

Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

February 2019

From the Provost... Steps toward Preeminence!

During the past seven years, much progress has been made in hiring new faculty and staff across Academic Affairs. From FY13-FY19, **71.5 new faculty and staff** joined the university to support our institutional mission. These are newly created/redirected positions (this figure excludes existing lines that were refilled). Specifically, we added 19 new tenure-earning positions (9 in CoAS, 4 in CoHS, and 6 in CoB), 28 new lecturer positions (16 in CoAS, 7 in CoHS, and 5 in CoB). Additionally, 24.5 permanent staff positions (13.5 in CoAS, 2 in CoHS, and 9 in other Academic Affairs/Student Affairs units). These positions total \$3,526,865 in salaries (not including benefits) and are supported by \$1,748,989 in new funds and \$1,777,876 in redirected funds. This is remarkable given that many universities across the country are seeing a persistent reduction in supporting faculty and staff. Much credit should be given to our Deans and Department Chairs for their extraordinary leadership in determining areas of need across our academic programs and units, and for advocating for these new positions.

The recent addition of terminally prepared Lecturers are assisting our GC departments better manage the teaching loads of tenured and tenure-earning faculty. Furthermore, all terminally prepared Lecturers now have a minimum salary of \$50,000. We have also created a promotion process from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. All this recognizes the work and commitment of these colleagues in the classroom and their participation in scholarship and service activities. At the same time, as we move forward, we must be mindful to maintain an appropriate balance between Lecturers and Tenured/Tenure Earning faculty. An analysis of our Fall 2018 data reveals that we had 331 full-time faculty, 258 tenured and/or tenure earning and 73 Lecturers. To that end, I am committed to working with the Deans to maintain an 80/20 balance between tenured/tenure-earning and lecturer faculty. This is a reasonable approach since it provides GC the flexibility we need.

To ensure we continue to be the best public liberal arts university we can be, it is imperative that we recruit, hire and retain the best faculty across all our disciplines and staff within our units. We are committed to advancing our institution.

Congratulations!

Jim Lidstone, PhD, Director of Center for Health and Social Issues, *Campus Connector Trail*, Georgia DNR. This fund request is to connect a .75 mile trail on the West Campus property to an existing trail on Baldwin County School properties: \$100,000.

Emmanuel Little, PhD, Director of Call Me MiSTER, *Call Me MiSTER*, GA Power. This proposal is a plan to enhance the Call Me MiSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program: \$10,000.

Shaundra Walker, PhD, Interim Library Director, *Documenting African American Milledgeville*, National Endowment for the Humanities. Through a series of programming and outreach events, this project will engage the community and help to document the African American history of Milledgeville and Baldwin County: \$12,000.

Save the Date!

The Office of the Provost will be conducting a Tenure and Promotion workshop scheduled on April 10 from 2:00-4:00pm in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. All interested faculty are encouraged to attend. See the March 2019 *Provost Notes* for more details.

Ongoing Spring 2019 Searches...

National searches continue for the Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Executive Director of Admissions, and several Department Chair positions in Accounting; Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy; and World Languages and Cultures.

Upcoming Events!

Spring Fling – Faculty/Staff Picnic, Tuesday, March 26 at 4:00pm-Kurtz Field, West Campus

Faculty and Staff Retirement Luncheon, Wednesday, April 10 at 11:30am-Pat Peterson Museum Education Room

Celebration of Excellence, Friday, April 19 at 9:00am-Russell Auditorium

Spring Graduate Commencement, Friday, May 10 at 7:00pm-Centennial Center

Spring Undergraduate Commencement, Saturday, May 11 at 9:00am and 2:00pm- Centennial Center

Faculty Scholarship Celebration, Friday, April 26 at 4:00pm – Location TBA

Reviewers needed for the *Corinthian*

The *Corinthian*, Georgia College's undergraduate research journal published by the University Library is currently seeking faculty to serve as reviewers for its spring 2019 publication. If interested, please contact Jenny Townes at jennifer.townes@gcsu.edu or Jeff Dowdy at jeffrey.dowdy@gcsu.edu.

Upcoming Graduate School Student Events...

- Spring 2019 Graduate Research Grants submission -Deadline February 15
- Second Annual Graduate Research Poster Competition March 2019 - Deadline February 15
- First Annual Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards - Deadline February 18
- Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week-March 11-14, 2019
 - Awards Reception-March 14

2019 Faculty Scholarship Support Program

The purpose of the *Georgia College Faculty Scholarship Support Program (GC-FSSP)* is to provide additional support for faculty to disseminate their research, artistic work and/or teaching and learning scholarship in a peer-reviewed publication and/or juried context. The idea is to award one of the most valuable resources of all – time. This opportunity allows faculty to write up their scholarship or prepare a performance or exhibition. By increasing our dissemination of scholarship through peer-reviewed/juried outlets, we will enhance our national reputation; and the higher education learning community will have an opportunity to learn more about all the great activities in research, creative work, teaching and learning that is occurring at Georgia College.

This year there were 10 applications across three colleges. The final recipients are:

Dr. Gail Godwin, School of Nursing

Dr. Justin Roush, Department of Economics & Finance

Dr. Hasitha Mahabaguge, Department of Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy

Dr. Ralph France, Department of Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy

Dr. Andrei Barkovskii, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Congratulations!

Student Athletes and Academic Success!

Georgia College's student-athletes continue to have holistic success academically, socially, and on the playing surface. Our graduation rates are the highest in the USG system. Georgia College student-athletes are #1 in Federal Graduation Rates amongst University System of Georgia NCAA members. Other academic distinctions in the graduation rate category includes #1 in most recent graduating class and in most recent four-cohort average. This is higher than the Georgia College student body. For the 2017-2018 academic year, student-athletes earned an average of 3.25 GPA. Additionally, 71% achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher and 18 attained a perfect 4.0 GPA for the year. Women's Cross Country student-athletes set a department GPA record with 3.79. During the last 5 years the overall GPA of student-athletes was 3.22, 3.22, 3.28, 3.25, 3.25 (all higher than or equal to the student body). Finally, GC Athletics celebrated the 4th Georgia College Valedictorian in four years (softball).