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[Georgia Southern Department of Writing and Linguistics to host nationally published poet](#)

November 4, 2020



Tiana Clark

The Georgia Southern University Department of Writing and Linguistics will host poet Tiana Clark at two virtual events on Thursday, Nov. 12. A Q&A and a poetry reading with Clark will be available for free on Zoom from 2 to 3 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., respectively.

Clark, who has authored the collections *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood* and *Equilibrium*, has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Washington Post* and *BuzzFeed News*, among others. She also teaches creative writing at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

The events, which are also sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit, are available at cah.georgiasouthern.edu/writling/2020/10/26/georgia-poetry-circuit-presents-tiana-clark/.

Tags: [College of Arts and Humanities](#), [Department of Writing and Linguistics](#)

[Library of Congress now home to collection of Georgia Southern Libraries journals](#)

November 4, 2020

A collection of 12 journals published by the Georgia Southern University Libraries are now housed in the Library of Congress. The journals, authored by teaching and research faculty, will be permanently available in the Microfilm and Electronic Resources Center (MERC) in Washington, D.C., and may become available through the Library of Congress' publicly accessible online catalog in the future.

The journals are:

- Association of Marketing Theory and Practice Proceedings
- Becoming: Journal of the Georgia Association for Middle Level Education
- Georgia Educational Researcher
- Georgia Journal of College Student Affairs
- International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

- Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association
- Journal of Student Success in Writing
- National Youth-At-Risk Journal
- Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators
- Proceedings of the Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching and Learning Conference
- Theory and Applications of Graphs

“The University Libraries are proud to support our teaching and research faculty,” said Dean of University Libraries Lisandra Carmichael, Ph.D. “The journals selected participate in and enrich the Library of Congress’ stated mission: ‘to acquire, protect and preserve works that support American innovation, knowledge and creativity.’ The selection of these online journals is an indicator of the maturity and significance of the journals and the management of the University’s institutional repository.”

The University Libraries currently publish [19 journals](#) via [Digital Commons@Georgia Southern](#). Digital Commons is an open-access digital repository that collects, archives and disseminates the intellectual and creative output of the University’s faculty, staff, students and community partners. Digital Commons hosts contributions from across the University and the community, including campus documents and publications, faculty and student research, conferences, journals, research data, news and more. Of the many collections in Digital Commons, our journals are some of the most heavily used, nationally and internationally. Since Digital Commons was established in 2010, more than 2,000 articles have been downloaded over 795,000 times by visitors from over 220 countries. Today, Digital Commons averages over 13,000 article downloads per month.

For more information, see the Libraries’ [Institutional Repository Services guide](#) or contact the department at (912) 478-4056 or digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

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.

Celebrating the first-generation experience

November 4, 2020

Dionna Williams is a newlywed, a soon-to-be mom and a first-generation student. The second oldest of six children, the Savannah resident graduated high school in 2018 and had no college plans until she realized how limited her options were.

“I did not want to work as a warehouse worker anymore,” Williams said. “I decided this was not for me.”

So last year, Williams made two big decisions. She joined the Air National Guard and enrolled at Georgia Southern University, becoming the first in her family to pursue a higher education degree. She chose Georgia Southern, she said, for its affordable tuition and academic reputation. Williams, who is expecting her first child in December, was honorably discharged from the military this fall and grants are helping her pay her college costs.

“I’m so blessed that I haven’t had to take out any loans,” said the communications studies major who grew up in a working-class family. Her mother went to high school but her father never finished. Williams recalled college was intimidating in the beginning because she didn’t have an immediate family role model to guide her through college successfully. She relied heavily on the various resources and information that Georgia Southern provides to help first-gen students succeed, and she joined the TRIO Student Support Services program on the Armstrong Campus.

“I joined on a whim,” Williams said. “But once I went into their office, it was an instant connection; a bond that I felt with the leadership there and the staff. I was able to join because I am first-gen, which I didn’t even know at the time. They have been amazing with guiding me through this process, and working with me and giving me options.”

