

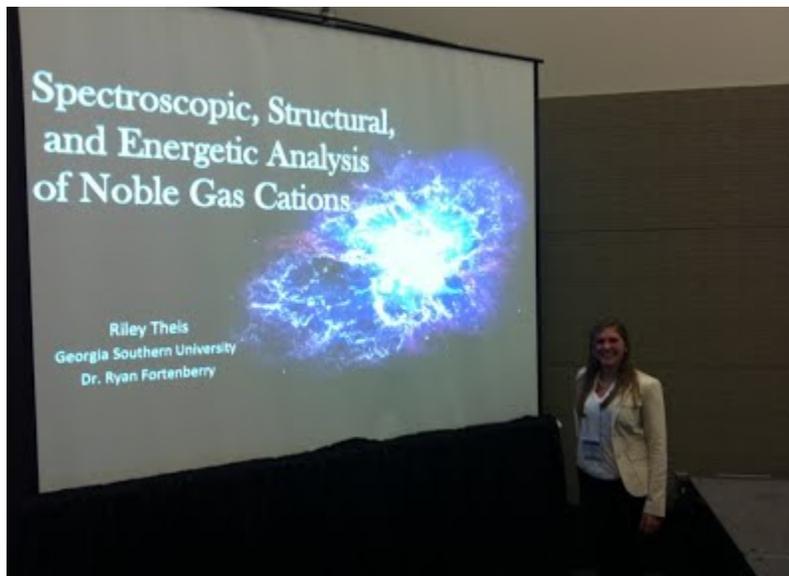
# GSU Student Takes First Place for Research

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

By Ryan C. Fortenberry, Ph.D.

The best research talk at the premier southeastern undergraduate research conference was awarded to Georgia Southern senior chemistry major Riley Theis. Theis spoke about the theoretical structure and spectra of molecules containing the typically inert noble gas atoms. Hers was one of 95 student presentations.

Theis's presentation was part of the 48th Annual [Southeastern Undergraduate Research Conference](#)



(SURC) held on February 19, 2016 on the campus of Georgia State University in Atlanta. Nearly 130 attendees were in the audience representing universities from as far afield as Mississippi stretching to North Carolina. Two other Georgia Southern students presented posters at the conference, as well, and Prof. David Kreller completed the contingent at SURC from Statesboro.

One of the other presenters was Georgia Southern senior Lena Hudson. She says of the event, "It was a very big learning experience and gave me a new understanding of what undergraduate research is. I was impressed with the amount of knowledge some of the students had." As a result of her experience in this competitive environment, Hudson was very excited for Riley to receive first place for her talk. "I was not surprised at all," Hudson went on to say.

Theis's research utilizes computational methods to describe the ways in which molecules respond to infrared light as well as lower-energy microwaves. Computer models can study molecules that are more difficult to analyze experimentally. The molecules can simply be given to the computer to analyze and do not have to be physically created the way they are in the laboratory.

Noble gasses are called such since they are largely inert and have long been believed to engage in almost no chemical reactions. Theis's work is looking to break down this barrier of understanding. Her models provide accurate descriptions of the connection strength between the argon or neon atoms and the other atoms in the molecule. They show that argon can bond quite well to the hydroxyl cation, a molecular species closely related to water.

Theis's work also gives the infrared and microwave fingerprints for these molecules in the hopes of them being detected in the laboratory or even in outer space. This talk is the second in this series. Theis gave a related presentation at the 250th ACS National Meeting in Boston, Mass. the preceding August.



Theis's SURC presentation was last of the day held before the dinner banquet, but it was met with much enjoyable laughter and levity. Hudson says that Theis's talk was fun and energetic making it a great way to end the conference. The second place SURC presentation went to Benjamin Peyton of Mississippi College. Theis and

Peyton share a surprising connection in that Theis's research advisor, Prof. Ryan C. Fortenberry of Georgia Southern, is an alumnus of Mississippi College. Fortenberry did undergraduate research with Prof. David H. Magers with whom Peyton did his work at Mississippi College. Associate Professor Shelley Smith, a colleague and also former student of Magers said, "It was exciting to have an academic niece and brother represented among the top finishers at SURC. They are both bright and exciting students."

Senior Cydnie Mitchell also presented a poster on the preferential adsorption of environmental chemicals on aluminum surfaces.

Top photo courtesy of Riley Theis; bottom photo courtesy of Cydnie Mitchell.

