

Front Page News Story Archive

May 2020



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News Stories Posted Friday May 1, 2020



Online student learning support proves convenient, swift and successful

[The Writing Center](#) : Friday May 1, 2020

In response to meeting the students' learning needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Learning Center at Georgia College reacted quickly. The Supplemental Instruction support program was fully functioning March 30. The Learning Center's Math Lab and drop-in tutoring opened April 2.

Accessing the sessions has proved simple and successful, according to Jeanne Haslam, director of the Learning Center.

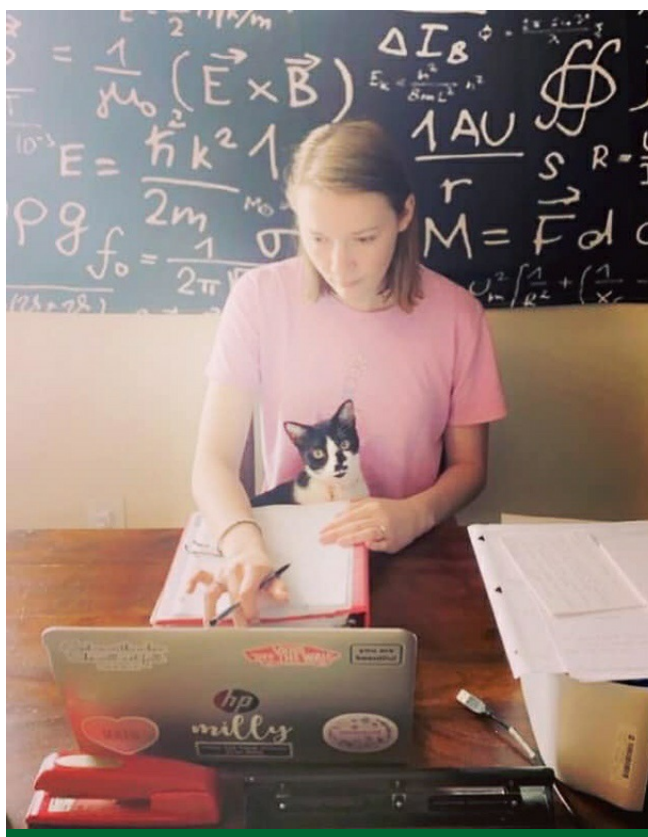
"We are seeing some students pop in and out of the platform numerous times a day and for different content," said Jeanne Haslam, director of the Learning Center. "The beauty of this is that once a student downloads those apps, they can access the platform in perpetuity for assistance."

Haslam has a team of around 60 student workers, two staff members, the programs manager and two grad assistants. They've been assisting students academically online. Each online shift has seven to eight tutors working to help students, who request tutoring for the different disciplines.

With the onset of the pandemic, Haslam and her team anticipated some probable changes and began researching their online platform options.

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“We are committed to continue services throughout finals to best support GC students through the final stretch.”



GC senior Emily Howe tutors GC students from home.

- Jeanne Haslam

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“We actually started this research the week before spring break with the idea that we would have accomplished a good bit of groundwork if we needed to fully launch and deliver our services online,” she said. “Then, we amped it up during spring break week and were ready and training our academic student support staff the following week.”

Some students reported that online learning support was accessible and just as helpful as in-person support. Other students described the convenience it offered and how more students are attending the sessions.

While COVID-19 has caused a disruption of learning in a classroom, Haslam and her team are surveying students, staff and faculty to assess the center's online services and experiences for future application.

“We recognize that some of the online services might be a good addition to the Learning Center’s offerings, addressing the convenience this might provide,” said Haslam.

During finals week, supplemental Instruction leaders have been working hard to accommodate students’ busy schedules.

“We are committed to continue services throughout finals to best support GC students through the final stretch,” said Haslam.



GC junior Sidney Parker tutors GC students from home.

News Stories Posted Wednesday May 6, 2020



Congratulations Class of 2020

May 2020: GC research experience prepares psychology senior for graduate school

[Psychological Science, Department of](#) : Wednesday May 6, 2020



Amelia DuBose

Hometown: Thomasville, GA

Major: Psychology

What made you choose your major? I chose psychology after taking AP Psychology my senior year in high school. I found the subject really interesting and had always been interested in it since my dad is a clinical psychologist.

