



GEORGIA  
COLLEGE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015



ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**  
 SPRING 2015

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## Dean's Message

At Georgia College, we prize diversity of all kinds. Diversity mixes ideas and points of view in ways that can spark new lines of inquiry, initiate special projects, advance our curricula, establish mentoring relationships, and much more. Colleges work well with a mix of faculty, staff and students. Diversity in experience helps universities thrive. We need the experience and leadership of senior professors and lecturers, the drive of our associate professors, and the fresh ideas and energy that come from new assistant professors and lecturers. In this newsletter, we introduce our new “freshmen faculty” and note the advances in promotion and tenure of faculty who have served the college, the university, and the campus community for several, perhaps many years.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, we encourage students to get involved, to learn through engagement. Working with faculty mentors on research and creative projects is an important part of the educational experience. The small size of Georgia College means students can get involved in academic work outside the classroom from their first day as first year students all the way through graduate school. Opportunities range from research labs to theatrical costume design. Some projects grow out of the classroom. Many students very generously volunteer their time to the benefit of the community. This Newsletter features many such examples of student engagement.



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 DEAN KENNETH PROCTER

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SPRING 2015



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*College of Arts and Sciences and*  
**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



## Engaging Diversity through Theatre

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Jan. 22, 2015, featured the premiere of "The Rally," a play written out of the necessity to illustrate the parallels between the civil rights movement of the 50s, 60s and 70s and our nation's current struggle to embrace our common humanity and human right to liberty. "The Rally," a one-act written by Georgia College Department of Theatre faculty member, Professor Kristi Papailler, begins with a candlelight vigil. A diverse group of students, illuminated by candles, cell phones and flashlights, recite the most frequently heard words of King's "I Have a Dream" speech.



The cast of "The Rally"

Students Dmetrius Denize, Candiss Hill and Sarah Burman [L-R] in The Rally. Photo by Paul Accettura.



"I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day, even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, that one day, right there in Alabama, little black boys and little black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted. Every hill and mountain shall be made low. The rough places shall be made plain and the crooked places shall be made straight. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. "

The play goes on to discover a common encounter between two students: one of European descent and one of African descent, debating the merits of the new civil rights movement, sparked by the extrajudicial killings of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y.. Afua, an African-American theatre student is on her way to a #blacklivesmatter rally. Her friend, Alice who is an Irish-American daughter of a police officer, discovers this and becomes infuriated when she learns that her friend plans to attend a rally, which from her perspective, is against all members of law enforcement and has "reverse-racist" undertones. A heated debate follows, dispelling myths of reverse racism, and eventually, Afua and Alice are joined by other members of the theatre department who are excited about showing up for racial justice at the rally.

The rally begins with members of the student government association and theatre department discussing the need for an end to the extreme (one every 28 hours) killings of unarmed people of color by members of law enforcement (a tragedy not seen in the U.S. since the Jim Crow era). Throughout the rally, Alice and Zeke (an African-American character who shares Alice's sentiments about the movement) begin to understand that this new civil rights movement is about everyone's right to humane

treatment. They understand that #blacklivesmatter is not an assertion of superiority or a claim to special rights. They understand that the killings of Mike Brown, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin and so many others are reflections of the offending officer's and neighborhood "watchmen's" failure to value African-American lives as their own and failure to uphold our constitutional right of "innocence until proven guilty".

Observing the rally is a misguided friend who intermittently shouts degrading remarks at those attending it. His threats become more vicious as the rally gains momentum and as the hearts of Alice and Zeke are touched. The members of the rally ignore his threats and determine to focus on the words of unity, peace and justice spoken by the organizers of the gathering. The rally begins to close with chants of "I have a dream, but I can't breathe". Gunshots are heard as the ignored venomous misguided "friend" fires into the crowd, fatally wounding all but Alice and Zeke. The lights go to black.

The lights come up. Zeke comforts Alice who can only say "I have a dream, dear God, I have a dream." And the play ends with this glimmer of hope.

Indeed, this extreme illustration of our current situation of a new civil rights movement, gun violence and racial misunderstanding is not without merit. Post show discussions were animated with expressions of the desire for more dialogue about how students can create a more just and peaceful society. Rabbi Larry Schlesinger and Minister Jordan Williams joined Deitrah Taylor on the post-show panel. The panel invited audience members to explore the role of religious leaders in addressing the past and current movements, gun violence and offered strategies for unity, peace and healing in our communities.

