



Georgia Chapter of APPA
Leadership in Educational Facilities

GAPPA News

July 2019

“Fostering innovation through collaboration”

Jekyll Island 2019! The convention center successfully hosted GAPPA 2019 Conference, and members enjoyed attending the conference .

We had 105 booths, 43 sponsors, and 138 attendees, 95 golfers, and we had 8 golf sponsors. We had 4 guests visiting GAPPA from other regions, 17 stipends were awarded to assist with the cost of attending the conference. Jared Emerson entertained the crowd at the Tuesday banquet.

For a sample of photos from the convention, please check GAPPA web site. Select Annual meeting: www.gappa.org



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Georgia Tech to Launch State's First Master's Program Focused Exclusively on Sustainability



The Georgia Institute of Technology is launching a new Master of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management (MSEEM) — the only graduate degree in Georgia fully dedicated to sustainability issues.

The highly technical, science-based, and interdisciplinary program — approved by the Board of Regents on Feb. 12, 2019 — will prepare students to deliver fact-based policy expertise through ro-

bust analytical techniques and a deep understanding of energy and environmental issues and sustainability practices.

“This professionally focused degree will allow Georgia Tech to educate the next generation of sustainability leaders in corporate, government, and non-governmental organizations,” said Rafael L. Bras, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs and K. Harrison Brown Family Chair.

“Georgia Tech is proud to deliver innovative, affordable, and top-quality education in high-demand areas such as sustainability to meet the needs of our evolving workforce.”

When the program begins in the Georgia Tech School of Public Policy in August 2019, MSEEM students will study topics such as sustainable energy and voluntary environmental commitments, cost-benefit analysis, utility regulation and policy, Earth systems, economics of environmental policy, big data and policy analytics, climate policy, and environmental management.

They also will learn analytical techniques used to estimate and evaluate sustainability metrics, be able to expertly assess the context of energy and environmental problems, and understand environmental ethics and its implications for sustainability practice.

The program will combine professional instruction from the nationally-ranked School of Public Policy with Georgia Tech’s top-notch engineering, business, and planning faculties to educate professionals who can lead organizations toward policies consistent with a sustainable future.

“This unique interdisciplinary program takes an innovative and integrative approach to sustainability that epitomizes the commitment of the School of Public Policy to collaborate across disciplines to educate future policy analysts and leaders and turn ideas into solutions to public problems,” said Kaye

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Husbands Fealing, professor and chair of the school.

Faculty will be drawn from across the Georgia Tech campus, including from the School of Public Policy, the Scheller College of Business, the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the School of City and Regional Planning.

Guest lecturers from Atlanta's corporate community, government agencies, NGOs and research organizations also will participate — helping connect MSEEM students to the state of the practice and to job opportunities.

MSEEM students also will have access to Georgia Tech's summer Program on Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Venice, Italy. The 5-week, 6-credit program features courses in climate policy and sustainable development and provides a multi-disciplinary learning experience that combines classroom lectures, guest speakers and instructional field trips.

“The world's energy economy is undergoing transformational change, and as the public and private sectors strengthen their commitment to green practices, the need will increase for well-trained policy experts able to design, implement, and manage responses to sustainability issues. This program will provide such leaders,” said Marilyn A. Brown, Regents' Professor and Brook Byers Professor of Sustainable Systems in the School of Public Policy.

The MSEEM program is designed to serve a broad range of students interested in sustainability issues. Students can complete the degree on campus or online as a full-time student. Students also have the option to enroll part-time and complete their degree online. The program is designed to serve working professionals and others who want to participate part-time and earn their degree over several years.

In addition to the master's degree, Georgia Tech is also offering a Certificate in Sustainable Energy and Environmental Management. This 12-credit hour SEEM Certificate can be completed in one or two semesters and can be earned on its own or in combination with the master's degree.

Applications are being accepted through June 15 for the inaugural class of MSEEM students, who will begin study in August 2019.

A generous philanthropic gift has enabled Georgia Tech to offer five fully funded MSEEM fellowships to the program each year for the first three years of the program.

For more information on these programs, visit <https://spp.gatech.edu/masters/mseem>.

