



**WIN.
BUILD.
SEND.**

ATHLETES
IN **ACTION**[®]
A Cru Ministry

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

MISSION & VISION

- OUR **VISION** IS TO SEE A DAY WHEN THERE ARE CHRIST-FOLLOWERS ON EVERY TEAM, IN EVERY SPORT, IN EVERY NATION.

EVERY **TEAM**
SPORT
NATION

- OUR **MISSION** IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES!
- HOW DOES AIA **INFLUENCE** LIVES?

1. We help athletes and coaches find freedom in the perspective of sport as worship to God

AUDIENCE
OF ONE

2. We want to see an athlete develop in all three areas, Physically, Mentally, and Spiritually

Total
ATHLETE

3. We encourage athletes to live with eternity in mind as they grow in Christ and multiply their lives into others.

VICTORY BEYOND
COMPETITION

STAFF



Matt Wise is the Campus Director for Georgia Southern. He has been the heart of Athletes in Action and has listened to God's call in this manner faithfully since 2014. He is married to his beautiful wife (Colleen) and they have 3 precious daughters (Hope, Kennedy, and Berkley) and one new addition, their puppy, Dunkin. He is skilled at pursuing and challenging people outside their comfort zone in order to serve the Lord well. Matt has been able to see AIA grow in immense ways and is excited to see where the Lord takes AIA in the future.

Lex Ward interned with AIA at Georgia Southern for two years after being a part of the GS Women's Basketball Team from 2012-2017. Currently, she is on staff with AIA at Mercer University where her husband, Jeff Ward, is the Director of Strength and Conditioning. Her favorite thing about AIA is being a part of an organization that is intentional and committed to equipping athletes and coaches to grow in their relationship with Jesus, love Him above all, and multiply their life into others.



STAFF

Mary James Coates is currently on student staff as she finishes her senior year. Her major is in Recreation, emphasizing in Tourism and Recreational Management. She is from Virginia Beach, VA and was on the swim team here at Georgia Southern.

Her favorite thing about GS AIA is how well they model Christ's example for discipleship. They love student-athletes well, pursue them, care for them, encourage them, and build them up to be sent into the world to be on fire for the Lord and make disciples who make disciples.



JAKE COOPER IS A CURRENT INTERN WITH AIA. HE GRADUATED FROM GEORGIA SOUTHERN IN 2019 WITH A DEGREE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT AND A MINOR IN BUSINESS. HE IS FROM LILBURN, GA AND PLAYED FOOTBALL AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN FOR FIVE YEARS.

HIS FAVORITE THING ABOUT GS AIA IS THE COMMUNITY HE GETS TO BE A PART OF WITH THE OTHER ATHLETES AND BEING ABLE TO WATCH OTHERS GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH JESUS.

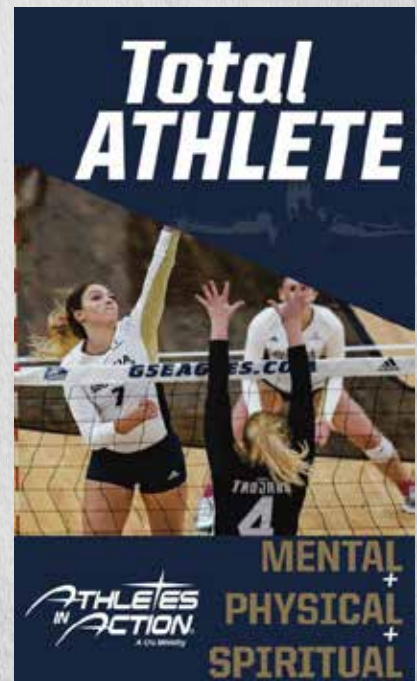
WHAT WE ARE ABOUT



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



- We are all about making disciples who make disciples. We do that in many ways, here at Georgia Southern. We really emphasize life on life discipleship. We do that by creating opportunities for our athletes to serve together, grow in community, and get in the Word together. We push our athletes to join a local church in college so they will be lifelong laborers in the body of Christ!



HEAR FROM SOME OF OUR OWN...

"ATHLETES IN ACTION HAS MADE A HUGE IMPACT IN MY LIFE BY SURROUNDING ME WITH A COMMUNITY OF ATHLETES THAT ARE ALSO PURSUING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD."

HALEY FULLER, VOLLEYBALL

"AIA HAS HELPED ME BECOME MORE MATURE IN MY FAITH AND I AM ABLE TO USE MY FAITH AS A PLATFORM AND MOTIVATION FOR EVERYTHING I DO. I HAVE FOUND WHERE MY PURPOSE AND IDENTITY LIES. I HAVE BEEN IMPACTED GREATLY BY AIA IN MY EVERYDAY LIFESTYLE, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AND ABILITY TO SHARE MY FAITH WITH OTHERS."

