



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER



FALL 2017

Editor's Note



At the College of Arts and Sciences, we pride ourselves on providing students a diverse learning experience inside and beyond the classroom. Our varied course offerings ensure students have the skills they need to thrive in increasingly complex and diverse communities and workplaces. Study abroad and domestic study away experiences allow students to immerse themselves in different cultures. Community-based engaged learning helps students learn from and appreciate the communities around them.

The Fall 2017 issue of the College of Arts and Sciences newsletter features the Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies, highlighting their efforts to provide a diverse learning environment for students via diverse faculty, course offerings and culturally diverse events. Also in this issue, we hear from Associate Professor and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Sam Mutiti, who was awarded a 10-month teaching and research fellowship in Zambia. We hear from senior Tanvi Lonkar, a psychology major with a minor in art that worked on the Famous Authors mural located in downtown Eatonton, Georgia. And, we hear from honors alumnus Matthew Alexander Cline, who considers himself an ambassador for those who cannot speak for themselves.

With 13 departments and dedicated faculty and staff servicing about 3,000 students in our major and minors, the college continues to thrive and cultivate well-rounded students. Remaining true to our mission, Arts and Sciences continues to provide the focus for the university's statewide liberal arts mission.

CHAVONDA MILLS
Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Chemistry



ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
FALL 2017

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Dean's Message

This college newsletter puts a spotlight on our uniquely diverse Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies, briefly and affectionately known as PALS.

With concentrations in philosophy, religion and pre-law—the latter includes training in ethics, logic and reason—our philosophy major embraces a wide range of interests and provides a deep intellectual foundation for citizenship and career, twin goals that guide studies in all liberal arts disciplines. PALS is also home to Liberal Studies, an interdisciplinary major, and a number of interdisciplinary minors. Liberal studies has several topical tracks of study, but highly motivated students have the option of developing their own interdisciplinary course of study.

With so much on offer, it is no surprise that interest in the Philosophy and Liberal Studies degrees has grown.

When PALS was formed as a department in 2012, 12 students were enrolled in the Philosophy major, and 12 in the Liberal Studies major. Just five years later, we have 32 in Philosophy and 37 in Liberal Studies! Since 2012, to meet student demand for courses, PALS hired four additional faculty. With more students, we need more courses to support the philosophy degree number, yet PALS faculty have continued their deep commitment to the university core curriculum, the foundation of the Georgia College liberal arts experience. Passionate about their work, and deeply committed to reaching the widest range of students, all PALS faculty, whether tenure earning or lecturer, commit 75-100 percent of their teaching load to the core curriculum. Through reading, writing, discussion and debate, these challenging foundation courses focus on big, important ideas. Very popular with our students, multiple sections of Survey of Philosophy, and Introduction to World Religion are filled to capacity every semester.



KENNETH J. PROCTER
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Art

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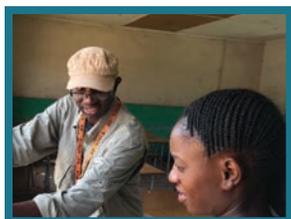


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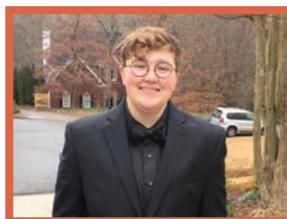
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Learning through *different lenses:*

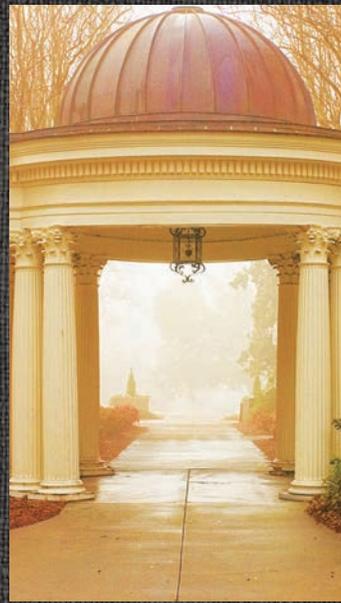
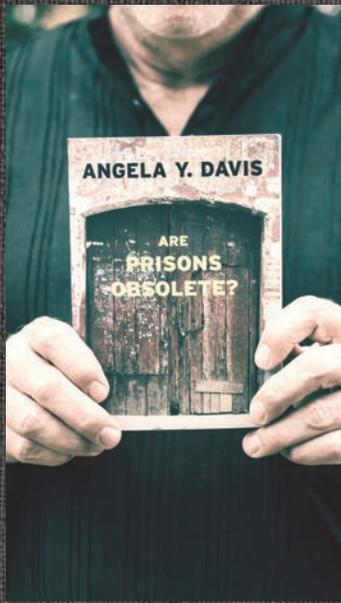
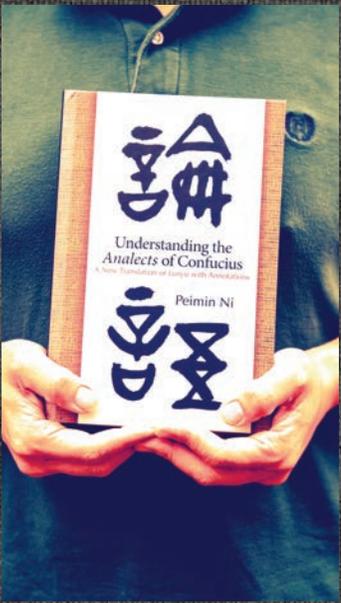
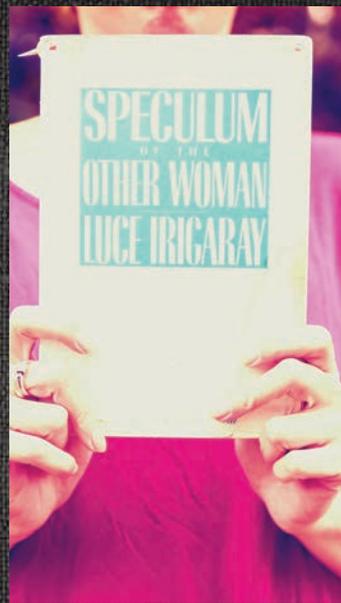
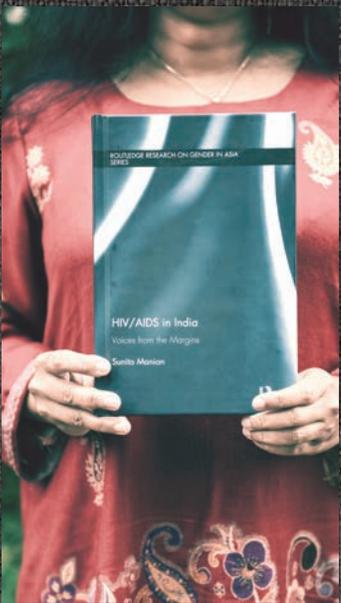
Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies
offers diverse perspectives

In January 2016, Alissa Bierra, associate director of the Center for Race and Gender at the University of California, Berkeley, was about to give a lecture on Black women and domestic violence when she looked at the packed auditorium and said (to paraphrase): I want to say something to the philosophy students. You probably don't notice this because you are already [at GC]. Your philosophy department [sic] is one of the most diverse philosophy departments, probably even the most diverse department in the entire United States.