Michael Pearson
Georgia Institute of Technology

Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor:
Casey Charepoo
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UGA is Committed to Campus-Wide Sustainability



A campus sustainability division and partnerships with Athens-Clarke County cement the University of Georgia's commitment to social, environmental and economic stewardship.

The UGA Office of Sustainability is focused on teaching, research, service, student engagement and campus operations to address grand challenges through local solutions. The division offers students experiential learning opportunities and internships at organizations across Athens. Students can earn a sustainability certificate while partnering with faculty, staff and community organizations to create meaningful and positive change.

"Our commitment is to develop inspired leaders, stronger communities and thriving natural systems," said Kevin Kirsche, director of the Office of Sustainability. "We all benefit from stewardship of natural resources, and one easy place to start is by reducing the amount of waste that we generate."

Kirsche points out that these initiatives do not stop on campus. The division partners with the ACC government, local schools and nonprofit organizations

to reduce waste, promote recycling and increase awareness.

"UGA has done a great job with sustainability efforts on campus and has been a great partner to ACCGOV off campus through internships, volunteer programs and event participation," said Suki Janssen, solid waste director of ACC. "We appreciate their contributions to the ACC waste division goals."

Programs across campus have already made a major impact.

Research by UGA Dining Services showed that diners with trays would take more food than they would actually consume, meaning thousands of pounds of untouched food was discarded. In 2015, Dining Services partnered with the UGA Office of Sustainability to remove the trays to save more than 107,000 pounds of food and, because there are no trays to wash, 16,500 gallons of water per semester.

In addition to going trayless, Dining Services converted to 100 percent compostable items in the dining halls. There are no more plastic bags at dining facilities and all teabags are now silk. Pizza boxes at the Niche Pizza Co. are collected and recycled through a partnership with the Office of Sustainability and the Facilities Management Division, and Dining Services helped Panda Express implement a compostable takeout container.

Additionally, 20 noncompostable condiment products were replaced with bulk condiment dispensers, saving more than 1.5 million items from heading to the landfill in the first six months after the dispensers were installed in 2015. All organic waste is now sent to the UGA Bioconversion Center, creating a composting resource and saving thousands of pounds per week from heading to local landfills.

UGA's housing department has also set out to create a community of sustainable thinkers.

"We're in a unique role because we're the home of our new students who will be living in Athens for the next four years," said Christy Tweedy, sustainability coordinator for UGA Housing. "Our goal is to educate our 8,000-plus residents on how they can access these resources so they can be responsible environmental stewards and leave ACC better than they found it."

Housing hosts a sustainability fair with campus and community organizations where residents can learn about academic and volunteer opportunities and ways to be greener in their own lives, such as making their own shampoo and hand sanitizer, or simply refilling their own water bottles to eliminate plastic waste. Housing has also installed composting bins in many of the residence halls that are collected by student interns in the Office of Sustainability using an electric bicycle.

During move-in, plastic film and plastic foam from new furniture and appliances are collected by the ACC Recycling Division and taken to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials in Athens. During move-out, more than 20 donation sites are set up around campus for the Dawgs Ditch the Dumpster and Donate program, allowing residents to donate furniture, unopened food, clothing and other items to organizations around Athens. This keeps more than 50,000 pounds out of the landfill.

While the university has already taken great strides, Kirsche predicts continued growth and partnerships in the future.

Kellyn Amodeo
UGA Today

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University System of Georgia Foundation raises more than \$900,000.00 for need-based scholarships

The 15th annual Regents' Scholarship Gala, hosted by the University System of Georgia (USG) Foundation, raised more than \$900,000 to support and provide need-based scholarships for students at all 26 USG institutions. Governor Brian Kemp also presented former First Lady Sandra Deal with a lifetime achievement award for her contributions to public education and literacy in Georgia.

"The USG Foundation works to provide financial support in the form of need-based scholarships to students at every institution and from every corner of our state," said USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley. "The Regents' Scholarship Gala brings together representatives from our colleges and universities, public and private supporters, and elected officials at every level in Georgia. Each of these stakeholders provide critical support to public higher education."

