



# Middle Georgia State University



2015-2016 Annual Report | Division of Student Affairs

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# [ OUR MISSION ]



The Division of Student Affairs' mission is to engage, develop and educate students at Middle Georgia State University. We pride ourselves on fulfilling the institution's mission, vision, and values through our work in student engagement, student development, and student services at Middle Georgia State University.

## **Student Affairs Goals:**

- Promote diverse opportunities for involvement and development.
- Provide opportunities for developing leadership skills.
- Promote opportunities for civic engagement and service.
- Develop collaborative partnerships on and off campus.

## **MGA Mission:**

Middle Georgia State University educates and graduates inspired, lifelong learners whose scholarship and careers enhance the region through professional leadership, innovative partnerships, and community engagement.

## **Institutional Vision:**

We transform individuals and their communities through extraordinary higher learning.

## **Values:**

Stewardship, Engagement, Adaptability, Learning

## Welcome to the 2015-16 Annual Report for Student Affairs!

Join us in celebrating the accomplishments of Middle Georgia State's Division of Student Affairs during the 2015-2016 academic year.

This has been an exciting year for Student Affairs in our first year as a university. We completed many initiatives tied to our institutional strategic plan and transformed our practices to provide opportunities for our students to engage and develop. We continue to achieve our goals and promote MGA's mission and values into our student affairs practices. Some major accomplishments this year include:

- Created a 21st century career services program
- Implemented our 1st Alternative Spring Break trip
- Developed an African American Male Initiative and receiving an AAMI Start-Up grant from the University System of Georgia
- Opened a health clinic on the Cochran campus
- Expanded athletics to the Macon campus and placed in several NAIA top 25 rankings
- Welcomed our first fraternity, Kappa Sigma
- Collaborated with Knowledge@Work



As you review highlights from the 11 departments in Student Affairs, I hope you will appreciate the efforts and accomplishments of the programs and services within this division and the opportunities Student Affairs provides for our students. I believe we impact the lives of MGA students in helping them achieve their dreams and actively engage in the university community now and even after they graduate.

Although we have fantastic staff throughout Middle Georgia State, I believe the incredible Student Affairs staff are amazing professionals who genuinely love working in the university environment. Their love, sweat, tears, and efforts to accomplish their work through our mission for our students are evident throughout this report. **#Greatness.**

Thank you for your support and your collaborations with Student Affairs last year, this year, and in years to come.

All the Best,

*Jennifer A. Brannon*

Jennifer A. Brannon  
Vice President for Student Affairs

# ATHLETICS



The MGA Knights consisted of 8 varsity teams in 2015-16 with women's volleyball and women's cross country being added for the 2016-17 season on the Macon campus. Men's and women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's tennis, softball and baseball all play on the Cochran campus of MGA. All teams compete

in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC). The Knights have a large web presence at [www.MGAKnights.com](http://www.MGAKnights.com) as well as broadcasting through YouTube.com and live statistics for every home game through DakStats. Attendance is free for all students and games occur throughout the year with different sports in different seasons. Teams also travel to games as far away as New Orleans, LA but also play many in-state contests.

**36**  
Academic  
Awards to 24  
student-  
athletes

*“Both the women’s game and men’s game were great tonight with excitement throughout in a pair of close games that saw the Knights come out on top in each. I can’t wait to come to the next game.” – Student*



# HIGHLIGHTS

- Women's Tennis finished the season ranked #10 after making the second round of the NAIA National Tournament
- Baseball reached the Opening Round of the NAIA National Tournament after reaching a highest ranking of 13
- Men's Basketball finished the regular season and SSAC Tournaments as Runner-Up after reaching a highest ranking of 21
- Women's Soccer made the final four of the SSAC Tournament after reaching a highest ranking of 23
- Men's Tennis finished the season ranked #21 and missed NAIA National Tournament by one spot



## Athletics by the Numbers:

- 148 Student-Athletes from 18 different countries
- 149,490 Site Visits to MGAKnights.com from 151 Countries
- 75 Postseason Awards (36 Academic, 3 All-Americans, 23 All-Conference & more)
- 43 Weeks in the NAIA Top 25 Polls by 5 Teams
- 7 Teams in SSAC Tournaments, 2 NAIA National Tournament Appearances



 MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
KNIGHTS ATHLETICS

 MGAKNIGHTS

 @MGAKNIGHTS

 MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
KNIGHTS ATHLETICS



# CAREER SERVICES

The Office of Career Services engages with faculty, staff, and community partners to develop students and alumni for professional aspirations that will lead to a more purposeful contribution in our global society.

