



Newsletter

June 2019 • New Projects On the Horizon

Addition to JAM Student Center underway

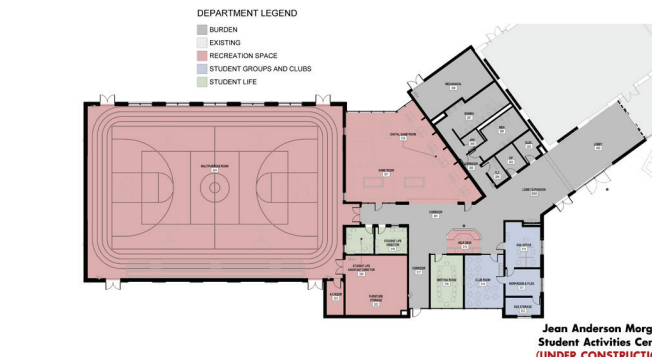
Construction of a significant addition to the Jean Anderson Morgan Center, affectionately known on campus at the JAM Center, has begun. Scheduled to be completed in December 2019, the addition will include approximately 13,500 square feet of space for various student activities.

One part of the addition will be a huge multipurpose room. According to Michelle Goff, Director of Operations at East Georgia State College, "Basically, it's a large multipurpose room, which is a gym and an intramural sports area and an area students can use for club day, very multipurpose."

Other parts of the addition will include a game room that is double the size of the current game room, two student group meeting rooms, and a designated Student Government office.

"The Student Government Association has never had their own space, so this is new and improved," said Goff. "For SGA to have their own space, they need their own identity on campus, so this is going to give them a strong presence they haven't had before." There will also be a new media room. "It is for production of the newspaper, the college magazine, career services can use it for interviewing, interview skills, things like that," said Goff.

This addition to the JAM Center is the third significant building proj-



ect that has happened on the original Swainsboro campus of East Georgia State College since 2016, when the dormitory Bobcat Villas West was built. That was followed in 2017 by the Academic Building expansion, and now the expansion of the JAM Center is in full swing. The original Student Center had a little over 12,000 square feet. This latest addition will bring the total square feet to almost 48,000 square feet of space for students.

The progress showcases the growth of the school since the first buildings were constructed. "All the campus buildings were built in '73 and '74, the original buildings on campus, which was George L. Smith, Student Center, Academic Building, PE Building, Public Safety, which was the Art Department then where Public Safety is now, and Plant Operations, those were the original buildings on campus" said Goff. "In 2001, the Gambrell Building was built." The Gambrell

Building houses the library, the auditorium, a coffee shop, the President's Office, and the Academic Center for Excellence, which offers tutoring and academic counseling. The Gambrell Building was named in honor of Mrs. Luck Flanders Gambrell.

Growth and building of new facilities on campus continued. In 2003 an addition was made to the PE Building to include a gym. 2007 brought the first addition to the Student Center, when it became known as the JAM Center, in honor of Mrs. Jean Anderson Morgan. 2010 brought the founding of The Fulford Center, named in honor of Mrs. Studie A. Fulford. The Fulford Center sits at the main entrance to the campus and offers community learning, events, meetings, and houses the campus Planetarium.

According to Goff, 2011 was a big expansion year when the first dormitory, Bobcat Villas South, was constructed to house students on

campus, as well as the ballfields, the Statesboro Campus Building, and the Strange Clubhouse, named in honor of Jean and Shot Strange. A second dormitory building, Bobcat Villas West, was opened in 2016. The campus now has the ability to house over 400 students in the two dormitories.

The need for more student resources and space caused the school to seek funding through a Public Private Venture Proposal, which would have caused debt for the school. However, when the need was presented to the University System of Georgia, the school was given \$4.9 million dollars for construction by the University System of Georgia in exchange for East Georgia State College promising to not raise student activity fees for the Swainsboro campus over the current cost of \$33 per semester.

The \$33 Student Activity Fee is the lowest in the state and keeps the cost of attending the college as affordable as possible, something that is of high priority both to the University System of Georgia and East Georgia State College. The funding from the University System of Georgia means there is going to be no debt incurred by East Georgia State College for the building.

A Grand Opening for the expanded JAM Center is scheduled for February 20, 2020.

A message from your Alumni Coordinator...

Dear EGSC Alumni,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Karen Guthrie, and I am your new Alumni and Development Coordinator. Your college cares about you and wants to stay in touch with you and help you stay in touch with each other. So, they found me to help them with that.

I am a recent college graduate myself, though I was a non-traditional student who will turn

50 years old this year. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations with a minor in Film Production from Georgia Southern University, and I graduated with honors. My two teenage daughters, Cassie and Tessa, were watching me go to school. It was important to me for them to see me graduate and thrive, because one day I want them to do that, too.

The other thing I want to tell you about myself

is my favorite quote, because it will tell you a great deal about me. The quote is by a Chinese Philosopher named Lao Tzu, and it says simply "The journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step". The quote went with me on my first day of college, because it really did seem like a thousand mile journey, to be taken on foot. But it is one test, one paper, one assignment at a time that gets an education, isn't it?

Now, I still think of that quote every day, and it will serve me well as I begin working for you. I will write newsletters to inform you, plan events to invite you to, raise money for your causes, talk to you on social media, and work to acquire benefits for you. I will help grow your Alumni Association one step at a time, one person at a time. Together, we will make great things happen.

