

## Georgia College students make silkscreen prints with Jones County youth

Students in Matt Forrest's print making class enjoyed the autumn sunshine recently, making screen prints of ravens and blackout poetry with youth at Jones County Public Library.

The community outreach was part of a national celebration, TeenTober, through the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). Activities are hosted at libraries in October to promote services like WiFi availability and tutoring. The event encourages youth to read, while giving them an opportunity to adopt new skills.

"The idea was to highlight the library in a rural community and the notion that teens should be in the library," said Forrest, associate professor of art. "For many, carving out a time to read is becoming less of a priority due to competing technologies. We wanted to create something to show teenagers there are resources available for them."

New Jones County Public Library branch manager Julie King said she was thrilled with the project.

"It takes a lot to intrigue teens and get them excited about things," she said, "and this is such a completely different activity from anything I've ever seen."

Participants created one- and two-colored screen prints. One project involved blackout poetry--where the bulk of text on a page is blacked out with ink, revealing only a few select words. Remaining words comprise an original poem or prose. A poem by Edgar Allen Poe was used, along with a page from

the teen fiction novel, *Robot Visions*, by Isaac Asmiov.

Prior to TeenTober, Georgia College students created computer images of a raven and leafy border. These were printed on acetate film, then coated in a photographic emulsion and exposed to produce stencils.

Students demonstrated silkscreen pulling at the library. The method involves scraping a wooden paddle across a stenciled, ink-filled screen. Thermographic toner interacted with the warmth of artists' hands, turning black to pink or black to blue.

"Print making is all art in one process. It involves drawing, mark making, photography and digital art. This process, for example, uses both a photographic process as well as a digital process," said Mary Douberly, a senior studio art major from Savannah.

Douberly wants to work with children after graduation. She said the Jones County community event was "an amazing opportunity" for her to practice her teaching skills.

This is why Forrest connects students with community events. It allows them to take knowledge from the classroom and share it with others. Students pick up valuable communication and leadership skills, while experiencing what it's like to organize a public, nonprofit event.

Junior art studio major Kim Cunningham of Augusta looked forward to working with youth. Blackout poetry is trending on social media, she said. Because screen printing has multiple steps, she



Senior Art Studio Major Mary Douberly makes a screen print with a young participant at Jones County Public Library.



Matt Forrest, associate professor of art.

thought it was the perfect challenge for teens.

"I really do like working with children," Cunningham said. "Art's always been a very good method of expression, especially for young people. It can teach them skills that carry over into other fields. I think exposure to that at a young age is a good thing."

Kimberly Tran, a junior art major from Milledgeville, felt the community outreach activity was a good way for her to learn, as well.

"It might be a little challenging for teens, because there are a lot of steps you have to keep in mind," Tran said. "By reviewing the steps over and over again with them, though, it helps me cement the process in my mind too."

## Farm to Campus Festival held on campus Thursday



**GEORGIA COLLEGE**  
GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

**FEATURING**

**FARMERS MARKET: 2-4 P.M.**  
**FARMERS FEAST: 5:30 P.M.**  
TICKETS FOR DINNER: \$30

**GC FRONT CAMPUS • THURSDAY, OCT. 28, 2021**

Georgia College's Office of Sustainability has teamed up with the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business and Dining Services to host a Farm to Campus Festival on Thursday, Oct. 28.

The event will be held on Georgia College's beautiful Front campus lawn and is open to everyone. From 2-4 p.m., a Farmers Market will be set up where you will have the opportunity to purchase local produce and other prepared food items from farmers, growers and small business owners in and around Milledgeville-Baldwin County.

The festival will end with the Farmers Feast, which will consist of a farm fresh dinner catered by Milledgeville's very own Comfort Farms.

Tickets for the Farmers Feast are \$30 and can be purchased on the registration website at <https://bit.ly/2XvoskL>.

Contact Cameron Skinner at [cameron.skinner@gcsu.edu](mailto:cameron.skinner@gcsu.edu) for additional information.

## Alumnus wants to help educate public, find cures for illness

From an early age, Martin Alcantar, '18, has always been fascinated by the sciences. As he grew, he realized that one of the most interesting branches of science was studying biological processes and the chemistry that drives them. Later, he would find that his work could help alleviate food insecurity.

