

Future writer and chemist awarded top honors for their creative works

The 12th annual Margaret Harvin Wilson Writing Awards virtual ceremony was held March 25. Out of 50 submissions, six finalists were selected from two different writing categories—poetry and short story.

First-year and sophomore finalists include: Madeline Teigen of Evans, Georgia (first place), Olivia McClure of Decatur, Georgia (second place) and Jaylan Brooks of Augusta, Georgia (third place). Junior and senior finalists include: William “Tanner” Howard of Toccoa, Georgia (first place), Jacob Dallas of Sharpsburg, Georgia (second place) and Chloe McDargh of Augusta, Georgia (third place).

During the ceremony, finalists read excerpts of their works and were awarded with certificates and prizes. First-place winners received \$1,000. Cash prizes were awarded to the remaining top finalists.

First-year chemistry major Madeline Teigen won top honors with her short story titled “The Forest.”

“Writing allows me to express myself creatively,” she said. “It serves as an outlet and it also helps me with technical writing that I use for my major.”



Madeline Teigen

Teigen feels it’s important for individuals to write. Writing allows people to explore their imagination and create something of their own. She feels Georgia College provides a place where she can express her ideas freely.

“Georgia College gives me a chance to explore different subjects and areas of interest so I don’t have to go down just one path,” Teigen said. “I can pursue multiple ones.”

She’s grateful to receive the Margaret Harvin Wilson Writing Award and feels it validates her writing skills.

“Winning the award means a lot to me, because it shows that I’ve had the chance to perfect my writing skills,” she said. “I still had a chance to work on my writing while I worked on my schoolwork.”

Teigen plans to save her prize funds for graduate school, after which she aspires to work in forensics.

Senior Tanner Howard discovered the inspiration for his poem

“Maine,” when he traveled there a few years ago.

Howard feels writing helps him grow as a person, especially since he’s passionate about it.

“I love when an idea inspires me, and I just go with it,” he said. “When I’m in the zone and there’s nothing but me and the paper—it’s one of the best feelings there is.”

Howard credits his writing professors for his writing success.

“Laura Newbern and Kerry Evans are really great professors, who taught me a lot of about my own writing and other people’s writing,” he said. “The Margaret Harvin Wilson Writing Award helped, as well.”

Since his first year at Georgia College, Howard submitted seven pieces to the Margaret Harvin Wilson Writing Award. He won second and third place when he was a junior and feels that submitting his works to this opportunity is an important gauge in determining his writing ability.

“When you write, recognition is important,” said Howard. “Writing’s an ongoing process, and it’s really good to have people acknowledge when your writing grows.”

Howard is getting married soon, so he plans to spend his winnings on the wedding and the honeymoon. The couple plan to travel across the U.S. and write about more places. Howard’s working on getting his first collection of poems published. “Maine” is part of his travel poem collection.

“My future goal is to be a writer,” said Howard. “It’s what I love to do and it makes me feel like the best version of me when I do it.”

The award was established in memory of Margaret Harvin Wilson, ’34. She was the first in her family to attend college, as her father provided her with a small trust. Wilson finished Georgia College in three years. While majoring in English and minoring in French, Wilson waited tables in the dining hall, so she could have discounted tuition while living in a free dormitory. As a senior, a teacher encouraged her to enter a short story contest. Winning first prize in 1933 for “Sympathy Speaks” gave her confidence to pursue a teaching career.

She married Leland Wilson in 1938. Their three daughters pursued careers in medicine, law and higher education.



Tanner Howard

Senior starts business to help students with career prep



When Dean Crawford was about to graduate high school, he knew what he wanted to major in. Crawford recalls that he wanted to go into finance after graduating from college.

“That’s what my older brother did at UGA, and it worked out for him so I figured I would do it as well,” he said.

There was one problem, Georgia College doesn’t offer a major in finance. Crawford quickly figured out an alternative.

“Somebody at the college told me about MIS (Management Information Systems) being a field of study that integrated both business and technology, giving you a comprehensive view of how organizations and corporations work from a variety of different angles. I had an interest in both business and tech, so I figured that MIS was going to be my best option for what I was going to study throughout college,” said Crawford. Since then, Crawford hasn’t looked back.

“One of the cool things about MIS is that it makes you the perfect medium between the business-focused side of an organization and the information technology and information systems side. MIS is the only major that integrates business management, economics, corporate finance, accounting, marketing, supply chain and logistics into the curriculum for a

single major. It really is a great field to give you a competitive and comprehensive range of knowledge and skills,” he said.

And Crawford took those skills and ran with them. Throughout his time at Georgia College, the graduating senior was able to participate in four different internships with companies such as KPMG and UPS Capital by working with many different areas. One of the things Crawford noticed throughout the years though was the difficulty students from smaller institutions had when it came to the job market. This led the MIS major to create his own business called Finding Your Next Steps.

