



GEORGIA
COLLEGE

GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER

• Theatre
• Undergraduate Research
• Grows Exponentially

— SPRING 2014 —

Music

Several vocal students participated in the Georgia National Association of Schools of Singing Auditions, held November 16-17. The competition included 302 singers from universities and private studios across the state. We are very proud of the students who attended, and how well they represented our school in this competition.

The following students won their categories:

Cannon McClain

First Place Winner of Sophomore Men

Calia Howse

First Place Winner of the Semi-Finals for Sophomore Women



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ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
SPRING 2014

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Dean's Message

Faculty and students are as busy as ever. The range of activities and accomplishments featured in the spring Arts and Sciences newsletter is just a taste of what is happening in the college.

Our primary focus is always on the classroom, but as you can see, what happens in the classroom is changing, and delivering the very best education to Georgia College students extends instruction well beyond the classroom. Work with the community and study in the wider world reflect our belief that direct engagement offers the deepest form of learning. Travel and service to others transform lives.

Great education starts with the faculty. Remarkably, two of our biology faculty have ties to recent Nobel Prize winners. This is just one indication of the qualifications Arts and Sciences faculty bring to Georgia College. Even with our primary focus on teaching, Arts and Sciences faculty are amazingly productive in their scholarly and creative work and service to the community. Spring semester is hiring season for much academia. As we interview candidates for open faculty positions, our outstanding faculty attract the very best new colleagues. In turn, excellent faculty attract great students. Quality attracts quality. Georgia College gets better and better.



DEAN KENNETH PROCTER

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Innovative Course Offers Students an Opportunity to Create Community Partnerships



The Department of Government and Sociology is currently offering an upper level sociology course that provides students with an opportunity to interact with the local community and learn beyond the classroom. Sandra Godwin, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology developed the course titled “Community-University Partnerships and the Co-Construction of Knowledge,” which also draws from the role of experiential learning as a powerful teaching and learning tool. According to Dr. Godwin, “this is a unique experience for our students since they are able to meet weekly, as a class, with a community organization in members’ own neighborhood. Students have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with community members as we all work together for mutual empowerment. Community engagement encourages responsible citizenship, social justice work, self-reflection, and contributes to a culture of engaged learning.” Jon German, a senior Sociology major noted that, “this has been a transformative experience as I’ve learned that simply putting myself out there, introducing myself to people, and making an effort just to be there, can make a world of difference in creating relationships between a community and a student like myself.”

In addition to discussions and readings on public engagement, community change, participatory research and exploration of models of community-university partnerships, students attend weekly meetings of the Milledgeville Community Garden Association at Harrisburg, a historical, established neighborhood on the south side of Milledgeville. At these meetings, students have the opportunity to interact with leaders and members of the community and local community organizations.

Students have been able to observe first-hand how the community garden effort served as the framework for residents’ creation of a walking trail and focused home repair activities. Danny Montenegro, a senior Sociology major, commented that “I think it’s been a learning opportunity to work with a community that has been so eager to restore its neighborhood. It has been interesting to see it all come out of a community garden and move out from growing plants to growing a community.” For another student, Abby Martin, a junior Sociology major, “It’s been cool to see how a left-over part of the former Harrisburg School has become so meaningful. The CP Lee Center has breathed new life. It has become a meeting spot, a place for after-school programs, a community garden, and also a place for all of us involved to change from who we are to who we want to be.” As a result of this course experience and the community engagements embedded in the schedule, some of the students are now tutoring children. According to Cheyenne Davis, a junior Sociology minor, “After attending the Harrisburg meetings, I’m not as uncomfortable meeting new people. I can go to these meetings, build relationships and support various initiatives.”

During the semester the students are also evaluating models and approaches to community-university partnerships. These evaluations could assist future efforts between Georgia College and the Milledgeville community. Plans for final projects include a student handbook for

community engagement, a large poster map of the neighborhood, and a PowerPoint “scrapbook” of the history and current activities of the community association. Zykerious Crawford, a junior Sociology major, is excited about this possibility since this class allowed him to “recognize the bubble that exists here at GC,

given that everyone shares a similar background. This class has been a reminder of the importance to bridge this gap between the university and the community of Milledgeville. We are discovering ways to do just that. It is an experience that will stay with me forever.” ■

The Department of Government and Sociology Co-Sponsors International Conference on Flannery O’Connor

The Department of Government and Sociology and the Center for Transatlantic Studies, represented by Henry T. Edmondson III PhD., Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, will co-sponsor an international conference entitled, “Flannery O’Connor & the Mystery of Place.” The conference will be held at All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland, July 24-26, 2014 and marks the 50th anniversary of Ms. O’Connor’s death.

The other sponsors of the conference include The Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago; the Faculty of Arts and Science at Nipissing University, Canada; The Mary Flannery O’Connor Charitable Trust; Universidad Complutense, Madrid (The University of Madrid), Spain; Georgia College; and, Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina.

Professor Edmondson, who has initiated and spearheaded this event, and serves as a member of the Conference Committee, explains,

“This conference has been four years in the making and we are delighted it has finally come together. Initiating and directing a conference from the U.S. with a small consortium of international universities with a venue in Europe has been tricky to say the least, but we seem to have pulled it off. We have received generous support from various sources and I’m lucky to have the assistance of Georgia College’s web services and the Department of Continuing Education with the web site and registration. We expect participation from the U.S., Europe, South America and perhaps Asia as well.”

Edmondson further explained that this conference builds upon the success of another international conference that he co-directed in Rome, Italy at Santa Croce University, April 20-22, 2009, entitled “Reason, Faith & Fiction: An International Flannery O’Connor Conference,” which enjoyed participation from four continents.

Edmondson’s interest in O’Connor grows out of his general teaching and research interest in politics and literature. Among other scholarship, he is currently editing *A Political Companion to Flannery O’Connor*, which will be one of the volumes in the University Press of Kentucky’s series “Political Companions to Great American Authors.” The series already offers books on Emerson, Steinbeck, Bellow, and Percy, with more to come, including the O’Connor volume. The Director of the UPK, Steve Wrinn, calls this his “signature series” that will “live on long after we are gone.”

