



GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2017

Editor's Note



Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of the College of Arts and Sciences newsletter. In the College of Arts and Sciences, we not only teach students the skills they need to pursue their dreams, but we also help them become engaged citizens who continually strive to make

their communities stronger, more vibrant and better places. This issue demonstrates our commitment to civic engagement with a feature article on the Department of Mass Communication, highlighting their efforts to integrate theory and practice with direct experience in community settings.

In this issue, we hear from Assistant Professor of Art Matthew Forrest, who created a partnership with the Georgia Academy for the Blind. We hear from senior Kevin Morris, a Fulbright finalist who will spend nine months as an English teaching assistant in Macedonia. And, we hear from alumna Erin Patrick, who is pursuing a life and career of giving back.

With thirteen 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

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ARTS AND SCIENCES NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2017

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Dean's Message

This newsletter features our dynamic Department of Mass Communication.

Mass communication is in print, on the air, on screen and on the web. The field has changed radically, and at the speed of the internet. A couple of years ago, in response to changes in the field, the Department of Mass Communication faculty completely overhauled the curriculum to reflect the world of integrated platform journalism. We upgraded the production equipment, classroom, and computer and editing labs, and hired a lab coordinator to assist and train our students. Now, Mass Communication at Georgia College reflects the world at large.



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

Our students learn to integrate news with text, video and audio, and how to use social media in advertising campaigns, public relations and how to communicate strategically.

With eleven faculty and staff and almost four hundred majors, the new Mass Communication program is up to date and thriving. Students are deeply involved.

Engaged learning—learning by doing—is key to the success in Mass Communication and all across the college. In this newsletter, you'll see examples of engaged learning in multiple departments and disciplines, from theatre to biology.

Students work and learn solo and in teams on real projects and research. Advanced undergraduate education is becoming more like graduate school. Students learn deeply, they make a difference, and they reap the rewards.

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Featured Department

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USING COMMUNICATION TO CONNECT

Students use mass communication
to inspire, create change



Junior Carolyn McDuffie has reported live on election night, done voiceover work, joined a video crew at the local animal rescue foundation and interviewed dozens of local business owners—one of which, a barber, she still regularly visits for her monthly trim.

"It's important to be pushed past your comfort zone and to have the confidence to tell the story of others," said McDuffie, a junior mass communication major with a minor in rhetoric.

"I've been so lucky to have excellent professors who not only encourage you to pursue the avenues you're on—but push you beyond that as well."

McDuffie is just one mass communication student who works to connect what she learns in the classroom to communities around her. During fall 2016, McDuffie, along with others involved with GC360, provided up-to-the-minute reporting on the ballot counting in Baldwin County for the presidential, U.S. Senate and State Senate. Assistant Professor Dr. James Schiffman directed the event. The reporting included Facebook Live coverage by recent alumna Angela Moryan, live footage from recent alumnus Sam Jones and on-location reporting from McDuffie and first-year student Kat Capstick.

McDuffie says she's found community outreach a hallmark of not only the university but of the mass communication program.

"I knew coming in that Georgia College was a liberal arts university—knowing that, I thought a specialty would be community work," said McDuffie. "I come from a small town, so when I came here I knew I wanted to give back and actively sought those opportunities out. In turn, it's made me a better student and has given me more skills."

In the program, students like McDuffie get hands-on experience they can use in and out of the classroom. Students in Assistant Professor Angela Criscoe's filmmaking class received the opportunity to make a feature-length documentary "bioreverie." The film involved an orchestrated effort from project managers, editors, writers and videographers—and more than 50 community members who were in the film.



"In the Mass Communication program, we strive to provide our students opportunities that place them in the media industry so that when they graduate they are fully prepared to take on those positions," said Criscoe. "In documentary filmmaking, the students are getting a comprehensive experience from conception to distribution of a documentary film with the guidance from an industry professional. These skills will translate in television production, broadcast news and the film industry."

The filmmaking class teamed up with 2016 Newell Scholar Dr. Michael Charles Tobias to create a documentary on the experience of individuals connecting with nature. The director of the documentary was recent graduate Will Dodgen.

"My job was to meet with Dr. Tobias and get a good understanding of what his vision was," said Dodgen. "I brought that back to the team and combined my own knowledge to create something really extraordinary. I think that's the goal of a documentary—to take something ordinary, like everyday people in nature, and make it something extraordinary."

Students involved with the documentary went on to pitch the film to the producer of Georgia Public Broadcasting's "Georgia Traveler." A final decision on airing is still pending.

Criscoe also commanded another large project involving the community and the historical Central State Hospital (CSH).

"Mr. Johnny Grant approached me about collecting an oral history and stories from those at Central State hospital during the CSH Appreciation Day. The students were anxious to do more," said Criscoe. "They pitched a website idea to Mr. Grant and the CSH Redevelopment Authority Director Mike Couch and Communications Director, Lauren Abis. They approved, and the students went to work."

The students took roles as video producer, project manager, social media coordinators, editor and writers—all with the goal to produce a polished, multimedia website on the people, places and progress of CSH.

"I think there's a certain public perspective and a private perspective," said Project Manager James Beaman, a



recent graduate. "What we sought out to do is to have that private perspective highlighted so everyone can hear it."

The class did the majority of their research at Central State Appreciation Day Sept. 29, 2016, where the team interviewed more than 20 people with connections to the hospital. From former employees, to siblings who grew up on the campus to the storied histories of the buildings—the class wanted to get the full story.

Students also use their multi-faceted skill set to help local businesses. About 18 mass communication seniors completed capstone projects – by working as a PR

firm. Their task was to promote three nonprofits: Habitat for Humanity in Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Museum of Arts and Sciences in Macon and Life Enrichment Center in Milledgeville. Another 30 students did publicity for three local businesses through SpectrumPR, part of Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). The family-owned, Milledgeville establishments – SweeTreats, Stacked Sandwiches and The Market Collective – appreciated the extra help.

Associate Professor Dr. Kristin English continues to guide students in SpectrumPR with opportunities providing graphic design, event planning

and videography for clients. SpectrumPR students created a website, designed T-shirts and produced fliers for SweeTreats. At Stacked Sandwiches, they made a wall poster and held contests on social media.

With Capstone and SpectrumPR, students apply for positions, handing in resumes and cover letters. Some become account executives who communicate with clients, logistics managers in charge of time sheets, strategic coordinators who oversee progress, graphic designers creating art, editorial workers good at writing, social media specialists, event planners or photographers. They work 15 to 20 hours a week.

“ It was amazing how
INNOVATIVE
AND DILIGENT
the students were in their work,”

As a final project, students give a 15-minute presentation for clients, presenting a book of their work.

“If one of us slips, then we all can’t succeed. So it’s definitely real-life experience I feel we’re getting in the classroom,” said senior Veronica Ulicny of Roswell, who was an assistant account executive for the museum group.

Ulicny thinks Georgia College provides opportunities she wouldn’t get elsewhere.

