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[Home](#) > [Press Releases](#) > Artists to Use Satire for Serious Conversation on Sustainable Agriculture

Artists to Use Satire for Serious Conversation on Sustainable Agriculture

APRIL 12, 2013

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Georgia Southern University's Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDOA) will present a free lecture on the world's food supply from the artist and satirist Wendy DesChene on Monday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Visual Arts Building, Room 2016.

BFSDOA ceramics professor Jeff Schmuki is DesChene's partner in PlantBot Genetics, Inc. It is a satirical project focused on bioengineered crops and getting people to think about the food they eat. "PlantBot Genetics raises awareness on human and environmental sustainability, the fair distribution of nutritious food while acknowledging the need for thoughtful regulation that addresses necessary human and environmental protections," said Schmuki.

DesChene will also work with advanced sculpture students to create "EcoBots" which are designed to emphasize the irrationality of actual biotech products.

There will be a discussion of food sources and a demonstration of the students' "EcoBots" on Wednesday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. at the Russell Union Rotunda.

Schmuki and DesChene use their entertaining, artistic presentation with remote-controlled, robotic plants to get people to question where their food comes from and how it gets on their plates. Learn more about their parody and satire by visiting www.monsantra.com. This program is supported by CLEC (Campus Life Enrichment Community) and student activity funds.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 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 approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

[< Previous](#)

[Next >](#)



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Congratulations to #GeorgiaSouthern @GSCOSM alumnus Nick Wiley ('83) who was recently named the chief conservation officer of @DucksUnlimited ! ow.ly/BhVW30hkDJR



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Assistant Director of Public Safety Completes FBI Training

APRIL 12, 2013

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Georgia Southern University Assistant Director of Public Safety Maj. Laura McCullough graduated recently from the FBI National Academy (FBINA) at Quantico, Va. She is the first police officer from Georgia Southern to participate in the 10 week investigative, management and fitness training program.

For eight hours a day, McCullough attended classes on a wide range of subjects including legal issues, interrogation, ethics and leadership. "I loved this experience and learned a lot of new techniques and skills that can be put into practice by our officers," said McCullough, who has been in law enforcement for 13 years. "We had great learning opportunities from veteran FBI agents who shared their experiences and methods they have used to solve crimes and catch criminals."

Some of the FBINA training reinforced some of the practices and procedures already in place at Public Safety. There were also areas to develop new investigative skills. "One class taught us to not only listen to what someone says, but how they say it or what they don't say at all," explained McCullough. "That, along with body language and facial expression, can tell us a lot about what may have happened in an incident. I can share this information with our officers as we help victims and solve crimes at Georgia Southern."

The FBI National Academy was also a great networking opportunity for McCullough that allowed her to create new relationships with veteran investigators. "My FBI instructors and classmates told me 'Anytime you need something, call or email because we are here for you,'" said McCullough. "That is a great resource for us. We have instant access and contact with people in the FBI from the forensics labs to field agents. This is a huge bonus to help our department move forward and become stronger."

McCullough was one of 268 local law enforcement officers from the U.S. and around the world to graduate from the training program last month. She was recommended for the National Academy by Statesboro FBI Special Agent Ed Sutcliff.

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[< Previous](#)

[Next >](#)



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[Home](#) > [Awards and Recognition](#) > Students Named Gates Millennium Scholars

Students Named Gates Millennium Scholars

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Three students from Georgia Southern University have been selected for the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The program works to reduce financial barriers for minority students with high academic and leadership promise. The scholarship recipients are Natasha Lambert, Jessica Lyne Mulbah and Elvia Carina Munoz.

Lambert is a graduate student studying public health and is just a few weeks away from earning her master's degree. "To be a Gates Millennium Scholar means to attain your educational goals successfully without being burdened by financial fees," explained Lambert. "It means to give back to others through volunteering and to stay abreast of current issues within your discipline through conferences and social networks."

Since its founding in 1999, GMS has awarded more than \$700 million in scholarships to more than 16,000 students. The organization reports its scholars have achieved a five year graduation rate of 80 percent and a six year rate of 90 percent over the last decade. The scholarships are renewable for up to five years in any undergraduate program and into graduate school in the disciplines of computer science, education, engineering, library sciences, mathematics, public health or science.

"Being a GMS has inspired me to always strive for the best and never settle for less," said Lambert. "The scholarship has allowed me to achieve my dreams to study abroad in Mexico and Spain as an undergraduate. As a scholarship recipient, I am encouraged to succeed and always willing to learn more."

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