The cast of "The Rally" was made up of Georgia College Department of Theatre students, a graduate of the program and one physics major. Each gave stellar performances and enjoyed taking part in theatre for social justice. They are: Justin Kalin, Joanna Grissom, Olivia Langford, Ashley McGlathery, Dimitrius Denize, Jeremy Collwell, Sarah Burman, Candiss Hill, Jon Dalhauser, Kayleigh Mikell and Clarissa Bacon. Through works like "The Rally," the Georgia College Department of Theatre encourages dialogue about diversity, social justice and positive social change. We are proud of our student's for embracing and creating a more just local, national and global society. ■

# MATH EVENT AT *Creekside Elementary*



Creekside Elementary Students



Math Department at  
Creekside Elementary in Milledgeville

On Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, Creekside Elementary hosted its second annual STEAM night, which is a community event designed to showcase Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics for the children in a fun and exciting way. Dr. Angel Abney, Dr. Brandon Samples, and Doris Santarone were invited to represent the GC math department during the event. Students in Abney's concepts in geometry course were charged with creating developmentally appropriate and engaging activities for the students and parents who attended the event. The GC undergraduate students from this geometry class that attended included Margaret Snoddy, Hallie Pangborn, Pheobe Pearson, Korielle Harris, Heather Miller, Courtney Horne, Kristen Stack, Jenna Allenson, Heather Harrison and Tiffani Gray. Also, Mark Antley, a graduate student and administrator at Oak Hill Middle, volunteered to participate. Activities included building geometric shapes with pretzels and marshmallows, classifying shapes, drawing snowmen on the computer using the dynamic geometry software GSP, and manipulating tangrams. The experience was both enlightening and encouraging for Georgia College faculty and students to see how willing children are to persevere when tackling challenging mathematical tasks. The event was a huge success and was documented by the Office of University Communications as well as the folks from ENGAGE. ■

# Rhetoric Students ENGAGE with K12 Students in New Public Achievement Course



Georgia College student engaging students at Blandy Elementary

What comes to mind when you think of a coach? Perhaps you picture a highly coveted handbag or Terry Sellers, legendary and newly-retired coach of the Bobcat Men's Basketball Team. The term "Coach" is taking on a new meaning this year at Georgia College. Fourteen Georgia College students are walking the halls of Creekside Elementary School this semester, not as collegiate basketball coaches, but as student teachers driven to educate children about citizenship, diversity and civic engagement.

These coaches are enrolled in the Public Achievement Course, RHET 4950, taught by Dr. Jan Clark. Public Achievement is a youth civic action curriculum created in 1990 at the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Clark, associate professor of rhetoric, has been co-coordinating the program at GC since 2009. The program helps K-12

students choose and implement community improvement projects that serve the public good in their neighborhoods, schools and communities. To date, over 100 Georgia College students have coached more than 300 students working in community improvement project teams at Oak Hill Middle School, Blandy Elementary School and most recently Creekside Elementary School in Baldwin County.

Public Achievement is a partnership between Georgia College and the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program. YES is a federally funded program that strives to provide accelerated academic learning, enrichment and literacy development for at-risk students and their families. YES was originally created to serve 175 students in two schools but now consists of 650 students at five different schools. This year Public Achievement is located at YES's newest enrichment site, Creekside Elementary School. ■

To learn more about Public Achievement, visit [gcsu.edu/adp/publicachievement.htm](http://gcsu.edu/adp/publicachievement.htm)

BY MATTHEW CANNON



Kelsey Stone

*Spotlight on*  
**STUDENTS**

# Liberal Studies Major

## Recommended for the Fulbright ETA Program in Indonesia

**K**elsey Stone, senior liberal studies major, has been recommended for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program in Indonesia. This is quite a laudable achievement as it is not often that a student is successful in

their application the first time they apply. Her success is a testament to not only her academic and intellectual prowess, but also to her demonstrable ability to embrace cultures outside her own and her considerable experience as a service leader at Georgia College.

According to Kelsey, "as a student majoring in liberal studies I have had the opportunity to study cultures outside of the Western Hemisphere, and I was immediately drawn to Asian religions. As I learned more about the various religions of Asia, I became more interested in Southeast Asia. Indonesia, having the largest Muslim majority than any other country in the world, naturally became an important area to study. My interest with the role of religion in Southeast Asia later expanded into a love for the rich and distinctive culture that varies from country to country. My knowledge of Indonesian culture further developed when I began working at a local Japanese restaurant. Surprisingly, there were no Japanese employees on staff, but instead everyone was Indonesian. They shared with me stories, recipes, traditions, and even taught me a few words of Bahasa. Our friendships also enabled me to explain American culture and religion in my own words. My personal friendships and increasing knowledge of Southeast Asian religions such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, drew me to life in Indonesia."

Hearing Kelsey speak with great enthusiasm about Indonesia, Professor Warner Belanger, himself a Fulbright scholar, encouraged Kelsey to apply for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program in Indonesia, and mentored her through the process. The Fulbright ETA programs, as described on the Fulbright US Student Program website, "place Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers. ETA's help teach English language while serving as cultural

ambassadors for the U.S." As an ETA, Kelsey aims to implement service learning into her classroom. Service Learning combines students' learning objectives with significant service projects that benefit both the students and the community, and she plans to engage her students in local projects that reinforce their understanding of community and her knowledge of Indonesia.

