

Georgia Southern Welcomes Pulitzer-prize Winning Columnist to Campus

FEBRUARY 16, 2015



Nicholas Kristof

[First-Year Experience \(FYE\)](#) at Georgia Southern University will present a lecture by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the [University's Performing Arts Center](#). The event is free and open to the public.

Kristof, a columnist for The New York Times, will discuss his latest book authored with Sheryl WuDunn, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*.

"Kristof brings a fresh perspective to making a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged in the United States and globally," said Dr. Chris Caplinger, director of FYE. "Kristof speaks frankly about the limitations of some forms of charity. Ultimately, though, he leaves us with a powerful call to action about how to engage effectively."

Though several Georgia Southern entities have partnered to bring Kristof to campus, Caplinger said that the [Student Abolitionist Movement \(SAM\)](#) was integral to coordinating the event. SAM President Claire Torrell initially suggested the idea of bringing Kristof to campus and will introduce him at the Georgia Southern presentation.

"For the past several years, students involved in SAM on campus have educated their peers about human trafficking, an issue that Kristof and WuDunn first addressed in an earlier book, *Half the Sky*," Caplinger said.

Students interested in meeting and having dinner with Kristof on the day of the event are invited to submit a question for the speaker. Participation is also encouraged on social media, using #GSUKristof.

In addition to SAM and FYE, the Feb. 23 event is sponsored by Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Campus Life Enrichment Committee, Center for the Study of International Schooling, Department of Communication Arts, Department of Foreign Languages, Center for International Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Political Science, University Honors Program, Department of Writing and Linguistics, Department of History, Office of Student Media, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College

of Business Administration, College of Health and Human Sciences, and College of Science and Mathematics.

Additional information is available by emailing Chris Caplinger at caplinca@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125-degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education.

Former College Party Professional Explains “Solo Cup Culture”

FEBRUARY 10, 2015



In college, Jake Byczkowski had a unique view of drinking culture — the “Solo Cup Culture,” as he calls it.

He was a student at Ohio State University, a Delta Tau Delta fraternity brother, a DJ who spun at countless parties and a representative for Red Bull, throwing even more parties all over the state of Ohio. At these events, he said he found himself and his friends in several harmful situations as the direct result of alcohol consumption, and eventually he began to question the behavior.

After coming to terms with his own drinking problem, Byczkowski decided to start traveling to colleges and universities across the nation to speak up on the issue of college drinking culture and to help students make safe decisions about alcohol.

Byczkowski will share his story and his platform at the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. He hopes to engage college students of all ages and levels of experience in a humorous and relatable way, creating a safe environment where they don't feel labeled or condemned. Admission is free and open to the public, and students will be given proof of attendance if needed.

The message isn't “alcohol is bad,” says Byczkowski. Instead, he says he wants to answer the question he asked himself so long ago: “Why do many college students continue to drink even after

experiencing alcohol related harm?" He hopes to mobilize students to create a communal movement against alcohol related harm, covering topics such as bystander intervention and what "problem drinking" really means in order to help students make better choices.

This event is a part of the "Be Well Do Well" initiative, which encourages students to have an enriching, life-changing and positive experience while at Georgia Southern.

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Internship Experience with Wildlife Conservation Society, Guatemala

FEBRUARY 9, 2015



This past summer (2014), Biology undergraduate Ms. Emily Penn had the opportunity to intern with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (Petén region) of Guatemala. She was able to create this experience through the collaboration of her biology professor, Dr. Subhrajit Saha and the Center for International Studies. Dr. Saha himself was an intern with WCS, Guatemala in 2005, when he was a doctoral student and is a good friend of WCS country program director Mr. Roan Balas McNab since then.

Ms. Emily Penn volunteered for WCS in Guatemala for seven weeks. During her stay she worked with Rony Garcia, Director of the Department of Biological Research and Monitoring, Assistant Director Gabriela Ponce, and Veterinarian Alejandra Penados Burgos. She worked 10 day periods in the camp, El Peru, with other workers caring for laboratory raised scarlet macaw chicks and new born white turtles. In the laboratory, Emily worked with 10 scarlet macaws ranging from newborn chicks to 150 day old chicks. She learned to feed and take statistical data on the growth of the birds. She also helped keep statistical data on the wild nests and Scarlet Macaw birds in the area. She was fortunate enough to be a part of the first turtle's hatch of the year. She was able to watch 9 turtles hatch during her last days of stay. In the Maya Biosphere Reserve Emily was completely immersed in Spanish and Guatemalan culture. She was challenged daily by living in humble conditions.

The Guatemalan experience have impacted Emily's outlook on her career as she plans to continue her career in Biology. Emily's internship also strengthened the relationship between the Wildlife Conservation Society-Guatemala and Georgia Southern University and hopefully more Georgia Southern students with diverse academic background will take the opportunity in doing internship with WCS in future.

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