*As both a current student and an employer, it is always so encouraging to see how much my school is involved in helping students and employers connect.*

– Katy Lines, Branch Manager, Wagner Service Solutions

**175**  
Employers  
engaged on  
campus

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Established a 2nd Career Center on the Cochran campus in Sanford Hall, Suite 112
- Hosted fall career fairs on the Macon and Cochran campuses for all majors and a spring career fair for nursing majors
- Initiated cross-departmental collaborations: Marketing & Communication (Professional Headshot Day), The Writing Center (Resume Writing Day), Office of Graduate Studies (GRE & GMAT Test-Taking Workshop), School of Education (Dress for Success), School of Health Sciences (Mock Interview Day), Alumni Services (Reunion Zero), Intramural Sports (Mock Interview Day), MGA Police Department (Criminal Justice Panel Discussion)
- Co-sponsored student programs with Recognized Student Organizations: Women Studies Association (Etiquette Dinner), Brothers of Leadership and Distinction (Professional Attire), Torch Society (Fall Career Fair)
- Developed several employer partnerships: Community Health Services of Georgia, GEICO, Chick-fil-A of Macon and Warner Robins, Yulista, HAECO, Christy Capital Management, Macon-Bibb Industrial Authority, Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter Society

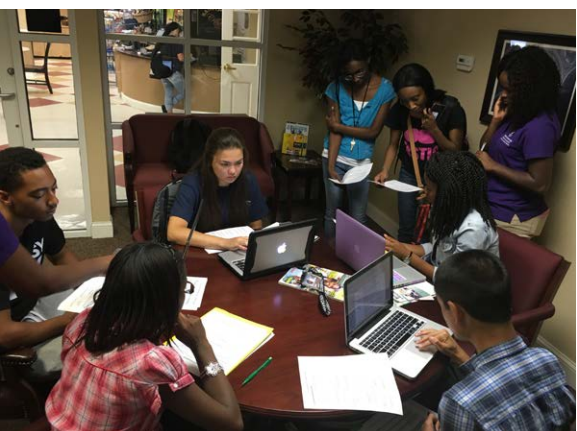
### Career Services by the Numbers:

- 3040 Students/alumnae who engaged w/Career Services
- 106 On-campus student development programs

 MGA CAREER SERVICES

 @MGACAREERS

 MGA CAREER SERVICES



# COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center supports the mission of the University and the retention, progression, and graduation of a diverse student body by providing personal, academic, and career counseling services to assist students in the attainment of their personal goals. Counseling provides individual counseling services, crisis intervention, and campus outreach opportunities to engage students across all five campuses. Counseling also collaborates with various partners on campus and in the community to provide services and referral aid to students as needed.

*“Middle Georgia State University Counseling Center has been a resource that has helped me and my fellow classmates deal with personal hardships; professionally and socially. It has been a guiding light to our academic success.”*

– Student

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaborated with MGA staff and faculty to develop outreach table and psychoeducation materials on healthy relationships, as well as Georgia Legal Services on “Be Your Own Knight” panel (meets SA goals 1 and 2)
- Kept with national trends and latest research for collegiate mental health by attending regional and national conferences for continuing education.
- Conducted outreach on Macon and Cochran campuses to engage students in suicide awareness and prevention, provide psychoeducational materials, and encourage students to show support for peers. (meet SA goals 1, 2 and 4)

### Counseling by the Numbers:

- 105 unique clients
- 485 counseling appointments
- 185 students from the Cochran and Macon Campuses attend our Suicide Awareness Outreach, 45 students from the Macon Campus attend our Healthy Relationship Outreach Program
- 35 students participate in the T-Shirt Project for Take Back the Night.



# DISABILITY SERVICES

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) supports the mission of the University by addressing the needs of students with documented learning, physical, psychological, and/or chronic health disabilities. The ODS works closely with the students to grant accommodations to assist in their academic endeavors while attending the University. Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to utilize the many academic resources available on campus in order to succeed in their academic careers.

