

## USG Summer Webinar Series

The USG Office of Faculty Development announced the Summer 2021 webinar series. These workshops, offered by experts from USG teaching and learning centers will help prepare faculty to create meaningful, intentional learning experiences for their students. Some of the topics include:

- Reflection-Based Classroom Activities
- Free Technology Tools to Teach YOUR Way
- Student Readiness: Returning to Campus
- Designing ePortfolios to Support Student Learning: The How, Why, and Some Stories
- Motivation and Gamification
- Documenting Effective Teaching Behaviors
- Building a Certified Peer Observation Program: Improving Teaching and Removing Biases
- How to Help Students Write a Resume

For workshop descriptions and registration, please go to:

[https://www.usg.edu/facultydevelopment/centers/program\\_spotlight/summer21\\_webinar\\_series](https://www.usg.edu/facultydevelopment/centers/program_spotlight/summer21_webinar_series)

## Congratulations!

**Emmanuel Little, PhD, Director of the Call Me MISTER Program and Minority Retention, *The Rising MiSTER Scholarship*, Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Inc., \$18,000**

The *Call Me MiSTER* program began in 2014 at Georgia College as part of a national network of Call Me MiSTER programs established in 2000. Its mission is to recruit more African American men to the teaching field. Financial barriers constitute significant challenges for African American males and other marginalized groups to become teachers. This scholarship aims to help solve that problem in Georgia by offering support that will ease financial burdens.

## THANK YOU!

The Office of the Provost would like to thank all of our faculty and staff for your extraordinary efforts during this very challenging academic year. We are most appreciative of your commitment to our students and our university.

## Tenure & Promotion Webinar

Join us on Thursday, May 20 at 3:00pm for a webinar aimed at faculty members who will apply for tenure and/or promotion for the 2021-2022 academic year.

More information will be provided on FrontPage, including a link to this virtual webinar.

## 6th Annual Celebration of Faculty Scholarship and Grantsmanship

The 6th Annual Celebration of Faculty Scholarship and Grantsmanship took place on Thursday, April 22. This virtual event recognized peer-reviewed scholarship, creative works, and grantsmanship from the calendar year 2020. In addition to publications, for the first time grantsmanship was recognized. Volume of research dollars has increased 61.25% since FY18 with a total of \$3,850,959 secured in FY20 (as of 4/12/21) which is an all-time high.

## 2020-2021 Academic Affairs Unit Updates

The May 2021 issue of the *Provost Notes* includes end-of-year updates from numerous units in the Office of Academic Affairs. The reports below focus on accomplishments and progress on key projects during the 2020-2021 academic year.

### College of Arts & Sciences

- **Undergraduate Research:** The COAS established a high-impact practices undergraduate research fund. Faculty could apply for grants up to \$750 in addition to what they could receive from MURACE for this GC Journeys component.
- **Program Collaboration:** Members of the Math Department collaborated with the College of Business in creating and proposing the new B.S. in Data Science program.
- **New Interdisciplinary Initiatives:** Interdisciplinary committees have drafted a proposal for a professional and technical writing certificate and are working on a digital humanities center concept with the Ina Russell Library. Plans for a Water Quality Center are being developed. Kitchen equipment and teaching space in Chappell Hall were secured to support our Global Foodways certificate.
- **Strategic Planning:** The final version of the COAS Strategic Compass is ready for publication.
- **Diversity Initiative:** Offered five scholarships to underrepresented students from the COAS Excellence Fund in 2020-21. Received one significant gift from a donor to develop four-year funding pilot for underrepresented students.
- **Personnel:** Faculty hires in Biology, Bioinformatics, Graphic Design, Strategic Communication, Music, and the Coverdell Visiting Fellows for Fall 2021 and Fall 2022. Also completed faculty hires in Philosophy (2), Religion (2), Public Law, Public Administration, and Spanish. A new chair of the Department of Communication has been hired for FY22. Dr. Robert Wright and Dr. Andrew Jewett served as Coverdell Visiting Scholar and Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar in 2020-21 respectively. Searches for a permanent associate dean and a technical director in Theatre and Dance to commence in summer 2021. Processing leadership transitions in Dept. of Theatre and Dance and Dept. of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy.
- **Outreach:** Published Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 newsletters highlighting the great work in COAS.
- **Reunification:** The music therapy undergraduate and graduate programs successfully rejoined the Department of Music in 2020 from the College of Health Sciences.

