

Editor's Note



Welcome to the summer 2020 edition of the College of Arts and Sciences newsletter. This edition demonstrates the College's successes at embracing diversity and inclusion across our 13 departments and nearly 25 disciplines. Though this commitment is shared by all our disciplines, this edition highlights how disciplines are fostering the success of women in STEM fields. We feature how

diversity and inclusive values are incorporated in community-engagement, teaching, and research. The faculty in the department of music introduce the Bobcat Keys program, which supports access to music lessons and piano instruction access for local elementary students. We also hear about faculty and alumni accomplishments in diversity-focused scholarship and creative works regarding neurodiverse faculty and pedagogical approaches to a broader understanding of social justice issues. Finally, we feature the Department of English as our featured department — a flagship department of faculty scholarship and alumni success with a new department chair.

As we open the 2019-2020 academic year, I would like to extend a special thank you to the outgoing Interim Associate Dean, Chavonda Mills. Dr. Mills served in this role for three years to coordinate various administrative initiatives while managing the associate dean scope of duties. Her admirable performance in the role is further illustrated considering her other obligations, including teaching and serving as Presiding Officer of the University Senate. A key contribution during her tenure includes managing a new approach to College fundraising through student scholarships. She played a key role in cultivating the Dean's Excellence Fund Scholarship program by devising the criteria and award process. Chavonda explains her commitment to the college by stressing the value of using the program to target underrepresented students with financial need: "This increased the meaning of donor giving and led to an increase in giving that was highlighted by 2018-2019 being the largest giving year for these scholarships."

Jada Moore, a junior biology major, tells us that Dr. Mills continued to prioritize student mentorship, "Dr. Mills provided me with great advice that I still look back on to this day. She is very open and inviting. She has also helped me to network and make connections to advance my future. I am very grateful that our paths were able to cross." Angela Criscoe, assistant professor of mass communication appreciates the mentoring experience she had with Dr. Mills: She "is a genuine leader, a role model, and a supporter of those she leads. She showed a sincere interest in my work as a documentary filmmaker, and she inspired me to research a topic that wasn't on my radar. I respect her because she is fair and collegial in her leadership approach. I aspire to be as humble and approachable as she has exhibited in her roles in the College." Ken Procter, former Dean of the College says that he "cannot speak highly enough of Chavonda's work on behalf of the college!" Thank you, Chavonda, and job well done.

CARRIE COOK

Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Criminal Justice

Dean's Message

Last fall, I met with a group of high school guidance counselors visiting Georgia College from Cobb County. They were here to learn more about the programs of study we offer.

As dean of the College of Arts and Sciences within the only designated liberal arts institution in the University System of Georgia, I felt compelled to highlight our excellent traditional programs here in this college. We know students want to come here for their undergraduate experience because of our strengths in traditional programs from Art to Physics. Yet I also took this opportunity to change up the narrative that all we offer are traditional programs. Embedded within these traditional programs are all kinds of new and exciting micro-programs, generally known as certificates, which expand skillsets within the context of traditional majors.

In the last few years, we have added the following certificates for our students to expand their knowledge and experience: Geographic Information Science; Documentary Studies; Non-Profit Management; Sustainability; and Data Science. These are not necessarily programs one associates with a traditional liberal arts curriculum, but we're adding new value so our graduates may continue to be tomorrow's independent thinkers and creative leaders.

Late Spring Semester: As we all know, the world changed in March when coronavirus created the first worldwide pandemic in over a century. In a short amount of time, the College of Arts and Sciences faculty successfully transitioned over 1,000 courses to a remote format to complete the spring semester. I am so proud of the faculty for converting their courses so quickly when many of them had never taught online before and all had many other things on their minds. Georgia College is blessed with excellent support services across campus from the folks in IT to the Center for Teaching and Learning, both of whom were indispensable in making this transition happen. To that end, summer classes will remain online. We are cautiously hopeful that fall brings an end to this pandemic and that this allows our nation and our university to get back to work. We know our students want a traditional, face to face educational experience and we do that here better than anyone.



• • • • •

DR. ERIC TENBUS

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences



Contents

COVER STORY
EVOLUTION OF THE
ENGLISH MAJOR **4**

FACULTY AND
PROGRAM NEWS **8**

STUDENT
NEWS **30**

ALUMNI
NEWS **37**

ARTS AND SCIENCES
2020 **NEWS**LETTER

DEAN
ERIC TENBUS

EDITORS
CARRIE COOK
AUBRIE L. SOFALA

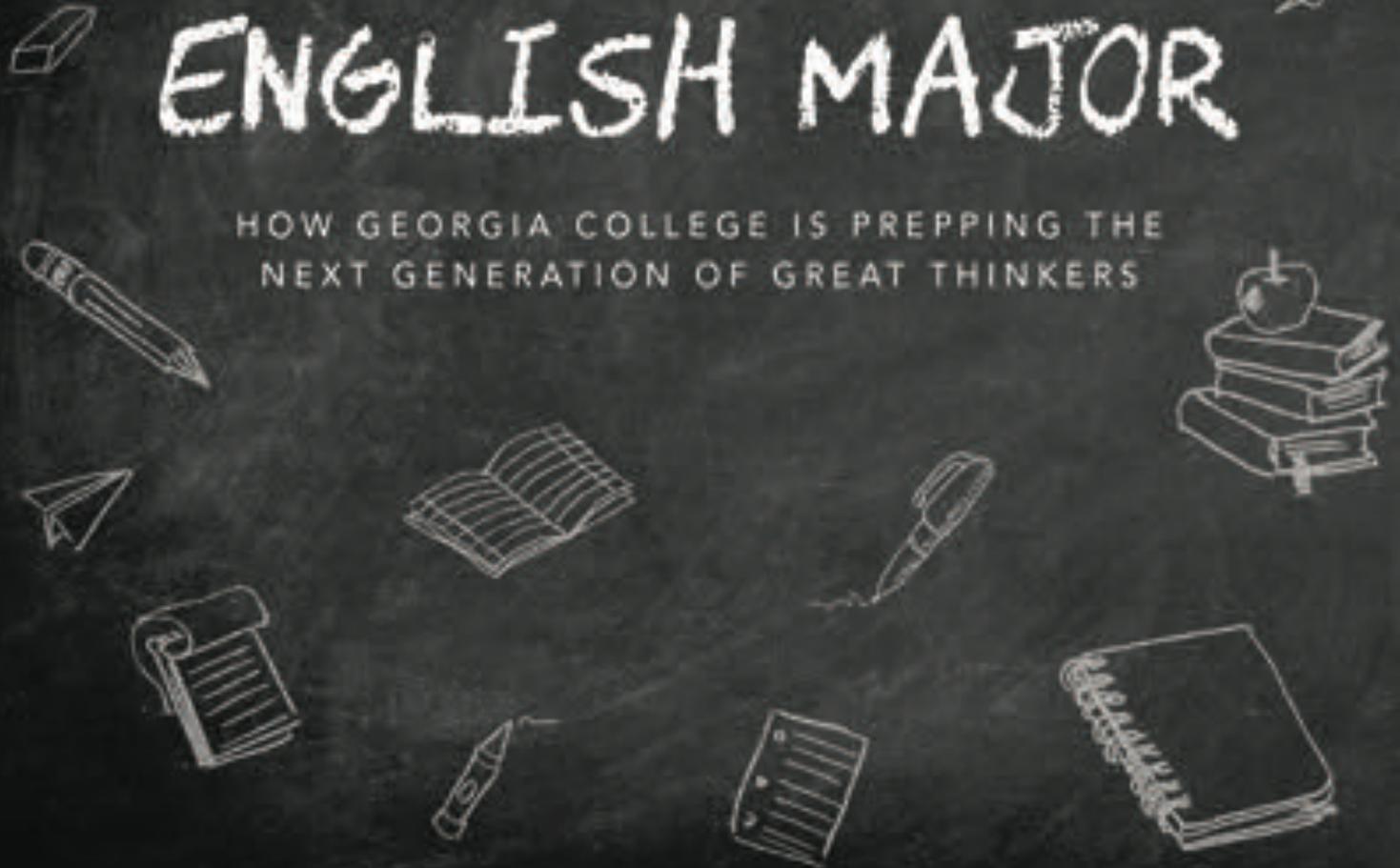
PHOTO CREDITS
ANNA LEAVITT
AUBRIE L. SOFALA



THE EVOLUTION OF THE

ENGLISH MAJOR

HOW GEORGIA COLLEGE IS PREPPING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF GREAT THINKERS



W

hile in the Navy, Patrick Sheets found himself asking some very big questions.

"It's a very hard life in the military. I was underway for months on end without seeing the sun," the junior English major said. "It was hard. It was depressing. It was very much life-consuming work."

Sheets had wound up in the military with no solidified post-high school plans. He thought his career path rested in engineering, so he signed up for the Navy. He found himself wrapped up in works of poetry by John Milton and Robert Blake that sustained him during the months of grueling work and military life.

"When I read poetry, I had this feeling that they are on to something. These great poets that I was reading," Sheets said. "They were definitely looking at life more of how I was looking at it and not in a very logical way because there's a lot of things that can't be explained through science or logic."

The idea that English majors are in a wasteful pursuit of education isn't a new theory. Research from the Association of Departments of English report conferment of bachelor degrees from English are down 20 percent since 2012. But now, more than ever, workplaces are depending on employees who can think critically to solve tomorrow's problems. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers Job Outlook 2019, employers most sought-after attributes for graduates are written communication skills, problem solving skills, and an ability to work as part of a team. Dr. Katie Simon, associate professor, said these are the very skills that the Department of English instills in their students.

"We're not just talking about literature. We're talking about the ideas that are in literature. This is a place where thinking happens, analysis happens, and big ideas come out of that," she said. "We're doing research about authors and specific genres, but we're doing research that doesn't just pertain to people who are interested in those genres and authors. We push our students to find the greater implications in literature and ask 'why does this matter?'"