Kelsey has a wide range of experience as a service leader at Georgia College. She is currently the director of Georgia College Miracle, which includes leading an executive board of 20 people, creating an agenda for the organization and delegating and supervising tasks to those involved. The organization has raised close to \$55,000 for the Children's Hospital in Macon, Ga., making it the largest student life fund-raiser. She also serves on the executive board of Gama Sigma Sigma, a non-selective sorority that is open to men and women and welcomes the participation of anyone interested in joining it. As part of her Liberal Studies capstone Kelsey is doing an internship with a national organization called Communities in Schools with a focus on Baldwin County. Her internship will involve tutoring and helping to coordinate events in schools with the aim of getting students more involved in their education, and most importantly in preventing students from dropping out of school.

These opportunities at Georgia College have, according to Kelsey, "taught me skills that I would use to engage with my community, and my overall goal to do so is to promote youth involvement in community service. I would work alongside the students, allowing them to determine what the needs were in their community and how we might go about addressing them. By planning and carrying out the service project, the youth volunteers would not only gain an appreciation for service, but they would also develop valuable skills that could be applied later in life."

After returning from the Fulbright ETA, Kelsey plans on pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work and hopes to work with Muslim communities in the United States. In particular, she wants to use her Fulbright experience to bridge the cultural gap between immigrant communities and American culture as they transition with resettlement. ■



Dr. Acker (left); Darby Witek,( right)

**M**s. **Darby Witek**, history major, won the prestigious Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Award for 2015. One of only sixteen recipients from across the country, Ms. Witek won the award for her work as a history student here at GC, and for her paper on the renowned African-American leader and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Her paper discusses the identity Frederick Douglass assumed during his time on Garrison's abolitionist circuit, specifically investigating how he may have been molded into a persona and what the effects of that molding are for both himself and his audience. Ms. Witek wrote the paper outside of class specifically as a sample for this award. She noted that she was provided great guidance and mentoring from Dr. Lauren Acker in the History Department. As Ms. Witek noted, Dr. Acker '...gave a lot of her time and effort also outside of her class and research load. While I am looking forward to further revising this paper as a

sample for future graduate school applications, I think I speak for both myself and Dr. Acker in saying I am proud of this paper for the purpose it has served!' Ms. Witek also noted that, 'looking forward, I have accepted a position with Teach For America to teach in Arkansas, which I will begin in August. After Teach For America, I plan to pursue a doctoral degree in either American history or potentially American literature.'

The goal of the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Award is to foster an interest in American history and recognize undergraduate student achievements. The History Scholars Award program will include lectures, archival visits, and tours of historic sites. The award is granted each year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City. The formal activities of the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Award will be held at New York University in New York City's Greenwich Village. As part of award, Ms. Witek will be provided with travel and accommodation expenses to go to New York and attend the activities. ■



Max Noah Singers Director Dr. Jennifer Flory and Choir Director for Snellville Middle School, Travis Smith, '09.



Max Noah Singers and Jefferson Middle School students.

## 2014 Tour Connects Max Noah Singers with Family and Alumni

Georgia College's Max Noah Singers (MNS) went on their ninth annual tour, under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Flory, Dec. 14-17, 2014. Many stops on the trip highlighted some connection with current singers and alumni in Georgia. The group began its journey in Dublin at Pine Forest UMC, the home church of current singer and senior psychology major, Ginny Crowson. The next performance took place in Madison at New Hope Baptist Church, pastored by Michael Pritchett, uncle of current singer and senior choral music education major, Greta Pritchett. Alumni Mary-Katherine (Schaap) (BME '10) and Jeremy Skidmore (BA '08) attended that evening with their new baby, Jacob.

Dec. 15 was the busiest with three high school visits across I-20 and an evening concert in McDonough. The group started the day at Morgan County HS, Greta's alma mater, and then moved on to Eastside HS in Covington, where Joel Singleton (BME '00) is the choir director. The last visit of the day was Salem HS in Conyers, alma mater of Meagan Johnson, current singer and senior choral

music education major. The concert that evening was at Cornerstone Bible Church. Mathis Wilkens (BA '09 & MPA '12), MNS alum attended the concert and had this to say, "It was a joy to get to hear the group on tour. I loved that so many of the members conducted pieces. I love getting to hear new generations of MNS. It is always a treat when Dr. Flory is at the helm." The pastor of CBC is David Riley, father of current singer and senior choral music education major, Brianna Riley.

The next day we visited Brianna's alma mater, Luella High School. After which the group sang at Snellville Middle School for an assembly of students and choir director Travis Smith (BME '09). Smith commented, "The group has flourished under Dr. Flory's leadership in the years since I was a member. The performance delighted my students, many of whom had never experienced a live a cappella concert before." The last day of tour took the Max Noah Singers to Jefferson Middle School where Hillary (Hensley) Wood (BME '09) is choir director and was host for student teacher Devon Kitchens (BME '14). ■

BY SHELBY LIGHT (JUNIOR MASS COMMUNICATION MAJOR) AND JENNIFER FLORY

## FOCUS ON NEW FACULTY

The College of Arts and Sciences welcomed several new faculty members in the fall of 2014.