Philosophy, along with liberal studies, is one of the two majors offered from the Department of Philosophy and Liberal Studies (PALS). The newest department in the College of Arts and Sciences, PALS is dedicated to promoting GC's liberal arts

mission through its deliberate efforts to increase the diversity of its curriculum, faculty and students.

As one of the smallest departments at GC, with only nine faculty members, PALS still offers one of the most diverse curricula at the university. The program offers courses in African-American philosophy, philosophy of race; East Asian philosophies, feminism; gender and sexuality; South Asia, Christian thought, animal ethics; Western philosophy, philosophy of emotions; Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. The department has been successful in providing students such a broad curriculum through conscious, targeted hiring decisions. Given that the program teaches primarily in the core curriculum, students are exposed to these diverse perspectives early in their academic career.



PALS has more women than men among its faculty; PALS includes faculty from the Global South as well as from underrepresented communities in the United States:



Dr. Jameliah Shorter-Bourhanou, whose expertise is in critical philosophy of race, teaches courses on race, African-American philosophy and the philosophy of love and sex. In addition to mentoring students in the classroom, she has taken students

from underrepresented communities to the Collegium of Black Women in Philosophy conference held at Penn State University. This is part of Shorter-Bourhanou and the PALS department's commitment to mentoring students from underrepresented communities to attend prestigious graduate programs, and to diversify the field of philosophy. Shorter-Bourhanou also coordinates the Africana Studies Program.



Dr. Sabrina Hom teaches upper-level classes in queer theory and feminist philosophy. Her queer theory class, grounded in non-normative sexualities, also emphasizes how rhetoric around sexuality is used to justify state violence, Islamophobia and mass

incarceration. Hom also incorporates discussion of gender, sexuality, race, class and ability, as well as non-Western philosophical perspectives in her classes. Her current research focuses on mixed-race subjectivity as well as on the role of interracial sexuality in the construction of whiteness and the race/gender politics of white nationalism. She is also the coordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.



Dr. Juli Gittinger's expertise is in Hinduism and Islam, and she includes varied gender, religious and ethnic perspectives in all of her courses. Her courses include concepts such as Orientalism, Dalit or low-caste traditions, female-centered practices, esoteric and

mystical traditions. Using India as a starting point for talking about human rights, she superimposes those conversations back on the U.S. This makes students more actively aware of diversity issues and their responsibilities as global citizens to critically engage with these topics as they move forward.



Dr. Mark Causey encourages his students to think of diversity even across species boundaries. He regularly teaches about non-human animals and the more-than-human world exploring our responsibilities to and for it, and he teaches the global impacts of agricultural

practices on both humans and the environment. He also helps students explore post-colonial themes by attending to voices from Africa, India and the Caribbean. Causey's courses in Christian thought includes such courses as liberation theologies, which spans Latin American, Black, feminist and queer theology.



Dr. Isadora Mosch teaches philosophy, and her pedagogy centers around nontraditional methods and underrepresented authors. She uses pop culture, literature, poetry and music to teach ideas of metaphysics, emotion, justice, ethics and

feminist philosophy. She assigns many readings by philosophers who are women, people of color or non-Western. Her areas of research include ethics, the philosophy of emotion and race and feminist issues.



Dr. Huaiyu Wang originally hails from China. He specializes in areas of Asian philosophy and religion, contemporary continental philosophy and ethics. He has published numerous articles in peer reviewed and prestigious journals. Wang incorporates diverse perspectives

into both his upper and lower level courses. He has developed courses such as myth, magic and psychoanalysis; Confucianism and Daoism; democracy and identity: East and West; Zen, Dao, and the myth of mediation, equity and justice: global perspective. Wang has lectured in a number of universities in China and worked to have students from Georgia College be admitted to the master program of Chinese Culture and Philosophy at Fudan University, Shanghai, China.



Dr. Matthew Milligan teaches courses emphasizing global religion beliefs and practices. In his courses, he includes academic approaches to studying traditional Asian religious contemplative practices originating in India, Burma, Japan and Tibet, as well as religious injustices around the

world as it pertains to renounced religious professionals in Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism. His current research includes field research in Sri Lanka, focusing on the continued economic activities of Buddhist monks from the 2nd century BCE until the modern era.



Dr. Jim Winchester has been particularly concerned with getting diverse voices into our introductory survey of philosophy class. Students in his survey course read texts from Indian Buddhism, Chinese philosophy, contemporary race theory and feminist philosophy. He

helped organize the visit of Fabio Morales, who spoke on issues of contemporary social justice in Venezuela, and the visit of Eduardo Mendieta, who will speak about decolonizing philosophy using Latin American philosophical perspectives. He is committed to mentoring both students and junior faculty from underrepresented groups.



Dr. Sunita Manian is originally from Calcutta, India. Her expertise is on issues of gender and sexuality in South Asia, human trafficking between North Africa and Europe and narratives about the lives of South Asian migrants living in Europe. Her book on HIV/AIDS in

India was recently published. Manian's research shapes the courses that she teaches at Georgia College. She is the president-elect of the Association of Global South Studies.



As is evident in the faculty expertise, the PALS program aims to foster critical thinking, diverse perspectives and cultural awareness, both in core classes and for the growing numbers of upper-level students. A testament to the program's efforts, three philosophy and/or liberal studies majors at Georgia College will present at the Association of Global South Studies conference in Marrakech, Morocco. All three will take a critical approach to the study of gender. One paper will look at the contexts in which young Muslim women reclaim the hijab as an act of empowerment; a second paper deals with sex work among refugee and migrant women; and a third paper analyzes the ways in which black masculinity was constructed by hegemonic discourses in African and U.S. contexts. These students epitomize the values we take pride in imparting to our students, namely an interest in understanding and thinking critically about cultures from around the world and using that knowledge to critically evaluate their own culture. ■



GC Fulbright Scholar conducts teaching, research in Zambia

In June 2016, Associate Professor Dr. Sam Mutiti from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences took a group of nine students on a summer study abroad trip to Zambia. He then embarked on a second trip to the African nation in October to begin his 10-month Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellowship. The students conducted research on the Kafue River, collecting water quality samples, and in Kabwe, where they collected health survey data and environmental samples related to lead pollution.

During his Fulbright fellowship, Mutiti's primary teaching responsibility was Fundamentals of Sciences at the University of Zambia (UNZA). He also mentored graduate and undergraduate students. He taught poster presentation to graduate students and served as an examiner for both graduate and doctoral students at UNZA and the Copperbelt University. He said teaching at the UNZA was very enlightening and a great opportunity to grow as a teacher and mentor.