Ashlee Brown, an English major and nontraditional student, found her own purpose through literature after family tragedy. In 2007 she was a senior in high school with her sights set on Georgia Southern when her younger brother died in a four wheeler accident. Four years later, marred by grief, Brown's mother committed suicide.

"I channeled my grief through reading and writing," said Brown. "My therapy became pen and paper. I would pour everything onto that piece of paper."

Writing and reading, which had always been hobbies for Brown, became her lifeline. After completing her associates degree in general studies at Georgia Military College, Brown came to Georgia College to continue on her path of finding meaning through the subject of English.

She's found a place of inspiration in the English Department at Georgia College. From Dr. Jennifer Flaherty's course on Jane Austen in Film to Dr. Julian Knox's courses that require reading of Chilean and Japanese authors — she's been exposed to perspectives that broaden her understanding of her work and others.

"It's culturally enriching to see different perspectives and stories whether they are nonfiction or fiction," she said. "It's about exploring these places and people that otherwise a lot of us wouldn't have the opportunity to."

Brown said the study of English has also enabled her to finally see representation in the works that she's studying.

"I'm currently reading about a bisexual author who is also biracial. I had this moment of like, 'that's me!'," she said. "Seeing myself reflected on these pages is something that I don't think I'd get in another field in quite this variety."

Graduate and undergraduate English students alike have boundless opportunities for experiences that enrich their time at Georgia College. Many work on literary journals such as the Peacock's Feet and Arts & Letters. Students also have opportunities to attend professional conferences like the Association of Writers & Writing Programs' (AWP) annual conference. Simon recently constructed a panel consisting of current students, former students, and other Ph.D. students in Georgia. The group presented at the Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University during the spring of 2020, its work focusing on Ecocritical Approaches to Southern Literature.

"Anytime students go to professional conferences, they polish their work and they take it to another level," Dr. Simon said. "They'll be presenting to professors that are in a variety of academic institutions so they'll be able to receive feedback on their work but also network with those people."

MFA alumna Kristie Johnson garnered an honorable mention in AWP's Intro to Journals Project, and she has found her path as a



writer and educator since obtaining her degree. Like Brown, Johnson was a nontraditional student and came to Georgia College on the heels of a successful career in politics as a congressional staffer for the U.S. House of Representatives.

“When I made the decision to apply, I knew what I was going to leave behind. But I wanted to take the shot. I knew going in that I wanted to write and finish a book,” she said.

Johnson came into the Department of English knowing she had a memoir to write. Since then, she’s written a collection of essays, “High Cotton,” exploring the social and economic consequences of her own Georgia lineage in the Deep South. The collection is being published by Raised Voice Press and is set to be released in August of 2020. Johnson is also an assistant professor of English and department chair for humanities at Georgia Military College, Augusta.

While teaching and publishing are on the short list of future careers for many English majors, Simon said she’s found more and more students who are going into other industries that they are passionate about.

“One of the things students often in English say is ‘well, what can I do with an English major?’” she said. “They almost always say, ‘I guess I’ll teach’, but if that’s not for you — you can do anything you’re interested in. It keeps coming back to research and writing skills. These are really valuable for working in non-profits, in legal fields, and in business. There’s a job waiting for you and it’s up to you to create your own ideal scenario.” She added that the Department of English is committed to helping students identify their career interests. “We have worked to create internships and

capstone experiences that prepare students to take their skills in the major out into the job market, and have seen a lot of tangible success.”

The myth of humanities graduates being underemployed is outdated. A study released by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences found that 95.7 percent of those with terminal bachelor’s degree in humanities were employed, with a median annual salary of \$52,000. The same study found that humanities graduates were highly satisfied with their jobs. There’s a sense, said Brown, that finding what you value and seeing that through will lead to personal success and fulfillment.

“I do really have this drive to teach because I want to be able to not only educate people about reading and writing but also serve as a mentor,” she said. “There’s some really impactful teachers in your life that just go beyond teaching you about Shakespeare or how to write a thesis statement. They teach you how to look further for the truth.”

Sheets has found that same sense of meaning behind his work, but also the larger implication of the study of English — making sense of the world and the people living in it.

“Being an English major, you’ll have some of the best conversations around,” Sheets said. “You have all this literature within you, and you can see the value of other people’s stories without having to tear them down or even really changing their mind. You learn that that’s not what it’s really about.” ■



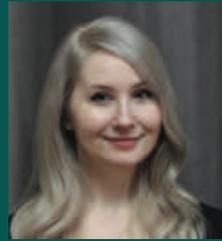
On March 8, 2020, Molly Brodak passed away. A poet whose first collection, “A Little Middle of the Night”, won the 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize, and a memoirist whose widely acclaimed “Bandit” (2016) explored being raised by a bank-robber father, Molly taught for the English Department during the Fall 2019 semester. During that time, she accumulated more awards — her poetry collection *The Cipher* (2020) was honored with the Pleiades Press Editors Prize — but she also won students’ and colleagues’ admiration and gratitude for her brilliant teaching. “Landscape” first appeared in *The Collapser*.

Landscape
By Molly Brodak

Milk, St. Augustine said
comes not from the cow—
the cow needs, he said,
grass and water—
out of which, he said,
comes milk.
He didn’t understand
matter but
it is true anyway.
And wind works
like beauty works,
not attached
to what it moves,
beyond matter—

no one makes it,
it just sweeps through
a landscape,
a painting of a landscape.
Yellow crescent moon
tipped up like a boat,
a single
radiant planet below.
Grief just sweeps through.
An awareness below,
a composite
awareness attached
to time,
starving, rootless
on purpose,
drawing its likeness.

Highlights from the Department of English



Former limited-term lecturer **Molly Brodak’s** poetry collection, *The Cipher*, was selected as the winner of the 2019 Pleiades Press Editors Prize and will be published by Pleiades Press in 2020.



Dr. **Bruce Gentry’s** “Approaches to Teaching the Works of Flannery O’Connor,” co-edited with Robert Donahoo, has been published by the Modern Language Association in 2019. Gentry continues to lead the monthly Flannery O’Connor book club out at Andalusia.



Creative-writing faculty member **Kerry Neville** placed a story, “Punctures,” in the most recent issue of *The Evansville Review*. Her essay, “Teaching the N-Word in Georgia,” which won the John Guyon Literary Nonfiction Prize and was published in Fall 2018 in *The Crab Orchard Review*, has been named a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2019*.



Former limited-term lecturer **Hali Sofala-Jones’s** poem “Fractured” was featured on the Academy of American Poets’ website as part of their Poem-a-Day series on in September 2019.

Faculty member **Peter Selgin** has just published a collection of essays and a textbook.



Sociology professor named national Faculty Mentor of the Year

Dr. Stephanie McClure, professor of sociology, was recently awarded one of six national Faculty Mentor of the Year awards at the 26th annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Atlanta. McClure was nominated by Georgia State University doctoral student Hersheda Patel, who said McClure “embodies the definition of a mentor in her every action, and every one of her students is forever changed by her passion for social justice and racial equity.”

Patel is a graduate of sociology from Georgia College. From Baldwin County, she now participates in the SREB State Doctoral Scholars Program. SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) provides financial support, leadership development and mentoring to help underrepresented minority scholars become faculty members. “It meant so much to me to be recognized by this incredible student,” McClure said, “and by an organization that is doing such great work in and for academia.”

"The work is its own reward, every day." She said, "But recognition is nice too, and if it's a chance to tell other people how great my current and former students are? Well, that's absolutely priceless."

Patel considers McClure her "mentor, advisor, advocate, academic mom, and friend." She started Georgia College smart but timid and unsure of her abilities. Her relationship with McClure helped mold Patel into what she says she is today: scholar, activist and researcher. McClure calls Patel "an incredible person all around." She wrote countless recommendation letters and sat on Patel's thesis committee — but also brought Patel onto several publications and book projects, introduced her to professional networks and designed specific independent study courses for her.

McClure opens her home to students, as well, sharing her family life. McClure is "as close to heaven as she can get," Patel said, "and I am blessed to have been touched by her light." ■



Early College students attend Government and Sociology Glimpse Day at GC

On November 15, 2019, almost 20 Early College eighth and ninth graders attended a Glimpse Day, hosted by the Government and Sociology Department of Georgia College. The students began the day by sitting in and observing some college classes in the Department of Sociology and Government. One professor reported that our students had a lot to say about capital punishment and ran the discussion while in that class.

After spending time in the college classes, students had a meet and greet session with seven of the professors from the Department of Government and Sociology. The professors each addressed the group of students, explaining how he or she came to work in this department at GC. Then the professors spread out amongst the students and talked with them in small groups. The students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other and some made plans to visit again. Glimpse Day ended with the students and professors enjoying lunch together. ■

MPA recognized as one of best programs in country

The NASPAA-accredited Master of Public Administration (MPA) program has been recognized by AffordableCollegesOnline.org for offering the 23rd best online public administration programs in the country and the program also has been selected as the 13th best in the nation by Intelligent.com with a unique distinction of high job placement rate. ■





Urban Bush Women, Chanon Judson teaching students

Getting your dancer feet in the door

The Department of Theatre and Dance hosted internationally acclaimed Urban Bush Women (UBW) dance company for a performance of "Hair and Other Stories," in Russell Auditorium last spring 2019. As a true example of liberal arts, the company was co-sponsored by the Offices of the President, Provost and Dean in collaboration with the Office of Inclusive Excellence, the Cultural Center, the Departments of Art and Music, Allied Arts and Arts Unlimited.

As explained by the company, the repertory work derives "from personal narratives from our communities, kitchens and living rooms, social media and YouTube." This evening length piece "debates the center of perceived American "values" and celebrates the persevering narrative of the African Diaspora." 900 high school students attended the matinee and another 500 GC

students and surrounding adult community attended the evening performance.

A notable highlight for the GC community arose when Ross Daniels, '14, returned to the Russell stage to perform with the UBW company. He was a constant, prominent figure in theatre and dance productions during his studies at GC, even playing the esteemed role of Clara's Prince in GC's annual production "The Nutcracker" for three seasons. Dance Lecturer Natalie King observed that it was "extremely satisfying and a proud moment for the GC dance program to see him take the stage with such a renowned dance company. We always want to see our students embody their undergraduate studies successfully post-graduation and he has done just that." ■



Urban Bush Women, Ross Daniels teaching students



Urban Bush Women, Schuyler White dancing

ARTBLANKET spreads across campus

Students, staff and faculty from the Department of Art placed gift envelopes throughout the campus and greater community during Fall 2019. Slipped under doors and into desk seats, hidden inside issues of the Colonnade, propped in the crook of a tree limb, or handed to you with a smile, the hope was to make art as accessible and widespread as possible.

I'm interested in how art can be approached, experienced by the maker and the viewer, created and disseminated, and where is the "art" in these experiences--and who owns it," said Department of Art Chair Bill Fisher. "This project provides that purpose, a need for multiplicity and objects, and it requires a reckoning between the maker and the object in a willingness to relinquish control and ownership while wrestling with ideas of preciousness, authorship, and anonymity." ■



Innovations in art history at GC



Virtual reality technology has entered the Art History program at Georgia College. Professor Auerbach and Associate Professor Forrest led the Art History Through Games course in training our art history students to use VR technology that will be incorporated in their semester-long, research-based game projects. Eight teams of students from at least five disciplines are collaborating across two courses to create educational games on significant topics in art history.

Earlier in the semester, students in Art History Through Games made their first game: a race to the end game about Notre Dame Cathedral's architecture, fire, and reconstruction. This course aims to introduce students to new ways of thinking about art history with emphasis on 21st-century skills of problem solving, collaboration, and digital literacy. ■

Reflections at Leland Gallery

Since 2002, the Gas Light Press has brought people together across the Georgia College campus to create art that reflects the interconnectedness of the liberal ideal for higher education. Scientists and writers, among others, were invited to collaborate with Art Department faculty and students to develop a unique image that — in its own way — communicates the story of the university and its special mission in the state of Georgia.

Through October, selections from Gas Light Press were on display in the Leland Gallery.

Visit <https://soundcloud.com/wrgc/20190904-reflections> to listen to the WRGC interview with the curators. ■



‘One small step for man,’ one big day at Georgia College



It’s been 50 years since Apollo 11 landed on the Moon and Astronaut Neal Armstrong took “one giant leap for mankind.” All of Georgia was invited to celebrate this milestone at Georgia College on Saturday, July 20, 2019. It was a celebration envisioned by Dr. Laura Whitlock, a GC astronomy faculty member and a former NASA employee, and Dr. Catrena Lisse, a GC chemistry professor and director of the Science Education Center.

“The world stopped for a minute and realized this was big,” Whitlock said. “You could tell by the coverage on TV, the tickertape parade in New York City and all the accolades the three astronauts were given.”

“And, afterwards, you looked at the Moon a little differently,” she said. “We walked there. It changed your perspective on things, even if you were only 10 at the time. You began to understand — it’s not out of our reach. Man was there.”

The day began at the Ina Dillard Library, where there was a display of 25 large posters giving a timeline of space exploration including the 1961 speech by President John F. Kennedy —

announcing his ambitious goal to reach the Moon—to the development of rockets, the astronaut program, and the Apollo 11 mission itself. The exhibit also includes a moon rock, old newspapers, model rockets, many autographed items, and much more. Whitlock and Lisse gave a talk which introduced the first moon landing to some young learners, and took other visitors on a nostalgic tour to what they all remembered as one of the very special events in their lives.

At Beeson Hall, Dr. Sharon Careccia, physics professor at GC, with Nicole Collins, chemistry undergraduate and Science Education Center student worker, led activities where young and old could build and launch different kinds of rockets, as well as learn about the importance of collisions in the evolution of our solar system. They were aided by some fabulous student and community volunteers. Visitors of all ages enjoyed taking photos at a fun astronaut photo booth, ate moon pies and then headed to Herty Hall for a special show in the campus’ 20-ft Planetarium dome. Hosted by GC physics and astronomy professor Dr. Donovan Domingue, there was an excellent meteorite collection to explore as well.

“The Center is excited to be sponsoring this celebration,” Lisse said, “because we hope to inspire the next generation of kids to get excited and grow up to work for NASA. We want them to see it’s possible.”

The Saturday event brought media attention to the college as hundreds of community members visited campus. The event was covered by three television stations (13WMAZ, NBC41, and Fox24/ABC16), two newspapers (The Telegraph and Union Recorder), two radio stations (Oconee WMVG 1460 Radio and Lake Country 102.3) and multiple newsletters from Augusta to Atlanta. ■

Early College students get hands-on look at science

Georgia College science professors and students exposed 35 youth from the Early College program Monday, Feb. 24, to undergraduate-level opportunities in chemistry and physics.

The event started at 9:30 a.m. at Peabody Auditorium with a welcome by Dr. Chavonda Mills, Chair of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy. Early College students then dispersed between Herty and Beeson Halls for tours and hands-on experiments.

In chemistry, there were nanoparticle demonstrations, precipitation reactions and reactions using HCl, aluminum foil and zinc, as well as acid-based chemistry. In physics, students learned about solar cells.

The day ended with lunch and a faculty/student discussion panel at Peabody. ■



Dr. Chavonda Mills part of team to receive \$1.1 million grant from National Science Foundation



Dr. Chavonda Mills, chair, Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy

Georgia College's Dr. Chavonda Mills, professor of chemistry and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy, is part of a new project awarded more than \$1.1 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The ADVANCE PLAN project provides opportunities at 29 COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges) schools to bring research-based training in gender equity issues to administrators and to provide networking opportunities for women faculty and faculty from underrepresented groups.

The project is led by Wendy Pogozelski, SUNY Geneseo distinguished teaching professor of chemistry, and Karleen West, SUNY Geneseo associate professor of political science and international relations.

Mills is a co-principal investigator along with Josephine Rodriguez, assistant professor of biology at University of Virginia's College at Wise, and Sally Wasileski, associate professor and chair of chemistry at the University of North Carolina Asheville.

"The four-year grant is designed to improve the representation and climate for women faculty in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and faculty from underrepresented groups by transforming institutional policies and practices that contribute to gender inequities in STEM," said Mills. "This will be accomplished by training administrators and those in positions of authority to recognize bias, identify intersectional policies, and solve issues that contribute to gender inequities in STEM. The project will also provide professional support and networking opportunities for women STEM faculty, equipping them with the necessary tools to navigate through the professoriate ranks and enter into academic administration."

Mills was appointed as the first female chair of the department of chemistry, physics, and astronomy in July 2019. ■

Communication students create programming fit for film

Seniors in the Department of Communication Producing Digital Media Capstone course produced a variety of programming that have been accepted to film festivals.



GC Today is a network of shows created by seniors in Professor Angela Criscoe's Digital Media Production capstone course. The shows include Milly Life Hacks, Faculty on Fire, and Millyviews. Each show is distributed on Facebook and targets the Georgia College Freshman.

Students pursuing digital media production used their skills in concept and development, production, editing, and distribution to reach the freshman audience.

Millyviews is an innovative and artistic production using 360 video to explore various locations in the Milledgeville area. Mass Communication major, Chris Mott, produced the show using the department's Insta360 One X 360 video camera. As a music enthusiast, he also composed the music that is incorporated into each show. Among the many locations Mott explored, the highest viewed shows include the A&S Courtyard, Sunset Fields, Ennis Hall, and the Baldwin County Animal Shelter. Millyviews was accepted as an official selection to the Best Shorts Competition in La Jolla, California and won an Award of Recognition for the Remixes/Mashup (Student) category.

Milly Life Hacks is a show that helps "navigating life on campus a little bit easier." Produced by Meredith Lawrence, hosted by Zaria Gholston and Ben Monckton, and shot and edited by Ben Self, Milly Life Hacks provided GC Freshman tips about the Einstein's Coffee Mug, New York Times Subscription, Serve Help Desk and Innovation Station, and Birthday Deals around town. Milly Life Hacks has been accepted as an official selection to the Cherub Film Festival in Waco, Texas. The film festival is scheduled for October 1 – November 30; however the screening date of Milly Life Hacks has not been announced.

Faculty on Fire is the third program produced by the communication students. This show introduces freshman to some of the faculty and staff at Georgia College. Similar to YouTube's show, Hot Ones, the students interviewed willing participants while they ate hot wings from local sponsors. Faculty on Fire was produced by Haley Lewis, Adam Guzman, Olivia Crump, and Nick Venezia. Of all the willing participants the highest rated shows featured Dr. Stephanie McClure, Dr. Rob Sumowski, Dr. Jeffrey MacLachlan, and Eva Galova.



Milly Views 360



Dr. Stephanie McClure



Milly Life Hacks

Two other students in the course were instrumental to these three productions. Mitch Liermann was the social media coordinator. He was responsible for producing content and ensuring each episode was distributed on time. Chandler Wright was the graphics designer and created the graphics for all three shows.

Milly Life Hacks was distributed on Facebook on Mondays at 5 p.m., Faculty on Fire was distributed on Wednesday's at 5 p.m., and Millyviews was distributed on Friday's at 5 p.m. Episodes are still available for viewing on Facebook. @GeorgiaCollegeToday ■

Reacting to the Past historical role-playing game moves to Level Three

Radio Days and the FCC: Breaking Up Broadcast Monopoly, a Reacting to the Past historical role-playing game authored by Dr. James Schiffman, Associate Professor of Communication, is now available for play testing by any instructor in the Reacting community.

The Reacting to the Past Consortium, the academic group that governs Reacting games, elevated *Radio Days*, to Level Three in its hierarchy over the summer. Games in development are ranked in one of five levels. Level Three is the stage that enables any instructor in the Reacting community to play test a game in their classroom. Feedback from play testing is essential for making revisions necessary to allow games to be published. A number of instructors around the country already have used *Radio Days* in their courses. Level Four games are ready for publication, and Level Five games have already been published.

Radio Days reprises a series of hearings held by the Federal Communications Commission in 1938 and 1939 on perceived monopoly power of the American radio networks, primarily NBC and CBS. Students take on roles as FCC commissioners, radio executives and others who testified at the hearings. Students also play journalists covering the hearings. Each role has victory objectives. To meet their objectives, students must research their characters, read original historical documents, make speeches in character, and attempt to persuade other players to agree with their positions. Reacting games do not reenact history; rather, they thrust students into a situation in which the outcome may or may not correspond with what happened in history. A major element in any Reacting game is a post-mortem, in which students compare what occurred in the game to the historical outcome. ■



Department of History and Geography to offer certificate in Global Foodways Studies



Beginning Fall 2020 semester the History and Geography Department will offer a certificate in Global Foodways Studies. This is a 15-18 hour certificate that students from all disciplines are eligible to earn. Students will learn about key food studies concepts that are applicable in any world context. These courses are designed to include both hands-on and real-world experiences. Faculty from other disciplines will join historians to offer exciting classes like: Southern Foodways and Traditions; Sociology of Food and Farmers; Food, History, and Culture of East Asia; Mesoamerican Foodways; Alcohol and World History; Feeding the Fire: Foodways in America During the Civil War; and Anthropological Perspectives on Food and Nutrition in Mexico. Students will also have an opportunity to participate in an internship in different areas of the food world: restaurants, non-profit food banks, farms, and many other venues.

A certificate in food studies will be useful if they are interested in employment with government agencies dealing with food and agriculture issues, food-oriented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work on sustainability and food security issues, and food processing, preparation and distribution firms. ■



STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF EAST ASIAN CUISINE

In Spring 2019, Dr. Ashleigh Dean Ikemoto's Food, History, and Culture of East Asia class visited Buford Highway to sample authentic Cantonese, Korean, and Japanese food. They visited Canton House for dim sum, Sokongdong Tofu House for Korean food, and Kura Revolving Sushi Bar for a taste of modern Japanese cuisine. They were joined by Emory graduate student Jiajun Zou, who taught them proper Chinese dining etiquette. The event was generously sponsored by Emory's East Asian Studies program. ■



Students sit together to enjoy a taste of authentic Cantonese cuisine



Students, department chair travel to Brussels

Four Georgia College History majors travelled on a grant-funded study abroad trip to Brussels, Belgium in fall 2019 to review the newly re-opened Royal Museum of Africa. Josh Astarita, Sylvester Clark, Brianna Davis, and Cassie Gill joined Department Chair Dr. Aran MacKinnon, who teaches a course on African history. They reviewed the museum following a major renovation aimed at redressing the museum's troubled origins in the notorious Belgian colonial era under King Leopold II. The trip was made possible by a generous grant from the Payne Fund facilitated by Phil Bolton, a member of the fund, whose wife was a Georgia College graduate.

"Seeing the Museum of Africa is something that kids like me could only dream of," said Davis. "I grew up pretty poor. We just don't get these opportunities. So, it was life-changing." ■

From left to right: Dr. Aran MacKinnon, Cassandra Gill, Joshua Astarita, Brianna Davis, and Sylvester Clark.

Study Abroad: Madrid



Last summer (2019), 12 students from Georgia College joined Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang, professor of Psychological Science, and Dr. Jenq-Foung Yao, professor of Computer Science, in a Madrid Study Abroad program. This is a program hosted by the University System of Georgia (USG) International Education, known as USG Go Global. With permission, three psychology students commented on their experiences below.

Maddie Drives (senior)

"The overall learning of this study abroad program is definitely the appreciation for other cultures. I have always been very intrigued by cultures other than my own, but this trip has really emerged me into a culture that is different than mine and given me a whole new appreciation. In America, I am rarely challenged with new experiences, but Spain has really tested my ability to adapt. I had to learn how to communicate in a language that I barely know, use transportation that is very different than I am used to, and learn the respectful behavior. This trip has taught me a lot about myself and to has given me so much more respect for other cultures. I very grateful for all of the experiences and things I have learned about this country and myself."

Amelia DuBose (senior)

"I have learned so many things through this program and my time abroad. Being my first experience out of the country, I experienced a whole new culture and way of life. People here walk almost everywhere and don't seem to overindulge in

anything. I've learned a lot about interpersonal relations and how our relationships are affected by our culture and how they can affect ourselves and those around us. I've learned a lot about myself too. I am much more capable than I think and can assimilate to new cultures and ideas. This program has honestly been life-changing and I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to experience it!"

Celine Khalife

"This study abroad has taught me so much about both myself and the world around me. I knew that coming to Spain, a country which I have always wanted to visit, would be an experience of a lifetime filled with so many exciting stories to take away from it. Not only did I get that, but I also gained ample knowledge about parts of myself I hadn't considered. Before coming on this trip, I was in a major rough patch. I was hoping that leaving my familiar environment would help break me out of that dark spell, and it definitely did in more ways than expected. I learned how to prioritize my ideals, what I look for and value in a good life, what constitutes good friendship, and how to carry myself in a stronger, happier way. This study abroad heightened my desire for travel and has made me eager to continue to explore the world and myself."

Dr. Chiang and Dr. Yao plan to take students returning to Taiwan to embark the second Taiwan Study Abroad in a future study abroad program, to continue building cultural competence in GC students. ■



Updates from the Department of World Languages and Cultures

The Department of World Languages and Cultures (WLC) finds itself basking in the summer accomplishments of faculty and students, while preparing for a whirlwind of Fall activities. The faculty led two successful Study Abroad programs over the summer: ten students joined Dr. Brantley Nicholson in Chile, and three students spent five weeks studying in Milan and Lake Garda with the coordination of Tony Alcarria. Not resting on their laurels, those two are already recruiting for future study abroad programs. Other study abroad programs being planned include Dr. Mariana Stoyanova's program to Cuenca, Spain and Valencia, Spain, designed for our majors and minors and led by our senior faculty.

When not traveling, the faculty and students still share the rich culture of the languages and countries we teach. This begins on the first Wednesday of each month, when the Language Resource Center hosts an International Conversation Coffee Hour in Arts and Sciences 273. Students studying any of the five languages

taught by WLC meet informally with other students and instructors to talk, have a snack, play games, and relax in an international environment. Attendance is growing every month, but there is always room for more.

WLC hosted an International Film Festival in conjunction with the Georgia College's International Week. Each night the department previewed a new film featuring one of the five languages we teach: Chinese, Italian, Spanish, German, and French. All showings were in the newly renovated Peabody Auditorium and were free to the public. The films were introduced and also led a Q&A as part of the viewing.

On Nov. 14, the department brought Dr. Justin Izzo to campus. A French professor at Brown University, Izzo gave a public talk based on his recent book, "Experiments with Empire: Anthropology and Fiction in the French Atlantic." ■



Study Abroad program in Chile



Tabitha Humphrey led students in dance on Flamenco night



Study Abroad program in Italy

Mathematics professor pursues research to further mathematical models



Dr. Susmita Sadhu is an applied mathematician who works in the field of differential equations. She received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh on classical theory of differential equations and has gradually branched out to work on applied problems stemming from biological and ecological processes. Over the last couple of years, Dr. Sadhu has been working on mathematical models governing population dynamics, namely, studying population cycles that are tightly linked with consumer-resource interactions with underlying multiple timescales.

In fall 2018, Sadhu was granted a professional leave to pursue her research. During her professional leave, she visited the University of Alabama in Huntsville to work with Professor S. Ai, an expert in nonlinear dynamical systems. Sadhu and Professor Ai rigorously investigated several mathematical models stemming from biological and ecological processes, where one can use tools from nonlinear dynamical systems to answer certain specific questions. The visit was very rewarding as it opened up rich mathematical discussions. Sadhu and Professor Ai collaborated on a project and proved important mathematical results on existence and multiplicity of large periodic cycles in predator-prey models, where the predator and the prey evolved under different timescales. The results were written up and the manuscript is provisionally accepted in *Journal of Differential Equations*, a very prestigious mathematical journal.

In May 2019, Sadhu was invited to present her research in a mini-symposium at the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems held in Snowbird, Utah. The conference is held bi-annually and is attended by internationally renowned researchers in dynamical systems. It was a great experience for Dr. Sadhu to be a part of the conference. In July 2019, Sadhu was invited to participate in a workshop on “New Mathematical Methods for Complex Systems

in Ecology” at the *Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery* in Canada. The workshop was attended by 40 renowned leading experts in applied mathematics and theoretical ecology, all of whom were invited. Dr. Sadhu was honored to give a plenary talk on her research at this workshop. In spring 2018, Dr. Sadhu was also invited to participate in a mathematical biology workshop organized by the *Fields Institute* at the University of Toronto. It was an honor to be a part of that workshop while meeting and listening to talks by several experts on applied mathematicians. At the Fields Institute, Sadhu also gave a talk in their Math Biology Seminar.

Besides pursuing her research career, Dr. Sadhu has always tried to integrate her research into teaching and mentoring. She has mentored several undergraduate students majoring or minoring in mathematics in the form of capstone projects and independent studies. Several of her students have presented their work at undergraduate research conferences within and outside Georgia College. Some of the conferences include *Annual Undergraduate Research Conference at the Interface of Mathematics and Biology* held in University of Tennessee in Knoxville, *Dynamic Days* held in Atlanta and the *Annual Georgia College Student Research Conference*. Two of her capstone students are currently employed by Lockheed Martin Corporation. One of her students who pursued an independent study in Dynamical Systems is doing her Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and another student is employed by Capital One.

Dr. Sadhu is looking forward to involving more students in her research as it gives her a lot of pleasure introducing her students to the joys of research. ■

Top left: Dr. Sadhu

Top right: Dr. Sadhu with her capstone student, Jaclyn Pescitelli

Faculty teach in Tibet

Two faculty in the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy participated in teaching as part of the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative in the summer of 2019. Dr. Donovan Domingue and Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge were able to facilitate physics-based classroom and lab experiences to the Tibetan monks located at two monasteries in India. Domingue taught astronomy and cosmology to monks in their 6th-year of the science program at Sera Mey Monastery in Bylakuppe, India while Mahabaduge taught electricity and magnetism to monks in their 4th-year of the experience at Drepung Loseling Monastery in Mundgod, India.