"My specific career path was not chosen with a job in mind, but rather from a want to further my education and gain a higher level of understanding of what drives life," Alcantar said. "I wanted to learn the intricacies of how biological processes work."

Today, he's a third-year student in the Biochemistry Ph.D. program at the University of Missouri. Once he graduates, Alcantar hopes to make an impact in helping individuals who suffer from severe illness.

He works in the lab where he focuses on plant-pathogen interactions.

"We work towards explaining the pathways that plants use to fight off pathogenic bacteria upon infection," Alcantar said.

He nurtured his love of biochemistry at Georgia College.

"I enjoyed the challenge that the chemistry courses at Georgia College gave me," Alcantar said. "The professors went above and beyond to not only teach the course material, but to ensure I could think critically rather than regurgitate information."

A professor who made a large impact on his life was Dr. Catrena Lisse, who served as his research advisor. Lisse taught Alcantar that understanding concepts and applying them in real-world scenarios is critical for success.

"Through her mentorship, I developed critical thinking and research skills that I've carried into my Ph.D.," he said. "In my Ph.D., I apply this on a daily basis, as many experiment outcomes are unknown. So, it's up to me to predict outcomes based on previous work of other researchers and draw my own conclusions."

Alcantar also learned many crucial, soft skills including communication, time management and organizational skills that he applies daily. He predicts he'll apply these skills for years to come.

Ultimately, Alcantar aspires to work as a biochemist studying infectious disease. The COVID-19 pandemic has motivated Alcantar even more to work as a biochemist.

"The disconnect between the scientific community and the general public is one of the greatest motivations for continuing on my career path," he said. "This pandemic is not the first nor the last health crisis we will face in our lifetime. However, the lack of trust in science has never been more prevalent. This comes from a lack of understanding of the science by the general public."

Alcantar has two-to-three years left of school depending on his research progress. He would like to move back to Georgia and work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Martin Alcantar

### Did you know?

Associate Professor of Outdoor Education Dr. Jeff Turner recently presented information to the Georgia Senate Study Committee on Outdoor Learning.

Turner gave Georgia Senator's information at the Oct. 18 hearing at the state Capitol.

He asked the committee to focus on increasing the capacity for outdoor educational opportunities to as many Georgians as possible and to also work toward expanding outdoor learning in the K-12 community. He called for the support of outdoor education programs across the state and support for private agencies that provide education. Lastly, suggested the committee look into creating a state office on outdoor education to coordinate the effort across all entities as well as distribute funding.



## What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit [frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar](http://frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar)

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>5:30 p.m.- Visiting Artist Scholar Naeemeh Naeemaei will present a public lecture on her paintings in the Arts &amp; Sciences Auditorium. Born in Tehran, Iran, visual artist Naeemeh Naeemaei uses her art to raise awareness about endangered species and environmental issues impacting the planet. Combining Iranian folk tales, history, science, personal story and imagination, Naeemaei, in her intricate paintings, illuminates a stark reality.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.- The Georgia College Orchestra, directed by Dr. Bryan Emmon Hall with guest violin and fiddle soloist Dr. Christopher Luther, will perform in Russell Auditorium. This recital will also be livestreamed at <a href="https://facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment">facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment</a>.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>5 p.m.- GC Soccer vs. Queens.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>2-4 p.m.- Farmers Market on Front Campus.</p> <p>7 p.m.- Please join us in Peabody Auditorium for a screening of a 40-minute investigative documentary film, "Saving Juliette." The film follows residents of Juliette, Georgia, after they find that the coal ash pond adjacent to Georgia Power's Plant Scherer is submerged in the same aquifer from which they draw their well water.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.- Georgia College's Wind Symphony presents "A Jazzy Affair" in Russell Auditorium. For more information, please email <a href="mailto:music@gcsu.edu">music@gcsu.edu</a>.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:30 p.m.- Georgia College's three choral ensembles will present music about darkness, light and humanity's triumph over adversity at First Baptist Church on Liberty Street. "Darkness to Light" features works spanning over 250 years. This event will also live-stream on <a href="https://facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment">facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment</a>. For more information, please email <a href="mailto:music@gcsu.edu">music@gcsu.edu</a> or call 478-445-8289.</p>