“So much of our individual confidence in ourselves is because our professors have instilled that in us,” Ulicny said. “They know our names. They know our skills and what we’re good at.”

Capstone students involved with the Habitat for Humanity project surpassed their goal, gaining pledges valued at \$29,000. Executive Director for Baldwin County’s Habitat affiliate Murali Thirumal said students consistently contribute to all types of communication projects each semester.

“The knowledge and skills applied by Dr. English’s class to solve real-world issues for us,” Thirumal said, “are top notch.”

Under the direction of Dr. John Karlis, students in the strategic planning course had an opportunity to give back to the community and an alumna this past fall.

The class selected the Green Market, a farmer’s cooperative organized by Georgia College alumna Chelsea Losh-Jones, as a client. Students were tasked with developing a strategic

plan to spread the word about how the market gets food from farm to table. Early on, the students discovered they had their task cut out for them. Focus groups and surveys involving nearly 800 people revealed that most were unaware of the Green Market’s existence.

“I am still very blown away by how good the proposals are,” said Jones. Karlis echoed her thoughts, “It was amazing how innovative and diligent the students were in their work, especially for someone in the community. It wasn’t just a grade for them, it was a chance to have a truly immersive learning experience.”

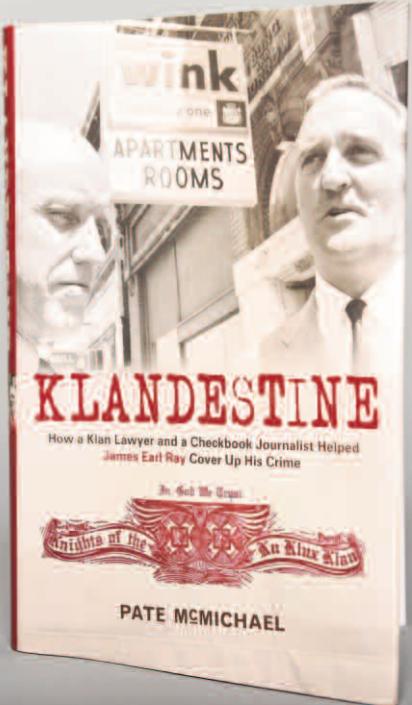
Creating the plan became a competition. The class separated into four groups, each charged with making a plan that took into account the most viable communication channels, an advertising budget, the most appropriate times and days to send messages out and what and why people buy from a farmers’ market.

Research like that done in many strategic communication plans is essential to the department’s mission to provide an analytical framework of communications. In this effort, the department has created the Living Room Research Laboratory, where researchers assess real-life media engagement behavior as it relates to mass communication messages. Researchers use state-of-the-art eye-tracking technology to record participants’ eye movements as they view various media messages. Student volunteers work alongside Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Green to create and conduct experiments before writing up results and conclusions.

Opportunities abound in the Department of Mass Communication.

Whether it’s in the form of students like Moryan, who have the chance to combine social media with live reporting local election results, or students in SpectrumPR, who give back to the community, while also learning real-world lessons in public relations—students actively engage within communities around them.

The goal of mass communication is to shape students to be adaptable in the ever-evolving world of communications, while priming them to make their mark in the communities they become part of. ■



Georgia College lecturer speaks about his book "Klandestine"



Mass Communication Senior Lecturer Pate McMichael was invited to speak about his book "Klandestine," at the National Civil Rights Museum on the 48th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The book is the story of the bogus conspiracy to turn the King assassination into the greatest conspiracy of the 20th century.

"It was a great honor," McMichael said. "I hope to be invited back on the 50th anniversary in 2018."

McMichael also signed books for an eclectic group of museum tourists and Memphis natives. It was his third trip to Memphis in 12 months to promote the book, which was published in April 2015 by The Chicago Review Press.



Mass Communication Lecturer Dr. Kortni Alston delivered a TEDx Talk about coping with loss in West Hampton, New Jersey last fall. Alston is a "happiness researcher" and is a part of the positive psychology movement. This was the first time she had gone public with the story of recently losing her mother to cancer and previously becoming a widow at 25 years of age when her husband was shot to death.

"I talked about the five life lessons I learned in dealing with the five stages of grief so my talk was a combination of my personal experience but then also marrying it with positive psychology and the things that I have learned with being a happiness researcher."

Dr. Alston's talk, titled "Grief and Elevation" is available on the TED Talk's YouTube channel.

*Faculty and
Department News*

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A photograph showing two young men in a studio setting. One man, wearing a camouflage jacket over a blue shirt, is focused on a task. The other man, wearing a blue t-shirt with the words "ARE YOU READY?", is smiling and looking at him. They appear to be working on a large piece of art together. In the background, there's a red sign with yellow text.

USING ART TO CHALLENGE THE LIMITS OF

BLINDNESS



On an average Thursday in Miller Annex, the sounds of art students giving a printmaking demo are illuminated.

First comes a “pop!” from the corner of a piece of paper, stuck with paint, being freed from a worktable.

Then there’s a roaring of a hairdryer in the distance being moved up and down as it blows.

Finally, the squee sound of wet paint being scraped back and forth is audible.

Junior Bradley Galimore grips the squeegee as it spreads the paint over the screen—on its way to producing the image he’s created.

He’s taken inspiration from Rihanna’s latest album’s artwork, which features poems in braille.

“The poem is called ‘If They Let Us’ and there’s a line... ‘I live loudly in my mind so many hours of the day.’ I wanted to translate that into a visual piece,” said Galimore, junior fine arts major.

Galimore recently began exploring the use of braille in his artwork, which took on a new meaning when he started discussing it with Assistant Professor of Art Matthew Forrest. Forrest has spent the last year creating a partnership with the Georgia Academy for the Blind in conjunction with a grant from the Office of ENGAGE.

For Forrest, it was a perfect match. His research focuses on developing tactile-based printing for students with low vision and other vision impairments.

“As a printmaker, I developed inks and other things that would interact with those types of teaching situations. Reaching out to them was a great accident,” said Forrest. “When I moved down to Georgia, I didn’t realize that Macon held the Academy for the Blind here in central Georgia.”

In the past year, Georgia College students have done tactile coloring book workshops. They’ve hosted screen printing demos that Academy students can then watercolor, and they have also worked to garner Academy students more exposure for their artwork.

“I get a lot just from the experience of helping our students reach out to our community partners and understanding how these experiences can build up for their whole college experience at Georgia College,” said Forrest.

This is what it means to be a liberal arts college—to reach out to your community and to be engaged within those environments.”

Forrest says the collaboration has involved the whole art department, allowing him to offer the Academy a multitude of expertise they might otherwise not have access to. He also says students benefit by understanding how to give back—and the affects of service to a community.

Junior studio art major Emily Jovert, who is also a member of the community service sorority Gamma Sigma Sigma, has taken this opportunity to give back while giving others more access to art.

