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Department of Sociology and Anthropology to screen film as part of global pop-up exhibition

February 17, 2020



Film Screening! Don't Miss Out!

This documentary film event about the undocumented migration experience is FREE and open to the public at Georgia Southern University.
Please join us!

Armstrong Campus:
Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020 @ 6 PM - Armstrong Center Auditorium

Statesboro Campus:
Thursday, Feb 20, 2020 @ 6 PM - Interdisciplinary Academic Building 1020

Sponsors for this event are:

- Campus Life Enrichment Committee
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Political Science and International Studies
- Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
- School of Human Ecology

Free event parking after 5 PM

#HT94GASouthern #BorderSouthFilm #HT94



The Georgia Southern University Department of Sociology and Anthropology will screen *Border South*, a documentary about migration in Mexico and parts of Central America. The screening is part of the Undocumented Migration Project's global pop-up exhibition, "Hostile Terrain 94," which will be featured on the Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses during the upcoming fall semester.

"As an anthropologist, I believe in the power of film to connect us to people with different lived experiences and perspectives," said Kara Bridgman Sweeney, Ph.D., lecturer of anthropology. "This film has the potential to shine a light on the ongoing humanitarian crisis at the southern border of the United States."

The film, which will be shown on the Armstrong and Statesboro campuses on Feb. 19 and 20 respectively, follows Mexican-immigrant filmmaker Raúl O. Paz Pastrana on a four-year journey along migrant routes. Pastrana connected with people who shared their experiences along the way. It was awarded the Best Feature Award at the Society for Visual Anthropology and the Audience Award at the Indie Memphis Film Festival.

"We get an intimate view of different experiences along migration trails from southern Mexico to the southern border of the United States," Sweeney said. "The people who so generously shared their stories for

this film are often dealing with harsh conditions and realities. Still we observe acts of kindness and mutual support, and we see there are benefits to finding humor in stressful situations.”

“Hostile Terrain 94” is a participatory art exhibit that will take place in more than 100 locations around the world between June and November 2020, including the Armstrong and Statesboro campuses of Georgia Southern. The exhibit features 20-foot-long maps of the Arizona-Mexico border populated with 3,500 hand-written toe tags that represent the recovered bodies of people who have died between 2000 and 2020 crossing the U.S./Mexico border through the Sonoran Desert.

Border South will be shown on the Armstrong Campus at 6 p.m. in the Armstrong Center Auditorium and on the Statesboro Campus at 6 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Academic Building room 1020. For more information on the film, visit <https://bordersouthfilm.com/>.

Tags: [College of Behavioral and Social Sciences](#), [Department of Sociology and Anthropology](#)

[How four Georgia Southern students used jewelry to earn \\$5,000 scholarships](#)

February 17, 2020

Parker College of Business students named ‘Top Team’ in National Retail Foundation Challenge



Cayley Creekmore, Anna Tiller, Woodley White and Shannon Foote accept the “Top Team” Award at the National Retail Foundation Student Challenge.

Photo Courtesy of National Retail Foundation

More than eight months of teamwork and a jewelry line concept earned four Parker College of Business students a \$5,000 scholarship each after they were named the Top Team during the annual National Retail Foundation (NRF) Student Challenge.

Cayley Creekmore, Shannon Foote, Anna Tiller and Woodley White were recognized in front of hundreds of top executives and celebrities from the retail industry in New York City for their work on a case study that involved Akola, a jewelry company in Dallas, Texas, that empowers women in Uganda by providing them the skills to earn a living wage to support their families.

The group acted as members of Akola's product development team to develop a complete business plan for a jewelry line, which they created and built from concept and design to product packaging and delivery. The team also created a \$10,000 budget plan to take the goods to market and determine the logistics of producing the jewelry in Uganda and shipping them to the U.S.

Additionally, the team had to select a retailer to carry the line and create a 30-page pitch deck along with a 90-second pitch video to present to buyers of Free People, the team's selected retailer.

"My experience with the NRF Student Challenge has been an experience I will never forget," said Tiller. "While participating, my teammates and I were able to take what we learned in the classroom and apply it to a real-world scenario, which isn't always as easy as it sounds."