Each summer for the past six years, these monasteries have hosted faculty from many different U.S. and international universities to present a physics, biology and neuroscience curriculum as part of their monastic training. Emory University serves as host to the curriculum planning which has now completed its implementation phase. This was the first time that Drs. Domingue and Mahabaduge participated in the program. The end of the implementation phase means that future faculty participation in educating the monks will be serving as remote mentors and knowledge resources. ■



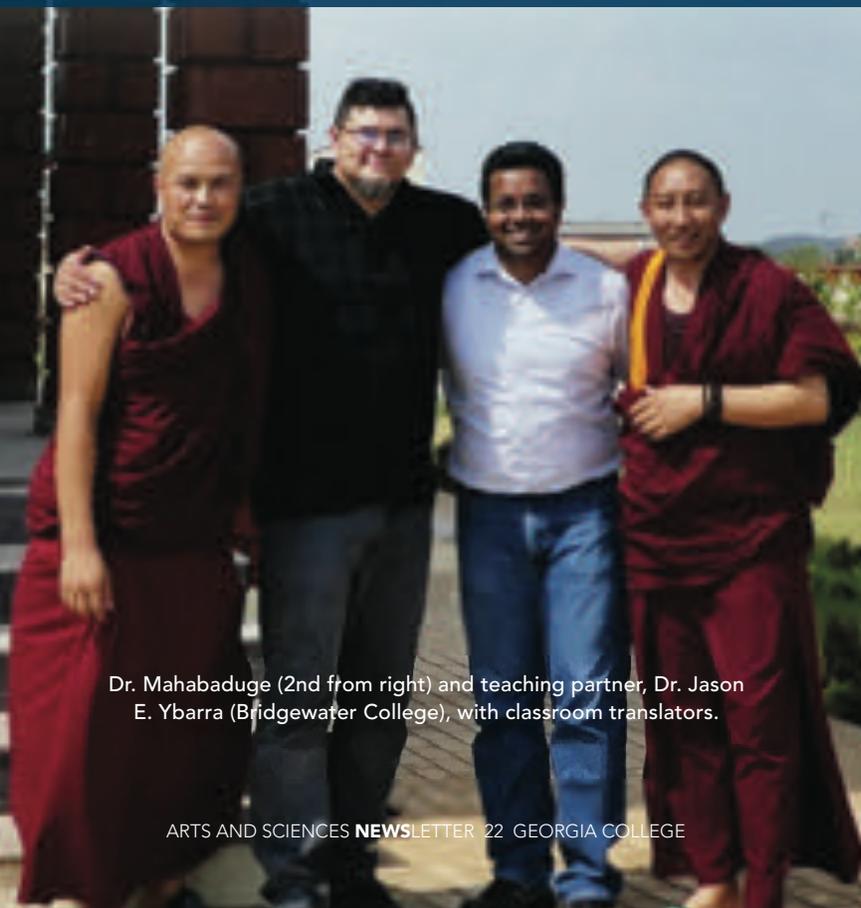
Dr. Domingue (2nd from right) and teaching partner, Dr. Chad Ellington (Maastricht University), with classroom translators at the closing ceremony.



Students practiced recreating eclipse models during the Earth-Moon lessons on the grounds of Sera Mey Monastery.



Dr. Mahabaduge helping students during one of the laboratory experiments on simple circuits.



Dr. Mahabaduge (2nd from right) and teaching partner, Dr. Jason E. Ybarra (Bridgewater College), with classroom translators.

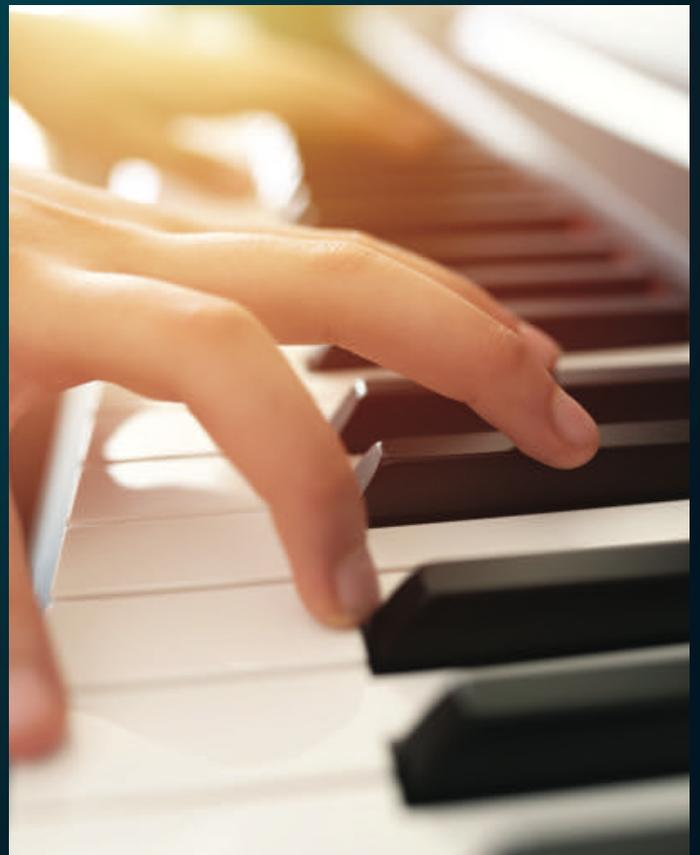
Assistant professor presents a series of solo recitals abroad



Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Youngmi Kim presented a series of solo recitals in Europe; one at the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum and Research Center, one of the major performance venues in Budapest, Hungary, on June 15, 2019; and another at Saison du Conservatoire in Menton, France on June 19, 2019. Kim performed with Dr. You Ju Lee, professor of piano at Toccoa Falls College in Georgia. The program included six Franz Liszt songs in the German and French languages, one piano solo piece by Liszt, and three Korean songs. Kim also gave a masterclass for students at the conservatoire on June 24, 2019. The Creative Endeavors Grant through Georgia College (MURACE) provided support for these performances. ■

Bobcat Keys Program at Georgia College

In Fall 2019, the piano department in collaboration with the Center for Music Education at Georgia College, provided weekly piano lessons to ten Wilkinson County Elementary students who were identified by their school as unlikely to have private musical instruction. Through this "Bobcat Keys" program imagined by Assistant Professor of Music/Piano Dr. Owen Lovell, GC piano pedagogy students have opportunities for guided instruction with children and some children have access to instruction and practice instruments. The program is also supported by Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis, music education coordinator, and Dr. Don Parker, music department chair. In addition to developing and running the Bobcat Keys program, the groups have also applied for a Knight Foundation grant to cover the cost of transporting students to Georgia College each week. ■



Scholar shares expertise in creative teaching and learning in music

During the spring 2019 semester, Georgia College welcomed the its 7th visiting Martha Daniel Newell Scholar, Dr. Carolyn Barber. Barber, the Ron and Carol Cope Professor of Music and Director of Bands at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Glenn Korff School of Music, has developed expertise in the area of creativity in teaching and learning and the artistic process.

This visiting scholar program was established with an endowment from Georgia College alumna, Mrs. Martha Daniel Newell, to promote visiting scholars in the arts, social and physical sciences, and the humanities.

During her time at Georgia College, she led a series of workshops on the innovative and creative processes among groups. Barber taught an interdisciplinary course titled "Exercising Creativity: Problem Finding, Flocking, & Aesthetic Intent." The course engaged students using game play tactics to maximize their creative capacities and develop their aesthetic intent, mindfulness, and collaborative spirit. Students enrolled in the course experienced an iterative creative process in which they developed products during the course that contributed to their community or environment.

Barber earned a Doctor of Music in Conducting at Northwestern University, a Master of Music in Horn Performance at Yale, and a Bachelor in Horn Performance at Northwestern University. Her publications have been featured in Teaching Music through Performance in Band, Journal of Band Research, and NMEA Music Educator.

She has shared her expertise in venues such as the College Band Directors National Association, American String Teachers Association, Midwest Clinic, and the National Association for Music Education. Some of her awards include the Hisxon-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts Distinguished Teaching Award, a Hisxon-Lied Professorship, two National Band Association Citations of Excellence, YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women Achievement Award, and a United States Navy Good Conduct Medal. ■



Music department presents Dr. Barber with a certificate and a parting gift for contributions to the department and the campus as the Newell Scholar for 2019 (Pictured left to right: Dr. Eric Tenbus, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Carolyn Barber, and Dr. Don Parker, Department chair of Music)



