

New campus 'glass cruncher' expands Georgia College's recycling program

Much like waves that crush rock and seashells into beach sand—a new rumbling machine at Georgia College breaks glass bottles and jars into tiny sand particles that can be reused in landscaping and other creative ways.

Operation of the machine recently began at West Campus. It saves the university in hauling, processing and disposal costs while ensuring a healthier campus environment. Recently, blue 64-gallon glass-recycling containers have popped up all over campus giving faculty, students and staff the chance to join the effort.

"Glass is a heavy, nonbiodegradable material that can stay in landfills for hundreds of years, so we needed a way to remove glass from our waste stream," said Cameron Skinner, who graduated in 2018 with a degree in environmental science and is now an assistant in the Office of Sustainability.

"With the environmental crisis we're currently facing," he said, "it's extremely important to keep as much glass material out of landfills as possible."

Obtaining the machine has been a three-year project. The glass crusher was the idea of a past SGA President, Amelia Lord. She reached out to Skinner and together they wrote a grant proposal to acquire the machine, which cost \$14,000. The Sustainability Council and Sustainability Fee Program funded the project last spring.

Before this, Georgia College could only collect and recycle paper, cardboard, certain plastics, aluminum cans and tin or steel containers, according to Lori Hamilton, chief sustainability officer. Now, glass from recycling bins will be transported by trained students and staff to West Campus to be fed into the machine, ground and sifted into five grades of minuscule shards.

Junior environmental science major Ally Esmond of St. John's, Florida, is a "materials recovery" intern for the Office of Sustainability. She plans to get a master's in environmental engineering and work building water systems and refining water purification methods.

Esmond jumped at the chance to operate the GLSand Machine, which uses "vibration screening technology" to break hard glass into granules. Using earplugs and protective gloves, Esmond pushes glass products into the machine. Within 3 to 5 seconds, each piece transforms into sand.



Some grades have bigger particles; others are powdery soft.

Screen technology is capable of crushing 1,000 pounds of glass per hour. Skinner estimates Esmond will process 100 bottles a day or about 500 per week. She'll help with data collection and reporting too.

"I love my unique small-school experience and getting one-on-one instructions with professors in the research lab, as well as instruction from faculty and staff on things like glass crushing," Esmond said.

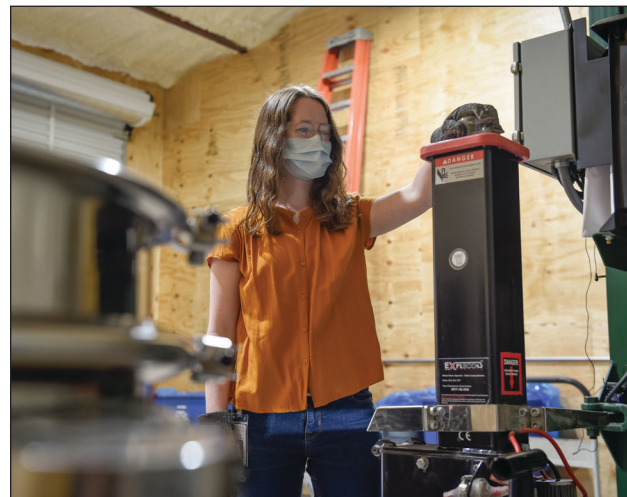
"It's fun and it's good experience. I like learning about all aspects of sustainability," she said. "At a bigger school, I don't think I would get the same experience."

Byproduct is stored in huge plastic bins until needed. Currently, students from the campus Garden Club are using the sand in West Campus Garden. Sand amends clay soil, making it permeable for better water drainage and healthier plants.

Many applications for the sand may be tried in the future, such as ground cover for volleyball courts, pool filtration and in exterior beds or to mix cement for sidewalks at the university's new Integrated Science Complex on Montgomery Street.

Georgia College is also working with the City of Milledgeville to see where the sand byproduct can be used for municipal and community uses.

"From what I know about most university recycling programs, it's uncommon for both the collection and processing of recyclable materials to occur on campus itself," said Skinner. "The university benefits from this model, because we're avoiding hauling and processing fees. But it also serves as a great educational opportunity for the campus and community."



Senior Ally Esmond feeds a bottle into the machine on West Campus.

