

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern celebrates second annual Holi Festival

MARCH 11, 2016



THURS • MARCH 24 • 6-8 P.M.
GEORGIA AVE. AT UNIVERSITY STORE AND DINING COMMONS

FREE HOLI T-SHIRT & SUNGLASSES FOR THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE
FREE COLORS WILL BE PROVIDED • FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Georgia Southern will once again celebrate the spring season at the second annual Holi Festival on March 24, 6-8 p.m. in front of the University Store and Dining Commons.

Holi, which means "festival of colors," is a free event for students, faculty, staff and the community. This traditional holiday with ancient origins is observed by Hindus and Sikhs in India as a way to celebrate the triumph of good over bad. During the festival, participants smear a wide range of colors over each other as a mark of love and belonging, and welcome the spring season.

After a successful celebration last year, Subrajit Saha, Ph.D., assistant professor of agroecology in the Department of Biology and one of the event organizers, said people were eager to do it again.

"For a few minutes or so, the whole area was mystified with colors," he said. "Then along with playing with colors, many participants started dancing on their own with the Indian music. I received very positive feedback from both students and the community, with a common consensus that we need to do it every year."

The event is hosted by the Multicultural Student Center, the Office of International Programs and Services and the South Asian Student Organization, who will volunteer and perform in both live music and dance. In addition to the live dance and music, the event will also feature free t-shirts and sunglasses to the first 100 students. Be sure to bring your Eagle ID. Attendance verification will be provided.

Participants are advised to wear white t-shirts or clothing that they don't mind getting smeared with colored powder. The powders are non-toxic and will go away after washing. However, try to avoid getting the colors into eyes, ears, nose or mouth.

Dorsey Baldwin, director of the Multicultural Student Center, says she hopes the event will raise awareness and appreciation of diversity across the campus.

"We want to foster a climate within the campus community which recognizes the value that multicultural diversity brings to the total educational experience," she said. "The Holi Festival does exactly that."

Saha said he hopes students especially will gain knowledge and experience with international culture as a result of the event.

"This cross-cultural experience develops openness and understanding toward other cultures," he said. "The festival of colors also brings a feeling of harmony, equality and friendship among students."

Georgia Southern hosts the 2016 Healthcare Symposium, "Truths and Myths behind Childhood Vaccinations"

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In its third year, Georgia Southern's Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will sponsor the 2016 Healthcare Symposium. "Truths and Myths behind Childhood Vaccinations," on March 24, 10 – 11:30 a.m., in the University's Performing Arts Center (PAC). The symposium is free and open to students, staff, faculty and the community.

This year's symposium will promote a greater understanding of childhood vaccinations and will provide stimulating information on one of the most important public health topics within our community.

Andi Shane, M.D. will serve as the program's featured guest speaker. Dr. Shane is an associate professor of pediatrics for the Division of Infectious Disease and associate Professor of Global Health at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Shane is also the medical director for the Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

"We are most pleased to have an expert with infectious diseases such as Dr. Andi Shane to present this important symposium on children's disease prevention," said James Stephens, D.H.A., M.H.A, program director for the MHA. "It is an important discussion of the sciences associated with vaccinations for children which should be of value for all people in our communities."

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