Costas Spirou, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Government and Sociology noted that “This is a timely and very relevant event. Flannery O’Connor is Georgia College’s most famous graduate. She completed her BA degree in Social Science in 1945 and her global prestige continues to grow—her works have now been translated into over 40 languages.”

Located in Flannery O’Connor’s ancestral homeland and scheduled to commemorate the 50th anniversary of her untimely death, this international conference welcomes an array of interdisciplinary paper proposals designed to illuminate and deepen the understanding and appreciation of O’Connor’s fiction, prose and correspondence. The event will feature speakers Gina Ochsner, American author and winner of the 2001 Flannery O’Connor Award and John F. Deane, critically acclaimed Irish poet and writer. There will be a roundtable discussion with Ralph Wood, Professor of Theology and Literature, Baylor University, and a special conference panel titled “O’Connor as Seen from Ireland” will feature Emer Nolan, National University of Ireland, Maynooth; Stephen Matterson, Trinity College, Dublin; and Jarlath Killeen, Trinity College, Dublin.

For more information on the Conference, please check the conference site at gcsu.edu/mysteryofplace/.

Please contact Professor Hank Edmondson athank.edmondson@gcsu.edu for additional information.

Mass Comm Students



WGUR, PRSSA, and The Colonnade, all advised by mass communication faculty spent part of fall semester traveling across the country earning awards, representing the university and improving their organizations

Students from WGUR, Georgia College's student-run radio station, traveled to San Antonio, Texas to participate in the College Broadcasters conference, a national organization that supports students involved in radio, television and other media. Students were accompanied by WGUR faculty adviser, Angela Criscoe.

WGUR's General Manager, Michelle Hanley, and Business Manager, Nick Hanchey, teamed up to present, "New Year, New Staff! Pass the Torch", an informational session on how WGUR trains new leaders every year.

Both students also attended several sessions to learn about broadcast. "Nothing is better than being in a room with 50 other students your own age who love something as much as you do and being able to learn from other stations strengths and weaknesses and compare them to your own. Before I attended the CBI conference, I expected that all other stations worked "perfectly" and had no issues whatsoever. But after sitting around round table discussions and speaking to other college radio station staffs, I learned that we all share some of the same issues. It was a truly great experience", stated Hanley.

Hanley and Hanchey recently presented topics they learned from the conference to the upcoming members of WGUR.

Gaining professional connections and insight, four Bobcat PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) students traveled to Philadelphia, Pa. in late October to attend the 2013 PRSSA National Conference.

The PRSSA National Conference is a professional development conference held every year for public relations students around the world. The theme this year was "Foundation for Innovation."

Through application process, Maria Esposito, Kathryn Stanley, Alex Griffith and Zoe Blutstein were chosen to attend the conference. Each member accepted a scholarship promising to return with valuable information for the chapter.

Each morning all the students would gather to hear a keynote address and then be dismissed to individual workshops. Students were able to choose from a multitude of sessions like, "CEO of You: Creating Your Personal Brand" and "Step Up to the Plate: Sports PR."

"By getting the chance to talk to the head of PR for the 76ers, I gained knowledge in the area of PR that I hope to go into," said Zoe Blutstein, junior mass communication major. "It was a great opportunity!"

Sessions were also held for individual chapter development. These sessions provided good time for students to meet chapter officers from universities across the country to exchange ideas. Kathryn Stanley, Vice President of Bobcat PRSSA, was able to collaborate with students to generate ideas for recruitment in the spring.

Bobcat PRSSA was also recognized for its accomplishments at the conference by receiving the Star Chapter award. The Star Chapter Award is a significant

distinction PRSSA chapters can earn by meeting eight out of ten professional development goals and standards established by the PRSSA National Committee. Some of these standards include community service projects, ethics, fundraising efforts and recruitment accomplishments.

Dr. Kristin English, faculty adviser to Bobcat PRSSA, is delighted with the chapter's tireless efforts to bring Bobcat PRSSA to the national stage and compete with universities of larger size and resources.

"The Star Chapter award provides validation for the hard work the chapter has done in the past year," English said. "Winning it two years in a row exhibits our continued commitment to perform at the highest level of excellence."

The Star Chapter Award was not the only recognition Bobcat PRSSA received. Bobcat PRSSA President, Maria Esposito, was also awarded the National President's Citation and the Lawrence G. Foster Award for Excellence in Public Relations. The two awards recognize her achievements in the public relations field, commitment to PRSSA and promise to practice public relations ethically and honestly.

At the coming chapter meetings, the four plan to share their experiences and knowledge from the conference to help build Bobcat PRSSA for the future.

"It was a privilege to attend the 2013 PRSSA National Conference," said Alex Griffith, senior mass communication major. "Being able to network with professionals from all around the country is an opportunity not many college students get."

The Colonnade accompanied by Macon McGinley sent six student representatives to the National College Media Convention in New Orleans Oct. 23-26 where they joined 2,500 student media practitioners from around the country to train in sessions led by some of the most prestigious professionals in all fields of journalism.

Students included editor-in-chief Constantina Kokenes, advertising manager Sarah Grace, assistant news editor Sarah Wilson, assistant photo editor Taylor Pitts, assistant sports editor Bethan Adams, and assistant A&E editor Lauren Corcino. Corcino even had a chance to meet keynote speaker and Today Show co-host Hoda Kotb.

The NCMC is hosted by Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association. Convention Founded in 1921, ACP is the oldest and largest national membership organization for college student journalists. CMA has been working since 1954 to help student media professionals improve their media operations. These two organizations are the largest and oldest in the United States dedicated to helping college media thrive and student journalists succeed in the academic environment and beyond. ■



From a
DINOSAUR GARDEN
to cruising down the
Fossil Freeway



GC students are regular visitors to the museum

The Georgia College Natural History Museum has been very busy with new projects and upcoming events. During a three month period this fall, over 2500 people have visited the NHM. The museum held special openings in September for Smithsonian Museum Day and in October for Deep Roots festival. In addition to GC students and scheduled school groups, visitors hailed from eight states and Canada. "The museum is free and open to the public from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday and on special occasions."

said Dr. Bob Chandler, Associate Professor of Biology and Museum Coordinator. "The attractive and informative exhibits are very popular with all age groups, and we strive to keep them updated". In addition to the public exhibit, the Natural History Museum houses a research collection that is recognized by the National Parks Service as an official repository of Badlands fossils. This collection is only the second such collection east of the Mississippi River with this designation. The Smithsonian Institution is the other.



