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## Newsroom

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# Armstrong State University Professor Kurt Knoerl featured speaker at R. Frank Saunders, Jr. Fall History Lecture

OCTOBER 17, 2017

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Kurt Knoerl, Ph.D.

Georgia Southern University's Department of History will host Kurt Knoerl, Ph.D., assistant professor of history at Armstrong State University, as the featured speaker at the [R. Frank Saunders, Jr. Fall history Lecture](#) at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17 in Room 2071 of the Arts Building.

Knoerl's talk, titled "The Online Museum of Underwater Archaeology: Public Outreach and the Internet," will focus on the online [Museum of Underwater Archaeology](#) (MUA), which he founded in 2004.

Since its incorporation, the MUA has helped hundreds of researchers publish more than 300 pages of content viewed in more than 90 countries worldwide. Through online exhibits, public lectures and education materials, the MUA has helped educate the public about the need to preserve maritime past.

Knoerl is an expert in maritime history and the Director of the MUA. Since it was founded, the museum has made efforts to bring the work of underwater archaeologists to the general public through web-based exhibits. The museum also assists professional, student and avocational underwater archaeologists by creating museum style exhibits, briefs, journals and blog postings on the internet.

Knoerl has been with the Department of History at Armstrong State University since August and teaches classes in United States and Georgia Political History, First Year Experience, and Digital History at both the undergraduate and graduate level. He previously was an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun and Manassas Campuses.

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We're excited to welcome civil rights activist, attorney and political commentator Bakari Sellers for the 2018 MLK Celebration! Sellers will present on intersectional activism Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. [ow.ly/QoPn30hj2cx](https://ow.ly/QoPn30hj2cx)



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# Department of Biology researchers bring fish hatchery back to life

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Although the Bo Ginn Fish Hatchery has been idle for many years, the Georgia Southern Department of Biology will soon put it to use to conduct cutting-edge research.

The University signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to allow University biology students and faculty to use the facility, located in Magnolia Springs near Millen, Georgia, as a resource to better understand the future of ecosystems in the southeastern U.S.

Lance McBrayer, associate dean for Research in the College of Science and Mathematics, said the University is excited to work with the USFWS.

"Our relationship with USFWS and the Bo Ginn Hatchery will substantially increase the research infrastructure available to our faculty and students."

Associate Professor of biology Checo Colon-Gaud, Ph.D., is leading the initial work at the site. He believes the hatchery is the perfect place to conduct research in the area.

"The many impoundments at the site, which can be filled with water or drained as needed, offer a perfect setting for experiments in aquatic ecology," said Colon-Gaud.

Most of the experiments will address a basic prediction of climate change. Ephemeral ponds, those that fill from rainfall but dry out weeks or months later, are vital habitats for many species in the southeastern U.S. Yet, changes in rainfall due to climate change are expected to cause these ponds to fill for shorter periods of time or to hold water less predictably. Colon-Gaud and others will conduct experiments to quantify the impacts of such changes on aquatic life.

"The key question is whether animals such as amphibians and insects can complete their life cycles as ponds dry out faster or fill less predictably," said Colon-Gaud. "The hatchery gives us the ability to manipulate the duration of flooding in many ponds at once so we can measure how aquatic communities respond."

The significance of these ephemeral ponds extends well beyond the water's edge. Many insects that start life as aquatic larvae become adults that leave the pond and move into surrounding fields and forests. There they become an important food source for terrestrial animals such as reptiles and birds.

"Although we are studying the ecology of ephemeral ponds, this may be the key to the health of surrounding forests," said Colon-Gaud.

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## Newsroom

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# National Youth-at-Risk West Conference set for Oct. 26-28 in San Antonio

OCTOBER 17, 2017

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Georgia Southern's College of Education, Division of Continuing Education and [Youth Today](#) have partnered to bring the National Youth-at-Risk West Conference to San Antonio, Texas, October 26-28.

Conference participants will be trained to create safe, healthy, caring and intellectually empowering environments that foster the well-being of all children and adolescents. The conference will give participants the opportunity to experience the latest research, teaching methods and tools for working with at-risk youth populations.

The conference will feature five different strands including Rural Settings, Urban Settings, School Climate, ESOL Programs, and a new strand this year, Juvenile Justice. The Juvenile Justice strand is focused on prevention and the integration of youth into school settings and other topics concerning justice for youth-at-risk.

Steven Edwards, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker for the conference. Edwards is a leader nationally recognized by *USA Today* for his innovative approach to education. He has successfully implemented numerous programs to improve student performance during his 16-year tenure as a school administrator. Edwards has been instrumental in helping countless school districts tailor similar programs with positive, far-reaching results. In addition, Edwards is an internationally recognized keynote speaker, facilitator and trainer regularly featured as a content expert on television and radio including appearances on CNN, addressing topics such as 21st Century teaching and learning, school climate, and educational reform for a globalized world.

Other speakers for the conference can be found at <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ce/conferences/nyar-west/>.

The National Youth-At-Risk West Conference is calling all people interested in the wellbeing of youth to attend. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers of all levels, principals and assistant principals, school counselors and psychologists, health and human service counselors and personnel, criminal justice professionals, business and community leaders, volunteer service providers, marriage and family therapists, public health professionals, and social workers.

For more information on the conference, or to register, visit <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ce/conferences/nyar-west/>.

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