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The George-Anne Deep Dive

Georgia Southern University

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THE GEORGE-ANNE
DEEP DIVE
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to The George-Anne's Inclusive Excellence Newsletter.

Welcome to the Deep Dive by The George-Anne Media Group! We hope to use this platform to dive deep into stories that connect all of us together. At The George-Anne Media Group, we want to reach the Georgia Southern campus community in a new way. This newsletter allows us to showcase all of the diverse groups and events on campus. The George Anne Diversity Board is here to ensure that we are engaging our student community to the best of our ability.

We hope to create a space for on-campus clubs, organizations and departments to share announcements and photos within this newsletter as well. If you would like to be featured, look for more information below. Feel free to reach out to us at deepdive@georgiasouthern.edu if you have any questions!

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE DEEP DIVE?

The Deep Dive Newsletter is looking for individuals dedicated to social justice and bringing awareness to issues faced by marginalized groups in the Georgia Southern community.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Want to share news about your club, organization or department?

- Have an upcoming event? Photos from a recent event?
- Want to invite discussion?
- Have you made a video you'd like to share?
- Want to make a suggestion?

To send us information to be considered for publication here in the Inclusive Excellence Newsletter, fill out our [Google Form](#).

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

March for Africa

On November 19, the African Student Association, gathered at the rotunda outside of Russell Union to raise awareness for the injustices that are happening in Africa right now. Photos by Evelyn Spear.



From the Diversity Board

After a short run last semester put on hold due to COVID-19, The George-Anne Deep Dive is back. We, just like everyone else, had to adjust to the constraints of the global pandemic this semester. Now that we could no longer physically engage with the community, we had to get creative on how to create discussion on important topics and continue to highlight marginalized groups. After continuous brainstorming, we created two projects this semester. The first project is about Nigeria's #EndSARS movement. The movement was created in protest of police brutality faced by Nigerian citizens. We interviewed four Nigerian students on the movement, other movements in Africa, and what GS students can do to help. The video interview can be found below. The second project we did this semester was on Accessibility on campus. We sent out a survey to the Georgia Southern community and asked them how they felt about the physical accessibility of the Statesboro campus. The results of this survey can also be found below. Even though we were only able to create two projects this semester, there are endless issues and topics that still need discussion. We have more projects planned for next semester as we hope to continue having those important conversations about diversity and inclusive excellence on our campus. Have a great winter break!

-- The Diversity Board



Nigerian GS students discuss the #EndSARS Movement

[Click Here](#)

Accessibility on Campus

The Georgia Southern community responds to physical accessibility on the Statesboro campus

Do you believe that Georgia Southern has physical accessibility as a priority when planning a new building?



Do you believe that each building on the Statesboro campus has the same level and quality of physical accessibility as others?



Which building is the most physically accessible? Why?



Russell Union has handicapped parking near the ramps to enter the building and the elevators are clearly marked."



Education Building - large elevator, wide door openings"



IAB - newest building, although the elevators are difficult to manage and for a person with sight issues finding rooms is a challenge"

Which building is the least physically accessible? Why?



The Marvin Pittman Building 2nd floor is not accessible. There is a ramp to the 1st floor entrance, but there are no elevators in the building."



Hanner, there are too many disjointed mini levels."



Deal Hall, offices I occasionally need to visit are located on the 3rd floor and there are no elevators."

Is there room for improvement? Where?



Most definitely! It is a nightmare with tons of mini levels. You have to enter at a different side of the building for each level if in a wheelchair. Cone Hall also isn't the best which is super disappointing because the Accessibility Resource Center is on the second floor. I've seen people in wheelchairs, scooters, and crutches struggle with the automatic doors (the doors openings need to be wider)."



Fix the elevators. Add elevator shafts to the historical buildings. Once a building is built, have a budget for redesign as needed or to update the elevators so they aren't constantly down."



I'd like to suggest two simple improvements. 1) There should be a list of all campus buildings that includes accessibility information such as where to locate handicap parking spaces, which building entrance(s) is equipped with ramps or handicap opening buttons and where elevators are located in the building. (...) This list should be posted somewhere on the website or on MyGeorgiaSouthern so that people with mobility issues can reference it when needed. 2) It should be standard procedure to offer an alternate location when sending out meeting invitations or scheduling classes if someone has a mobility disability. For example "This location may not be accessible to those reliant on mobility assistance devices. If you require an accessible location, please notify the sender so we can find an alternate location."



THE GEORGE-ANNE

"The first Amendment excuse is out"

Q&A from our interview with TaJuan Wilson following release of Georgia Southern's Inclusive Excellence action plan



USG working to improve mental health services

The USG appointed a Mental Health Task Force to decide where the money should be invested. After setting aside \$8 million to expand clinical resources, the rest will go to a long term mental health plan for all 26 USG institutions.



**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OF GEORGIA**

Parents discuss changes they had to make this semester

The George-Anne sent out a questionnaire asking, "Are you a parent who is also a returning member of campus?" and these are the responses that the 44 individuals plus three interviewees yielded.



Students respond to the Inclusive Excellence Action Plan

Students give their opinion on the 27-page plan that lays out steps to take and goals to reach when it comes to diversity including better reflection of diversity in faculty.



Following grand jury decision in Breonna Taylor case, minority organizations march for continued justice

Roughly 100 students made their voices heard and marched for Breonna Taylor and social injustice Saturday October 10 on Georgia Southern's Statesboro campus.