# Moscow Festival Ballet presents "Sleeping Beauty" at Georgia Southern's Performing Arts Center

FEBRUARY 25, 2016



The Moscow Festival Ballet, one of the most renowned ballet troupes in Russia, will present the romantic fairytale classic *Sleeping Beauty* at the Georgia Southern Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Tuesday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Set to the beautiful music of famed composer Tchaikovsky, this breathtakingly lovely ballet tells the story of a newborn princess condemned at her christening by an evil fairy to die on her sixteenth birthday by the pricking of her finger. When it looks as if all hope is lost, the princess is saved by the gift of the good Lilac Fairy who declares the princess will only sleep after pricking her finger, until awakened by a true love's kiss to live happily ever after. The fairytale, complete with king and queen, fairies, a graceful princess and a dream prince, is brought to life on stage with colorful

costumes and an intricate set that will transport the audience to the magical kingdom where good always triumphs over evil.

The PAC will host a pre-show party at 6:30 p.m. with activities for youth including making crowns and wands to celebrate the fairytale-come-true. This is the perfect way for all girls and boys to kick off the night of wonder.

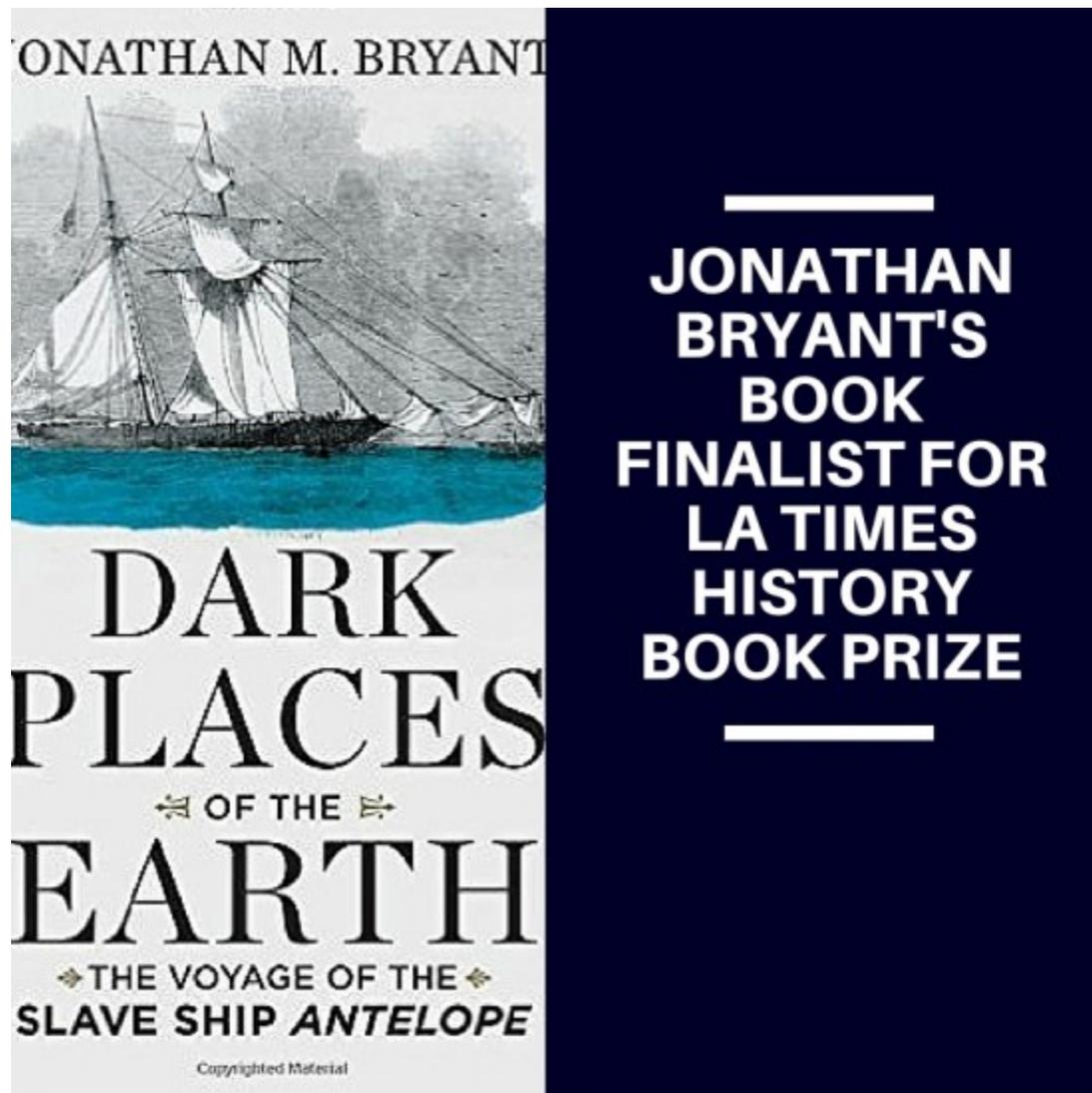
Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for all youth. Contact the Box Office manager at (912) 478-7916 for group rates and seating options for parties of 12 or more.