### **Gretchen Ionta**

Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Botany, University of Florida  
Research: Plant systematics, floristics, pollination biology

Dr. Gretchen Ionta is a plant systematist – an evolutionary biologist specializing in the study of plant diversity and evolutionary history. Her lab utilizes molecular and morphological techniques and evidence to elucidate evolutionary relationships, the evolution of morphological traits, biogeographical patterns and mechanisms of speciation in plants. Field work is an integral part of this process – ongoing research projects range from those in our own backyard (the Southeastern United States) to the mountains of Haiti and Jamaica, and as far away as South Africa. At GC she teaches a range of biology and botany courses, including Plant Systematics, Mycology and General Botany. When Ionta's not teaching or conducting her research, you're likely to find her hiking along a mountain trail.



### **Ji Seun Sohn,**

Assistant professor of  
Criminal Justice



### **Jeffrey H. MacLachlan**

has recent or forthcoming work in *New Ohio Review*, *Eleven Eleven*, *2600*, *Santa Clara Review*, among others. His manuscript *315 Gods* is currently under review at various publishers.



### **David A. Weese**

Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Biological Sciences, Auburn University  
Research: Population genetics, Molecular ecology, Evolutionary biology

Dr. David Weese applies molecular tools to explore a wide range of ecological and evolutionary questions including: how life history traits and geologic/geographic factors influence the evolution and ecology of marine and aquatic organisms, how historical climate change and sea surface levels have influenced evolutionary history, the identification of cryptic or hidden biodiversity as well as the impact of geologic history on genetic structure and evolutionary history of island species. Additionally, his research has application in areas of conservation management such as: identifying source populations of species in the wildlife trade as well as populations/habitats warranting conservation management. Through his research Weese has had many opportunities to travel around the world; including living in Okinawa, Japan, several trips to the Hawaiian Islands and New Zealand as well as research expeditions in the Gulf of Mexico and to Antarctica. Weese currently teaches genetics, freshman biology and evolution courses at Georgia College.



New Assistant Professor Ariel Gratch keeping his office hours



Georgia College Department of Theatre welcomes Assistant Professor **Kristi Papailler** who received her Master of Fine art degree from University of Louisville. Professor Papailler holds a graduate certificate in African-American Theatre. Her specialties include: Tai Chi; Qi Gong for Actors; and Theatre for Social Change. She will be traveling to China this summer with a GC Faculty Research Grant to pursue her studies of movement styles. She directed August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Piano Lesson" on campus this past fall.



After four years as a postdoctoral scholar at UC Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory, Dr. **Arash Bodaghee** joined the faculty of Georgia College's Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy. His research involves searching for accreting neutron stars and black holes, and describing their physical properties, using an armada of X-ray and gamma-ray space telescopes including Chandra, Fermi, Swift,

INTEGRAL, and others. First author of 11 articles that have appeared in major scientific journals (and co-author of 30 others), Bodaghee is a collaborator on NASA's NuSTAR space telescope, and is helping to develop another space telescope, PoLSTAR, which is an X-ray polarization detector that has been tested on balloon flights. In addition to a global network of astrophysicists that Bodaghee collaborates with, there are around a dozen undergraduate students from Georgia College that assist his research, including a senior who will be paid through a grant to study data taken with the Hubble space telescope, and a freshman who will receive a physics research scholarship. Bodaghee received his doctorate and Master of Science in astrophysics from the University of Geneva in 2007, and his B.A. degree in mathematics from UC San Diego in 1997.

• **Natalie King**, a native of Pell City, Ala.,  
 • attended Sweet Briar College where she  
 • earned a Bachelor of Art in Dance,  
 • Elementary Education Certification K-6 and  
 • Dance Education Certification K-12. She  
 • received a Master of Fine Arts degree at  
 • Arizona State University (ASU) in the  
 • Graduate Dance Program with an emphasis  
 • in three concentrations: pedagogy research,  
 • choreography and performance. Following  
 • graduation, King also taught dance for seven  
 • years in an inner city high school located in  
 • Phoenix, Arizona. There she fulfilled many  
 • roles as the dance director, professional  
 • learning community facilitator, instructional  
 • leader for the performing arts department  
 • and summer arts program director. King  
 • performed for and eventually co-directed a  
 • professional modern dance company, Flux  
 • Dance Project, with another ASU alumni,  
 • Laura Atwood Dueker. Currently, as a dance  
 • lecturer within Georgia College's dance  
 • minor program, she teaches dance  
 • technique and theory courses. Her scholarly  
 • focus utilizes democratic methods and  
 • collaborative action research to stimulate  
 • interdisciplinary pedagogy between arts and  
 • literacy driven communities. She has  
 • presented her research and curricula for  
 • national organizations, including the  
 • Research on Teaching and Learning Summit,  
 • Congress on Research in Dance, Popular  
 • Culture Association and National Dance  
 • Education Organization.



