

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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Pulitzer Prize winner Jose Antonio Vargas set to visit Georgia Southern

JANUARY 28, 2016



Pulitzer Prize winner Jose Antonio Vargas will visit Georgia Southern University to present “Immigration: Legality vs. Humanity” on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. in the University’s Performing Arts Center (PAC), 847 Plant Drive. The event is free and open to the public.

A journalist, acclaimed documentary filmmaker and founder of DefineAmerican.com and #EmergingUS, Vargas seeks to elevate the conversation around race, immigration, identity and citizenship in a multiracial America.

After “outing” himself as an undocumented immigrant in The New York Times, Vargas was featured on the cover of TIME magazine as the face of the conversations about immigration in America, and has testified before the United States Senate. His film about his experiences,

“Documented,” has won several awards and recognition by multiple film festivals and associations. The film will also be shown on campus Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Information Technology Building room 1004 and again on Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. in Russell Union room 2047.

Vargas’ further contributions to the conversation include Define American, a non-profit media and culture organization that seeks to elevate the conversation around immigration and citizenship in America, and #EmergingUS, a multimedia news platform launched in 2015 in partnership with the Los Angeles Times, focusing on race, immigration and the complexities of multiculturalism.

In addition to his work on immigration matters, Vargas has had a prolific journalism career, including work for The New Yorker, The Huffington Post and The Washington Post, among others. He has covered a wide range of topics, including tech and video game culture, HIV/AIDS, the 2008 presidential campaign and an acclaimed profile of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Vargas was part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize for covering the 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech, and his 2006 series on HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C., inspired a feature-length documentary, “The Other City”, which he co-produced and wrote. In 2007, the daily journal Politico named him one of the 50 Politicos To Watch.

Though multiple Georgia Southern entities have partnered to bring Vargas to campus, the Association for Latin American Students (ALAS) was instrumental in planning the event. Jesus Cruz, president of ALAS, said Vargas "is a true inspiration of what we stand for. He also is someone who brings not only diversity but encouragement for people and what they stand for." The widespread support for this event indicates the conversations about diversity and immigration are desired by many. These conversations are necessary but not easy, and someone like Vargas brings both an expert voice and a humanizing touch that can help jump start the discussion.

In addition to ALAS, this event is sponsored by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, College of Education, College of Health and Human Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Zach S. Henderson Library, Department of Communication Arts, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Department of Foreign Languages, Department of History, Department of Literature and Philosophy, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of Teaching and Learning, Department of Writing and Linguistics, First-Year Experience, the University Honors Program, Center for International Schooling, Center for Irish Research and Teaching, Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies, Multicultural Student Center and the Office of International Programs and Services.

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.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving more than 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.

Georgia Southern observes Stalking Awareness Month

JANUARY 28, 2016

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affects millions of victims each year throughout our nation. The theme – “Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.” – challenges Georgia Southern University students, faculty and staff to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims, and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships. Victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction and severe depression at much higher rates than the general population, and many lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization.

Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime, but rather a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts, or visits. One in four victims reports that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning system (GPS) devices or hidden cameras to track the victim’s daily activities. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victim from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

Communities and campuses that understand stalking, however, can support victims and combat the crime. “As more people learn to recognize stalking, we have a better opportunity to direct victims to critical resources and to prevent tragic outcomes,” said Joel Wright, JD, director of Georgia Southern University’s Equal Opportunity & Title IX Office.

To learn more about stalking, please visit: <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/stalking>

If you are a Georgia Southern student, faculty or staff member and feel you may be a victim of stalking, please contact the Office of Public Safety at 912-478-5234. To receive an email or brochure on “Resources for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment” (which addresses domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and services available), please call the Equal Opportunity & Title IX Office at 912-478-5136.

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