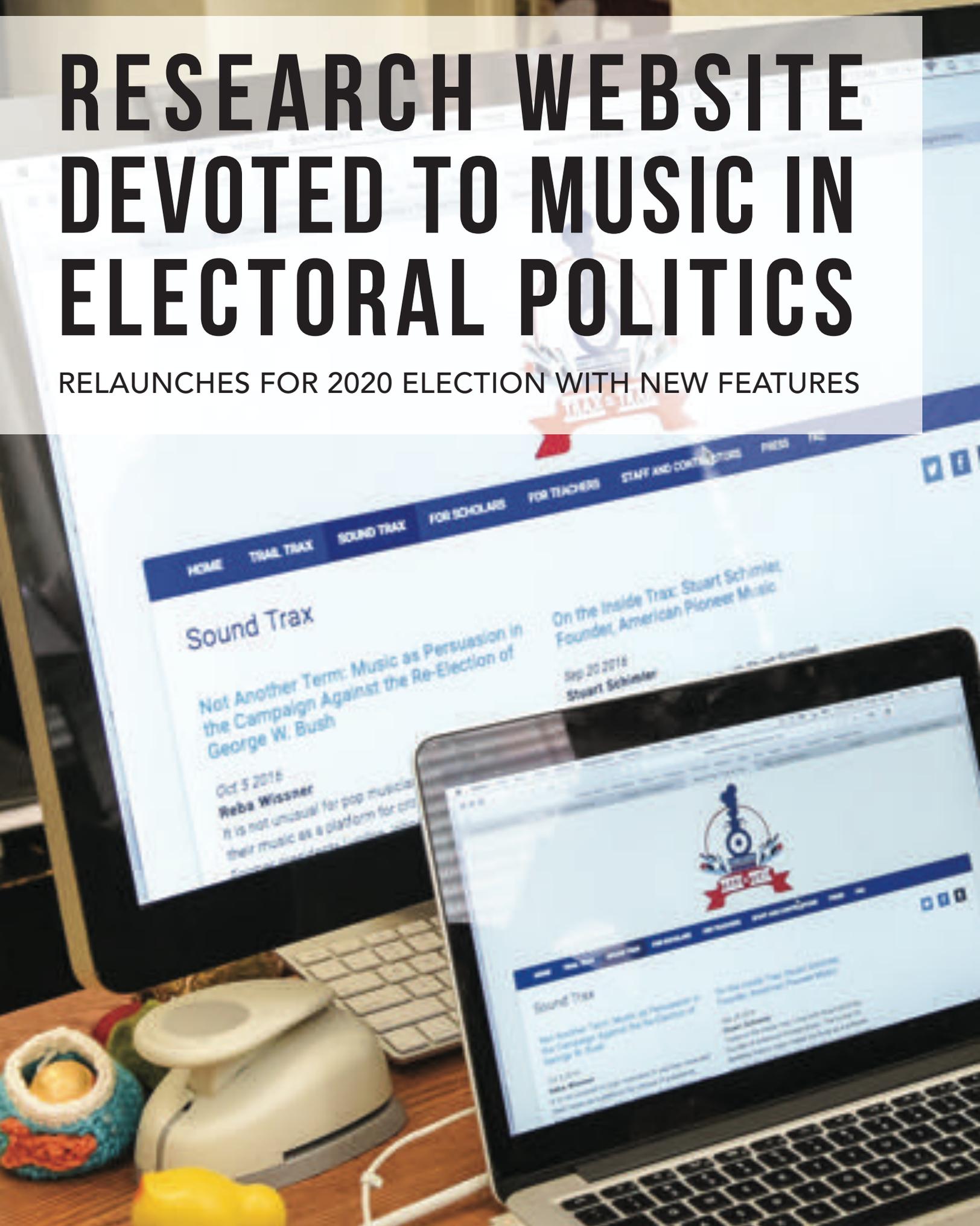
Research in Faculty with Disabilities

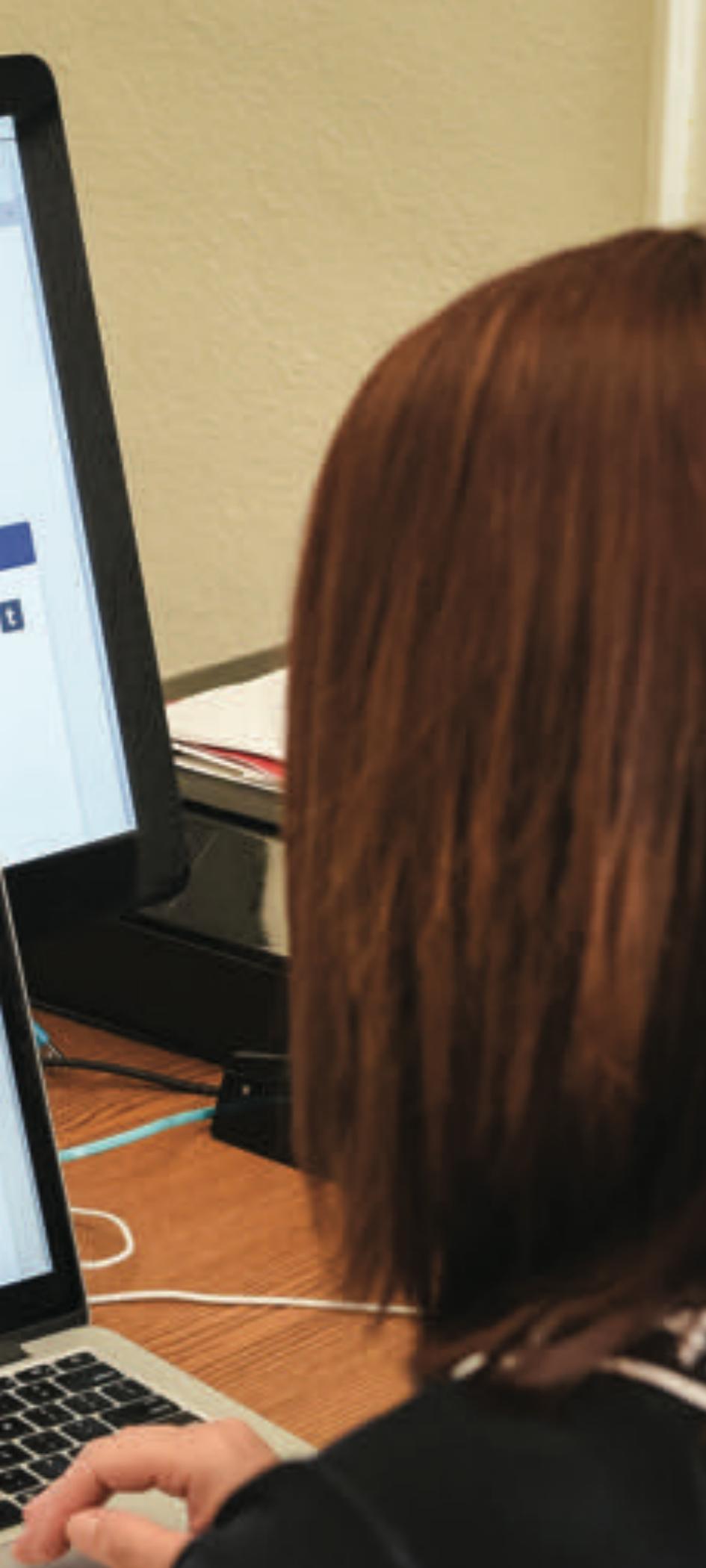
Throughout the 2018-2019 school-year, Assistant of Music Education/Music Education Coordinator Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis and adjunct voice faculty Dr. Bonnie Von Hoff conducted qualitative research on the experiences of neurodiverse faculty in Higher Education. There is a small, but growing, body of research on faculty with disability and the predominant expectation seems to be that people with disabilities cannot or do not work in higher education. Drs. Von Hoff and Holmes-Davis are trying to show that neurodiverse people are not only capable of working in higher education; we are already working there!

The study was well received and led to several presentation invitations including the National Opera Association 2019 Convention in Salt Lake City, the 2019 International Conference on Diversity in Nations, Organizations and Programs in Patras, Greece, and the 2018 Performing Arts Medicine Association Symposium in Los Angeles. The pair are currently editing the final document for publication in 2020. ■

RESEARCH WEBSITE DEVOTED TO MUSIC IN ELECTORAL POLITICS

RELAUNCHES FOR 2020 ELECTION WITH NEW FEATURES





Trax on the Trail launched its 2020 website on Jan. 15, 2020. Trax on the Trail, a website that tracks music used in political campaigns, has geared up for the upcoming election as it builds on the tools and features available from the 2016 election cycle.

Trax on the Trail was founded in 2015 by Dana Gorzelany-Mostak to provide a resource for scholars, students, industry professionals, and other parties interested in how music and sound shape the landscape of political elections. With an interdisciplinary team of musicologists, ethnomusicologists, political scientists, educators, and students of Georgia College, we are committed to providing comprehensive, non-partisan, and high-quality coverage of music in electoral politics. After our successful coverage of the 2016 election, we are excited to announce our relaunch for the 2020 cycle, with improved and all-new features.

The Trax database, which includes over 8,000 entries for songs used in the 2016 and 2020 election cycles, offers an improved user interface along with new features, including mapping and timeline functions. Our team updates the database weekly to track how candidates and the public employ music and sound throughout the campaign season. The website has also been redesigned for better usability and easier navigation.

Trax: Trax on the Trail was founded in 2015 by Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, assistant professor of music.

Finally, the updated and improved Trax on the Trail podcast offers roundtable conversations for up-to-the-minute coverage, and separate interviews with authors featuring deep dives into relevant topics and issues.

Scholars, educators, and organizations interested in contributing to or collaborating with Trax on the Trail are encouraged to contact co-editors Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, assistant professor of music at Georgia College, Dr. Naomi Graber, assistant professor of musicology, University of Georgia, or Dr. James Deaville, professor of music, Carleton University. They can be reached at traxonthetrail@gmail.com or 478-445-8630. ■

Gorzelany-Mostak works with a student on the research project.