From February to March 2017, Mutiti also co-taught a journalism course as a science expert with another Fulbright Scholar Dr. Melvin Coffee of the University of Kentucky. The course dealt with multi-media storytelling that used the lead contamination issue in Kabwe as the main story. The U.S. Embassy-run American Corner in Lusaka organized the course.

Mutiti's main research was to determine the extent of lead contamination in a part of Kabwe which has extensive lead contamination in the community (homes, yards, schools and roads). This area housed a very productive zinc and lead mine that operated from the early 1900s until the mid-1990s. During that time, there were very few environmental regulations in Zambia, resulting in contamination of the soil, water and air from waste being dumped all around the mine.

His research team also planted sunflowers in the field and the lab to assess its effectiveness as a phytoremediator in this area. In the field, the research team collected both surface and groundwater, soil, plant and dust samples from homes and a local school. In July, he also hosted an undergraduate pre-med and chemistry student from Miami University and a public health major student from Georgia College, who joined the research team as they conducted door-to-door health surveys.

Mutiti felt compelled in May to do something for the community. After talking to the local people and hearing about the number of scientists and researchers who visited the area, collected data but never returned to implement any project, he decided to conduct a small pilot remediation project at a local school. To accomplish this, Mutiti and his research group started a fundraising campaign that has so far raised just over \$3,000 to build a fence and cover contaminated soil at the school. He intends to continue raising money slowly to complete the remaining part of this very important project.

Other projects that Mutiti was involved with included water quality testing in the unplanned neighborhood of Lusaka with Dr. Jonathan Levy of Miami University and professionals for Zambia Environmental Management Agency and the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection Resources.

Dr. Mutiti also got involved with the Wildlife Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ) where he was part of the task group that was working on plastic recycling. He also drafted a letter, together with two other WECSZ members to parliament, urging them to introduce regulations and other policy measures to reduce the use and sale of plastic bags in the country. It is believed that this initiative is bearing fruit as the issue has been introduced in parliament for debate. ■

Top Left - GC Public Health undergraduate student (Mambwe Mutiti) conducting health surveys and collecting environmental samples.

Top Right - Dr. Mutiti collecting water samples in Lusaka shanty compounds.

Middle Left - Idah Ngoma and Rachel Serafin (Miami University) conducting soil testing in the lab at UNZA

Middle Right - Graduation day for the journalism class

Bottom Left - Dr. Mutiti and Idah Ngoma (UNZA undergrad and a key member of this research)

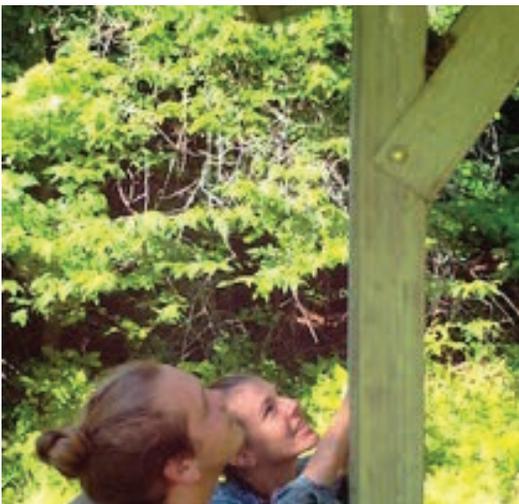
Bottom Right - Contaminated soils covered with clean crushed stone and lateritic gravel



This Red-tailed hawk was captured in images taken only seconds apart. In the left image, clay eggs are clearly visible and in the right, they are gone.



A Blue Jay thought he was getting an egg, but probably wasn't very happy to discover it was made out of clay. Students found the clay egg discarded below the nest the next morning.



Two students, Dan Jones and Sophia Crowson, use a mirror pole to look into a House Finch nest to see how many nestlings are inside.

Biology professor uses grant to help students conduct research

Assistant Professor Dr. Katie Stumpf, who has studied nest predation in songbirds for over 15 years, joined the Georgia College biology faculty in spring 2017 and set out to learn about the birds that breed at the Lake Laurel field station. She received a Faculty Summer Research Grant to work with five undergraduate students who spent their early summer mornings looking for nests, making artificial nests and clay eggs and setting up motion-triggered cameras to catch predators in action.

After combing through thousands of digital images, they identified a huge variety of predators including other birds, raccoons, squirrels, rats and mice. They even got photos of a black bear peeking into a nest. Stumpf presented her findings in August at the International North American Ornithology Conference.

Three undergraduate students are still involved in analyzing additional data from this summer and she is continuing this research, expanding into additional field sites. One of these students, Matthew Berkes, is doing his senior capstone project with Stumpf.

"Going in, I may not have entirely understood what I was getting myself into; the 5:30 a.m. mornings and the Georgia summer heat are one thing but straining to tell the difference between the chirp of a Louisiana Waterthrush, a Cardinal and a Chipping Sparrow is daunting at first," said Berkes. "But I learned more about nesting patterns, mating behaviors and predation threats in our three months than I could've in a whole year in a classroom."

The most important thing to Stumpf is getting students excited about being out in the field, collecting data and learning about birds and the research process.

STUDENTS EXPLORE art history THROUGHOUT EUROPE

Elissa Auerbach co-directed an interdisciplinary summer study abroad program in Amsterdam, Paris and Rome with Dr. Stephen Auerbach and 16 Georgia College students. She also traveled to Jerusalem where she conducted research on the collection of 17th-century Holy Land maps at the Israel Museum printroom. This semester she has appointed art history senior Elyse Hoganson as her research assistant for her project on spiritual pilgrimage in early modern Dutch visual culture in preparation for an upcoming public lecture at Reynolds Lake Oconee and her paid professional leave this spring in the Netherlands.



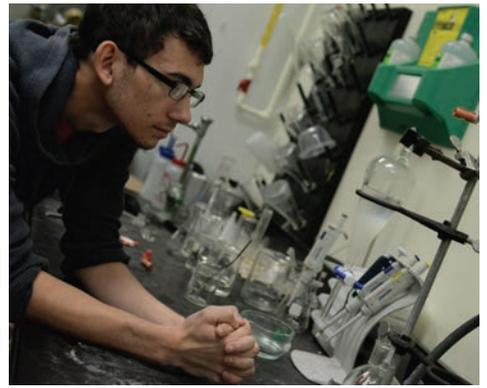
Left: Students at Sainte Chapelle, Paris. **Upper Right:** Students take a bike tour through Amsterdam.
Lower Right: Students create a tableau vivant at the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem, Netherlands.



Jasper County High Senior Andrew Pratt works with sol-gels in Herty Hall.



Baldwin County High Senior Alexis Roberson works in a Herty lab.



Baldwin County High Senior Tre Banks works with hydrogels in a Herty Hall lab.

