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Georgia Southern University Readies for Annual Holiday Lighting

DECEMBER 1, 2014



Georgia Southern University will celebrate its annual Lighting of Sweetheart Circle on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. President Brooks A. Keel will "flip the switch" to commemorate the event.

Georgia Southern University will celebrate its annual Lighting of Sweetheart Circle on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. President Brooks A. Keel will "flip the switch" to commemorate the event.

Attendees will enjoy refreshments, music, holiday-themed crafts, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus and even a snow machine.

"We invite you to join the University Programming Board for some winter holiday cheer. It doesn't typically snow in South Georgia, but at the Lighting of Sweetheart Circle, we'll have snow for a day," says Memory Littles, activities coordinator with the Office of Student Activities.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the University Programming Board at upb@georgiasouthern.edu.

Alumnus Celebrity Fashion Designer Returns to University; Judge Fashion Competition

DECEMBER 1, 2014

MYCHAEEL KNIGHT
Alumnus Designer

DEC. 5 / College of Ed. Room 1115
11 A.M. - NOON

5-7 P.M.
Mychael judges our students' work
in the FMAD Fashion Show

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

BOTH EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

[Mychael Knight](#) ('01), former star of the [Bravo](#) network show "Project Runway," will return to Georgia Southern University for a day of fashion on Friday, Dec. 5. Knight, a graduate of the University's [Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design](#) (FMAD) program, will visit Georgia Southern to answer questions from students and serve as a guest judge for the FMAD Fashion Showcase, which is a runway show and styling competition. The Fashion Showcase will be held in the College of Education, room 1115, from 5-7 p.m. and is open to the public.

"It's an honor to not only share the knowledge that I learned during my matriculation at Georgia Southern, but also instill the life lessons I've learned throughout my career," said Knight. "I've always known, since the age of 9, that I would have a successful career as a fashion designer. My education at Georgia Southern was crucial in making my dreams a reality by preparing me for such a career."

Knight, an established Atlanta-based sportswear and bridal designer, has also appeared on Bravo's "Project Runway: All Star Challenge" and "Project Runway All-Stars," and he is sought after for his design aesthetic and fashion styling by such celebrities as Khloe Kardashian, Jennifer Hudson, Toni Braxton and others. His designs have been featured in *The New York Times* and magazines such as *Elle*, *Essence*, and *Marie Claire*.

The Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design program is ranked among the top 25 percent in the nation by FashionSchools.org, and the University is listed as the [ninth best Fashion School in the South](#). Fashion students are encouraged to participate in the Fashion Internship Program and Study Tours in Atlanta and New York City. Students can also enroll in a Study Abroad Program. Past Study Abroad locations have included London, Paris, Berlin, Scotland, Madrid, Waterford, Ireland, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

For more information, visit the College of Health and Human Sciences at chhs.georgiasouthern.edu.

Three Professors Receive Large Grant to Aid Research

DECEMBER 1, 2014



(from left to right) Professor's Asli Aslan, Marina Eremeeva and John Van Stan have recently been awarded a more than \$233,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to aid their research project titled "Identification of the sources of pathogens in wetland sediments and their influence on beach water quality."

[Three Georgia Southern professors](#) have recently been awarded a more than \$233,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to aid their research project titled "Identification of the sources of pathogens in wetland sediments and their influence on beach water quality." Funded for one year, research is now underway.

A collaborative study including [Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health](#) professors Asli Aslan and Marina Eremeeva, and [College of Science and Mathematics](#) professor John Van Stan, the researchers will use state-of-the-art molecular laboratory techniques and geographic mapping tools to create a database for more informed

resource management decisions to help develop healthier beaches in Georgia. The study will be conducted at Kings Ferry, a beach that has been under permanent advisory since 2005 because of high concentrations of enterococci, a fecal indicator bacterium to detect pollution at recreational marine beaches.

"This is the first time a rapid and sensitive method for detection of the pollution sources will be applied to Georgia's beaches," says Asli Aslan, professor and researcher. "These new methods have the potential to better understand the water quality problems and provide solutions. We will work with state agencies to develop beach rehabilitation strategies based on our results. With this project, we bridge theory in a sophisticated research laboratory with practice in the field, creating opportunities for our students to improve their skills in applied sciences. Our overarching goal is to create public health awareness on the potential health risks from exposure to waterborne pathogens in recreational waters."

"Surveillance of free-living amoeba in recreational waters is very important since some of these organisms can cause severe clinical conditions in humans and livestock, but also serve as a 'Trojan horse' supporting the survival of many pathogenic bacteria including Legionella and Chlamydia," added Marina Eremeeva, professor and researcher.

The results of this project will be disseminated through a series of public meetings jointly organized by Georgia Southern University, Chatham County Health Department and Ogeechee Riverkeeper to educate the public on recreational activities and health outcomes at rural beaches in Georgia.

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.