“Ever since I was a little kid, I always wanted to be an art teacher. I want to help people learn about art and make it, because it’s something that I’ve always loved,” said Jovert. “I love being able to help kids with special needs and doing art. No matter who you are—there’s always something for everybody to do.”

Galimore, whose goal is to become a working artist, says this collaboration has allowed him to discover new avenues in his own art.

“With these projects, it’s not only a chance for me to kind of learn how to express myself in a different way, it’s me also working with other people and seeing how they actually interpret information and express it.”

Forrest says the future of the partnership will continue giving opportunities for GC students like Jovert and Galimore to engage with Academy students. It will also focus on partnering with the Macon Arts Alliance to create pop up galleries to eventually help Academy students display and sell their art.

“I’m always blown away by how dedicated they are and at the growth of these young artists, especially when they’re given basic parameters and they run with it,” said Forrest. “They make it 10 times better than I could ever have anticipated.” ■



Students perform "Cat in the Hat" at a local hospital during fall 2016.

Pathway for engagement for all theatre majors

The Department of Theatre and Dance is producing a three-year innovative, all-inclusive program. The goal is to ensure every theatre major has a meaningful, mutually beneficial community engagement experience with a community partner in support of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) has called upon universities, as part of their Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative, to offer programs that challenge students to apply their learning to tackle real-world problems in off-campus settings. A recent publication of the AAC&U (Peden, Reed and Wolfe, 2017) discusses ways in which a quality education can link curriculum and societal issues to give students pathways toward higher level broad-based outcomes.

Over a three-four year period, the theatre department will be able to tout that every single theatre major enjoyed the high-impact learning, satisfaction and citizenship that comes from integrating their learning in a community partnership. Under the mentorship of Dr. Karen Berman, Lecturer Kathy Newman and Professor Kristi Papailler, first-years in Acting I, the gateway course into the major, will be ensured of having a meaningful engaged experience infused into the course. Goals are to help students develop critical analysis, leadership skills and problem-solving skills, which will enable them to be transformational civic leaders in their communities.

Washington County Schools, through a personal request from Superintendent Dr. Donna Hinton, is a primary partner. Baldwin County, through Superintendent Dr. Noris Price, is a secondary



As part of the theatre and dance department curriculum, students perform at a local school.

partner. Through these partnerships, the theatre and dance department is bringing the arts to their students in all grades K-12.

The entire upper level Dance Pedagogy class is also participating by teaching dance in Baldwin County schools. The theatre honorary society Alpha Psi Omega, is sending upper class students, primarily seniors, out to Baldwin County schools to teach theatre as well. In addition, the theatre program did a touring production of "Cat in the Hat" with 12 GC students participating in fall 2016 that toured area schools and hospitals. This show reached 2,000 children in Baldwin County Public Schools and another 1,000 in Washington County elementary schools, plus 25 children and parents in the Macon Children's Hospital.

"My first visit to T. J. Elder Middle School in Washington County was nothing short of incredible. I'm not sure how to eloquently explain it, but there's something so inspiring about

seeing so many young people, all with a passion for theatre, in one place," said Landon Bell.

"Through ENGAGE, I have had the incomparable opportunity to teach the principles of theater to high school and middle school students in Washington County," said Griffin Miller. "My lesson plans have included group activities which are meant to tap into their unlimited creativity. When I go to these schools I do not go only as a teacher, but as a potential role model as well."

To enhance and disseminate the undergraduate learning, Berman and theatre major Candiss Hill were able to present the work of the department's ENGAGE grant at the 2016 Research on Teaching and Learning Summit in Kennesaw, Georgia, on the topic of "Pathways to Community Engagement: Teaching to be Teachers." This material will again be presented at the upcoming AAC&U conference as a LEAP initiative. ■

Notes from the Department of English and Rhetoric:

Recently faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from Georgia College travelled to Washington, D.C. for the Associated Writing Program's (AWP) annual national conference (Feb. 8-12), and this year marked AWP's 50th anniversary. Creative writing faculty members Peter Selgin and Dr. Allen Gee moderated and presented on panels. The program was a major sponsor for the conference and held two receptions for alumni to initiate a fundraising campaign that will be led by Dr. Martin Lammon.

We are very happy to announce that Dr. Kerry Neville recently accepted an offer to join our tenure track faculty and teach fiction and nonfiction. Neville is the author of the short story collection "Necessary Lies," and the forthcoming short story collection "Remember To Forget Me." She writes a regular column for the Huffington Post.

Our program's literary journal "Arts & Letters," edited by Laura Newbern has been garnering national notice for the high quality of its content and its bold color covers.



Creative Writing Program Coordinator Dr. Allen Gee with Pulitzer Prize winning Poet Rita Dove.

And lastly, in late January, partnering with the independent press, Santa Fe Writers Project, the program launched "2040 Books," a multicultural imprint that will publish new titles by writers of color.



Faculty learn practices to break barriers

Faculty team up during a workshop hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Leadership Team. The workshop Curriculum for Change: Social Justice Pedagogy, Theory and Practice was facilitated by Dr. Bridgette Gunnels of Oxford at Emory.



Students attend Southeastern Psychological Association

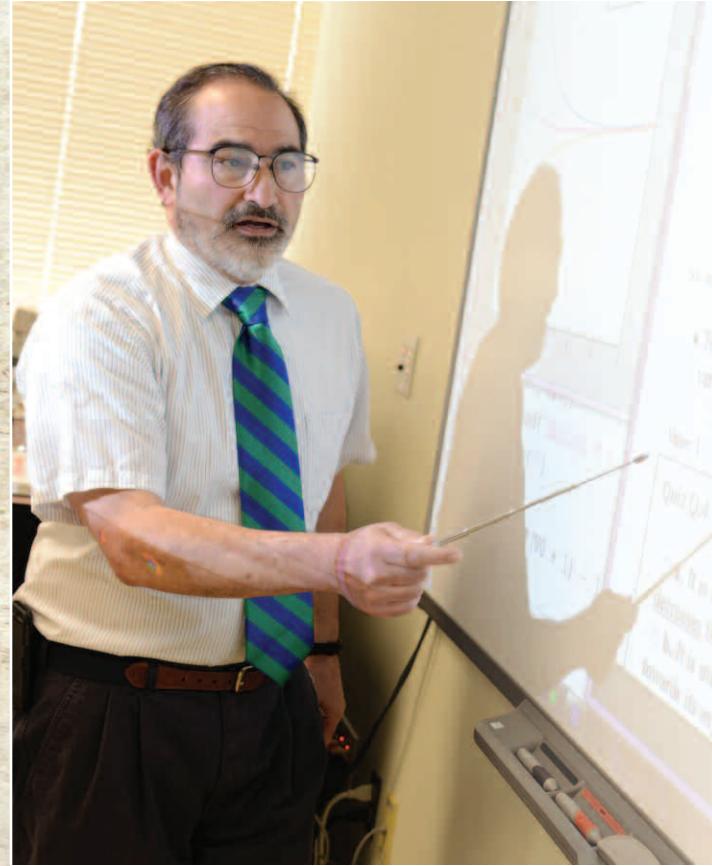
Students, alumni and faculty members attended the Southeastern Psychological Association March 8-11, 2017. Thirty-one current psychology majors and minors presented everything from the impact of mentoring programs in adolescent girls' self-esteem to the effects of humor to reduce anxiety in college students.

