

# Front Page News Story Archive

July 2022

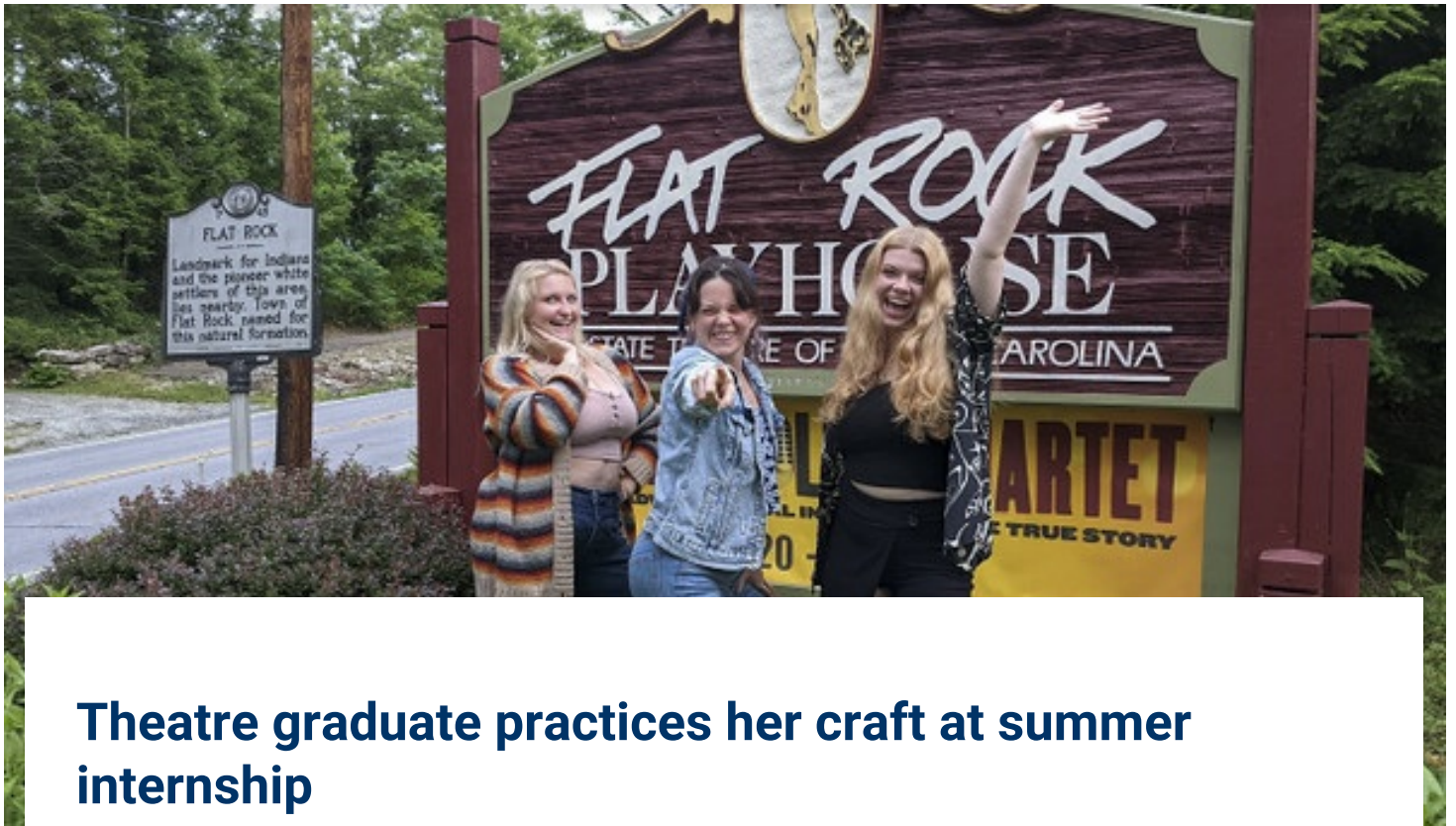




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# News Stories Posted Wednesday July 6, 2022



## Theatre graduate practices her craft at summer internship

[Theatre & Dance, Department of](#): Wednesday July 6, 2022

Erden Mohl is painting scenery this summer—exquisite, authentic-looking bricks and wood grains—for a production at Flat Rock Playhouse in North Carolina.

Mohl is one of more than 120 Georgia College students and recent graduates doing internships this summer. It's a perfect transition between school and the workforce, giving the theatre major a chance to build upon skills she learned at Georgia College.

"The challenge of leaving behind this community that I've grown accustomed to for the last four years was difficult. Graduating is so exciting, but it seriously took a bit to really wrap my head around it," Mohl said.

"The huge changes and twists and turns of transitioning into post-college life were hurdles that I feel lucky to have overcome," she added. "The internship helps by allowing me to learn on the job and also work and network with some amazing artists."

Internships are on the rise again. Prior to Covid, more than 230 students a year did internships at 167 employment sites. They're a great way for students to get their

feet wet, learn from professionals and explore career options.

As trainees, interns gain confidence and valuable work experience. They also get a competitive advantage in the job market—if not an actual job offer.

About 95% of Georgia College students receive job offers at the end of their internships, according to Brittany Archer, assistant director of employer relations and internships at the University Career Center. The other 5% would've been given jobs based on their performance, employers reported, if there were openings at the time.



Erden Mohl works on stage scenery.

“

**I've seen first-hand the benefits a student receives from completing an internship. A huge part of student development here at Georgia College is self-awareness and self-promotion, and our internship program strives to help a student master those professional skills.**

**- Brittany Archer**

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“Internships offer high-impact learning opportunities where students can get hands-on experiences and both develop and improve the transferable skills that we place a huge focus on as part of our liberal arts mission,” Archer said.

“I've seen first-hand the benefits a student receives from completing an internship,” she said. “A huge part of student development here at Georgia College is self-awareness and self-promotion, and our internship program strives to help a student master those professional skills.”

Internships also play an important part in the GC Journeys program, serving as one of the five ways students can have transformative experiences outside the classroom. Other ways include study abroad, research, leadership and community-based engagement.



Mohl created realistic brickwork for a play this summer.

Mohl is certainly experiencing a transformation this summer.

After prominent acting and directing roles in Georgia College productions of “Heathers: The Musical,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Ballet Russes” and “Ride the Cyclone,” Mohl can now add realistic set designs to her portfolio.

For Flat Rock’s “West Side Story,” she took scenery created by carpenters and treated them with various paint products to produce real-world effects. She created wood grains, bricks and other textures seen in cities.

“As an artist, it’s important to understand what others do,” Mohl said. “Collaboration is really the core of everything in theatre, so I felt I could be a

better team member if I understood what other positions entail.”

“With scenic painting, I get to really contribute to what the world of the play looks like,” she said. “You get to transform the scenery into something amazing.”

Flat Rock Playhouse is a full community experience. Mohl lives and works in the historic village of Flat Rock. She walks to work and helps direct parking for performances. She’s experimenting with materials, like joint compound mixtures, and learning new things, like spatter paint techniques.

“

**I wanted a collaborative and hands-on experience, and that’s exactly what I’m getting here.**

**- Mohl**

”

For her, the internship checks all the boxes.





Mohl works on scenery with a co-worker.

“I wanted a collaborative and hands-on experience, and that’s exactly what I’m getting here,” Mohl said. “The caliber of theatre this playhouse accomplishes is astounding. I feel proud to be a part of it.”

Mohl is quick to say she wouldn’t be where she is today without Georgia College. The class of 2022 was deeply affected by Covid. Unlike other playhouses around the country, the Georgia College Theatre and Dance Department went on with the show. Many productions during the pandemic were filmed and streamed online.

“Theatre was heavily affected by Covid because it’s a human craft for humans, and Covid didn’t allow us to have human experiences,” Mohl said. “I can’t thank the professors at Georgia College enough for their commitment to continuing our theatre experience in whatever form possible during that time.”