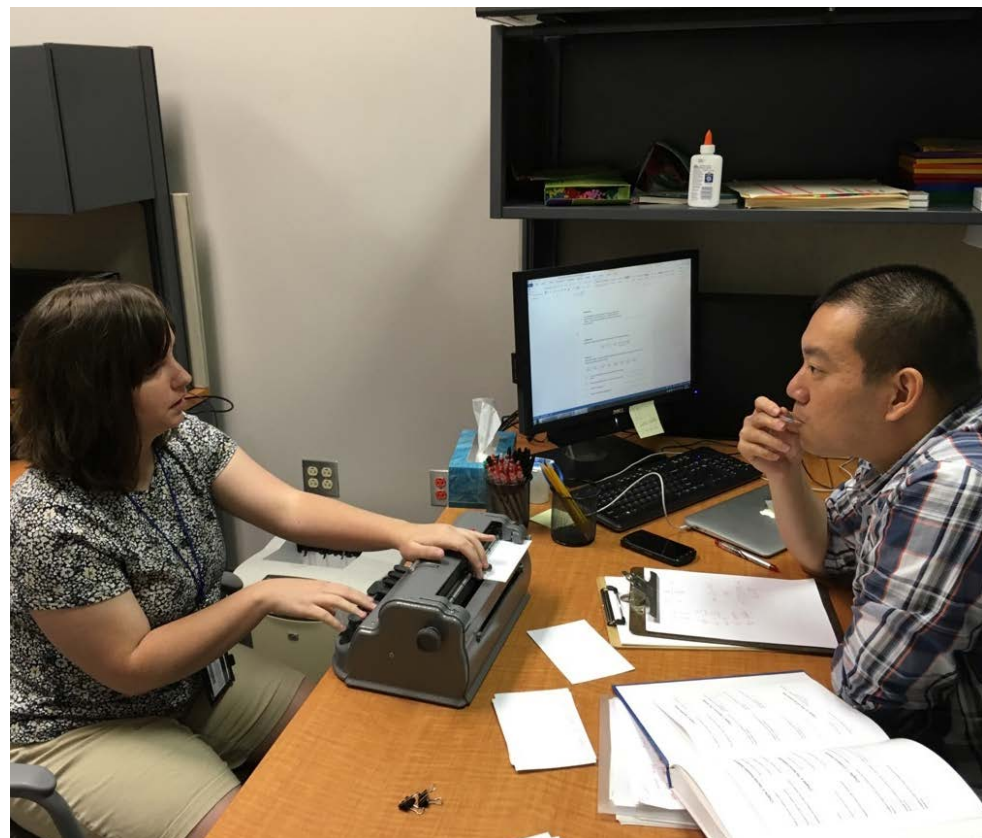
*“On-line classes offer me the flexibility of working towards my degree while convalescing at home.” – Student*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed a working animal policy that will properly address and identify working animals on campus
- Worked with the academic administration to get textbooks ordered in a more timely fashion
- Ordered the Kurzweil 3000-firefly, a literacy support software that gives students, faculty, and staff the ability to access content to hear and/or read from a system-wide cloud base library. As long as the student or employee is affiliated with MGA, they will have access to this program with no cost to the student or employee. It is available on all 5 campuses on any of our computers in our offices, classrooms, or laptops.

### Disability Services by the Numbers:

- 369 students visited the Office of Disability Services (ODS) with documented situations pertaining to learning, physical, psychological and/or systemic (health) disabilities
- 28 students with temporary afflictions ranging from surgeries, minor breaks and sprains, and hospitalizations who required temporary accommodations or wellness checks were serviced through ODS
- 12 students requested services due to various stages of pregnancies





# HEALTH CLINIC

MGA Health Clinic’s purpose is to assist patients with preventive health care, consultations for illness or injury, and treatment of episodic conditions with a goal of minimizing impact on academic and work progress. MGA Health Clinic is student funded, offering free unlimited visits for students with reasonable fees for testing and labs. Faculty and staff members may also be evaluated with a nominal fee per visit. On site urine, strep, and flu testing is provided for diagnosis of episodic illness. Services offered include immunizations, physicals, gynecological exams, basic laboratory studies, STD screening, and assistance with appropriate referrals for medical, community, and campus resources.

Clinic locations are open on the Cochran and Macon campuses, with events and outreach programs each semester for Eastman, Dublin, and Warner Robins campuses.

