

Provost Notes

Georgia College & State University

November 2017

GURC Conference held at GC, October 27 & 28, 2017!

Georgia College was the host institution for the 2017 GURC, the Southeast's Preeminent Regional Undergraduate Research & Creative Endeavors Conference. GC also hosted the 2016 conference. A combined effort and hard work from Jennifer Hammack, Steven Jones, Karen Kasey, Robin Lewis, Dee Sams, Jeanne Sewell, Sara Stephens, and fifty Georgia College undergraduate students serving as greeters, classroom technology aides, registrars, session chairs, and timers resulted in a great conference for more than 150 in attendance. The keynote address by Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna, President Emeritus (1994-2013) and Regents' Professor of Marketing at University of West Georgia, was well received.

This year's conference included student presentations from schools that had not participated in previous conferences: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Berry College, Brenau University, Clark Atlanta University, Clayton State University, Emory University, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia State University, Mercer University, Middle Georgia State University, Valdosta State University, and Wesleyan College. Georgia College marketing research students served in multiple roles throughout the event and conducted observational research that they will share with the GURC Steering Committee. Georgia College is one of the original seven schools in the GURC consortium.

The GURC Steering committee has expanded to 13-member institutions that include six new member schools: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Fort Valley State University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, University of Georgia and Valdosta State University. A new banner was created for the GURC that is institution neutral. The Georgia College planning committee passed the banner to the University of North Georgia, host for the 2018 and 2019 conferences, symbolizing Georgia College's continued commitment to the GURC. The GURC Steering Committee will announce in the spring of 2018 some new and exciting undertakings.

SRIS-Final FIF

The final numbers for the FIF (Faculty Information Form) are 1,020 completed out of 1029 for a 99.12% completion rate. The student survey period will begin 11/20/2017. Please encourage your students to participate in the Fall 2017 instructional evaluation process.

Congratulations...

GC's **Institutional Research** department won awards for best fact book and placed second for the best mini fact book as judged by The Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR).

Recipients of the *Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grant* by the USG:

- **Kasey Karen, PhD**, Biological and Environmental Sciences and **Jennifer Townes**, University Library, \$10,800. The recipients will develop an anthology for a Bioethics course.
- **Kalina Manoylov, PhD, Christine Mutiti, PhD, Sam Mutiti, PhD, and Allison VandeVoort, PhD** (all from Biological and Environmental Sciences) and **Donna Bennett**, University Library, \$4,800. The authors are proposing to revise existing book chapters in an ENSC faculty-written textbook in order to increase clarity and improve flow of the contents. The authors have received requests from faculty from other institutions who have adopted the textbook for these materials.

Rachel Pope, Student Health Services

GOHS Young Adult Year 13, Governor's Office of Highway Safety- \$7,399

The GOHS Young Adult grant provides funding to prevent and reduce binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, and driving under the influence. GC students will gain education about low-risk and high-risk drinking, as well as learn the dangers of alcohol poisoning and driving under the influence.

Professional Development

Beauty Bragg, PhD, English & Rhetoric, **Peggy Elliott, PhD**, World Languages & Cultures, and **Min Kim, PhD**, Government & Sociology, attended the ACE (American Council on Education) Department Chairs' Workshop in Chicago in October.

Updates from BOR of the University System of Georgia

The following academic policies were approved by the BOR at the October 2017 meeting:

- **Academic Calendar**
- **Semester System**

All University System of Georgia (USG) institutions shall operate on the semester system.

Uniform Academic Calendar: The academic calendar for each USG institution shall consist of two semesters, each with at least 15 weeks of instructional time, as defined by federal regulations issued by the United States Department of Education. The 15 weeks of instructional time shall not include registration or final examinations.

All USG institutions, with the exception of Medical School and Dental School at Augusta University and the College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Law at the University of Georgia, shall begin and end classes for fall semester and spring semester within the prescribed periods set forth in the Academic & Student Affairs Handbook. Each institution will determine all other necessary dates for the semester, including the possibility of flexible scheduling within and between semesters. Each term must be separated by a minimum of one day.

The President of a USG institution or his or her designee has the authority to set the Academic Calendar for the institution within the parameters of this policy. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be submitted in writing by the President of the institution and approved in writing by the USG Chief Academic Officer.

Religious Holidays: Each USG institution shall establish a process for evaluating requests for leave to observe religious holidays.

Instructional Time: A minimum of 750 minutes of instruction or the equivalent is required for each semester credit hour. A course offered in fewer than 15 instructional weeks shall contain the same total hours (contact hours, preparation time, content, and requirements) as the same course offered in the standard 15-week semester.

ALL IN Challenge Results

At the first-ever ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony, held October 19, to recognize colleges and universities committed to increasing college student voting rates, Georgia College received a bronze seal for achieving a student rate between 50% and 59%.

The All IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a national awards program. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship and make democratic participation a core value on their campus.

- The GC student voter turnout was up by 6 percentage points over 2012. That's twice the national average.
- At 50%, the GC voter turnout was 2 percentage points above the national average. In 2012 our voting rate was just 43%, 2 points below the national average.
- While the GC registration rate was down 3% from 2012, that is still a full 9 percentage points higher than the national average.

GC Institutional Mission Statement Approved by BOR

The Board of Regents approved the institutional mission statement for Georgia College effective October 11, 2017.

Georgia College is the state's only designated public liberal arts university. We fulfill this mission through a commitment to:

An Expansive Educational Experience. We challenge our students through exemplary teaching. The Georgia College student will think clearly and critically in creatively addressing social issues. Undergraduate study encompasses multi-disciplinary intellectual encounters with both enduring and contemporary questions, intensive study in the major, exposure to artistic endeavors, opportunities for scholarly research, and capstone experiences that integrate and apply learning. Post-baccalaureate programs bridge the gap between theory and practice with a focus on regional needs, preparing graduates for professional advancement, lifelong intellectual pursuits, and informed participation in today's complex society.

Highly Intentional Engagement. We collaborate with community partners to address mutually identified needs while advancing students' academic and civic learning, in crafting informed, global citizens ready to serve the public good. Engagement opportunities include undergraduate research, study abroad, internships, community service, and leadership experiences, both in and outside the classroom.

Diversity and Inclusive Excellence. We foster a sense of belonging within a campus community that values diversity of intellectual thought, experiences and identifications. Georgia College faculty, staff, and students intentionally embrace inclusivity to advance excellence through diversity.

Preparation for Leadership. We encourage all students to develop a breadth of leadership competencies, including self-awareness, empathy for cultural differences, and effective interpersonal communication. Georgia College students become leaders through engagement with purposeful curricular and co-curricular leadership experiences.