M.P.A. program ranked top 25 in U.S.

Bestcolleges.com has selected Georgia College's online Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) program as one of the best online programs in the country for 2017. Utilizing the most recent data available from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and College Navigator, both of which are hosted by the National Center for Education Statistics, Best Colleges objectively assessed relative quality based on academic outcomes, affordability and the breadth and depth of online learning opportunities. This assessment ranked Georgia College in the top 25 of all M.P.A. programs.

Georgia College's M.P.A. program has educated many students who have gone on to work at the federal, state and municipal levels of government, as well as in non-profits and the private sector. The program is Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) accredited, and the curriculum is designed so working professionals and full-time students can graduate after just four semesters. The program includes a final capstone project that allows students to apply their skills in solving an existing management or policy issues. Students access content through the GeorgiaVIEW Learning Management System, with WebEx video conferencing technology available for real-time interaction. Distance learners enjoy small class sizes of between 15-20 students. Internship opportunities are available as well.

Physics professor uses software to add open access courses



Dr. Michael Pangia, professor of physics, has used his professional leave this year to create SoftChalk lessons out of MATLAB exercises that he had written for the physics course known as Classical Mechanics. His plan is to make these exercises available online as open access which makes lessons available for use by anyone.

MATLAB is an advanced mathematical and computer-programming software that is taught in a GC first-year physics course for the express reason that Georgia Institute of Technology requires it of our students in the dual-degree program. Pangia has taken it beyond a single-course exposure by incorporating MATLAB into all the upper-division physics classes he teaches.

Of the courses Pangia has developed MATLAB exercises for, Classical Mechanics provides the best venue to teach and illustrate uses of MATLAB.

What started out as a purely course-centered project has turned into a road to discovering innovative ways to use SoftChalk.

GC PROFESSOR, STUDENTS BATTLE TREE-EATING BEETLE



Dr. Nathan Lord, Assistant Professor of Biology (Entomology), has woken up in the jungles of Bolivia to the sound of giant beetles – as big as clenched fists with 8-inch wingspans – buzzing through the trees like helicopters.

In Vietnam, he ate water-bug soup and pasta with stir-fried wasp pupae. He's pulled the wings off huge cicadas in the Amazon, cooked the muscle and

used it on pizza like sausage.

"I was one of those quintessential kids that liked insects since when I was three and never grew out of it," said Lord, who's collected bugs from Madagascar to New Zealand, Rwanda to Brazil.

Now the enthusiastic, first-year Georgia College assistant professor faces a beast of a bug. It's not big. In fact, it's tiny – less than half an inch long. But it has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in the United States in the past 15 years.

And it's heading this way.

"They're very pretty beetles and super-economically important, because they're destroying all our ash trees," said Lord, one of few who studies this beetle.

"The problem can show up overnight," he said. "By the time you see the damage, it's too late. It's severely impacting a couple ash species to the point we may not have any more left in the U.S."

The emerald ash borer is a shiny jewel-colored beetle that bores through tree trunks to lay eggs. Its young feed on inner bark, disrupting the tree's flow of water and nutrients.

First detected near Detroit in 2002, the beetle has appeared in 30 states. By 2013, it had spread to northern Georgia. In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) quarantined 44 more Georgian counties – including forests as far south as Lamar and Jasper. Firewood, wood chips, compost, sawdust and other materials cannot be transported in or out of these areas.

"I go on vacation all the time with my family, camping in the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee. If you look on the mountainside," she said, "you'll see all these dead hemlock trees, and it's because of another invasive species called the woolly adelgid. It's something I care strongly about."

The emerald ash borer is one of 15,000 known species of jewel beetle. As an expert on this beetle family, Lord is responsible for collecting their DNA – putting Georgia College in the leading role for finding a solution to the ash problem. He hopes to have a working database of information by May.

"We know how they mate, but we don't know how they find one another," Lord said. "Although they seem to have visual behaviors, when I looked at the molecular aspect, the genes you have in your eye to recognize color? Beetles don't have them. They can't see blue."

How does a beetle that shimmers in shades of greenish blue find each other if it can't see blue? They may see blue by changing their visual genes in some way, Lord said. Answers could lead to changing DNA patterns, so beetles can't see host trees or find mates – thus slowing reproduction and their path of destruction.

To get beetles to study, Georgia College students are forming a wasp watchers group – the only one in the south outside Louisiana State University. This spring, they'll go to old baseball fields, seeking the dusky-winged beetle bandit – a wasp that feeds jewel beetles to its young. The wasp tunnels under baseball diamonds, where sand is well-packed. Kaolin mines around Milledgeville might also attract this wasp, Lord said.

"Identifying the beetles without the wasp would be near impossible, because they're so super small, microscopic almost," Forsman said.

Students are learning how to collect beetles, extract muscle for DNA sequencing and enter data into the repository. Along with Forsman, two other biology majors are involved: juniors Dorianna Dobson of Rome and Payton Burris of Washington, Georgia.

But pressure is on for an answer that can't come quick enough for millions of dying trees. We're outnumbered: Compared to 5,500 species of mammals – there are half a million species of beetles.

"Invertebrates, things without a backbone, comprise about 80 percent of the diversity of life on earth. But relatively speaking," Lord said, "they're fairly understudied because they're creepy and crawly."

"They've been here a long time, millions of years. Insects were around when the dinosaurs were here," he said, "and they'll be around long after humans are gone." ■

Middle Georgia students reap benefits of liberal arts experience through history

Georgia College hosted seven area K-12 schools on its campus for National History Day March 10. Twenty professionals from a variety of disciplines ranging from library science to education to history served as judges.

"These students are experiencing the magic of our liberal arts traditions," said Dr. Aran MacKinnon, history and geography department chair. "It's important for them to think not just how to speak with someone in their discipline, but how to speak to a broad audience. That's why we also have judges from outside of the history and geography department."

The students used a wide range of sources to research their topics including newspaper articles, local court records and oral interviews. They took these stories from the past, interpreted them and relayed their findings to the judges.

"By engaging in National History Day, the students and teachers hone their research, critical thinking and writing skills," said MacKinnon. "They learn about the story of America, its people, its diversity, its stories of change over time and these unique individual and community experiences."

Sandersville, Georgia's TJ Elder Middle School seventh graders Libby Mathis and Brianna Harper worked on their national parks' project for three weeks.

"We enjoyed researching all the beautiful parks and discovering how most of them are dying," said Harper. "We're figuring out ways to protect them. The project helped me learn about the subject. It took a lot of time, determination, teamwork and focus."

