



Memory Hill Cemetery

is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the historic district of Milledgeville. Because Milledgeville was the capital of Georgia from 1807 to 1868, this cemetery contains many diverse people, both local and non-local. Legislators and statesmen from across the state of Georgia are buried here. In addition, other notable people interred in the cemetery are Flannery O'Connor, Carl Vinson, Edwin F. Jemison (the young Confederate soldier pictured above, whose photograph is among the best-known images associated with the War Between the States), Charles Holmes Herby and Bill Miner (known as the Grey Fox and one of the last western outlaws). Also of historical significance are the large number of slave graves and graves of patients who were once at Milledgeville's "Lunatic Asylum," at one time the largest such asylum in the world. ■

—friendsofcems.org/MemoryHill/default.asp



ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
FALL 2014

DEAN

KENNETH J. PROCTER

PHOTO CREDITS

TIM VACULA
OLUFUNKE A. FONTENOT
JERRY HERBEL
STEPHANIE MCCLURE
SAMUEL MUTITI
DR. ELAINE WHITAKER
JANET STORR
NICOLE MOYO
SUNITA MANIAN

Dean's Message

What you will see in this newsletter are a few snapshots of campus life, a few highlights, a cross-section of the college. The stories date from this past spring—even long before—continue through summer and into the fall semester.

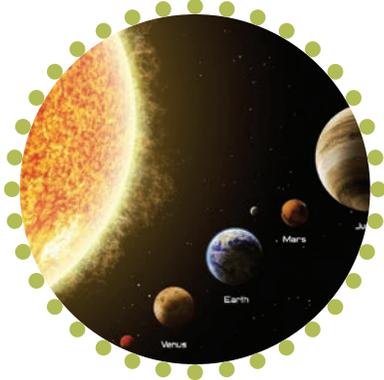
Whether it is classes, research, study abroad, camps for kids, service to the community or future planning, there is always an exciting project or event linked to the College of Arts and Sciences. With about three thousand students in our majors and minors, guided by scores of faculty in thirteen departments, the college overflows with intellectual and creative energy. The work of the college never stops. There is always something going on, plenty to engage the curious, active mind. Arts and Sciences is a year-round adventure.



DEAN KENNETH PROCTER

CONTENTS

ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
FALL 2014



4

**Our Space Column
celebrating 10 years**



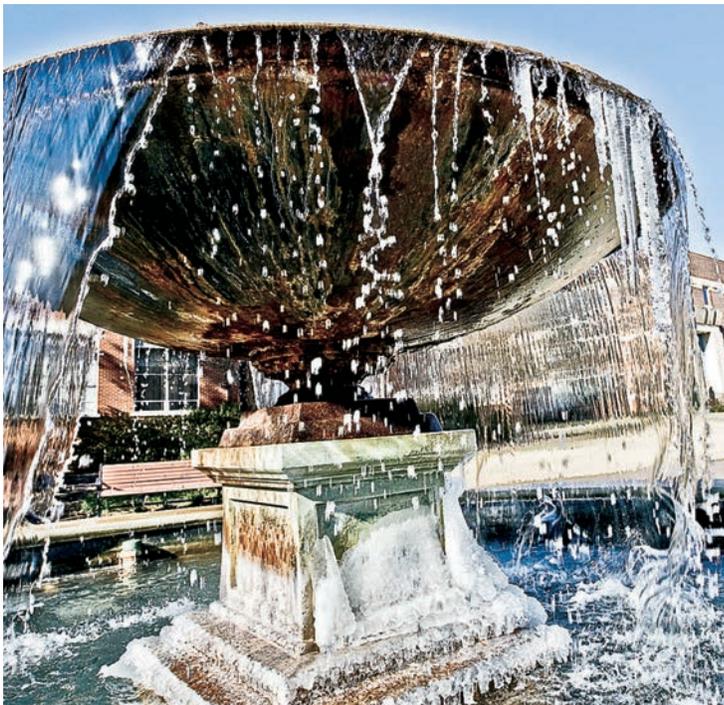
10

**Joy of Math
at Georgia College**



17

**Ukraine:
On the brink of war**



INSIDE

Chemistry and Physics
GC360

Future Math Teacher

Environmental Science

Memories at Memory Hill

History and Geography Africanists

Government and Sociology

Psychology

Palmer's New Book

Dance News

Community Literacy Journal



Celebrating 10 Years of the
OUR SPACE COLUMN





Feb. 14, 2014, marked a special anniversary for theatre faculty member Beate Czogalla. On Feb. 14, 2004, her first article in the OUR SPACE column appeared in the local newspaper The Union Recorder. Czogalla has been a member of NASA's Solar System Ambassador Program, which is based at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif., since December 2000. The Purpose of the program is to bring space exploration-related topics to the general public.

Czogalla readily admits to having been a closet astronaut since childhood, and when the opportunity arose to join NASA's education outreach program she applied and was accepted. Since then she has conducted many public events highlighting NASA missions as well as those from other space programs. The bi-weekly column in the Union Recorder was an additional way to reach the Milledgeville community and surrounding areas.

Over 260 space-related news articles later OUR SPACE is still going strong, and the column was recently recognized in NASA's Weekly Activity Report.

As a Solar System Ambassador, Czogalla participates in frequent online and teleconference training sessions with the movers and shakers of America's space program. Those training sessions frequently become the topics of discussion in OUR SPACE. Other articles cover current launches and events in space, planned missions, new technologies, personal profiles and even site visits and event reports, such as the LCROSS/ LRO moon mission launch or JPL's annual Open House events.