A titanothere skull weathers out of the rock in Dr. Bill Wall's Badlands exhibit.

The Natural History Museum is evolving!

The exhibits in the museum recently have been redesigned and updated. Following the recommendations of a museum consultant, this yearlong project has refreshed the exhibits ensuring that regular visitors will be seeing new and updated displays. The cases have been rearranged around the room in a way that makes it easy for visitors to travel through time. In addition, new specimens are now displayed that previously have not been viewed by the public. The entire renovation should be completed by the end of 2014 but don't wait until then to visit!

Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway

Fossils are found in every state. To prove that point, Kirk Johnson (Director of the National Museum of Natural History) and acclaimed artist Ray Troll embarked on the ultimate paleontological road trip throughout the American west. Their escapades were documented, and lavishly illustrated in the book, "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway". A book alone was not enough to do justice to their 5,000-mile long prehistoric odyssey. So Johnson and Troll, with support from the Burke Museum, created an exhibit dovetailing Troll's whimsical images with genuine fossils.

Now, through the efforts of Dr. Melanie DeVore, Professor and Georgia Power Endowed Chair of Environmental Sciences, and the GC Natural History Museum, the "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" exhibit will be parking at Georgia College for three months starting September 2014. Along with twenty framed prints of Troll's artwork, and with illustrations, maps and accounts of Johnson and Troll's travels will be a sampling of the fossil treasure trove housed in the Georgia College Natural History Museum collections. Visitors will come face to face with killer pigs, spawning ammonites, and capture a glimpse of ancient climate by looking at a 50 million year old set of fossil leaves. And since this journey is coming to Georgia, expect a heaping helping of the "Peach State's" prehistoric best. An organizing committee of faculty and museum staff is also planning a series of related talks and events prior to the exhibit opening to provide the campus and the community opportunities to celebrate Georgia's deeper history before the real party starts in September. Georgia College is indeed located in "Georgia's Antebellum Capital". However, the extensive fossil collections housed in the GC Natural History Museum and the paleontological expertise of associated faculty and museum staff, also earn Milledgeville the title of "Georgia's Prehistoric Capital".

The "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" exhibit is sponsored by the Georgia Power Endowment, the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, the Georgia College Natural History Museum and the College of Arts & Sciences.

Photo credits: Linda Chandler



Johnny Dillard (left), Matthew McGee (center) and Eddie Barnes (right) from the GC Grounds Department planting in the Dinosaur Garden

Growing a Dinosaur Garden

The Mesozoic Era was a time of change. The landmass Pangaea began to break up and seaways began to spread. The environment was warm and equable. This was the Age of Reptiles. For almost 200 million years there was rapid speciation of both plants and animals. At first, ferns, cycads, ginkgoes and conifers dominated the landscape. Near the end, flowering plants evolved.

The part-time staff members of the Natural History Museum (museum interpreter Rick Joslyn, fossil technician Heidi Mead and exhibit designer Linda Chandler), with the assistance of Susan Daniels and Johnny Dillard of the GC Grounds Department, are creating a new outdoor exhibit complete with living plants whose ancestors evolved during the Mesozoic. Dr. Taylor Quedensley, Assistant Professor of Biology, generously donated some of the plants from the Biological & Environmental Sciences Department Greenhouse. The garden exhibit can be observed through the large glass viewing station at the front door of the museum. Come visit the museum and get a glimpse of what the world looked like at this time...and maybe even see a dinosaur egg or two...■

Students Present at Georgia Political Science Association Conference

The annual Georgia Political Science Association conference was held in Savannah, Georgia in November and four students from Georgia College's Department of Government and Sociology presented their research. Two of the students are seniors in the Political Science program and two are pursuing Master of Public Administration (MPA) degrees.

Jay Fickle, a Political Science senior co-presented with Min Kim, Ph.D., Assistant Professor as part of a panel entitled "Governance and Economy." The title of their presentation was "Corruption, Income Inequality, and Economic Growth in the U.S.". They analyzed the effects of corruption on income inequality and growth. The study used a corruption risk model comprised of the existence of public integrity mechanisms, the effectiveness of those mechanisms, and the access that citizens have to those mechanisms.

"Governance and Development in the Third World" was the title of the paper presented by MPA student, Ashley

McCready. In her paper, Ms. McCready examined the complex relationship between governance and growth in developing nations. Intricate arguments demonstrating the causal connections between governance, democracy and advancement in the Third World through an empirical analysis were included.

Salma Henaidi, student in the MPA program presented, "Evaluation and Analysis for Georgia's HOPE Scholarship Program". Ms. Henaidi assessed whether the HOPE program has succeeded in meeting its objectives. Her study confirms that Georgia counties with more African-American residents have a higher percentage of students that enroll in college than other counties. She concluded that there is a positive and statistically significant correlation between the percentage of students entering colleges and universities in each county and the percentage of students eligible for HOPE.

Finally, Political Science undergraduate student, Bryan Barks worked closely with Jason Rich, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, and presented in a panel titled, "New Issues in the International Arena." Ms. Barks' paper, "The United States' Role in the Construction of International Small Arms Control," used a constructivist framework to address the largely unsuccessful efforts of the international community to limit small arms proliferation and to make an argument for the United States' role in the obstruction of this norm-building process. She argued that international norms driven by the United States' existing domestic gun control policies, culture, control over gun manufacturing, and position as the global hegemon have prevented the emergence of an international regime regulating small arms. The paper was extremely well received by the panel discussant and audience members. It has been nominated for the GPSA's Roger N. Pajari Undergraduate Paper Award for the best undergraduate paper of the year.