*“Thanks to my experience interning in the MGA Health Clinic, I am now more comfortable being around patients in the health care environment and performing office duties associated with the reception area. I’ve enjoyed learning more about the health care process and observing the hands-on lab work that is done in the clinic”*

– Kassidy Sikes, sophomore, pre-nursing.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cochran clinic opened in 2015, in addition to Macon facility
- Free HIV testing, Nursing Health Fairs, and health promotion events
- Served over 450 patients

### Health Clinic by the numbers:

- 328 patients in Cochran
- 125 patients in Macon

# [ TESTING SERVICES ]

Testing Services provides assessment services for prospective and current students. Assessments support student admission, advancement, and graduation requirements.

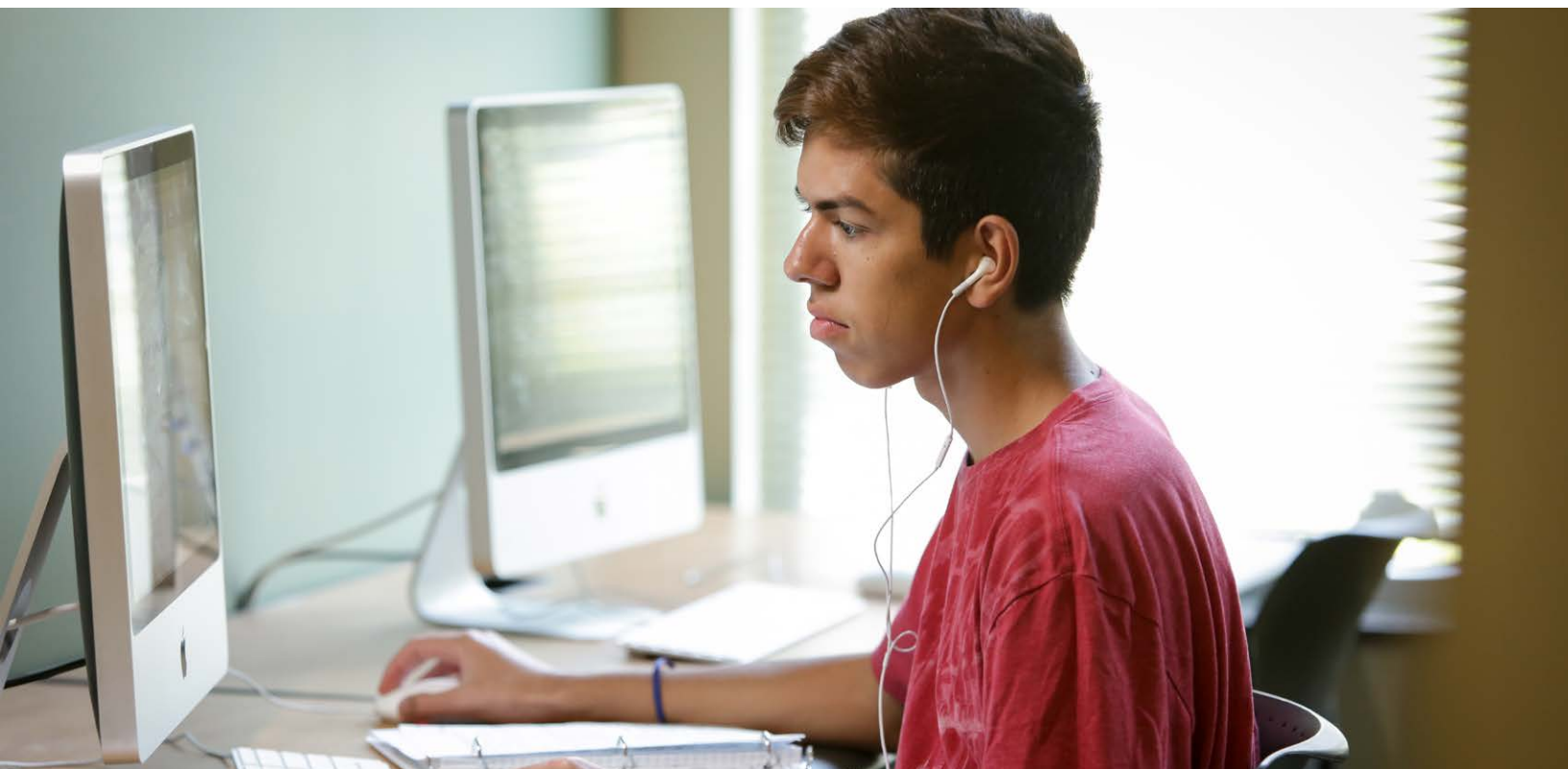
*“The testing center was easy to locate and the staff/proctor was professional and friendly. I was properly informed about the testing procedures and felt welcome enough to ask any further questions.” – Student*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Administered our first GRE in June on the Macon campus. GRE is a new test available in Testing Services.
- Estimated seat revenue will exceed \$35,000 for AY 2016.
- Received 189 customer-service survey responses in the past eleven months. These responses enabled us to correct issues affecting testing sessions such as lack of signage, hot/cold testing rooms, and noise issues.