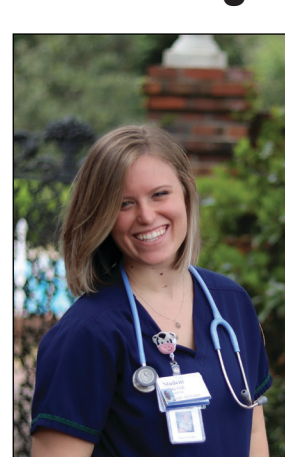
“I’ve learned a lot throughout all of my internships and experiences. I’ve worked alongside students at bigger ‘target’ schools, and I’ve even been in the same spaces as students at Ivy Leagues,” said Crawford. “If anything, I’ve learned that Georgia College does have students of similar caliber and potential. We just have to do certain things a little differently. I provide career prep, interview and LinkedIn coaching for college students.”

Crawford’s faith plays an important part in his life which has led him to find ways to give back to the local community such as Horse Dreams Youth Ranch and Young Life.

In the summer, Crawford will be working in Yellowstone National Park through an organization called A Christian Ministry in the National Parks before starting as an associate consultant for Slalom Consulting in September.

“I love people and being able to acknowledge the unique strengths that each individual has,” he said.

Celebrating the Class of 2021



Aly Griffin is a nursing major. She is moving to Colorado after graduation to pursue a residency program in a major hospital. Throughout her time in nursing school, she saw that many people do not have access to healthcare; especially those in third world countries. “Because of this, I was inspired to help those in need and use my nursing skills to serve in these communities,” said Griffin.

Liliyan Ibrahim is a marketing major from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main reason she chose to attend Georgia College she says is the culture. “Georgia College has great interaction with the professors and students,” said Ibrahim. “It’s not too big or too small. It’s the perfect place to come and find yourself. You don’t get so overwhelmed with so many people.”



Libbie Rawdin is an early childhood education major and graduates as a valedictorian with a perfect 4.0 GPA. After graduation this May, she has two days to celebrate before beginning her master’s degree in Early Childhood Education. After completing her master’s degree, she looks forward to teaching and having her own classroom.

New mental health resources available for Georgia College students

The COVID-19 pandemic put strains on the mental, physical and emotional well-being of people across the globe. Recent polls from the Kaiser Family Foundation found four in 10 adults “reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder”—up from one in 10 in 2019.

To combat the personal stresses brought on by the pandemic, the University System of Georgia expanded mental health resources for all colleges and universities.

“I am very excited to bring a new initiative called GC Mental Health to our campus as an innovative way to enhance our services and support our students’ success,” said Dr. Shawn Brooks, vice president of student life. “I look forward to working with the campus community to ensure the health and safety of our students.”

The GC Mental Health initiative launched earlier in the spring semester and is now available to all students at Georgia

College. This new program is in addition to Georgia College’s Counseling Services, which remains a resource for students.

Through a partnership with Christie Campus Health, the GC Mental Health initiative includes a 24/7/365 mental health support line, no-cost telehealth or in-person treatment sessions and personal student navigators to assist with referrals and support. It also includes a self-directed program designed exclusively for students.

“The Wellness Hub” includes an app and a digital wellness magazine with educational content, self-help tools and resource links.

“Our students’ wellbeing is our top concern,” said Brooks. “Our goal is to make sure our students are happy and healthy as they study and prepare for the rest of their lives. I encourage our students to utilize these resources if they, or a friend, is experiencing any mental health concerns.”

What’s going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>6 p.m.- Dr. Andrew Jewett, the current Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar, will present new research from his current project, The Discovery of Environmental Justice. Register for the virtual event here: https://bit.ly/3sl05YJ.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 p.m.- The Music Theatre Scenes Class Presents a Musical Film: Close the Distance. Please follow the Department of Music at facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment to view this live-streamed concert.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6 p.m.- Georgia College’s Music Therapy program in partnership with the Life Enrichment Center is presenting an in-person live concert with limited seating at 6 p.m. at New City Church at the Mill, 224 E. Walton St. in Milledgeville or it can be viewed on Zoom. The concert, “We are Stronger Together,” will showcase five ensembles that make up the Creative Expressions Performing Arts Groups. The Creative Expressions Performing Arts Groups feature performers with intellectual “disAbilities” from the center and students from the university’s music therapy program. For more information, please email jwarren@baldwinlec.org.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7 p.m.- GC’s annual spring dance concert, with 50+ GC dance minor students, features classical ballet, tap dance, hip-hop and contemporary movement. The event will be live-streamed at https://givingvoice.com/.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.- Allied Arts and the Georgia College Music Department have teamed up to bring the community Jazz at the Magnolia, a virtual community fundraiser event featuring pianist Tyrone Jackson and His Trio with Karla Harris on vocals as well as the Georgia College Faculty Jazz Quartet. Visit Allied Arts at milledgevillealliedarts.com to donate and get on the list for the performance link.</p>