Her classes at Georgia College heavily contributed to Mohl’s professional development. Her favorites were play analysis, directing and advanced acting. She especially thanks Amy Pinney and Isaac Ramsey for their “incredible and impactful” mentorship. They challenged and pushed her to grow as an artist.

Mohl applies everything she learned to her internship. It has reinforced her passion for all aspects of performance.

“

**Putting an audience into a world where they can really allow themselves to**

enjoy a story is very rewarding. I'm learning so much and making art with great people. Seeing my work under lights and in interaction with the performers is a feeling like no other.

- Erden Mohl

”





# News Stories Posted Thursday July 7, 2022



## **Macon Bacon player becomes well-seasoned in baseball and life**

**[Athletics](#)** : Thursday July 7, 2022

Georgia College junior Dominic Arienzo has been playing baseball since age four. It's a skill that came natural to him. The Morgan County native plays baseball for Georgia College and the Macon Bacon—a Macon, Georgia, based wood-bat collegiate summer baseball team that plays in the Coastal Plain League.

Arienzo chose to play for the Macon Bacon, so he could be closer to home during the summer. Last summer he played baseball in Boone, North Carolina.

"The level of competition I was going to be playing with the Bacon is very good," he said. "I wanted to see this type of competition day-in and day-out."

Before their season, the Macon Bacon coaches contacted Georgia College's Head Baseball Coach, Nolan Belcher. He arranged for Arienzo to play in Macon.

"Dominic seemed like the type of player they were looking for to put on a temporary contract," Belcher said. "He's a talented, high-character young man."

Arienzo plays mainly shortstop and sometimes middle infield with the Macon Bacon. When the team had its opening game, he couldn't believe the size of the



crowd, which was over 2,000 people.

“It was the biggest crowd I’ve ever played in front of,” Arienzo said. “The crowd keeps the game fun. And sometimes I get wrapped up in the competitiveness of it all.”

“

**“I’ve always found it easy to make friends while playing baseball, because I have so many things in common with the other players. No matter where these players came from, we all get along because of our similarities and the love for the game.”**

**- Dominic Arienzo**



Dominic Arienzo/Photo credit: Ty Van Duyn

”

Arienzo’s stats are quite impressive consisting of seven hits with two doubles, one home run and seven runs batted in (RBI). His first at-bat appearance as a Macon Bacon player was a two-run home run when he played in Lexington, South Carolina.

His teammates come from different backgrounds and states like Alabama, Florida, Minnesota, South Carolina and Washington.

“I’ve always found it easy to make friends while playing baseball, because I have so many things in common with the other players,” he said. “No matter where these players came from, we all get along because of our similarities and the love for the game.”

Playing for the Macon Bacon over the summer helps Arienzo’s Bobcat baseball career, where he plays shortstop and second base.

“I get to continue to improve myself while facing some good competition,” he said. “Since the Macon Bacon plays in the Coastal Plains League, there are many players who come from bigger schools. So, I get to see some competition I wouldn’t



Dominic Arienzo playing for the Macon Bacon. Photo credit: Ty Van Duyn

normally be exposed to.”

Playing this sport taught him some important life lessons.

“I learned how to communicate with professors if I am struggling, because I always communicate with my coach. So, I hold that same regard to my professors,” Arienzo said.

“Baseball also taught me how to manage my time with school, lifts, practices and even my

friends. It becomes tough, but time management is a very important skill to have.”

In addition, playing baseball taught Arienzo to be open and how to talk to people—something he can use in his future career.

“Coaches love when you are open and easy to talk to about things,” he said. “A big part of that is being low maintenance and highly productive.”

Arienzo also applies what he’s learned from playing baseball at Georgia College to the Macon Bacon.

“I used many baseball-related terms and mechanics that make me have a better summer playing baseball,” Arienzo said. “What I really took in was how to play hard with passion, because that’s what is taught at Georgia College.”



## **Athletic summer camps are a blast for kids and coaches**

**[Continuing & Professional Education](#)** : Thursday July 7, 2022

### **[Video](#)**

At Centennial Center and on West Campus athletic fields this summer, youngsters can be seen running to-and-fro kicking balls, whacking balls, dribbling balls and scurrying after balls.

It may be hot. But to the more than 200 kids, aged 5 to 17, playing tennis, soccer, softball, baseball and basketball at one of Georgia College's eight athletic camps—it's pure fun.

"The kids who come to our camp are very much beginners. They come because it's a lot of fun. It's a great time," said Steve Barsby, head tennis coach and assistant director for athletics business and finance.

"The skills we teach them are so basic. It's very easy, and they improve so fast," he said. "They didn't even know how to grip the racket on day one and by the third day, they're hitting a forehand, back hand. It's actually very rewarding for the players who work here."

Barsby was 13 when he started tennis camp. His mother said he had too much



energy and signed him up.

“Since that day, I’ve loved it,” Barsby said. “It’s kind of been a part of my life ever since.”



Steve Barsby gives tennis tips to campers.

He’s like a stand-up comedian towering over a crowd of little heads. They look up to him and laugh at his jokes. He sings to the music and has a way of making each one of them feel special. He joins the student coaches in yelling out constant encouragement: “Good going!” “Nice one!” “Almost!” “Keep trying!”

After 23 years at Georgia College, Barsby is now teaching

the children of parents he coached years ago.

“It’s interesting to see that come full circle,” he said. “It’s been an amazing place, the growth, the campus facilities—everything. It’s been amazing. I’ve loved every minute of it.”

For more than three decades, thousands of area youth have learned to play sports at university athletic camps. The summer ritual means as much to the Georgia College students, who help coach, as it does for the kids who learn and practice their skills.

During tennis camp, there are morning drills, ground strokes, volleys and serves with plenty of water breaks in between. After lunch, coaches and kids play games like trivia or shoot basketball hoops before getting wet in the pool.

Recent nursing graduate Emma Fleming of Suwanee, Georgia, is now getting a master’s in health and human performance. She played varsity tennis for four years and enjoys passing on the love of sports.

“Now I know how to coach the kids. I know what they need to hear,” Fleming said, “It’s all about



kids having fun and playing games. They're learning while they're here, but also I hope they enjoy this part of their summer."

A player practices backhand with recent graduate Emma Fleming.

Nathan Haines of Buford, Georgia, '17, has a degree in business management from Georgia College, and is now getting his master's in supply chain logistics. He had little experience with tennis but signed on to coach anyway, because he wanted to give back to the university and community.

“

**It's a tennis camp, obviously, but it's something more than that for the kids. We're trying to give them the fundamentals of tennis but, really, just make them fall in love with the sport.**

**- Nathan Haines**

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Steven Hart lunges for the ball.

One 2nd grade boy, Steven Hart from Monticello almost whacked a tennis ball over the fence. He gave a big smile full of missing teeth and said, "I want to be a professional tennis player when I grow up."

Another player, 6th grader Zach Wilson of Milledgeville, has been coming to tennis camp for five years. It's an easy place to make friends and learn new skills.

"The atmosphere is just great," Wilson said. "My backhand is not amazing, but it's getting better. I went to a different tennis camp at one point, but the coaches didn't explain things as well as these coaches."

On the soccer field, head women's soccer coach Tinna Gallagher leads Georgia College students in coaching young football wannabes. Gallagher was raised in Iceland and has fond memories of smelling the newly cut grass at soccer camp.

In Georgia, it's a bit hotter. About 30 campers were red-faced and sweating but—like their tennis counterparts—smiling broadly. They did ice breakers to get to know each other. Then, got right to work on kicking skills.

"I'm happy that I can do this here at Georgia College and make some memories





**Tinna Gallagher instructs youth before soccer drills.**

and build those relationships in the community and with the kids," Gallagher said. "It's the fun of it. Competing is fun. Having teammates and friends and coming out and exercising—it's fun."