### Testing Services by the Numbers:

- 1367 administered testing sessions
- 3511 students tested



# ORIENTATION

Middle Georgia State University's new student orientation sessions are designed to help students learn more about the academic and social opportunities our campuses have to offer. Attending orientation is a crucial step in the transition from high school, another college or university, the military or work to college. Orientation introduces students and parents to campus staff and all the resources and services Middle Georgia State dedicates to student success!

*"I love orientation because incoming freshman are able to meet new friends before school starts and I am able to interact with them, answer their questions, and make their transition to MGA easier".* – Orientation Leader Carmishia Primus



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 92 students attended the overnight orientation; an increase of 300%
- 181 more students attended summer orientation than the previous year
- In Cochran, we moved facility locations due to reaching maximum capacity (320) in Walker Hall
- Collaborated with several offices to hold our first Freshman Convocation

### Orientation by the Numbers:

- 1,287 students attended an on campus orientation
- 97% of total surveys collected showed students and parents were highly satisfied
- 13 orientation dates across 5 campus in 10 weeks
- 17 departments with 36 speakers collaborating to make orientation successful
- 2 professional development conferences attended by students and staff



# RECREATION & WELLNESS

The Recreation and Wellness program provides opportunities for intramural sports, fitness, wellness initiatives, and club sports across our Macon, Cochran, and Warner Robins campuses. The institution is a member of the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) and provides opportunities to participate in many different events that promote the health and well-being of students, faculty, and community members while also providing opportunities to compete in intercollegiate club competition through various sports such as football, cheerleading, bass fishing, Ultimate Frisbee, and others.

*“The bench press competition was a fun time to not only compete but also to realize my strength. Fun activities like this event and other give me the chance to meet others with similar interests and make friends.”* – Bench Press Competition, Student

## HIGHLIGHTS

- NCFE National Championship for Club Football
- Insane Inflatable 5K brought 1100+ people to the Macon campus
- Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on the Cochran campus had 412 students and community members participate
- Competition cheer participated in the SSAC competition and performed at football and basketball games

400  
average daily  
attendance at  
2 centers

### Recreation by the Numbers:

- 15 Intramural Sport Leagues and 1 Inter-campus Championship in flag football
- 2,500 participants in group fitness classes
- 7500+ visitors to the pools
- 8 active clubs
- 4 Outdoor Recreation Trips including white water rafting and SkyZone





# [ RESIDENCE LIFE ]

The Office of Housing & Residence Life is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and comfortable living-learning environment, conducive to academic and personal success while fostering a sense of community, civic responsibility, and an appreciation for diversity. Residence Life will consistently endorse the academic mission of Middle Georgia State University while supporting and promoting the mission of the Office of Student Affairs.

Over  
**1520**  
residents  
living on  
3 campuses

*Greatness is being a leader, leading by example and not following the crowd. Greatness is achieving what you set your mind to.” – Alex Jordan, Class of 2019*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Online housing information software implemented. Students can fill out a housing application, pay application fee, and choose a campus, a residence hall, and a roommate 24/7.
- 4150 students participated in 107 social and educational programs in the residence halls and on campus.
- MGA’s first Alternative Spring Break saw students partner with three community organizations—Union Mission, the Salvation Army, and America’s Second Harvest to clear out a space for a community garden, serve food in a homeless shelter, wash countless dishes, and package food in boxes for delivery to those in need.

### Residence Life by the Numbers:

- 27 student Resident Assistants (RA’s), 7 Res Life Coordinator’s (RLC’s), and 7 Community Assistants (CA’s) managing 14 separate buildings.
- 150 volunteer hours on and off campus in 4 different communities performed by Residence Life staff.
- \$10,000 in prizes awarded to MGA student residents on all 3 campuses during Resident Appreciation Week hosted by RHA and the Residence Life staff.
- 4000 + pounds of trash recycled on the Macon campus each month.



# [ STUDENT CONDUCT ]

The Middle Georgia State University Student Code of Conduct requires that each student approach all academic endeavors, relationships, and personal responsibilities with a strong commitment to personal integrity and interpersonal civility. All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by the Code of Conduct. The Office of Student Affairs has responsibility for administering the student conduct as set forth in the Code.

