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# Georgia Southern's annual Eagle Techxpo set for Oct. 16

**OCTOBER 14, 2015**

Georgia Southern University's Department of Information Technology Services will host its eighth annual Eagle Techxpo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16, in the Information Technology Building on campus. Eagle Techxpo is Georgia Southern's yearly technology conference showcasing the latest technologies for the classroom, workplace and home from some of the biggest names in technology. This year's keynote speaker is Swami Chandrasekaran, executive architect at IBM Watson Innovations.

Chandrasekaran and his team lead work on Watson, a "cognitive" computer that isn't programmed; it learns. In 2011, Watson famously beat "Jeopardy!" champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter in a three-day challenge. Chandrasekaran will share the story of Watson and the ways in which they've expanded its abilities as well as the ways they're putting the technology to use for clients.

"We are very honored to have Swami Chandrasekaran as our keynote speaker at the Eagle Techxpo this year," said Paul Reaves, communications officer for Georgia Southern's IT Services department. "He has an intimate knowledge of IBM's Watson as one of its key solutions architects. His visit underscores Georgia Southern's commitment to research and the application of new, exciting technologies to everyday tasks to deliver seamless technological solutions to our students, faculty, staff and community."

In addition to Chandrasekaran's presentation, Eagle Techxpo offers the latest and greatest in technology from more than 25 vendors, and exciting sessions from Georgia Southern faculty and staff, and sponsors such as Apple, Dell, HP, McGraw Hill and ProctorU. Attendees will receive a free Techxpo t-shirt, have the chance to win door prizes at each session and can enjoy a complimentary barbecue lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

For a schedule of events and more information, please visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/techxpo](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/techxpo).

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 bachelors, masters 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. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu)

# Garden of the Coastal Plain announces name change to Botanic Garden to reflect plans for growth

**OCTOBER 14, 2015**

After months of planning, the Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University now has a new name, the Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern University, and with it, a dynamic new plan for growth. The Botanic Garden's new vision will enhance the visitor experience and educational opportunities through additional gardens, and will attract patrons from across the state and region.

"We needed a name and a brand that sets us apart from other gardens, tells everyone where we are, and will grow as we do," says Lisa Laun, president of the Garden's Board of Advisors.

Garden leadership worked with design firm Perkins + Will and community members to conceptualize a master plan for new gardens, which includes a labyrinth, a new multilevel children's garden, accessible trails, an orchard and paths that climb through meadows and wander through wetland gardens. The Garden's showpiece will be a tower, loosely inspired by the native Coastal Plain pitcher plant, which visitors may climb via a spiral staircase to reach viewing balconies along the way and an expansive view of the Garden at the top. Built into every aspect of the plan are educational opportunities.

"We've already started measuring," says Robert Randolph, the Garden's associate director. "This plan won't be sitting on a shelf. We've begun solving problems like visibility, parking and a beautiful, safe and easy to find entrance."

"In addition to local folks who have become part of the Garden family, we're attracting people from Savannah and travelers from the I-95 corridor," added Carolyn Altman, director of the Garden.

"They are all impressed with what the Garden offers, and we want them to go home and tell everyone that the Garden is a must-see destination. The Garden will use the special story already here to create a magical place for the future."

Aspire, the fundraising plan for the project, has already begun.

"It's going to take all of us to make this happen," said Altman. "This is our chance to do something really special that will last a long time."

The public may examine and learn more about the Garden's new plan on Oct. 23, from 2 to 7 p.m., and Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Garden's popular Fall Plant Sale. The sale and reveal will take place at the Garden's Heritage Pavilion, 1505 Bland Avenue.

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