

# Newsroom

March 6, 2017

Georgia Southern University

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# University to participate in annual Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade

MARCH 6, 2017



Next week, amid a sea of green, Georgia Southern will stand out as one of the Best and Brightest in the 193rd Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade on Friday, March 17.

For the eighth consecutive year, the University will host a float decked out in school spirit and a convertible with the University president. President Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., will ride alongside Georgia Southern cheerleaders and Miss Georgia Southern University, Tori Murry.

This year's float will also feature The Dean's List, a band comprised of Dean of the College of Business Administration Allen Amason, Ph.D., Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Jason Slone, Ph.D., faculty members Krista Petrosino, Ph.D., Tim Kintzinger, Ph.D., and alumnus Zeb Mitchell. The band will perform a variety of songs from famous Irish artists.

As always, the University's bald eagle mascot Freedom will accompany the float and add some extra spirit to the event.

Thor Robertson, junior accounting major, will carry on his lasting family participation in the parade by being the third generation of Robertson men to work on parade committees. To learn more about his story, click [here](#).

Not only does Georgia Southern have a longstanding history with the St. Patrick's Day Parade, but it also has Irish connections beyond participating in the second largest national St. Patrick's Day parade.

The University Honor's Program, along with the Center for Irish Research and Teaching, have been introducing Georgia Southern students to Irish culture through the Wexford-Savannah Axis for almost four years. Undergraduate and graduate students spend several weeks during the summer in Savannah and in Wexford County, Ireland, researching Savannah Irish descendants.

Sarah Ryniker, current graduate student and one of many students who have participated in the study abroad program, has created a database of Irish families who came to live in Savannah. Through her research, she has been able to uncover lasting impacts the Irish made on Savannah after immigrating to the city in the 1800s.

For more information about the CIRT visit [class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Irish](http://class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Irish).

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## **Georgia Southern hosts regional conference, local non-profit and economy benefit**

**MARCH 6, 2017**

When Georgia Southern students leave for Spring Break, it isn't often that nearly 2,200 students and professionals from more than 80 universities in ten states then converge on the University's campus.

For the first time since the 1980's, the Southern Regional Orientation Workshop (SROW) conference will bring a record-breaking number of registrants from the National Association of Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education's (NODA) sixth region to Statesboro March 10-12, a traditionally quiet time for Statesboro hotels, restaurants and retailers.

Georgia Southern's Office of New Student & Family Programs, part of the Office of Admissions, has worked to help to organize the conference and ensure lodging for conference attendees, which has led to filling the hotels, bed and breakfasts and Airbnb's from Statesboro to Pooler, Port Wentworth, Metter and Rincon, providing a strong economic boost to the area. Although most of the activities for the conference will take place on campus, the University is relying on local businesses to help support conference needs.

Area businesses are not the only ones set to benefit from this experience. The conference's service project component allows for each institution in attendance to bring much-needed wish list items for the Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County. Upon arrival, the items will be loaded into a truck to be delivered to the Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County. The schools providing the most items will be recognized during a special ceremony on Sunday, March 12 at 10 a.m.

The SROW regional conference brings together entire orientation teams, from colleges and universities in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Georgia Southern submitted a proposal to host the conference more than two and a half years ago. Given the University's central location within the region, some schools are able to attend the SROW conference for the first time, and for many of the staff and students in attendance, this will be their first exposure to Statesboro and Southeast Georgia.

"SROW is an amazing opportunity for college orientation leaders to grow and prepare for the important role they will have welcoming new students to their respective campuses," said Director of Admissions Amy Smith. "That first interaction between an upper-class leader and a new freshman or transfer student can make a huge difference in their lives. It is directly leading to the retention and success of that new student. NODA and SROW provide students the chance to share their excitement with their peers as well as learn how they can be better representatives back on their campus. Georgia Southern is honored to host this important experience for them."

The University's own Southern Orientation, Advisement, and Registration (SOAR) Leaders, who help orient new students and their families to Georgia Southern during the summer SOAR sessions, are using their skills to serve as conference hosts and tour guides for the conference and assisting with various activities throughout the weekend.

For more information on the conference, speakers and schedule, click [here](#).

# Students earn awards in National Model African Union Conference

MARCH 6, 2017



*Standing left to right: Dylan John, Christian Nwankwo, Isha Williams, Jasmyn Bush, Sydney Stephenson; seated: Amina Moran, Etinosa Oghogho, Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess, Dr. Saba Jallow, Shaneka Spikes, Warren Terry and Jasmine Small*

The Georgia Southern Model African Union (MAU) competed and took home several awards in the 2017 National Model African Union Conference in Washington, D.C., at Howard University on Feb. 23-26.

