

Georgia College Student Kelly Bosquette Earns 2020 Newman Civic Fellowship

From the stories she'd heard about the Central State Hospital campus, Kelly Bosquette expected to find hollowed out halls and ghostly buildings in various states of disrepair, but what she found was surprisingly lush.

"It's not as creepy as a lot of people say it is," Bosquette said, speaking of her visit last October with a city councilman and the local redevelopment director. They met to talk about how her organization, Students for Change, might be able to help revitalize use of the grounds. Her organization, started officially in September of 2019, has in the words of Georgia College President Dr. Steve Dorman, created a "very important link between Georgia College students and the larger community." It was this link that earned her a place among the nearly 300 nationwide recipients of the 2020 Newman Civic Fellowship.

Bosquette was unaware of her nomination for the award. Her primary goal was always helping people. Her mission, in creating Students for Change, was to "help advocate, fund-raise, and aid with the CSHLRA (Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority) projects including the development of a community garden/greenhouse, homeless shelter, rape crisis center and mental health museum," said Bosquette. If that sounds like a lot to take on at once, it's nothing compared to what Bosquette was doing before.

On top of majoring in liberal studies, psychology, sociology and criminal justice, Bosquette was in six or seven student organizations during her freshman year, including GC Miracle, Habitat for Humanity, Gamma Sigma Sigma, among many others.

"In my sophomore year, I got some advice, in the nicest way possible, that I should maybe focus



my attention because I wouldn't get as much done spreading myself so thin," Bosquette said.

The Newman Civic Fellowship was created to recognize students for their contribution to public issues. It will grant Bosquette access to resources and mentorships throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, as well as scholarship and post-graduate opportunities. Bosquette is hoping that she'll be able to pass on the knowledge to the leaders in her organization. The award will also come with a certificate later this month. This comes at a time when Bosquette's organization is temporarily on lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"April was going to be our biggest month," Bosquette said, "We were going to have our drive for the Bright House."

The Bright House in Milledgeville is a division of the Southern Crescent Sexual Assault and Child Advocacy Center, which has been working with Students for Change. They had intended to open up the house for tours in April as well as hosting Sounds of the South, a large benefit bar crawl in downtown Milledgeville, but now those will have to be postponed. She's still hopeful that they'll be able to hold the drive virtually.

"I'm also in the GC Service Council, and right now, every Tuesday, we're holding webinars on how you can have virtual meetings for your organization, but I know that every family is struggling. It's

something that I'm struggling with myself. It's an adjustment that I haven't gotten used to just yet."

With everyone still reeling from the tumult that the global lockdown has created, the only thing that is assured is that the world will need more students like Kelly Bosquette in the aftermath. More students with the drive to help solve civic issues, bridge the gaps between universities and communities and who are not afraid to go into those areas that need help the most and offer it.

Senior uses leadership skills to help Milledgeville



Senior political science major and SGA President Amelia Lord has a strong sense of leadership and community. She always has. From her time at Georgia College to her new role as a Venture for America (VFA) fellow, she will leave her mark in the heart of Milledgeville.

Lord was one of 40 applicants selected for the fellowship out of nearly 4,000 nationwide. The adventure begins in July with a five-week training camp in Detroit, Michigan. Once Lord completes the training, she will move back to Milledgeville and begin her two-year fellowship working for a small nonprofit or startup.

"I want to make an impact and work with an organization I believe in and help build it from the ground up," she said. "VFA is providing me with the structure, support and ongoing training to immerse myself in a new venture while continuing my education through courses and mentorship."

Prior to being accepted, Lord completed an application, two essays and an interview. She went on to participate in Selection Day, which consisted of all-day group and individual interviews, project simulations and seminars. It was the largest application cycle yet for VFA.

"Applied leadership, small group communications and flexibility are what I will be taking with me from my time as a student leader on

campus," Lord said. "GC provides amazing opportunities for students to grow their organizations, projects and initiatives within a supportive community. Taking advantage of what GC has to offer gave me everything I needed to stand out in the competitive application process."

VFA Fellows interview with over 250 affiliate startups across 14 cities. The match process, where the startup companies and fellows pick each other, will be completed in May. After she interviews with several startups, Lord will choose one to work at for two years. When she has completed this fellowship, Lord hopes to apply what she's learned and begin her own business in Milledgeville.