"Student involvement in research activities is very important and the Department of Government and Sociology faculty are working closely with our students to ensure that future graduates have an opportunity to collaborate and present their work in various academic settings. I would like to congratulate our students for sharing their research at the GPSA conference and our faculty for their guidance and support. The Department is excited by what its students are producing in scholarly research" said Costas Spirou, Ph.D. Department Chair. ■

PALS: Philosophy and Liberal Studies



Philosophy major. The term often brings to mind a vision of students engaging in erudite discussions, incisive commentary and logical argumentation. Often, the vision stops there. Few people are aware of the practical advantages that these skills confer on philosophy majors. Purdue University, citing the US Department of Education, highlights

the following facts about the Philosophy major: Philosophy majors rank first among all majors in law school acceptance rate: 82.4%; Philosophy majors rank first among all majors in LSAT scores and in the verbal and analytic sections of the GRE.

An exemplar of these statistics is Chris Eby a recent Philosophy/History double-major who is attending the prestigious University of Chicago Law School. In November the Philosophy program invited Chris Eby to campus to acquaint current and prospective Philosophy majors with the process of law school application. Chris visited several lower and upper level Philosophy classes, as well as met with the Philosophy club, where he was peppered with questions from excited students, eager to "get the scoop on a law school" from one of their own.

In its desire to provide an exemplary intellectual education that simultaneously remains cognizant of students' career aspirations the Philosophy program has recently proposed a Pre-Law concentration within the Philosophy major in order to further hone relevant skills for those Philosophy majors interested in pursuing Law. ■

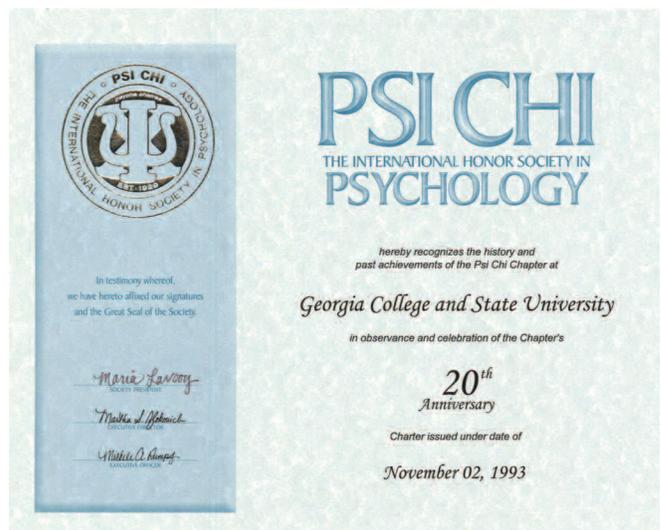


PsiChi

Boasting over 600,000 members and 1,100 chapters globally, The International Honor Society of Psychology (PsiChi) is the largest student centered psychological organization. PsiChi's mission "to produce a well-educated, ethical, and socially responsible member committed to contributing to the science and profession of psychology and to society in general," is firmly upheld by Georgia College's PsiChi chapter. As a reflection of our dedication to this mission we were recently awarded a certificate for 20 years of membership in PsiChi. Countless students and faculty mentors have contributed to the success of the organization.

Major accomplishments from the last 20 years include several philanthropic endeavors such as thanksgiving canned food drives, hosting local families in need, and most recently contributing to Baldwin County's Relay For Life by donating time and raising money as 'Team Georgia College PsiChi.' The chapter plans to continue its work with Relay for Life in future years. PsiChi's philanthropic activities also extend to The Department of Psychological Science; for the last 20 years PsiChi has honored the accomplishments of its students by hosting a commencement ceremony for graduating psychology

majors and their families. Additionally, since the spring of 2011 PsiChi has illustrated its commitment to promoting the science of psychology by sponsoring the departmental research poster session at the Annual Psychology Major Day Ceremony held each spring. Our chapter is proud of its accomplishments and looks forward to the next 20 years of PsiChi membership!" ■





Theatre Undergraduate Research Grows Exponentially

By DR. KAREN BERMAN, Theatre Chair

The Theatre Department with Dance was pleased to be awarded a 2012-13 Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (URACE) Implementation Grant for our research entitled "Implementing a Culture of Undergraduate Research: Highlighting Embedded Research in the Theatre Department." The department created a comprehensive undergraduate research agenda implemented through conferences, community outreach, and service learning. Assessment was based on the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Value Rubrics and the initial GC Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Rubrics.

Students in Theatre attended 6 regional and/or national conferences plus 2 on-campus conferences. Students in Dance attended 1 regional conference. Students in the GC2Y Theatre as Social Change course attended 1 on-campus conference. 66 individual students in Theatre participated in 154 projects that were assessed in this report. Additionally, 28 individual GC2Y students were assessed on a group of projects with Early College. In addition, 33 individual Dance Minor students were assessed on their community engagement work.

88 objectives in the AAC&U VALUE Rubric and the 8 objectives on the GC QEP Initial Rubrics were assessed, resulting in a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in the Theatre curriculum. Creative Thinking, Problem-Solving, Teamwork, and Intercultural Knowledge resulted in highest scores. Theatre presented this work at the recent GC Undergraduate Research Symposium. Results of the assessment show that for Theatre students in this study, 51.2% reached the Capstone (highest) level on the AAC&U rubrics and 47% of Theatre students in this study reached the Capstone level of the QEP.

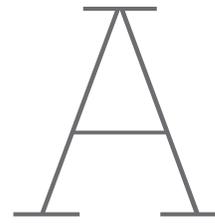
One of our very busy undergraduate students Lexi Williams did research on a slavery project that resulted

in a performance of "Free Like Br'er Rabbit" at the Wren's Nest in Atlanta and also did research on immigration, performing a collaborative dance/theatre piece with guest artist Jose Torres Tama demonstrating her own written work that she performed in "Reflections on the American Dream" in Russell Auditorium. Likewise, she was evaluated once again with and for Early College students along with Pediatric Nursing in her GC2Y Theatre as Social Change class on her performance and written reflections on topics such as anti-bullying.