**Jessica L. Shumake** received a doctorate from University of Arizona in rhetoric, composition, and the teaching of English in July 2013, a master's degree from University of Windsor's department of philosophy and a bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport University in English and philosophy. Her work on the rhetorical and affective dimensions of archives has been published in "The Writing Instructor and TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies." Her research and teaching interests include public rhetorics, community-university partnerships, K-16 composition pedagogy, civic dialogue, and queer studies. She serves as the Book Review and New Media editor for the "Community Literacy Journal" and has for the past four years been a leader within high school and university bridge programs designed to excite students and promote college access through collaborative learning and writing partnerships.

### **Doris Santarone**

Although this is her first year in the position of assistant professor of mathematics, Doris Santarone has been teaching at Georgia College since 2009 as a lecturer and she has lived in Milledgeville almost her entire life. She grew up in Milledgeville, as did her husband, and they are happy to be raising their two children in Milledgeville too.

Sanatarone's teaching philosophy reflects her preference for constructivist learning theories, where knowledge is constructed by the students, rather than transmitted from the teacher. In her classroom, she tries to build a culture of engaged learning by using a student-centered classroom dynamic that encourages problem solving and critical thinking.

At Georgia College, Sanatarone teaches both mathematics classes and mathematics education classes. In addition, she provides professional development to in-service teachers in the central Georgia area as part of an MSP grant that is a collaboration between Georgia College and Oconee RESA.

Her research interests are mainly centered in the field of mathematics education, including topics such as the mathematical knowledge for teaching of in-service teachers, the mathematics content knowledge of pre-service and in-service teachers, the mathematical knowledge needed for pre-service teacher educators and the effectiveness of pre-service teacher education programs.



**Jameliah Shorter** is a Georgia native from Augusta, GA. In 2009, she graduated from Paine College in Augusta, GA (Salutatorian, Summa Cum Laude). As an undergraduate, Jameliah became a Mellon-Mays Fellow. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Jameliah was accepted to the Ph.D. program in philosophy at the Pennsylvania State University where she is completing her dissertation on 18th century philosopher Immanuel Kant and his remarks about African slavery. Jameliah's research interests are Immanuel Kant, Critical Philosophy of Race, Ethics, and Africana Philosophy. Jameliah teaches classes in the core and on race.



### **Debora Stefani**

Debora Stefani was educated in Italy, where she earned an MA in English and German from Ca'Foscari University (Venice). After a gap year, she took a leap of faith and joined other doctoral students at Georgia State University. She finished her Ph.D. in English in 2012, and she now works at Georgia College and State University as a Lecturer. When she is not busy preparing classes or grading composition and literature assignments, she works on her research, which focuses on issues of sexuality, ethnicity, citizenship, and religion in Asian American literature. She struggles to make teaching part of her scholarship. In fact, she is currently working on an essay for publication on digital assignments for literature classes.

# Undergraduate Student Research:

## One of the Distinctive Markers of a GC Liberal Arts Education

**Ryan Brown**, associate professor of mathematics, directed two undergraduate research projects in Peru in June 2014. Juniors Matthew Kennedy and Joseph Hopkins conducted research on the geometry and symmetry of Chimu textiles, ceramics and metalwork. Matthew's work was supported by a URACE summer research grant, and Joey's work was partially supported by the STEM Initiative and the mathematics department. Matthew and Joey each presented a poster at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio, Texas in January 2015.

**Dr. Samuel Mutiti** has been at Georgia College since 2009, and has recently been granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. During this time he has served as chair of the Green Fee Committee and is the current chair of the Sustainability Council. He has been an active member of the Georgia Academy of Sciences where he has served as secretary and currently serving as chair of the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Mutiti is very passionate about undergraduate research and has served on various departmental and campus wide undergraduate research committees. He is very actively involved in undergraduate research. In the last three years alone he has worked with over 20 undergraduate research students working in his research lab and 15 of them have presented their research at various conferences in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. These fifteen students have all been successful in obtaining travel grants from either the Geological Society of America or American Geophysical Union. Two of his undergraduate students have been