### College of Education

#### Goals:

- *Explore the opportunities for inter- and multidisciplinary partnerships across the colleges including in areas of curricula, research, and teaching.* The COE continues to explore partnerships with other colleges.
- *Complete an analysis of the impact of the iPad initiative and Makerspace on student learning.* Preservice teachers are using iPads effectively in instruction, observation videos, surveys, and conference presentations.
- *Implement the Dyslexia Endorsement as recently approved by the Professional Standards Commission.* This goal was completed.
- *Implement the launch of the 100% online M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and the M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education.* These two programs are now accepting students to begin this summer in a 100% online format.

#### Other Significant Accomplishments:

- The College of Education graduate enrollment shows a 97% increase from fall 2014 to fall 2020. Undergraduate cohorts show a slight 1% increase from fall 2019 to fall 2020.
- COE graduates 6<sup>th</sup> year retention rate is 73%, surpassing other USG institutions, as well as the statewide average of 67%.
- The COE was again rated in the highest category of “exemplary” on the PSC’s Professional Program Effectiveness Measures.
- Data from the Education Commission of the States shows a 38% decline in teacher preparation. In comparison, the COE increased from 2014 to 2020 by 36%.

## College of Health Sciences

- Developed and vetted a new mission for the COHS: To educate future leaders for the advancement of health and wellness.
- The COHS Strategic Planning Task Force is now working on a new vision for the college and will embark on developing a new strategic plan to coincide with the development of the GC Strategic Plan.
- The Center for Health and Social Issues (CHSI) received \$13,002 of external funding through the GC Giving Days in February 2021.
- Faculty peer-reviewed accomplishments include: 23 journal articles, 2 textbooks, 1 conference proceeding, 2 practice manuals, 20 presentations, and 11 grant applications with successful funding of approximately \$560,000. This compilation of scholarly activities represents the work of 33 faculty which is 76% of the faculty in the COHS.
- Developed COHS SoTL Scholars Program and awarded \$6,000 in funding to support SoTL research.
- Awarded a COHS Collaborative Research Grant of approximately \$3,000.
- Received \$70K in endowed scholarships and \$15K in annual support.
- Currently the COHS T&P Committee is working to revise the COHS T&P document.
- Multiple virtual/hybrid award ceremonies and White Coat ceremonies were held for graduating and incoming students.
- Held two 2-hour workshops on Implicit Bias and Structural Bias at the beginning of Fall 2020.

## College of Business

### **Goal 1: Prepare for Programmatic Accreditation Reviews**

- The AACSB Continuous Improvement Review Report and ABET Self-Study are both on track for submission with virtual visits scheduled for Fall 2021.

### **Goal 2: Implement New Budget/Financial Management Processes**

- A pilot budget prioritization and planning process was initiated in early FY21 that included faculty, staff, and the Provost with a mid-year review to reassess and redirect funds. Continuous process improvement will be ongoing using the forthcoming 2021-2026 CoB Strategic Plan to guide budget priorities.

### **Goal 3: Explore Curricula Innovation & Enrollment Growth**

- Review of Accounting programs;
- New graduate certificates in IS Analytics, IT Auditing, and Web Developer to begin Fall 2021;
- CoAS (Math) and the CoB (IS/CS) collaborated to develop a BS in Data Science degree planned for Fall 2022 (pending BOR approval).