In soccer camps, players learn to dribble and kick balls. Drills are built around familiar games like "Red Light, Green Light," "Knockout" or "Simon Says." Older players do more technical

work like juggling, long ball, shooting and one-on-one moves.

The days ends with cannonballs in the pool.

For Gallagher's student coaches, camp also means acquiring skills that will help them in the future. They learn to be on time and work with others. They become good leaders and impact children's lives in a positive way.



**Sophomore Aralyn Everett, top left, passes along her love for soccer.**

Sophomore Aralyn Everett of Covington, Georgia, is double majoring in criminal justice and philosophy. She's been playing soccer since age 3. The challenge in coaching is watching kids become frustrated. Everett tries to cheer them up. She doesn't want them to ever give up.

“

**I want to be a great coach for them and help them have a really good experience and maybe love the game like I do.**

**- Aralyn Everett**

”

“I love little kids. I remember being their age and wanting to learn how to play soccer,” Everett said. “I want to be a great coach for them and help them have a really good experience and maybe love the game like I do.”

Jackson Chobeo, 11, is in 5th grade in Jupiter, Florida. While visiting his grandparents in Milledgeville, Chobeo comes to soccer camp at Georgia College.

“The coaches are wonderful,” Chobeo said. “My student coaches, when I was failing, helped me out,” he said. “I was striving, and they really helped me develop a lot. They're very encouraging.”







## Summer internship reveals new career possibilities

[Psychological Science, Department of](#) : Thursday July 7, 2022

Georgia College senior psychology major Rachel McQuinn opened her mind to new career possibilities she never considered before. At her summer internship, she cares for patients at the Bradley Center's Intake Center of St. Francis Hospital—a psychiatric residency in Columbus, Georgia.

"When I chose this internship, I felt like it was going to be a part of psychology that I never let myself explore," she said. "I thought I would personally carry people's struggles home with me, but that's not the case."

McQuinn never considered therapy and clinical psychology as potential career paths until now.

"I know when our patients leave here, we've helped them all we can," she said. "It's an opportunity for me to explore these fields as a possible career."

McQuinn didn't waste any time landing her internship. She started interning at the Bradley Center the Monday after she completed spring semester. Her internship counts as two classes or six credit hours in psychology.

"I had to start pretty quickly, so I could get the 240 hours I need during the summer," McQuinn said.

The Bradley Center is a crisis stabilization facility used to treat individuals of all ages who have active addictions and/or mental health issues. McQuinn chose this internship so she could work more closely with patients and learn how to help them.

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**"I've never considered a clinical route before now. This experience made me rethink my entire career path, because I love it so much. It's such a unique opportunity that it's really opened my eyes to what I could truly get out of a psychology bachelor's degree, master's degree in clinical or behavioral psychology and possibly a doctorate."**

**- Rachel McQuinn**



Rachel McQuinn works at the Bradley Center's Intake Center.

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Her duties include taking patients' vital signs to ensure they're stable enough to be admitted, observing intake assessments and reviewing intake referrals to place patients with behavioral health issues at other facilities. McQuinn prepares the faxed referrals to be presented and attends the meetings in which the referrals are reviewed and discussed.

Her favorite part of her internship is knowing that every patient can receive help to make changes in their lives.

"I've never considered a clinical route before now," McQuinn said. "This experience made me rethink my entire career path, because I love it so much. It's such a unique opportunity that it's really opened my eyes to what I could truly get out of a psychology bachelor's degree, master's degree in clinical or behavioral psychology and possibly a doctorate."



The patients who impact her the most at the Bradley Center are children and teenagers.

“Every patient is important to me, and I fight for everyone I have,” she said. “But the kids and teenagers have touched my heart the most. I feel like if you can intervene early on, then later, they have the tools they need to be more equipped to handle crisis, stress or anxiety in their lives.”



Rachel McQuinn

McQuinn has thought about becoming a child and family psychiatrist. But, for now, she remains flexible about her career path. What she knows for sure is she wants to help people.

With her internship more than half over, McQuinn especially enjoys learning something new every day.

“I am very grateful to The Bradley Center of St. Francis for this amazing opportunity. It's been extremely rewarding,” she said. “I love that when I leave every day, I know we've helped every person who has come through the door. Even if a patient doesn't meet the inpatient criteria, they're either given outpatient care or referred to a therapist. So, each person who enters our facility will leave with some guidance.”

# News Stories Posted Friday July 8, 2022



## Escape to Alumni Weekend, loaded with fun-filled activities and life-long learning experiences

[Alumni](#) : Friday July 8, 2022

Georgia College has pulled out all the stops to provide alumni with an unforgettable experience during Alumni Weekend to be held Thursday, Nov. 3 through Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022. From the 4<sup>th</sup> annual “A Night Under the Stars” event, providing top-notch entertainment, to a distinctive dinner with Georgia College President Cathy Cox, the schedule is packed with delightful activities.

Exciting happenings abound all weekend with a schedule that highlights alumni. Plus, some surprise events will be sure to please.

“We are finalizing details on some new events,” said Tre’ Johnson, assistant director of awards, collaborations and reunions. “However, I can assure alumni we are looking into events that will provide life-long learning experiences for them in hopes of developing their personal and professional growth.”



In 2021, approximately 600 alumni attended in person or virtually. This year, that number is expected to rise significantly given the slate of activities.

The Class of 1972 will host its 50th class reunion. Attendees will visit recently renovated East Campus, known as Lake Laurel, take a trolley tour of Milledgeville and enjoy a special dinner at the Old Governor's Mansion with Cox.



Ross Sheppard, '13, receives the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business Award from Dean Dr. Micheal Stratton in 2021.



Voices of Joy members captivate the audience with song during Alumni Weekend 2021.

Class of 1972 members will receive their registration packets this summer. Each mailer includes a welcome letter, schedule of events, hotel information and much more.

"It's important for alumni to know this weekend is all about them," Johnson said.

"We offer opportunities for alumni to grow but also have a great time socializing

with fellow alumni as a whole,” he said. “While alumni will most certainly recall their fondest memories when visiting campus, they will get a glimpse of what Georgia College is today and the positive ventures of our faculty, staff and students.

Last year, Georgia College Alumni Board Member I. “Michelle” Benjamin Hendricks, '96, attended Alumni Weekend for the first time. Since she was a nontraditional student, attending classes at night, she missed out on the day-to-day campus activities during college. Now, Hendricks wants to take full advantage of campus events.

She sees the weekend as an opportunity to connect with fellow alumni and learn how their skills and experience could benefit current students.

“You know first-hand the education and valuable life lessons that can come out of the university,” Hendricks said. “You can use that knowledge to shape current and future students. It’s important to pass this on for the success of yourself, the students and university.”

“

**We offer opportunities for alumni to grow but also have a great time socializing with fellow alumni as a whole. While alumni will most certainly recall their fondest memories when visiting campus, they will get a glimpse of what Georgia College is today and the positive ventures of our faculty, staff and students.**

**- Tre' Johnson**

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Mary Rob Plunkett, '11, was inducted into the Georgia College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2021.

Registration for Alumni Weekend opens Monday, July 25. Alumni have until Friday,



Oct. 14, to register. It's important to register early, so Georgia College can accommodate alumni who wish to attend.