*“My time with the student conduct board has given me a better insight into the interworkings of the college and how they handle cases of plagiarism and other infractions from a student. It gives me a feeling of accomplishment and makes me feel that I am involved with the college on a more professional way.” – Patrick Layson*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A student who had been suspended and removed from residence life approximately one and 1/2 years ago returned and was enrolled fall and spring. This student, on his own volition, checked in with the conduct officer on a regular (typically weekly) basis as a way of helping him stay on track. The conduct officer was thrilled that, despite the circumstances of this student’s previous attendance, he sought out resources to help him be successful.
- Efforts will continue to incorporate Maxient into our reporting and maintenance of student conduct issues.
- Partnership and collaborations with faculty continued to grow in relation to student conduct. There appeared to be a greater effort by faculty to work with and guide students toward awareness of resources to prevent further occurrences of academic misconduct.

### Student Conduct by the Numbers:

- 185 total cases
  - 106 Academic (57.3%)
  - 78 Behavioral (42.2%)
- 167 were first time infractions (93.8%)
- 57 cases were adjudicated by the professor (32.4%)
- 107 were adjudicated by a conduct officer (60.8%)
- 5 hearing panels were held



# [ STUDENT LIFE ]

Student Life at Middle Georgia State University aims to foster meaningful engagement outside of the classroom. Through programming, Student Life also challenges and encourages students as they establish their own identity and develop competence, purpose, and integrity.

*“Student Life has afforded me the opportunity to become involved on campus through student organizations and campus activities. I have had the opportunity to meet lifelong friends and my collegiate experience has been awesome.” – TeAndre Dennis*



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Enhanced campus life by hosting MGA’s first Homecoming, which included spirit filled activities, a homecoming court, and an exciting football game
- Offered over 60 student programs, including Purplepalooza, Purple Crush, Tubman Museum Trip, Spring Picnic, and Spring Fling
- Implemented a new constitution for the Student Government Association to further strengthen the voice of the students at MGA

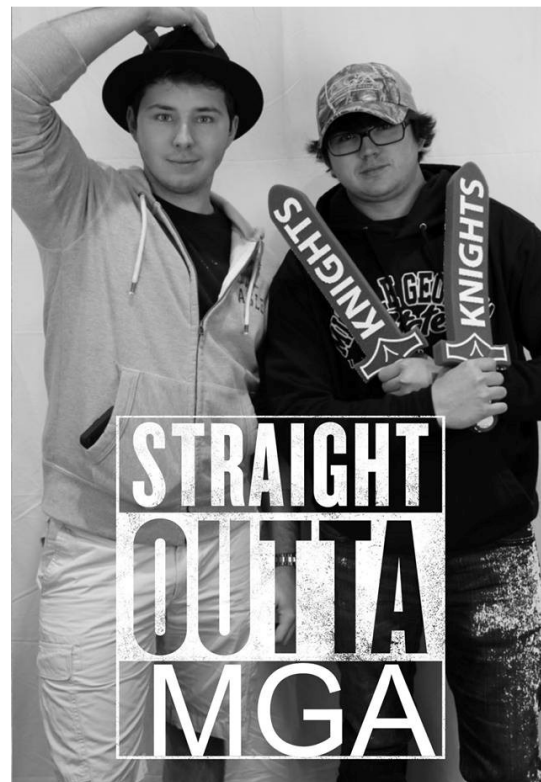
### Student Life by the Numbers:

- 60+ Clubs and Organizations
- 58 Community service events by Clubs and Organizations
- 119 Events hosted by Clubs and Organizations

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**60+**  
Clubs and  
Organizations



# [ HOMECOMING ]

# HOMECOMING

## WEEK OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 9-12 2015



**9/9** WEDNESDAY **INTERNATIONAL CITY FOOD FESTIVAL**  
WARNER ROBINS CAMPUS 3-7P

**9/9** WEDNESDAY **FAMILY FUN KNIGHT**  
DUBLIN CAMPUS 3-7P

**9/10** THURSDAY **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL & FOOTBALL GAME\***  
COCHRAN CAMPUS 4-7P

**9/12** SATURDAY **HEART OF GEORGIA AIR SHOW**  
EASTMAN CAMPUS 10A-3P

**9/12** SATURDAY **TUNES & BALLOONS**  
MACON CAMPUS 4-9P



\*MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY VS. ALABAMA PREP ACADEMY  
BEGINS @7 PM AT NESMITH FIELD ON THE COCHRAN CAMPUS,  
FOLLOWING THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