Local high school students spend summer conducting scientific research

From creating hydrogels that will one day be used to deliver medicine to the body to building a vapor chamber—local high school students spent six weeks working on scientific research projects at the Georgia College Science Education Center’s Young Scientists Academy.

The five high school students hailed from Central Georgia. Drew Schilling, junior at Jasper County High school, worked to develop a protocol to analyze vape from electronic cigarettes through building a vapor chamber. Adiah Bland, of Hancock County and senior at Georgia College Early College, worked on an optimal solvent system for extraction of volatile organic compounds from

polluted building materials. Andrew Pratt, senior at Jasper County High School, worked on creating a colorimetric sensor using sol-gels as a protective coating. Alexis Roberson, senior from Baldwin County High School, also worked with sol-gels, encapsulating H2TPP porphyrin, a common molecule that some link to autism. Tre Banks, senior at Baldwin County High School, tested different formulas to create hydrogels that act as a drug delivery system when placed on the body. Roberson and Banks were participants in the American Chemical Society’s Project SEED program, which provides students the opportunity to conduct research in chemistry or a related field supervised by a scientist mentor and receive a fellowship award of \$2,500.

Government and sociology students promote disaster preparedness on campus

In the wake of Hurricane Irma’s devastating effects throughout Georgia, students enrolled in Dr. Amanda J. Reinke’s GC2Y 2000 “Unnatural Disasters” course organized a disaster readiness event on Sept. 19 in collaboration with Public Safety. As part of the month-long celebration of National Preparedness Month, students worked hard to promote disaster preparedness and awareness. Students handed out local maps and emergency kit information, and they used interactive displays, such as readiness surveying and campus resource identification, to promote disaster preparedness education at GC.



Students enrolled in Unnatural Disasters discuss preparedness with Captain Joe Grant from Public Safety and Dr. Scott Butler of the School of Health and Human Performance.

Changes in store for the Department of English and Rhetoric

The Department of English and Rhetoric is experiencing a year of transition, as Dr. Peter Carriere and Dr. Elaine Whitaker retired in 2017. Dr. Beauty Bragg has been appointed as interim chair of the department and is excited to be in the role at a time when such exciting events are underway.

The Writing Center has now been moved under the umbrella of the Center for Student Success. The Center offers a wide variety of academic support services including testing, honors and national scholarship programs, as well as leadership, learning support and Bridge Scholars programs. As a national search for a full-time director is conducted, Dr. Allen Gee will provide training and supervision for writing center consultants, who are students in the department's M.F.A. in Creative Writing program. Under the supervision of the director, the Writing Center is expected to provide the 1,000+ students per year who use its services with even greater resources, including instruction in grammar, punctuation and self-editing techniques.

Further changes in the department are anticipated as a proposal for rhetoric faculty to move their program to what is currently known as the Department of Mass Communication was recently approved by the University Senate. The integration of the rhetoric program into a renamed Department of Communication builds on existing synergies between mass communication and rhetoric students who exhibit a high degree of minoring across disciplines and share a student honorary organization, Lambda Pi Eta.

Over the summer, through collaboration and a mutual interest in the future of the historic landmark, the Andalusia Foundation gifted the final home of Georgia College alumna Flannery O'Connor to the GCSU Foundation. The entire department watches and offers its support as Andalusia, historic museum site of Flannery O'Connor's late-life home, is transferred to Georgia College for restoration and stewardship.

Finally, the department wants to recognize the contributions of Fuller E. Calloway Endowed Flannery O'Connor Chair Dr. Martin Lammon of the Department of English and Rhetoric. Over the last 20 years, Lammon has given generously of his time and money to build undergraduate and graduate programs that have garnered national recognition. He was instrumental in bringing 150 visiting writers including winners of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award as well as U.S. Poets Laureate, and other outstanding authors, to campus. He has been the face of Georgia College within the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and has been a member of the board of Allied Arts, helped to organize the 2013 Georgia Literary Festival and much more. Although Lammon's passion and energy are nearly irreplaceable, the program is well-positioned to protect his legacy upon his retirement as Dr. Allen Gee has temporarily stepped into the role of coordinator. Under Gee's leadership, enrollment from within the state has increased in the M.F.A. program, the program now offers workshops to help undergraduates prepare for the process of applying to other M.F.A. programs and takes undergraduates to the annual meeting of AWP.



Dr. MacKinnon and Dr. Hope upper center-right.



Audience with the Okyenhene.



Kente Cloth.



Dr. MacKinnon and Dr. Hope in Black Star Stadium, Accra, where President Nkrumah spoke.



Dr. MacKinnon on rainforest canopy walk.



A Kente cloth is woven.



Professors tour of Cape Coast Slave Dungeons and Castle.



Dr. MacKinnon teaching at BASCO school.



Dr. MacKinnon teaching at BASCO school.



Dr. Hope teaching at BASCO school.

GHANA STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE IN WORKS

Dr. Aran MacKinnon, chair of the Department of History and Geography, and Dr. Warren Hope, chair of the Department of Professional Learning and Innovation, are collaborating on a transformative study abroad opportunity for students from both colleges to travel, study and engage in service learning opportunities in Ghana, June 2018.

Thanks to support from College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ken Procter and College of Education Dean Joseph Peters and Provost Kelli Brown, MacKinnon and Hope recently traveled to Accra, Cape Coast, Koforidua and Akosombo in Ghana, May and June 2017. The visit was to plan an enriching experience for students. While in Ghana, MacKinnon and Hope had the privilege of an audience with the Okyenhene, the king of Akyem Abuakwa in the eastern region, as well as a deeply rewarding experience teaching students at the Baptist Complex School and Orphanage (BASCO) near Koforidua. In the eastern region they observed the brilliant artistry of the craftspeople weaving traditional Kente cloth and the making of cedi glass bead necklaces, both of which adorn Ghanaians in their everyday fashion. Ghana is important for being the first African state to win its independence under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, from Britain in 1957.

"The people of Ghana have such a rich history and vibrant culture that I know our students will gain so much from a chance to meet, work with and learn from them," said MacKinnon.

The planned study abroad program will include opportunities for Georgia College students to work with students at BASCO School and Orphanage, take a breath-taking rainforest canopy tour and seek greater awareness of the tragic history of the Atlantic slave trade and genesis of the African Diaspora. For MacKinnon, a scholar of African history, and Hope, a scholar of both history and education who has mentored Ghanaian doctoral students, the study abroad is an ideal way for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education to work together and connect high impact liberal arts teaching practices with interdisciplinary learning. Ghana: Connecting Culture, Education and History study abroad will be a deeply engaging way to introduce students to a vital understanding of global diversity, see Africa face to face and participate in experiences that will lead to personal transformation.