"I'm especially appreciative of Gov. and First Lady Kemp's support of our efforts and for presenting Former First Lady Sandra Deal's lifetime achievement award. As Gov. Kemp noted, Sandra Deal's lifelong dedication to public education and literacy is an inspiration to us all. During her time as first lady, she read to students at more than 1000 schools statewide, in all 181 school districts in each of Georgia's 159 counties. She supported childhood literacy and worked tirelessly to advance this important cause. We're grateful for her efforts on behalf of students and families and honored to recognize her with our highest honor, the Elridge McMillan Lifetime Achievement Award."

"The success of our students is at the core of the foundation's mission," said Foundation Chairman Regent Neil Pruitt. "As chairman, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how we are making a positive impact on students' lives. For 15 years, this gala has provided much-needed funds to support students in their path to earning a degree," said Regent Pruitt. "The commitment of our supporters and advocates will allow us to continue working on behalf of students across this state. I look forward to the continued growth and success of this important cause."

The Foundation also recognized recipients of the Regents' Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award. This award is given to outstanding alumni supporters of USG institutions:

Veronica Adadevoh, nominated by Atlanta Metropolitan State College

Donnie Cochran, nominated by Savannah State University

Mike Cottrell, nominated by University of North Georgia

M. Douglas Ivester, nominated by University of Georgia

E.G. Meybohm, nominated by Georgia Southern University

Finally, six USG faculty members were honored as the 2019 recipients of the Felton Jenkins Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award. This award recognizes faculty's important contributions to their schools and fields of study:

Tessa Andrew, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Genetics, University of Georgia

Binh Tran, D.B.A., assistant professor, School of Science and Technology, Georgia Gwinnett College

James Byers, Ph.D., Meigs Distinguished Teaching professor and associate dean of administrative affairs and research, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia

Christopher Clark, Ph.D., professor, Department of Economics and Finance, Georgia College and State University

David Joyner, Ph.D., associate director of student experience and senior research associate, College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology

Joseph Mayo, Ed.D., professor, Department of Business & Public Service, Gordon State College



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Psychology Researchers Receive Grant to Study Alzheimer's Disease Across Ethnic Groups

ATLANTA—Psychology researchers at Georgia State University have received a \$77,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine brain differences between African-Americans and Caucasians with Alzheimer's disease.

"African Americans are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than Caucasians, but we don't know exactly why that is," said Maria Misiura, a doctoral student in psychology who is working with Jessica Turner, associate professor of psychology, and the principal investigator for the study. "Even when we control for various lifestyle and genetic factors that are entangled with ethno-racial identity, it still doesn't fully explain the increased prevalence levels."

Turner said African-Americans have also not been well represented in previous studies of Alzheimer's disease.

"Participating in some of these studies is a costly thing to do," she said. "Your caretaker has to find the time to take off work to bring you in and that can be very tricky. So just by convenience these studies tend to pull from a group of people with more resources."



The researchers also noted that within the African-American community there is sometimes mistrust toward the scientific community stemming from ethical violations that have happened in the past. The most notorious of these was the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, an unethical clinical study conducted from 1932 to 1972 by the U.S. Public Health Service in which medical treatment was intentionally withheld from African-American study participants without their knowledge.

"Getting in to work with some of the older populations of African-American people and breaking down those barriers has been a challenge for the scientific community in these studies," Misiura said. "Additionally, some of the biological measures used to diagnose Alzheimer's disease have been developed in studies with primarily Caucasian populations and require further research with understudied populations to be fully generalizable to other ethnic groups."

In the project, "Examining Brain Network Disruptions in African Americans and Caucasians with Alzheimer's Disease," Turner and Misiura will work with Emory University neurologist William Hu. The team will use imaging, biomarker and clinical data collected at Emory hospitals to analyze the data of about 150 people, including African-Americans and non-Hispanic whites, some of whom will be healthy controls and others individuals with dementia.

Turner said the team will be examining brain scans using functional magnetic resonance imaging (functional MRI or fMRI), a type of imaging procedure that measures brain activity in its natural, resting state.

"It's easy to use and very reliable," Turner said. "You are also looking at the default state of the brain. It's not looking at what your brain is doing when it is dysfunctioning. It's looking at predispositions to having those problems. It gives you quite a wealth of information to work with."

"We are looking for patterns in data on parts of the brain that are acting together. The question is, can we identify what's going on in these networks if they are working together? And are they interacting with each other together in the same way in different groups of people?"

