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## Newsroom

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[Home](#) > [Press Releases](#) > Georgia Southern Hosts Parliament Members from Ghana

# Georgia Southern Hosts Parliament Members from Ghana

FEBRUARY 26, 2014

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Georgia Southern University hosted three honorary members of the Parliament of Ghana on campus Monday as a part of an organized training tour studying democratic governance in the Georgia Assembly and other state institutions.

College of Business Administration faculty member William Amponsah, Ph.D., and Russell Keen, vice president for Government Relations and Community Engagement led the committee that coordinated the delegates' visit. In addition to touring Georgia Southern's campus, the delegates also met with Provost Jean Bartels, College of Business Administration Dean Allen Amason, Ph.D., Statesboro Mayor Jan Moore and representatives from Georgia Southern's Office of International Programs.

The Ghana delegates included the Honorable Emmanuel K. Bedzrah, chairman of the Government Assurances Committee, the Honorable John O.K. Bless and Dr. Emmanuel Akrofi-Tibo, assistant clerk to the committee. The delegates' visit offered opportunities to learn about oversight, ethics and accountability in government operations.



"We are here to learn about your institution and what makes your government and democracy work. Everyone is looking up to America and we want to learn and also improve upon our working parliament," said Bedzrah.

"I'm impressed by the number of programs offered and the volume of students at Georgia Southern University. International students, including African students come here from all over the world. When I get back to Ghana, I will encourage more and more people to come and learn here," said O.K. Bless.

The nation of Ghana has

demonstrated keen interest in advancing democratic principles in its development strategies. It is often referred to as the torchbearer of African democracy.

As a result, the nation was rewarded by President Obama in July 2009 with his first visit to a Sub-Saharan African nation as President.

Following the visit to Statesboro, the Ghanaian delegation will travel to the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government for further training and then proceed to Atlanta to the Georgia Assembly and related institutions.

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](http://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](https://ow.ly/BhVW30hkDJR)



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[Home](#) > [Press Releases](#) > The Institute for Coastal Plain Science to host "Beneath the Waves Mini-Film Festival"

# The Institute for Coastal Plain Science to host "Beneath the Waves Mini-Film Festival"

FEBRUARY 26, 2014

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The Georgia Southern University Institute for Coastal Plain Science will explore marine life when it hosts "Beneath the Waves Mini-Film Festival" in conjunction with the Center for Sustainability on March 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Russell Union theater.

The unique marine science and conservation event, which is free and open to the public, will feature stunning footage of manta rays, sharks, Northern Right Whales, coral reefs, salt marshes and many other organisms and ecosystems. In addition, seven short films ranging from five to 15 minutes will address both regional and international ocean issues.

"We had so many great films to choose from that it was extremely difficult to narrow the list down to just a few. What this means, however, is that we have some films with great footage of undersea life that also relay important messages about ocean health," said Danny Gleason, director of the Institute for Coastal Plain Science at Georgia Southern and one of the film festival co-organizers.

Afterward, there will be an opportunity to discuss the films with ocean experts that include Mary Conley, director of marine conservation for the Southeastern U.S. at the Nature Conservancy; Michael Denmark, executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association of Georgia and local sport fisherman; Scott Noakes, research scientist at the University of Georgia; George Sedberry, superintendent of Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and Gleason.

The films shown will be provided by the Beneath the Waves Inc., a unique student-run, nonprofit organization that has solicited hundreds of films from all over the world and has connected thousands of people from all walks of life and locations with the stories and issues facing our oceans. The event is funded in part with student sustainability fees.

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