Mass communication faculty work on projects, research

Angela Criscoe, assistant professor in mass communication, moved into the production stage of a short film entitled "Broken." The film includes dialogue from familiar parenting phrases such as "stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about" and is meant to break stereotypes associated with domestic and sexual abuse.

Preproduction began over the summer, when mass communication student, Ada Montgomery, worked alongside Criscoe in holding casting auditions. The cast consists of professional actors, with some coming from as far as Norcross,

Georgia, to fill the character roles of two tweens, their parents, a school teacher and background extras.

Six current mass communication students, one GC mass communication alumna, a broadcast production high school teacher, two high school students and a local make-up artist made up the crew, who worked diligently as a team to produce the short film over a weekend.

Dr. Christina Smith, assistant professor of mass communication, recently provided her expertise on the role of small-town weekly newspapers in their communities to two U.S. media organizations. Smith provided insight for National Public Radio's July 1 "Weekend Edition Saturday" segment, "How Small Town Papers Have Kept Community Trust." Because of her contribution, she was highlighted as NPR's "Source of the Week" during the week in which the clip aired. Smith also was quoted in the Aug. 17 Columbia Journalism Review article, "Sign of the times: A local newsroom aims to build trust."

Dr. Susmita Sadhu's research works to solve biological, ecological problems

Dr. Sadhu's research area is in applied mathematics with emphasis on differential equations. She uses mathematical tools to solve problems that stem from biological and ecological processes. In summer 2017, she worked on a project involving population dynamics of three interacting species by taking demographic stochasticity, or randomness in mathematical models that govern interactions between species belonging to the same or different trophic levels. Sadhu collaborated with Professor C. Kuehn from Technical University of Munich, Germany, and at the end of the summer, they submitted a paper in a prestigious journal in nonlinear sciences that covers a broad spectrum of disciplines in STEM, while publishing selective high quality content. The manuscript is currently under review.

In addition to working on stochastic ecological models governing population dynamics of interacting species, Sadhu is also interested in understanding spatial patterns, ecological invasions, spread of epidemics, tumor growth and other biological process that involve changes in concentration of chemicals in space and time. Most mathematical models that take such spatial variations into account fall under a special

class of partial differential equations known as "reaction diffusion equations". During summer, Sadhu involved two senior capstone students, Jaclyn Pescitelli and Patrick Pruckler, in her ongoing projects. Pescitelli is planning to present her results in the 9th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the Interface of Mathematics and Biology at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

The second project focuses on chemotherapy intervention on an acid-mediated tumor invasion in a spatially non-homogenous environment. Pruckler is studying the effect of cytotoxic agents, used for chemotherapy, on treatment of cancerous tumors. He has found suitable parameter conditions that will hinder tumor invasion, where the treatment is characterized by constant infusion of chemotherapy drug. The next step is to analyze the model that considers regularly scheduled treatments occurring in cycles.

In July, Sadhu presented some of her research results at an international conference organized by the Society for Mathematical Biology held at the University of Utah.



Campus standstill for solar eclipse

For a matter of minutes on Aug. 21-- the first day of the fall 2017 semester-- the Georgia College front lawn froze as everyone's eyes were to the sky.

This was the moment Kaolin Endowed Chair Dr. Donovan Domingue prepared for over the last year.

"I first visited Blandy Hills almost a year ago," said Domingue. "They were the first public school outreach that I did. I ended up visiting all the public schools in Baldwin County once it was all done."

Domingue reached out to local educators and community members for a year leading up to the Great American Eclipse, which spanned the entire United States in late August. He gave viewing tips, safety advice as well as lesson plans and activities.

"The local schools turn to us for expertise on certain topics, and for this particular event, the whole country was interested in it," said Domingue. "As an astronomer, I know the history of this sort of event, and there's often this huge fear of what is happening so people tend to do nothing. The best way to avoid that is through education."

Domingue also supplied solar eclipse viewing glasses, handing out nearly 10,000 to local public schools. He said the rarity of such an event has the

ability to get younger generations excited about STEM-related topics.

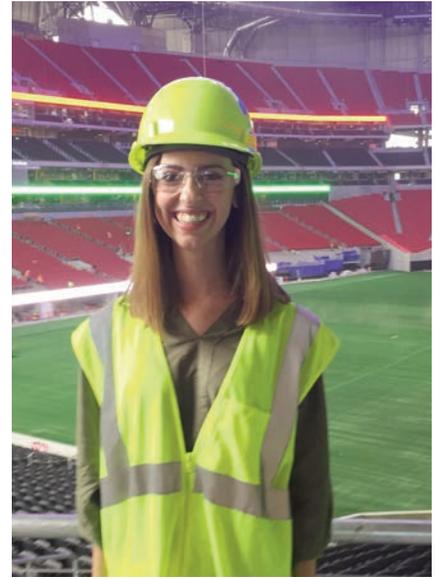
"It's something that people might not have experienced before-- so it is quite exciting," said Domingue. "You take something that people are familiar with: day time and night time. But suddenly, it all gets turned upside down."

Domingue saw this as an opportunity for educators to explain what happened and why it did. Not only lessons to be learned in astronomy, but also mathematics by looking at the speed and timing of the eclipse.

"It's the rarity and the beauty of science-- something they can see with their own eyes."

For the event, Domingue, along with the 50 students and faculty from the chemistry and physics departments, boarded a bus to Dillard, Georgia, which was in the path of totality. While some GC students were able to observe the complete darkness of totality, the majority of students viewed the 97 percent totality on GC's campus.

With most of campus was at a momentary standstill for the Great American Eclipse in 2017, it will be some time before the campus can come together to watch another one. The next solar event similar to the Great American Eclipse won't be until 2078.



Theatre majors succeed in summer internships

Several theatre majors worked in industry-related positions outside of Georgia this past summer. Drew McDaniels designed the lighting for four productions for the Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers, Florida. Haley Grannon worked as a craftsperson for the summer shows at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival in Center Valley, Pennsylvania. Emily Nguyen was the costume seamstress for the costuming for "Cabaret" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at the Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, North Carolina.

Maralyn Quinones stage-managed five productions and designed sound for "Uncle Julie" in the Washington Women in Theatre (WWIT) festival of new plays by women in Washington, D.C. The WWIT festival was produced by GC Theatre Chair Karen Berman, who is the artistic director of WWIT and was the co-director of "Uncle Julie." Conner Kocks was invited this summer to study at the prestigious Stella Adler Acting Conservatory in New York City based on his audition at the Southeast Theatre Conference.

The GC Department of Theatre and Dance has developed a collaboration with Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, a part of the Woodruff Arts Center. Alliance Theatre comes to campus each year to interview candidates for summer theatre teaching internships. This past summer theatre majors Ross DeMocko, Haley Fusia, Andy Stanesic and Mary Moccia served as theatre teaching assistants during the Alliance Theatre summer theatre program.

Two of our majors, Stanesic and Moccia, directed skits for the educational theatre, CHW Productions. Amy Webb served as a light board operator for "Blackberry Daze" and part of the running crew for productions this summer at Horizon Theatre Company in Atlanta.