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Expanding Health and Well-Being at Georgia Tech

In late 2018, leaders from Student Life, Campus Recreation, the Counseling Center, Health Initiatives, and Stamps Health Services began working on a new strategy for approaching health and well-being at the Institute — in particular, mental health and well-being. Feedback from students through the A Path Forward — Together initiative strongly indicated the need for a single pathway for students to access campus mental health resources.

After reviewing the current model and national best practices, the group identified the strengths of the current system and highlighted opportunities for growth and reconfiguring partnerships.

Today, those efforts have resulted in the creation of a cross-divisional, shared reporting structure founded on a team approach to health and well-being. The Office of Health and Well-Being (which housed Campus Recreation, Health Initiatives, and Stamps Health Services) has now been expanded and transformed into a team now known as Health and Wellbeing at Georgia Tech (HW@GT).

Unlike a traditional department, HW@GT is a collective of departments from both Campus Services and Student Life. “This expands what was already being done well into a more formal partnership that transcends divisions and establishes a shared vision and mission,” said JulieAnne Williamson, interim vice president for Campus Services. “These departments were already working collectively and collaborating, so it felt like a natural fit to formalize their relationship.”

HW@GT will not only include Campus Recreation, the Counseling Center, Health Initiatives, and Stamps Health Services, but also the newly established Center for Assessment, Referral, and Education (CARE), which will open this summer. In addition, Health Initiatives has changed divisions and now reports directly to Student Life with a secondary report to Campus Services.

“We believe that health and well-being are essential pieces to the human condition and that these departments working collectively is vital to advancing health, well-being, and student success at Georgia Tech,” said John Stein, vice president for Student Life and Brandt-Fritz Dean of Students Chair. “What matters most is that through this reorganization, we are prioritizing health and well-being at Georgia Tech in an intentional and meaningful way and establishing a deeper network of support for our community.”

HW@GT aspires to help make Georgia Tech a place where students, faculty, and staff lead balanced, connected, and purposeful lives and experience high levels of physical, emotional, social, and professional well-being. To learn more about HW@GT, its mission, and vision, visit hwb.gatech.edu.

Sara Warner

Division of Student Life



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Georgia Power & Georgia Tech Team to Make “Quantum Leap” in Microgrid Research

Two well-known Atlanta, Ga. institutions — Georgia Power and the Georgia Institute of Technology — are teaming to build a \$10-\$15 million research microgrid to achieve a “quantum leap” in understanding the technology.

Owned by Georgia Power, a Southern Company utility, the 1.4 MW microgrid will serve several buildings at Georgia Tech’s 400-acre campus in midtown Atlanta.

It’s goal is to uncover information about microgrid operations — both technical and business — to make development easier.

“The microgrid is a solution that is very appealing but not entirely understood,” said Santiago Grijalva, director of the Advanced Computational Electricity Systems (ACES) Laboratory for Georgia Tech. “We see this as an opportunity to make a quantum leap in understanding.”

Creating replicable microgrids

The research microgrid will incorporate energy storage, a fuel cell and a micro-turbine and is designed to eventually accommodate solar panels and electric vehicle chargers.

The university plans to configure the microgrid’s resources so that students can gather data on controllers, cybersecurity devices, business models and energy economics. The team wants to develop models that utility customers can adopt.

“How do we scale the concept and methodologies and frameworks so that similar installations can be reproduced?” said Grijalva in an interview with Microgrid Knowledge.

Core equipment, such as the micro-turbines, are being purchased via competitive solicitation; other components will be added via donations. The partners are inviting vendors to bring their controllers and test them in the microgrid.

“The controllers will be fairly advanced so that they can be swapped. More than one vendor will be selected, and more than one system installed and tested,” said Grijalva.

The university also hopes to develop a digital simulator that reveals “in high fidelity” layers of operation within the microgrid – the exchange and coordination of physical energy, information, energy and money, he said.

“We want the students to be able to see the system, to have access to the historical data bases, and use the data



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in a variety of simulations and experiments,” he said.

For Georgia Power, the research microgrid creates a chance “to evaluate how microgrids can be integrated and operated seamlessly as a grid asset,” said Jacob Hawkins Georgia Power spokesman.

“The microgrid will create a living lab opportunity for us to plug and play new technologies as they are developed and will help us better understand the challenges of placing this type of installation in an urban area,” Hawkins said.