At times the project presented a challenge.

"It was hard for us to find a lot of primary sources just because there weren't many people who've had firsthand information for this, so we had to go deeper and find new ways to find resources," said Mathis. "We decided to do this project because we really need to show people that our national parks are important, and that we need to preserve them."

Washington County High School sophomore Dinayia Ferguson researched Rosa Parks.

"I was glad to find more information on Rosa Parks," said Ferguson. "This project taught me how African-Americans struggled for rights and equality. My eighth grade teacher inspired me a few years ago to research African-Americans involved in the civil rights movement during this time."



Tyler Wallace and William Dietrich are seventh graders at Putnam County Middle School who aspire to be teachers one day. They discovered they both had the same topic of desegregation so wound up collaborating on this project, which took about a month to create.

"We learned about Brown versus Board of Education," Wallace said of this landmark ruling, which led the way for integration. "That's when desegregation in schools actually started."

Dietrich found the civil rights movement fascinating.

"It was interesting that so many people gathered under this movement taking a stand toward desegregation," said Dietrich. "They were all trying to stop segregation."

Through each step of their projects, the students gained confidence, especially in the presentation portion.

"From the students' point of view, there's this intrinsic personal engagement happening," said MacKinnon. "It's very empowering for them to take on a project and to see it through to fruition."

The remaining component of the project is for students to communicate their findings to their families and communities sharing what they've learned for the common good.

"Learning about something that they will share with the greater community, and it is through that discourse that others will learn too," he said. "I think that goes back to liberal arts where the purpose of knowledge and study is to connect the story for the benefit of others."



BRINGING FRIENDS TOGETHER:

World-class performance at Georgia College

The first Magnolia Chamber Music Festival was a two-day musical extravaganza – where high school and university students were coached by members of professional string quartets and a final concert brought together music lovers of all ages.

“Music Among Friends” was conceived in the spirit of old chamber music, performed in the home. It gave the next generation of musicians a once-in-a-lifetime chance to interact with members of international and critically-acclaimed string quartets – while treating students, faculty, college supporters and community residents to a stunning, world-class performance.

“This was the place to be,” said Dr. William McClain, concert producer and assistant professor of music. “The very mention of Mendelssohn’s Octet sends shivers through most who are aware of the music world. Just that piece alone made it worth coming.”

“This event brought many, many people from different parts of the community together,” he said. “So it was a place and a time to be seen, to be heard, to be appreciated, no matter what part you played. Everybody played their part in the concert that night.”

The March concert featured the Kazanetti String Quartet of Atlanta and Manhattan String Quartet, an internationally-known group from New York City. They performed pieces by Ludwig von Beethoven and Witold Lutoslawski using violins, viola and cellos. The two quartets then combined to play the 1825 “String Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20” by Felix Mendelssohn.

“The Octet is probably one of the most popular pieces in music literature,” McClain said. “It’s very well-known, very recognizable. It’s the type of music where you leave humming the tune. Very memorable, upbeat.”

Day one started with high school students from Putnam, Gwinnett and Forsyth counties were coached by expert musicians in Atlanta, followed by a concert. Day two occurred at Georgia College. About 45 students from Lambert High School were coached alongside university students by members of the Manhattan String Quartet. Tours were given around campus and, in the afternoon, a master class was held. The Georgia College String Quartet and high school students performed pieces they had rehearsed for each other and professional musicians.

“A master class is a time-honored tradition,” McClain said, “because you learn more by listening. You perform but, really, the treat is to sit and listen and learn from your colleagues. In events like these, you don’t come unscripted, because this is considered a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It’s sought after.”

In its second year as artists-in-residence at Georgia College, the Kazanetti String Quartet coaches the GC Orchestra and attracts internationally-noted groups to campus, like the Manhattan String Quartet. The university benefits, because artists-in-residence provide greater access to a wider variety of performers.

This festival was a “sounding a bell to the rest of the world. Just to know this caliber of players come not just to perform but to work with students – that’s pretty amazing. This kind of personal attention is not something you’d necessarily get even at some larger colleges,” McClain said.

“To have an experience that is worthy of an Atlanta or New York City stage right in your backyard, and all you have to do is stop by?” he said. “We’re very excited about that.”

To Train a Brain:

scholar brings cognitive research
to campus, community

Dr. Eduardo Mercado knows Milledgeville. The spring 2017 Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar spent the first 20 years of his life as a native, attending Baldwin County High School, going on to study computer science at Georgia College and eventually leaving to pursue his degree at Georgia Tech.

But his path as a cognitive neuroscience researcher wasn't always a smooth one.

"I started getting into what brains were capable of while I was at Georgia Tech," said Mercado. "I minored in philosophy, so I was focused on what the mind could do. Then I started thinking 'why couldn't computers do what the human brain does and what's the thing that stops them?'"

Those questions continued to plague Mercado. Eventually, they led him to earn a doctorate in psychology.

"From then on, I decided to pursue the things I was interested in," said Mercado, who started studying animal cognition while at Georgia Tech. "I found the psychology department at the University of Hawaii focused on dolphin cognition, memory and abstract learning. I decided if I wanted to do it, I would have to go there. And if it meant I had to become a psychologist—then that's what I had to be."

Mercado placed all his faith into getting into the University of Hawaii—which he did. It was while he spent time on the islands studying whales that he started thinking about what would become his life's work so far: brain plasticity.

"Whales do this thing that no other animals do," said Mercado. "As adults they develop a sequence of sounds that are



novel. It's hundreds of sounds that are patterned and as various as human music—and they change those every year."

These sequences of sounds are equivalent to an American moving from Germany to China to Turkey in the span of three years—learning each native language as they move, said Mercado. Those sounds made Mercado think about the learning capacity of the brain. He came up with three questions: what determines how fast the brain can change, how fast can it change, and how much better can it get with these changes?

"It's really surprising that we don't know much about how it works," said Mercado. "We're learning new things, solving new problems and developing new technologies and all of that depends on brain plasticity—the ability of the brain to change."

Developments in brain plasticity could go on to help researchers understand new ways of overcoming brain damage. Mercado also says drugs that enhance brain power are outcomes of increased understanding of brain plasticity.

Mercado is currently a professor in the Department of Psychology at The University of Buffalo, where he runs a neural and cognitive plasticity laboratory—finding out the answers to all the questions he had as a student in Hawaii.

Mercado brought this research to Georgia College during the spring semester through a series of lectures and his course on mammalian minds. He hosted three lectures focused on the brain and its ability to change. Mercado ended his residency with the hunt for Milledgeville's smartest dog on April 28 at the Oconee River Greenway.

Student News

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Creative writing students attend AWP, see their work published

The Creative Writing Program is off to an exciting start for 2017. Current M.F.A. student Michael McClelland's short story collection "Gay Zoo Day," will be published by Beautiful Dreamer Press in the fall of 2017, and Miller Oberman's poetry collection "The Unstill Ones," will be published by the Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets, also in fall 2017. The program looks forward to having a reading for both writers in spring 2018.