Mission Control and the theatrical process are more closely related than one might think: both require constant teamwork, creative problem-solving, collaborative development, multi-tasking and result-oriented processes. "The show must go on" is a crucial attitude in space as well as on the stage.

Milledgeville, Ga. and Georgia College have a regular presence on NASA's radar. The OUR SPACE column is just one of the many ways Georgia College faculty put their home base on the map. ■

Georgia College Chemistry and Physics *goes international*

Seven students and faculty member Dr. Ronald Fietkau, from the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy participated in a European Council Study Abroad program in Berlin, Germany in the summer 2013. Students were able to take a course on the History of German Chemists instructed by Dr. Fietkau who also served as on site co-director of the EC program. The value of the course is that students gain knowledge about the history of chemistry in which German chemists played a large role, have increased appreciation and motivation for the field of chemistry, and it serves as a capstone course. Plans are for majors to participate again in the summer 2015. Dr. Hauke Busch will instruct a course on the History of German Scientists which will appeal to chemistry as well as physics majors while Dr. Fietkau will serve as again as co-director of the program.

"Studying abroad is also an excellent way to combine one's school requirements while also fulfilling a desire to travel and see the world. I was able to make it to Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands, as well as one of Germany's other big cities, Munich." – Paige Eber, alumna of Berlin 2013, class of 2014, and currently attending pharmacy school at UGA

Junior Ashlyn Burch's life has been quite an adventure. Growing up in Russia with her missionary parents gave her a strong appreciation of culture and education.

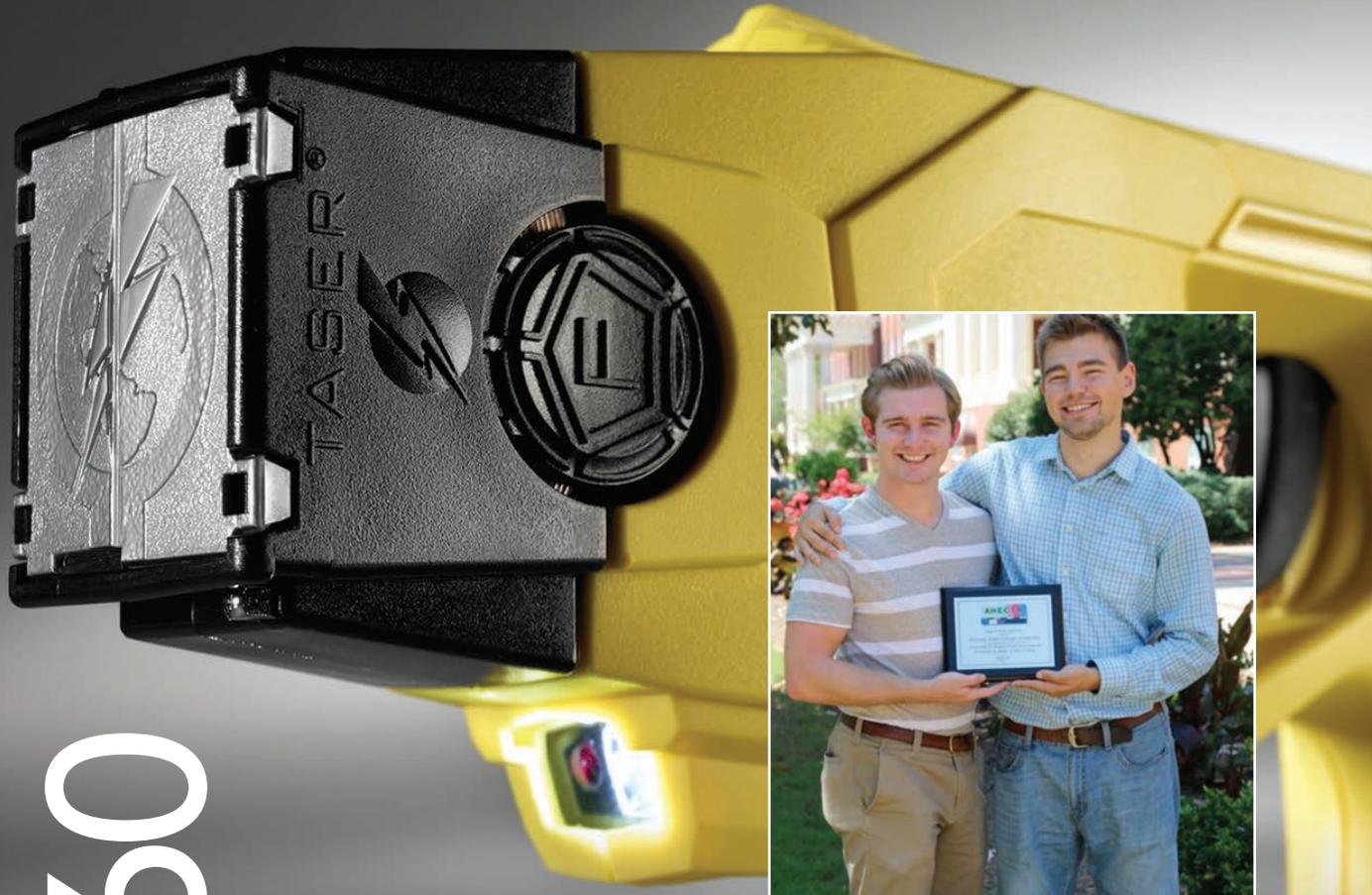
The physics major now has the opportunity of a lifetime to study alongside some of the leaders in the field of high-energy particle physics at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, in Switzerland. She was accepted into a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. REU programs support active research by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the NSF. REU projects involve students in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the program.

