

Newsroom

November 2, 2017

Georgia Southern University

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Fall events slated for the Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern

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Fall Plant Sale, Nov. 4-5

Find the perfect plants to beautify your yard during the Botanic Garden's annual Fall Plant Sale, set for Nov 4-5.

Although spring may seem like the ideal time to plant, Garden experts say it is now, when plants have a chance to root in before the hard work of making leaves and fruit during the warmer months. During the plant sale, the Garden will have experts on hand to offer advice and help pick plants for your needs.

All proceeds support the Garden's educational and horticultural programs.

The sale is open Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 5, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Lunch and Learn, Nov. 14

Are mushrooms more related to people than plants? Where do they grow? How can you grow them? How can you eat them?

Learn the answers to these questions and many other fungi facts at the Garden's "When it Rains, it Spores" Lunch and Learn event at noon, Tuesday, Nov. 14, featuring regionally recognized mushroom expert Ancil Jacques.

Jacques is the go-to-guy on fungi in our area, and forages and grows mushrooms to provide them to regional restaurants. Enjoy a lunch at the Garden while Ancil shares useful information on popular fungi.

The cost of the Lunch and Learn event is \$20, and includes lunch and the lecture. Reservations are required and can be made at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/garden/events.

Poinsettia Sale, ongoing through Nov. 15

The Garden's popular poinsettia sale is underway, and pre-orders can be made online through Nov. 15.

Choose from large, florist-quality varieties including the traditional red and white, pink, ice punch, jingle bell, marble and tapestry poinsettias to help with your holiday decorating and gift giving.

Pickup is from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Garden, and free delivery is available for orders of 10 or more plants. View varieties and order at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/garden/events.

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As you walk through Sweetheart Circle on Friday, Nov. 10, you might notice a flood of red, white and blue lining the walkway through the Circle. These 491 flags, representing each of the veteran and military students at Georgia Southern, signify the second annual Veterans Day ceremony at the University.

The Georgia Southern University Military and Veteran Student Center (MVSC) will host the Veterans Day ceremony on Friday at 9 a.m. on Sweetheart Circle. Guests are encouraged to arrive early for seating. If inclement weather should occur, the ceremony will take place in the Williams Center Multipurpose Room.

Master of Ceremonies, ROTC Cadet and military student advocate Woo Jung, will begin the celebration. The Georgia Southern Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform followed by speakers Maj. Jeremy Horstman and Staff Sgt. (Ret.) John Kitchens.

Horstman, program director for the [Veteran's Business Outreach Center \(VBOC\)](#), is a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard and has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was named [2017 Veteran Small Business Champion](#) by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Georgia District Office and continues to help VBOC grow at the University. Horstman was recently appointed Deputy Inspector General for the Georgia National Guard and currently serves as the Chief of Inspections at the Georgia Joint Force Headquarters.

Kitchens, a Purple Heart recipient, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and deployed four times throughout his military career, serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The Statesboro native is a graduate of the Georgia Southern College of Business and a soon-to-be Double Eagle this December. Kitchens currently works as a graduate assistant in the Office of Career Services.

Freedom, the University's live Bald Eagle mascot, is also expected to make an appearance.

Immediately following the ceremony, 13 members of the Student Veterans Association (SVA) will march 36 miles on foot to the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville, Georgia, and meet up with the Glennville Boy Scouts to place flags on the graves of fallen soldiers. This march, known as the "Ruck to Remember," was developed by Erik Burkett, an Army veteran and the vice president of the SVA on campus.

"The ceremony is an annual ceremony meant to honor not only our veteran students, but also the faculty and staff who have served at Georgia Southern," said Director of Military Affairs, Justin Williams. "It is our responsibility to not only remember the sacrifices of our veterans, but also to respect the freedoms that their sacrifices guaranteed."

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 118 degree programs serving 20,673 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. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

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Theatre Alumna named Kenny Leon Fellowship recipient

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Theatre alumna Ibiwumi "Ibi" Owolabi ('15) has recently been awarded the Kenny Leon Fellowship.

The Kenny Leon Fellowship, named after the Tony Award-winning Broadway director Kenny Leon, is given annually to an early-career theatre artist of color. As a recipient of the fellowship, Owolabi will have the opportunity to work as an assistant director and even direct some shows at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, where Leon previously served as the former artistic director.

As a student Owolabi worked on and off stage in the theatre program. She developed as a young director during her undergraduate program in major program productions such as "Metamorphosis" and her student one act "The Dutchman." She was also involved with the productions of "Death of a Salesman," "The Birds," "Barefoot in the Park," and "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," among others.

In addition to these shows, Owolabi also participated in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SDC) fellowship. Through this program she was invited to Washington D.C. to participate in the National Festival as one of 10 students nationwide.

"It's an amazing, life-changing opportunity at the biggest theatre in Atlanta, which has already given me so many opportunities to direct, and work with renowned directors from across the U.S.," said Owolabi. "I feel very blessed to be the fellow. It's an amazing feeling to do what you love, and even more amazing when you're encouraged to do it."

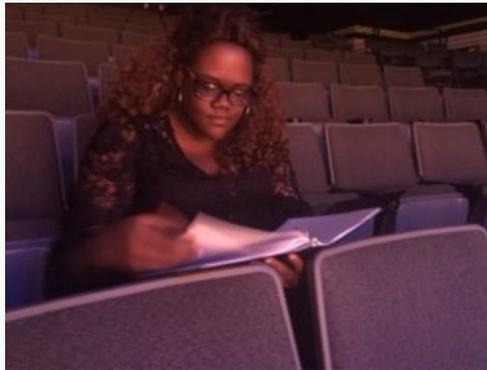
According to Owolabi's former professor Lisa Abbott, associate chair of the Department of Communication Arts, it's no surprise Owolabi was selected for the Kenny Leon Fellowship.

"This is a very high profile fellowship and is a great example of how successful our students are in the professional industry," said Abbott. "The Theatre and Performance program at Georgia Southern is a generalist program that helps students develop an overall competency in theatre while giving them the freedom to select specific courses that help identify their focus. For Ibi this included faculty recognizing her potential as a director, creating specific opportunities for her to learn the craft and practice it, and guiding her toward internships, conferences and other outside programs that would help her post graduation."

Owolabi credits her time at Georgia Southern for much of her success as a young director.

"I can definitely say with full confidence that the things I learned at Georgia Southern gave me a great head start in my field," said Owolabi. "When I was in school, I learned the technical parts of theatre as a whole and directing, but I also learned how to be present in a room, how to be collaborative with my fellow technicians and how to analyze a script down to it's bones."

"I also was introduced to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival through my school, and with guidance from Lisa [Abbott], and great actors from our program, went on to the nationals in Washington [D.C.], and got invited back the year after for a playwright intensive," she added. "That festival put me in contact with Freddie Ashley, who is the artistic director of Actor's Express in Atlanta, which started my career there after graduation."



Owolabi plans to continue her theatre career with hopes of creating theatre pieces that reflect modern-day politics.

"I love developing that collaborative atmosphere with my creative team and my actors," said Owolabi. "I love the discoveries made in the text when everyone is focused on making the play live. And mostly, I love that I'm still learning."

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