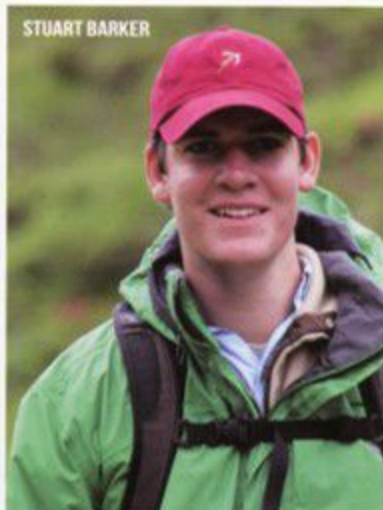


GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE AT GEORGIA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

STUART BARKER



University undergraduates engaged in research are getting the opportunity to present their findings at regional and national conferences. Conferences are important venues for student researchers in all disciplines to discuss and show their work to a wide audience, to interact with other student scholars and faculty, and gain experience in making presentations at professional meetings.

This fall, the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference returned to Georgia Southern's campus for the second consecutive year. In the conference's first year, Georgia Southern's own Stuart Barker ('14) won the Outstanding Student Research Award for his presentation titled "Development of Soil Carbon Inventory: Understanding the Climate Change Mitigation Potential of Georgia Southern University Campus." Barker explained the focus of his research to *Ascension* magazine.

Q: What is the focus of your research?

A: Georgia Southern University aims to be a great advocate of green initiative and sustainable practices. Carbon sequestration (capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) has become a major strategy in mitigating atmospheric carbon dioxide and by promoting carbon accumulation in campus soils; Georgia Southern can become a carbon sink.

Q: How did you accomplish your research?

A: By compiling a campus wide soil carbon inventory, identifying factors responsible for higher carbon storage and making recommendations that lead to climate adaptive strategies on campus.

Q: What was the outcome of your research?

A: As noted to readers of my work at the GURC, the research that was presented at that time was intended to be a preliminary study for a larger project. I am actively involved in completing the large-scale project, which encompasses more soil sampling points on campus and the use of bulk density sampling techniques to better assess soil carbon concentrations.

While the complete analysis of

