

Georgia College Receives 2020 Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA)

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) has awarded Georgia College the 2020 Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishment (AURA), a distinction to recognize the top undergraduate research programs in the nation. Georgia College was recognized not only for the number of students undertaking undergraduate research projects, but the diversity and quality of these projects. According to the communication from the Council on Undergraduate Research, "Georgia College and State University's achievements as a leader in undergraduate research set your institution apart from other finalists for this award." Furthermore, CUR wrote, "The committee was impressed with your efforts with engagement in the national conversation, both with faculty through their leadership in CUR, publications in SPUR, as well as through student participation at NCUR, GURC, Posters at the Capitol, and beyond. The expansion of curriculum-based experiences was applauded, including the recently introduced capstone, and faculty-led, interdisciplinary GC Journeys. The committee continued to be impressed with this focus on collaboration, and the excellent examples provided to help others conceptualize what integrating High Impact Practices could look like."

Previous AURA award winners include Clemson University, Furman, Occidental College, and Florida State University, among others. Georgia College is the first university in the state of Georgia to win the award.

Congratulations!

Georgia College earned four *U.S. News & World Report* online rankings:

Online graduate nursing programs: 27th in the nation.

Online master's degrees in business (non-MBA): 38th in the nation.

Online Master of Business Administration (Georgia WebMBA): 62nd in the nation.

Other nationally recognized graduate programs included: Educational Leadership, Teacher Leadership, and Master of Arts in Teaching

For more information, see the FrontPage [article](#).

Faculty Scholarship Support Program

The following faculty were recognized as the recipients of the competitive Faculty Scholarship Support Program funded by the Provost for Summer 2021:

- Julian Knox, Assistant Professor of English, Article/Book Project
From Dramatic to Divine Time: Shakespeare, Aeschylus, and Coleridge's Zapolya
- Mariana Stoyanova, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Article Project
Atar Cabos: Comprehension and Production of Spanish Idioms by Advanced and Near Native Speakers of Spanish with L1 English.
- Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, Associate Professor of Music, Book Project
Sounding Race, Inventing Authority: Pop Music, Identity, and the U.S. Presidency
- Guy Biyogmam, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Article Project
On Prime Ideals of Leibniz Algebras
- Catherine Fowler, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Article Project
Nursing Students Perception of Disaster Preparedness Before and After Formal Disaster Training

Student COVID-19 Protocol Reminder

We must all remain diligent in following proper COVID-19 safety protocols:

- Masks must be worn properly (covering mouth and nose) in buildings. They should not be removed immediately after leaving a classroom, but should be worn until one is outside. Masks should be worn outdoors when around other people.
- Students should use one door to enter a classroom and another to exit, when possible.
- Maintain at least 6 feet between yourself and others. Do not move desks in classrooms.
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer frequently and when soap and water are not available.

GC Mental Health

The University System of Georgia has launched a program for all campuses that helps to expand mental health resources. In addition to our Counseling Center, *GC Mental Health* is provided by Christie Campus Health to give students 24/7 access to counselors and mental health resources to help cope with concerns that vary from minor and manageable to severe. Assistance includes:

- A **24/7/365 mental health support line**: Call anytime, anyplace 833-855-0085.
- No cost Telehealth and in-person treatment sessions: To learn about your options, call 833-855-0085.
- Virtual Psychiatric Clinics to offer assessment and medication management: Call 833-855-0085.
- Personal Student Navigators to assist with referral coordination and support.
- “The Wellness Hub”, which includes an app and an online wellness magazine with educational content, self-help tools and resource links. To access, visit www.gcwellnesshub.com or download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play.

COPLAC Award Deadlines

- The COPLAC Prior Award is a \$500 award to a senior-level undergraduate student in honor of Chancellor Prior’s work advancing COPLAC and promoting student success in the public liberal arts sector.
- The COPLAC Charles Dunn award is a \$500 award to faculty in honor of President Dunn’s work advancing COPLAC and promoting student success in the public liberal arts sector.

The deadline for both awards is February 22, 2021. Contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at x2520 for more information.

The University Retention Committee Update

The committee submitted its preliminary report with a number of recommendations including:

- Revision of the Freshman Seminar to help students feel more engaged to their programs as freshmen and sophomores.
- Several areas across campus are researching enhanced parent engagement.
- Assistance from the GC Nudge Unit, a student-led initiative overseen by the Economics & Finance and Psychology departments in developing strategies for improving retention through behavioral changes.

Call for Applications

- The [Faculty Research Grant Program](#) provides small grants to support faculty scholarship and creative endeavors. DEADLINE: February 19, 2021
- The Inclusive Excellence Research Grant provides funding for Georgia College faculty to conduct research on topics regarding inclusive excellence. DEADLINE: February 19, 2021
- The Affordable Learning Georgia grant supports the implementation of affordable alternatives to costly commercial textbooks. Contact Dr. Shaundra Walker for more information. DEADLINE: March 1, 2021
- Faculty can apply for *GC Journeys* Project Mini-Grants to help support Transformative Experiences that they are leading in the Spring semester. https://gcsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6XLnqNjOL2Mv8hL