"CERN is the largest and one of the only grand-scale



research facilities for particle physics in the world," said Burch. Ashlyn is proudly displaying the Georgia College towel in front of the ATLAS detector. ATLAS is a particle physics experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN that is searching for new discoveries in the head-on collisions of protons of extraordinarily high energy. ATLAS will learn about the basic forces that have shaped our Universe since the beginning of time and that will determine its fate. Among the possible unknowns are extra dimensions of space, unification of fundamental forces, and evidence for dark matter candidates in the Universe. Following the discovery of the Higgs boson, further data will allow in-depth investigation of the boson's properties and thereby of the origin of mass.

"Ashlyn was one of only 12 students nationwide accepted into a summer Research Experience for Undergraduates program through Duke University," said Dr. Ralph France, professor of physics. "Only four of those 12 students will be traveling to CERN for research. Entrance into any NSF funded physics REU programs is very competitive, and she has been accepted into one of the very best and most competitive." ■



GC360

GC360, the student-run television newscast at Georgia College, won first prize in the news and sports category in the 2014 Association of Higher Education Campus Television Administrators (AHECTA) student production competition.

Reporter Emil Hellerud and Videographer Drew Allen won for a story that aired in the spring of 2014 titled "Getting Tased." They reported on how Georgia College police officers tase each other as part of their training.



Hellerud was an exchange student from Sweden last spring and currently has an internship on the International Desk at CNN in Atlanta. Allen is a senior mass communication major at Georgia College.

The above photo shows Allen (left) and Hellerud (right) holding the AHECTA award plaque. It was taken last Friday when Hellerud was visiting campus on his way to Atlanta and his internship. ■

Here is a link to the awards page:

ahecta.org/student-production-awards/student-production-award-winners/2014-ahecta-student-production-awards/



Future math teacher receives national scholarship

BY BRITTINY JOHNSON

Junior Emily Baum's journey to college may have started out a little rocky.

"I actually didn't get admitted to Georgia College when I first applied and was deferred," she said. "I knew this is where I wanted go to college. Patience paid off, and I was finally admitted."

Now with a strong foundation planted in Milledgeville, Baum is just as sure of her decision to attend Georgia College, as she is with her career path.

"I've always known I wanted to teach, and I've also always loved math," said Baum. "In high school, I had a great teacher who inspired me to pursue teaching math, so I hope to one day encourage and inspire my students in the same way."

Along with pursuing her degree, she also has worked tutoring in the Learning Center, at the Math Emporium and this semester will serve as a supplemental instructor for a probability and statistics course.

Baum's hard work inside and outside the classroom paid off in the form of a \$10,000 scholarship. She received the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Secondary Teacher Course Work Scholarship.

"The organization is for students and teachers already in the field," she said. "I saw the scholarship opportunity, decided to apply and got very lucky to be chosen."

The national scholarship is awarded to one student each year. As the recipient, Baum will receive \$5,000 this year and \$5,000 next year. The purpose is to provide financial support to college students preparing for teaching secondary school mathematics. To apply for the scholarship,

a written proposal must be submitted that includes evidence of the applicant's past academic achievement in college and the applicant's commitment to pursue a teaching career in secondary school mathematics.

"This is an incredible opportunity that she has been given, so it speaks to her being a standout student exhibiting important characteristics like leadership, organization and preparation," said Dr. Brandon Samples, assistant professor of mathematics.. "She is a very conscientious, forward-thinking student who I feel has a positive effect on her fellow classmates."

Baum works as the supplemental instructor in Samples course this semester and is already going the extra mile to prepare for working with students in the course.

"In my courses, she has handled her responsibilities with a level of professionalism and pride, which you might expect from such a significant achievement," said Samples. "I feel what sets her apart is that she is already thinking about the next few steps, while others might still be looking backward."

Baum plans to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) after she completes her undergraduate degree.

"I fell in love with Georgia College and hope to get my MAT here as well," said Baum. "What's best about Georgia College is that the professors know you personally. You don't want to disappoint them, so you try hard to do your very best." ■

Emily Baum works with a student at the Learning Center.

Joy of MATH at Georgia College

In spring 2014 Georgia College hosted for the first time a Math Kangaroo Competition, an international mathematics competition open to first through 12th-grade students all over the world. Dr. Rodica Cazacu, associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, opened a public center here at Georgia College in January, recruited and trained 13 local first through sixth-grade students before March 20 when the competition took place. There were about 17,000 students competing this year in the United States only and the best results were recognized both at national and state level. Two of the students who registered at the Georgia College center, Alan Weston and Idil Erturk, were recognized at the state and national level, respectively. They participated in the Georgia Recognition ceremony where they received prizes. The top-three scores from Georgia College Center were also recognized during Math Camp 2014.



The winners of this year's first Math Kangaroo competition at Georgia College: Idil Erturk (center), Alan Weston (left), and Diana Cazacu (right). Summer 2014 Math Camp

Math Kangaroo offers a chance to our local young students to reach out and share their joy for learning and mathematics, to make new friends, and get new perspectives. The Math Department at Georgia College will continue to work with students in Milledgeville and Baldwin county to prepare them for next year Math Kangaroo competition and other events like this.