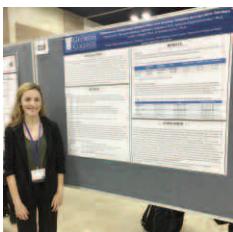


Undergraduate English majors with creative writing concentrations at the Associated Writing Programs National Conference: Brittney Schwind and Caroline Karnatz.



Pulitzer Prize winning poet Rita Dove, with GC undergraduate alumnus Natalie Sharp (now enrolled in the M.F.A. program at the University of Colorado, Boulder.)

Students present research at social psychology conference



Sean Groark, '16 and Rachael Waldrop, '16 presented research at the annual meeting of the international organization Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP). This meeting brings together around 4,000 attendees, which include leaders in

the fields of personality and social psychology, psychologists who successfully work in industry and government and representatives from the news media and science entertainment.

The research they presented examined the relationship between social-emotional states (such as mood and feelings of loneliness) and smoking behaviors among a sample of Latino

smokers. Groark and Waldrop began working on this project with their research mentor, Dr. Whitney Heppner (Department of Psychology) in summer 2016, first learning the advanced statistical modeling techniques they would need to test their hypotheses, then writing up their findings for submission in fall 2016. Notably, the annual meeting of SPSP has typically featured the research of graduate students and faculty, with little undergraduate representation, thus their participation in the conference as undergraduates speaks even more highly of their accomplishment.

The findings were presented by Waldrop at one of seven poster sessions during the three-day long conference in San Antonio, Texas (pictured). Both Waldrop and Groark are planning to attend graduate school in psychology beginning fall 2017.

Georgia College Math Club places second in math competition



The Georgia College Math Club took home the silver medal at this year's Math Jeopardy tournament held at Mercer University on March 10 and 11, 2017. The tournament was part of the annual meeting of the Southeastern Section of the Mathematical Association of America. There were over 30 teams participating.

The Georgia College team consisted of junior pre-engineering physics major Cason Butler, junior math and physics major Cain Gant, junior math and physics major Spencer Shortt and senior math major Cuyler Warnock. The team trained for the tournament weekly starting in the fall of 2016, coached by Dr. Hong Yue and Dr. Rachel Epstein of the math department. They practiced by answering questions from previous Math Jeopardy tournaments as well as by studying various mathematical topics, such as combinatorics and graph theory.

The questions in this year's Math Jeopardy competition ranged from mathematical rhymes and anagrams to complex computational questions. In the first round, the Georgia College team dominated in the challenging category "Polar Plots," where an equation was given in polar coordinates and the students had to describe the graph of the equation without the use of a calculator. They came in second place in the first round, but their high score allowed them to move on to the semi-finals as a wild card team. They won the semi-finals by a large margin, correctly calculating the square root of 20 to the nearest hundredth in Final Jeopardy.

The final round of Math Jeopardy was in an auditorium with hundreds of spectators. The categories included "Pascal's Triangle" and "Always Improper," which consisted of solving improper integrals. The team from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee was leading when the Georgia College team landed on the Daily Double and made the bold move of wagering everything. The Daily Double question asked to calculate the sum of the number of faces, edges and vertices of an icosahedron, which the team had just discussed the day before. When the team's answer was confirmed to be correct, the audience erupted in applause. However, the Austin Peay team also gave an impressive performance and won the game with a score of 8801 to Georgia College's 8800. The Georgia College team members were awarded silver medals and a trophy, which is on display in the math department office.



Arts and Sciences sees success with Fulbright Scholarship

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Georgia College and the College of Arts and Sciences has produced four semi-finalists for U.S. Fulbright Scholarships – an impressive feat for a university its size.

The renowned, worldwide exchange program gives students and graduates the opportunity to study, teach or conduct advanced research in over 140 countries. More than 360,000 Fulbright recipients have participated in the program since its inception in 1946.

"Awards such as the Fulbright are one measure of excellence and preeminence," said Dr. Kelli R. Brown, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"Our students are some of the best in the state," Brown said. "Having four Fulbright semi-finalists is a testament not only to our students, but also the faculty and staff that work with them."

The semi-finalists are: graduate biology student Audrey Waits of Charlotte, North Carolina, who hopes to research pathogenic bacteria in reindeer with researchers from the Thule Institute at the University of Oulu in Finland; recent honors graduate and mathematics major Samantha Clapp of Rockmart, who hopes to spend two semesters in the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program in Hungary and doing research at the Alfréd Rényi Institute of Mathematics in Budapest; recent honors graduate and economics/history major Kevin Morris of Savannah, who hopes to spend nine months as an English Teaching Assistant in Macedonia; and 2013 theatre graduate and honors alumna Anna Fontaine of Stockbridge, who hopes to complete a master's of fine arts in international acting at the University of Essex in Loughton, England.



Audrey Waits said she wouldn't have felt confident enough to apply for the Fulbright without Biology Professor Dr. Kenneth Saladin's encouragement and her experience in the lab with Dr. Indiren Pillay, chair of biology and environmental sciences. Working toward a career in medicine, Waits is one of several Georgia College students to discover a new bacteriophage through microbiology research.

In Finland, she hopes to explore how temperature affects pathogenic bacterial populations found in reindeer herds. Waits would take classes in Arctic Health and study Finnish, while learning about challenges Sami reindeer herds face in a changing climate.

"I also want to see the Northern Lights, meet a reindeer and experience living abroad," she said.



Samantha Clapp spent a summer in Bothell, Washington, doing undergraduate research in math. That experience prompted her to apply for the Fulbright. She's always wanted to study abroad and live in a different culture. The opportunity would also prepare her to get a Ph.D. in math.

"Hungarians are strong in many areas of mathematics, and I'm interested to learn math from a new perspective," said Clapp, who's minoring in French and computer science. She wants to expand and strengthen her mathematical abilities and someday work for a company like Boeing or government agency like the National Institute of Health (NIH).

"The Fulbright Scholarship definitely felt like one of those big, scary, awesome, I-am-never-going-to-get-it things," Clapp said. "But becoming a semi-finalist makes it seem more possible. I am really happy to make it this far."



Anna Fontaine works as an actor and theatre-education artist in Atlanta. She applied for the Fulbright to deepen skills and pursue a master's degree. She hopes to study 20 months at the East 15 Drama School in Loughton, England, about 20 miles from London.

This opportunity would allow Fontaine to work with an international ensemble, perform on the global stage, see shows and participate in theatre outreach. For her final project, she plans to devise a show inspired by Shakespeare, incorporating stories from local migrants.

"I hope to lay the foundation for something I can continue to develop through my career," she said, "and bring back to the states a means of community outreach to any group that feels disconnected from society."