### **Goal 4: Continuous Improvement in Areas of External Engagement**

- Focused planning with potential donors and on-campus partners to support CoB diversity and inclusivity efforts.
- Two successful crowd funding campaigns; supported faculty leaders to leverage departmental advisory boards; the Donor Engagement Officer held brown bag luncheons to educate faculty on advancement and engagement practices.
- Hosted numerous alumni networking events, key partner on the Bobcats for Business program, disseminated a CoB stakeholder survey to identify areas for continuous improvement.
- Reimagined CoB Leadership Board.

### **Goal 5: 2021-2026 Strategic Planning (*Reimagining Our Future - Business Education for the Public Good*)**

- The CoB has identified a Task Force to lead the charge of embarking on an inclusive, multi-staged engagement involving numerous voices to develop the next CoB strategic plan and guiding priorities; target of a February 2022 dissemination and implementation.

### Ina Dillard Russell Library

- In partnership with the Twin Lakes Library System, the library began work on an Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant to collect oral histories of former Central State Hospital staff. Interviews will begin May 2021.
- Construction on the expansion of Special Collections will begin soon; architects and the construction company continue to refine design and finishes.
- The library's institutional repository, the Knowledge Box, was retooled with updated user interface and published policies. The library partnered with CTL to market the use of the Knowledge Box as a repository for faculty research impacted by COVID-19.
- The library partnered with MURACE, the Graduate School, the Art Department, and the GC Student Research Conference committee to bring graduate and undergraduate content to the Knowledge Box. Since April 2020, undergraduate research has been accessed 95,000 times from people in over 200 countries.
- The library produces monthly statistics related to its resources/services and began utilizing outcome-based surveys from the Association of College and Research Libraries.
- Library faculty successfully proposed two new GC1Y sections: Information in Times of Crisis and Critical Information Literacy. Work has begun on a minor in Information Studies.
- The library began working with USG/ITS to automate key processes in our integrated library system.

### John E. Sallstrom Honors College

- Thanks to the generous endowment provided by Dr. Kenneth Saladin, the Honors College has secured a new name—in recognition of founding director Dr. John E. Sallstrom—and new resources, which have facilitated the establishment of new scholarship programs to support transformative experiences.
- The Honors College opened the Humber-White House as its new home. Faculty/staff offices, a student lounge, study rooms, and a seminar room are set up.
- In November, a [virtual celebration](#) commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Honors at GCSU and the opening of the Honors College. The Honors College's co-curricular presentation/film discussion/book discussion series, including a new Legends of Honors subset featuring former directors and longstanding Honors faculty members, also moved to an online platform, allowing for engagement with alumni and friends.
- The Honors College has concluded Honors Pathway Agreements with Georgia Highlands College and Gordon State College to facilitate transfer Honors admissions.
- The Honors College is offering new courses in disciplines such as Statistics and World Languages.
- The Honors College is introducing a new team building exercise for incoming students, in collaboration with the Outdoor Center, starting in fall 2021.

### Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

- OIRE successfully assisted all departments and units with data inquiries and requests.
- The office completed the final processes for the SACSCOC Fifth-Year interim accreditation review.
- The OIRE website was updated for ease in data mining, usage, and accessibility for the campus community and beyond.
- OIRE completed the seventh annual *Georgia College Factbook*, which remains widely used across the institution.

### Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects

- 2020-2021 was a record-breaking academic year for the OGSP. Between July 2020 and April 2021, we surpassed the prior year and set a record volume of external funding: \$3.85 million year to date, a 2% increase over last year. This included 34 projects led by 19 faculty and 10 staff members.
- The Office developed and implemented new compliance processes involving Financial Conflict of Interest and Payroll Certification.