Not purely a research microgrid

But the project is not purely experimental. The microgrid also will serve several campus buildings, including the College of Business, administrative offices, a data center and a hotel. Able to island, it will provide backup power to the buildings when the central grid fails. Its topology will be flexible, allowing power to be routed to the buildings as they need it.

The microgrid also offers an opportunity to explore business models and contracts, since it will operate via a power purchase agreement (PPA) and include operational agreements with vendors.

“We are developing the documents to describe how these agreements will take place. If a manufacturer of a cybersecurity solution wants to test here, we need to be able to integrate that and make sure we have a very clean process to publish the data, do the experiment, operate the microgrid, and know how it influences the PPA,” said Grijalva.

One of the buildings the microgrid will serve — a commercial structure with a data center and super computer — is under construction. The building is expected to be complete in about two years, about the same time as the microgrid.

“It is a growing market, a very key solution...” — Grijalva

George Tech estimates the microgrid will cost \$10 to \$15 million; a more precise figure will be available following results of equipment solicitations.

The project comes as the power industry enters “a tipping point” that may change as grid architecture becomes more aligned with microgrid-based systems, according to Grijalva.

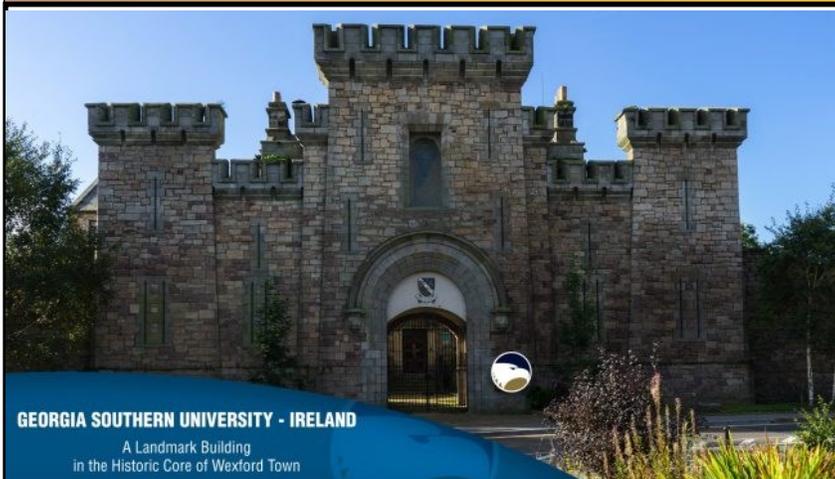
“Microgrids are very important for the industry. It is a growing market, a very key solution for high reliability, reduced costs and sustainability.”

Elisa Wood
Chief Editor of MicrogridKnowledge.com

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Georgia Southern University Establishes Learning Center in Ireland



On the 24th anniversary of its founding, Georgia Southern University's Center for Irish Research and Teaching (CIRT) is moving in new directions locally and abroad to provide unparalleled opportunities for students. The University announced Monday the center is relocating from the University's Statesboro Campus to the Armstrong Campus in Savannah and will be bolstered by a new learning center being established on the southeast coast of Ireland.

Georgia Southern is the first public university in the United States to establish a learning center in Ireland, said CIRT Director Howard Keeley, Ph.D.

Through the center, Georgia Southern faculty and students have long been examining the connection between Savannah and Ireland. The Wexford-

Savannah Axis research continues to shine a light on how and why so many people from Wexford and southeastern Ireland immigrated to Savannah in the 19th century and highlights the impact this immigration had on Irish and American generations in both countries.

The partnership between Georgia Southern and Wexford, a growing cultural and economic hub, led to the University's new facility in Ireland. The Wexford government is providing the University with space to create the learning center for Georgia Southern students and provide students with greater access to Europe, to historical documents and to the descendants of Irish immigrants who have played such a significant role in this region. Georgia Southern students will begin to utilize the space in Wexford this summer.

Through this partnership and the generosity of Irish officials, Georgia Southern's learning center will be housed in a historic building constructed in 1812. The space will feature classrooms and student apartments built in a former historic jail.