What was your favorite class/professor and why? That is definitely a hard choice because all of my professors were amazing! If I had to pick a favorite class, it would probably be Drugs and Behavior with Dr. Dandy. It was one of the most interesting and really relevant classes I took at GC. I have to credit Dr. Chiang, however, for being the most involved in my college career and my mentor as I have been in her research lab for 3 years and worked for her as a research assistant.

Where was your favorite place on campus? I would have to say front campus because it is one of the most beautiful spots on campus, especially during the spring.

What activities were you involved with? I was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi (AOII) sorority, a member and Co-Philanthropy chair for Psi-Chi, and a member and captain my senior year of the Georgia College Dance Team (Sassy Cats).

What was one of your favorite moments at Georgia College? Another difficult question as I had so many great moments throughout my time at GC, but one of my favorite moments was being able to be a part of a research lab as a sophomore. Our lab conducts research on empathy training and social emotional development in young children, typically ages 2-4. Most research labs have waiting lists and want mainly junior and senior students as they have already completed research statistics and methods. I was grateful to have the opportunity from Dr. Chiang to join as a sophomore and I have learned so much through that experience. Getting to work with young children every week and really do hands-on research as an undergraduate is an experience and opportunity I do not take for granted.

What do you plan to do after completing this semester? Upon completion of this semester, I will be attending graduate school at the University of Georgia to complete a Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis. I hope to complete the certification following graduate school to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

News Stories Posted Thursday May 7, 2020



Professor's inquiry points alumna towards dream job

[University Advancement](#) : Thursday May 7, 2020

Annaleigh Jackson, '17, is one of very few women in the beer brewing industry. She is head cellarman/assistant brewer for Cherry Street Brewing in Alpharetta, Georgia. Dr. Ken McGill, professor of chemistry and physics at Georgia College sparked her interest in beer brewing during a study abroad field trip to the Berliner-Kindl-Schultheiss Brewery in Germany.

"I was standing near Dr. McGill when he asked, 'Have you ever thought about brewing?' I never thought about going into the brewing industry," Jackson said. His question made me think of it as a possible career. I thought, 'Wow, that's like chemistry—fun.'"

Her study abroad with McGill's class was during her last semester. The courses she took were called History of German Scientists and Reduceable and Renewable Energy.

"The classes were interesting and even left time for us to explore Europe," she said. "That was the best experience of my life. On the weekends we had Thursday night to Sunday free. So, we would take the trains to Amsterdam, Switzerland and Munich. I had this sense of becoming an adult."

Jackson graduated with a chemistry degree in three years, but it took her one and-a-half years to get into beer brewing, because she lacked experience. So, she became a hostess, server and bartender.

"I wanted to learn how to brew beer, but had no experience," she said. "Being a bartender gave me some initial knowledge of beer."

Jackson took a job as an IT recruiter, but it wasn't fulfilling.

"I had this chemistry degree I wasn't using," she said. "Although I was making big-girl money, I wasn't happy."

After talking with her mom, who turned part of their farmhouse into a winery, Jackson decided to quit her desk job and learn how to make wine and brew beer. She started learning how to make wine both at her mom's house and a winery in Dahlonega, Georgia. Her brother-in-law showed her how to culture beer.

After completing a beer industry survey, Jackson discovered many of her friends had migrated over to a particular brewery. She joined them in attending a Friendsgiving last year at the brewer's house and informed him that brewing is her dream job. A month later he contacted her to apply. So, Jackson applied at Cherry Street Brewing's second and new location.

"I brought my home brew to my interview and a bottle of wine that I helped create to at least throw it out there," she said. "I thought I was only going to be interviewed by my boss. It turns out the owner of Cherry St. and the head brewer from both locations got us four glasses for us to try a sample of my beer."



Annaleigh Jackson enjoys a beer.

The interview panel said good things about her home brewed beer and her resume, which the Career Center at Georgia College helped her craft her resume.

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“I’ve been updating Dr. McGill as to how my career is progressing. Since I got this job, I emailed him and said, ‘It’s all thanks to you.’”

- Annaleigh Jackson

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“During the interview, the owner said, ‘You have more on your resume than someone we would actually hire. You have an awesome resume. We want you,’” Jackson said.

