GEORGIA COLLEGE
GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

This Week

Prepared by Office of University Communications Jan. 25, 2022

Online graduate programs nationally recognized by U.S. News & World Report

Several Georgia College graduate programs received national recognition in the recently published "Best Online Programs Rankings" for 2022 from U.S. News & World Report.

The highest ranked in the state, the university's online graduate nursing programs ranked 29th in the nation. These programs include the Master of Science in Nursing with track options of Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP), Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP), Nurse Educator (NE) and Nurse Midwifery. Post-Master's certificates in these concentrations are also offered for MSN prepared nurses seeking certification.

The online master's degrees in business (non-MBA) were listed 41st nationally–the second highest ranked in the state. That includes Georgia College's Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management and Master of Management Information Systems.

The Master of Business Administration (Georgia WebMBA®) at Georgia College was also recognized among the best in the country ranked at 69th–the second highest public university in the state. The program allows professionals to earn an MBA completely online without interrupting their work and personal lives.

Also recognized were the online graduate education programs, including Educational Leadership, Teacher Leadership and Master of Arts in Teaching, among others.

"The continued recognition of our online graduate programs as top tier in the state and the nation shows the exceptional quality of the education provided through the programs," said Dr. Costas Spirou, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "This would not be possible without the dedication of the faculty and staff who work within each program to ensure each student receives a high-quality education."



U.S. News & World Report is a multiplatform publisher of news and information, which includes www.usnews.com as well as the digital-only U.S. News Weekly magazine. U.S. News publishes annual print and e-book versions of its authoritative rankings of Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools and Best Hospitals.

For more information on Georgia College's online graduate programs, visit gcsu.edu/graduate.

Did you know?

The Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy recently awarded the third Research Grant Initiative for Implementation Research to Improve Early Language and Literacy Outcomes.

The initiative provides University System of Georgia institutions and state agencies with funds to conduct implementation research on early language and literacy programs for children birth to 8 years old. Utilizing implementation science principles, each awardee designed a study that examines the practices that foster early language and literacy, with an understanding of developmental and contextual differences, in a manner that allows community organizations, the education sector and children to safely realize the benefits of early language and literacy and sustain these benefits during and post-pandemic. This year's awardees are:

- Augusta University, Dr. Kim Barker, "Implementation of CLIMBE: Collaborative Learning in Multi-Sensory Based Environments for Early Childhood"
- Dalton State College, Dr. Jacquelyn Mesco, "The Roadrunner Reading Clinic: Conception to Implementation"
- University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc., Dr. Hannah Krimm, "Language Use During Face-to-Face and Virtual Shared Book Reading"
- University of West Georgia, Dr. Lama Farran, "Talk with Me Baby with Natural Helpers: Teaching, Speech-Language Pathology, and Nursing Professions' Early Language Knowledge"

Each organization received $50,000 for their project.

Georgia College to host Distinguished Chief Human Resources Officer



On Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m., Georgia College Leadership Programs will host Jim Link, founder and managing principal at C2Lead. The event is part of Georgia College's Inspire! Forum on Leadership.

Link, who served for more than 10 years as chief human resources officer at Randstad North America, will speak about leadership for the public good and how individuals and organizations can promote equitable business cultures. At Randstad, he maintained full scope human resources responsibility for the organization's $5.2 billion business and had key executive leadership accountability for 5,200 internal employees and up to 100,000 employees on customer assignments. He previously served in executive human resources roles at Porsche, the Pillsbury Company and General Electric.

"I am delighted and honored to welcome Jim Link to Georgia College," says Dr. Harold Mock, director of leadership programs. "In a time of rapid and revolutionary changes in talent development, we are grateful for his insights and expertise."

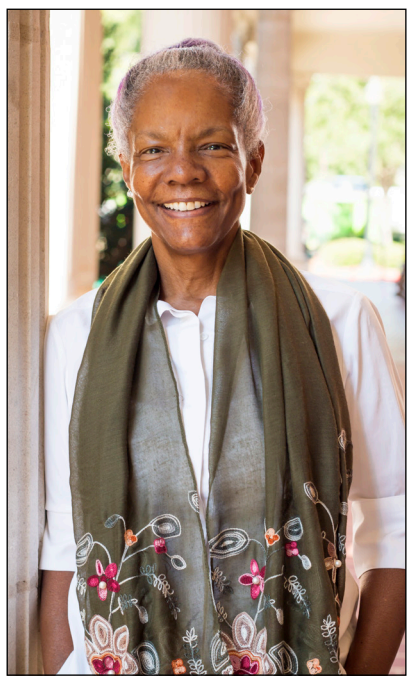
The forum will be hosted by Georgia College Leadership Programs, in collaboration with the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Magnolia Ballroom. To learn more visit gcsu.edu/inspire.

