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# Celebrating 20 Years of Patti Pace Performance Festival

January 24, 2020



Photo credit: Lauryn Robertson

The 20th Patti Pace Performance Festival, a non-competitive performance festival that allows students and professionals from different schools to work together to create and workshop a performance, will be held on Georgia Southern University's Armstrong Campus in Jenkins Hall Jan. 31- Feb. 1.

This year's theme is "Moving Photographs: Performing Our Storied Histories." Participants will be led by Georgia Southern alumna, Melanie Kitchens O'Meara, who is currently an assistant professor at Augusta University. O'Meara has acted as the festival organizer since 2008.

"Our students will be fortunate to have a festival workshop and performance experience under O'Meara's guidance," said festival coordinator and associate professor in the Department of Communication Arts Rebecca Kennerly, Ph.D. "She has provided a steady hand, strong continuity and inspiration as the festival traveled year-to-year to different host universities."

Patti Pace Performance Festival was originally created by Patricia Pace, a former professor and theatre director at Georgia Southern University. The Department of Communication Arts aims to continue Pace's legacy and bringing the festival to a new audience on the Armstrong Campus.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 26,000 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).

## [Armstrong Campus' Southern Cafe, aquaponics farm-to-table partnership offers sustainable, healthy food options](#)

January 24, 2020



Ryan Brzycki, Assistant Director of Eagle Dining services and SARC curator Brigette Brinton sort through produce to be used at the Southern Cafe on the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus.

The newest restaurant on the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus offers diners comfort in knowing that some of the ingredients were grown just a few hundred yards away in the campus' aquaponics farm in the Sustainable Aquaponics Research Center (SARC).

The agriculture and food industry is one of the largest users of water and producers of greenhouse gas emissions, but growing food by using aquaponics, a system of growing produce by using water fertilized by fish, cuts down on both significantly.

“SARC produce only travels a quarter mile from where it’s grown,” SARC curator Brigette Brinton said. “Locally grown food offers large advantages in terms of increased sustainability and freshness, and SARC produce is grown organically and using sound ecological principles that minimize water consumption.”

Brinton said minimizing emissions and water use does not diminish the quality or taste of the produce. To the contrary, it makes the food taste better because aquaponics produce often has higher concentrations of various compounds that give the foods their flavor, and they are grown in more ideal environments.



Students on the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus enjoy some of the healthy offerings from the Southern Cafe.

Although the dining hall on the Armstrong Campus has been using vegetables and produce from SARC since 2018, Southern Cafe will feature the products as a centerpiece of the restaurant. Availability of aquaponics produce, however, will depend on what is in season.

“President Marrero’s strategic plan directly speaks about sustainability, and we’re able to do that through our relationship with the

aquaponics farm,” Ryan Brzycki, Assistant Director of Eagle Dining services, said. “After hearing feedback from the students, we’ve also tried to position Southern Cafe as a leader on campus in regards to using eco-friendly products for all of our containers and disposables, so that’s another huge impact we can make on this campus.”

The restaurant, which is located in the University Court area of the Memorial College Center, will have counter service and serve classic, southern dishes, such as Brunswick stew and chicken pot pie, as well as soups, salads, paninis and desserts. Brzycki said the Southern Cafe will focus on two other strategic pillars, teaching and research and community engagement, in addition to sustainability.

“Students and faculty are actively involved in research at that facility, and you can take a tour of it,” Brzycki said. “As people find out about Southern Cafe’s partnership with the aquaponics farm, we can further engagement by teaching people about what aquaponics is and how it can be used.”

Brzycki said Eagle Dining wants to expand on using ultra-local, fresh produce and vegetables, as a part of the partnership with the aquaponics farm.

“When we consider redesigns of existing or new dining locations on the Armstrong Campus in the future, we want to see how we can incorporate these same principles,” he said. “But for now, Southern Cafe is the flagship unit for the aquaponics partnership, as well as sustainability and healthy eating, of Eagle Dining.”

Brinton said she hopes the Southern Cafe will inspire the students, faculty and staff who eat there to make healthier and more sustainable choices in other areas of their lives.

“Showcasing local, sustainable produce increases students’ awareness that there are better options, and Georgia Southern is going the extra mile to show them how to start making better choices,” she said. “Each time students see they made a sustainable choice at the Southern Cafe, they’re more likely to choose sustainable options on their own.”

Tags: [College of Science and Mathematics](#), [Eagle Dining](#), [SARC](#)

## [Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Eta Sigma Gamma chapter receives national award](#)

January 24, 2020

The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG) chapter has been presented with a 2020 Chapter Achievement Award.

Eta Sigma Gamma is a national honorary society for the profession of health education, and the mission is to elevate the highest standards, ideals, competence and ethics of professionally trained practitioners in the health education discipline through teaching and education, service and research.

“The Gamma Upsilon chapter of ESG is very honored to receive this award,” said associate professor Joanne Chopak-Foss, Ph.D. “This is the first national recognition that we have received in 23 years of being a chapter. Thank you to our former officers who have graduated.”

Chopak-Foss and assistant professor Tilicia Mayo-Gamble, Ph.D., serve as co-sponsors of the ESG chapter on the Statesboro Campus. Current student members are Caycie Allison, Taraya Bratton, Markiyah Davis, Lajuana Osborne, Ashley Reyes and Paige Simmons. Associate professor Nandi Marshall, DrPH, will serve as the chapter sponsor for the new Epsilon Omega chapter on the Armstrong Campus.

The award will be presented in March at the Eta Sigma Gamma Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia.