

## Breaking the glass ceiling—majority of women in GC economics go on to graduate school

For years, women have worked to break the invisible barrier that keeps underrepresented groups from climbing the corporate ladder. But even with that hard work, women remain under the “glass ceiling” and are still unrepresented in certain careers.

In the field of economics, women represented only 7 percent of new Ph.D.’s in 1972, according to a 2018 report from the American Economic Association’s Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP).

In nearly 50 years, the representation of women receiving an economics Ph.D. has grown, but only to 32.9 percent nationally in 2017. That statistic has remained stagnant since the early 2000s, hovering between 30-35 percent.

Georgia College’s economics department bucks that national trend. Of the spring 2020 graduates majoring in economics, 50 percent of those were women and 25 percent of those went on to pursue graduate school.

Hanna Kagele graduated in 2018 with double majors in economics and math. More than half of her fellow economics majors were women and 44 percent of them went to graduate school.

“Georgia College was not an environment where women in the field are treated differently,” said Kagele. “I didn’t even realize that was a thing in economics until I left Georgia College.”

“The field itself is definitely very male-dominated,” she said, “but that wasn’t the case at all at Georgia College. I always felt very respected.”

Kagele is the first student from Georgia College’s economics program accepted to Emory University’s economics Ph.D. program. She received a full scholarship.

It wasn’t until her junior year at Georgia College when she

started seriously considering a Ph.D. as an option. She knew she wanted to double major, and economics paired well with math. Then after becoming a supplemental instructor for math, she realized she enjoyed and had a knack for teaching others—sparking in her the thought of becoming a professor.

“One day, I stayed after

in Dr. Chris Clark’s econometrics class, and I just was like, ‘do you really think this is something I could accomplish?’ I said ‘you can be completely honest with me; would I even make it through grad school?’”

“Dr. Clark replied with ‘oh yeah, 100 percent. If that’s what you want to do, you would definitely make it,’” she said.

The rest is history Kagele said. She credits the research project she completed her senior year to helping her stand out to Emory.

“I was the only person in my cohort that was coming straight from undergrad so everyone else had a master’s or they had been doing research-type jobs before they came to the Ph.D. program,” said Kagele. “I was a little bit nervous because I kind of felt like the underdog. But Georgia College prepared me so well. I definitely didn’t have a disadvantage”

The research project for students begins during fall semester senior year. In the econometrics course, they learn how to formulate research questions, collect, clean and analyze data, and use appropriate econometrics techniques to answer those research questions.

“They complete memo projects that eventually become the basis of their final research papers,” said Dr. Brooke Conaway, assistant professor of economics. “Their papers are completed, polished and presented in the spring during our senior seminar course.”

“These projects give our students an edge as they apply to grad school since this is the kind of research they would be doing,” said Conaway. “But it also benefits them as they apply for jobs, since the paper is a signal of many qualities employers are looking for in new hires.”

Georgia College’s economics curriculum focuses on the development of analytical and critical thinking, deductive reasoning, quantitative and communication skills. These skills are sought by employers in all fields. Majoring in economics can open doors for students to graduate school, law school or the workforce.

“The faculty in the Economics and Finance Department are wholly dedicated to the success of our students, and many co-author papers with undergraduates,” Conaway said. “We have award-winning faculty using high-impact practices to teach students skills highly desired by employers and graduate



Dr. Brooke Conaway teaches her class

programs.”

Senior Kendyl Lewis chose the major based on her interests in research and policy.

“Studying both economics and psychology has had a major impact on my career plans,” said Lewis. “I am so thankful that I have been able to take both psychology and economics classes because I have been able to apply what I am learning in each field to the other.”

Lewis is deciding whether she wants to pursue an economics Ph.D. or a dual-degree program where she could earn her Ph.D. in economics and law degree at the same time.

“I ultimately want a career where I can do research that is focused on improving public policy,” said Lewis.

As they set out to make their marks on the world, both women credit professors with helping them along their journey.

“Econ professors have gone out of their way to provide me with opportunities to help me prepare for graduate school and my future career,” said Lewis “They push me and provide me with extra opportunities to put my skills into practice, so I feel like I would not be able to have the same quality of economics education anywhere else.”

They know their perspectives are needed and valued in the field.

“Economics is a really unique field in that different perspectives give you such an advantage,” said Kagele. “I think the perspective that women, in particular, bring is important.”