The first through 12th-grade students can register for the 2015 Math Kangaroo competition at the Georgia College center between Sept. 15 and Dec. 15 2014.



Georgia College Math Kangaroo team, March 20, 2014.

The Department of Mathematics at Georgia College hosted the first half-day Math Camp with the help of Georgia College Science Education Center during June 2 to June 6, 2014. Dr. Marcela Chiorescu and Dr. Rodica Cazacu organized and coordinated the camp with the help of two math major students, Lydia Ozier and Lindsay Yates. The 15 very excited and enthusiastic second to fifth grade students who signed up for this camp in the beginning of their summer vacation were offered a new and exciting experience. The kids learned new and interesting facts about math and logic, solved puzzles and riddles, used manipulatives to solve problems or build interesting shapes, learned about Cryptography and the mathematics of knots, and played cool math games on iPads and computer. They went outside to discover the mathematics in nature and had the chance to explore the 3D printer in the Georgia College Library. The kids created their own design for the Summer 2014 Math Camp T-shirt and most of all they had lots of fun. For more about the Math Camp, visit the webpage Dr. Chiorescu created at gcmathcamp2014.blogspot.com ■



Georgia College Environmental Science Majors **Achieve Summer Success**

If you ask one of our environmental science majors to describe what they did this past summer, don't be surprised if the answer includes an internship many hundreds of miles away from Milledgeville or leading research projects and gaining important career skills. And after you finish listening to these students, you will be impressed by what they are doing and learning outside of the classroom!



Jon Whiting

Jon spent his summer in Coldfoot, Alaska working as a US Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Interpretation Intern for the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center. Coldfoot is in the middle of Alaska and only 275 miles from the Arctic Ocean. While working in Alaska, Jon was certified in FWS shotgun safety, bear safety, and CPR/First Aid. And what is it like living in Alaska? "The vistas were beautiful! I'm glad I went through the adversity of being in a completely different occupation and setting."

When asked about his experience he says "I initially did not want to talk to the general public because of my reluctance to talk with people in that sort of setting. But going through this whole summer teaching 30-minute programs on fire ecology and doing orientations of "Leave No Trace" principles, I became 10 times more outgoing. Even though speaking is something we do every day, I don't think I ever taught people when I spoke before. It's not only important for my career, it was important for the soul. I love to teach. This internship acted like a facilitator to do a task I was initially too timid to do. I love spreading awareness. There's an everlasting eternal joy and drive that I received from that internship. You know how you'll have curtains over your window and the sun is just rising over the horizon and is going through one little opening or crack? The seemingly small burst of sun through the curtain is how I feel right now, and it is expanding gradually every day."



Megan Corley

Megan Corley stayed in Milledgeville to conduct scientific research that has global connections. Megan received a summer research grant through URACE to work with Dr. Sam Mutiti. Her research examines methods of reducing heavy metal exposure for people living in areas contaminated by mining activity. This study was a continuation of the research she conducted after receiving the Coverdell Chair Public Policy Student Research Scholarship.

Megan's research field site is Kabwe, Zambia which is known as one of the most contaminated cities in the world. This summer she grew different vegetables that are grown locally in Kabwe, and she is investigating how these vegetables respond to being grown in lead contaminated soils. Megan says "I hope to be able to create best management practices that will help the people of Kabwe reduce their exposure to these contaminants and minimize the severe health concerns that accompany long-term heavy metal exposure." This fall Megan will be presenting her research at the Geologic Society of America's International conference in Vancouver.



Lindsay Crowe

Lindsay spent her summer in Portland, Ore. where she worked for multiple companies including Willamette Partnership, Wetlands Conservancy, Salmon Safe, and Pacific Rivers Council. Lindsay assisted with a variety of projects connected to wetland restoration, grant applications under the Clean Water Act, and marketing. One of the major projects that Lindsay worked on was the Incentives Trifecta Program which provides landowners with the benefits of ecologically sustaining management practices such as Salmon Safe ecolabels, ecosystem service credits and regulatory assurance through Safe Harbor Agreements. Lindsay also applied her GIS skills in the identification and assessment of native grassland and prairie sites.

According to Lindsay, "My internship exposed me to real world projects and provided me with invaluable experience incorporating environmental policy, grant-funded research and field work. In the near future I hope to return to Portland, continue my work and dive deeper into my passion for all things green!"



Garrett Smith

Garrett Smith worked for Logic Environmental, a small environmental consulting firm in Duluth, Ga. that specializes in Environmental Site Assessments. While he spent his first few weeks getting used to the office environment, it wasn't long before he was assisting his colleagues with their research and by the end of the summer he was writing and submitting his own assessment reports.

Garret says "I learned a lot of specific skills like remote sensing techniques, AutoCad, government file review, well sampling; however, the biggest take away for me was getting an idea of how the consulting industry works."

And the list goes on! Many of our students took advantage of study abroad opportunities including trips to the Bahamas and New Zealand. Other students had internships and others completed coursework. We are very proud of our students and hope that we can continue to help them achieve academic and career success! ■

Memories at Memory Hill Documentary

Over the summer mass communication students participated in a documentary filmmaking course. Students studied documentary filmmakers, viewed several documentaries and analyzed various techniques. As a final project, students collaborated and produced their own documentary.