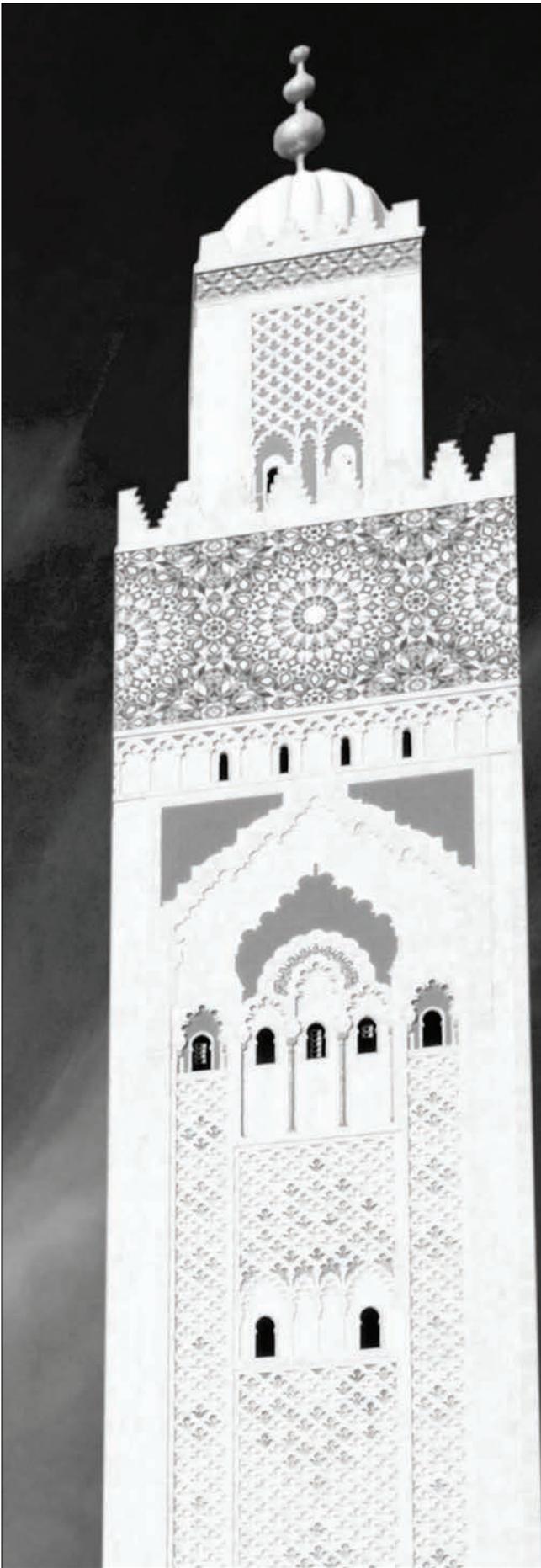
Mutiti (left) with students on a research trip in Vancouver

recipients of the URACE summer research awards, while one of them also received the Coverdell Chair Public Policy Student Research Scholarship. His research team (with his collaborators) have co-authored six peer reviewed manuscripts and given over 30 presentations at scientific meetings. During these three years his students' presentations have received six best student presentations at scientific conferences. As an undergraduate mentor, Mutiti has also received one outstanding undergraduate research mentor award, and two honorable mentions.

His research interests are in environmental earth sciences and include the application of shallow surface geophysics in environmental and biological studies, emerging contaminants (pharmaceuticals, nanoparticles and viruses) in water, the application of GIS and remote sensing in hydrology, heavy metal contamination and remediation, and the application of environmental tracers (heat, stable isotopes, heats and other chemicals compounds) in the studying groundwater-surface interactions. His research lab currently has 12 students (four graduate and eight

undergraduates) actively conducting research. Two of the students are working on a project in collaboration of the University of Zambia investigating ways of reducing lead exposure to people in the mining areas of Zambia. This project investigates the presence of lead in vegetables, soils and water (and also investigates ways to increase phytoremediation potential of local plants).

Mutiti teaches a variety of courses that include introductory and upper level geology courses, hydrology, environmental sciences, GC2Y and study abroad. On top of his regular scheduled courses Mutiti usually has over six students (in some cases 10 students) registered in independent study or research courses every semester. He is always looking for ways to improve his teaching and is consistently looking for both internal and external funding to test innovative teaching techniques in his classes. Mutiti is also involved in the local area community where he goes into the schools and teaches geology, coaches soccer for the local recreational leagues, provides free soil and water testing services and is a member of a couple of organizational committees. ■



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Department of Arts and Sciences  
Chairs presented at a  
Conference on Citizenship  
in Morocco

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Left to right: Aran MacKinnon, Karim Bhjijt (Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco), Larbi Oukada and Costas Spirou

**T**hree Georgia College faculty members— Aran MacKinnon, chair of history and geography, Costas Spirou, chair of government and sociology, and Larbi Oukada, chair of modern languages and cultures— were invited this past December to deliver lectures on the concept of citizenship from the perspectives of their disciplines at the prestigious National Library in the Moroccan capital city, Rabat, as a part of an initiative to promote the study of history.