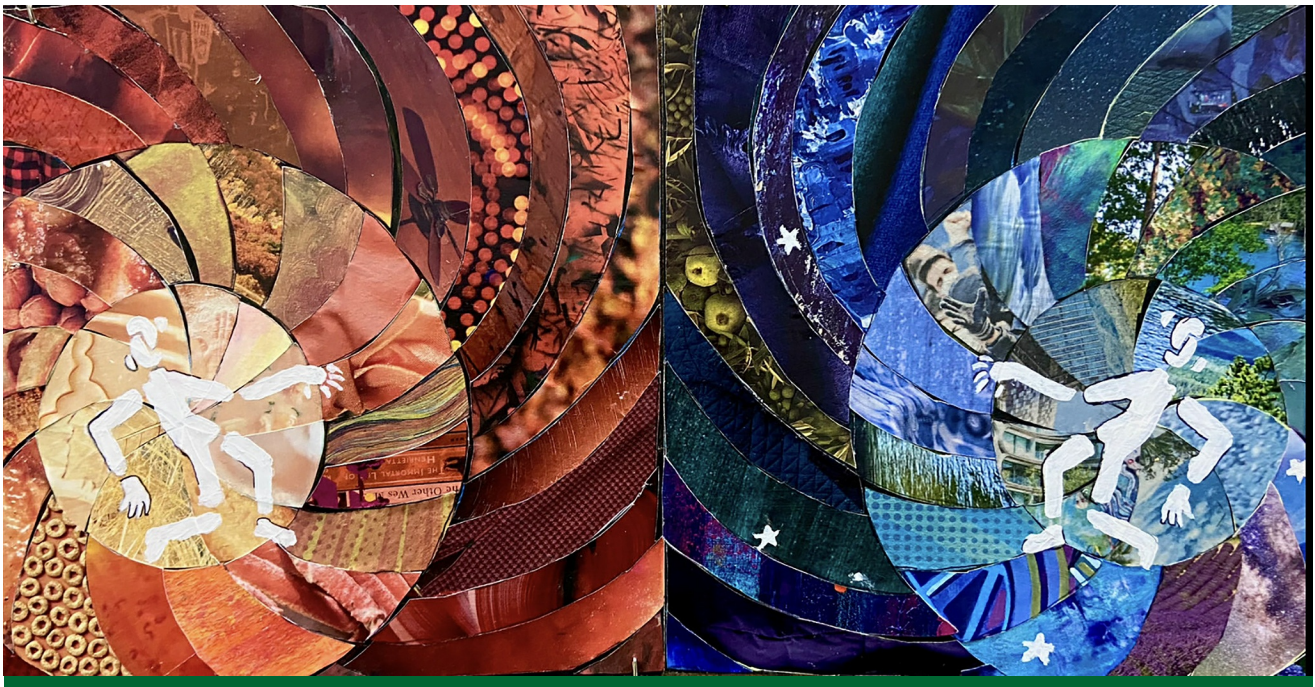
# News Stories Posted Friday July 15, 2022



## Class of 2026: Art major aspires to tell story behind artwork

[Art, Department of](#) : Friday July 15, 2022

When creativity strikes, art major Lizzy Crump of Alpharetta, Georgia, draws her thoughts down on paper. The scope of her artistic subjects is limitless—as far as her imagination takes her.



Lizzy Crump's mixed-media work.

Crump has always liked to draw, but her passion to illustrate was truly awakened in middle school. She started drawing more and continued through her senior year of high school.

"I remember getting in trouble with some of my teachers for drawing on my homework," Crump said. "That's what inspired me to begin my school doodles on notebook paper to avoid drawing on my school work."

She prefers to illustrate with marker.





Lizzy Crump sports a Vincent van Gogh design scarf.

"I always thought in order to be a true artist, you need to use high-quality Copic markers, because that's what the artists I admired used," she said. "Now I know the you don't have to use a specific material to be a good artist, but my love of markers has carried on. Markers are more convenient than colored pencils. And I like to layer the colors."

She also enjoys working with mixed media—a combination of different types of materials.

"I like to incorporate collage elements into my art, because it makes me more aware of the world around me," Crump said. "For example, instead of just seeing an ad for a chicken recipe at Publix, I see a blue background that would work well as a denim jacket, and an orange that would work well as somebody's hair."

She is also fond of creating original character illustrations, some of which are based on stuffed animals she had since she was six years old.

"I basically daydreamed about them so much that they became characters," Crump said. "Those characters still live on today. I enjoy taking my ideas and bringing them into the physical world."

Drawing gives Crump a strong sense of fulfillment. Once she has completed a

satisfactory piece, she's excited to tackle the next drawing.

"When I make something I really like, I'll just stare at it, because I conceptualized this thing and brought it into the world," she said.

"Sometimes I like drawing fan art, but mostly I draw content with my original characters," Crump said. "Since I'm the only one really able to do that, it's very gratifying for me to draw them and then be able to say, 'hey, look, this is my little guy that I created.'"

“

**"When I make something I really like, I'll just stare at it, because I conceptualized this thing and brought it into the world."**

**- Lizzy Crump**

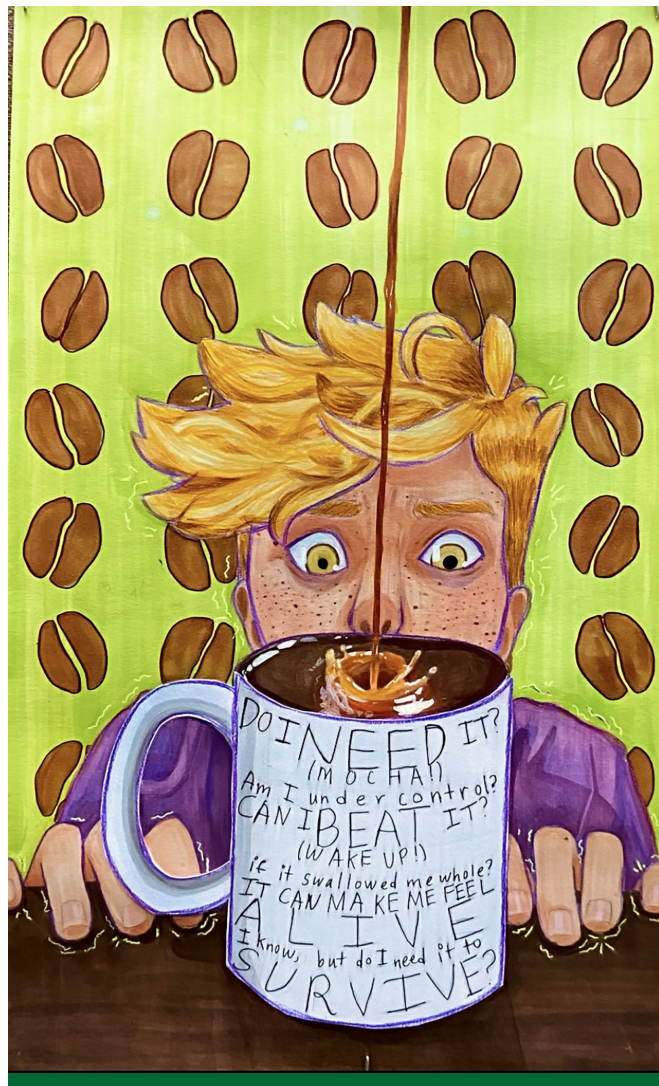
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Her major is art with a concentration in museum studies.

"I'm able to take an art history: renaissance and contemporary class my first year," she said. "It's pretty exciting to get to take a class related to my major so early in my college experience."

Although Crump likes making art, she would rather keep it as a hobby and make a living working in a museum. Her career goal is to make art come alive as a curator in an art museum like the High Museum in Atlanta or Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but she's also willing to work as a guide in a nonart setting like Fernbank or Zoo Atlanta.

"While art is very important to me, I'm primarily drawn to the tour guide aspect at a museum," Crump said. "I feel my purpose on earth is to share information with



Another one of Lizzy Crump's creative pieces.

others in an interesting setting.”





## **Class of 2026: Political science major wants to be U.S. President some day**

[Government & Sociology, Department of](#): Friday July 15, 2022

**Samantha (Sam) Paton**

**Town/state:** Marietta, Georgia

**Major/minor:** I'm double majoring in political science and criminal justice with a minor in economics. I've always been interested in government and law since I was a kid. History and government have been my strongest subjects in school. It's in my best interests to study something I enjoy and am good at.