Memories at Memory Hill documents the stories of local legends Dixie Haygood, Bill Miner and Flannery O'Connor as told by local historian Dr. Bob Wilson and Archivist Josh Kitchens. The film was produced by Lauren Bensman, Tessa Chronister, Laura Nolan, Eric Pratt and Dallas Yeatts. ■

To view the documentary
youtube.com/watch?v=rMh85gGfCnc



Back row: Laura Nolan, Lauren Bensman, Dallas Yeatts; front row: Eric Pratt, Tessa Chronister

HARRISBURG MURAL



Africanists

COME TO GEORGIA COLLEGE



Dr. Anta Sane of Senegal and Howard University with Dr. Jack Parsons of the College of Charleston



Dr. Bill Ndi, Cameroon and Tuskegee University; Dr. Ben Fishkin, Tuskegee University and Dr. Eustace Palmer, Sierra Leone and Georgia College.



Adauku T. Ankumah of Nigeria; Shakara Lesane, East Carolina University; Dr. Rebecca Carte, Georgia College; Dr. Ben Fishkin, Tuskegee University; Dr. Bill Ndi, Cameroon and Tuskegee University; Dr. Eustace Palmer, Sierra Leone and Georgia College; Chinekwu Obidoa, Nigeria and Mercer University

In early March of 2014, GC and Milledgeville played host to a dynamic and diverse group of scholars of Africa as the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies and South East Africanist Network held their combined spring conference here. Ranging from a former candidate for the presidency of Liberia, Professor George Kieh, who served as a keynote speaker, to academics from Cameroon, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe; and with presenters from Georgia College, The University of Florida, The University of Maryland, the University of North Carolina, Tuskegee University and McGill University, it was a truly cosmopolitan event. Thanks to the support of Dean Procter and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Georgia College was able to host over thirty scholars and students as they engaged in collegial discourse on topics such as the state of the state in Africa, the importance of memory in the making of African histories and the nature of current politics in various African countries. Dr. Aran MacKinnon, Chair of the Department of History and Geography, and longtime coordinator for the (SERSAS) was delighted to see that GC is so supportive of scholarly activities dedicated to such diverse global issues. As Dr. MacKinnon noted, "Knowing that scholars of African Studies chose Georgia College as a destination for their academic conference is a great testament to our support of intellectual diversity and it allows us to build on our global connections." The theme for the program was: "Memory and Imagination in the Making of African Identities" and papers included analyses of Indian identity in South Africa, the role of gun-ownership and hunting in the formation of identities in Botswana and women and gender identities in the Senegalese parliament. This event was one of a series of conferences on African studies that SERSAS collaborates on with the University of Florida and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We hope to see these and other scholars and students of African studies on our campus again soon. ■



UKRAINE

ON THE BRINK OF WAR:

Dr. Bill Risch of the Department of History and Geography reports on his research trip to Ukraine

Dr. Risch, author of *The Ukrainian West: Culture and the Fate of Empire in Soviet Lviv*, traveled over Spring Break to Ukraine, where he observed the rising tensions between the Ukrainians and the Russians and interviewed people about their reactions and feelings to the recent events. Here is an excerpt he wrote for *The Colonnade* detailing his experience:

"I arrived in Kyiv on March 15, the beginning of Spring Break. My great hopes to visit Crimea and interview Euromaidan activists there were already over. While the city's main railroad station, just across the block from me, had trains running to Simferopol and Sevastopol every day, the news featured horrifying stories of activists, Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests, and journalists being kidnapped, arrested, and sometimes tortured by Crimean "self-defense" units (made up partly of pro-Yanukovich police who'd fled Kyiv), Cossacks from Russia, or even Russian special forces. I decided to stay in the capital and interview people who had witnessed violent clashes with police forces on January 19-22 and February 18-20 that had left over 100 protestors dead and something like 300 activists missing (and presumed dead).

That week I interviewed about a dozen or more such people. One interview took place at Hrushevsky Street, right at the barricades where violence first erupted January 19-20, the night I'd left Kyiv for Milledgeville, barricades featured on world newspapers for days and weeks. I managed to find many such people because a friend of mine worked at the Institute of Ukrainian History, which was literally next door to the Hrushevsky Street barricades. These people told all kinds of stories about death and how they dealt with fear. For all of them, the fear of death disappeared as they went to help people with medical supplies or take part in the fighting. For all of them, the revolution has only begun. The new government, in their opinion, is either ineffective or still acts too much like the old one.

Russia's occupation and annexation of Crimea produced a roller coaster ride of emotions. On the night of Crimea's referendum on March 16, friends speculated



that Russia was going to invade from the east and even bomb some strategic sites in Kyiv (hitting the Maidan for psychological measure). On March 18, some friends and I at a bar were convinced war had broken out when another friend called and said that Russian soldiers had shot a Ukrainian soldier dead in Crimea. Yet somehow, all-out war didn't break out.

Instead, we started realizing what had happened to Crimea. On Friday, March 21, Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, signed documents officially bringing Crimea into the Russian Federation. Heartbreaking videos appeared on Youtube of Ukrainian military cadets in Sevastopol who decided to sing the Ukrainian national anthem rather than the Russian one as their naval academy officially changed hands. One of them cried as he took down the Ukrainian flag. One of them talked about collecting money to buy a weapon worth 1,000 dollars. They had fixed their attention on the Kherson Region, outside Crimea, where Russian forces had occupied some strategic positions and seemed to be getting ready an invasion from the south.