"Georgia Southern is a university that is focused on student success, and it's so fitting to me that this project started with students, whose curiosity led them to new countries and new people and new ideas," said Georgia Southern President Shelley Nickel. "That's what our University is about, and I look forward to the new connections and discoveries they'll make through this research."

Moving the CIRT from Statesboro to Savannah enables student researchers to continue to the connection between Savannah and Ireland, further bridging the gap between the two while promoting tourism and economic development. A new location on the University's Armstrong Campus in Savannah also provides a public space and improves access to the research findings for the community.

Several Irish officials traveled to Savannah to be part of the announcement, including Keith Doyle, chair of Wexford County Council, and the Honorable Shane Stephens, consul general of Ireland for the Southeastern United States.

"I think it is utterly fitting that Georgia Southern is again taking the lead," Stephens said. "All of the great new innovations that have happened in the Wexford-Savannah and Ireland-Savannah relationship, the new ones in recent years have come out of initiatives from Georgia Southern University. We are utterly delighted that it is Georgia Southern University that is taking the lead and pushing the relationship forward once again."

Thanks to efforts by Georgia Southern University's CIRT, the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) selected Ireland as one of its six target countries. As a result, at least six trade-and-investment delegations have occurred, and last March a formal initiative, Wexford-Savannah TradeBridge, was launched. Although less than a year old, TradeBridge has resulted in some great outcomes, such as a major Southeastern US distribution deal for Survipod, a Wexford manufacturer of innovative surveying tools. The Savannah Bee Company has contracted a broad-based distribution deal into Ireland, while Raceix, an Irish company in

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Georgia Southern University Establishes Learning Center in Ireland

the motor-boat tech sector, has announced Savannah as the choice for its North American headquarters.

“From SEDA’s perspective, the connection between Georgia Southern and Ireland can only further support the trade and investment projects that we’ve worked on thus far.” said John Coleman, vice chair of the Board of Directors of SEDA. “Georgia Southern’s presence in Ireland presents immeasurable opportunities not only for students but also for the local economies involved. We know that a strong economy would not exist without a strong educational system. International studies and priceless experiences giving graduates the competitive edge as they enter the workforce. We are a delighted that today’s Eagles will have an opportunity abroad before they become tomorrow’s leaders.”

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

University Communications and Marketing
Georgia Southern University

Rate Hikes on Hold Until September, Global Economic Breather Affects U.S. Growth Momentum



ATLANTA—The 35-day partial government shutdown was likely economically insignificant except for those who suffered delayed paychecks, according to Rajeev Dhawan of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University’s Robinson College of Business.

“The real bad news was the severe drop in retail sales in December,” Dhawan wrote in his “Forecast of the Nation” released today (Feb. 27). “With job growth in the 200,000-plus monthly range for the year, why did people scrimp on holiday spending?”

Dhawan suggests the negative wealth effect from what he characterized as “brutal” market losses in October and December dampened consumer desire for holiday spending, triggering what the forecaster described as an “alarming” drop in consumer expectations and CEO confidence.

“In an aging expansion, when the low-hanging fruit of investment has been picked clean, policy makers must be nimble. Net-net, the Federal Reserve is on hold for rate hikes until September,” Dhawan said.

Dhawan doubts the United Kingdom (U.K.) will leave the European Union on March 29 without agreements in place for future EU-U.K. relations. But, he anticipates negotiations will go to the wire. With the Bank of England preparing for a potential recession at home, Germany barely avoiding one, and Italian and French economies far from strong, Dhawan does not expect America’s Atlantic trading partners to provide global economic growth in 2019. This leaves China, he said.

China’s economy is in a serious slowdown and its monetary authority is trying to jump-start domestic consumption with cheap credit and other measures. But the biggest threat China faces is threatened escalation of the 10 percent U.S. tariff rate to 25 percent. The war of words between China’s General Secretary Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to be resolved soon, which is likely to help both economies continue to grow.

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Rate Hikes on Hold Until September, Global Economic Breather Affects U.S. Growth Momentum

Highlights from the Economic Forecasting Center's National Report

Expect GDP growth of 2.9 percent in 2018, followed by 2.5 percent in 2019, moderating further to 1.8 percent growth in 2020 and 1.6 percent in 2021.

Investment growth will moderate from 6.9 percent in 2018 to 4.1 percent in 2019, then to 2.9 percent in 2020 and 2021. Monthly job gains will be 189,900 in 2019, drop to 107,200 in 2020 and 105,000 in 2021.