Kevin Morris applied for a Fulbright to serve communities in Macedonia that lack resources taken for granted in America. Minoring in international studies, Morris spent last summer as a regional security intern at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje. There, he learned people in Macedonia struggle with poverty, tense interethnic relations and a corrupt government. He hopes to go back and teach American Civics, as well as English. He also plans to use community theatre to facilitate public forums on racism, religious bigotry and politics.

"The people inspired me with their humor, insight and hospitality," he said. "I have great faith in the people of Macedonia to overcome their differences and effectively address the obstacles that impede their progress toward prosperity."

Morris wants to someday work for the U.S. State Department as a foreign service officer. The Fulbright would be a strong step in meeting that goal, he said.

"I feel pretty excited! Even if I don't make it any further, just to be recommended as a semi-finalist is a huge validation of my work on and off campus," he said. "From here on out, I'll be keeping my fingers crossed!"

Announcements were made during April that named Clapp as an alternate and Waits and Morris as finalists for their Fulbright Scholarships.





Women in STEM:

Three biology students make unique discoveries

There are tiny bacterial cells exploding all around us.

Only we can't see them.

It's like an invisible battlefield – a super microscopic world where bacteria are infected by even tinier viruses called phages. They get inside, feed and multiply until the bacterial cell – well, yes – explodes. Only, in science, it's called lysing.

In a world where antibiotics are becoming less effective, science has turned to the relatively-unknown phage for answers. There are many different kinds – a very abundant but understudied culture because most have yet to be discovered.

Three Georgia College biology students are participating in an international research project based at the University of Pittsburgh. Each has uncovered new bacteriophages unknown to science – until now.

And they got to name them.

- "Waits" is a 20-sided phage with a tail, discovered by biology graduate student Audrey Waits of Charlotte, North Carolina. The harmless bacteria it feeds upon is found in small quantities on



human skin. But, in rare cases, the bacterium creates an outer-layer "biofilm" that sticks to long-term catheter tubes. This can cause infection in patients with weak immune systems. Waits' phage is a natural predator of this bacteria – making her research valuable.

- "Adonis" - meaning "handsome, strong man" in Greek - is a fairly large phage discovered in some "really nasty soil" by junior biology major Shea Morris of Byron. It destroys a harmless but potentially-important bacteria within the family of infectious microbes that causes tuberculosis. Morris hopes her phage may someday help scientists develop a cure.
- "SheaKeira" was discovered by sophomore biology pre-med major Keira Stacks of Peachtree City, who was working with Morris when she took bacterial soil samples at Lake Laurel in Milledgeville. Stacks is just beginning to characterize her phage and hopes the hexagon-headed, long-tailed virus will also hold implications for science.

"Finding a novel microorganism is usually associated with the work of a big research lab. Georgia College encourages guided research in science at the undergraduate level," said Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ken Procter.

"Undergraduate research is so much a part of our culture that we are tempted to take this discovery for granted, yet the fact that two second year undergraduate students would have an opportunity to isolate these unique organisms is a reminder of the high value of the Georgia College experience."

College and high school students worldwide are participating in the project. They enter discoveries into the Actinobacteriophage Database, which collects information for the Pittsburgh Bacteriophage Institute at the University of Pittsburgh's department of biological sciences.

The project's goal is to encourage scientific research in youth. But it also promotes the DNA sequencing and characterization of useful viruses.

In France and Eastern Europe, phage is used to treat infection through shots, pills or phage-saturated bandages. In the U.S., antibiotics are more-widely used. But phage could be the next frontier, as bacteria become more resistant to medicine.

"We're lucky to be in a geographical region, where not a lot of sampling has been done," Waits said. "For all we know, the phages we're looking at have been around hundreds of thousands of years. We just hadn't found them yet."

Morris found Adonis down a deep ravine in "a really obscure place" at Lake Laurel. Waits found hers in less-traveled soil at the Oconee River at the Greenway in Milledgeville.

Students looked for evidence of lysing - bacteria bursting apart due to multiplying phage. They added nutrients to make bacteria grow, which also created a good environment for phage to reproduce. They isolated the phage by straining it, like coffee, through a filter.

Through DNA sequencing, students could determine if their phage looked different in size and shape from known varieties.



Then Morris and Waits took their projects a step further.

Morris is studying the effect weather has on multiplication of bacteriophage. She believes phages should be collected in warmer weather. If her hypothesis is correct – it might answer why the South is an ideal place to discover new varieties.

The bacteria Morris found is related to one that causes tuberculosis, which infects a third of the world's population and kills roughly 3 million people a year.

"I hope my phage will someday be used to attack the infectious bacteria that causes TB," she said. "That's what's really cool about phages. They specifically attack that one bacteria. They have no desire to attack anything else."

Waits' study relates to the biofilm surrounding her bright orange bacteria. It forms a sticky consistency best described as "snot," she said. This gooey, mucous-like environment glob together and protects communities of bacteria.

This can become problematic in hospitals, when patients are connected long term to silicone tubes like catheters. In rare cases, biofilm can attach and grow – causing otherwise harmless bacteria to become infectious. It can also prevent antibiotics from reaching patients, Pillay said, which makes these infections particularly challenging.

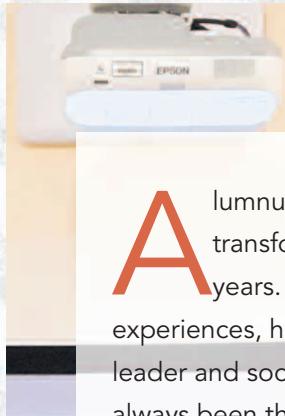
"Water doesn't interact well with it," Waits said, "but my phage is very effective at getting through the biofilm and infecting the bacteria by hijacking the cell machinery and replicating. It's very good at what it does."

Alumni News

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College experience allows alumnus to develop into a dynamic leader





Alumnus Jonathan Garcia's life has transformed over the last several years. Through his education and life experiences, he's grown into a thoughtful leader and social justice fighter, but he hasn't always been that way.

Garcia admits when he first arrived on campus he was quiet and shy.

"My time at Georgia College has been very eye-opening," he said. "I've learned a lot about myself and the world."

Through his psychology major he's learned to better understand people and work with them on multiple levels. By taking part in a study abroad in Italy, he was challenged to step outside his comfort zone "to see how different people experience different things."

He also learned what it takes to be leader from his roles as president and vice president of the Latino Student Association, president of the Residence Student Association and the director of multicultural affairs for Student Government Association (SGA).

"In my SGA role I actually worked to add discrimination as an honor code violation," said Garcia, who has pulled together a committee to follow through after he graduates.

For the first-generation college student, his passion for cultural acceptance, social justice and equality for races opened doors for his future in a surprising way.

"I participated in a protest for the rights of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students—students who were brought to the U.S. at a young age, but are not citizens—at the University of Georgia. These students are denied admission into the top school in the state and in-state tuition, and we peacefully conducted a mock class on campus to protest," he said.

Garcia says through the experience he met several influential lawyers and social justice professionals that helped him narrow in on his career aspirations.