She was hired. Jackson mainly works on the top floor of the brewery, cleaning the tanks and transferring the beer, while the head brewer works on the bottom floor.

“I take care of all the chemicals and make sure the brew bins are clean and ready to transport beer in them,” Jackson said. “I do all the beer transfer.”

She also helps the head brewer downstairs brew the wort, which becomes beer. Then once that’s all finished, they add the hops, and send it upstairs to the first tank it’s going to sit in for a couple of weeks until the yeast starts fermenting in it, then it’ll become beer.

“Once we put the yeast in it and it becomes beer, we test the specific gravity of it which correlates with its alcohol content,” Jackson said. “We smell it. Sometimes we taste it. Once we feel it’s ready, we’ll transfer it over to a different tank. I’m in charge of getting it to the other tank and then tapping that tank to the bar.”

“This whole process took me about a month to learn,” she said. “It was a lot to take in. We take extra steps to make sure we have the perfect beer and not to mess it up.”

She’s elated that she found her dream job.

“I’m proud of being a girl in the industry, since you don’t see too many girls brewing beer,” she said.

Jackson appreciates her Georgia College education and McGill for giving her the idea of becoming a brewer.

“I’ve been updating Dr. McGill as to how my career is progressing,” she said. “Since I got this job, I emailed him and said, ‘It’s all thanks to you.’”



Two Georgia College graduates land 2020 Fulbright scholarships

[National Scholarships Office at Georgia College](#) : Thursday May 7, 2020

Two recent graduates—Madison Graham and Amara Tennessee—have been named Fulbright finalists, joining three other Georgia College students to receive the prestigious scholarship in recent years.

One award constitutes the university's first Fulbright for a music major and the other to a South American country. A third graduate was chosen as a Fulbright alternate.

The awards follow a windfall year for Fulbright applications. More Georgia College students than ever before, 15, applied for the coveted scholarship. Nine were named semi-finalists—another record number for the university, said Anna Whiteside, assistant director of the Honors Program and coordinator of National Scholarships.

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All of our candidates this year worked very hard on their applications for this competitive program, and I am very excited that, once again, Georgia College students will be representing the United States in the Fulbright Program.

- Anna Whiteside, coordinator of the National Scholarships Office

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Music graduate Madison Graham of Louisville, Georgia, will do an English Teaching Assistantship in the Czech Republic. He hopes to volunteer at a Basic Art School



Madison Graham

there, which is the primary venue for art education in the Czech school system. He also plans to join a Czech performing ensemble and explore the country's rich culture.

Graham wanted to return to the Czech Republic, after studying abroad there with the Georgia College Jazz Band last summer.

"I had several opportunities to observe parts of the Czech

education system," he said, "particularly the approach to music education. I was impressed by the size of music programs in the country, as well as the depth of knowledge that is taught there."

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As a musician, the opportunity to live in the heart of the Western music tradition is quite exciting.

- Madison Graham

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After getting a master's degree, Graham hopes to work in arts education. The Fulbright will help him with diversity and a global perspective.

"As a musician," he said, "the opportunity to live in the heart of the Western music tradition is quite exciting."



Amara Tennessee

Amara Tennessee of Roswell, Georgia, has double degrees in public health and world languages. She'll do an English Teaching Assistantship in Columbia, hosting a program on health behavior and attitudes. Tennessee double minored in global health studies and Latin American, Caribbean and Latino studies.

After high school, she lived in

Paraguay, where she worked as a medical volunteer in a mobile vaccination clinic and cardiology and diabetes specialty center. She sees the Fulbright as an amazing opportunity to travel and share her African-American culture, while learning about Columbia.

“

I am so incredibly excited to start my journey. I'm excited to have the opportunity to engage in a cultural exchange. Columbia is such a diverse country, not only in their people but also in their geography, and I'm looking forward to being pushed outside of my comfort zone.

- Amara Tennessee

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In the future, Tennessee hopes to work in global health, reducing the incidence of chronic disease through health education and programming.



Laura Swarner

Laura Swarner of Buford, Georgia, has double degrees in English and theatre. As a Fulbright alternate, she could do an English Teaching Assistantship to Bulgaria, if funding becomes available. She's passionate about storytelling and plans to use it as a tool for language development.

