

Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

July 2020

Fall Room Scheduling

We are currently in the process of identifying and converting event space to classroom space to accommodate Fall classes. In doing this, we can achieve our goal of having as many sections as possible meet as a full class, face-to-face, with face masks where 6 feet of spatial distancing is not possible as per recent [guidance](#) we received from the system office. These spaces *tentatively* include:

A&S Auditorium (new cap 47)

Campus Theatre (new cap 36)

Centennial Center side courts (new cap 72 each)

The Depot (new cap 37)

Health Sciences movement lab (new cap 63)

Pat Peterson Museum Education Room (new cap 30)

Magnolia Ballroom (new cap 90)

The McComb Building (new cap 50)

Porter/Max Noah concert hall (new cap 51)

Peabody Auditorium (new cap 66)

The West Campus community space (new cap 60)

Russell Auditorium (new cap 100+ for seating, stage also an option)

Final classroom assignments will be released later this month. Departments will work closely with the Registrar's Office to make needed changes in laboratory courses where physical distancing is not possible. No changes to the Fall 2020 course schedule will be made until later this month when all changes can be coordinated and announced at one time.

Be aware that no non-academic space requests will be confirmed in 25Live until after academic space has been assigned. Events and activities should be held virtually whenever possible.

Congratulations!

FY20 has been another banner year for external awards at Georgia College. The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects ended the year with a new record of award dollars at \$3,819,543, up 23.4% from last year which had been a new record.

Dave Bachoon, PhD, Biological and Environmental Sciences, *Implementation of a Water Quality Restoration Strategy at San Juan Bay Estuary and the Rio Grande de Loiza*, UPR-Mayaguez, \$20,000

Dr. Bachoon and an undergraduate researcher will be analyzing 80 samples from the San Juan Bay Estuary.

Lori Strawder, Chief Sustainability Officer, *Electric Vehicle Infrastructure*, PepsiCo, \$10,000

For the installation of two level-II electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to place in a centralized parking lot on campus.

Use of Face Coverings

Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia (USG) institutions will require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is **not** a substitute for social distancing. Face coverings are not required in one's own dorm room or suite, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Repeated refusal to comply with the requirement may result in discipline through the applicable conduct code for faculty, staff or students. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. See [FrontPage](#) for more information.

GCReads Fall 2020

Our first-year student common reader program, *GCReads*, will continue this fall. Students will select one of 15 essays to read and discuss during the Weekend of Welcome in August. The essays are posted and students have been advised (through the online orientation sessions) to begin looking at them. The 2020 essays can be found [here](#).

Currently, we are planning on holding *GCReads* session in-person with several safety measures in place:

1. *GCReads* will be split across two days to provide more space/social distancing opportunities. The first session will be Monday August 10th from 10-11:30am, and the second session will be Tuesday August 11th from 2-3:30pm.
2. We will cap classrooms at 15 participants, as we have been advised there are at least 30 classrooms on campus that can accommodate 15 students spaced 6 or more feet apart.
3. We will be spacing the 30 sessions across as many buildings as possible to reduce foot traffic in any one building.
4. We will remove the handwritten essay portion this year, to safeguard against passing items around the room or asking faculty to collect essays and pencils from all students.

We are seeking faculty facilitators for the *GCReads* discussions on Monday August 10th from 10-11:30am and Tuesday August 11th from 2-3:30pm. We will need 60 section facilitators in order for this program to be a success. Sign up [here](#).

Over the past three years, students' feedback has indicated that *GCReads* significantly reduces their fears about starting their college courses, making them feel more comfortable in a college classroom. Faculty facilitators have found the discussions rewarding and engaging. We will have Zoom training sessions available for facilitators in early August.

Upcoming Important Dates 2020

August 03:	Faculty Contract Start Date New Faculty Orientation, 9:00am-12:00pm
August 04:	New Faculty Orientation, 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm
August 05:	New Faculty Orientation, 9:00am-12:00pm
August 06:	Welcome Back Faculty, 9:00am-12:00pm Making Excellence Inclusive Faculty and Staff Day, 1:00pm-4:00pm
August 07:	College/Department Assessment, 9:00am-12:00pm College Meetings, 1:00pm-5:00pm
August 10:	Governance Retreat (University Senate Committees), 9:00am-12:00pm Academic Departments, 12:00pm-5:00pm
August 11:	First Year Convocations by College
August 12:	Classes Begin

First Year Convocations

Due to COVID-19, Convocation will be held virtually by college on August 11. A message from President Dorman will be shown and each college will identify their own speakers. Times for each session are as follows:

8:00am-9:00am	College of Education
9:00am-10:00am	College of Arts and Sciences
10:00am-11:00am	College of Health Sciences
11:00am-12:00pm	College of Business

For more information, contact your Dean's office.