"I am looking to fill a role in operations management or development and am interested in sustainability and its role in community connections," said Lord. "What has excited me the most is the innovation and breadth of what the startup covers."

The startups range from involvement in farm-to-table food and engineering artificial intelligence to sustainable clothing lines and homeless shelters.

Lord's experience at Georgia College prepared her for this leadership role by providing her an opportunity to grow in different areas.

"Attending a school with a liberal arts mission allowed me to customize my own university experience by choosing GC1Y and 2Y courses, which broadened my view of the world. Having access to leadership roles and being able to easily reach my professors for guidance made me into a person who is highly competitive against other students from much larger, well-known campuses across the nation," she said.

Lord also recognizes the entire staff in Student Life, especially the HUB, GIVE Center and Campus Life office, for supporting her during her time at Georgia College.

She feels her experiences of creating an organization on campus, volunteering in the community, managing a budget, communicating with faculty and administration and growing relationships with students and alumni all have been steps that led her towards this opportunity and will carry her through it.

Nursing students receive exclusive disaster preparedness training

The COVID-19 outbreak has dominated the world's attention since the end of January when it was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization.

The deadly virus spread fast. It was unexpected. It was the type of widespread illness that has the ability to hit countries hard when they're caught unprepared.

That element of being prepared is the lesson some Georgia College nursing students were able to take with them as they attended disaster emergency response training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP).

"It's easy to be in a bubble and think things won't happen where you live—but you need to get out of that perspective," said senior nursing major Ariana Braner. "Having an opportunity to see first-hand how much the CDP and the Department of Homeland Security put into being prepared—it takes the sting out of disasters when they do strike."

The CDP in Anniston, Alabama, is the only facility of its kind in the nation that is dedicated solely to training hospital and health care professionals in disasters preparedness and response. Georgia College is one of only 13 schools in the nation that have had the opportunity to receive training from the CDP. Dr. Catherine Fowler, assistant professor of nursing, accompanied the 58 nursing students for the three-day training at the center last December.

"It was a completely fascinating and valuable experience for our students," Fowler said, who also acted as a student and received the additional training. "They received in-depth didactic and hands on training, and the students were completely engaged in the training process."

Students sat through more than 10 hours of didactic training focused on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive materials (CBRNE) response, skills



and knowledge.

"One of the most interesting parts of the training was the fact our instructors at the center came from such diverse backgrounds. From the military to flight medics and paramedics—we got all of their perspectives," Braner said.

The two courses, Emergency Medical Response Awareness for CBRNE Incidents and Healthcare Emergency Response Operations for CBRNE Incidents, helped students understand the lifesaving role they could play during mass casualty disasters.

During the last day of training, students participated in a triage scenario, where they learned how to properly dress themselves in protective suits, consisting of gloves, goggles, and a head-to-toe suit. If properly donned and taken off—the suit prevents further exposure and contamination.

"The triage scenario was definitely my favorite part of the day," said Mackenzie Micheletti, senior nursing major. "It looked like an ambulance bay, and we were challenged to work quickly while sirens went off in the background."

Students went through the scenario of providing triage, tagging and treating patients—who were represented as teddy bears, strategically placed throughout the triage zone.

Fowler hopes this will become part of the nursing curriculum, giving students one more edge in being able to better serve rural areas.

Celebrating the Class of 2020: Meet some of our May 2020 graduates as we highlight their many accomplishments



Cameron Watts is an economics major who was awarded a Lead for America Fellowship to work with Dr. Veronica Womack at the University's new Rural Studies Institute. "Georgia College created an ideal environment to challenge myself and take on new opportunities and experiences that fell outside of my comfort zone."



Jasia Clark is a special education major. "The passion I have for my future career is sometimes hard to put into words. I want to be an educator. I want to provide students with more than just standards and curriculum but also life lessons that go beyond the classroom. This profession allows me to make a difference. I will be able to fill young minds with information."



Brighton Sandt is a communications major. Sandt has severe dyslexia and ADHD. Despite his disabilities, he was director of entertainment at GC Miracle and a member of the comedy troupe, Armed Farces. He was also an event planner and public relations officer for WGUR student radio and social chairman of his fraternity Alpha Tau Omega.