

# Newsroom

August 15, 2016

Georgia Southern University

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# Campus safety at Georgia Southern is within closer reach with LiveSafe app

AUGUST 15, 2016



LiveSafeMobile.com (571) 312-4645 @LiveSafe /LiveSafeApp

Classes at Georgia Southern University began today, and the University has launched the free LiveSafe app, a smartphone safety app enabling University Police to more quickly receive notification of and respond to incidents, further helping to keep the campus community safe and well. With a single touch, the LiveSafe app enables any member of the campus community with a smartphone to share GPS-tagged information with the University's Office of Public Safety for a range of safety

concerns. Information submitted is monitored 24/7 by Georgia Southern's University Police. At Georgia Southern, our campus community will be able to efficiently receive campus and community safety information, notify police and receive assistance, and help others by sending anonymous tips to police.

“The LiveSafe app is a great way to make our campus safer than it already is,” said Laura McCullough, chief of police for Georgia Southern’s Office of Public Safety. “With features like SafeWalk, Where’s My Bus and the emergency options and reporting features, it allows users of the app to help us keep the campus as safe as possible. Once our students start using the app to report tips directly to our dispatchers, it will assist our officers in responding more quickly. This makes ‘see something, say something’ a click of a button away. When a community speaks up and works with law enforcement, the community becomes a safer environment for all.”

With its easy to use features, the app will allow the campus community to use their smartphones to send texts, photos, video or audio to campus police; live chat with a campus police officer; view a map with recent incidents on or around campus; and receive safety alerts. The LiveSafe app features a “SafeWalk” button that provides additional peace of mind by allowing designated friends and family to track a student’s walk home as needed. The information provided by the user when signing up for the LiveSafe app and the phone’s GPS location can save critical time when a call for help is made through the app.

When users have the capacity to make voice calls, they are encouraged to always call 911 in an emergency. However, If a user is unable to make a direct call due to situational or technical issues, or if they must be discrete, then users may “Message University Police” and start a live two-way chat with University Police.

To get started:

1. Download the app from iTunes or Google Play
2. Select “Georgia Southern University” as your school
3. Fill in the user profile

Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/LiveSafe](https://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/LiveSafe) for more information.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving nearly 20,500 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. [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](https://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

# '2016 Faculty Exhibition' Opens at Center for Art & Theatre

AUGUST 15, 2016



The Georgia Southern University Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art presents the "2016 Faculty Exhibition" Aug. 15 – Sept. 16 in the Contemporary and University Galleries at the Center for Art and Theatre.

An Opening Reception and Artist Talk will take place Thursday, Aug. 18. The Artist Talk begins at 5 p.m. in the Visual Art Building,

room 2071, and the reception will follow 6-7:30 p.m. in the Center for Art and Theatre.

All events are free and open to the public.

The exhibition showcases a range of interdisciplinary works of art, design and research from the exemplary faculty of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. It features work from Sarah Bielski, Kelly Boehmer, Jessica Burke, Robert Farber, Scott Foxx, Elsie Hill and Jessica Hines.

"The faculty here at Georgia Southern comes from a range of backgrounds from across the U.S. and around the world, and this diversity shows in their art and design work," said Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "This exhibition, part of our biennial series of faculty shows, offers an excellent look at state-of-the-art approaches to creative research, from painting, drawing and digital design to multimedia forms difficult to classify."

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 [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/CLASS](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/CLASS).

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## **Lectures on immigration detention and human rights defenders on Aug. 18**

**AUGUST 15, 2016**

Georgia Southern University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Department of Political Science and International Studies will co-host a pair of lectures on immigration detention and human rights defenders, respectively, on Aug. 18.

Michael Flynn, Ph.D., will present "Immigration Detention Systems: A Global View" at 12:30 p.m. in the Carroll Building Atrium. Flynn will speak about the rising use of immigration-related detention programs, why governments are using such practices, and the results of the detention programs.

Flynn is the founder and executive director of the Global Detention Project, a nonprofit research center based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Following Flynn's presentation, human rights lawyer Inmaculada Barcia will present on the topic "Human Rights Defenders and the UN System" at 5 p.m. in the Carroll Building Atrium. Barcia will detail the contemporary challenges faced by women human rights defenders and the role of the United Nations System in providing legal avenues for redress and support.

Barcia has spent more than 20 years working with academic institutions, non-government organizations (NGOs), and international organizations. She has served as the head of international service for Human Rights Regional and National Human Rights Defenders Program and as a consultant for various NGOs and international organizations.

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## Georgia Southern brings renewable energy research to schools in high-need rural Georgia

**AUGUST 15, 2016**

Georgia Southern engineering professors have received more than \$524,000 from the National Science Foundation. The grant will enable them to bring cutting-edge renewable energy research into the high school and tech school classrooms of high-need rural areas in Georgia.



*Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D.*

Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D., Allen E. Paulson Distinguished Chair of Renewable Energy and professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Rocio Alba-Flores, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, received \$524,706 to create a Research for Teachers in Engineering and Computer Science site, which will develop and train high school and tech school STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teachers in renewable energy research at the University.

This new three-year initiative, called Engaging Educators in Renewable EnerGY (ENERGY), will expand teacher and student knowledge in STEM fields, and help teachers create hands-on curriculum for their students.

"It's not just bringing teachers and teaching them what we know," said Alba-Flores. "It's not just knowledge. It's getting more into the research we're doing now. What we're going to teach them and show them is state-of-the-art research that we are doing."



*Rocio Alba-Flores, Ph.D.*

Ten teachers from surrounding counties will visit Georgia Southern and work with professors, industry advisors, graduate and undergraduate students in one of five different areas of renewable energy research. The next semester, University researchers will visit the high schools and tech schools to help the area teachers develop hands-on curriculum for their classrooms. After the year-long partnership is complete, each teacher will have renewable energy lesson plans in place to continue teaching and developing through his or her career.

“We will select teachers who are really motivated to learn and transmit to the high school students — not just one year, but they will continue doing that,” said Soloiu. “They will continue learning

about energy in the topic they will select.”

While the program effects community educational outreach, Soloiu says the grant award was based heavily on the high-quality renewable energy research included in the program.

This research includes biologically inspired fin research, which will be used to extract waste thermal energy from exhaust gases; developing vertical axis wind turbines; biologically inspired flow networks, which will be used to transport thermal energy obtained from the sun to homes for domestic water heating applications; pico-grid (smart house) research, which seeks to minimize the wasted power in smart homes and explore renewable power generation and storage through electric vehicles; and solar-tracking systems research, which will help participants engage in deductive reasoning processes.

The grant development process has been a three-year intensive endeavor, but Soloiu says it is a great recognition of all the hard work and value he and his team have brought to the project.

“We are proud to be Georgia Southern professors,” he said. “We love this place. We want to bring value. We work incessantly to bring value — to bring value to the university, to bring value to the students, to bring value to the community.”

# Georgia Southern faculty, staff gear up for fall semester

AUGUST 15, 2016



Georgia Southern University faculty and staff members gathered together Wednesday morning at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center to gear up for the fall semester during the University's annual Fall Convocation.

Georgia Southern's 13th President, Jaimie Hebert, Ph.D., delivered his first State of the University address during the event, which focused on the people who help make Georgia Southern a great place.

"I'm truly in awe of the mission of this university and our successes, but mostly I'm in awe of the people," said Hebert.

He went on to tout the University's accomplishments, including an \$846 million economic impact on the state of Georgia and a student body with above-average SAT scores. He also noted how faculty and staff have helped lead the University through recent transitions and changes within the



University System of Georgia, years of economic downturn and expansion in curriculum in higher education.

"From its very existence, this institution has fought to become a preeminent component of higher education in the state of Georgia, and through the struggles, through the triumphs, through the failures and through the generations, this institution has evolved into one of the finest institutions of higher education in the United States of America," Hebert said. "And many of you in the room today, both faculty and staff, have led us through these most recent trials."

Hebert also touched on the future of the University, which he believes will be impacted the most by the people of Georgia Southern.

"I believe that who we are as people will have a significant impact on who we become as a University," he said. "For me, at the end of day, it's not about bricks and mortar, it's not about books, it's not about computers or paperwork, it's not about reports we write or the grass we cut or the walls we wash — it's about the people.

"The university experience is the people. It's the people sitting in this auditorium right now, it's the faculty, their love of knowledge, their love of sharing that knowledge and passion for their discipline," he continued. "It's about our staff who embrace the same ideals and principles as those faculty who work to nurture that culture of student success. The university experience is you."

He also encouraged faculty and staff to remember the University experience as Georgia Southern moves forward.

"As we move forward as a University, when we come to our collective vision, we have to remember the profound responsibility we have to maintain the manner in which we provide the educational experience here at Georgia Southern University," he said. "That personalized touch is everything to me."

Also during the event, Hebert and Provost Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN, presented the Faculty Awards for Excellence. The winners were:

#### **Award for Excellence in Instruction**

Meca R. Williams-Johnson, Ph.D., College of Education

Jessica N. Orvis, MS, College of Science and Mathematics

#### **Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity**

Derek G. Larson, MFA, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Gulzar H. Shah, Ph.D., Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

## **Award for Excellence in Service**

Christina Lemon, MFA, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Luther T. Denton, III, Ph.D., College of Business Administration



*Pictured L-R: Gulzar H. Shah, Ph.D.; Derek G. Larson, M.F.A.; Meca R. Williams-Johnson, Ph.D.;  
Christina Lemon, M.F.A.; Luther T. Denton, III, Ph.D.; Jessica N. Orvis, M.S.*