Swarner also hopes to get her master's in scenic design and work as an artist telling stories

that “are important and relevant to the modern world and help shift perspectives.”

Selection for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program is rigorous. They receive about 12,000 applications a year. In the U.S., about 1,900 grants are awarded annually in all fields of study in over 140 countries. More than 360,000 Fulbright recipients have participated in the program since its inception in 1946.

Four additional Georgia College students were recipients of the Fulbright in the past 10 years. That includes Lisa Baer to Mongolia in 2012; Audrey Waits to Finland and Kevin Morris to Macedonia in 2017; and Janileyah Thompson to South Korea in 2018.

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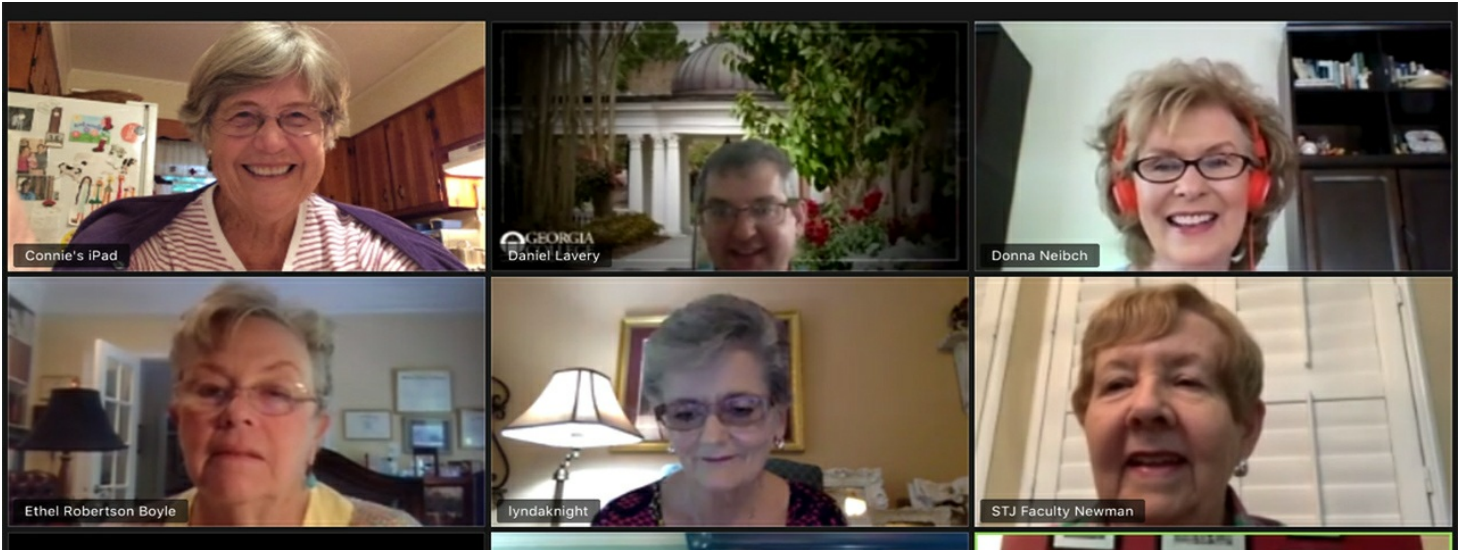
The Fulbright Scholarship is one of the nation’s most prestigious postgraduate fellowships. The fact that we have semi-finalists in a broad range of disciplines – STEM, social science, humanities and the arts – really shows the degree to which Georgia College prepares our students and graduates to compete on the national stage.

- Anna Whiteside

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“The Fulbright Scholarship is one of the nation’s most prestigious postgraduate fellowships,” Whiteside said. “The fact that we have semi-finalists in a broad range of disciplines –STEM, social science, humanities and the arts – really shows the degree to which Georgia College prepares our students and graduates to compete on the national stage.”

In addition to the two Fulbright finalists and alternate—another recent graduate was honored with Germany’s equivalent to the Fulbright. Math and physics graduate **Cain Gantt** of Johns Creek, Georgia, received a German Academic Exchange Service (DADD) to pursue his graduate degree at the Universität Hamburg.



