

Faculty Research Small Grant Recipients

Tsu-Ming Chiang, Psychological Science, *Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 on Young Children's Social-Emotional Development to Build Tools for Emotional Coaching*, \$2,786.10.

Dominic DeSantis, Biological and Environmental Sciences, *Effects of Roadways on Seasonal Movement Strategies and Mate Location Success in an Imperiled Pit Viper (*Crotalus Horridus*)*, \$4,970.

Susmita Sadhu, Mathematics, *Early Warning Signals of Tipping in Multispecies Ecological Models*, \$5,000.

Ashley Taylor, Psychological Science, *Enhancing Social-Emotional Learning in Rural Classrooms: A Teacher-Centered Needs Analysis*, \$5,000.

Amy Johnson, Government & Sociology, *Appalachian Anthropocene: Wayfinding with Women in Northwest Georgia*, \$4,915.

Jamie Downing, Communication, *Mapping and Making Sense of Munich's Dispersed WWII Monuments*, \$2,222.

Katie Simon, English, *Driving While Black: Mobility, Travel, and Violence in Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find,"* \$3,150.

Kystal Canady and Joyce Norris-Taylor, Nursing, *Primary Prevention of Incivility in Nursing Students*, \$580.

Matthew Forrest, Art, *Dyslexia Resource Support K-12*, \$4,750.

Kevin Hunt, Health and Human Performance, *Virtual Service-Learning Study Abroad: Medical Electives Belize*, \$4,000.

SACSCOC 10 Year Reaffirmation

Congratulations to all members of the GCSU campus community for a highly successful 10-year reaffirmation with SACSCOC! The university passed all accreditation standards and the QEP without any recommendations and no requests for additional or follow-up reporting. As President Cox noted, that is the best possible outcome for the reaccreditation process and speaks directly to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative teamwork at GCSU.

While on campus, the on-site reaffirmation team frequently complimented our faculty, staff, and students whom they described as "genuine" and "enthusiastic for GCSU." The visiting team shared their admiration for our beautiful campus and facilities and thanked us all for our overwhelming hospitality. Additionally, we received strong support for our QEP, *Bobcats FIRST*. The committee noted these significant strengths of the QEP:

"The QEP addresses a topic of great importance for student success; there is broad-based support from students, faculty, and university leadership; assessment plan outcomes are well-defined and measurable; existing resources (such as Wellness Center and Serenity Den) are leveraged to strengthen the project; and there is admirable cooperation and synergy between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs."

Thank you to the entire university community for an enormously successful reaffirmation and on-site visit. While these results are preliminary, they are very favorable and indicate our successful reaccreditation which will be formally announced at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December 2024, in Austin, Texas.

Updated Student Absence Procedure

If students are participating in a university sponsored event (i.e. class trip, athletics, RSO activity), the faculty mentor or instructor should complete the [Request for Student Absences](#) form for the group.

The form *requests* that each student's professors excuse them from class, with the understanding that the work will be made up. Absences should be kept to a minimum.

Absences requested for RSO activities necessitate additional approval by the Office of Student Life, who will ensure each student is in good academic standing before approval.

Healthy Minds Survey to Support Bobcats FIRST

The *Healthy Minds Study*, administered by the University of Michigan Healthy Minds Network, will be utilized as a key metric for assessing GCSU's QEP, *Bobcats FIRST*. A high response rate is needed. Please remind your students to complete the survey that was sent to their Bobcats email.

Please note that the Office of Student Health and Well-Being is willing to proctor the survey in your classes before the March 15th deadline (it takes about 30 minutes). Feel free to submit the brief opt-in form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/Lz51yYhV4B>. Please contact Emily Jarvis (emily.jarvis@gcsu.edu, x8566) with any questions.

GCSU Research Day 2024

This year's research day will be kicked off with a keynote speech on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Magnolia Ballroom. Dr. Richard Newton, associate professor, and undergraduate director of Religious Studies at The University of Alabama, will deliver a keynote address titled "From Virtual to Reality: Research in the Humanities."

Updated USG Policies

The USG recently updated policies regarding [background investigation](#) and [employment applications](#). While they require no action on your part, you may notice changes during the hiring process. These policy changes went into effect March 1, 2024.

2024 USG Teaching & Learning Conference

The conference aims to foster dialogue, collaboration, innovation, and scholarship among participants who are passionate about advancing higher education. The event will be held in Athens, GA on April 15-16, 2024. For more information about the conference, including a draft of the program and accommodations, visit the [conference website](#). The USG Teaching & Learning Conference registration deadline is April 1 ([register here](#)).

First Year Convocation - 2024

Please reserve the afternoon of August 23, 2024, to welcome the Class of 2028 during *First Year Convocation*. The program will begin with a College Open House (2:30-3:15pm); Convocation (4:00-5:00pm); and a Faculty and New Student Picnic (5:00-7:00pm). *GC Reads* will be held on August 16, 2024 (1:00-4:00pm). The Convocation 2024 Organizing Committee will be meeting in the next few months as we focus on welcoming and supporting the onboarding of our new students.

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