Fusia also worked as a local programming intern at WSB-TV in Atlanta. A number of other students served as teachers at summer theatre camps, including Aspen Brown at Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville, Georgia, Jalen Frasher at C.H. Terrell Academy in Augusta, Georgia, and Julia Whitten at the Oakland Meadow School in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Music major places in national competition



Katie Boss, junior music major, placed third in the tuba category (ages 18-24) at the Susan Slaughter Solo Competition, held by the International Women's Brass Conference in June 2017 at Rowan University. Boss, a student of Bill Pritchard, was in a category that included undergraduate and graduate students from some of the top conservatories in the country. Boss performed the Lullaby movement from James Barnes' "Tuba Concerto" and three movements from Persichetti's "Serenade No. 12." The competition itself was blind, meaning the judges could not see each performer, so evaluations were completely based on performance. Boss was accompanied by Carol Worthington Conger, piano, who is known for collaborating with tubas and other low brass instruments. For her performance, Boss received comments such as "warm tone," "great phrasing" and "exciting energy."

"I was very happy with my results, as it was my first solo competition ever," said Boss. v

“ I was very happy with my results, as it was my first solo competition ever ”

Maureen Horgan and Pritchard, who served as judges for the euphonium division of the Susan Slaughter Solo Competition, also represented Georgia College at the conference.



**ART STUDENTS,
COMMUNITY BAND
TOGETHER TO
CREATE MURALS**



Two girls hold hands,
spinning in circle.
Peacock feathers
burst from a novel.

A well-dressed, pointy-eared rabbit sits atop a stack of books.

The three colorful scenes appear in a recent mural, installed on the side of the Georgia Writer's Museum in downtown Eatonton.

"The partnership began with our students displaying their artwork in downtown storefronts," said Valerie Aranda, professor of studio art at Georgia College. "That started a conversation about community art and community-based projects. We started thinking of a way to bring art to Eatonton and making it more of a highlight of the city."

Aranda's class began working on sketches for the Famous Authors mural, which depicts three renowned local writers: Joel Chandler Harris, Alice Walker and Georgia College alumna Flannery O'Connor. Putnam County High School (PCHS) students in Paige Barlow's art class also set to work on their interpretations.

"What I see the benefit as is getting art in the community, getting kids exposed to having their art out there and giving back to the community," said Barlow, visual arts teacher, fine arts department chair and Georgia College alumna. "I think the best benefit is being able to collaborate with the college and bridge that gap between high school and secondary education."

GC and PCHS students worked together on designs that were eventually combined into three composite sketches. Gail Vail is the vice chairman of Artisans Village, an artists collective in Eatonton dedicated to revitalizing the arts within the city. Vail's design, which combined elements from

each group's sketches, was chosen for the mural.

PCHS students have also worked with GC students on another mural. That mural depicts a timeline history of Eatonton—from Rock Eagle to Lake Sinclair and Oconee.

Vail says the murals play an important role in the future of the town that once bustled with economic activity. With the loss of Horton Homes, Georgia Power and the decline in dairy farming, Vail said it's time for Eatonton to rise again.

"I think it's going to draw some attention that there's a lot of things happening in Eatonton, especially in the art areas," said Vail. "I think when people drive through and see these murals, it'll catch their eye, and they'll tell other people about what's going on downtown."

Senior Tanvi Lonkar, psychology major with a minor in art, has worked on both murals, and she believes in using the power of art to bring community spaces alive.

"You don't realize when you see a mural, that it's having an impact on you," said Lonkar. "People look at it and pass by it everyday. It has an impact on what you think about the community. As an artist, to make this happen for people in a community is awesome."

Aranda teaches the mural class every year, and she's partnered with local communities before. As both a practicing artist and educator, she understands how GC students and the greater community benefit from art.

"It provides something very unique, and I think it's worth sharing—not just for artists, but for everyone," said Aranda. "It benefits students in a lot of different ways especially Georgia College students."

STUDENTS COLLECT, RESEARCH SMALL GENUS

Meadow Beauties





Dr. Gretchen Ionta, assistant professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, accompanied three Georgia College undergraduate students on a six-day research trip in early June to the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station in Melrose, Florida. The purpose of the trip was to collect living and preserved plant materials to be used in genetic studies of flowering plants in the genus *Rhexia* (commonly called Meadow Beauties), launching a multi-year project investigating the complex evolutionary history of this small genus of 13 species, 11 of which are native to Georgia.

Ionta and Georgia College undergraduate students Autumn Czander, Corene DePhillips and Zachary Izen, joined by University of Florida scientists, collected a variety of plant materials to be analyzed at Georgia College in the coming year. One hundred and eighty-three discrete collections were made from 21 populations in Ordway-Swisher and other nearby locations. Each comprising a living, potted specimen to be grown at GC biology department greenhouses, a dried, pressed, voucher specimen to be deposited in the Georgia College herbarium and leaf material silica-dried in the field, to be used for DNA sequencing and other genetic investigations. The trip also allowed

students the opportunity to observe living specimens in their native habitat, while being completely immersed in fieldwork at a remote field station with lodging onsite.

The genetic history of the Meadow Beauties is highly complex compared to that of many flowering plant groups of similar size, possibly allowing these wetland plants to successfully populate new areas and survive in fluctuating environments. All but one of the 13 species of Meadow Beauties occurs within the North American Coastal Plain (NACP), a region spanning from eastern Texas through the southern half of Georgia, into Florida and north along the Eastern seaboard to Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Ordway-Swisher Biological Station is a research and teaching extension-facility affiliated with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, established to promote the study and conservation of unique ecosystems. The site, located within the NACP, is home to numerous and abundant populations of several different *Rhexia* species and proved to be the ideal location to launch such a project. The fieldwork was funded by a faculty-development grant from Georgia College's College of Arts and Sciences.

Senior sees paper on Chilean economy published

Georgia College senior Martin Wilson dreamt of having a paper published since he was a sophomore. After he studied in Santiago, Chile, in May, he got his chance earning the top, front-page spot in PulsAmérica for his feature, "Economy: Is the Chilean Economy Ready for Graphene?: The Latin American Tiger is at an Existential Crossroads."

"When I was in Chile, I told Dr. Nicholson about how I only had another year to accomplish my goal," said Wilson. "He offered to help get me started and edit my paper."

While in Santiago, Wilson learned how vital copper is to the Chilean economy. He began researching this and also discovered how the new substance—graphene—could pose a threat to copper.

"I read an article on how this crazy new substance has all the science-fiction-like properties," he said. "Graphene fit perfectly with my topic interest, so I hit the ground running."

The more research Wilson did, the more he was surprised to learn that few academics addressed the Chilean economy and graphene.