The team began working on the project in April 2019, diligently working through the summer into the fall before making their initial submission in late September. They continued working on the project into January as they made their way further into the competition.

"The NRF Challenge is a major time commitment for the students," said Kathleen Gruben, Ph.D., the faculty advisor for the team. "Students who participate in the challenge are stretched well beyond their comfort zones into elements of the business and retail industry that they don't yet understand and can't learn in a classroom."

This is the second team from Georgia Southern to win the NRF Challenge, Gruben said, noting this year, students had to apply to be a part of the team and were selected based on GPA, potential to succeed, reputation for a strong work ethic and major.

"We strive to find students who have different skill sets that match well with the various elements and requirements for the project," Gruben said. "While students like to work in teams with their friends, these students were total strangers when the project began."

As strangers, the students had to build trust with one another and rely on each other for their project to be successful.

"This entire experience with NRF has certainly enhanced my appreciation for teamwork," said Creekmore. "I've earned this amazing opportunity to work with other young professionals from an entirely different mindset than mine, and it has really been eye-opening. Each of us has something to contribute, and it's just up to us to take the opportunity to learn."

A mentor from KPMG, the challenge's sponsor, was also assigned to the student team as they worked on their project.

"As the Georgia Southern team started to put the meat on the bones of this year's challenge, I saw that they had something special in their WISH line, and was blown away with the creativity in the initial submission,"

said Renee Howard, the group’s KPMG mentor. “I was shocked to learn that they really didn’t know each other well before this project, which made their success even more impressive. For four virtual strangers to come together, mobilize and create such an outstanding product in such a compressed time frame speaks volumes about not only the talent of these women but their character.”

Gruben agreed, adding how impressed she was with their work ethic.

“It was an incredible opportunity working with these young ladies,” Gruben said. “The biggest reward I get from advising the team is seeing the students transition from students who are still a little unsure of themselves to young professionals ready to tackle the world. Their growth through this project was amazing.”

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.

[Georgia Southern educational leadership faculty recognized for international award](#)

February 17, 2020



Georgia Southern University’s Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D., associate professor of educational leadership, is one of only three individuals internationally to receive the 2020 Annuity Coeptis Senior Professional Award from the American College Personnel Association — College Student Educators International (ACPA).

The award recognizes senior student affairs professionals for demonstrated excellence in administrative service or teaching, research and publications, professional service and leadership.

“To be recognized by ACPA, the professional organization I’ve belonged to since I was a graduate student is especially rewarding,” said Calhoun. “Being a teacher is not something I really think about doing, it is just who I am. So much of what we do in the field of education isn’t always tangible, so reading what colleagues and students said about me in their nomination letters was both surreal and humbling.”

A member of the College of Education (COE) faculty for more than nine years, Calhoun serves as the director of the M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration program and co-director of the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. In Calhoun's nomination packet for the ACPA award, 24 letters of recommendation were compiled from current and former students, student affairs professionals, and faculty members spanning from his current role at Georgia Southern, to his previous positions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Queens University of Charlotte and Western Illinois University.

"The abundance of recommendation letters for Dr. Calhoun is very telling of the impact he has had within the field," said COE colleague and assistant professor of educational leadership Steven Tolman, Ed.D. "We are extremely proud to see him recognized on a national level for the dedication and service we have seen from him on a daily basis here on the educational leadership team."

Calhoun has served as committee chair for 15 completed doctoral dissertations as well as the current chair of seven in-progress dissertations. His service as a committee member of dissertations and directed research projects spans over 40 students. Calhoun often collaborates with current and former students of the educational leadership graduate programs for research and was published in three peer-reviewed journals as well as a book chapter and two book reviews in 2019.

"I enjoy working with students in and outside of the classroom," said Calhoun. "It is my hope that through appropriate challenge and support, by providing concrete connections between theory and practice, and by providing mentorship and guidance, my students become active learners and leaders within higher education or the K-12 system."

Award winners will be honored at the 2020 ACPA Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in March.

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