School of Nursing holds White Coat Ceremony for Class of 2022


Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony this year started, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation has expanded its mission in emphasizing the importance of the human connection in healthcare. We are grateful for the leadership of Dr. Richard I. Levin, President and CEO of The Gold Foundation. “Today, as we face the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism, the White Coat Ceremony is all the more relevant in emphasizing the importance of the human connection in healthcare. We are grateful for the leadership of Georgia College SON in elevating the message, both in this tradition of humanistic care.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, was also a professor of physics.

This was the most exciting part for me, seeing the transfer of knowledge from my physics scholar, Bo, on down to Evan, our freshman,” said Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge, assistant professor of physics.

Evan Dunnam zeroed in on a point Mahabaduge made regarding his solar panel research. He emailed the professor to ask if there were any solar projects coming up. Mahabaduge said, “Yes, there’s one this weekend.”

Dunnam said. But, in life, problems arise. The first obstacle was the shed was found the wrong direction. For all-day sunlight, it needed to be moved to a new cement base.

One that was done, the students arrived for installation and soon discovered that they mis-measured the roof’s angle. Neil Seely, made in wrong places, but it was resolved. Boxes were opened only for student for later in Mahabaduge’s research lab. A half-day project took all day.

Having “to think on their feet” and solve unexpected problems is part of the learning process, Dunnam said. It reflects what students will experience in the real workplace.

In the end, the panel was mounted with nuts and bolts at the right angle to catch the sun. It connects to two batteries, which will generate up to 300 watts of energy—giving the BCIS school enough “off-the-grid” electricity to power tools and a light for several hours a day. This collaboration between BCIS provides a lasting economic impact and will hopefully inspire local students to pursue careers in science,” said Dr. Chevonis Mills, chair of physics, chemistry and astronomy.

Inspiring others is one reason Boyd got involved with the project. The Columbia residents think this is a must-have for that role model for high school girls—showing them women can be successful in science.”

Boyd said. “It’s opened up a door for projects in the future,” Dunnam said. “I came in not knowing the first thing about solar panels. The most interesting part for me was doing hands-on work with a boater that was connected to the solar panel and a charge controller, an inverter and stuff. I’d never even heard of.”

“Since 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has been an annual ceremony at Georgia College, hosted by the College of Nursing (SON) in elevating the message, both in this tradition of humanistic care.

The White Coat Ceremony around the globe.

The Gold Foundation champions the human connection in healthcare. The foundation engages schools and their students, health systems, companies, and individual clinicians in the joy and meaning of humanistic health care, so that patients and their families can be partners in collaborative, compassionate and scientifically excellent care.

For more information about the White Coat Ceremony and the Gold Foundation, visit www.gold-foundation.org.

A $5 donation is encouraged. Online donations can be made at alumni.gcsu.edu/music. All proceeds benefit music scholarships or the GC Department of Music through GCSU Foundation, Inc. For more information, please email music@gcsu.edu or call 478-455-8289.

Did you know?

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