Virtual class reunions fill void for connections during social distancing

[University Advancement](#) : Thursday May 7, 2020

In April, 55 alumnae participated in one of 10 virtual class reunions from 1960 to 1969. The sessions proved to be lively and spirited, with participants donning Georgia College colors and mascot accessories.

Many alumnae from across Georgia and as far as California and Arizona, had not seen each other since their last reunion, which, for many, was several years ago.

"They loved it," said Dan Lavery, "Everyone was very festive and a lot of fun. Dr. Dorman joined us for many of the sessions, and he was laughing along with them as they shared stories about how they were dealing with the current state of affairs."

Alumnae shared what they were doing to keep themselves busy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some had taken up gardening, while others tried new recipes.

[Class of '68 virtual reunion](#)

Lavery plans to hold more virtual reunions in the future, because of the positive feedback he received from alumnae. He plans to hold the sessions in the fall and spring and as well as holidays.

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“We couldn’t write the history of Georgia College without the classes of the 1960s with all the change that happened on campus and around the world. Now we can add to that legacy—the first classes to ever meet virtually from across the country. Their legacy at Georgia College continues to shape how we move forward as a campus community.”

- Dan Lavery

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Lavery also created a working group to host more virtual reunions for the more-recent classes.

“We couldn’t write the history of Georgia College without the classes of the 1960s with all the change that happened on campus and around the world,” he said. “Now we can add to that legacy—the first classes to ever meet virtually from across the country. Their legacy at Georgia College continues to shape how we move forward as a campus community.”

Lavery wants to continue bringing campus to alumni virtually.

“Their legacy at Georgia College is the foundation for all that we achieve today,” he said. “Virtual reunions afford us a great opportunity to not only talk about but actually see how much campus has changed and, almost as importantly, how it has not, since their time here as a student. Plus, anytime we can gather as a group is always a lot of fun.”

News Stories Posted Tuesday May 12, 2020



USG COVID-19 safety video

[University Communications](#) : Tuesday May 12, 2020

As USG institutions plan for the return of face-to-face instruction this fall, there is no higher priority than the health and safety of students, faculty and staff. We ask everyone to do their part to keep our campus communities and visitors safe.

[USG video on COVID-19 safety](#)

News Stories Posted Friday May 22, 2020



Environmental Science student named NOAA Hollings Scholar

[Biology & Environmental Sciences, Department of](#): Friday May 22, 2020

A Georgia College environmental science major is one of only two students in the state to win a distinguished national science scholarship named after the late Senator Ernest F. Hollings, who supported ocean policy and conservation.

Junior Nadya Gutierrez of Johns Creek was recently selected as a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA](#)) [Hollings Scholar](#). This honor includes a two-year academic award of \$9,500, a 10-week paid summer internship at a NOAA facility and funding to present her NOAA research at two national scientific conferences.

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It's very competitive—only 123 scholarships were awarded across the country this year.

- Anna Whiteside

“It’s very competitive—only 123 scholarships were awarded across the country this year,” said Anna Whiteside, assistant director of Georgia College’s Honors Program and coordinator of its National Scholarships Office.

“Nadya has an excellent academic record and has shown a commitment to NOAA-related fields,” Whiteside said. “This award will give Nadya the unique opportunity to get hands-on experience as an intern at NOAA, as well as the opportunity to join an esteemed network of scholars.”

The scholarship was established in 2005. To be considered, college sophomores must major in a NOAA mission field such as oceanic, environmental, biological and atmospheric sciences, math, engineering, remote sensing technology, physical sciences, social sciences or teacher education.



Nadya Gutierrez is a junior environmental science major and geology minor.

Gutierrez was referred to the National Scholarship Office by one of her professors, Dr. Allison VandeVoort. She applied, excited by the chance to work with professionals in careers she dreams of joining.

“It’s such an honor to be selected for this scholarship,” Gutierrez said. “I am very humbled and grateful for such an amazing opportunity. It will help me in so many ways by giving me

experience in conducting and presenting research.”

Her application stood out, she thinks, because of Georgia College’s commitment to undergraduate research. Last year, Gutierrez explored the infrastructure of dams and how they affect macroinvertebrates populations. Most students wouldn’t begin such study until junior year, she said.

