

GC Border-Free Initiative Updates

Less than one year old, *Border-Free GC* has already been featured in a [June report](#) of best practices in “Internationalisation at Home” published by Universities UK (UUK), the UK’s premier association of institutions. UUK, whose membership is composed solely of university heads, advises nearly all relevant sectors of the UK’s governments on higher education. Georgia College was one of only fifteen universities, worldwide, to be featured and one of four U.S. universities.

That report, in turn, was publicized and recommended to its membership by the Brussels-based Academic Cooperation Association (ACA). The ACA membership is composed exclusively of national-level organizations in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the U.S. that promote and advocate at the highest high levels for internationalization and collaboration.

Recent noteworthy Border-Free GC accomplishments by GC faculty include:

- **Biological and Environmental Sciences** (Melanie Devore). This collaboration with the *Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund* research station in Rwanda included a real-time presentation from Rwanda to GC students. Other experts joined-in from throughout the U.S. Plus, the GC2Y class [10 Plants that Changed the World](#), of case studies of the Bahamas and Rwanda provided a look at plant usage by African diaspora in the Bahamas and Southern United States.
- **World Languages & Cultures** (Hedwig Fraunhofer). Collaborative [course](#) with Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena, Germany. Co-taught course including guest experts and with cross-national teams working together on projects.
- **Management Information Systems** (Joy Godin). GC students, with students at the University of West Georgia and University of Muenster (Germany), collaborated to develop solutions to a problem posed by a German corporation.
- **Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies** (Sunita Manian/James Winchester) [Culture, Gender and the Good Life](#) (France). Virtual tours and real-time discussions with experts abroad allowed students to explore the intersection of gender and sexuality with the arts in France, plus French influence on U.S. African American culture through the Parisian experiences of James Baldwin and Josephine Baker. Dr. Manian also taught an Honors GC1Y class on *Youth Cultures* that connected her students with students from France, India, Morocco, and Hong Kong to discuss – from diverse perspectives - topics of common interest.
- **English** (Kerry Neville/ Chika Unigwe). Virtual [African Writers Festival](#), held in February, featured globally-prominent African writers. Each session had as many as 75 attendees who joined in from across the globe (U.S., Africa, Europe, South America, South Korea, and more).

Congratulations!

Costas Spirou, PhD,
Provost, High Impact Practices (HIPs) – Faculty Implementation, University System of Georgia, \$7,409

Dave Bachoon, PhD,
Biological and Environmental Sciences, *Gwinnett County Water Analysis,* Tetra Tech, \$45,600

Kelley Ditzel, PhD,
Government & Sociology, *Evaluation Services for Ocmulgee Substance Abuse Accountability Court Expansion,* Department of Justice/Baldwin County Board of Commissioners, \$8,000 (Yr 1 of 3)

Sam Mutiti, PhD,
Biological and Environmental Sciences, *IRES Track I: Rapid, Integrated Geotechnical and Geochemical Characterization of Mine Waste for Phytoremediation and Biofuel/Bioenergy Production,* National Science Foundation (NSF), \$165,987

FY21 Grant Activity Sets Record

Grant activity for FY'21 set a new record for funding received totaling \$4,098,016 which is a 7.3% increase over the prior fiscal year. The awards include grants secured by 5 faculty who received their first external grant at GC. It also includes two NSF grants to support undergraduate students majoring in Chemistry and Physics (S-STEM) and international research experiences (IRES) for students for the next three summers.

The School of Continuing and Professional Studies continues to secure volumes of external funding (40.5% with \$1,662,357) to support the children of Baldwin County with their in-school and afterschool programming, followed by the College of Health Sciences with 24.5% and the College of Arts & Sciences with 23.4% of GC's total funding.

Faculty Contracts 2021-2021

Georgia College is continuing the OneUSG electronic faculty contract distribution system that we began using last year. The OneUSG e-contract eliminates delays with physical mail delivery systems, and provides a fast and convenient system for everyone involved in the process. On July 1, an email message containing instructions was sent by Neil Jones (HR) to the contract eligible recipients notifying them about the full-time faculty contract process. The electronic contract is available in the same system that houses your pay statements, W-2's etc. The due date to respond to the contract is July 20, 2021

Limited term one-year faculty and part-time faculty are an important part of our University instructional team as well. Following Board of Regents – University System of Georgia policies, limited term one-year faculty and part-time faculty employment agreements are covered through the *Offer/Acceptance* letter and the *Part-time Faculty Teaching Agreement* (GC signatures – DocuSign).

New faculty will not have access to the OneUSG System until August when their employment begins. New faculty employment agreements are also confirmed through the Offer/Acceptance letter process.

SACSCOC 5th Year Reaffirmation

Georgia College received confirmation in June that we have successfully completed our SACSCOC Fifth-Year compliance report and the 2014-2019 QEP Impact Report. This maintains GC's accreditation until the next reaffirmation period in 2024. Work on the 10-year reaffirmation process will commence formally in January 2022; however, this fall (2021) we will begin the early planning phases of GC's next Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). This two-year process of QEP development will be a campus-wide initiative seeking broad participation and feedback. Please plan to participate in the upcoming QEP information sessions, townhalls, and other planning events.

Welcome Back Faculty

New faculty orientation schedule:

- August 2: 8:30a-12:30p
- August 3: 8:30a-12:00p
- August 4: 8:30a-2:00p
- August 5: 9:00a-4:00p (HR Portion)

The Welcome Back Faculty event will take place on August 12 from 9:00-11:00 in Russell Auditorium.

Be a GCReads Facilitator!

Registration is open for faculty interested in facilitating a *GCReads* micro seminar this fall. The 2021 *GCReads* theme is "Reflecting on Civility." Students will select one of 10 essays to discuss during a 75 minute in-person micro seminar on Friday, August 13th during their Weekend of Welcome. Faculty consistently rate the experience as "excellent" or "good" and students describe *GCReads* as a "good introduction to college." We are inviting all faculty, to consider joining us this year in delivering this first-year reading initiative. [Sign up here!](#) Reach out to Erin Weston at x0145 with any questions.