Our dance students have disseminated their community outreach research at the Veteran's Home, Central State Hospital, and area nursing homes. They have created a dance for the Clothesline Project, increasing awareness of domestic violence against women. Dance students disseminated their research at the regional American College Dance Festival in 2013 at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The dance pedagogy students are implementing their scholarship of teaching and learning through teaching community dance to local school children with resulting public presentations as part of "The Nutcracker" and the Spring Community Dance Concert.

Ten Theatre students were nominated by external respondents to disseminate their research at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 4 Conference at Darton College in Albany, Georgia in February 2013. Students Matt Riley, the costume designer and Jessica McClure, the makeup and hair designer for "The Birds" were awarded honorable mentions for their presentations at the Region 4 conference.

Another 15 of our students were nominated this year for their design and acting research and presented at the Kennedy Center 2014 conference at Hollis University in Roanoke, Virginia in February 2014. ■



few years ago I wrote a proposal for a museum exhibit on the history of Barbecue in American History for the Atlanta History Center. They were very excited about the prospect of creating a traveling museum exhibit and accepted the proposal. I was asked to serve as a Guest Curator for the project. We secured an NEH planning grant in 2008 to further our plans and spent a year working with food writers, academics, pitmasters, restaurant owners and others to prepare a rough draft of the exhibit. After a few years working on the project we are still seeking funding for what has become a one million dollar plus exhibit. After conducting extensive research on the topic and learning about the techniques of foodways experts to learn about the culture and history of people through food I decided to offer a course in Southern Foodways and Traditions.

The new Southern Foodways and Traditions course is being taught in the Fall 2013 semester as a graduate course and we are meeting at the Macon Graduate Center. There is one undergraduate who is taking the course for undergraduate credit. The course is a hybrid approach to teaching. There is intensive reading of books on food culture, traditions, gender issues, race, ethnicity, history, and environmental issues. The class then discusses, in detail, the merits of those works and how they contribute to their understanding of the topic. However, we also spend a significant amount of time on field trips. We went on a 'food crawl' on Buford Highway in Atlanta visiting the Buford Highway Farmers' Market where numerous foods from around the world represent the diverse culture of the area—Caribbean, Africa, Asian, Southern Europe and other regions. We then went to three different ethnic restaurants—Columbian, Northern Chinese, and Malaysian/Indonesian—to enjoy some samples from each of those cuisines. We visited a Southern 'soul food' restaurant in Macon call H&H which has been in business for decades serving the traditional southern fare. As part of our discussion and readings about Southern BBQ we held class at Fincher's BBQ in Macon in the original location where the pit has been fired up since the 1950s. Students had the opportunity to attend the annual Greek Festival in Macon where they enjoyed the cuisine and culture offerings. One of the big field trips is the annual Big Pig Jig BBQ Competition held in Vienna, Georgia. Students are volunteering to assist with the event which attracts around 125 BBQ competition





teams and over 20,000 visitors. They will get a first-hand experience with an event that is an almost 30 year tradition in middle Georgia.

In addition to creating the Southern Foodways and Traditions course I also created my own study abroad program. In the summer of 2012 I led my first summer abroad program to Florence, Italy and the Tuscan countryside. The purpose of my program was to learn about the history and culture of Italy through a unique lens—food. As much as any cultural expression, food conveys diversity, ethnicity, and national and regional identity. Worldwide, people tend to associate themselves with where they are from—their birth place, where they grew up, or, if they lived numerous places, the good or bad memories of that experience. Being raised in a ‘place’—within a social and cultural environment—provides an individual with certain preferences, like food, that they carry with them wherever they go. How a community cooks, what they eat, and how it is distributed, is a tool to understand their social interactions. Even if people are not aware of it, food carries the history and memory of their experiences into future generations. Over the past two years my program has been comprised of field trips and hands-on experience. We visited restaurants, markets, agritourism, farms, cooking schools, specialty food shops, factories and companies involved in food production, and other food-related sites. It was a wonderful way to expose students to the food traditions of a people—eating, learning how things were made and why they used particular ingredients, and even having them prepare full

course Italian meals from scratch with the guidance of an Italian chef.

After the first year I realized that an important part of Italian history—its food history—was the poverty and I wanted to make sure that students understood that aspect of the history and culture of Italy. Over the past centuries many Italians struggled to feed their families and still do today. It was this aspect of history—of people dealing with the lack of food—that has contributed to the cuisine of Italy. People learned to adapt and to utilize everything possible. As a way to have my students understand that everyone in Italy is not fortunate to have access to the bounty of the nation’s farms and grocery shelves I developed a service learning component that brings students face-to-face with the reality of poverty in Italy. The Florence University of the Arts (FUA), who my program is associated with, has helped me identify specific service learning projects. Students have worked in an Italian “soup kitchen” sponsored and managed by Caritas, the Catholic charities in Italy, prepping for the meal and feeding as many as 500 people for one meal. Another project involved serving people at a smaller “soup kitchen” in the heart of Florence just steps away from the tourist sites and numerous restaurants surrounding them. Students also worked with the American Church in Florence handing out food supplies and clothing to the poor. We are in the process of increasing the service learning component for the program to include other projects like neighborhood revitalization and environmental projects like neighborhood beautification. ■

FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE TIES TO **Nobel Prize winners**

Two Georgia College faculty members were trained alongside the recent winners of the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

James Rothman, Randy Schekman and Thomas Sudhof jointly won the 2013 Nobel Prize For Physiology or Medicine earlier this month.

The trio earned the prize for their discoveries of machinery regulating vesicle traffic, which unraveled "the mystery of how the cell organizes its transport of membrane proteins."



Dr. Mike Gleason, a professor in biological sciences worked in the laboratory of Dr. James Rothman, who was one of the winners.

"I was employed as a research associate in his lab at Stanford," said Gleason. "While working in his laboratory, I finished writing my thesis and earned my Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oklahoma State University in 1988."

Gleason assisted Rothman on two publications and also had the

opportunity to work with several young scientists in Rothman's lab at Stanford University.

