential Education, was one of eight staff members at Georgia Southern to receive the Award of Merit.

Dave Matthews, Director of the Counseling Center, continues to serve as a site visitor for university counseling centers seeking IACS (International Association of Counseling Services) accreditation.

Janet O'Brien, Director of the Academic Success Center, served as Co-chair of the Placement Services Committee of the National Association for Developmental Education. At the state level, Janet O'Brien served as Past-Chair of the Executive Committee of the Regents' Academic Committee on Learning Support and Developmental Studies and as Chair of the Georgia Mathematics Conference Board.

Layne Peacock, Coordinator of Occupancy Management, served as chair of Membership Services for SEAHO (Southeastern Association of Housing Officers).


Vince Romanini, Assistant Director of University Housing for Facilities, served on the planning committee for APPA/ACUHO-I (The Association for Higher Education Facilities Officers/Association of College and University Housing Officers International).

Greg Schlierf, Assistant Director of University Housing for Administrative Services, served as the chair of the Program Committee for SEAHO (Southeastern Association of Housing Officers) for the past year.

Margaret Stewart, Carole Brown, and Bonnie Lynch in the Academic Success Center served as advisors to two newly established student organizations - Campus Single Parent Association and Non-traditional Student Organization.
Allison Williams, Coordinator of Residential Education, earned TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) certification to train students why, when and how to intervene with their peers to prevent alcohol-related problems. Allison was also one of thirty housing professionals throughout the United States selected for the National Housing Training Institute (NHTI) at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Diane Wynn was presented the Volunteer for the Year 2003-04 Award by the Georgia Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.