Finding inspiration in math, art

Wood Art

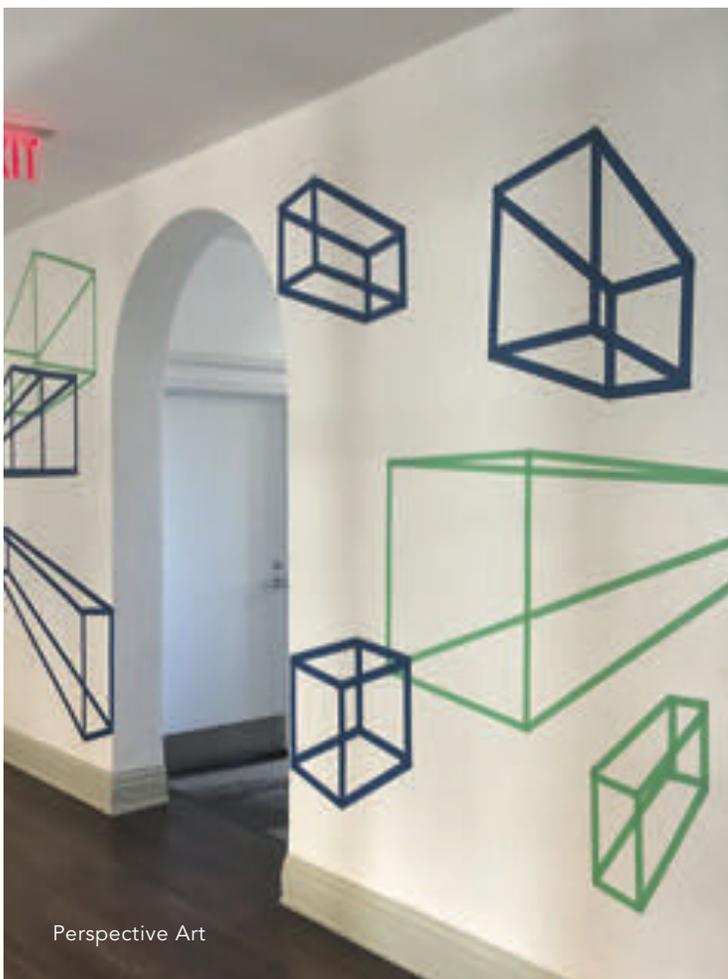
Morgan Drawdy was an art major with minors in both math and business administration. She hopes to use her varied skill set to pursue a career in industrial design. Drawdy's area of specialization is sculpture and her mathematical background is evident in much of her art. She has gained artistic inspiration from her math courses, particularly Foundations of Mathematics and Calculus. The graphs she encountered in calculus help her think about new shapes and materials.

"They also taught me to consider that there is an even bigger picture than I previously considered, such as there being a few basic Theorems that are the basis for all mathematics," Drawdy said about her math courses. "This taught me to look at the very beginning of ideas and concepts instead of just the finished thought. This has helped me in developing ideas further."

Drawdy first learned of industrial design during her sophomore year when she heard about an internship opportunity in the field. Her research into the area showed her how a career in industrial design could allow her to combine her interests of art, math, and business. She was looking for a career where she could express her creativity, while still utilizing fact and calculation, and industrial design looked like a perfect fit. While she didn't end up getting the internship, she has stayed passionate about industrial design and hopes to study it further in graduate school.

"Exploring careers that tie in mathematics, engineering, and creativity, I was able to find something that well suited me," she said.

Drawdy graduated spring 2020 and hopes to start a graduate program in industrial or urban design in the fall. ■



Perspective Art



Morgan Drawdy



Environmental science major looks to local lake for amphipod crustacean research



Sally Sir, an environmental science major, is collecting amphipod crustaceans in Lake Sinclair to further her research project, Understanding Biodiversity through Taxonomic Training. Sir has been working in Dr. Kristine White's lab since September of 2019. Part of the training includes using a stacked imaging system. The amphipod photo was taken by Sally using the imaging system. ■

Graduate student lands National Science Foundation Research Fellowship

A Georgia College biology graduate student wants to work internationally, helping people cope after natural and manmade disasters by providing environmental remediation and rehabilitation.

Marissa Mayfield got a head start on that dream in the summer of 2019. She traveled to Zambia with geologist Dr. Samuel Mutiti to research the remedial properties of Moringa trees. Her field project recently garnered the attention of the National Science Foundation (NSF), which granted her a fellowship award of \$34,000, along with a tuition stipend — a recognition that puts Mayfield in the country's top percentage of science students.

"I am really excited to have gotten into the NSF Fellowship program," Mayfield said, "because it gives me the extra money to do my research, especially since a lot of it requires traveling to Zambia."

"I am so thankful to my advisor, Dr. Sam Mutiti, for believing in me and helping me apply," she said.

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program is selective. It supports outstanding students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Mayfield is the second Georgia College student to win this prestigious recognition. Anne Zimmerman pursued her graduate degree at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She received a fellowship in 2014 for her work on the effect of kudzu bugs on soybean plants.

"This is further testament to the value of our department's efforts in the Mentored Undergraduate Research Program," said Dr. Indiren Pillay, chair of biological and environmental sciences. "I am very happy for Marissa. This is an amazing individual accomplishment for her." ■



Three Georgia College students recognized by Kennedy Center for undergrad research

Georgia College's Theatre Department was nominated in four categories during the recent Region IV (nine-state region) of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in South Carolina. Of the four categories, Georgia College made it to the finals in three categories with two students taking first place.

Senior Laura Swarner of Buford, Georgia, and junior Sachen Pillay of Milledgeville both took first place in their categories. A third student, junior theatre major Tiffany Hawkins of Wadley, Georgia, made it to the finals for her role as "Black Marie" in the fall 2019 production of "Barbecue." Hawkins was one of 16 actors in the region nominated for the Kennedy Center's Irene Ryan Acting Award.

"We are so proud of our students," said Dr. Karen Berman, artistic director and chair of theatre and dance.

Swarner, who's double majoring in theatre and English, is also a semi-finalist for this year's Fulbright Scholarship. She took first place in scenic design for the set of "Ballet Russes," performed on campus last fall. Mentored by Scenic Designer Issac Ramsey, Swarner's dramaturgical research was on the early-20th-century Russian ballet company. The set was a conglomerate of muslin flats and mirror imagery. Her research delved into the context of the era, architectural styles and biographies of the play's major characters.

This was Swarner's first mainstage set design and her senior capstone. She put a lot of pressure on herself to get things right. Her oral presentation to judges included a portfolio on Russian history, scenic design renderings, scale drawings, a set model and production photos.

"I feel very honored and excited and, honestly, just super grateful for the opportunity and support that I had throughout the process," Swarner said. "Georgia College prepared me by teaching me what I need to know in order to develop my ideas and present them professionally."

"One of my favorite parts of the research," she said, "was looking at the construction and history of old theatres, where the (ballet) company performed and the magnificence of their architecture. As part of my research, I was also able to read a portion of Nijinsky's

diary and learn about schizophrenia and the treatment of mental illness during the early 1900s."

Pillay is double majoring in history and liberal studies. He won first place for his dramaturgical research on "Ballet Russes," as well. Berman considers the combination of history and theatre to be "a hybrid of traditional undergraduate research and creative endeavors." The speech given to introduce Sachen at the award ceremony was "quite spectacular," she said, "as the judges seemed particularly impressed with his work. I am so proud as his mentor."

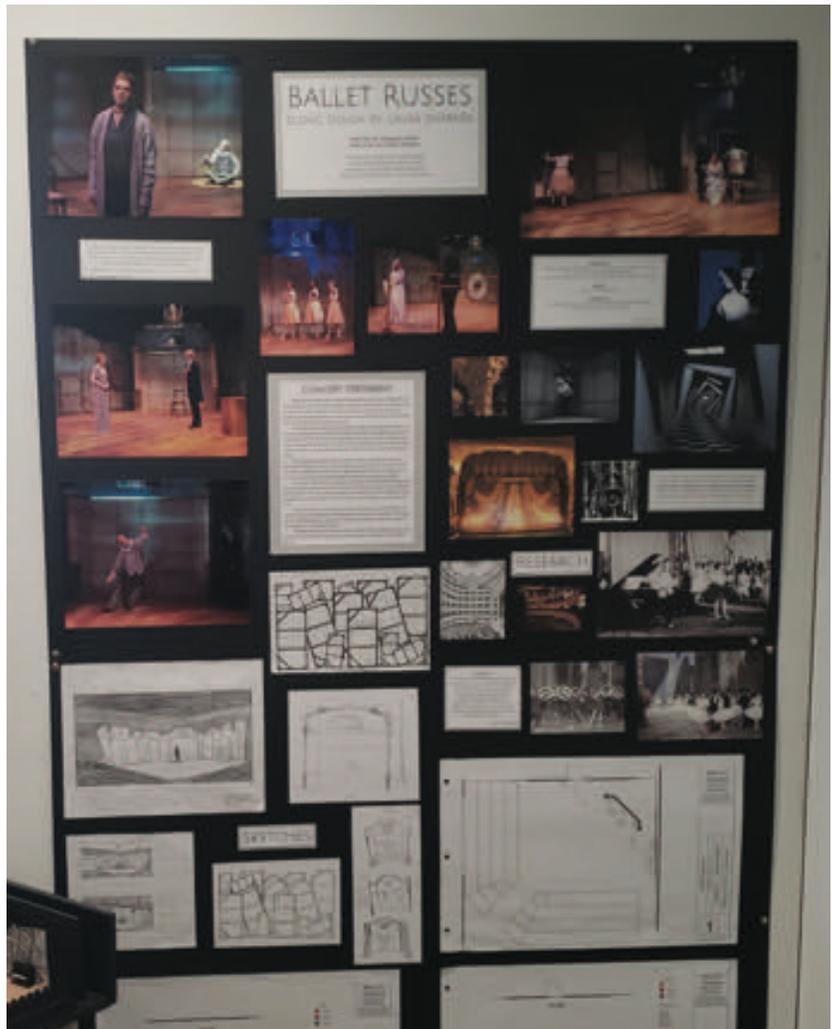
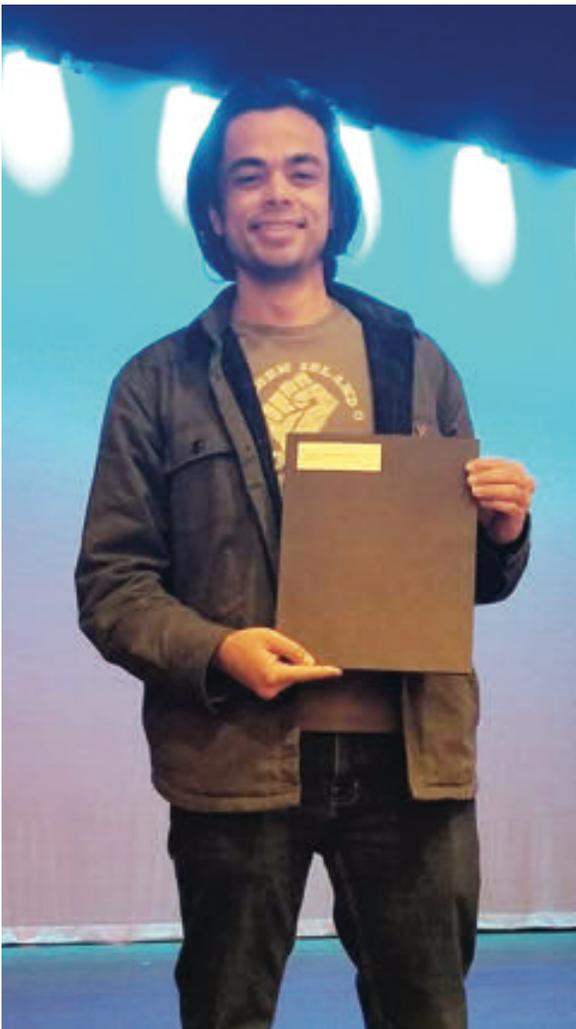
A new research skill Pillay learned that surprised him was "blending the abstract emotional work" of creating a theatrical stage with "the empirical research of a historian." Two seemingly opposite practices helped him "find a deeper understanding of my work." It was Pillay's job to explain the play's context to actors. He found it challenging to condense large amounts of political and cultural history into short explanations that didn't waste valuable rehearsing time.