## International Education Center

- Despite headwinds of the pandemic, closed visa centers, rapidly-changing immigration guidelines, and more, International continued promoting Georgia College abroad through electronic means, spreading brand awareness, and recruiting students, enrolling five new internationals in Fall 2020, and six in Spring, 2021.
- Similarly, Education Abroad worked innovatively to keep Study Abroad visible and accessible. Student interest remains high, and over 150 students had registered to study abroad even during the pandemic. Already, approximately fifteen faculty-led programs are ready for next year. The unit once again assisted faculty transitioning Study Abroad programs to online formats.
- Participated in virtual recruitment fairs including several hosted by the Department of State in Central Asia, China, and Russia. Current and graduated GC students of the regions assisted, and spoke with students and parents about Georgia College and Milledgeville.
- Increasingly a favored partner of the Department of State, the IEC collaborated with embassies abroad to again offer webinars – such as the value of a liberal arts education - to international audiences. A webinar offered with Moscow embassy was particularly well-attended and received.
- Supported International Club in holding safe, innovative, club events, and in transitioning International Dinner to an online, on-demand, format.
- Launched *Border-Free GC* initiative offering six categories of accessible participation without travel.
- Continued publication of the *GC Global* newsletter which is read on five continents and used abroad in EFL classes. Online edition was especially welcomed as global instruction went virtual.

## School of Continuing and Professional Studies

- The former Extended University unit was renamed the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) with a focus on developing and marketing online graduate certificate programs.
- Continuing and Professional Education began working with the Georgia Film Academy to train non-degree seeking students to prepare for jobs in the film and television industry.
- The Department of Productions Services quickly adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic by purchasing equipment and developing technical skills to stream live Music, Theatre, and Dance productions. Staff members Keith Bergeron and Clay Garland were recognized at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for Lighting Design and Excellence in Technology.
- Afterschool Achievement received outstanding audits of the YES and High Achiever programs— with no negative findings—from the Georgia DOE 21st CCLC office and the Georgia Department of Human Services. Both Afterschool Achievement and Academic Outreach successfully developed and implemented virtual learning for the YES and High Achiever programs and summer camps and Academic Outreach programs.
- The Director of Academic Outreach provided Adopt-a-Stream training for GC Journeys students during winter break, 2020, and received the Georgia Adopt-a-Stream Outstanding Outreach and Partnership Award for her efforts.
- Communities In Schools was awarded an \$85,000 Reaching Rural Communities Grant to extend the services of the Bee Well School-Based Health Clinic to Baldwin County school children and their families through new telehealth technology and additional staffing.
- The Department of Historic Museums developed a new 2021-2024 strategic plan; assumed responsibility for the Museum Store from Auxiliary Services and reorganized the store operation to ensure lower operational costs and a sound financial footing; and completed the process to request designation of Andalusia as a National Historic Landmark. Additionally, the Governor's Mansion was designated as a member of a national Lafayette Trail. They also developed virtual tours, K12 activities, lectures, exhibition tours, museum Monday events, Facebook live events, and virtual engagements with civic groups across Georgia.

## Transformative Learning Experiences

### GC Journeys

- GC Journeys has strengthened partnerships with Leadership, MURACE, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Office of First Year Experience, the Writing Center and other offices to deepen partnerships, especially in helping with first year onboarding and working with Academic Advising and the University Retention Committee. GC Journeys also piloted program assessment and will include the results in this year's GC Journeys Annual Report.

### The Center for Teaching and Learning

- The CTL conducted a needs assessment, developed tailored programming, and will continue to adjust its programming for Fall 2021 (including revising the New Faculty Academy).

### The Office of First Year Experiences

- The Office of First Year Experience worked with Academic Advising to create a GC Journeys lesson in the FYAS courses. They are working with the University Retention committee to assist in the TREK redesign.
- The Bridge Scholars Program worked with the Office of Admissions to increase the diversity of the incoming class.

### The Writing Center

- The Writing Center has started working with the composition committee to help develop the writing in the discipline initiative and students have produced [this resource](#) for the Writing Center.