"I actually heard about him winning the award from a student in one of my classes, and what made it remarkable was that I was, at the time, lecturing on the molecular mechanisms of vesicular transport, which is at the very center of the scholarship that was awarded this Nobel Prize."

From a medical standpoint, this area of study is central to understanding the pathology of many disease processes, including those caused by viruses and cancer.

"Rothman was great at seeing all of the different controls and experiments that would be needed to make the case for a hypothesis or to disprove another," said Gleason. "This invaluable training is something I've tried to pass onto my own students."

Dr. Ellen France, an associate professor in biological science, obtained her Ph.D. with Dr. Peter Novick at Yale. Novick worked with Dr. Randy Schekman, another of the



recipients, on several studies. Novick's publication in 1979, based on his dissertation research, was specifically cited for its contribution when the Nobel Prize was awarded. Novick was also recently selected as a member of National Academy of Science.

"My Ph.D. advisor at Yale University was Novick. He was one of the first graduate students of Schekman at UC

Berkeley," said France. "My thesis was based on their initial research. For the reason of this connection, I have met Schekman several times. The first time was as a graduate student in Novick's lab. I've also had the honor of introducing my research students to him since I've been at Georgia College."

The three Nobel Laureates discovered a fundamental process in cell physiology, and their discoveries have had a major impact on the understanding of how cargo is delivered with timing and precision in and outside the cell.

"My colleague Dr. Mike Gleason and I have been anticipating this for the past few years, thinking that it would be a matter of time before they received the award," said France. "So, it was not a huge surprise for me to hear the announcement on National Public Radio that morning."

For both professors, the experience learning from and with these renowned scientists has impacted their careers.

"I try to share all my experiences as a graduate student, both good and bad, to train my students in a realistic mindset. So far, many of the research students I have trained have gone on to pursue a Ph.D. at terrific institutions," said France.

Gleason and France plan to continue their own lines of research in vesicle trafficking with the assistance of biology undergraduate and graduate students.

Several Georgia College students also had the chance to meet one of the Nobel winners earlier this year. They met Dr. Randy Schekman at the Southeast Regional Yeast Meeting (SERYM) in Birmingham. ■

WORKING TO COMBAT RURAL POVERTY

Rural America, especially in the south, has been tainted by poverty, high unemployment and lack of resources for decades.

A nationally recognized group of researchers recently came together to discuss ways to combat the problem of rural poverty, and a Georgia College representative was involved in the conversation.



Dr. Veronica Womack, director of Institutional Equity and Diversity and associate professor of political science and public administration, presented her work at the invitation-only conference hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

“My research focuses on the Black Belt region, which consists of 623 counties in the old confederate states of the south,” said Womack. “This area was traditionally agriculturally based then transitioned into manufacturing. However, since manufacturing has been on a steady decline, these areas have not been able to successfully develop beyond that.”

Womack pointed out that in rural areas there is a clear need for change agents, and institutions of higher education could take the lead on creating community development strategies and leaders to facilitate that change.

“We typically don’t have the resources available in rural areas to focus directly on the needs of poverty or low unemployment, and our elected leaders, in many cases, are in need of assistance in combating those issues as well,” said Womack. “Institutions, like Georgia College, can play a major role in providing those resources for leadership development and community building. After all, we have a campus filled with experts on various topics, from education to health issues.”

Womack has spent her career assessing the affects of poverty on rural America, mostly focused on the rural South. She has partnered with several different public and private agencies on the topic and recently published a book entitled “Abandonment in Dixie: Underdevelopment in the Black Belt.”

“The book uses census data, political dynamics and community barriers to assess how the lack of development in the region has affected communities,” she said. “My findings in this book served as one reason I was invited to this conference.”

Womack was one of about 20 people to attend the Federal Reserve’s Rural Poverty Research Symposium. She was the only university representative that was not from a level-one research institution. That Carnegie Classification is given to universities which give a high priority to research and award 50 or more doctoral degrees each year.

Based on the discussion at the conference, the group will continue their focus on rural poverty through the publication of a white paper on the issue. The goal of that will be to educate elected officials and the public. Through the connections made at the conference, they will also work to highlight and develop strategies for poverty and underdevelopment in rural communities.

“The issue of rural poverty has an impact on many state economies and the entire country,” said Womack. “We have lost ground when it comes to the population in rural America and the jobs available there. If we look at ways for institutions of higher education to use their resources to build communities, include ways to improve K-12 education, leadership development and training and a focus on entrepreneurial opportunities, then we can begin to make strides to face the problem of poverty in the rural areas of our country.” ■



Holiday Concert

SUPPORTS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



Terrance Brown

Since he was a child, music has run through the veins of Georgia college student **Terrance Brown.**

"My dad used to play music for me, and when I was a kid my grandmother was a minister, so she always had us singing," said Brown.

"I went on to join the band in middle and high school. Then, I found Georgia College was the perfect place to continue my musical pursuits." Although he is now working toward his master's degree in business administration, the saxophone player struggled financially when he first came to college. "My family had always helped me out the best they could, but I never had much money," he said.

"As a freshman I received a scholarship from the music department. It really helped me get my undergraduate degree. I wouldn't have been able to achieve that without the financial help." Brown is one of the many students in the music department that has benefitted from scholarships. Funds raised from events like the Holiday concert help provide the opportunity for students to achieve their educational and musical goals.

"The holiday concert is a great way the community can help support our program and our exceptional students. All music department

concerts serve as cultural opportunities to bring the community and Georgia College together," said Dr. Sergio Ruiz, chair of the music department. "When you attend one of our top-notch concerts, your donation is not merely a donation—it is an investment in the lives of the students in the music department at Georgia College."

The music department's annual Holiday concert took place Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Russell Auditorium. Performances included many holiday favorites and featured the University chorus, Wind Symphony, orchestra, Max Noah Singers, Jazz Band, Women's Ensemble and electronic music. All proceeds helped fund scholarships for students like Brown. "It helps young students pursue their goals, and then they can give back through their talents," said Brown.

