



Georgia College art students create watercolor prints for kids in Cameroon

You can learn a lot from a simple sketch. And, sometimes a small effort can make a big difference.

Georgia College art students are making that kind of impact on a classroom in Cameroon, where students share one box of crayons.

Georgia College was one of 30 schools and universities nationwide to participate in the Cameroon effort through the international non-profit, "The Memory Project." Fourteen students in Matt Forrest's advanced printmaking class received photos of artwork from 9th graders in the Central African country.

Through interpretation and research, they reimagined the art into something new. Water-colored ink prints were recently shipped back to Cameroon for students there to keep.

Young artists in Cameroon will send their original work for Georgia College students to keep as well. Junior studio art major Maya Whipple of Gordon already knows where she's going to keep hers on a wall in her bedroom.

"Things you create have a longer-lasting impact than you think," Whipple said, "It's been a very rewarding experience to have an impact on these children, who we've never even seen before. It's just amazing to think about bringing somebody else joy and happiness through a simple picture."

The project was a little like detective work—trying to find clues in a drawing to discover the artist's intention. All Whipple received was a drawing of a man, woman and two children standing near what looked like a shield. She also got a photo of the boy who drew the picture. He wasn't smiling.

To understand why, Whipple researched and discovered Cameroon was recently involved in war. She thought the boy might've experienced hardships. His shield may have been his way of showing strength. Aside from yellow boots people were wearing, Whipple said the boy's drawing wasn't colorful.

To show him she'd noticed his workmanship, Whipple incorporated the yellow boots into her watercolor print. To help him find hope and peace, she drew four adorable children holding up the world against the flag colors of his country.

Through this, Whipple learned art has meaning—not only for the artist but also their viewers. From now on, she intends to put more thought into what's happening in her life and how that's



conveyed in her work. She also plans to apply for a Fulbright scholarship and someday teach English in Cameroon.

Her classmate, Laurie Gentry of Trion, Georgia, was profoundly moved by this project. As a studio art major with a minor in psychology, Gentry wants to help others through art therapy. She believes art is a powerful tool for community service.

She was struck by the photo of her Cameroon student, an unsmiling girl. She thought about the one box of crayons the girl shared and how few colors were used in the flower drawing. Gentry wanted to make the girl smile. She decided to use more colors and flowers in her variation of the picture.

"People say you can never get back the creativity and optimism you once had as a child," Gentry said. "Doing this allowed me to capture that back for myself

and make something whimsical enough for a child to enjoy."

"This was an opportunity to reach out to someone I'd never be able to connect with by myself," she said. "It's really great to help people in any way you can, especially children. They deserve the most, and they need to be encouraged. It's great we were put in touch with an obscure place and got the chance to help be a part of that community."

"It's a huge project that requires a very small effort," said Forrest. "It doesn't take a lot—but it's something that will last forever."

Forrest said he's proud of his students' work. They had only three class sessions to work on their pieces for the art exchange. He chose prints and watercolors, because The Memory Project only ships lightweight paper—no canvas, wood or clay. Due to time constraints, printmaking is relatively quick and nontoxic too.

No contact information was given for students in Cameroon. To make the project more personal, Forrest had his students trace their hand on the back and sign their names. The children will feel respected and valued, he said, knowing people in the United States saw their art and were inspired to produce their own.

"The idea that art can impact an international community through something they've done here in Milledgeville is incredibly vital," he said. "What my students in the advanced screen-printing class did will basically impact the lives of others for the rest of their lives. It's a huge project that requires a very small effort. It doesn't take a lot—but it's something that will last forever."



Junior Maya Whipple applies ink for a print.

Class of 2021: Students make an impact with 1,000+ community service hours

For 24 years, The GIVE Center has helped connect students to volunteer opportunities and the Milledgeville community—creating a legacy of giving and philanthropy.

The class of 2021 has made its impact on Milledgeville, with several students exceeding 1,000 volunteer service hours.



Kelly Bousquette

4 Majors - Psychology, Sociology, Criminal Justice, Liberal Studies

1,100+ Service Hours

I have supported GC Miracle, GC Habitat for Humanity, GC Shelter Buddies, Gamma Sigma Sigma, Gamma Beta Phi and Circle K. I have held leadership roles and supported GC Students for Change and GC Service Council. I have also have volunteered or supported: Habitat Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Harrisburg Community Garden, Cafe Central, Baldwin County Animal Shelter, Northridge Church- Food Pantry and the Bright House.