Gutierrez also worked as a supplemental instructor leader at the Learning Center for Biology and Ecology. This tutoring experience—as well as her geology minor and high school involvement at national environmental science competitions—made her a well-rounded candidate.

Her hope is to get an internship that benefits the livelihood of Americans and helps her gain a deeper understanding of the world. She’d like to study population

ecology in estuary ecosystems and learn how urban runoff affects different populations in natural habitats. Gutierrez hopes to present management plans that restore estuaries.

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I am very grateful for the scholarship I've been awarded, but I am more excited for the internship that comes with the program. There aren't many opportunities to conduct mentored research with professionals from federal agencies such as NOAA.

- Nadya Gutierrez

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“I am very grateful for the scholarship I've been awarded,” she said, “but I am more excited for the internship that comes with the program. There aren't many opportunities to conduct mentored research with professionals from federal agencies such as NOAA.”

The internship could open the door to working with other governmental agencies in the future. Gutierrez hopes to someday work for NOAA, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) or the DNR (Department of Natural Resources).

Being a NOAA Hollings Scholar gives Gutierrez confidence to try other national competitions in the future as well, like the Fulbright or Rhodes scholarships. It'll also make her more competitive when applying to graduate school.

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In the future, I hope to work for a government agency that promotes the sustainability and health of all people. This internship program, hopefully, will help me get my dream job.

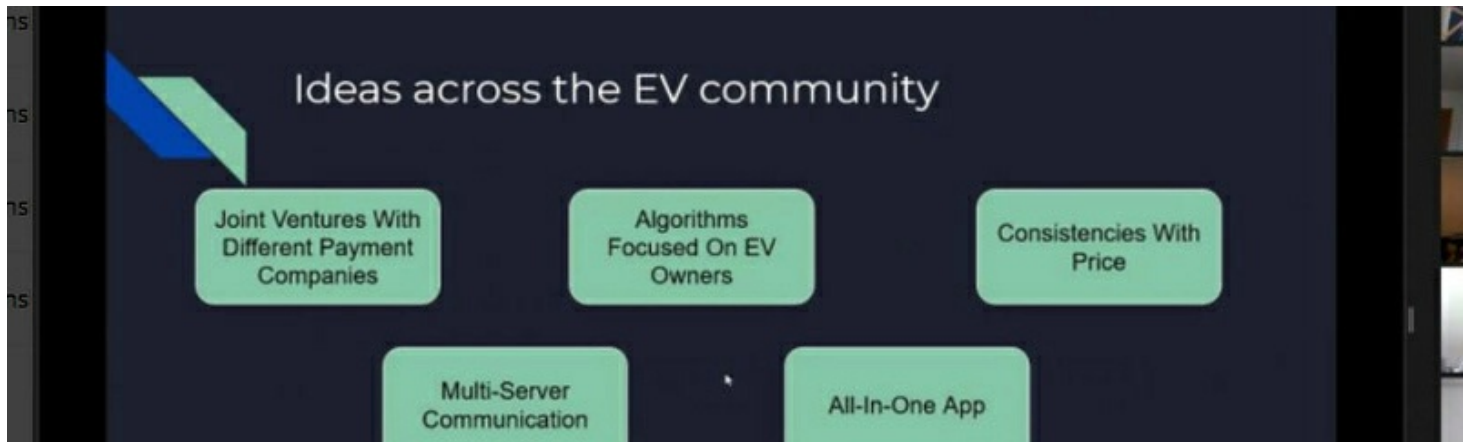
- Nadya Gutierrez

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Nadya Gutierrez

News Stories Posted Thursday May 28, 2020



Virtual study abroad provides hands-on learning for students

[Information Systems & Computer Science, Department of](#): Thursday May 28, 2020

Dozens of Georgia College students take advantage of study abroad opportunities each summer. They usually learn, explore, conduct research, provide health care and engage in communities around the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed that for the summer of 2020. All in-country study abroads were cancelled or postponed until next year. The outside-the-box thinking of a Georgia College faculty member has allowed one study abroad to continue in a creative form.