"I'm looking for a job now as a paralegal or legal assistant, then next year I hope to start law school," said Garcia. "My ultimate goal is to be an immigration lawyer to help elevate some of the stress on people in that situation."

He's grateful for the experiences he's had at Georgia College and encourages other students to take advantage of all opportunities that come their way.



Alumna pursues a life, career of giving back



Erin Patrick, '16, spent her experience as a student at Georgia College focused on giving back.

"I knew I wanted to write but other than that I didn't really have a direction," said Patrick, mass communication major. "Once I found PR and advertising I knew that the creative aspect of those areas was what I was meant to do."

Throughout her time at GC, she's transformed her talents into working closely with GC Miracle, a student group that raises money for Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

"I got involved my freshman year, and I knew I wanted to work with an organization and help with their public relations," said Patrick. "From there, I quickly realized how passionate I was about the message and mission of GC Miracle. It's been one of the most rewarding things I've done during my time in college."

Patrick says being involved in a fundraising organization like GC Miracle allowed her to look outside her own campus bubble.

"There are so many people involved, and we all have different skills," said Patrick. "Everyone brings something different to the table, and we rally around this one cause. I don't think I would have made so many connections around campus if it wasn't for my involvement."

Patrick says what makes GC Miracle different is its approach to fundraising and the dedicated individuals involved. That dedication showed itself even more when the group exceeded their goal of \$24,000 in 24 hours by raising \$30,205 in late October 2016.

"I've always been a passionate person, but I just never really found a place that fit me," said Patrick. "I found that in GC Miracle."

Patrick also credits the GIVE Center for impacting her experience at Georgia College. She says the resources available to students on campus are unmatched elsewhere.

"They support organizations so much in their mission. We wouldn't be able to get the resources that we do anywhere else," said Patrick.



College of Arts and Sciences produces three valedictorians

Three students in Georgia College's December 2016 graduating class rose to the top—and they're all within the College of Arts and Sciences. The valedictorians were Angela Moryan, a mass communication major who has taken nearly every opportunity her major provides; Breon Haskett, who by chance found his calling for sociology and mentorship; and Lizzie Perrin, who honed her skills as a scriptwriter by gaining different perspectives along the way.

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It's hard to imagine there's a facet of mass communication that **alumna Angela Moryan** didn't try to conquer. She spent her time at Georgia College trying to "do it all."

"I did basically everything I could," said Moryan. "It just so happens I managed to fall into leadership positions along the way."

Moryan says leadership comes naturally to her. During her time at Georgia College, Moryan was an integral part

of the student newspaper, serving on the Colonnade's editorial board. She also served as a writer, then entertainment editor and, most recently, sports editor. She was also able to attend College Media Association conferences twice.

"It's funny, because I can remember my first Colonnade meeting and how they entrusted me with the story idea that I came to them with," said Moryan. "Now to be able to be on the other side of it and witness production nights at the paper—it's really come full circle."

Moryan was also a DJ on WGUR, anchored for GC360, had her photography published, served as president of Thunder Crew, spent two months studying abroad in Italy and had a successful internship with WTOC in Savannah.

Most recently, she zeroed in on her passion for sports. An avid sports fan growing up, Moryan says the family television was constantly set to either news or sports—so for her, it's a natural progression.

She served as the Department of Athletics sports information director assistant, taking on the task of media liaison to major university sports teams. Since graduating, she's remained with Athletics but plans to eventually enter into the sports broadcast industry.

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Alumnus Breon Haskett had a plan as soon as he stepped foot on Georgia College's campus. He was going to get an English degree, teach and coach high school basketball.

"I was confident in that plan," said the Kennesaw, Georgia, native. "But then I took an intro to sociology class my sophomore year."

The English and sociology double major quickly changed gears as he realized the subject brought out his natural talents. One of the first experiences he had was an assignment to simply people watch.

"I was always a little more shy, so to have that assignment and to be able to use skills that I already have to learn more about the world - it was the best experience I could ask for."

Since then, he's taken several courses that have impacted his college experience. He also presented research on affirmative action attitudes toward government spending at the Southern Society Sociology annual conference in April 2016.

Another important part of Haskett's experience at Georgia College was serving on the executive board of MALE (Mentoring African-Americans for Leadership and Education) Connection. The program pairs college students with Georgia College Early College and High Achiever students. The experience reinforced Haskett's belief he was called to teach.

"It's inspired me to want to teach more," said Haskett. "My hope is that I can inspire them by showing them actual data that proves why and how their actions now matter. I want to continue to teach and make a better future."

Haskett, who also won honorable mention for an essay written about the importance of liberal arts, says he is grateful for the opportunities he's had at the university.

Looking to the future, Haskett is applying to graduate schools all over the U.S. He wants to continue the mentoring and teaching he started at Georgia College and pair it with his love of sociology.

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Alumna English major Lizzie Perrin knew exactly what she wanted to pursue during her first year at Georgia College.

"Ever since elementary school, I knew I wanted to be a writer," said the Canton, Georgia, native. "I started watching 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' in junior year, and that was the first time I saw how powerful and influential scriptwriting can be. The depth of character and levels of ambiguity that was achieved was inspiring."

Perrin has been involved in the Honors program and credits it largely for making a close knit circle of friends during her time here. She's also been heavily involved with Wesley Foundation, an organization she attributes to her "spiritual walk in faith" while attending Georgia College.

Perrin was also part of Peacocks Feet, the universities undergraduate literary and creative arts journal. She has served as the poetry editor and as the Red Early Reading chair.

"It's been a great experience to have the opportunity to read a lot of my peers' work," said Perrin. "Another wonderful thing about this major is that I've been exposed to so many perspectives and cultures through my courses. It's made me more open minded, empathetic and given me the ability to wear many hats as a writer."

A thirst for greater perspective also led Perrin to study abroad for a semester during her sophomore year. She spent spring 2015 in Plymouth, England.

Perrin plans to pursue film school in California, where she will eventually enter the film industry.

What attracted Perrin to Georgia College in the beginning is what the alumna looks back on as a recent graduate: the personal learning experience and close relationships she was able to make.



Students in a mural painting course taught by Professor of Art Valerie Aranda created two murals during the spring semester. One mural depicts the historical timeline of Eatonton, Georgia, while the other takes inspiration from the city's literary heritage. Aranda has had an ongoing partnership with the city of Eatonton, helping in their efforts to revitalize the downtown area.



More than 600 psychology students have trained in professor Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang's social emotional classroom at Baldwin County's Early Learning Center. The students provide services for children who display a range of behavioral or emotional issues. They have changed the lives of about 1,000 children in the more than 15 years that Chiang's held the sessions.



The Department of World Languages and Cultures continues its free community language courses outreach that was created in 2015 with the help of an ENGAGE grant. Assistant Professor Mariana Stoyanova, Professor Hedwig Fraunhofer and Lecturer Leslie Strempel introduced bilingual story times in Spanish and French into the local primary schools as well as the community library.



ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
SPRING 2017