Middle Georgia State University



[mga.edu/homecoming](http://mga.edu/homecoming)



# #GREATNESS

# OUR STUDENTS



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS



Each year, Student Affairs pays tribute to those students who enrich Middle Georgia State University through their leadership roles in clubs, organizations, teams, and publications – all while maintaining good grade point averages. These student leaders are testimonies to the high value of learning outside of the classroom. In May, we honored 42 students who were selected for recognition for outstanding leadership and service to the University. Additionally, three new awards made their inaugural debut:



The Student Employee of the Year Award recognized the important role of student employees at Middle Georgia State University. Student employees provide invaluable service to the institution. Described as “a superstar student assistant,” Rachel Podwolsky was the recipient of the Student Employee of the Year Award.



The Outstanding Recognized Student Organization Award recognized the club or organization that contributed to student engagement at Middle Georgia State University during the academic year. For their many events, programs, community service, and collaborations on both the Cochran and Macon campuses, the recipient of the Outstanding Recognized Student Organization Award was Brothers of Leadership and Distinction (BOLD).



The Outstanding RSO Community Service Award recognized the Recognized Student Organization (RSO) with outstanding stewardship with their many community service projects. For their representation of Middle Georgia State University through their extensive contributions of service to communities in middle Georgia, the recipient of the Outstanding RSO Community Service Award was Middle Georgia Respiratory Education Action Team (MGREAT).

# GREATNESS AWARDS

2016  
Greatness  
Award  
Recipients

Student Affairs Division annually recognizes staff members for their outstanding work and overall greatness for the academic year.



## Unsung Hero Award – Dallas Beissel

This award recognizes a “behind the scenes” individual who consistently and effectively performs his or her duties in a manner that enhances the work environment for others. Dallas went above and beyond the call of duty to insure that his staff and residents were properly taken care of when his Residence Life Coordinator went out on maternity leave.



## Extra Mile Award – Gerry Reeves

This award recognizes an individual who consistently goes that “extra mile” to provide exemplary service to students. Gerry’s friendliness is contagious and he greets every person that he sees whether he is at the Wellness Center or anywhere else on campus. He puts in countless hours and goes above and beyond his regular work. He has created activities and games for his program in order to ensure all interested students can participate and have a great time



## Bright Idea Award – Keigan Evans

This award goes to an individual who proposed and implemented a bright idea to improve Student Affairs. Keigan planned and implemented MGA’s first Alternative Spring Break taking 10 students to Savannah/Chatham County for an experiential learning opportunity through Knowledge@Work.



## Friend of the Division Award - Rene Teagle

This award recognizes an individual from outside the Division whose extraordinary contribution has enriched the lives of students and made an impact on Student Affairs at MGA. Rene consistently helps Student Affairs by being a handyman in the residence halls, on call for Student Life programs, and the manager of MGA’s transportation services. He makes an extraordinary contribution to Student Affairs by making sure our students are safe, secure, and provided for when it comes time for golf cart, car, bus, or van travel.



## Distinguished Leadership Award – Melinda Moffett

This award recognizes an individual in the Division who has demonstrated exceptional leadership to improve Student Affairs at MGA. Melinda has transformed her department to benefit our students, our campus communities, and our local employers and has provided a very strong foundation upon which student success can and will continue to be built. She has garnered the respect of her peers and colleagues and she does all of this with a joyful heart and spirit, with a contagious laugh and smile, and with a tireless dedication to our students.



## Also recognized for greatness in coaching: SSAC Coach of the Year

### Tom Bates for Women’s Tennis

The SSAC is one of the toughest tennis conferences in the country and Bates led his team through to a 7-2 record in conference play this season and a high ranking in the NAIA Top 25



## SSAC Coach of the Year

### Paul Knight for Baseball

The SSAC is consistently successful in baseball each year with multiple teams appearing in the national tournament. Coach Knight led his team to a 39-18 (18-8 SSAC) record in the second season in the NAIA and SSAC improving by 22 wins from the first year earning him the SSAC Baseball Coach of the Year Award.



MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY



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MGAKNIGHTS



**Middle Georgia**  
State University

Macon Cochran Dublin Eastman Warner Robins

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