I came home from Kyiv on Sunday, March 23. The world may have avoided war over my Spring Break, but I fear that we are still on the brink of war."

The entire article can be found in the March 28, 2014 issue of *The Colonnade*. ■

Edmondson Named Carl Vinson Endowed Chair



Hank Edmondson, Ph.D., professor, has been appointed Carl Vinson Endowed Chair of Political Science and Public Administration. Edmondson has served Georgia College for 25 years and his teaching areas include American Government, Political Philosophy, Public Law, Comparative Public Administration and Leadership. His research activities and publications cover politics, leadership and literature, education reform, and the European Union. His publications include "The Moral of the Story: Literature and Public Ethics" (Lexington Books 2000), "Return to Good and Evil: Flannery O'Connor's Response to Nihilism" (Lexington Books, 2002), "John Dewey and the Decline of American Education" (ISI Books, 2002) and is currently under contract with the University Press of Kentucky editing a text on politics and literature, due for publication in late 2015. In addition, he has published numerous articles and reviews in a variety of journals. Edmondson has written and co-edited a symposium entitled "Shakespeare and the Public Service," scheduled for publication in "Public Integrity", the flagship journal of administrative ethics. He is currently at work on a volume entitled "What Would Publius Do? Leadership Principles From The Federalist Papers." He has directed interdisciplinary and political science study abroad programs for many years, taking students to twelve different European countries.

"The purpose of the Carl Vinson Endowed Chair of Political Science and Public Administration is to enrich the education of Georgia College students, support the activity of the faculty of the Department of Government and Sociology, deepen the academic life of the university, and promote the life and legacy of Congressman Carl Vinson. This appointment recognizes the scholarly work of Professor Edmondson, as well as his commitment to teaching and inquiry" noted Costas Spirou, Ph.D., professor and chair of the department of government and sociology.

Vinson's political career began in Milledgeville where he served as County Prosecutor and Judge. He also served as a state legislator. Vinson's national career in the House of Representatives began in November 1914, just days before his 31st birthday, a post he would hold until 1964-50 consecutive years. During his tenure in the House, Vinson served under nine presidents, from Wilson to Johnson. Vinson's signature theme was military preparedness and national security. His leadership style was unassuming, yet effective. Vinson was not only a great leader, but also widely known as a man of integrity. He declined many of the privileges of his position, rarely traveling, and living in relative simplicity, preferring to retreat to his Baldwin County farm whenever possible. Vinson was not born a farmer; rather, he became a farmer to better identify with the concerns of his constituents in Georgia's Tenth and later, Sixth, Districts.

For more information about Hank Edmondson, Ph.D., Carl Vinson Endowed Chair of Political Science and Public Administration and Congressman Vinson please visit the Carl Vinson Endowed Chair Web Site gcsu.edu/gov/vinsonchair.htm. ■



Professors Fontenot and Ubah, elected as officers of the University System Africa Council

Funke Fontenot, interim dean of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education and Professor of Criminal Justice was elected as the new chair of the University System Africa Council. Charles Ubah, PhD., professor of Criminal Justice was elected secretary after completing two terms as treasurer.

The University System Africa Council seeks to build an active participatory membership of University System of Georgia campus faculty and staff with African interests and expertise, facilitating communication and providing a useful forum where issues of common concern can be shared, discussed and resolved. Every year, the University System Africa Council organizes a simulation of the annual meeting of Heads of State of the African Union (AU). The simulation is known as SEMAU or the Southeastern Model of the African Union. SEMAU 2014 will be held in Morrow, Georgia, and will be hosted by Clayton State University from November 6 to 8. ■

Stephanie McClure, Ph.D. Publishes Book

Stephanie McClure, Ph.D., associate professor of Sociology is co-editor of a new book titled "Getting Real About Race: Hoodies, Mascots, Model Minorities, and Other Conversations," released by Sage Publications in July 2014. The book is an edited collection of short essays which address the most common misconceptions about race held by students (and by many in the United States, in general). Dr. McClure collaborated on the project with Cherise A. Harris, Associate Professor of Sociology at Connecticut College. The essays are organized in four distinct categories (Laying the Foundation; Debunking Individual Attitudes; Institutions, Policies and Legacies of Oppression; Race in Everyday Interactions) to illuminate issues regarding one of the most critical social challenges facing the United States.

The collection includes contributions from noted scholars from across the country including Department of Government and Sociology faculty Veronica Womack, Ph.D., professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Brad Koch Ph.D., associate professor of Sociology, Sara Doude, Ph.D., associate professor of Criminal Justice and recent sociology graduates Hersheda Patel and James Bridgeforth.

To engage the reader, the editors of the volume structured each essay to conclude with suggested sources including videos, websites, books, and/or articles. Questions are also provided in each essay allowing the reader to move from knowledge to implications of race in everyday life. Finally, current topics students want to discuss are brought up through the text encouraging a conversation in an open classroom environment. ■

Political Science Major Has Article Published

Isabel Bryan Barks, a political science major, had her work published in the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics. Pi Sigma Alpha is the Political Science Honor Society affiliated with the American Political Science Association. Her analysis titled "The United States Role in the Construction of International Small Arms Control" was previously presented at the 2013 Annual Conference of the Georgia Political Science Association.