Special Collections Kicks Off LGBTQ+ Oral Memoir Initiative

Special Collections at Georgia College's Ina Dillard Russell Library is proud to announce the kickoff of its LGBTQ+ Oral Memoir initiative to preserve the stories of Middle Georgia's LGBTQ+ community. This is phase one of a larger invisible minority documentation effort known as "The Seventh Circle Chronicles" (SCC).

In light of COVID-19 restrictions, memoirs will be collected remotely through Zoom interviews. Narrators will have control over when and how their stories are told. They can choose to remain anonymous or request their story be restricted from public access for up to 25 years. Audio and written records of narrator memoirs will become a permanent part of Special Collections.

Georgia College is looking for self-identified LGBTQ+ residents or former residents of Baldwin, Hancock, Jones, Washington and Putnam Counties to sit on the Community Advisory Board



and provide guidance as the project moves forward. If you'd like to apply to be a board member or for more information, please visit www.seventh-circlechronicles.com/cab.

Special Collections is the official archive of Georgia College. In addition to preserving college records, this area serves Middle Georgia by documenting the history and culture of Milledgeville/Baldwin County and surrounding counties and by ensuring the lives and experiences of our diverse communities

receive historical recognition and representation.

The community engagement archivist, Jessamyn Swan, can be reached at 478-445-0074 or jessamyn.swan@gcsu.edu to answer questions about this project.

Georgia College to resume normal campus operations for fall 2021

Georgia College is anticipating a resumption of normal operations for the fall 2021 semester. Normal campus operations include in-person, face-to-face instruction along with our campus life programs, residence halls open and at full capacity, and dining facilities open for full service.

"We want our current and future students and their parents to know that it is our goal to return to normal operations for this upcoming fall semester," said Dr. Costas Spirou, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "However, the health and safety of our campus community is and will continue to be a top priority."

This decision also follows the most recent guidance from the University System of Georgia (USG) and is due to the increased availability of COVID-19 vaccines across the state.

"Over and over again, we hear

from students that the sense of community at Georgia College along with connections made with their professors and fellow students is what makes our university special," said Spirou. "Those hallmarks of the Georgia College experience can continue to flourish among our students."

Georgia College will continue to work with USG and the Department of Public Health, as well as monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control in the coming months.

"Although these are the current plans, we will be prepared to make changes to our campus operations according to the guidance and information we receive from relevant health authorities and the USG," said Spirou.

Detailed information on the plan for the fall 2021 semester will be communicated in the coming months.

Jazz Band Concert this week titled "7 ATE 9"

Get your feet tapping from the comfort of your home as Georgia College's Jazz Band performs its spring concert, "7 ate 9," virtually Thursday and Friday, April 8-9 at 7:30 p.m.

This year's program is melodic and upbeat, showcasing music from a variety of eras. These include hard bop, Latin, contemporary and the blues.

With a focus on creative improvisation, the band will groove through nine charts with old favorites and some new, less familiar songs.

Follow the Department of Music on [facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment) to view this live-streamed concert.

A \$5 donation is encouraged. Online donations can be made at alumni.gcsu.edu/music. Mail-in donations for music scholarships can be made out to GCSU Foundation, Inc. and sent to GC Music Department, CBX 66, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

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 478-445-8289.

7 ATE 9
GC Jazz Band
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL DOORS OPEN AT 7:25 P.M.
Live-streamed
[facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment)

Did you know?

Georgia College Leadership Programs has admitted 56 students into the Leadership Certificate program for the 2021-22 academic year.

The incoming class is the most academically talented and diverse in the program's history, with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.6 and 20 majors represented.

The Leadership Certificate Program received nearly 400 nominations from GC faculty.

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>1 p.m. - GC Tennis Doubleheader vs. Columbus State.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 p.m. - The Department of Art and Visiting Artists and Scholars Program at Georgia College cordially invite you to the public presentation from Pam Longobardi, "Ocean Gleaning: Messages from Water." This event is free and open to the public, and will include a Q&A with the artist. Please contact william.fisher@gcsu.edu to join this Zoom presentation.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 p.m. - Jazz Band Concert: "7 ATE 9" streamed online at facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 p.m. - Jazz Band Concert: "7 ATE 9" streamed online at facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment.</p>	<p>10</p>