

## From the Provost...

Dear Colleagues,

Despite the many challenges we faced collectively as an institution this past year, our students, faculty, and staff members achieved new milestones for the university. We launched the John E. Sallstrom Honors College, the Andalusia Institute, and the Rural Studies Institute and their dedicated work truly demonstrated how Georgia College is home to so many creative leaders.

If there was one theme that was at the forefront for the university this year, it would have to be research activities by our faculty and students. From work done by our faculty directly related to the pandemic, like original Coronavirus [research](#) and [maltreatment reporting](#) during school closures, to Georgia College [receiving](#) the 2020 Campus-wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA) and releasing the [inaugural issue](#) of a nationwide undergraduate research journal – these are just a few of the hallmarks of our success in this area. Undergraduate research, [like discovering and naming a new amphipod](#), is one of the ways in which our students can engage in *GC Journeys* – a program that expects every student participating in at least five transformative learning experiences during their time at Georgia College. It is an initiative that we're proud to [announce](#) was awarded the University System of Georgia's (USG) 2021 Regent's Momentum Year Award for Excellence in Teaching and Curricular Innovation.

In addition to these accomplishments, please click [here](#) for more stories of success. We are so proud of what our faculty and students have been able to achieve this year.

I look forward to continued successes as we close out this academic year and prepare for Fall 2021.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Costas Spirou  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

## Congratulations!

**Dave Bachoon, PhD, Biological and Environmental Sciences** *Implementation of a Water Quality Restoration Strategy at the San Juan Bay Estuary watershed and the Río Grande de Loíza (below dam) Estuary Contributing Zone, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, \$20,000*

Perform DNA extractions and Bacteroidales analysis of human HF183, Dog, Horse, as well as Leptospiral lip/32 specific marker in water samples collected from different San Juan Bay estuary tributaries: Implementation of a Water Quality Restoration Strategy at the San Juan Bay Estuary watershed and the Río Grande de Loíza Estuary Contributing Zone. There will be a total of 80 samples analyzed during the project period.

## Institute on Open Education Resource, AAC&U

Georgia College was recently accepted to participate in the AAC&U's inaugural Institute on Open Education Resource, a year-long team-based professional development experience. Teams from across the country will develop strategies to expand campus engagement with and adoption of open education resources (OER).

Georgia College's team will be led by Dr. Shaundra Walker, Director of Russell Library. Additional team members include Ms. Jaclyn Queen, Instructional Designer in the Center for Teaching and Learning; Ms. Lamonica Sanford, Assessment Librarian; Ms. Jennifer Townes, Scholarly Communications Librarian, and Dr. Rodica Cazacu, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics.

## Deans and Department Chairs focus on *GC Journeys*

On June 8th, Deans and Department Heads gathered to strategize on advancing the mission of *GC Journeys*. The meeting featured presentations from national leaders on the subjects of high-impact practices and innovative pedagogies, as well as time to work together on addressing issues on tracking and coding the transformative experiences in the curriculum.

Dr. Tristan Denley, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University System of Georgia, discussed the importance of high-impact practices in Georgia and beyond. Dr. Ashley Finley, the Vice President of Research and Senior Advisor to the President of AAC&U, discussed "Equity & Expanding Access to High-Impact Practices." Finally, Dr. Jillian Kinzie, Associate Director, Center for the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Institute at Indiana University, discussed "Increasing Quality of High-Impact Practices."

### Curriculum Updates

The Office of the Provost submitted several items to the USG recently.

The following graduate certificates were approved by the USG-Academic Affairs with the referenced CIP Codes:

(CIP 11.1004) Advanced Certificate in Web Developer  
(CIP 11.1099) Advanced Certificate in IT Data Analytics  
(CIP 11.1003) Advanced Certificate in IT Auditing  
(CIP 13.1011) Advanced Certificate in Dyslexia

Requests to terminate the following programs:

- BS Athletic Training
- BS Outdoor Education
- RN-BSN

### Honors Pathway Agreements

Georgia College has concluded Honors Pathway agreements with Georgia Highlands College and Gordon State College. GHC and GSC Honors students with a 3.5 or higher GPA are guaranteed transfer admission to Georgia College and to the John E. Sallstrom Honors College, with all of their GHC/GSC Honors courses counting toward Honors requirements at Georgia College. Georgia College is also providing a one-time \$100 book scholarship to GHC/GSC Honors transfer students. The Honors Pathway agreements offer a wonderful opportunity for GHC and GSC Honors AA/AS graduates to complete their undergraduate educations at Georgia College as members of the Sallstrom Honors College.

## 23 Faculty Register for the CTL/*GC Journeys* Course

The *2nd Annual Incorporating Transformative Experiences into the Classroom* course is a professional development opportunity sponsored by *GC Journeys* and hosted by the Center for Teaching and Learning. The course provides faculty with the opportunity to engage with expert guest speakers on incorporating or enhancing elements of transformative experiences into the classroom. This year's course features guest speaker, AAC&U Dr. Michael Crafton, as well as champions from each transformative experience. Faculty who have signed up include:

Angela Walker, Nursing	Caroline Collier, Computer Science
Catherine Fowler, Nursing	Chika Unigwe, English
Dominic Desantis, Biological & Environmental Sciences	Gita Phelps, Computer Science
James Schiffman, Communication	Jolene Cole, Library
Kevin Hunt, Health and Human Performance	Lauren Pilcher, English
Lee Kirven, World Languages & Cultures	Lorianne Hamilton, Computer Science
Mary Rickard, Management, Marketing, & Logistics	Mehrnaz Hedayati, Management, Marketing, & Logistics
Min Kim, Government & Sociology	Nancy Beasley, English
Stephanie Jett, Psychological Science	Steve Elliott-Gower, Government & Sociology
Tina Holmes-Davis, Music	Trae Wilborn, History & Geography
Tsu-Ming Chiang, Psychological Science	Whitney Heppner, Psychological Science