ASHLEY KUBEL, SWIM TEAM

"AIA HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE AROUND OTHER CHRISTIAN ATHLETES. AIA TOOK ME UNDER THEIR WING AND HAS HELPED ME SOAR IN MY FAITH BY EQUIPPING ME TO SHARE MY TESTIMONY, THE GOSPEL, AND TO SERVE OTHERS."

ELIJAH CAMPBELL, FOOTBALL

"AIA IMPACTED ME BY GIVING ME A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS TO DO LIFE TOGETHER WITH. THEY ENCOURAGE ME, THEY EQUIP ME, THEY HOLD ME ACCOUNTABLE, AND MOST OF ALL, THEY LOVE ME. HAVING THOSE THINGS HAVE MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN MY WALK WITH THE LORD AND MY JOY IN LIFE."

BRADEN HAYS, BASEBALL

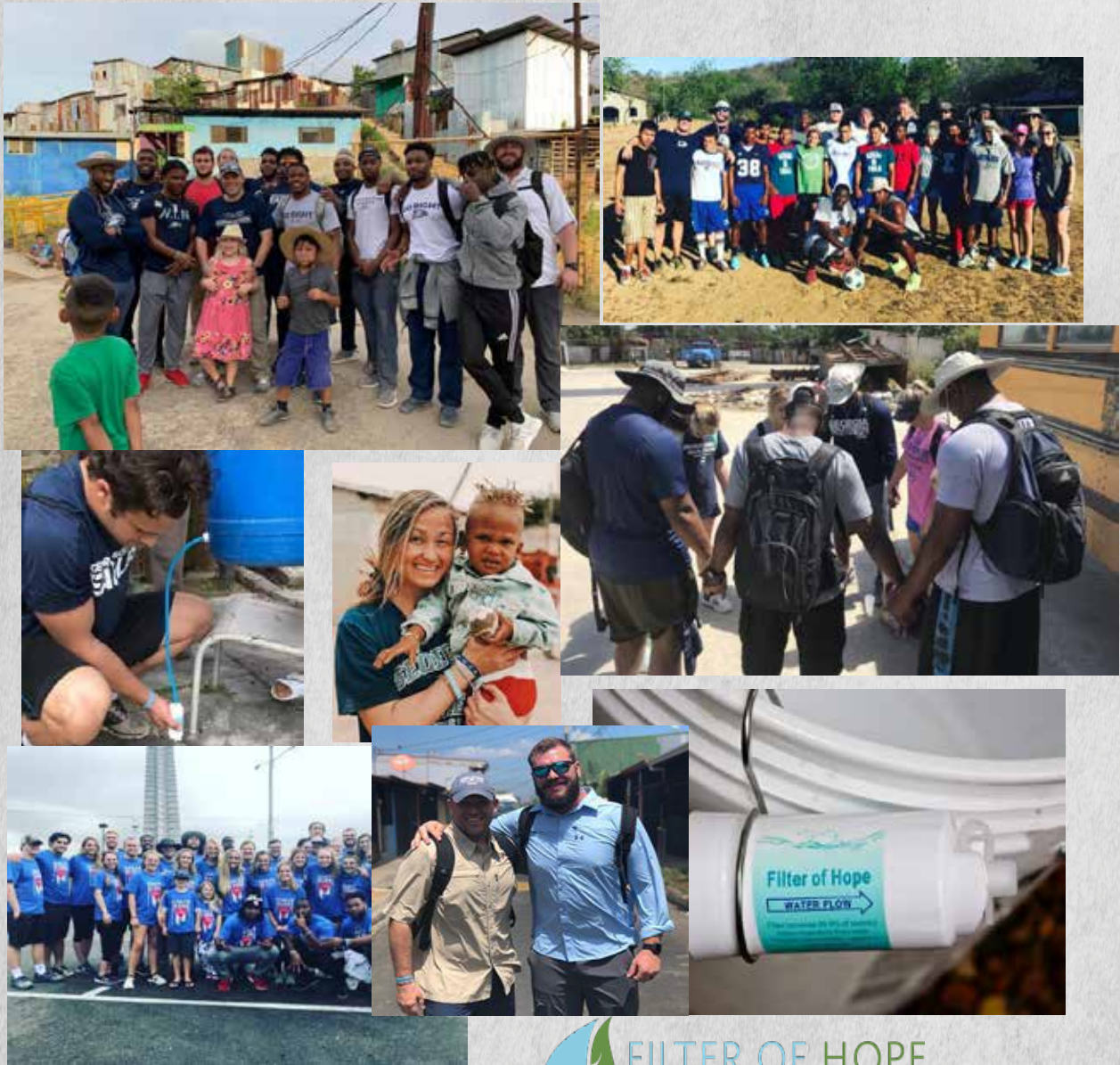


MISSIONAL COMMUNITY



MISSIONAL COMMUNITY IS HOW WE INTRODUCE ATHLETES TO OUR FAMILY. WE STRIVE TO MEET EVERY OTHER MONDAY. ONE MEETING IS AT SOMEONE'S HOUSE, AND THE OTHER IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT. WE INVITE ALL ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE AND COME WHEN THEY CAN. WE STRIVE TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL ATHLETES TO FEEL VALUED, LOVED AND CARED FOR.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS



WE PARTNER WITH FILTER OF HOPE ON OUR SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS AND HAVE BEEN TO CUBA, NICARAGUA, AND COSTA RICA. WE USE THESE TRIPS TO MEET PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS. WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED MANY WATER FILTERS THAT PROVIDE CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN PLACES THAT DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO IT, AND WE ALSO PROVIDE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL. WE ALSO PLAY SPORTS WITH THE KIDS AND SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THEM THROUGH TESTIMONIES.