As your Alumni and De-

velopment Coordinator, I want to keep you updated on school news and connected to your school. I want to tell you about the achievements of your classmates, the growth of programs, everything. Feel free to contact me, my email is kguthrie@ega.edu and my phone number is 478-289-2193. After all, I am here to work for you, Alumni.

That is what the Alumni Association is for, to keep you informed, to keep

you part of the family, to keep you connected to each other. Nobody can remember those college days with you except someone who was there.

I look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,
Karen Guthrie



Carson Cross

Are you a life-long resident of Emanuel County?
Yes, all my life

Where did you go to High School?
David Emanuel Academy – graduated 2014

Why did you choose EGSC?
Close to home, accessible, small class size, and 1 on 1 help

Did you always know farming was your passion?
Always

What do you love most about farming?
Everything – no favorites – I like row crops, cows, forestry. Our biggest crops are cotton, peanuts and corn. Our livestock is centered in Angus cattle and we have a forestry operation.

Did getting your education make a big difference in your chosen career?
Definitely. It has helped to prepare me to run a 21st century business.

Why did you choose UGA for your bachelor's degree?
There was never any doubt. I grew up knowing I would go to UGA and be a part of the ag program. The reputation and history of the program made it the best choice.

What do you see as the future of farming in our area of the Southeast?
It's wide open. We have so many opportunities to just keep growing and producing. We are blessed with outstanding resources in our area. The County Extension office, the NRCS and the ASCS offices, along with great high school agriculture departments led by well trained teachers really make a difference. The auxiliary programs with 4-H and FFA also provide valuable knowledge. As for the future, our area can go in a lot of directions and probably will. We may produce a super row crop, focus on cattle and of course, forestry, the pine tree is always abundant. We are also blessed with vast amounts of water and the port in Savannah. The port is going to continue to open territory for trade. Looking ahead the forecast is bright for our part of Georgia primarily because of the water, the infrastructure and the port.

Tell me a little about you personally, your family and what you like to do when you aren't farming:
My parents are Carson and Frances Cross and we live in Midville. I have a brother, Chandler. When I'm not farming and have a little time, I hunt and fish.

What advice would you give a graduate today?
Don't do what others tell you to do. Follow your own path.

Bobcat Cards now available for alumni!

The Bobcat Card program at East Georgia State College has been expanded to include alumni. A total of 53 businesses in the area signed up for the program, which provides discounts for Bobcat Card holders. While the program has been available to students, staff, and faculty for several years, this is the first time that alumni have been invited to receive the benefit.

To get an alumni Bobcat Card, a person must have attended the school for at least one semester anytime from its founding in 1973 until now. The

Bobcat Cards are free to alumni, and the process of getting an alumni Bobcat Card is simple.

To obtain the card, alumni should go to the Business Office in the Jean A. Morgan building (The JAM Center) on the Swainsboro campus. Bring a picture ID so that school attendance can be verified, and the Bobcat Card will be made.

Karen Guthrie, the Alumni and Development Coordinator for East Georgia State College, is happy this benefit is now open to alumni. "We have been working hard to provide tangible



benefits for our alumni because we value and appreciate them tremendously. We are thrilled to be able to give them this card so that they can receive discounts in restaurants, in shops, and on services. It is a way to say thank you to all the

people who have made EGSC their school over the years," said Guthrie.

The full list of businesses and the discounts they provide are listed online at <http://www.ega.edu/images/uploads/cat-card-special-offers.pdf?051619>

EGSC Alumni Association creates scholarships

The Alumni Association has established two scholarships which will be awarded for the first time Fall 2019. The scholarships were possible because of donations by two alumni who both serve on the Alumni Association Board.

Matt Donaldson, the President of the Alumni Association, and Lisa Fields Bertoch, the Vice President of the Association, both contributed \$250 each. Their donations were matched by the companies they work for.

Donaldson is Assistant Vice President of Durden Banking Company in Twin City, Georgia, and Bertoch is Vice President and an Agent for Yeomans and Associates Insurance Company in Swainsboro, Georgia. The total of \$1000 will be split into 2 scholarships for the fall semester and 2 for the spring semester, creating 4 \$250 scholarships for the upcoming school year.

Recipients of the scholarships will be one existing student and one incoming Freshman each semester. The students will have some sort of family connection with an alumnus of EGSC and have a GPA of at least 3.0.

Anyone who would like to add any funds to the Alumni Scholarship may contact Karen Guthrie at kguthrie@ega.edu. Even small donations can add up and make a big difference for a student.



Alumni & friends recipe book coming soon!

Work has begun on a recipe book that will include recipes from EGSC alumni and friends. Submissions can be sent to the EGSC Alumni Coordinator, Karen Guthrie, at kguthrie@ega.edu. The book is planned to be published in time to be sold as holiday gifts later this year. Alumni who send in submissions are also invited to send in pictures of themselves and/or short stories of what they have been doing since graduation.



Nine dual-enrolled high school students graduate

This May, nine high school students graduated from both high school and East Georgia State College with their Associate degrees. The dual enrollment program allows high school students to attend college and receive college credits for classes while they are still in high school. We are so proud of them!

Find us on www.facebook.com/AlumniEGSC
or visit our website at http://www.ega.edu/alumni_friends



(works best without your smart phone)