Diverse, interdisciplinary coursework at Georgia College helped prepare Pillay for this research. He developed key skills in history and learned how "to combine my skills in historiography with other disciplines, such as theatre and geography."

"I feel incredibly honored by this experience," Pillay said. "I never expected that my research would make such a positive impact on myself or other people."

"I did not expect I would be presenting research, when I first came to Georgia College," he said. "The experience has helped me grow as a historian and an artist. The theatre world has always been a passion of mine, and my work as a dramaturge helped me find a deeper understand of crafting a stage play and how to educate people's perspectives through historical research."

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival is still looking for workshops and other ways to celebrate these regional award winners. ■



Arts and Sciences students present posters at the capital

Six Georgia College students with five research projects involving physics, psychology, music therapy and chemistry were part of a group of 54 students from 15 colleges and universities for the 2nd Annual "Posters at the Capitol" — an event started by Georgia College last year to spotlight undergraduate research.

Students presented projects to state legislators and the public on Feb. 25, 2020, in the south wing of the Georgia State Capitol building. It's selective. Due to limited space, only 42 of 78 projects were accepted from private and public institutions throughout Georgia.

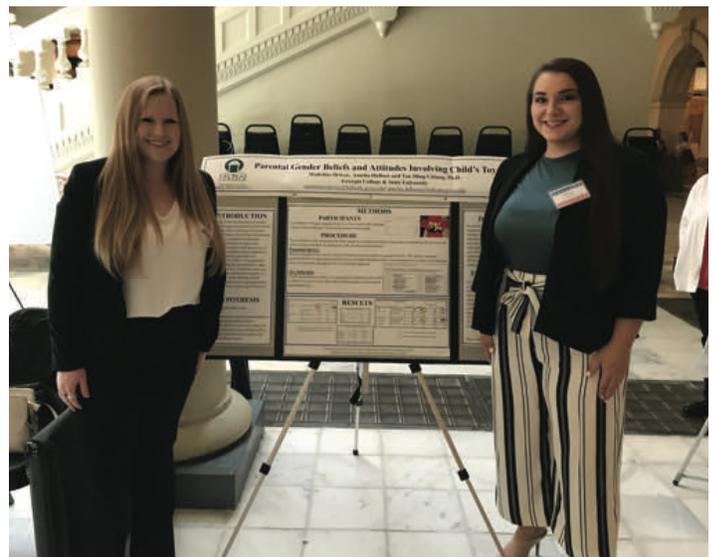
"The applications go through a blind-review process with faculty reviewers from all over the state," Dr. Doreen Sams, Coordinator for Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors said. "It's not an easy hurdle, and that's what makes these research presentations truly preeminent. Just making it through the review process is something to celebrate."

Using saliva, senior chemistry major Megan Andrews of Covington is studying prostate cancer in men of African descent, who are disproportionately affected by the disease. She's working with three Georgia College Chemistry and Public Health professors, along with the state Department of Public Health, to determine how socioeconomic status affects onset of this particular cancer.

"The most impactful experience I've had at Georgia College has been undergraduate research," Andrews said. "This presentation will help me practice public speaking skills, which are vital to have in graduate school. It will also allow me to network, as there are a variety of different people that work at the state Capitol."

Senior psychology major Amelia DuBose of Thomasville is working with a partner to study aggression levels in children, as perceived by parents and teachers, and how this connects to socioeconomic status.

"I think the 'Posters at the Capitol' event is such an important and incredible opportunity for students to come together and present their research to important Georgia leaders," she said. ■



Madeline Drives and Amelia DuBose at last year's Posters at the Capitol event.

Mock Trial Competition



At the February 2020 American Mock Trial Regional competition in Tallahassee, Florida, the Georgia College Mock Trial team won a Spirit Award and William Hoeffner won an individual award for being a trial witness! The Mock Trial team was coached by Dr. Nicholas Creel. ■

ALUMNI NEWS

Mathematics alumna earns professorship



Alumna Aubrey Kemp, '13, completed her Ph.D. in mathematics at Georgia State University and recently accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship at California State University in Bakersfield, California.

"We're very proud of this accomplishment," said Dr. Robert Blumenthal, chair of mathematics.

Dr. Brandon Samples, associate professor of mathematics, spoke with Kemp at a conference in 2016. She told him her experience as a math major at Georgia College was "impactful" and led to her becoming a math professional.

"We are thrilled that her dream became reality," Samples said. "I am impressed with how quickly Aubrey is making a name for herself through teaching and research. We knew she was an exceptional mathematics student while at Georgia College, but her success thereafter has been significant."

At Georgia College, Kemp was chosen as the recipient of the "Outstanding Mathematics Major" award in 2012-13. She was president of the math club senior year and was the keynote speaker at the Mathematics Department 2016 Honors Lunch. Kemp also worked in the Learning Center as a supplemental instructor and completed her capstone research on the "Cantor Set" under the direction of Dr. Laurie Huffman.

During graduate school, Kemp earned a Certificate of Excellence in College Teaching. She published a paper with a research group in the "Journal of Mathematical Behavior" about student comprehension of "one population hypothesis testing" and how to improve understanding.

She won a Graduate Lab Assistant award her first year at Georgia State University and co-founded a chapter of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) there. She also co-organized seminars on active learning.

Currently, Kemp is working with the research group, PRIUM (Promoting Reasoning in Undergraduate Mathematics), which has funding from the National Science Foundation. She is also writing three papers from her dissertation. ■



May graduate awarded **Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship**



Alec Powers, '19, was one of nine students in the state, who was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp recognized him Aug. 14, 2019. Powers will receive \$20,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master's degree at Mercer University.

With his undergraduate degree in math, Powers credits his professors, especially Dr. Rachel Epstein, assistant professor mathematics, for giving him the confidence he needed in the subject.

"Not only did I learn a lot about math from Dr. Epstein, but I also learned a lot about teaching from observing her," he said. "She made sure all of her students had the opportunity to be successful in her class. I hope I can do the same when I become a teacher."

Powers teaches at Westside High School in Bibb County. And, just like his Georgia College professors, he looks most forward to helping students understand math and preparing them to be successful.

"My goal is to have a positive impact on my students," Powers said. "I think everyone desires to have a quality education and feel like they matter. I will make sure I stay proficient in mathematics, so I can always teach correct information. I also plan to show my students that I care about them."

In its fifth year, the highly competitive, year-long Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship is made possible by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The foundation recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools for three years.

"Five years ago, the Georgia Teaching Fellowship began its work to help close the state's achievement gap and to ensure the best STEM educators possible for all learners," Woodrow Wilson Foundation President Rajiv Vinnakota said. "We are proud of the nearly 200 educators who have been part of this program to date and applaud Governor Kemp, our university and K-12 partners and the Woodruff Foundation for their collective commitment to improve the quality and size of Georgia's teacher pipeline."

During his time at Georgia College, Powers was a math tutor, math club treasurer; men's ultimate Frisbee club president, undergraduate researcher, GC's mathematics scholarship recipient and a Sara Nelson Scholarship awardee. ■

Ralph Staffins III Chosen to Lead Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce

Staffins is serving as president and chief executive officer of the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce in Covington, Georgia located about 30 miles east of Atlanta. He has led the chamber of commerce, economic development office, main street program and tourism for the community since 2015. In 2018, under Staffins' guidance, the chamber was awarded the 4-Star Certification by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, one of the highest designations afforded to chambers of commerce. Only the top three percent of chambers in the country have such a designation.

Prior to serving in Covington, Staffins was executive director of Forward McDuffie in Thomson, Georgia and

economic development director for Wilkinson County, Georgia. He graduated from Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in political science and Master of Public Administration in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

Staffins currently serves as vice chair of the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, an organization he will chair in 2020-2021. He is also a Certified Economic Development Professional as designated by the International Economic Development Council, Georgia Certified Chamber Executive, graduate of Leadership Georgia, graduate of Georgia Academy of Economic Development, and board member of the Newton County Industrial Development Authority. ■

Brian Muenger has served as the City Manager of Pell City, Alabama

The Pell City Council during its meeting on Jan. 13, 2020, renewed the city manager's contract. Muenger has served as the City Manager of Pell City since March 2015. Prior to his appointment in Pell City, he served as the City Manager of the City of Talladega, and as Community Development Planner for the Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Commission.

As City Manager, he serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the City responsible for the general operation and supervision of governmental functions of the City. He is responsible for the appointment and dismissal of non-Council appointed positions, preparation and implementation of the annual budget, and enforcement of all laws, ordinances and policies of the City. He serves as the chief advisor to the Mayor and City Council.

Brian attended Georgia College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice, and a Masters of Public Administration degree with a concentration in Public Policy. He is a member of the Alabama City/County Management Association and the International City/County Management Association, where he has earned the Credentialed Manager designation. ■



ARTS AND SCIENCES **NEWSLETTER**
2020