

# Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

April 2020

## From Provost Spirou...

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

I hope this note finds you well and thank you for your continued efforts to support our students as we enter the third week of remote instruction.

Please keep in mind that during these challenging times our students are anxious. To help relieve those anxieties, below are tips that instructors can employ to establish a virtual presence for students.

1. **Create a communications plan** – Identify steps to communicate with your students. Communicate regularly about course changes and your expectations.
2. **Provide virtual office hours** – To help students stay connected with you, let them know that you will be available online, either via e-mail or through communication services, such as WebEx.
3. **Utilize online communication tools** – Georgia College provides access and support to several communication platforms that can help instructors remain connected with students remotely but increase the feeling of “being there.” They include WebEx, GeorgiaVIEW Chat, Discussion Boards, GeorgiaVIEW Video Note, My Media (Kaltura), and Google Hangouts Meet.
4. **Provide video feedback on assignments** – Providing video responses to grading assignments can offer students with a personal touch. GeorgiaVIEW’s Video Note permits instructors to record up to 30 minutes of video, allowing students to see instructors discuss various assignments.
5. **Create short videos throughout the course** – Short 3 to 5-minute videos can be utilized to welcome students to the class and provide overviews of the course, assignments, and grading descriptions.

Remember, your efforts in this area will be greatly appreciated.

For assistance, please be sure to reach out to the **Center for Teaching and Learning** by e-mail at [ctl@gcsu.edu](mailto:ctl@gcsu.edu), phone at (478) 445-2520 or visit the [GC Keeps Teaching](http://www.gcsu.edu/ctl) website.

## Congratulations!

**Arash Bodaghee, PhD, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy**, *NuSTAR Brings into Focus Faint AGN Candidates from the Swift-Integral X-Ray Survey*, NASA/JPL, \$10,000

**Veronica Womack, PhD, Executive Director, Rural Studies Institute**, *The Farm Bill as an Asset Building Tool within the Black Belt Region*, USDA, \$74,359

**James Callaghan, PhD, Assistant Vice President of International Education**, *Student Support for Global UGRAD Participant (IREX)*, U.S. DOS, \$5,200

## GC Online Learning Resources

To provide continuous support to faculty, many online resources are available in a single portal: [GC Keeps Teaching](http://www.gcsu.edu/ctl).

A student-centered portal can be found at: [GC Keeps Learning](http://www.gcsu.edu/ctl).

Additionally, the Center for Teaching and Learning staff are available to assist your efforts. Information on contacting the CTL can be found at the bottom of the [GC Keeps Teaching](http://www.gcsu.edu/ctl) page. Note the available webinars which may prove insightful.

## Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative

Statewide resources for Wi-Fi can be found at the following link:

[Georgia Internet Access for COVID-19](http://www.gcsu.edu/ctl)

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Student Research Conference has moved online

The MURACE/GC Journeys sponsored 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Student Research Conference will be hosted [online](#). The decision to go online was simple, “with all the conferences being canceled, we still wanted to give students an opportunity to present their research online,” said Jordan Cofer.

According to the conference co-chairs, Drs. Kelly Massey and Doreen Sams, students were excited about the opportunity to submit online and all but one student have agreed to move their projects into a virtual format. According to Sams, “The dates were changed to April 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> to align with CUR’s National Undergraduate Research Week while also giving us time to figure out how to get this online.”

The Online conference will feature videos of student presentations that they film themselves, as well as digital versions of poster presentations. The conference will be available asynchronously, but according to Holly Croft, “there will be a comment box available from April 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> so that people can still engage with the research.”

The research projects will be divided up by the three submission criteria: Poster, Video, and Research in Progress. Students have until April 17<sup>th</sup> to get their research projects submitted online. They will be made available to the general public on April 20<sup>th</sup> at this website: <https://kb.gcsu.edu/src/2020/>

### Center for Teaching and Learning Helps with Remote Instruction

With the recent move of the university to remote instruction, the Center for Teaching and Learning has worked to help faculty make the transition. Beginning in middle March, the CTL put on several workshops related to remote instruction, placing digital materials in GeorgiaVIEW, using Kaltura, and several other topics. The beginning sessions were offered face-to-face while the remaining sessions were offered via webinars. Each session has been recorded and transcribed and placed online in the CTL Faculty Resources course found in GeorgiaVIEW. Over 110 people registered for the GeorgiaVIEW face-to-face workshops, approximately 85 individuals have registered for webinars, and 35 have signed up for the Online Faculty Learning Community.

In addition to the increased programming, new resources have been placed within the CTL Faculty Resources course on GeorgiaView. Additionally, the [GC Keeps Teaching](#) website has compiled resources for faculty. Finally, the CTL shares daily tips on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). To register for [upcoming workshop click this link](#) or for more information, please contact CTL by phone at (478)445-2520 or by e-mail at [ctl@gcsu.edu](mailto:ctl@gcsu.edu).

### Virtual Flannery O’Connor Reading Group

The Andalusia Institute at Georgia College will be co-sponsoring an on-line discussion reading group led by Dr. Bruce Gentry, English Department, of two short stories by Flannery O’Connor:

“The Geranium”

“Judgement Day”

**Thursday, April 23, 10:00 AM**

Representing the bookends of O’Connor’s career, these stories are available in Flannery O’Connor, [The Complete Stories](#), and in the Library of America edition, [Flannery O’Connor: The Collected Works](#). To **register** for this event, go to: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a769a2fcd9c1426a845eca6d0983fb98>

The event is also co-sponsored by the Georgia Writers Museum in Eatonton, GA.

### Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line

The Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line provides 24/7 free and confidential assistance to callers needing emotional support or resource information as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. More information is available [here](#).