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# Georgia Southern, USG highlight ethical culture through Ethics Awareness Week

November 11, 2019



Georgia Southern and the University System of Georgia (USG) are committed to the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct in pursuit of its mission to create knowledge. Accomplishing this mission demands integrity, good judgment and dedication to public service from all members of the USG community. Annually, the USG highlights this commitment through an Ethics Awareness Week which is scheduled this year for November 11–17. The purpose of this week is to remind employees of our commitment to an ethical culture and our shared ethical values and expectations.

Chancellor Steve Wrigley has emphasized the importance of an ethical culture and how it is critical to the success of not only our institutions, but our employees, students, communities and ultimately how Georgia is educated.

Ethics Awareness Week is part of a comprehensive Ethics and Compliance Program. This Program includes a system-level Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct, on-board ethics training, periodic ethics refresher training, compliance audits, special reviews and an Ethics and Compliance Reporting Hotline.

In support of this effort, Georgia Southern University will host activities to build upon our ethical culture by promoting activities related to our system-wide shared core values of integrity, excellence, accountability and respect. We will emphasize that, in addition to our ethical values, our Code of Conduct is the foundation of the USG's priorities of degree attainment, affordability and efficiency.

Activities during this week will bring awareness to ethics, reinforce the principles of recognizing the hard work of employees, and promote our shared values. Our theme for this week is the **"SPIRIT of USG."** Activities planned will emphasize:

**Stewardship. Prevention. Integrity. Responsibility. Inspiration. Trust.**

Following each video, viewers can answer a trivia question that will enter them into a drawing providing a prize for the first three viewers who answer correctly.

For more information regarding the SPIRIT of USG activities, visit the [Georgiasouthern.edu/EthicsAwareness](https://Georgiasouthern.edu/EthicsAwareness).

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities.

Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu)

## [Georgia Southern researchers receive major grant, aim to improve water quality monitoring on Georgia beaches](#)

November 11, 2019

Georgia Southern University researchers Asli Aslan, Ph.D., and Haresh Rochani, DrPH, of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) and Risa Cohen, Ph.D., of the College of Science and Mathematics, received a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) for a new research project at the Georgia Coast.

The one-year, \$80,000 project will investigate the feasibility of adopting a rapid molecular method to replace the existing culture-based method used for statewide beach water quality monitoring. The current method to detect bacteria in beach water requires days to post a beach advisory after initial sampling. This delay in reporting causes misinformation on the actual water quality of a beach at a given time. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests that the results from the new method are better predictors of the occurrence of gastrointestinal illness among swimmers at beaches.

The interdisciplinary team from Georgia Southern will include undergraduate and graduate students, and will partner with the scientists at the GA DNR Water Quality Laboratory throughout the project.

“This is a great opportunity for Georgia Southern students to network with professionals and improve their skills at the field and the laboratory while practicing their research communication skills,” said Aslan.

The project is expected to advance statewide water quality monitoring, fulfilling a major need for the coastal Georgia economy, which is heavily dependent on tourism. If the state of Georgia decides to adopt the rapid molecular method as their statewide monitoring method, same-day reporting to inform the public on current water quality would be possible and offer a more precise method to prevent exposure to waterborne diseases among swimmers. There are currently only a few states nationwide that have adopted the rapid molecular method to their beach monitoring programs.

The mission of JPHCOPH is to improve health, eliminate health disparities and health inequities of rural communities and underserved populations globally through excellence in teaching, public health workforce development, research, scholarship, professional service and community engagement.

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