In the article, Barks argues that the United States carefully constructed a pro-gun network and existing domestic gun control policies compete with and ultimately dominate a transnational pro-control network that prevents the emergence of an international norm regulating small arms. Barks has been invited to present the work at the upcoming Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Conference scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Jason Rich, assistant professor of Political Science served as Isabel's academic advisor and mentor. Rich is currently the chair of the Department of Government and Sociology Undergraduate Research Faculty Committee, a concerted unit effort to advance student research. According to Rich, "Over the years we have had many faculty work closely with undergraduate students to present their research at various conferences. Ultimately our goal is to encourage students to submit their papers for publication consideration at academic journals. Isabel's work was exceptional, and I am pleased to see her efforts recognized. As we look into next year, we have a number of students working closely with department faculty mentors to share their research findings at conferences." Dr. Costas Spirou, department chair added, "Congratulations to Ms. Barks for this extraordinary distinction and to Dr. Rich for his exceptional guidance. This is a great way to advance engaged learning, develop key skills and strengthen our students' preparation for graduate work or for professional careers." ■

Department Announces New Student Organization

The Department of Government and Sociology is pleased to announce a new student organization, Government and Sociology Student Association (GSSA). Founding officer, Katherine Crye, Secretary and Political Science major notes that, "GSSA has been created as a link between students and faculty within the department. We hope to better communicate opportunities for them to work closely together in areas like academic research, seeking internships and studying abroad. Our ultimate goal is to strengthen the department by better accommodating students." Fellow founding officer, Vice President and Criminal Justice major Shelby Hatcher, adds, "When GSSA reaches its full potential, it will be able to provide information about internships, research opportunities and connect the students closer to the department faculty."



Kate Crye



Shelby Hatcher



Britt Edwards



Dayana Aparico

GSSA's first project is assisting with the organization of the department's annual awards luncheon. This will be the first time in the history of the department that students will be directly involved with all aspects of the planning and execution of the event. The planning team will gain invaluable experience during the entire process.

GSSA President, Brittan Edwards, Political Science major, is "honored to be a founding member of this unifying organization." She looks forward to transforming her leadership knowledge into an authentic experience for the students of the department. Ms. Crye is excited to be part of an organization that encourages students to be active on campus and take advantage of the available resources. Dayana Aparicio, Sociology major and GSSA's Treasurer indicates that "I look forward to help take the Department of Government and Sociology in a new and exciting direction. Students will become vested in bettering their department knowing that they will benefit as well."

"This is an exceptional opportunity for our students, faculty and the department. It will allow for a way to integrate and support some of the existing student organizations (Pi Sigma Alpha-Political Science, Debunkers-Sociology, Criminal Justice Honor Society-Criminal Justice and Pre-Law Society that are affiliated with our programs. We look forward to working closely with the GSSA" said Dr. Costas Spirou, Department Chair. ■



Doug Bernstein Award

Teaching Neuroanatomy Using Student-Generated Comic Books as Class Projects

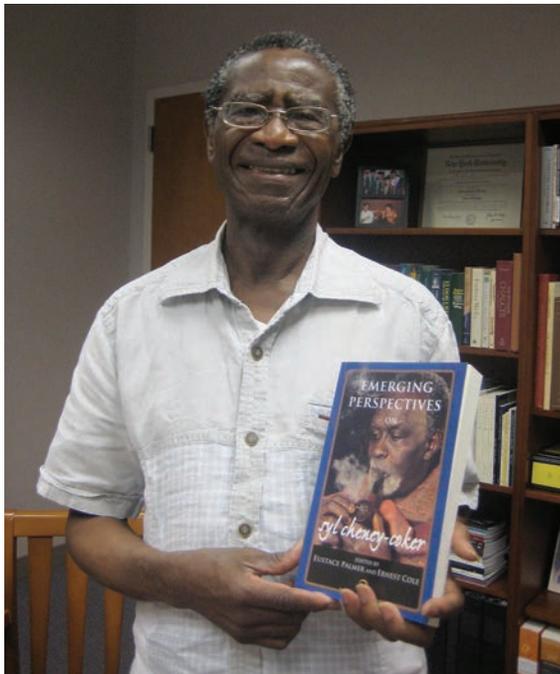
Walter L. Isaac et al.
Georgia College and State University
email: walter.isaac@gcsu.edu;

The topic for the Advanced Behavioral Neuroscience course was Neural Systems. Students began by giving traditional presentations with weekly lab sessions examining human brains. Mid-semester the class transitioned into working on less traditional projects. Students worked to create neuroanatomy comic book chapters delineating selected neural systems aimed at producing an e-Book for a final course product. This was intended to be more engaging and motivating for the students. Students downloaded Comic Life 2 software and collaborated designing the general outline for all chapters ensuring cohesiveness and commonality in the finished book. Class time provided opportunities to share creative ideas and receive feedback. Students self-rated their learning experiences on seven questions comparing their comic book experiences to their term paper experiences in relation to amount of effort, enjoyment, perceived learning, anticipated retention of learning, inspiration/inventiveness, freedom generated, and constraints. Two questions addressed likelihood of using their new skills in the future and how challenging it was to incorporate APA format in their chapters. Comparing ratings with dependent t-tests, the original seven questions all revealed that the comic books were rated significantly higher on all questions except the amount of constraints where term papers were rated as posing significantly more constraints. There was a high likelihood of future use indicated (mean=5.92 out of 7) and incorporating APA format was not too challenging (mean=3.77 out of 7). Overall, the experience for both students and professor was very reinforcing, encouraging similar future endeavors. ■