Dylan John, head delegate, earned his sixth consecutive Best Delegation in Committee Award for the Executive Council and the Committee Leadership Award; Shaneka Spikes earned Best Delegation in Committee Award for the Democracy, Governance and Human Rights Committee; Christian Nwankwo earned Best Delegation in Committee Award for the Pan Africanism and Continental Unity Committee.

The University's MAU, housed under the Center for Africana Studies, has competed in the National MAU for 27 years and has consistently earned best delegate outstanding leadership awards at the



local and regional levels. This year the team brought two delegations to the competition, representing both Guinea and Senegal.

Associate Professor Saba Jallow, Ph.D., is the director of the Center for Africana Studies and the advisor for the team. For months, he worked with the delegates to train on writing diplomatic proposals, practicing negotiation strategies, researching and reaching a consensus using parliamentary skills.

"Experiential learning like this is a valuable tool for our students," said Jallow. "It allows them to learn and understand how nations talk to one another and negotiate problems."

Dylan John ('16), first-year graduate student and Head of State for the Senegal delegation, knows the value in a program like the MAU. The Sri Lanka native hopes others will benefit from the MAU and Center for Africana Studies by expanding their cultural and global awareness.

"Knowledge and awareness of other countries and cultures is the only way to help diplomacy evolve," said John. "I encourage my peers, especially those outside of the political science field, to broaden their horizons and engage in conversations outside of their own continent."

Throughout the history of the Center, courses have included an array of interests like the geography of the Sahara, African American politics, African American history and African American theatre.

"I would love to see the program grow in faculty, students and courses offered," said Jallow. "There is a market here for this kind of education. Our geographic location is rich in history and the culture of Africa, and we need active participants to keep these stories, this culture alive in our area."

Alumni of the Center have gone on to pursue doctorate degrees, work in politics and make meaningful global connections. Francys Johnson is a prominent local attorney and state president of the Georgia NAACP, Nebiyu Feleke ('95) is a U.S. District Attorney in D.C., and Hans Holseth, a former MAU student delegate, joined the Norwegian Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Service and served in Angola as a diplomat. He currently works with NATO in Brussels.

"It's amazing and impressive to see how well connected our University is on an international level, and many students don't even realize it," said John. "Dr. Jallow knows people in Parliament, powerful leaders and politicians in African countries. We can really offer students accessibility and connections that they may otherwise never see. This Center is a conduit of success beyond the classroom."

Georgia Southern University will be the host for the Southeast Model African Union simulation in November. Her Excellency, Dr. Arikana Chihombori Quao, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the African Union to the United States, will be the keynote speaker. She represents all the 55 member states of the African Union.

To learn more about the Center for Africana Studies and the MAU, visit <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/africana/>.

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## **Great Minds Lecture Series Continues with 'Plantation Dreams'**

**MARCH 6, 2017**

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' (CLASS) 2017 Great Minds Lecture Series continues with Robert Batchelor, Ph.D., on Tuesday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. as he discusses, "Plantation Dreams: Locke, Confucius and the Making of the Low Country." The lecture will take place in the Russell Union, room 2047.

His lecture will focus on how society's understanding of the political and economic thinking of the southern colonies emerged in the context of global debates about how to constitute governments.

"The Glorious Revolution in Britain (1688-9) was an important antecedent for the American Revolution. Most commonly, this is associated with the thought of John Locke, who wrote the famous 'Two Treatises on Government' (1689) and had a hand in writing the first constitution of the Carolinas (1669)," said Batchelor. "More surprisingly, French ideas about the virtues of agrarian society in China — 'The Morals of Confucius' (1694) — also played a role in shaping early ideas about the plantation society of the South, the nature of political authority, and its connection to moral virtue."

"Two Treatises on Government" and "The Morals of Confucius" will both be on display at the lecture. These documents will be on display through May 5 at the Zach S. Henderson Library's Remnant Trust Exhibit. Also on display from the Library's Special Collections is Richard Walter's, "A Voyage Around the World."

Batchelor is a professor of history and director of the Digital Humanities program, and joined CLASS in 2002. He graduated with a Ph.D. from UCLA in 1999 and is the author of "London: The Selden Map and the Making of a Global City, 1549-1687" and co-designer of the board game "Fujian Trader."

For more information on the 2017 Great Minds Lecture and to view a full schedule of the lectures please visit [class.georgiasouthern.edu/greatminds](http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/greatminds).

The Remnant Trust was founded in 1997 and is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Trust makes available to the general public a world class collection of manuscripts, 1st and early edition works, for use in original form. The mission of The Remnant Trust is to elevate educational standards & the public's understanding of individual liberty & human dignity through the precedent setting, hands on availability of the world's great ideas in original form. For more information on the documents on display at Georgia Southern University please visit <http://georgiasouthern.libguides.com/remnanttrust>.

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](http://class.georgiasouthern.edu).

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# Solar walk presents a world of learning opportunities

MARCH 6, 2017



If you've been on campus recently, you've certainly noticed the new metal sculptures, engraved with the names of planets, along the Pedestrium and other locations.