**Why Georgia College?** I like GCSU because of the small environment and smaller class sizes. I'd like to be able to get to know my professors one-on-one, and I'd like to know all my classmates and interact with them in smaller class settings. I also like how GCSU is located in Milledgeville. Since I'm interested government and history, the city of Milledgeville has such a draw for me, because it used to be Georgia's capital. I'm also very interested in the Georgia College Honors College. I'm glad I get to participate in that part of campus life.

**Biggest achievements in high school:** In high school, I was part of students against human trafficking and worked with local organizations to help trafficking victims





Alternate Text

and help to stop human trafficking. I worked to help get Georgia First Lady, Marty Kemp, to work with the club. We coincided with her task force and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). I also joined a political campaign in March of 2022, spring semester of my senior year. I started working as an intern for the campaign. This opened so many doors for me in the political world and is great

experience for my future career.

**Activities to pursue in college:** At GCSU, I'm interested in joining the Student Government Association (SGA) and running for senator my first year and higher-level positions, such as vice president and president, in later years. I would also like to join Mock Trial and other politically related clubs.

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**My positive attitude can be seen and heard from a mile away.**

**- Sam Paton**

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**Most looking forward to:** I'm most excited for honors college related activities, such as seminars and team building activities. I'm also excited about clubs and SGA. I look forward to making friends and interacting with people who share similar interests.

**Qualities she brings to campus:** I will bring energy and empowerment to GCSU. My positive attitude can be seen and heard from a mile away. I will bring leadership and determination to the campus, as well. I hope to encourage others to be their best selves, as I do myself.

**Future plans:** After college, I plan to work on campaigns and run for state and federal offices. I would like to be President of the United States one day! My dream retirement job is to become a political commentator.





## What's really on their minds: Incoming students and parents answer vital questions

[Undergraduate Admissions](#) : Friday July 15, 2022

Let's skip to what's most important—right past why they chose Georgia College, what clubs they're interested in and what careers loom in their futures.

How will incoming students deal with homesickness?

Will parents redecorate their rooms at home?

For these and other essentials—read on.





**Communication major Michael Gomez of Peachtree City with mom, Tracey.**

Michael Gomez plans to deal with homesickness by not going home. And he means it. His first visit with mom and dad back in Peachtree City is TBD (To Be Determined). Meanwhile, Tracey, his mother, plans to work more hours as a nurse, so she doesn't miss Michael so much.

Will she repurpose his room at home? Michael nods a definitive NO. But mom said his room needs cleaning, painting and remodeling. She won't miss his "mess."

They plan to stay in touch regularly by text. Michael said he'll miss his mom's eggs in the morning and somewhat miss their mutt, Kiki, who's gotten on his nerves lately.

The coolest thing he's bringing to his dorm room is his PC for gaming.

Mom's best parting parental advice: "Follow the rules. MY rules."

Good luck with that, Michael.



Lori Eberly of Waynesboro with her dad, Eldon. Eberly wants to major in business.

Lori Eberly is a middle child of 10 and not leaving behind too empty of a nest. Her dad, Eldon, will miss her but after the first few leave, he said, “you kind of get used to it.”

Lori will call her family and visit often to deal with homesickness. Some things she’ll miss the most—her dad “grills a pretty good steak” and her black lab, Ebony, flops over when she wants a belly scratch.

Lori hasn’t gone shopping for her dorm room yet but hopes to get some cool posters and light-up signs. There’ll be no repurposing this young woman’s room at home. Dad said they’ll “keep it the same.”

His best parting advice: “Just keep on being herself, and she’ll be fine.”

Aw.





Caitlin McGarvey, an undeclared major from Suwanee, with her mom, Suzie.

Caitlin McGarvey plans to fill her time with friends, studying and not focusing on home. Otherwise ... her voice cracks just a little and trails off.

Her mom, Suzie, will focus on “all the kind and caring adults” she’s met at Georgia College who’ll take care of her baby. Repurpose her room? “Absolutely not! It’ll be a shrine forever!” mom said.

McGarvey will miss taco night at home and several older pets: Buddy, a goldendoodle; Tigger, a spaniel; and Pip, her cat. She’s quick to pull out pictures of the furry crew and said she doesn’t know how she’ll survive without them.

Mom won’t miss trying to get her daughter up in the mornings. She tells Caitlin not to come home too soon. Take time to adjust.

More motherly advice? “Just be yourself, because you’re an amazing person.”

Tissue, please.





**Computer science major Nate Sullivano of Alpharetta with his parents Brian and Sarah.**

For Nate Sullivano, homesickness is just something he'll have to deal with. Still, it's hard to let go. His dad, Brian, said they'll be coming to campus often to visit.

Nate doesn't have any cool stuff for his dorm room yet—beyond a fan or fridge. Then, he reveals he plays guitar. That's cool.

His room at home won't change much—beyond the color from cream to gray.

He's a taco lover, too, and will miss those homecooked meals. Nate will also be thinking of his two dogs, mixed breeds Kona and Yeti. Kona makes unusual noises that aren't quite howls, while Yeti likes to snuggle and stretch out like Superman.

Mom won't miss not being able to find her son's bedroom floor. But she'll miss everything else.

Dad's parting advice: Persevere. Mom's reminder: Be kind and friendly.

And who can argue with that?



# News Stories Posted Monday July 18, 2022



## Contemporary liberal arts: Georgia College embraces its academic mission to meet workforce needs

[General Institution](#) : Monday July 18, 2022

Through Georgia College's liberal arts mission, students are taught a variety of marketable skills for today's workforce. They learn to think critically about problems, work in diverse teams, face ambiguity and uncertainty with boldness and communicate effectively.

These skills—valuable in any career—can be transferred across any number of jobs and are useful for life in general.

At Georgia College, those skills provided through a liberal arts education serve as a foundation. On top of that is built the specialized workforce training for students through their major.

"We have intentionally realigned our academic affairs strategy to not only maintain our commitment to the liberal arts mission, but to also identify ways that these efforts can focus on career preparation, workforce development, and as a public university, further economic development," said Dr. Costas Spirou, provost and vice



president for Academic Affairs.

“

**A liberal arts and sciences education should not be viewed as separate from career success. I would argue that the two are not only intrinsically connected—the former can and should inform the latter.**

**- Dr. Costas Spirou**

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“A liberal arts and sciences education should not be viewed as separate from career success. I would argue that the two are not only intrinsically connected—the former can and should inform the latter,” he said. “We must be willing to adjust to meet the workforce needs of the state and our rapidly moving world. That’s something we consistently ask ourselves—what are the needs of our students and how can we respond to meet those?”

And those needs are ever-changing. New jobs are created constantly with the development of new technologies. Georgia College is committed to staying flexible and dynamic—evolving courses and degree offerings to stay in line with the workforce needs.

For instance, there’s a severe shortage of nurses in Georgia due to a rapidly aging population and the retirement of long-time nurses. The pandemic compounded these challenges.

In response, Georgia College added a third nursing cohort to address the shortage of healthcare workers in the state.

“We now have three nursing cohorts for our nationally-recognized undergraduate programs,” Spirou said. “At a time when healthcare workers, especially nurses, are highly needed but in short supply, we knew this would be valuable. As a result, we increased the number of nursing majors this year from 112 to 152.”



nursing student in the lab

U.S. News and World Report publishes a yearly [100 Best Jobs report](#). The 2022

report lists nurses among the top 12 jobs along with data scientists and financial managers—two other new programs soon to be available at Georgia College.

“Following a year of preparation, we will be offering this fall two new degrees—a data science major and a finance major,” Spirou said. “Both are in high demand in the job market, and our students have shown a strong interest in these areas.”