“We’re doing something important here,” she added. “Everyone’s feeling it.”



Hanna Kagele

## Virtual Art Exhibition: RESILIENCE

The Department of Art at Georgia College cordially invites you to a virtual art exhibition titled, RESILIENCE, which includes pieces from a variety of mediums.

The exhibit showcases our students research over the past year of capstone research and opened Monday, Nov. 16. The exhibit is available at <https://www.gcsu-art.com/>.

The five Capstone II students are Michelle Gibson, Jessica Hendrix, Parker Kelly, Kent Miller and Thuy West.

These students did an outstanding job during these unprecedented and very challenging times. They are pleased to share and present their innovative artworks with the public.

The online exhibition is available for viewing through Jan. 20, 2021.



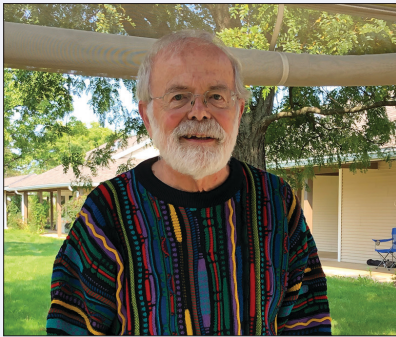
## Did you know?

The Hemphill-Sallstrom Faculty/Staff Honors Award is given to one retired faculty and one retired staff member every year.

Dr. Dwight Call is the staff recipient of the award for his outstanding contributions to Georgia College. During his tenure, he arrived to a nearly empty office headed only by himself and a part-time secretary. By the end of his tenure in 2013, he had quietly grown a small office of two—dedicated primarily to International Services—to a centralized International Education Center of six that managed International Admissions, Study Abroad, International Student and Scholar Services, and many other curricular functions such as the International Studies Minor and the International Plan. He even opened up his home every semester to international students.

Now, he is retired and living in Oberlin, Ohio. Prior to COVID-19, he would get together with friends to prepare Sunday dinner for 15-60 international and U.S. students. He enjoys this opportunity to continue connecting with international students.

Dr. Michael Riley is the faculty recipient of the award for his outstanding contributions to Georgia College. He taught for the English department specializing in children’s literature. His continued work with Georgia College after his retirement showcases his dedication to this university. He has helped conduct interviews with many Fulbright scholarship applicants over the last few years. Students can get very nervous with the application process, but Dr. Riley offers valuable feedback and support to help them along the way. Two out of three of the students he helped last year went on to become Fulbright semi-finalists.



Dr. Dwight Call



Dr. Michael Riley

## Two virtual music performances this week

This week, two virtual music performances take place. The Georgia College Orchestra proudly presents its 2020 Fall Concert, “Orchestral Favorites,” Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. livestreamed from Russell Auditorium.

The online program includes favorites like Antonio Vivaldi’s “Winter,” Georges Bizet’s “Carmen Suite No. 1” and Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Egmont Overture,” as well as a large-ensemble arrangement from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Hunt” string quartet.

Georgia College music professor and conductor, Dr. David H. Johnson, will perform solo violin.

Then Friday, Nov. 20, “Cinema Sensations: Music from the Movies,” will be online at 6 p.m. and is sponsored by Georgia College’s Department of Music’s Music Therapy Program and the Creative Expression Program at the Life Enrichment Center in Milledgeville.

Several music therapy performing groups—Harmonettes Vocal Choir, Good Vibrations Percussion Ensemble, Music in Motion, The Rock and Rollers and The Jungle Royales—will perform. Great songs will be featured like “We’re All in This Together” from High School Musical, “I Will Always Love You” from The Bodyguard, “Hooked on A Feeling” from Guardians of the Galaxy, “Eye of the Tiger” from Rocky, “Footloose” from Footloose and “Over the Rainbow” from The Wizard of Oz.

This performance is pre-recorded and will be livestreamed.

Both performances are available online <https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment>.

The Life Enrichment Center is a private nonprofit program for adults with intellectual disabilities living in and around the Baldwin County area.

A \$5 donation is encouraged for each performance. Online donations can be made at [alumni.gcsu.edu/music](https://alumni.gcsu.edu/music). All proceeds benefit music scholarships or the GC Department of Music through GCSU Foundation, Inc.

For more information on these events, please email [music@gcsu.edu](mailto:music@gcsu.edu) or call 478-445-8289.