"It wasn't hard to work on this project because graphene is something that a millennial, like myself, should know about," he said. "It's going to change technology forever assuming

the industry continues to grow at its current rate. I was excited to put this out there."

His professor commends Wilson for his work in putting the country's history together with economic trends that they learned about in meetings with business leaders while they were in Santiago.

"His analysis melds the humanities and economics in a way that offers a deep understanding of contemporary Chile," said Dr. Brantley Nicholson, assistant professor of Spanish and Latin American Culture. "It resonates beyond the singular focus of professional and academic silos."



Martin Wilson (right) and globally acclaimed Graphic Artist Gianfranco of Santiago, Chile.



Students set records with reporting during Tropical Storm Irma

GC 360
Published by Tristan Watson [?] · September 8 at 8:09pm · 🌐

Freedom Church in Milledgeville has become a refuge for people seeking shelter from Hurricane Irma. Pastor Timothy Thomas escorted GC360 reporter Saskia Lindsay and producer Tristan Watson through the church, and Tristan narrated our story. We'll be following up with more hurricane coverage so keep checking this space.



51,732 people reached [Boost Post](#)

25K Views

Like Comment Share

227 Top Comments

GC360's reporting on Tropical Storm Irma captured a record-setting audience for the student-run TV news organization. Producer Tristan Watson and Reporter Saskia Lindsay published a video story on GC360's social media platforms about Freedom Church in Milledgeville opening its doors to anyone who needed shelter from the storm. Their Facebook piece attracted an astounding 25,000 unique views and nearly 52,000 people "reached" — meaning the story appeared on the news feeds of that many people.

GC 360 added 3 new photos.
Published by Tristan Watson [?] · September 11 at 7:11pm · 🌐

Tropical Storm Irma blew through Milledgeville on Monday and left a wave of destruction including downed power lines and uprooted trees. Multiple students in the GC Community made the effort to catch it all on their phones and here is a sampling. The city of Milledgeville has made the effort to keep the streets clear by enacting a mandatory curfew between the hours of 6PM to 7AM while the power is out. #hurricaneirma #gc360



107,813 people reached [Boost Post](#)

Watson followed up on Monday evening, Sept. 11, the day the storm hit Milledgeville, with images of storm damage, including scenes from Front Campus. The images were probably the first to show storm damage in Milledgeville on any media platform. The story on Facebook had a "reach" of nearly 108,000 people, a record for GC360 by many orders of magnitude. An analysis by the GC360 team determined that only a small percentage of this audience consisted of students. Most readers were people who had some connection with the community, and they came from as far away as New Zealand and Sweden. Separately, the GC360 team beat the Union-Recorder by 30 minutes on the story that Georgia College would remain closed on Wednesday, Sept. 13.





SEEK REFUGE

Students start new group to help refugees feel at home in U.S.

Olivia Kolkana knows what it's like to be away from home.

She remembers stories her grandmother told about Kolkana's great-great-grandparents and how they fled poverty in Syria in the early 1900s when Christians were being killed. Coming through Ellis Island in New York City, they settled in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, where they opened a grocery store. Their 11 children were all born in the United States and raised to speak only English – so they would be Americans.

Now Kolkana wants to help other refugees, starting over in Clarkston, Georgia.

She created a new student organization this semester, called "Seek Refuge." The group is supported by Georgia College's GIVE Center, which helps volunteers make a difference in communities.

In just a few months, Seek Refuge's email list has burgeoned to over 100 interested students. This is due, in part, to a book first-year students were required to read this summer, "Outcasts United," that details the struggles of refugees in Clarkston. About 55 percent of the city's population is resettled refugees from over 100 ethnic groups worldwide. Refugees started arriving in Clarkston in 1990 and now nearly 50 languages are spoken there.

"These people are being forced to leave their homes. A lot of times, they don't want to resettle. They want to go back home, but they can't," said Kolkana, a liberal studies major from Alpharetta and president of Seek Refuge.



"I wanted to find a way on campus to serve," she said. "I felt people needed to be educated. People are misinformed on the news. If they had a chance to get fully educated, they'd have a better view of what's going on with refugees."

Seek Refuge embodies the Georgia College mission of engaged citizenship and service, said Dr. Amanda Reinke, assistant professor of anthropology and advisor for Seek Refuge. She's thrilled to work with "enthusiastic and driven" students who volunteer their time helping others.

It took a lot of organizing, paperwork and idea sessions with friends before Seek Refuge could be launched. Kolkana felt students should do more than just sit at meetings, listening to a speaker. She wanted an action club that gives students opportunities to affect the lives of real refugees.

To do this, board members turned to a nonprofit in Clarkston, Friends of Refugees. Students go through mandatory training at the nonprofit, before interacting with refugees. They learn difficulties refugees go through, especially resettling where they don't speak the same language.

"They wind up in these camps, and they can spend years and years and years there, waiting to be assigned to a country," Kolkana said. "That's when their hope starts to

fade, and they don't have anything to live for. It's just sad. The place they call home is somewhere they can't go back to."

Volunteering can be life-changing for students as well as refugees. Seek Refuge members go to Clarkston once a month. They help refugees move into apartments or pull weeds in a community garden. Sometimes they simply hang out. Refugees will ask visitors inside and cook the most crazy-amazing meals" for them, Kolkana said.

Susan McDaniel, director of volunteer engagement for Friends of Refugees, said student volunteers are "overflowing with questions and compassion." She said she's impressed with their desire to learn and serve.

A unifying factor among refugees in Clarkston has been the game of soccer. The sport breaks language barriers and brings people together. Ahmed El-Shami, a rhetoric major and history minor, plays soccer on the Georgia College club team and his family operates a soccer complex in Alpharetta. He hopes to host a soccer camp on campus this spring for refugee youth.

"Soccer's one thing they can all agree on and just play," El-Shami said. "I love everything about soccer. It's more than a game, that's for sure. It unites countries. It brings cities together. It can change lives. It brings back that feeling of being home."

Six GC students participate in summer REUs throughout U.S.

Six Georgia College students and one faculty member were selected for Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) with stipends through the National Science Foundation (NSF).

During the summer, they participated in research for biology, mathematics, chemistry and physics at universities across the United States. A seventh student received a grant to conduct statistical analysis on campus with variables that affect grades.

REUs last about two months and give students opportunities to learn good work ethics and research techniques at other universities. They get a chance to work with other undergraduate, graduate and post-doctorate students. They also network, making professional contacts with faculty.

"These experiences are what a young researcher needs to learn more about scientific careers and the modern research culture," said Dr. Indiren Pillay, chair of biological and environmental sciences. "We at Georgia College are of course very proud when our students are accepted into these programs, because it is a validation of what we offer as a strong, liberal arts institution."

Stories REU students bring back to campus will inspire others to apply, said Assistant Professor of physics Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge. He participated in research at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, with junior physics major Nowsherwan Sultan of Pakistan.