ULTIMATE TRAINING CAMP



The UTC is a high intensity sports camp experience, designed for college & pro athletes. We tackle the issues of how to blend faith and sport together in every aspect. You will learn five core Biblical principles that impact your faith and your sport. Then you get to experience the ultimate test in an unforgettable 20-hour sports competition, known as "The S.P.E.C.I.A.L." Our goal is to help every athlete in every nation understand how the gospel impacts their sport and life. Athletes will learn what it means to play with God & not for God, and to live a life for an Audience of One!



JAMAICA

We have global partnership with Jamaica. We want to replicate what's happening on the Georgia Southern campus on campuses in Jamaica in order to help raise up disciples who make disciples. The two campuses we have started at are Utech, and UWI in Kingston. We are equipping them to win athletes to Christ, build and teach them how to share the gospel, and send them into the world to multiply followers of Christ.



COMMUNITY SERVICE



- WE LOVE SERVING THE STATESBORO COMMUNITY. WE ENJOY PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK AND BE GOOD STEWARDS OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US AND GLORIFY HIM THROUGH SERVICE. WE PARTNER WITH FCA, FOSTERING BULLOCH, WILLOW POND NURSING HOME, AND MANY OTHERS! WE SERVE BECAUSE JESUS SERVED!



DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS



- DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS AND 1-ON-1 DISCIPLESHIP IS SUCH A KEY PART OF OUR MINISTRY. AS WE LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER BEING IN DEDICATED RELATIONSHIPS THAT HELP ENCOURAGE US AND KEEP US ACCOUNTABLE ARE PIVOTAL. WE HAVE A PROCESS WE GO THROUGH THAT WINS PEOPLE TO CHRIST, BUILDS THEM IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP THEN SENDS THEM INTO THE WORLD TO RAISE UP OTHER LOVER'S OF CHRIST. IN THIS, WE EXPERIENCE DEPTH TOGETHER AND GROWN IN INTIMACY WITH CHRIST.

AIA LIFESTYLE

"A picture is worth a thousand words"



WINTER RETREAT

We kicked off our 1st annual Winter Retreat this year. 25 Georgia Southern athletes along with athletes from UGA, GA State, Mercer, Florida State, Florida, and Bethune Cookman. The weekend theme was to Know, Grow, and Go. Lives were impacted and it is always great to see athletes from different schools worshipping God together!



ADVISORY TEAM

Our advisory team is up made of volunteers who love Jesus & love Georgia Southern Athletics. They give our ministry L.I.F.E. (Labor, Influence, Finance, & Expertise). They are the heart and soul of Georgia Southern AIA.



EXPANSION CAMPUSES



MERCER UNIVERSITY

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY



AS WE CONTINUE TO REACH COACHES, ATHLETES, AND ALL WHOM THEY INFLUENCE, OPPORTUNITIES COME OPEN TO IMPACT OTHER CAMPUSES AROUND GEORGIA SOUTHERN. WE ARE EXCITED THAT JEFF & LEX WARD HAVE PIONEERED AIA AT MERCER UNIVERSITY. WE ARE ALSO IN THE PIONEERING STAGE AT SAVANNAH STATE, A HBCU COLLEGE. JOIN US IN PRAYER AS WE DESIRE TO SEE GOD IMPACT BOTH SCHOOLS THROUGH AIA.

THANK YOU

- WE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY BELIEVE THAT WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION WHEREVER OUR FEET ARE PLANTED. THE LORD HAS CALLED US TO BE MISSIONARIES TO THE STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES, AND ANYONE INVOLVED IN THE GS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT. THE LORD IS USING YOU IN AMAZING WAYS DUE TO YOUR TRUST AND FAITHFULNESS, YOU ARE HELPING SEND US TO THE FRONT LINES OF BATTLE TO WIN ATHLETE'S HEARTS FOR THE LORD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WE COULD NOT BE DOING WHAT WE DO, IF IT WERENT FOR YOU.

"I THANK MY GOD IN ALL MY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU, ALWAYS IN EVERY PRAYER OF MINE FOR YOU ALL MAKING MY PRAYER WITH JOY, BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW." PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5



The picture above is from one of our spring break mission trips in Nicaragua. We watched the sunset at a place called "Mag Rock".