Following racist incidents, First-Year Experience courses add inclusive excellence curriculum

The 2019-2020 FYE Steering Committee has added more modules to the first-year experience course, to help students understand diversity, equity and inclusion better.



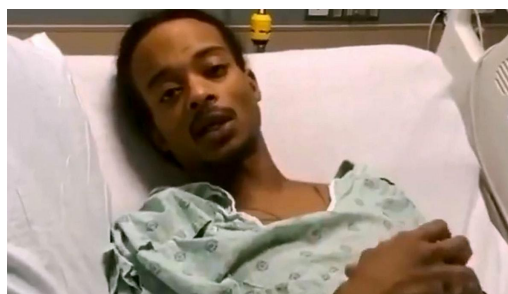
College of Education DEI committee talks about how to become an ally

The College of Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee hosted a panel discussion on allyship and activism at Georgia Southern September 10.



Students speak out in response to the shooting of Jacob Blake

August 23, the shooting of a Black man by police rocked the nation and caused unrest resulting in protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin and across the nation.



THE GEORGE-ANNE REFLECTOR

Artist Spotlight: Jade Raine

Ever since she was young, Jade Raine has had a knack for styling. She used to design in elementary school, but the push she needed to pursue fashion came from her

participation in a fashion show her sophomore year of high school.



Center for Africana Studies and Inclusion department discuss what it means to be African American

The Center for Africana Studies and Inclusion came together on November 10th to discuss with students and staff what it means to be African American and how to be accommodating to everyone.



Understanding and Addressing Toxic Masculinity

Toxic masculinity is what occurs when men overcompensate because they can not reach the unattainable construct of masculinity.



First generation college students

GS first generation college students share their experiences.



THE GEORGE-ANNE STUDIO

The RU Show: Diversity at GSU

This episode we take a shift and talk about some more pressing issues that are a part of the experience here at Georgia southern. With the assistance of former EIC of The

Reflector, Noelle Walker, we try to find out how students feel about diversity on campus



THE GEORGE-ANNE CREATIVE



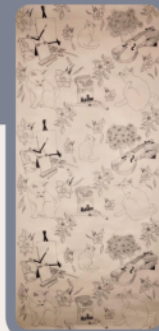
Shirlysia Daniel

“I loved drawing as a little girl but officially began my artistic journey at Savannah Arts Academy. Since then, I discovered my passion and specially in painting portraits with oil and acrylic. I received the vision to launch an art business named Clart Washington after getting several requests. I desire is to inspire, heal, preserve memories, and bring happiness by sharing my talents with those around me. I love when people ask me to be apart of their special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, etc.”



Carlos Carvajal

“I was born in Colombia, art has always been part of my life ever since I have memory. Being an international student in the US has been an incredible opportunity to really evolve as an artist. My work calls for attention and means a lot more than what paper can hold. I like to find the aesthetic value in the ephemeral. The things that spark an artist's mind for a single sublime moment. My work is exciting and playful. My work is precise and strong as well...Besides my graphic art, I am a musician and performer. I play the violin, sing, dance, and act.”



#endSARS

What is #endSARS movement?

The #endSARS movement is the fight against police brutality in Nigeria where police officers are misusing and abusing their power against Nigerian youths who have more luxurious items to them. "The SARS unit has been accused of targeting young people who appear well-dressed, shaking them down for money, and torturing and abusing and even killing those who resist. Amnesty International says it documented more than 82 cases of abuse and extrajudicial killings by SARS officers from January 2017 to this May."

What happened in Lekki and Alausa on October 20th?

Several videos circulated on social media that showed crowds gathering at the Lekki toll gate in one of the suburbs of Lagos, where #endSARS protesters have been camped for two weeks. Uniformed men opened fire, and soldiers were seen barricading the protest site beforehand, and Amnesty International received reports that shortly before the shootings, CCTV cameras were removed by government officials and the electricity was cut in an attempt to hide evidence. According to Amnesty International, at least 56 people have died across the country since the protests began, with about 38 killed on Tuesday alone. Eyewitnesses at a separate protest site in Alausa told Amnesty International that they were attacked by a team of soldiers and policemen from the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) Unit at about 8 p.m., leaving at least two people dead and one critically injured.

How has National leadership responded?

On October 11th, the Inspector General of Police Mohammed Adamu announced SARS would be disbanded (though this has been announced multiple times in the past), but that officers would be redeployed to other units. It's also been reported that another unit has been organized to replace SARS. This has led to another hashtag, #EndSwat, referring to the new Special Weapons and Tactics team. CNN reports that the International Committee of the Red Cross will help train SWAT and former SARS officers are not eligible to join. The government has also extended curfews outside of Lagos to areas around Nigeria.

What can we do to help?

- Stay informed on what's happening in Nigeria, and share about #endSARS on your own social media channels to increase awareness and spread the word.
- Donate to Feminist Coalition, formed by a group of young Nigerian feminists "with a mission to champion equality for women in Nigerian society." The Coalition has been supporting protests and offers other ways to get involved on its site.
- Donate to Connected Development, an organization that empowers marginalized groups in Africa, supports grassroots efforts to improve public services, and has called for accountability for SARS officers engaged in violence/discrimination.
- Join a local protest in solidarity with those in Nigeria and all those who face brutality at the hands of police.



Sources: time.com elle.com (clipart) creazilla.com



The George-Anne Media Group | thegeorgeanne.com