This team relationship made their REU experience unique. Alongside Mahabaduge, Sultan explored "polarization and spin phenomena in nanoferroic structures."

Senior biology major Shea Morris of Byron received a REU at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Morris was accepted into other programs but chose Texas, because of its reputation for public research.

Senior chemistry major Paul Espinosa of Lawrenceville received a REU at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky.

Espinosa conducted biochemical research in medicine, a topic he's especially interested in.

Senior physics, pre-med major Nicolas Merino of Marietta received a REU at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He was involved in material sciences and nanotechnology – the manipulation of atoms and molecules on a super-small scale.

Junior Cain Gantt of Johns Creek is double majoring in mathematics and physics with a minor in computer science. He received a REU at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The REU is part of the Joint Institute for Computational Sciences (JICS), so Gantt will be working with "supercomputer clusters."

Senior mathematics major Margo Rothstein of Athens received a REU at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. She studied statistical analysis of lake sediment from the Peruvian Andes, for a historical perspective of fires there.

Senior mathematics major Jasmine Gray of Milledgeville received a \$2,500 grant from Georgia College's MURACE (Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors). She conducted data analysis with Dr. Jebessa Mijena, assistant professor of mathematics, on campus this past summer.



(Left) Junior math and physics double major Cain Gantt worked on super-computer clusters at the University of Tennessee. (Right) Senior physics major Nash Sultan researched in Kentucky this summer.



Senior biology major Shea Morris worked with animal viruses at Texas A&M University this summer.



ALUMNA, FRIENDS ENJOY SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY

Georgia College alumna Ann Doster and her husband Hal of Blue Ridge, Georgia, invited Dean Ken Procter and his wife Wai to join them for a solar eclipse viewing party hosted by friends in Hiwassee, Georgia, in the center of the totality zone. Nine years in the making, the party included a cookout, expert commentary, telescope viewing, themed music and plenty of fun and fellowship. About 75 people gathered for the afternoon. Weather and eclipse viewing were perfect.

Ann and Hal recently created the Lottie Banks Bruce Endowed Scholarship, a scholarship named in memory of Ann's mother. The first two awards were made this year to first-year GC students.

Alumni News



HONORS ALUMNUS

NEVER LET OBSTACLES

GET IN THE WAY





The hard part about Matthew Alexander Cline is finding something he didn't do in college.

He double majored in history and liberal studies. He double minored in international studies and urban studies. He was an Honors student and was president of two clubs – History and ICMA, the International City Management Association. He did original research, presenting his thesis abroad. He interned at the Marietta Museum of History and worked two campus jobs – as a community adviser for University Housing and peer counselor in the Career Center. Now, he'll pursue a master's in urban planning at Virginia Commonwealth University.

But, unless he tells you, an important distinguishing feature in his life would go unnoticed.

Cline has high-functioning autism and aphasia-apraxia, a neurological syndrome that affects language.

"I forced myself. I trained myself, because I wanted to do better," he said. "I drove myself to overcome these obstacles. I wanted to work, to be active in different organizations."

Cline was born prematurely and has an identical twin. Growing up in Marietta, he said his family experienced "strong stigma" from people who didn't understand autism. A nurse once told his parents, "in a cruel, cold manner," their sons would never go to college.

"If only I could show them all today how much I've accomplished," said Cline. "There's no reason people with disabilities should not be allowed to succeed. If you can really push yourself and choose what you want to do, there's support, there is community. Don't ever feel you're second class."

Cline said his mother was a "real pioneer." With insight from his grandmother, a nurse, she home-schooled Cline and his siblings, making sure they had intensive speech therapy and a strong academic foundation.

He entered Georgia College determined to get the most out of his four years by utilizing services at the Student Disability Resource Center. This allowed him to get private housing

accommodations, help editing papers, study guides and more time on tests.

He pushed himself to be active, socialize, make eye contact – and even take public transit in a foreign country.

Today, Cline considers himself an ambassador for those who cannot speak for themselves.

"We're not victims. We're very capable. There's nothing wrong with us," he said. "We all have our own weaknesses and faults. It's just learning to be accepting and supportive and look at the individual as a person."

Cline entered college with a "great sense of self-motivation," said Dr. Aran MacKinnon, professor and chair of history and geography.

"He showed remarkable initiative in mapping out a program of study that suited his interests," MacKinnon said, "and I believe he gained a real sense of personal accomplishment from his studies in history."

Cline was the university's first student to study abroad in Austria, winning the Global Scholars Award and Annette Kade Scholarship. He spent eight months at the prestigious University of Graz International Summer School (GUESEGG) in Austria and Free University of Berlin in Germany.

While in Vienna, Cline presented original research on the chaos and change of 1898 that affected that city's identity, eventually leading to the death of Emperor Franz Joseph and World War I.

His research helped Cline choose a career path in urban planning. He'd like to build cities into places people are happy and proud to call home.

He has a long list of professors and staff members, who supported, befriended and influenced him over the years. There were times he got frustrated and burned out – but Cline radiates friendliness and a grateful heart.

"There is a sense of place at Georgia College," Cline said. "This is a place you can call home. This is a place where you can be your absolute best, and you can succeed."

MAY 2017

Mother, daughter duo graduate with degrees in English

The bond between mother and daughter can be unshakable. Sometimes, that bond is given the chance to grow even stronger.

For Phyllis and Ceria Reeves, their opportunity came while they both pursued their bachelor's in English together.

"I was the first to come to Georgia College," said Ceria, who transferred from Georgia Military College in 2013. "When thinking about what I wanted to study, I thought back to what I was good at growing up. I always wrote stories and got awards for them, so I decided on English."

After encouragement from her husband, Ceria and her other two children, Phyllis decided it was time for her to continue her education journey too. After years of substitute teaching in Milledgeville, she decided she wanted more.

"I started out at Central Georgia Tech, with the thought of studying nursing," Phyllis, who comes from a family of educators, said. "But then I thought 'why am I forcing myself to do something that just isn't for me?'"

Not even knowing Ceria had landed on English as a major, Phyllis decided her years of being obsessed with grammar and reading translated into a major in English. The two

spent some of their time together in the English program at Georgia College, taking classes such as a course dedicated to the works of Shakespeare. Ceria says the experience has given her another perspective of her mother.

"I get to see her in a different way. She's not just mom any more. She has valuable points about the texts we read. I see the way she teaches others and the way they treat and respect her in turn," said Ceria.

For Phyllis, she says earning their degrees together has been a wonderful experience. As a substitute teacher, she already felt comfortable going back to school as a nontraditional student, but she enjoys knowing her daughter is on campus.

"She's never been embarrassed or made me feel like I didn't belong learning beside her," she said. "We're just like friends who are taking a class together — best friends."

The two graduated in May and both plan to go on to graduate school.

"I always wanted to eventually give back to my community," said Ceria. "I could go someplace like Atlanta, but I've always loved middle Georgia. I want to help the communities around me."







ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
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