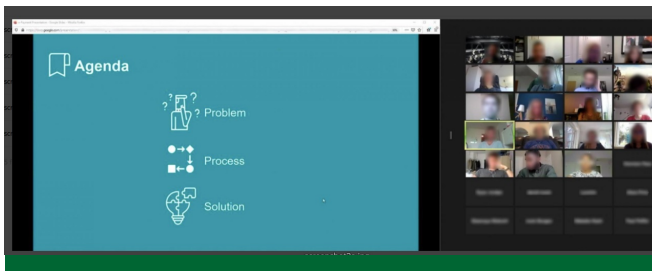
"We were originally supposed to be in Europe May 12- June 2," said Dr. Joy Godin, associate professor of information systems. "I decided to try to rework the experience to have it take place online."

Twelve GC students were scheduled to go to the Netherlands, Germany and France. They were given the option to complete the course this year in a digital format or try to go on the study abroad next year, if possible.

"Three GC students are in the online class this summer. The others opted to go next year,"

said Godin.

The students will get much of the same experience originally planned, just in a



Student collaborate in virtual meeting.

virtual setting. They are partnering with students from the University of Muenster in Germany and the University of West Georgia to solve a business case problem for a German business.

senior year with a study abroad hoping it would “be a one-of-a-kind experience to remember for years to come.”

Even though his plans changed, the management information systems major decided to make the most of the opportunity at hand.

“I felt confident that our program facilitators would do a fantastic job, given the circumstances, to provide an outstanding experience for all students participating in the program,” he said.

The foundation of the experience began with virtual Design Thinking Training by SAP, which is a company that provides end-to-end enterprise application software, database, analytics, intelligent technologies and experience management.

“Design Thinking is a five-step approach which centers around a user,” said Lamb. “It is an iterative process, which means the team constantly circles back to the user to ensure they address all concerns that the user has. The iterative nature allows for a more clearer understanding of what the problem actually is, so that a team can develop a tailored solution.”

Initially only American students were scheduled to attend, but since it was moved online instead of in-person at the offices in Atlanta, German students were involved as well. The students worked in their global virtual teams using a cloud-based system called Mural.

“Learning the phases of Design Thinking, the teams worked in breakout sessions and brainstormed with virtual post-it notes and voting tools in Mural to create potential solutions to reimagining the college experience in the new normal,” said Godin.

For students like Lamb, the training coupled with the work they’re doing with the German company gives them real-world experience for their future career.

“Given that organizations are conducting more business internationally,

Logan Lamb planned to cap his



Logan Lamb

experiences like the ones we are having now inside of our class with virtual team meetings, will better prepare me for the workforce,” said Lamb, who will soon be working as a full-time logistics manager at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia.

For other students, this opportunity wouldn’t have been possible without the virtual component.

“I never thought a study abroad would be a possibility for me as a graduate student maintaining a full-time job,” said David Mack, who is in the Master of Management Information Systems program. “This became available to me because of the pandemic and the requirement for the class to be done remotely.”

“I thought it would be a great opportunity to work with foreign students,” he said. Mack hopes to use the experience to learn to better “work with a geographically diverse set of students and become better at working in groups.”



Graduate student
David Mack.

The students from all three universities recently held a video conference meeting with the German company Cronos, an IT consulting company that is a SAP consulting partner. Cronos described four issues related to electronic cars that many of their customers’ face.

The students were then put in international teams and asked to brainstorm and compare how the issues impact both the U.S. and German citizens.



Senior Ally Bass.

“My group has already been able to come up with multiple ideas and solutions for the business case that was given to us. Additionally, I have had a lot of fun working with other students from different universities,” said senior Ally Bass, an accounting major and management information systems minor. I have had a lot of fun working with other students from different universities.

“This project is giving our students an opportunity to collaborate virtually on an actual German company’s business case problem to develop a solution,” Godin said. “The students are learning to work virtually and overcome time zone and language challenges while incorporating Design Thinking creative strategies to solve issues related to electronic vehicles.”

At the end of the course, teams will present their prototypes to Cronos for

feedback and attend a virtual SAP sponsored innovation training from the SAP Leonardo Center in Paris.

“Overall, I think this has been a unique and rewarding experience for our students giving them the opportunity to develop virtual collaboration skills as well as creative problem solving techniques,” she said.

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I would like to thank Dr. Godin for this amazing learning opportunity. I would not have been able to experience this project without her help.

-Senior Ally Bass

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