Building on the common characterization of citizenship as a set of legal birthrights that a political community bestows on its members, MacKinnon explored the historical construction of citizenship through political processes of exclusion in South Africa; Spirou looked at urbanism and ethnicity to demonstrate ways citizenship has been deployed by Chicago's political machinery to secure political allegiance; and Oukada addressed language impact on citizenship identity to show that citizenship identity is often the blending of successive and distinct layers of cultural substrata and unplanned life experiences. ■

# PROMOTIONS AND TENURE

## Promoted to Senior Lecturer:

Kwan Christenson (Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences)

## Promoted to Associate Professor:

TeaYoun Kim-Kassor (Arts Department)  
Hauke Busch (Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy)

## Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor

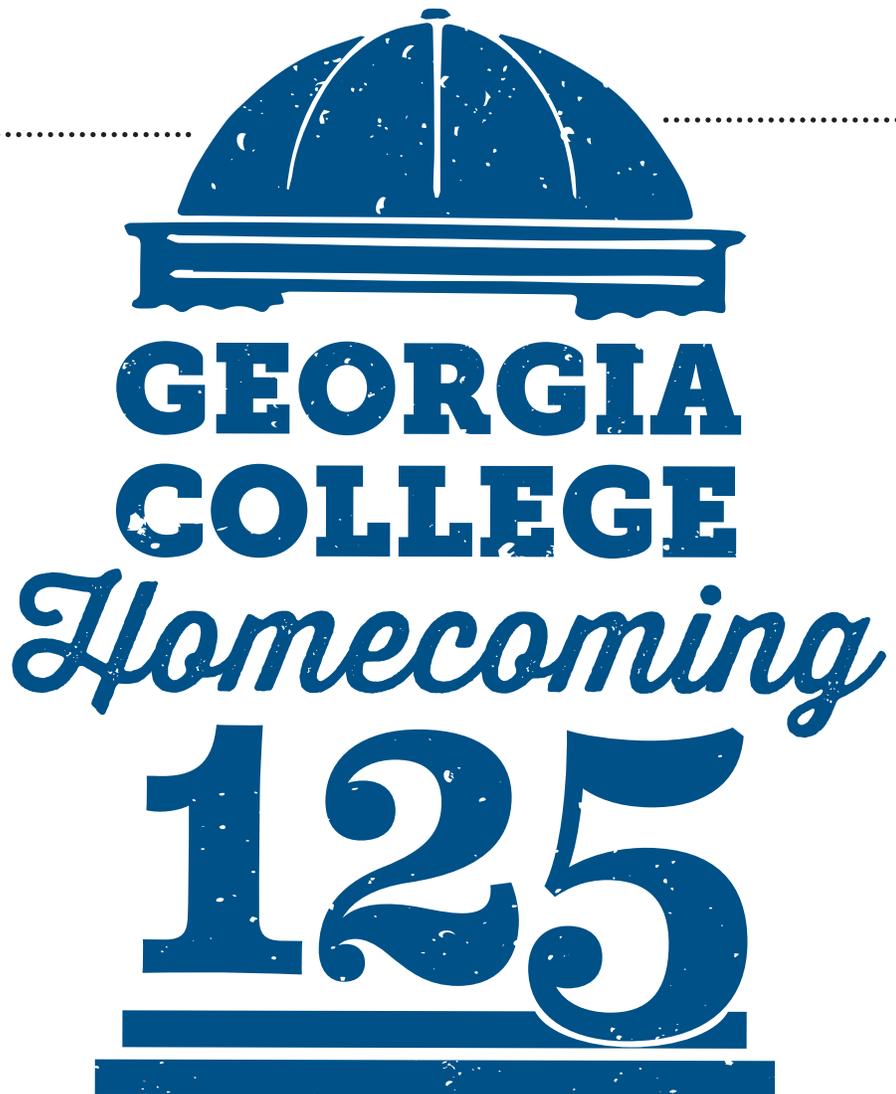
George Cazacu (Department of Mathematics)  
Aurora Castillo (Department of Modern Languages)  
David Johnson (Department of Music).  
Diana Young (Department of Psychology).

## Promoted to Full Professor:

Beauty Bragg and Allen Gee  
(Department of English and Rhetoric)  
Stephanie McClure  
(Department of Government and Sociology)  
Stephen Auerbach (Department of History and Geography)  
Chuck Fahrer (Department of History and Geography)  
Jennifer Flory (Department of Music)

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

**The Department of Art** collaborated closely with the GC Homecoming Committee in the creation of hundreds of hand pulled screen prints promoting the 2015 event. The prints included limited edition copies gifted to the university and endorsed by President Steve Dorman. The department has also been instrumental in producing a scale model of a bobcat. This was done in collaboration with the Ina Dillard Russell Library staff and department's newest 3D printing technology. The scaled bobcat model will be used in the creation of multiple sculptures cast in metal to be awarded by the president to faculty and staff in recognition of meritorious service to Georgia College. ■



## STUDENT NEWS

Art major **Mairi Dabbs** has been chosen from among the Departments of Theatre, Music, Mass Communication and Art as the 2015 Outstanding Senior for the College of Arts and Sciences. Mairi is a museum studies concentration major.