Williams, a strong student with a 3.78 GPA, said Georgia Southern has provided her with a solid support system that has helped her succeed academically, even through the pandemic.

“Oh, it definitely impacted and turned my whole life upside down because I’m not the type of person to sit in front of a laptop,” she said. “It has taught me discipline. Even though the pandemic happened, school did not stop. We had to have assignments done. I have become a lot more disciplined because of it.”

The first-gen student also relies on her husband, Carlos, for support when she is feeling stressed out.

“My biggest worry is that I stop believing in myself because sometimes it gets a little stressful,” she said. “I get to the point where I’m like, OK, can I really do this while being a wife and a mom? But my husband has been my rock and he is not letting me give up on myself because he knows that this is what I really, really want.”

The sophomore is looking forward to completing her degree so that she can help others. Her original career goal was to become a broadcaster in local news, but now that she is working as a radio intern, Williams thinks a human resources management position in the radio industry will allow her to serve others by overseeing community service projects.



Dionna Williams

First-Generation College Celebration

Georgia Southern University is joining colleges across the country this week to celebrate the success of first-generation students. First-gen students are the first in their family to earn a college degree. In 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education and the Center for First-Generation Student Success launched the National First-Generation College Celebration, which is held on Nov. 8. That date marks the 55th anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act, which strengthened access to postsecondary education for first-generation and low-income students. Georgia Southern is hosting an entire week of events from Nov. 2 through Nov. 8. All members of the Georgia Southern community are welcome to participate in the activities that honors first-generation college students, faculty and staff.

[Engineering Design Challenge to be held virtually after postponement from April](#)

November 4, 2020



Wayne Johnson, Ph.D., examines a drone with mechanical engineering student Lydia Poole before the COVID-19 pandemic. Drones like this one will be used during the 2020 Engineering Design Challenge.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Georgia Southern University Engineering Design Challenge (EDC) 2020: Eagle — Remotely Operated Aerial Reconnaissance (ROAR) was moved to November 7 and will be presented virtually through Zoom at 1 p.m. It will also be recorded for future viewing.



The contest, which was originally going to be a drone race, will be scaled down with three high school teams participating. As in the original contest, teams were able to design their 3D-printable grappling systems, which the drones will use to pick up a payload, a weighted, 3D printed tripod. The systems were printed at Georgia Southern facilities.

However, the teams have now made video presentations about their designs and the mechanics of drone flight because the live flight portion of the contest couldn't be completed.

"The EDC 2020 Eagle — ROAR drone-themed competition was partly inspired by NASA's current mission to Mars, which is carrying a Mars rover appropriately named Perseverance," said Wayne Johnson, Ph.D., EDC director and mechanical engineering professor on the Armstrong Campus. "Perseverance is exactly what our EDC teams demonstrated. They have risen to the myriad of challenges posed not only by EDC, but also by the many COVID-19 related changes to how we work and interact with each other."

Five Georgia Southern engineering students and Gulfstream engineers provided guidance to the teams through virtual meetings.

"The use of virtual meeting resources played a vital role in allowing the students to continue their work in the fall," Johnson said. "They were already using these resources for their regular high school classes. Given the continued global footprint of various industries, our student teams gained valuable exposure to a distributed collaborative working environment."

Johnson said the College of Engineering and Computing hopes the EDC will showcase the opportunities offered to prospective students.

"The Armstrong Campus in Savannah is expanding our course offerings in mechanical engineering, so students can continue to live and work in Savannah while pursuing the first three years of their degree," Johnson said. "Regardless of the campus, the College of Engineering and Computing offers outstanding and dedicated faculty who will prepare students for whatever engineering challenges they may encounter once they leave our Eagle's nest."

To watch the online competition, RSVP at tiny.cc/virtualEDCRSVP.

Tags: [College of Engineering and Computing](#), [COVID-19](#), [Department of Mechanical Engineering](#)