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# Georgia leaders to speak as part of Georgia Southern's 2022 MLK Jr. commemorative events

January 13, 2022



The poster features a portrait of a man and the Statue of Liberty. The text reads: "THE OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PRESENTS VISIONS OF AMERICA LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE". Below this, it lists "2022 MLK Commemorative Events":

- EAGLES IN ACTION: MLK'S LEGACY OF SERVICE**  
Saturday, January 15 - Monday, January 17  
Statesboro Campus  
Co-sponsored by the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement
- MLK PARADE**  
City of Savannah Parade  
Monday, January 17
- MLK CELEBRATION DINNERS**  
Tuesday, January 25  
Nessmith Lane Center Ballroom  
8 p.m.  
Wednesday, January 26  
Student Union Ballroom  
8 p.m.
- Drum Major of Justice Award**  
The Inaugural "Drum Major of Justice Award" is to recognize individual student leaders and student organizations who best exemplify Dr. King's commitment and dedication to social justice.  
Nomination Deadline: Friday, January 14, 2022.

Scan for Event Sign-Up Links  
[https://linktr.ee/OMA\\_ARM](https://linktr.ee/OMA_ARM)

Questions? Email [oma@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:oma@georgiasouthern.edu)

Rev. Francys Johnson, J.D., ('01) and Amir-Jamal Touré, J.D., will serve as speakers during Georgia Southern's 2022 Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Celebration Dinners on Jan. 25 in Statesboro and Jan. 26 on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah, respectively.

Johnson is a civil rights attorney, public theologian, educator and advocate who succeeded Stacey Abrams and Raphael Warnock as chair of the New Georgia Project. Johnson will speak at the MLK Celebration Dinner on Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Nessmith-Lane Center Ballroom on the Statesboro Campus.

Touré is the resident scholar for Geechee Kunda Cultural Center and Museum in Riceboro, Georgia, and a Djeli (chronicler of Gullah Geechee history). He has performed internationally in sharing history and culture and is known for his work in socioeconomic, politics and social justice areas. Touré will speak

on Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah.

During the celebration dinners, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) will hand out inaugural Drum Major of Justice Awards, which will be given to student leaders and student organizations that OMA leadership determine best exemplify MLK's commitment to social justice.

In addition to the evening events, student, faculty and staff volunteers will join OMA and Office of Leadership and Community Engagement for a weekend of community service from Jan. 15 through Jan. 17 as part of the Eagles in Action: MLK's Legacy of Service initiative.

Limited in-person tickets are available to students, faculty and staff for the MLK Celebration dinner and speaker presentations. Please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at [oma@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:oma@georgiasouthern.edu) for more information.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approximately 140 different degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through 10 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](https://www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

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## [Georgia Southern professor awarded grant, tests new technology to curb exposure to carcinogenic dust particles on construction sites](#)

January 13, 2022

### *Research offers larger implications for health care environments*

Some of the most dangerous contaminants aren't visible to the naked eye, but Georgia Southern University researchers are working to protect construction workers from this invisible danger.

In the construction world, chronic exposure to crystalline silica, which is present in dust particles created from drilling, grinding and sawing on job sites, can lead to serious medical issues and preventable fatalities.

Atin Adhikari, Ph.D, associate professor in Georgia Southern's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, has been awarded a \$28,400 grant from Poma 22, LLC, to test new air curtain technology that could protect construction workers from hazardous fine dust particles.

As the principal investigator (PI), Adhikari will work with co-PIs Aniruddha Mitra, Ph.D, professor of mechanical engineering, and Saman Hedjazi, Ph.D, assistant professor of civil engineering and construction management, from Georgia Southern's Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing.

"This research is important and innovative because we will test a revolutionary technology against fine dust exposure in construction sites that integrates a filtered air duct system into a hard hat, creating an air curtain or armor," said Adhikari. "If we get a promising result, then this technology can be applied against other types of particles including bioparticles present in healthcare work environments."

Graduate research assistant Victoria Clower, who is earning a Master of Public Health in environmental health sciences, values her involvement in life-changing research.

“This study of new technology on dust exposure control in construction sites will be very valuable with the quantifiable results showing the effectiveness of the air curtain technology,” she said. “As someone who is interested in occupational health, I am excited to work on a study that may provide an opportunity for other innovations for workplace safety to improve.”

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational and Safety Health Administration estimates roughly 2.3 million people in the U.S. are exposed to silica at work. Workers at risk can develop lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and kidney disease. In addition, approximately 500 preventable silica-related deaths occur each year.

As an environmental public health researcher, Adhikari has published numerous peer-reviewed studies on air quality and filtration. This project will focus on testing a newly developed respiratory protection technology, the Z Flow Pro helmet, which provides a downward draft through the front of the helmet, creating an air curtain in front of the worker’s face. Previous research has found that the air curtain is strong enough to deflect larger, visible particles.

Adhikari and his team will conduct comprehensive field testing of this new technology to determine if it is also effective protection against fine particles, providing valuable information and justification on the readiness level of this product to protect construction workers.

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