Provost Notes

Cultural Center Update

The Georgia College Cultural Center aims to provide support for our under-represented student populations by offering services, programs and enrichment opportunities that encourage student success. The Cultural Center is a place where students can meet other students of various backgrounds and embrace the diversity that we strive to increase here at Georgia College.

Beginning on September 1st, Stacey Milner became the Director of the Cultural Center. Milner has worked at the university for ten years and was previously an Assistant Director in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, where she has played a key role in revamping the fraternal system. She brings to the position a passion for educating students on the value of diversity and inclusivity in everyday life. Her responsibilities include providing support to under-represented students and creating opportunities for intercultural engagement. The Cultural Center is a department in the Division of Student Affairs and is located in the HUB (Blackbridge Hall).

GC Journeys

As part of the new **GC Journeys** program, Georgia College has adopted *Portfolium*, a digital portfolio software, sponsored by the University System of Georgia. All GC faculty, advisors, and students have free access to *Portfolium*. If faculty and staff are interested in using *Portfolium* but do not have an active account, please contact Cara Smith (cara.smith@gcsu.edu), or Andrea Barra (andrea.barra@gcsu.edu). Also contact them if you have any questions or would like access to an online demo of *Portfolium*.

To further investigate transformative experiences at our institution, the **GC Journeys** program coordinators have established professional learning communities (PLCs), comprised of faculty and staff focusing on several of the transformative experiences we offer at GC (study abroad, undergraduate research, leadership experiences, clinical and field-based practices, etc…). If you are interested in joining a PLC, please contact Cynthia Alby (cynthia.alby@gcsu.edu), or Steven Jones (steven.jones@gcsu.edu).

Congratulations!

Andrei Barkovskii, Ph.D., Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences, IMERYS, $32,607. This grant supports the removal of biological contaminants from aqueous media. Control of biological contaminants in aqueous media is needed for medical, public health, food, and other industries. The Barkovskii Lab recently developed a method for removal of bacteria from the above media using particular kaolin products.

Sequena Moon, Program Manager, High Achievers Program, CAC Food Program for High Achievers – U.S. Department of Agriculture, $12,500. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides aid to child and adult care institutions and family or group day care homes for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of all participants. This grant allows for a daily dinner meal reimbursement for each attendee in the High Achievers Program. Participation in the CACFP program assists with the cost of food so that DHS grant funding can support curriculum programming costs.

Enrollment, Retention & Graduation

Total Fall 2017 Enrollment: 6,952 (6,542 FTE)

- Undergraduate: 5,987 students
- Graduate: 965 students

- 2016 One Year Retention: 84.19%
- 2013 Four Year Graduation: 49.24%
- 2011 Six Year Graduation: 65.86%

Common Syllabus Statements

All course syllabi are required to include common statements. See headings below and click the links for full information.

- Religious Observance Policy
- Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability
- Student Rating of Instruction Survey
- Academic Honesty
- Fire Drills
- Electronic Recording Policy
- Academic Grievances or Appeals

https://intranet.gcsu.edu/common-syllabus-statements
http://www.gcsu.edu/registrar/required-syllabus-statements

Mid-Term Grades

All faculty are highly encouraged to provide mid-term grades for all courses not just 1000 level and core courses.

Affordable Learning Georgia

The "Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants" are intended to:

- Pilot different approaches in USG courses for textbook transformation including adoption, adaptation, and creation of Open Educational Resources (OER).
- Identification and adoption of materials already available in GALILEO and USG libraries.
- Identification and adoption of other no-cost digital materials.
- Provide support to faculty, libraries, and their institutions to implement these approaches.
- Lower the cost of college for students and contribute to their retention, progression, and graduation.

For more information regarding this program please see:
http://www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org/

GC Applicant Tracking System Changes

As part of the *OneUSG* initiative, Georgia College & State University will make a change from our current GCSUJobs/PeopleAdmin applicant tracking system to further align our university with the *OneUSG* system. This transition will take place in the upcoming 2018 calendar year (the new system could be available by February 16, 2018). All searches take time to complete and as a result there will be significant overlap of the two systems to meet individual search needs. If a search started in the old system prior to February 16th, departments will be able to complete the search in that system. Searches starting after February 16, 2018 will be conducted in the new *OneUSG* system. This change will affect the faculty and graduate assistant searches that take place within the Academic Affairs Division. Neil Jones, Office of the Provost (neil.jones@gcsu.edu) (ext. 6849) is the primary point of contact for all faculty searches.

Georgia House Bill 801

Georgia House Bill 801 was recently implemented to incentivize students to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) coursework and ultimately STEM careers by providing a 0.5 point HOPE and Zell Miller GPA boost for select STEM courses. Beginning with the Fall 2017 semester, certain introductory courses in STEM fields have been approved to receive an additional 0.5 point per credit hour in the HOPE and Zell Miller eligibility calculation for students who earn a B, C, or D grade in these courses. HOPE and Zell Miller STEM courses are identified on the semester course schedule.

From The Ina Dillard Russell Library…

In celebration of Open Access Week (October 23-28), Russell Library will offer a Publishing Workshop on Friday, October 27th from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Room 302 of the University Library. Participants will explore the different parts of a publishing contract and how to amend a contract to secure copyright in the name of the author. They will also look at different places to find publishing opportunities and discuss the importance of publishing Open Access. For more information and to register, contact Jennifer Townes, Scholarly Communication Librarian at ext. 0991 or jennifer.townes@gcsu.edu.