The sculptures are part of a collaboration between the Georgia Southern Planetarium and the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art called the Solar System Walk. The Solar Walk essentially turns the University campus into a microcosm of our solar system. Using each planet's distance from the sun, designers placed campus markers a relative distance from the Planetarium.

The inner planets, including Mercury, Venus,

Earth and Mars, are located in the Math/Physics Building courtyard, while the outer planets, including Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, are placed along the Pedestrium, from the Russell Union to the College of Education.

"The Solar Walk will give students a sense of the scale of our solar system, impressing upon them its vast expanse and emptiness," said Clayton Heller, Ph.D., Planetarium director. "It will promote K-

12 STEM education as it is to be integrated into the Planetarium's outside activities, and will be an incentive for kids to return to campus to complete their 'passports' and discover the campus with their parents."

Each 4-foot-tall sculpture is fabricated in stainless steel and powered with different colored solar-powered LED lights, and will soon have rubbing plates containing general planet information, the planet's image and a binary code etched into them. Participants in the Solar Walk can pick up a solar system "passport" from the Planetarium and use it to record the codes on each sculpture, representing how the spacecraft that explore our solar system communicate.

Once the passport is filled out and decoded into standard text by using a table at the back of the booklet, a GPS location will be given to a final marker: a comet. Using the decoded location and a smartphone, the participant will visit the comet and add the final rubbing to their booklet. Bringing the completed booklet to the Planetarium awards the participant with a prize.

The Solar Walk installation is the result of a 10-year collaboration between the Planetarium and the Department of Art, and was a difficult journey.

Heller and Sarah Higdon, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, added the idea of the rubbing plates to make the sculptures more interactive. Marc Moulton, Ph.D., associate professor of art, was pulled in on the project in 2008, along with graduate art student, Duke Oursler, who developed the initial sculpture design.

For years, the Solar Walk flew under the radar, but in 2014, the Georgia Space Grant Consortium awarded \$6,000 to fund the project. Just one year later, undergraduate art student Stuart Goodall was hired to create a new sculpture design, and former University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., donated \$3,800 from the president's fund to begin construction.

Over the next two years, graduate art students Kyle Underwood and Zackary Kelly worked tirelessly to continue construction, refine the design of the rubbing plates, complete welding and install internal lighting.

"Combining art and science is something I have always done," said Underwood. "I've never seen one without the other. Part of the reason I love this project so much is because it combines both successfully and gives kids a way to wrap their heads around the solar system. I feel like if science and art were combined more often, both would be easier for kids to understand and get excited about!"

In December 2016, the markers were finally installed on campus.

"It has been a long road to get to this point and very exciting to see the markers being placed across campus," added Heller. "I am particularly looking forward to the addition of the rubbing

plates to the sculptures, transforming them into functional art which our young visitors can touch and learn from.”

## The George-Anne receives awards at Georgia College Press Association Conference

MARCH 6, 2017



*Staff members of The George-Anne, Georgia Southern’s student newspaper, proudly display awards won at the Georgia College Press Association’s Better Newspaper Contest.*

The George-Anne, Georgia Southern University’s student newspaper, earned seven awards in categories such as writing, photography and advertising in the Georgia College Press Association’s 2016 Better Newspaper Contest.

"We don't measure our success with awards, but it's very nice to see students' hard work recognized in this contest," added David Simpson, director of student media and advisor for The George-Anne.

The awards were presented during the Georgia College Press Association Conference held Feb. 10-11 in Macon, Georgia. Several students on staff for The George-Anne attended the conference, which was held at Mercer University.

"It's nice to be able to bring home awards like this because it shines a light on those who dedicate a lot of time and care to our organization," said Editor-in-Chief/Print of The George-Anne, Ian Leonard. "Of course these accomplishments are not my own and are all thanks to the reporters and editors who worked so hard on all these stories."

Tahir Daudier, a photographer on staff for the newspaper, won Best Photo Essay in the competition.

"Words can't express how grateful I am to be honored from a prestigious organization like the Georgia College Press Association," said Daudier. "Working in press is taking an oath to serve the people to the best of your abilities with pride, love, ethically sound decisions and, above all, truth. As a cultivator of visual storytelling, receiving the first place, Best Photo Essay Award, to me is the highest honor."

The George-Anne competed with at least 15 other student newspapers associated with four-year institutions in Georgia, and received the following awards:

- First place – Best Campus Community Service Features: General Excellence
- First place – Best Photo Essay: Daudier
- Second place – General Advertising: General Excellence
- Third place – Best Column: Skyler Black
- Third place: Best Entertainment Story: Julia Fechter
- Third place: Best News Article Objective: Blakeley Bartee and Taisha White
- Third place: Best Campus Community Service Editorial: General Excellence

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