This concert also included two special performances. Alumni Jeremy Skidmore, who teaches music at Morgan county Primary School, served as a guest performer. The concert also featured the American debut of a piece performed by the choral ensembles and two soloists. This was only the second time "Angels and Shepherds and Wise Men All," written in 2012, has ever been performed. ■

Chemistry department expands with new opportunities for students

She works to stay caught up on her classwork and is involved in student activities, all while juggling the duties of a student athlete as a member of the Georgia College tennis team.

“Prioritizing is key,” said Polk. “Between classes and tennis practice, I study whenever I can to get as much done before it’s due.”

Studying is important since Polk has her eyes set on medical school after she completes her undergraduate degree.

“My mom is a radiology tech, so I became interested in medicine through her,” said Polk. “I’m looking at possibly going into radiology, anesthesiology or radiology oncology.”

Beginning fall 2014, Georgia College will offer a new track for chemistry majors that will better prepare students like Polk for the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and medical school.

“Next year we will offer chemistry majors the opportunity to graduate with a track in biochemistry,” said Dr. Chavonda Mills, chemistry professor. “We received a \$2,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to purchase equipment for a new biochemistry lab, and I will be working to develop several new courses for students interested in that field.”

Biochemistry is the study of chemical processes relating to living organisms. In the next few years the MCAT

will increase its emphasis on biochemistry, and it is a necessary requirement for many pre-professional degree programs.

“This new track at Georgia College was designed with an emphasis on guided inquiry and active learning, which will help students learn to think independently while pursuing an undergraduate degree,” said Mills. “The laboratory courses provide an engaged learning atmosphere where students are not working out of a typical lab book that lays out the processes and steps needed. In these classes, the students will design and troubleshoot their experiments, allowing them to take ownership of their projects.”

An exciting opportunity for many students since this will better prepare them for the next step in their education.

“The biochemistry track will provide a more complete education for students like me who plan to move on to medical school,” said Polk. “I’m glad Georgia College will offer a new choice for students because it helps us build a firm foundation for our future.”

With the new track, Mills hopes it will provide exposure to relevant content that will better meet the needs of students in the program.

“More than half of our chemistry majors are in pre-professional programs, so this will be a great new option for them,” said Mills. ■





ART DEPARTMENT PRESENTS NEW

Senior group show

Senior Andrea Sowell shows faculty member Crystal Wagner her work as she installs it for "MERGE: 2013 Group Senior Show."



Piece by piece students add their artwork to the space inside the art galleries on campus.

Nine senior artists will graduate in December, their work representing the culmination of their time at Georgia College.

"I have six pieces I've built over the last three months," said Andrea Sowell. "It's brought together everything I've learned and loved since my first class."

Sowell is one of the seniors who will participate in the first group senior show at Georgia College.

"In the past, we held senior shows for each graduating senior individually. This now allows us to showcase the diversity of processes and ideas in our department," said Crystal Wagner, assistant professor of art.

With the new format, the senior group show will be available for viewing for several weeks bringing the students together to work as a group.

"It helps us establish a community within the art department that fosters creative activities and research," said Wagner.

The title the students chose for the show expresses that.

"The show is titled 'MERGE.' We decided as a group that since we are the first to come through the merged track, it was fitting," said Dovie Chamma.

The department also recently combined the fine arts and general arts tracks for students majoring in art to give an equal and more substantive experience for all students.

"Our group has come closer in the last few weeks as we worked to develop the show," said Sowell. "We got to see how each Dovie Chamma looks to see the best way to display her drawings. person's pieces developed and as a group, decide the best way to present our art."

Featured artists are Ben Battles, Marie Bormolini, Rachel Bryan, Dovie Chamma, Corissa Duffey, Katherine Knox, Ericka Moss, Kelly Self and Andrea Sowell.

The work of each artist featured in the exhibition spans a broad range of technical and conceptual processes including installation, drawing, digital, photography and sculpture.

"MERGE: 2013 Group Senior Show" will be on display from Nov. 4 through 26. An artist talk will take place Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 5 p.m. and an opening reception will be held Thursday, Nov. 7 at 5 p.m.

The exhibition is in Blackbridge Hall and The Wooten-Garner House, both located on S. Clarke Street.

The events are free and open to the public. The exhibition can be viewed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■





Choral concert showcases student talent

For Georgia College graduate student **Juli Deraney Malcom**, this past choral concert was the first time she had faced the audience for a performance in some time.

The last 15 years her back has been to the audience as she directed middle and high school choruses in the Baldwin and Putnam County School systems.

“I’ve always enjoyed working with children and teaching music is my passion,” said Malcom. “I decided to come back to school to pursue a master’s in music education, because I’m concerned about the state of our education system. I feel like if I further my education, I can help better serve the children and our community.”

Her progression from a student at Georgia College for her undergraduate degree to a full-time teacher and now back to a student has given her a unique perspective.

“I can use my skills developed from teaching as I, in turn, learn as a student again,” said Malcom. “It has been a great experience working to prepare for this performance.”

Malcom joined more than 100 other student singers to present the Fall Choral Showcase on Saturday, Nov. 2. The concert was held at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Milledgeville.

The showcase included performances by student soloists, University Chorus, Women’s Ensemble and the Max Noah Singers.

All donations for this concert were directed to benefit music scholarships.

We are excited to bring this performance to the central Georgia community,” said Dr. Jennifer Flory, director of choral activities and associate professor of music. “The performance will feature pieces from every musical time period by such noteworthy composers as Bach, Handel, Mozart and Beethoven. We will close the concert with a work for three choirs, two pianists and percussion, “Dance-Song to the Creator,” which will hopefully put a skip in the step of our audience members.” ■



Southeastern Model African Union

Sixteen Georgia College students, including ten students from the Department of Government and Sociology represented Botswana, Nigeria and South Africa. They included:

BOTSWANA

Chelsea Mayo – Criminal Justice
Carolyn Davis – Political Science

NIGERIA

Justin Hanson – Criminal Justice
Andrew Daniel – Criminal Justice
Savannah Brooks – Criminal Justice
Jessica Reid – Criminal Justice

SOUTH AFRICA

Gregory May – Sociology
Anthony Butler – Criminal Justice
Zykerious Crawford – Sociology
Antonio Guimaraes – Criminal Justice

The students are advised by Funke Fontenot, Interim Dean of Education and Professor of Criminal Justice; Charles Ubah, Professor of Criminal Justice; and Eustace Palmer, Professor of English.