The new Bachelor of Science in Data Science exemplifies the cross-discipline partnerships a liberal arts education does best. It’s a collaboration between the College of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences, bringing together a well-rounded experience for students who plan to go into this field.

Technology has been a major focus in the College of Business for some time, but that focus will soon be reflected in the business college’s new name: the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business ‘and Technology.’



Data science degree

“This provides an opportunity to differentiate us in the market,” said Dr. Micheal Stratton, dean. “It codifies an already existing prevalence of technology throughout our curriculum, embraces technology as integrative to the learning experience and makes explicit our commitment to business education that encompasses not only humanistic and quantitative capabilities but also technical competencies and skills necessary for 21st-century leaders and citizens.”



A graduate student works in the new Maker Space.

In the 21st century, technology is not only important in business but in our daily lives. Children today have technology at their fingertips from a young age. That makes it important for education students to also stay at the forefront of technological integration in the classroom.

Last fall, the College of Education (COE) launched a dynamic Maker Space. It places

multiple new technologies into the hands of teacher candidates, helping them to educate future students.

From virtual reality sets to 3D printers to drones and robotics, Dean Dr. Joseph Peters said he hopes students take their experience in the new Maker Space to the schools where they teach.

“Our Maker Space is a little more on the high-end side because our students are graduating to a 30 to 40-year career,” said Peters. “Schools will start to use more technology in the future, and we want our students to be ahead of the curve on what’s going to be next.”

According to Spirou, “our next step with the Maker Space is to expand its impact by launching a Center for Innovation this fall.”

Keeping students ahead of the curve is key for Georgia College. At the same time, current challenges in our region and state need immediate attention. One example is water and water quality.

The port of Savannah has a huge economic impact on the state. However, the dredging necessary for the expansion of the port has impacted water quality. Almost daily, there is news of quality issues regarding drinking water. Recently, the Catoosa River in northwest Georgia was named a top endangered river in the United States.

To help address these and other issues, the College of Arts and Sciences has created an Aquatic Sciences Center (ASC). The goal is to ensure students are prepared and can take advantage of faculty knowledge and expertise in this field. About one-third of the 28 faculty in Georgia College’s Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences are linked in some way to water-related topics.

The ASC has a statewide mission to serve communities and be a leader in issues related to water quality across the state.

“Any sort of center of research or excellence, such as the Aquatic Sciences Center, is unusual for a school our size,” said Dr. Indiren Pillay, chair. “But the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences has a significant footprint on campus—in terms of the number of faculty and the



Dr. Mutiti works with a student.



number of students we cater to.”

“So, the center is a natural conclusion,” he said. “It’ll elevate the visibility of the work we’re already doing and provide administrative support that will enable faculty to spend more time training and mentoring students in water-related research.”

A new concentration for biology majors—marine sciences—has also been added to the curriculum.

These are just a few of the new opportunities available at Georgia College. Yet, they show a glimpse into the heart of the university and how its liberal arts mission drives success.

“Although basic ideas of a liberal arts education began hundreds of years ago, Georgia College intentionally reimagines what that looks like for us, and how we can use our liberal arts foundation to better meet the needs of students,” Spirou said.

“

**Although basic ideas of a liberal arts education began hundreds of years ago, Georgia College intentionally reimagines what that looks like for us, and how we can use our liberal arts foundation to better meet the needs of students.**

**- Dr. Costas Spirou**

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“That’s an ongoing process and one that we take great care with,” he added. “We are committed to being responsive to the economic and workforce needs of the state, as well the needs of our students. In the process, we strategically reimagine the academic mission and the role of liberal arts and sciences in higher education and our society.”

Much has changed since the university was founded in 1889, and indeed, much will change in the future.

Dealing with change is just one of the essential skills taught through the liberal arts. With liberal arts as the foundation, Georgia College will continue to forge ahead, embracing new trends, new technologies, every opportunity and any challenge that lies ahead.



# News Stories Posted Tuesday July 19, 2022



## Georgia College program gives high schoolers research and lab experience

[Chemistry, Physics, & Astronomy, Department of](#): Tuesday July 19, 2022



Morgan Collins of Eatonton.

Georgia College's Young Scientists Academy (YSA)—a six-week program that gives high school youth from disadvantaged, rural areas a crack at university-level research—returned this summer in a big way.

It was the first YSA since the pandemic and, because of COVID, its seven high school participants had little or no lab experience. They'd only taken chemistry online.

Their first real lab experience was in Georgia College's state-of-the-art Integrated Science Complex (ISC) with everything brand new, shiny and clean.

"Most of their chemistry experience was through a computer screen. Some of them never actually



stepped into a chemistry laboratory,” said Dr. Catrena Lisse, professor of chemistry and director of the university’s Science Education Center.

“The Young Scientists Academy is a high school internship program for research. It’s designed for rural communities to give youth an extra little boost,” she said, “and get them interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).”

Georgia College’s YSA started in 2007 and operates with grant money through the American Chemical Society (ACS), as well as donations. It’s highly competitive. Each student took high school chemistry, was nominated by their teacher and interviewed by a panel of professors. This year, two high school students received ACS Project SEED scholarships to attend.

Participants come from all over Central Georgia. With more funding, Lisse would like to turn YSA into a residential summer program and recruit statewide.

“

**The most powerful part of this program for me is the experience these young people are getting. Coming from a poor community with minimal resources, I know what it’s like to walk into what they call a lab in high school, and you don’t have glassware, you don’t have any of the cool things that really make a lab successful.**

**- Dr. Catrena Lisse**

”

“Being able to give them this opportunity and see their faces when they walk into this lab—it’s exciting,” Lisse said.

Because this group was inexperienced in lab procedures, Lisse took extra caution teaching safety techniques. The first week reinforced protocols like finding data sheets for various chemicals, using eye wash stations and picking up shattered glass or acid spills.

“

**I feel my knowledge has definitely taken a great leap here.**

**- Nathan Walsh**

”

They moved on to break down, read and understand scientific literature.

Participants researched various topics on sol gels—a chemistry process Lisse specializes in. The method is used to create solids like silicon from small molecules.

Each high school student chose a research topic that interests them involving sol gels. Projects ranged from color-changing chemicals that indicate the presence of explosive residue from bombs to ways glucose testing can be more cost effective.

“Every single one of them had to develop their own procedures by trial and error,” Lisse said.

Every morning, the group analyzes problems they encountered the previous day and brainstorms about upcoming tasks. Lisse and two Georgia College chemistry majors work one-on-one with participants, guiding and quizzing to ensure a smooth process.

Nathan Walsh of Covington is a senior at Eastside High School. He’s interested in biotechnology. Lisse helped him find a project involving sol gels that, when mixed with a certain color-changing enzyme, detects glucose.

During his project, Walsh got what Lisse called “very exciting results”—a reversal, which means his mixture can be used over and over again. This research could potentially help people with diabetes save money with non-disposable testing strips.



Nathan Walsh of Covington works with enzymes.

“I like the idea of using enzymes to figure out cures and help other people. My dad has type 2 diabetes, so it hits close to home,” Walsh said. “I came in wanting to work with biotechnology, and I feel my knowledge has definitely taken a great leap here.”

Alec Ortiz is a senior at Veterans High School in Warner Robins. He’s working with chemicals to detect explosive residue. His molecules will change color when exposed to nitrogen groups like TNT. But Lisse can’t just order TNT, so Ortiz had to first synthesize his own explosives.

His project could result in bomb



detectors that react faster than anything used today.

Dr. Catrena Lisse goes over results with Alec Ortiz of Warner Robins.

Morgan Collins of Eatonton is a senior at Putnam County High School. He joined YSA with an interest in environmental science. He's focusing on a way to detect heavy metals that are harmful in water.

His workstation is colorful. Each pastel represents a different metal when exposed to chemicals. The testing mixture he developed—when run through a scientific computing machine—creates a unique signature. It appears as peaks and dips on a graph.