The PAC is located at 847 Plant Drive. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and one hour before the event. Free parking is available in front and on the side of the PAC.

For more information, call (912) 478-7999, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/PAC](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/PAC) or on Facebook at [Facebook.com/GSUPerformingArtsCenter](https://Facebook.com/GSUPerformingArtsCenter).

# History Professor's Book Finalist for National Prize

FEBRUARY 25, 2016



 Jonathan M. Bryant's, Ph.D., *Dark Places of the Earth: The Voyage of the Slave Ship Antelope*, is a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History.

The Los Angeles Times has honored the previous year's best books and authors since 1980 with a ceremony, this year's ceremony – the 36th annual – will be held at the Bovard Auditorium on the USC campus.

Other finalists for the award include Mary Beard's *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome*, Dan Efron's *Killing a King: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the Remaking of Israel*, David Maraniss' *Once*

in a Great City: A Detroit Story, and Mark Molesky's This Gulf of Fire: The Destruction of Lisbon, or Apocalypse in the Age of Science and Reason.

Bryant's book covers the case of the slave ship Antelope, her commandeering by a privateer and ensuing legal trial that reached the United States Supreme Court in 1825.

"Bryant presents a broadened picture of the transatlantic slave trade while illuminating a legal battle with huge moral implications," said Barbara Hoffert of the Library Journal.

The book is the fifth for Bryant, a Professor in the Department of History, who specializes in the history of American law, slavery, and emancipation.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student's core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations and the world. CLASS offers more than 20 undergraduate degrees and several interdisciplinary minors from its 11 departments and five academic centers. CLASS offers eight master's degrees, two graduate certificates and one doctoral degree. For more information, visit [class.georgiasouthern.edu](http://class.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 bachelors, masters 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. [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

Posted in [Awards](#), [Faculty](#), [Faculty Highlights](#), [History](#), [Publication](#)

# Sustainability Fee Grants

**FEBRUARY 15, 2016**

## **Sustainability Fee Projects: Request for Proposals**

*Due by 5pm, Fri. April 1, 2016 to [cfs@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:cfs@georgiasouthern.edu)*

The Center for Sustainability announces its Spring 2016 request for proposals to improve environmental sustainability across campus. Sustainability Fee Projects will range from \$1,000 – \$100,000. Proposals may address any aspect of sustainability in the areas of Water, Energy, Waste, Biodiversity, Food, Transportation, Sustainability Promotion etc. and may range from increasing biodiversity, to improving energy efficiency, implementing renewable energy solutions to encouraging sustainable behaviors, to improved waste reduction, to increasing campus sustainability awareness with interpretive signage, etc. Sustainability Fee projects may be proposed and conducted by any student, faculty, or staff member at Georgia Southern University.

[Click here for Sustainability Fee Project Guidelines](#)

## **Student Sustainability Fee Project Grants**

Student Sustainability Fee Project Grants were established in Spring 2014 to improve environmental sustainability across campus with Sustainability Fee funds. Project proposals, ranging from \$1,000 – \$100,000 may address any aspect of sustainability in the areas of Water, Energy, Waste, Biodiversity, Food, Transportation, Sustainability Promotion etc. and may range from increasing biodiversity, to improving energy efficiency, implementing renewable energy solutions to encouraging sustainability behaviors, to improved waste reduction, to increasing campus sustainability awareness with interpretive signage, etc. Sustainability Fee projects may be proposed and conducted by any student, faculty, or staff member at Georgia Southern.

Starting in Spring 2015, an annual call for proposals will be due in April for funding in the next fiscal year.

In 2014 and 2015, \$658,000 was allocated to 37 Student Sustainability Fee Project Grants. Proposal submissions were received from 8 academic departments in 4 colleges, as well as the Georgia Southern Museum, Garden of the Coastal Plain, Campus Recreation and Intramurals, Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development and the Division of Facilities Services.

# Adel El Shahat in Who's Who

**JANUARY 22, 2016**

Adel El Shahat, assistant professor of electrical engineering, has been selected for the 2016 edition of Marquis' Who's Who in America. Inclusion in the record is limited to those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their own field of endeavor and who have, thereby, contributed significantly to the betterment of contemporary society.

Posted in [Electrical Engineering News](#), [GS Faculty Highlights](#)