PROFESSOR PUBLISHES NEW BOOK ON

Sierra Leone's leading contemporary writer



Ernest Palmer, professor in the Department of English and Rhetoric, recently jointly edited the publication "Emerging Perspectives on Syl Cheney-Coker." It consists of seven interviews done with Cheney-Coker by various experts and 13 essays on Cheney-Coker's work, some on his poetry and several on his epic novel "The Last Harmattan of Alusine Dunbar." Palmer worked with Dr. Ernest Cole, associate professor of English and Towsley Research Scholar at Hope College in Michigan. Cole is one of Palmer's former students at Fourah Bay College, the University of Sierra Leone. Both worked together to write the introduction, compile the index and the exhaustive bibliography. Palmer contributed three chapters to the volume, while Cole contributed two.

Syl Cheney-Coker is Sierra Leone's leading contemporary writer and one of the leading contemporary African writers. Cheney-Coker has won several awards for his work. His first novel won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize in the Africa section. He has also won the African Literature Association's Fonlon-Nicols award and was chosen to give this year's Degraaf lecture at Hope College, Michigan .

"I embarked on this project because I felt it was time for the literary world to have a comprehensive evaluation of the work of such an important African writer in one volume. Also, for the last several years I have led a team consisting of professors of English in American universities of Sierra Leonean origin who have been showcasing Sierra Leonean literature," said Palmer. "Initially, I had the assistance of a research assistant, but when she left unexpectedly, I approached Dr. Cole to collaborate with me on this project. He readily agreed and was most assiduous and efficient in his participation."

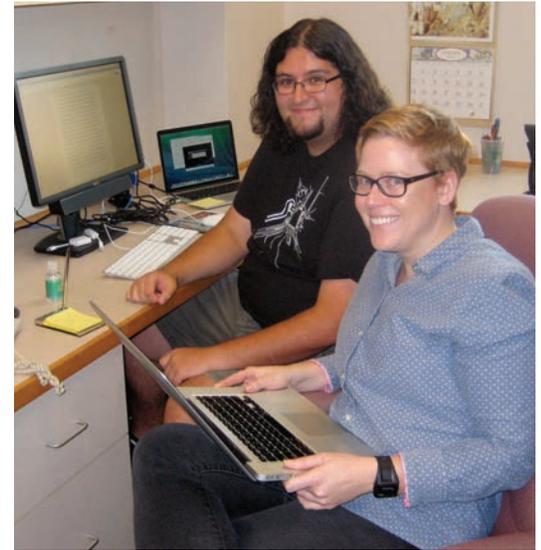
The publisher of the work, Africa World Press/the Red Sea Press, is the leading publisher in the United States of work on Africa, particularly literary works.

"This volume is extremely important to me because it is on the work of the leading writer from my country of origin, a writer, incidentally, whom I know very well and who went to high school with me," said Palmer. "It now means that I have published five critical volumes on African literature, one on the English novel and four novels of my own." ■

Dance News



GC Dance, in the Department of Theatre, is beginning its 20th year on our campus! With over 200 students in the non credit Community Dance program and over 50 dance minors in the credit dance minor program, GC Dance is very busy. Plans for this coming year include the 3rd annual Bountiful Fall dance concert which is completely student led, the 18th annual Nutcracker production in December, the GC Dance Spring Concert for the dance minor students in May, and the Community Dance Spring Concert in late May. Internationally known guest artist Liz Lerman will have a residency on our campus in the spring, and GC will host the Southeastern American College Dance Festival on our campus in March for the 2nd year in a row. We are so excited to have over 500 dancers and faculty from all over the south east join us for a week of dance! We were just able to hire our 2nd full time faculty member: Natalie King and we welcome her to our dance family! Natalie is leading the two new satellite non credit dance programs in Eatonton at The Plaza, and in Monticello at Thomas Persons Hall. Chi Tau Epsilon Dance Honorary fraternity is very active on our campus and community presenting flash mobs on campus, dancing at area nursing homes and the Georgia War Veteran's home twice a year, teaching at area public schools, and promoting dance at GC wherever they can! The GC Community Dance Program also won for the 4th year in a row the Union Recorder awards for Best Community Event: The Nutcracker, and Best Dance Studio! ■



Community Literacy Journal Edited through Student/Faculty Collaboration

New English and Rhetoric faculty member Jessica Shumake has brought her editorial responsibilities for the Community Literacy Journal (CLJ) to Georgia College and has involved Honors Program student Saul Hernandez in journal production. According to Shumake (PhD University of Arizona 2012), CLJ features research about community literacy practices. CLJ appears in print and can also be viewed online at communityliteracy.org. The aim of the most recent CLJ, to quote Shumake, "was to challenge divides imposed on the community and the academy and youth and adults." Shumake is an inclusive thinker and a facile techie who lives her values.

Saul Hernandez excels as a partner in this enterprise. The recipient of a Georgia College Service Opportunity Grant, he works up to ten hours a week in service to our community. We rejoice when he says he aspires to join the university teaching profession because we know future students will be in good hands. Hernandez comes to Georgia College from ABAC and, like Shumake, has already made a positive impact on the department and college we love. ■



ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
FALL 2014