Ultimately, his formula could be used on probes to test water.



Each color represents a heavy metal in Morgan Collins's experiment.

"I found it all very interesting, because we can use sol gels, which I'd never even heard of until this program," Collins said. "I can test water and, by color change, know there's a problem."

"I never really had chemistry experience, because I had to take high school chemistry online," he said. "Being able to experience this allows me to see if I'm interested in it, so I can better prepare myself for what I want to do in the future. This research has shown me I might minor in biochemistry."



Claire Buck of Sandersville is creating a catalyst to make chemical reactions work faster. Her sol gel particles look like small, black see-through pearls. They serve as the catalyst to speed up reactions. This could help industries with chemical processes save time and money.



Claire Buck of Sandersville is working on research that may get published.

Her project results might also be published, Lisse said.

"I've always wanted to do forensic science, which combines chemistry and

biology," Buck said. "When I was told I got in, I was so excited. Everything here is so new and so clean. This is my first lab experience, so this is the standard I'll be looking for."

All seven participants will present their projects at a symposium July 22 in Peabody Auditorium. They'll be cheered on by Lisse and their Georgia College student mentors: Cole Smith and Callie Miller, both junior chemistry majors.

In 2019, Smith participated in YSA as a high school student from Jasper County. That was the last academy before COVID. Now, in the first academy since COVID, Smith is mentoring young scientists.

"After that, I chose to come to Georgia College because of the independent undergraduate research going on here," Smith said. "I'm really good with my hands and really good in the lab, so choosing a college where I could put that to my advantage was at the top of my priority list."



Junior chemistry major Cole Smith is mentoring young scientists this summer.

“

**Probably the number one benefit is their confidence, and I have seen it just bloom.**

**- Dr. Lisse**

”

Being five chemistry classes ahead of his high school youth is a challenge. But Smith’s learning how to explain and teach science—something he may want to do after pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry.

Having mentorship experience will put him a step ahead when applying for a doctorate.

Similarly, YSA experience will help high schoolers stand out when applying for college. Many former participants won scholarships because of their time at the academy.

That’s Lisse’s ultimate goal—getting these youngsters to college.

“Every step of every process, they have learned something, and that’s what’s really exciting,” Lisse said. “Probably the number one benefit is their confidence, and I have seen it just bloom.”





# News Stories Posted Thursday July 21, 2022



## Facts and fun: College students mentor hundreds of campers at Georgia College Kids' University

[Continuing & Professional Education](#) : Thursday July 21, 2022

It's a rowdy, loud gathering. Bodies swaying, feet tapping as a dozen college counselors hand out stickers and lead the familiar camp song: "Kids' University, where we learn and swim and play. Kids' University where we have fun all day..."

The campers in this group, K-6 graders, raise their hands, showing their fingers for a five-fingered contract. They solemnly recite:

*I will be safe.  
I will be committed.  
I will be respectful.  
I will be responsible.  
I will be my best.*

Welcome to Kids' University (Kids' U) at Georgia College.

[Video](#)

This summer, more than 400 youngsters got to be explorers, scavengers, actors and scientists during nine weeks of camp. They learned a little of just about everything—from the great outdoors and cultures around the world to hometown heroes and creepy crawlies.

It's fun for campers and for the college students who mentor them.

"It's really a great opportunity and a great experience to spend time with children and to see their personalities shine, to see their growth," said junior Stelios Spirou of Milledgeville.

A political science major, Spirou brought a little of his own expertise to camp this summer. He taught about the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and freedom. He enjoyed his time guiding tomorrow's leaders.

"The kids are all very interesting, and they're excited to learn and have fun," Spirou said. "This will totally help me in my future. Being a counselor will help me understand kids in general, and it gives me a small view of the educational system in our country."

During bug week, a classroom at West Campus was filled with microscopes and mounds of arts-n-crafts material—glitter, glue, scissors, paints, pipe cleaners, markers, crayons. There were books about bugs, glass vials of dead bugs and tubs of dirty, rotten logs filled with—you guessed it—more bugs.

Screams of "Yuck," "Ew" or "Wow" filled the air as campers used tweezers and fingers to pull giant beetles and larvae from rotted logs. One group even found a small scorpion that was safely collected by counselors and put on display for all to see.

They went on hikes to explore bugs and nature. Campers learned about the



Junior Stelios Spirou helps campers with the microscopes.



lifecycle of bugs, drew bugs, painted bugs and built bugs. Each day included time in the pool, a reading period, games and special activities. Each week ended with a celebration, so campers could show off what they learned to their parents.



Kids learned about all types of creepy crawlies at camp recently.

"Kids' U counselors offer the youth of Baldwin County creative, fun and exploratory learning opportunities in a welcoming camp environment," said Nancy Finney, director of Kids' U and program coordinator for the department of Continuing and Professional Education, which is part of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SoCPS).

"Kids' U also provides counselors an opportunity to apply hands-on learning and leadership skills," she said. "Working at Kids' University gives Georgia College students a chance to learn about their strengths and become more self-aware as they prepare to graduate. Leading a summer camp and group of kids helps them lead meetings down the road and, for our future teachers, it helps them acquire the skills they'll need before joining the workforce."

Alumna Ani Posey, '18, got her degree in special education at Georgia College. She's been teaching at Midway Hills Primary and other Georgia public schools the past few years. This summer, she was assistant director of Kids' U and prepared curriculum for campers. She also guided Georgia College students as counselors.





Ani Posey (center right) leads the group.

"I love how this summer we've really gotten to integrate some different themes into our curriculum every day," Posey said. "We have electives where counselors get to collaborate and work with an activity of their own special interest."

"

**Bringing in outdoor education and project-based learning add so much value to everything we do. Some kids, despite nature being all around us, haven't had that opportunity to sit and stare at an ant or watch a spider build its web. We give kids and counselors time to grapple with things.**

**- Ani Posey**

"

Caleb Kitchens, 10, is going into 5th grade in Milledgeville. Using tweezers to pull a big, slimy white beetle larva from a log, he exclaimed with a big smile, "I'm coming to these camps because they're a whole lot of fun. We do all types of activities, fun games, and you get to make really good friends here."

Ruth Eilers, '02, '16, is director of Academic Outreach, which operates under SoCPS. She enjoyed Kids' U as a guest speaker and a parent. Her 9-year-old son, Ben, was enrolled. She enthralled youngsters with bug facts as she passed around glass vials of dragonflies, praying mantises, mosquitos, bees, beetles and other insects.

She had two college students working with her: a recent environmental science graduate, Nicole Wright, and sophomore Jackson Taylor, who's majoring in special education.

"If you can handle a group of 2nd graders," Eilers said. "You can handle most anything that comes at you. Students learn group management skills—



Fifth grader Caleb Kitchens (right) examines a bug.

understanding how to keep a group engaged and when it's time to move on."

"Knowing those subtle things makes them much better at their jobs," she said, "no matter what they end up doing in the future."



Graduate student Diondra Franklin (left) loved the kids' curiosity and energy.

Diondra Franklin of Carrollton, Georgia, agrees. She got her undergraduate degree in Creative Writing at Georgia College in 2021. Now, she's working on her Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT).

Her duties are to make sure kids are engaged with the outdoors and each other. Her favorite part is the hour of classroom instruction they give campers each day. She loves to lead

question-and-answer sessions—even when her campers' questions are more than she can answer.

This allows them to embark "on a wonderful expedition" of finding the answers together.

It's a perfect way for Franklin to practice her teaching skills, while also engaging youth in conversations about college.

"If I can have my kids walk away from here and know that there's something more out there," she said, "then I feel like I've done my job."