Housing starts will average 1.258 million in 2019, 1.246 million in 2020 and 1.242 million in 2021. Vehicle sales will be 16.2 million in 2019, 15.8 million in 2020 and 15.6 million in 2021.

The 10-year bond rate will average 3.1 percent in 2019, 3.4 percent in 2020 and remain in that range in 2021 following Fed rate cuts.

Georgia's Job Growth Continues with Moderation on the Horizon

ATLANTA—Job additions in Georgia increased from 72,100 new jobs in 2017 to 103,500 job gains in 2018, according to Rajeev Dhawan of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business.

But, job growth had a seesaw pattern, particularly in high paying catalyst sectors such as corporate, manufacturing and information technology, which lost 2,300 jobs in the first half of 2018 instead of adding its usual share of 15,000 new jobs.

“Was this apparent lack of job gains in the first half a data anomaly or was it reality?” Dhawan wrote in his “Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta” released on Feb. 27.

To find the answer, the forecaster looked at tax collections to form a complete picture of job quality and purchasing power in the economy.

“Georgia's state tax revenues did not show a hiccup but continued to grow steadily,” Dhawan said. “The lack of catalyst job gains in the first half of 2018 is likely a data flaw, and the state employment picture completely turned around when corporate job gains rose by a stellar 26,900 jobs in the second half of 2018.”

Gains in the information and manufacturing sectors also drove job growth, with higher wage jobs producing stronger spending power and aiding future job growth in the domestic demand driven sectors of construction, retail trade and hospitality.

Transportation, which includes warehousing and distribution, posted strong gains throughout the year. Healthcare, which grew by 16,100 new jobs in calendar year 2018, is expected to continue to do well, with ongoing announcements and construction of medical centers across Georgia, such as expansions of Piedmont Athens Regional and Southeast Georgia Health System.

Dhawan expects the moderation trend of long-term growth apparent at the end of 2017 to return, as capital expenditures slow to a crawl.

“Advanced indicators of investment, such as commercial loan growth, show a rebound is unlikely. Continued strong growth would be hard to achieve in this mature stage of the investment cycle, because the low-hanging fruit of investment has already been picked,” Dhawan said. “Going forward, the momentum to push Georgia's job growth onto a higher path is not there yet.”

Highlights from the Economic Forecasting Center's Report for Georgia and Atlanta Georgia employment will add 78,600 jobs (15,600 premium jobs) in 2019, 64,300 jobs (11,700 premium) in 2020 and 56,500 (10,700) in 2021.

Nominal personal income will grow 4.5 percent in 2019, 5.1 percent in 2020 and 5.2 percent in 2021. Atlanta will add 52,700 jobs (10,800 premium jobs) in 2019, 42,300 jobs (8,600 premium) in 2020 and 40,100 jobs (8,400 premium) in 2021. Atlanta housing permitting activity will fall 14.1 percent in 2019, decline 8.6 percent in 2020 and fall a further 3.4 percent in 2021.

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College of Pharmacy, CDC develop vaccine for virus

Research teams at the University of Georgia have successfully discovered a single-dose vaccine that provides complete protection against the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, or CCHF, virus in mice, a disease that poses a public health risk and has the potential to cause a major epidemic. Results of the study have been published in *Emerging Microbes and Infections*.

The study was led by associate professor Scott Pegan at UGA's College of Pharmacy department of pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control, led by Éric Bergeron.

Since December 2015, the World Health Organization has maintained a list of Blueprint priority diseases in an effort to accelerate the research and development of urgently needed vaccines and drugs to treat them. This list includes diseases that have the potential to cause major epidemics and no effective treatment or vaccine exists to combat them.

In February 2018, WHO reviewed its Blueprint for the prevention of epidemics and placed Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever at the top of the priorities list. This tickborne viral disease is found throughout Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and Asia and has the potential to emerge in Western Europe as evidenced by two recent cases in Spain.

First described in Crimea in 1947 and later in the Congo in 1956, CCHF has a high fatality rate: Between 10% and 40% of cases end in death. In some regions, the fatality rate is as high as 80%.

