

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern's Division of Continuing Education to host conferences

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

The Division of Continuing Education at Georgia Southern University will host two conferences focusing on literacy and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah.

Critical Media Literacy Conference: Feb. 25

The Critical Media Literacy Conference is a multidisciplinary conference designed to aid current educational leaders, future teachers, youth and other concerned citizens in their understanding of the mass media and its impact on the events that shape our daily lives. Promoting critical media literacy is essential in excavating social inequalities and fostering participatory democracy during the 21st century.

Peter McLaren will serve as the keynote speaker for the conference, presenting "Beyond Passive Resistance: Critical Pedagogy at the Crossroads." Professor McLaren is the author and editor of nearly 50 books, and his writings have been translated into more than 25 languages. Five of his books have won the Critic's Choice Award of the American Educational Studies Association. McLaren's book, "Life in Schools: An Introduction to Critical Pedagogy in the Foundations of Education" (New York: Routledge), has been named one of the 12 most significant writings by foreign authors in the field of educational theory, policy and practice by the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences.

For more information on the conference or to register, click [here](#).

Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching & Learning Conference: March 3-4

The Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching and Learning Conference welcomes you to join us in Savannah, Georgia on March 3-4, 2017. The conference will provide national experts, regional panels, and sessions on research in STEM education and on STEM teaching practice from K-16. Just as important it will provide the opportunity for you to strengthen ties with your colleagues and develop new professional connections, while enjoying the beautiful Savannah historic district. The i2STEMe is proud to continue the Georgia Southern University STEM Conference of the past four years and expand it to a Southeast Regional event.

For more information about the conference and to register, click [here](#).

“Night Visions” brought to Georgia Southern’s Contemporary Gallery

FEBRUARY 3, 2017



“Night Visions,” a painting and sculpture hybrid exhibit by Chicago-based artist [Claire Ashley](#), will be presented at Georgia Southern’s Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art and Theatre (CAT) from Feb. 15 to March 17. A lecture and reception will be held on Feb. 15. The Artist Talk will begin at 5 p.m. in Art Building, room 2071, with the reception to follow from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the CAT.

Inspired by Grace Jones’ iconic 1981 album “Nightclubbing,” “Night Visions” uses humor, acidic color and absurd pop culture references to create large-scale inflatable painting/sculpture-hybrid work that rejects longstanding art world traditions.

“I wanted to bring Claire’s work here because it has a good combination of being challenging, while at the same time being fun and engaging,” said Jason Hoelscher, MFA, gallery director. “Art that poses big questions like ‘What is art?’ or ‘Why is this art?’ can sometimes be dull or stuffy, but Ashley’s work is anything but. The notion of a painting as an inflatable surface – rather than a flat plane – is an interesting one from a theoretical point of view, but is also just plain fun to engage: who doesn’t feel a bit like a kid again when surrounded by big, weird, inflatable objects?”

Ashley's work is deeply feminist and is particularly invested in exploding the structural possibilities of abstract painting, expanding kinetic possibilities for monumental sculpture and enlivening the dialogue around contemporary art by utilizing a deliberately egalitarian collection of humorous and formal entry points for multiple communities to engage with her work. "Night Visions" will transform the gallery into a nightclub-like setting using projections and internally lit inflating/deflating "breathing" painted sculptures.

"Claire Ashley's work combines large scale – often considered, or at least intended to be read as, a sign of big, serious art – with a sense of fun and engaged interaction," said Hoelscher. "The objects are painterly in ways that light up an art critic's brain with interesting questions and problems, while also lighting up the pleasure or fun center of the brain. Much fun art is shallow, much 'deep' art isn't necessarily fun or viscerally interesting, but Ashley's work manages to bridge these divides.

"For that matter, as more and more of our cultural objects dissolve into the immateriality of screen space, there's a real, visceral pleasure in being around objects and tangible things," he continued.

"With Ashley's work, the fun becomes serious, the serious becomes fun, and the two combine to pose important questions about, and challenges to, what we have come to expect from art experiences in this second decade of the 21st century."

All events are free and the public is invited to attend.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) is committed to offering quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that prepare students to become professional artists, designers, art historians and industry leaders. The BFSDoArt is recognized as an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). For more information, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/art.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student's core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations and the world. CLASS offers more than 20 undergraduate degrees and several interdisciplinary minors from its 11 departments and five academic centers. CLASS offers eight master's degrees, two graduate certificates and one doctoral degree. For more information, visit class.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving 20,674 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic

achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.