“

**This gave me exposure to the younger groups. I'll tell anyone, if you're unsure you want to be in the teaching field, then work at a summer camp.**

**- Diondra Franklin**

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# News Stories Posted Friday July 22, 2022



## Class of 2026: First-year student uses entrepreneurialism to follow passion, address issues

[Nursing, School of](#) : Friday July 22, 2022

**Full name:** Chloe Perkins

**What town/state you're from:**  
Carrollton, Georgia

**Major/minor:**  
I'm looking into nursing.

**Why did you choose Georgia College?**

It's really pretty, and I like that it's small. I think it'll be easier to focus around here. I feel like in other, bigger cities, I would get way too distracted.

**And now that you're here, taking that first step into this new role. How do you feel?**  
I feel good. A little nervous—very nervous—but I'm excited.

**Are there any things that you're looking forward to with this new experience?** I'm

looking forward to getting moved in and getting my dorm decorated and meeting my roommates.

**What is one of the most important things that you learned while you were in high school?**

Healthcare and CPR. I learned a lot about anatomy and how to use that to help out.

**Are there any teachers that you had in high school who made an impact on your life and your educational path that you would like to give a shout out to?**

Mrs. Carmen Dill. She was my culinary arts teacher. She helped me learn basic recipes and how to take care of yourself.



**Chloe Perkins**

**So you had a culinary program? Yeah, we did. It was really nice. We had a professional kitchen, and three times a week, we would go there and do Trojan Take Out, where teachers could order food, and we would make casseroles and stuff that they could take home to their families.**

**And how do you think that prepared you for stepping out on your own right now?** Just knowing how to make my own food. I mean, we obviously have the dining hall, but it's good for later in life.

**What is the best piece of advice that's been given to you and who gave it to you?** Lindsey, my uncle's girlfriend, said "everybody's new [at college], don't be nervous."

**Is there anything that you'd like to share with people that you meet today or people you might meet during this first part of your experience in Georgia College? Yeah, if you want secondhand clothes, I have a thrifting account on Instagram. You can visit @Chloesthriftsandcandles. I do a lot of shopping and [thrifting] is pretty environmentally friendly.**

**So you're an entrepreneur as well? Yeah, sort of. I have a shopping addiction and this helps get rid of some [the clothing I buy]. But you're finding a healthy way to feed that shopping habit. Yes. And I really like styling people, it's a lot of fun.**





## **Class of 2026: Exercise Science major chooses Georgia College and makes Georgia her home**

**[Health & Human Performance, School of](#)**: Friday July 22, 2022

Like most who grew up in the military, Audrey Stippel has moved frequently and lived in multiple states and countries.



**Audrey, as a little girl, hugging her father.**

But she's decided to lay roots in Georgia—starting with four years at Georgia College. In fact, her father just retired from the U.S. Air Force and relocated her family to Nashville, Georgia.

"It made the most sense for me to go to school here, and I could not be more excited about it," Stippel said. "I chose Georgia College because it offered one of the best programs for what I wanted to major in. I love the size of the school and how much it offers. It just felt like the perfect fit, and I felt like God was telling me this is where I need to be."

Stippel will major in exercise science with a minor in either pre-professional occupational therapy or physical therapy. Because she's fond of children, she considered becoming an elementary school teacher. But Stippel also has a desire



to work in the medical field and help people of all ages live a better lifestyle.

She liked the pre-professional programs at Georgia College and decided on the medical route. She knows it will be challenging, but that's OK. Stippel's looking for something to push her out of her comfort zone—partly because she already proved what she can do, once she puts her mind to it.

Stippel used to be shy. She was satisfied with just a few friends and stuck to familiar routines. Then, in Dec. 2020—during her sophomore year of high school—her family moved to Bossier City, Louisiana. Like everything else during COVID, classes at her new school in Bossier went online, making it hard for Stippel to meet new people and make friends.

Once school was in-person again, Stippel made a promise to herself: She'd get involved and push herself every chance she got.

"I joined all the clubs that I could," Stippel said. "By the time senior year hit, I was student body president, an officer of both the National Honor Society and Beta Club, held leadership positions, influenced pretty much every school organization and was even voted into the Hall of Fame at my high school."



Audrey with her Hall of Fame award.



Audrey playing high school soccer.

"Long story short," she said, "my biggest personal achievement was being able to leave the impact I did and create so many lifelong friendships in the two years I was there."

Stippel would love to leave a similar imprint on Georgia College.

A lot of time will be spent at the Honors College. Beyond that, she'd love to study abroad, get involved in sorority life, community service and perhaps play intramural soccer. She also wants to stay active in her church and continue babysitting to be around kids.

Later, she'd like to do internships with an occupational or physical therapy clinic. This experience will help her choose the correct career path.

College courses will be harder than she's used to, but Stippel looks forward to the challenge and plans to prioritize her time. She can't wait to make new memories—find a favorite coffee shop, a cozy study niche, watch late-night movies with new

friends and walk a host of other yet-untraveled paths.

Stippel and her new college roommate already painted all their dorm wall décor. She'll decorate her bed with the stuffed shark a high school teacher gave her. And she plans to call home a lot to keep in touch with her parents, three siblings and two dogs—Hooch and Bullet.

Being “a very organized Type-A kind of person,” Stippel said she'll get all of this done and done right. Her siblings accuse her of being bossy. But she says these qualities show leadership potential.

At the end of her Georgia College years, Stippel will be sure of one thing: She's in Georgia to stay. Someday, she'd like to have her own occupational or physical therapy practice in Georgia.



Credit: Cat Salley with Red Poppy Photography.

“

**I think the most important thing right now is to just take it day-by-day—take opportunities that are presented to me, and things will fall into place exactly like they're supposed to. I need to keep an open mind and always remember God's plan is greater than mine.**

**- Audrey Stippel**

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## Students find their fit with clubs at Bobcat Marketplace

**Undergraduate Admissions** : Friday July 22, 2022

With over 170 student organizations, clubs and activities, Georgia College & State University (GCSU) supports a wide variety of student interests.

Greek life and intramurals are a big part of that, but a variety of clubs also provide a platform for students to express themselves.

At the table for Georgia College Miracle, the largest student-run fundraiser at GCSU, Spencer Petty thinks he's found an organization that resonates with him. He cares about other people's mental well-being and wants to help people feel and be their best. He likes the idea of joining a club dedicated to raising funds to support regional children's hospitals. And while he's eager to jump-in, he'll continue exploring opportunities when the semester begins.

That is a common theme at orientation.

Katherine Webb, an incoming student interested in majoring in English, only approached The Romantic Victorian Affinity, a literary club, after an upperclassman complimented her shirt.

These chance encounters are what marketplace is all about. As students browse

the opportunities that GCSU has available for them, they're potentially starting conversations and making friendships that will develop throughout their college experience and beyond.

Katie Hill, an aspiring environmental science major, had the same curiosity while checking out the International Club. Although she isn't sure what she wants to do, she knows joining clubs and making new friends is how to find out.

And there's another, unspoken, opportunity at marketplace. If a student doesn't find a club or student organization that resonates with them, they can start one that does!

[View all of Georgia College's Student Organizations](#)

# News Stories Posted Friday July 29, 2022



## Class of 2026: Undecided major hopes to find her passion at Georgia College

[College of Arts & Sciences](#) : Friday July 29, 2022

**Emily Whittemore**

**From:** Marietta, GA

**Major:** Undecided—I have so many interests and am still unsure.

**Why Georgia College:** I chose Georgia College because the campus is beautiful, and I think I'll make a lot of friends here. When I toured last July, I knew it was the place I wanted to be.

**Biggest high school achievement:** My biggest high school achievement was when I participated in a Foreign Exchange Program in France.

**Plans for involvement in college:** I want to be involved in the Women's Center.

**Most looking forward to:** I'm looking forward to making friends and being more independent.





Alternate Text

**Cool thing for the dorm:** I want to decorate my walls with records.

**What she'll bring to campus:** I will bring kindness and integrity to campus.

**Future plans:** My future plans are to find a passion and foster relationships that will last the rest of my life.