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Katie Brashear

Music Therapy Major/Outdoor Education Minor

1,100+ Service Hours

I have been involved with Greater Milledgeville Young Life for all four years of my time at Georgia College. Through my involvement as a Young Life Leader, I have learned the importance of community. Being a Young Life leader has provided me

with the opportunity to step outside of my college campus and see my Milledgeville community as a whole. Not only did this widen my perspective of Baldwin County, but it also shaped my world view of systemic issues of poverty and race that affect my community.



Mary Katherine Mason

Psychology Major

1,400+ Service Hours

I am a part of Georgia College Miracle and YoungLife. Volunteer service has completely changed my time in college. I have gotten the opportunity to be a part of something so much bigger than myself and give back to organizations and communities that I'm passionate about. I feel really

lucky to have been given the chance to immerse myself into the community around me, outside of just being involved on Georgia College's campus. I would say to get involved as early as you can! Even if you're on the fence, actually getting involved and seeing other people your age be passionate about something will spark your passion and interest. There's nothing like giving back to the community you live in and I couldn't recommend getting involved in service organizations enough!



Olivia VanKouwenberg

Biology and Non-Profit CNP

1,500+ Service Hours

I've been involved with GC Shelter Buddies. Volunteering has been the biggest part of my college experience. It has given me something to be responsible for and has helped me become a better version of myself. Because of volunteering, I can leave Georgia College happy with the change that

I have made in this community and the legacy I hope I am leaving behind to continue to do amazing things. It has shaped what career path I want to pursue and how I want to help the world around me for the rest of my life. If you feel passionate about something, act on it.



Emily Williams

Biology Major

1,600+ Service Hours

I have been very involved with GC Shelter Buddies - a wonderful organization that supports the local Baldwin County Animal Shelter. Volunteer service has entirely shaped my collegiate experience into a great one! I have been able to meet my best friends through volunteering at the shelter as well as follow my passion for working with animals. While volunteering with Shelter Buddies, I decided to get my nonprofit certification to hopefully work with an animal shelter or rescue in the future!



McKenna Yearick

Nursing Major

1,100+ Service Hours

I have had the opportunity to serve in various non-profit organizations while at college. The one I have served with the most is YoungLife, by being a friend and Godly mentor to middle school students in the greater Milledgeville area. I also served with Communities in Schools by

going into classrooms and tutoring specific kids who needed extra one-on-one attention and help with their school. I have served with the Disabilities Services department here at GC, by taking handwritten and typed notes in my various classes to help provide study tools to students who learn differently than I do. Finally, I worked with Cafe Central which is a local soup kitchen that provides meals to hundreds of individuals and families on a weekly basis.

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>13</p> <p>7:30 p.m.- Students in Georgia College's Music Therapy Program will perform original songs they've composed for an online concert, "Sound Creations." Please follow us on facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment to view this live-streamed concert.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>The Department of Art cordially invites you to a virtual exhibition, OUT OF OBLIVION, which opens online April 14 at www.gcsu-art.com. The exhibit includes pieces from a variety of mediums and showcases our students work over the past year of capstone research.</p> <p>2 p.m.- GC Tennis Doubleheader vs. Augusta.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 p.m.- The Georgia College Percussion Ensemble will feature a variety of styles from drum line to Avant Garde in virtual concert, "Bite-sized Boom." Please follow us on facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment to view this live-streamed concert.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>2 p.m.- GC Tennis Doubleheader vs. Francis Marion.</p> <p>4 p.m.- GC Softball vs. Young Harris.</p> <p>5 p.m.- "Bugs and Sheep, Cassowaries and Crows: A special talk with Karen L. Kilcup." Between 1820 and 1920 virtually every famous American writer (Harriet Beecher Stowe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, W. E. B. Du Bois)—and many not-so-famous—wrote for children. Join via Zoom at https://bit.ly/2PV6VOv.</p> <p>6 p.m.- GC Volleyball vs. Augusta.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3 p.m.- GC Volleyball vs. USC Aiken.</p> <p>7:30 p.m. - Georgia College presents its on-line spring choral ensembles concert. "Music of the Spheres" refers to an ancient philosophical theory of Pythagoras that celestial bodies like the sun, moon, planets and stars produce sound in their orbits and are a form of music. This concert will be live-streamed at facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment.</p>