### MURACE

- The first issue of [Undergraduate Research](#) launched with Dr. Kelly Massey as executive editor, and Dr. Alesa Liles as managing editor. Submissions just closed for the second issue.

### The Rural Studies Institute

- The Institute identified community-based organizations within rural Georgia to serve as partners in community-based engaged approaches to change. It recently entered an MOU with FVSU in a partnership to work on different rural initiatives.

### The Andalusia Institute

- This institute is working on developing processes and procedures for Milledgeville and Flannery O'Connor Oral History Project to complete eight oral histories and three segments for podcast. It submitted an NEH grant and has lined up project development.

## The Graduate School

- Graduate student enrollment was the highest in the history of the graduate school in fall 2020. The fall headcount was 1,268 – a 7% increase since fall 2019, and 23% increase from fall 2018.
- Improved efficiency of admissions process by implementing an electronic fillable form for returning graduate students on the graduate admissions webpage.
- Graduate student recruitment events were held using virtual platforms. The virtual information sessions provided prospective students an overview of the graduate admissions application process and the opportunity to meet with graduate coordinators.
- The Graduate Research Travel Grant program was advertised to students, but due to the pandemic and its effect on professional conferences, one Graduate Research Travel Grant was awarded.
- Using Radius, program specific communication campaigns were developed to connect prospective students to graduate admissions webinars, virtual information sessions, and application status.
- An Events page was added to The Graduate School website to communicate graduate events and activities.
- A Graduate Certificates page was added to The Graduate School website to highlight current and new graduate certificates.
- Facebook and Twitter accounts were established for The Graduate School.
- An online networking event and writing retreat were offered to graduate students.
- A Graduate School Student Organization was explored and will be implemented in fall 2021.

## Division of Enrollment Management

### GC Welcome Center / Campus Tours

- Despite a greatly reduced capacity due to social distancing, the GC Welcome Center has safely hosted 4,653 prospective students and their family members for Campus Tours over the past academic year:

### Financial Aid

- GC Financial Aid Office administered \$4,706,014 in Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to students in 2020 and 2021. These funds assisted needy students who were impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- GC Financial Aid implemented Scholarship Universe which allows GC students to access a one-stop, 24x7x365 scholarship matching and management tool. It is a part of the CampusLogic student financial success platform. Scholarship Universe improves GC's ability to help students fund their education and plays an important role in recruitment and retention. This database will streamline scholarship management, reviewing, and the awarding process for outside (vetted) national scholarships.

### Admissions

- With the May 1st deadline for students to confirm their Admission, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions is seeing positive results. New freshmen admits are up 10% and deposits for the fall are up 16% when compared with last year (as of May 10).

### Registrar

- Georgia College will hold a total of 46 commencement ceremonies. Members of the class of 2020 at the end of April. Graduates of the class of 2021 will be recognized during ceremonies from May 6-9 and May 13-16.

### Academic Advising

- Academic advising is preparing to meet with every department this summer to review curricula, new programs, and GC Journeys opportunities in the major. Chairs will be contacted to set up a meeting time.

### Testing Center

- SAT will be offered at Georgia College in June, August, October, and November.
- 109 in-person Accommodations tests were given between March 26 and April 22.
- 250 Legislative tests were given in January through March. Tests were offered remotely, and will be through May 7. We will return to in-person testing during summer semester.
- 399 Senior Exit Exams were given this semester for 15 different majors. 143 of these were given in-person and the rest remotely.

## The University Learning Center

- Virtual/online support was on the rise prior to 2020 and remain an option for delivery going forward
- Reaccredited by University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC) International Center for Supplemental Instruction. GC is one of 3 programs that are accredited in the state of Georgia.
- Offered Study Skills workshops, met with First Year Seminar sections, and increased operating hours to include evenings
- Piloted Excel bootcamps based on instructor feedback in CHEM 4950. Based on the result of the pilot, the bootcamps will continue in FY22.