Next year's event will be held at Clayton State in Atlanta, Georgia. Students interested in participating in next year's event may contact any of the above listed advisers.

The Southeast Model African Union (SEMAU) is held once a year at one of the University System of Georgia campuses. Sponsored by the Board of Regents, the System Council for International Education, and the University System Africa Council, SEMAU is a simulation of the annual meeting of Heads of State of the African Union. It also serves as a conference on African affairs which gives students an unprecedented opportunity to learn about all facets of African life. Georgia College was privileged to host SEMAU 2004. This year's event was hosted by Columbus State University from November 14 to 16.

Each university or college chooses one or more countries to represent at the conference. Selected students carry out research and attend lectures beforehand, which prepare them not only about African affairs, but also the nature, policies and attitudes of the country or countries they will represent at SEMAU. The work of the conference takes place in five committees: the Social Committee, the Economic Committee, the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, the Peace and Security Committee, and the Executive Council of Council Ministers.

The exercise provides a splendid opportunity for students, not only to learn about Africa, but to hone their diplomatic and conflict resolution skills. This opportunity complements the university's efforts in experiential learning and internationalization. Antonio

Guimaraes, a Criminal Justice student agrees, "Students would never be able to get this kind of experience within the classroom... I would personally recommend students to at least attend this conference once within their college career..." Gregory May, a Sociology student, shared that, "This was my first time going, but I do not think it will be the last. I am a non-traditional student...and to see such drive and push from the younger students makes me want to drive harder to keep up too."

Dr. Charles Ubah, Professor of Criminal Justice has served as one of the student advisors in the program for eleven years. Dr. Ubah notes that "The Southeast Model of the African Union (SEMAU) is a great initiative that worth all the time, energy and funds involve in it! That is the reason why Drs. Eustace Palmer, Funke Fontenot and I make every effort to recruit, prepare and participate with students in the program. It is a great opportunity for students who are interested in African affairs in particular or in international or multi-cultural affairs in general. Students meet others interested in Africa, hear a distinguished African (usually an Ambassador) giving a keynote address on Africa, acquire in-depth knowledge of the African continent and gain insights into the art of diplomacy. This is of great importance at a time when Georgia College, in particular, and the University System in general, are emphasizing internationalization and learning beyond the classroom experience." ■

Faculty News

Gov/Soc



Jerry Herbel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Administration was recognized as the recipient of the 2013 Georgia Political Science Association

(GPSA) McBrayer Award for his paper titled "Public Virtue-Public Vice." Dr. Herbel's article seeks to reconcile the mismatch between public virtue and public vice created through concepts put forth principally by Niccolò Machiavelli and David Hume.

The McBrayer Award is awarded in years when a paper of outstanding scholarship within the discipline is presented in its entirety at the GPSA annual meeting program and subsequently recognized as such at the discretion of the Editorial Board and Editor in Chief of the Proceedings of the GPSA by their decision to bestow the McBrayer Award. Dr. Herbel's paper was presented at the 2012 Annual Conference of the Association.

Founded in 1968, the GPSA is the professional association for political science practitioners and educators in Georgia. Membership is drawn from the public, private and academic sectors.



Brandy Kennedy, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Administration published "Sorting Through: The Role of Representation in Bureaucracy" in The Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, the official journal of the Public Management Research Association. The 2010 ISI Journal Citation Reports® ranked this scholarly outlet 1 out of 31 in the category of Public Administration. She also published, "Unraveling Representative Bureaucracy: A Systematic Analysis of the Literature" in

Administration & Society which in 2011 was ranked 19 out of 45 in the same category.

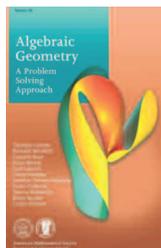
Administration & Society which in 2011 was ranked 19 out of 45 in the same category.



Carrie Cook, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice was the recipient of a three year grant (\$299,686) awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women (Department of Justice) to reduce

domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus. Dr. Cook will serve as the co-investigator and will be responsible for the local training of law enforcement and judicial boards as well as evaluating all training and program services.

Math



Dr. Ryan Brown co-authored a book. This book, entitled *Algebraic Geometry: A Problem Solving Approach*, was published by the American Mathematical Society (AMS) in

cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Study. The book is intended for undergraduate and graduate students and presents a wide range of algebraic geometry topics through sequences of scaffolded exercises. The book begins with conics, a topic suitable for first-year college students, and concludes with an introduction to sheaves and cohomology, providing a hint of work in current algebraic geometry. According to the AMS editor, "[The authors] have made a valuable contribution to the student literature in algebraic geometry...by engaging the reader through carefully chosen and thoughtfully written problems." The book was released February 2013.

The Governor's Teaching Fellows Program selected **Dr. Marcela Chiorescu** as a Fellow for the two-week Summer 2013 Symposium which was held at the University of Georgia in May, 2013. Among the issues with

which the Symposium dealt are instructional technology, distance education, and student engagement. These are areas which are already important to Georgia College and which will assume increasing importance in the years to come.

Dr. Ryan Brown applied for, and was granted, a professional leave for Spring 2014. Dr Brown is investigating the mathematical structure of Inca quipus and tocapus to discern patterns that illuminate how information was encoded and transmitted via textiles in the New World. In addition to contributing to the current understanding of the economic, political, and social structures of Pre-Columbian cultures, Dr. Brown's work will also lead to further development of the GC2Y 2000 study abroad course, New World Mathematics, which he offers in Peru.

Dr. Angel Abney and **Ms. Doris Santarone** serve as instructors for the Science and Mathematics Alliance for Regional Teachers Partnership (SMART Partnership). The purpose of this Partnership is to improve students' science and mathematics achievement through discipline-based professional learning communities. The role of these two faculty is to design and implement inquiry-based learning activities for math teachers through a two-week summer workshop and follow-up workshops.





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SPRING 2014