CCHF is acquired through bites from infected ticks of the genus *Hyalomma* and is also spread by contact with infected animals, such as goats and sheep, or handling infected animal tissue during slaughter. This virus can be spread from human to human in hospitals, placing medical workers at risk. Travelers to regions where infected ticks are found may also contract CCHF.

Often occurring in remote regions, CCHF is difficult to prevent. There is no therapeutic treatment for this disease. Antiviral drugs, such as ribavirin, have not proven effective as a method to treat CCHF.

Previously developed CCHF vaccine approaches have required multiple dosing, which is difficult to provide during a severe outbreak. Up until now, there has been no effective single-dose vaccine to prevent CCHF.

Not only is CCHF a threat to world health, it also poses a threat to national defense. The CCHF virus can be weaponized, and U.S. military forces are exposed to this risk in areas of strategic importance, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Consequently, the CCHF virus is included in Bioterrorism Category A by the Centers for Disease Control, along with Ebola and the Marburg virus, among other potential bioterrorism agents.

The good news is that when a state-of-the-art CCHF mice model received the new replicon particle, single-dose vaccine, they were completely protected against the CCHF virus. The vaccine not only provides complete protection with a single dose but can be handled in the lab without the biosafety risks of using live virus. Although it closely mimics the structure of the CCHF virus, the replicon particle has been genetically altered to limit its replication to a single cycle so that it cannot proliferate and spread.

Safe and effective in mice, this promising new vaccine may help reduce the threat of CCHFV, although further study is needed to fully understand the immune response involved, determine efficacy of vaccine timing and describe the mechanism of protection.

"The success of this replicon particle vaccine marks a fundamental step forward in the CCHF field in the effort to find a viable strategy to combat this disease," said Pegan.

UGA and the CDC have filed a joint patent for the new vaccine. The article, "Single-dose replicon particle vaccine provides complete protection against Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus in mice," was published in *Emerging Microbes and Infections*. The study was funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



Jeannie Prine
UGA Today

**Newsletter Committee Chair and Editor:
Casey Charepoo**

Economist Finds Property Values Rise in Georgia's Historic Districts

ATLANTA—Values for single-family residential properties in the National Register and local historic districts in Georgia rose 13-14 percent and 7 percent before they were designated historic properties, according to research by Georgia State University economist Carlianne Patrick.

Patrick decided to do the research when she found there was not a wide array of available research on property values of historic district designation. She is an assistant professor in Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

"I felt that I could design a study to help fill this gap," she said. "It seemed to me that the often passionate debates around historic district designations would benefit from causal evidence on some of the key issues, particularly causal evidence that differentiated between National Register and local historic districts."

The research addresses a common belief that historic districts are associated with negative property values.

"Some homeowners are concerned that historic district designation will impose restrictions that make property improvements or sale to potential homebuyers difficult," said Patrick. "My results suggest that demand for homes in these areas is not hurt by designation, and that the value-added from preserving neighborhood character outweighs any increased costs."

Historic districts have also been thought to stifle development in surrounding areas. Patrick points out that the historic status does not preclude development. She provides Atlanta's Sweet Auburn and Grant Park historic districts—which have both seen instances of new development since their National Register designations—as evidence.

In the report, published by the Center for State and Local Finance, Patrick uses parcel-level transactions and district boundaries of properties listed to national and local historic registers in Fulton and DeKalb counties. The data focus on the period between 1990 and 2015.

While Patrick believes her findings can provide insight on one of the potential consequences of a change in historic district status, she welcomes additional studies.

"More research," she said, "is needed to understand the extent to which the difference in estimated effects is attributable to preexisting trends as opposed to the preservation grants and tax credits available through listing on the National Register and the added regulation associated with local historic districts."

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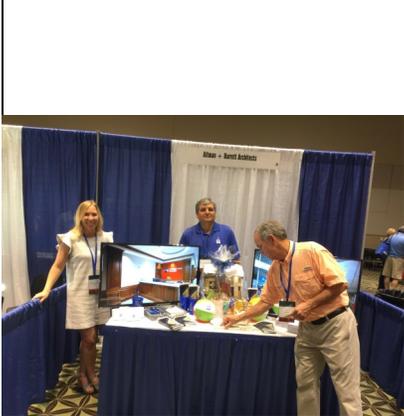
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