Painting concentration major **Kelly Self** had her work, "Artsy Bobcat," purchased by the university. Her painting has been reproduced in poster form and is being used in marketing by the university.

Art major **Samantha Scoggins** has been named director of the new Georgia Writer's Museum in Eatonton.

In collaboration with the Department of History, student **Anna Democko** will curate and present an exhibit of African art, sculpture and books in April. The exhibit will explore the basic theme of America's engagement with Africa.

Student and faculty in the Department of Theatre collaborated on the costume design and production of "The Mystery of Mucha," a staged play performed by study abroad students who recently premiered the work at the Prague National Gallery of Art.

Mass Communication students, **Kristin Lukich, Tara Spirou** and **Ashley Shad** produced the first business highlight for the premiere of Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce's ChamberTV. This project was part of a community-based engaged learning course, electronic editing.

The January webisode features Blu Culina, a fusion bistro serving Mediterranean cuisine. The owners of Blue Culina have reported new traffic to their restaurant due to the promotion of their business through ChamberTV. With the success of their production, Kristin, Tara and Ashley submitted their promotional piece to the Festival of Media Arts hosted by the Broadcast in Education Association, a national organization that provides opportunities for juried production competition and presentation of current scholarly research related to aspects of electronic media. ■

## FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Associate Professor **Emily Gomez** won the 1st Place Juror's Award in an international competition exhibited in Astoria, Oregon.

Professor **Valerie Aranda** was a key participant in community arts projects at the 2015 IMPACT Conference in Los Angeles, California.

Associate Professor **Elissa Auerbach** will be giving her talk "In Image and Imagination" this semester at Virginia Tech. Also, her essay "Pilgrimage and the Liminal Landscape in Early Modern Netherlandish Art" is scheduled for publication in "Formations of Identity: Society, Politics, and Landscape." Edited by Yanoviak and Floyd.

Associate Professor **Carlos Herrera** curated the first major Georgia exhibition of local artist Dox Thrash. Showcasing the work of this major African-American painter and printmaker, the exhibition premiered at Ennis Hall last fall and was solicited by the High Museum in Atlanta, where it is now on exhibit. GC students participated in all phases of this major curatorial success. Carlos also presented at the Southeastern Museum Educator's Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Associate Professor **Sandra Trujillo** exhibited her work at the University of South Carolina and at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Atlanta in 2015. Her work was an exhibition of select contemporary Georgia artists.

**Dr. Fadhili Mshana** is collaborating with student Anna Democko on the upcoming GC exhibition on African art.

**Dr. Jennifer (Jenny) Flaherty**, a Shakespeare scholar, not only coordinates the master's program in English but works with English majors Ellison Blanchard and Shelby Smith, who run Georgia College's portion of the website HerCampus. According to Flaherty, the site "allows female students from different universities to contribute stories about life on their campuses." These profiles of students and faculty, as well as feature articles, can be found at <http://www.hercampus.com/school/gcsu/celebrities>

**Ms. Amy Mimes** was promoted to office coordinator in the Department of History and Geography. Mimes has been a vital member of the department since 2008 and has seen it through many critical transitions; she has significantly enhanced her professional activities in the process. Her contributions to enabling faculty to develop and smoothly implement a range of excellent programs at all levels has now been formally recognized.

**Ms. Terri Pope**, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College retires in April after 31-years of service at GC.

Bittersweet news from the Office of the Dean—it is the end of an era! Terri Pope is retiring after 31 years at GC, and we are sad to see her go. Terri began her career at GC in 1980 but left in 1986 to stay home with her children for a time. She came back to join the dean's office staff in 1991. Terri has been involved in every aspect of the dean's office since her return—she was here when the A&S building was designed, built, dedicated, and opened for business; she has served as secretary, office coordinator, building manager, and administrative assistant to the dean; she has trained and mentored countless staff over the years; and we all have relied heavily on her expertise. Her institutional knowledge is vast, and we would be hard pressed to find someone else on campus who has as much knowledge of institutional policies and procedures as she does. That is certainly not something that can be passed on to someone new. Even though we are sad to see Terri go, and we know we will never be able to replace her, we wish her the best in this next chapter of her life. She's looking forward to spending time with her family, and we know these next years will be the best years of her life. Terri, we love you, we will miss you, and we don't know what we'll do without you! Happy Retirement!



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mrs. Ruth Rule** of Milledgeville wanted the formal wear she had sewn years ago to be used again, and it will be. The Old Governor's Mansion will be able to use some pieces for its interpretive displays; the remaining pieces will go to the Department of Theatre and Dance for their costume collection. Molly Randolph, curator of the Old Governor's Mansion, admired the lines of these vintage pieces, while Tina Alvarez, administrator for theatre and dance, and Elaine Whitaker, chair of English and rhetoric, admired the flawless construction and elegant fabric in each of these home sewn garments. Thank you for thinking of Georgia College as the home for your generous donation. Two of the donations is shown in the picture.



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