

Georgia Southern University

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Five Things You Should Know This Week

University Communications and Marketing

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Nov. 15, 2021

1. All are invited to That Great Gretsch Sound! Opening Thursday

A ribbon-cutting and grand opening celebration is planned for Thursday, from noon to 2 p.m., for the new That Great Gretsch Sound! at Plant Riverside in downtown Savannah.

That Great Gretsch Sound! is an interactive museum presented through a special partnership between the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music at Georgia Southern University and The Kessler Collection. This permanent display of music memorabilia, highlighting 135 years of Gretsch instruments, will be featured in District Live's lobby and performance space.

The celebration will include speakers, the Southern Pride Marching Band, live performances by ensembles from the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music at Georgia Southern University and an appearance by Freedom (Georgia Southern's live bald eagle mascot).

[Find out more at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/gretsch-museum.](https://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/gretsch-museum)

2. Vaccine booster doses for qualifying individuals are available for scheduling

Based on guidance from the FDA and CDC, the following people who have completed their two-dose **Pfizer or Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine series at least 6 months ago are currently eligible for booster doses:

- People 65 years and older
- People aged 18 to 64 with [certain underlying medical conditions](#) who are at high risk of severe COVID-19
- People aged 18 to 64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional settings

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

If you feel like any of these situations may apply to you, booster doses are now available for scheduling in the MyGS portal. To schedule an appointment, go to the MyGS portal and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling Form" under the "COVID-19 Information and Resources" tab.

3. Employees are invited to be a part of Georgia Southern's 28th annual Holiday Helper Tree

[The Holiday Helper Tree](#) is a Georgia Southern tradition with 28 years of giving back to the local community. This year, anyone interested can [log on from anywhere](#), pick a tag, and mail a gift directly to the organization.

In addition to giving a gift, volunteers can donate gift wrapping supplies and/or donate funds for unclaimed tags.

4. Deadline is today for the 2021-2022 University Awards of Excellence nominations

The nomination deadline is 5 p.m. today for the University Awards of Excellence for faculty and staff, which are designed to identify and reward individuals who make outstanding contributions to the success of Georgia Southern University. Through this awards process, Georgia Southern will recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in performance and contributions to one area of the University's pillars and values. Each recipient, excluding the team award winners, will receive a \$1,000 professional development funding along with a medallion.

A total of 27 awards may be given annually: 12 Strategic Pillar Awards (one faculty, one staff), 12 Institutional Values Awards (one faculty, one staff), two Leadership Awards (one faculty, one staff) and one Team Award.

Nomination for the awards is a simple process. Nominate a deserving faculty and/or staff member [HERE](#). Nominations close today but completed applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15.

All questions regarding the process should be directed to gsawards@georgiasouthern.edu.

5. Learn about Georgia Southern's comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

USG has scheduled a virtual meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 17, from noon to 1 p.m., for Georgia Southern employees to learn more about Kepro, which provides employees and their household family members with a FREE comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Services include counseling and well-being, work/life balance, and much more.

[Learn how Kepro can help you and your household during the orientation webinar on Wednesday.](#)