

# Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

June 2020

## Faculty Research Grants

- **Dr. Dominic DeSantis**, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, \$5,000.00. *Validating an automated classification system for snake movement behavior: refining and extending the radio telemetry-accelerometry framework*
- **Dr. Aurora Castillo-Scott**, Department of World Languages and Cultures, \$1,600. *Cross-Cultural Competence through Virtual Exchange Programs*
- **Dr. Sterling Roberts**, School of Nursing, \$5,000. *Validating Senior and Graduate Nursing Students Educating Junior Learners Utilizing Mid-fidelity Simulation: Implementing and Testing of the CJMM Theoretical Framework*
- **Dr. William Daniel Holcombe**, Department of World Languages and Cultures, \$5,000.00. *Center for Dalinian Studies: Research Completion for First Monograph*
- **Dr. Ashleigh Ikemoto**, Department of History and Geography, \$1,701.00. *Examining the Proposed Spanish Conquest of China, 1565-1610*
- **Dr. Dave Bachoon**, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, \$5,000.00. *Molecular Detection of Pathogenic Leptospira in Rivers and Lakes of Georgia*
- **Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak**, Department of Music, \$2,960.00. *Trail Trax 2.020: Tracking the Electoral Soundscape*
- **Dr. Kasey Karen**, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, \$4,955.00. *Characterizing the impact of an adenovirus infection on cellular P-bodies*
- **Mr. Matthew Forrest**, Department of Art, \$4,950.00. *Program Development & Residency for Artists with Special Needs*

## Congratulations!

**Shaundra Walker, PhD, Library Director**, for winning the 2020 DEMCO/ALA Black Caucus Award for Excellence in Librarianship by the American Library Association. More information about Dr. Walker and her accomplishments may be found here: <https://www.bcala.org/2020-demco-award-winner-dr-shaundra-walker-phd>

## Upcoming Events

- **Andalusia:** June 18 at 4:30 and 7:00, Dr. Bruce Gentry “Why Do the Heathen Rage?” To register, click [here](#).
- **Andalusia:** July 23, Rita Mae Reese, poet and author of *The Book of Hulga*, will talk about the role Flannery O’Connor’s characters and her life have influenced her poetry. Hulga, a character from O’Connor’s “Good Country People,” serves as the main inspiration for her book. More information to follow.
- **Rural Studies Institute:** June 23, *COVID-19 and Rural Georgia*, A Virtual Conversation with the Medical College of Georgia and the Morehouse College of Medicine. To sign up, click [here](#).

## Change to Fall 2020 Academic Calendar

The health and safety of Georgia College students, faculty, and staff is of the utmost concern for the university. Out of an abundance of caution, and due to continued concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia College will amend the fall semester academic calendar.

Fall classes will begin Wednesday, August 12, instead of the originally scheduled date of Monday, August 17. Fall break, originally set for October 12-13, has been removed from the calendar. The last day of classes will be Tuesday, November 24. Final exams will begin Tuesday, December 1, after the Thanksgiving break and will take place online. The full revised academic calendar is available [here](#), and the [final exam schedule here](#).

The goal of these changes is to ensure learning continues while limiting the potential spread of COVID-19 by reducing travel to and from campus.

## Return to Campus

Please see below for specific guidelines and things you need to know and practice as you return to campus:

- Hygiene Expectations:** Every employee is expected to follow GDPH and CDC basic guidelines:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue or inside your elbow.
- Face Masks/Face Coverings:** Until further notice, all employees, students, and faculty must wear face masks in all public situations, meetings, events and assemblies on campus where there is the likelihood that the social distancing requirements may be compromised. Use of face masks may be discontinued in personal office spaces and residence hall rooms. If you do not have a face mask, one will be provided for you. Visitors to campus offices will be supplied with a mask to use during their interactions on campus.
- Social Distancing:** Please make every effort to comply with the social distancing requirements. This means, when at all possible, you should stay 6-feet away from others and not gather in groups. Please refrain from handshaking and related unnecessary person-to-person contact in the workplace. Please refrain from using other employees' phones, desks, office spaces, or other work tools and equipment.
- Alternate Work Arrangements will be made for Employees who are at High Risk:** Individuals who fall into one of the following GDPH and CDC categories for higher risk for severe illness with COVID-19 may request alternate work arrangements. The USG Human Resources department has provided a common form for employees to use in making such a request. Documentation for underlying medical conditions will be required as a part of the request. If you believe you fall into a high-risk category that would make you a vulnerable employee, please contact Amber Collins (478-445-4236) at the Georgia College Human Resources Office.
- Self-Monitoring** – It is your responsibility to monitor your health. Do not come to work if you are ill. All employees should be diligent about self-monitoring. Symptoms of COVID-19 can be found [online](#).
- Central points of notification:** Requests regarding HR related issues should be sent to Amber Collins (478-445-4236) at the Georgia College Human Resources Office. Health-related questions should be directed to Britt McRae (478-445-5288) at Student Health Services.