The Inspire! Forum on Leadership is Georgia College's presentation-discussion series on leadership for the public good. Presenters are distinguished executives in private enterprise or hold leadership roles in the public sector and share the university's commitment to leadership for the public good.

Georgia College's Office of Leadership Programs provides teaching, research and public service related to leadership, citizenship, democracy and public affairs. For more information, visit leadcreatively.org or contact leadership.programs@gcsu.edu or 478-445-1227.

Newell Scholar imparts appreciation of indigenous sacred dance



Dr. Carla Walter

The love of dance runs deep for Dr. Carla Walter. It's not only the aesthetic value of it she enjoys but how it allows people to express their feelings and emotions and connects them to the world around them.

"I have always loved dance," Walter said. "From the time I was a young child, but also now, I love the spirituality of it."

As the Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar for the Spring 2022 semester, Walter will teach Global Perspectives of Indigenous Dance and Religious Histories.

"Students are going to learn to analyze a culture's sense of being as it's related to indigenous dance," Walter said. "We will look at locations from Egypt to Africa to Mesoamerica over to the Polynesian Islands and Australia, back up to India, Mongolia, Tibet, back over to Persia, and then the Andes. So, the students are going to get a worldview."

Her career journey includes different fields and opportunities, but the thread that ties it all together for her is dance.

"Initially, I spent a lot of time developing my career in business, economics and finance," Walter said. "At a certain point, the company I was working for was transitioning into a publicly traded corporation. That's when I decided I wanted to go deeper into dance. I applied and got accepted to the doctoral program in dance history and theory at the University of California, Riverside with full fellowship."

Just before completing her dissertation, she accepted a position as an assistant professor–but in the business department.

"My research started exploring the ways that dance can influence purchase behavior. I wrote and published books and articles in that area," she said.

"One example of what we found through research was television commercials with dance in them increased respondents' sense of connectedness and their sense of belonging, as well as stimulated their feelings of awe and wonderment," she said. "And these are important for impacting consumers through advertising."

This research, she says, led her back "to the spirituality of dance."

"Because when I was writing my book, 'Dance Consumerism and Spirituality,' I had the opportunity to review some of the emergent sources of biblical texts that were not included in some editions of the Bible," she said.

What she found was that dance was often eliminated during the early translations of the Bible. This piqued her interest and led to more research.

All the while, she continued to take on new roles in higher education, but dance remained her passion and her research continued.

"I started looking at different cultures, and I found that a lot of these major religions–Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism–most of them did a systematic silencing of sacred dance at different points in time," Walter said.

"The big religions have all tried, but dance is resurfacing because of the power that dance has for humanity, in terms of helping people with all kinds of human circumstances–transitioning and rituals, rites of passage and death, and questions about living."

Now serving as the Newell Scholar, she brings her research and experience to Georgia College students and the community.

She will host several presentations for the campus and community. The first takes place Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. in Peabody Auditorium of Kilpatrick Hall and is titled "Indigenous Sacred Dance and Religious Histories." She will present some histories of indigenous sacred dance and religion from various points around the globe, dating before the Common Era. She says participants at the lecture may be inspired to join in simple choreography as they relate to particular indigenous peoples.

Two other presentations later in the spring semester will feature the work of her students.

Walter received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Riverside in economics and a Master of Business Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. Her Doctor of Philosophy focuses on dance history and theory.

She has published several books including "Sacred Dance Meditations: 365 Globally Inspired Movement Practices Enhancing Awakening, Clarity, and Connection," "Arts Management: An Entrepreneurial Approach" and "Dance, Consumerism, and Spirituality."

The Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar program was established in 2011 with an endowment from Georgia College alumna, Mrs. Martha Daniel Newell. The Newell Visiting Scholar program promotes the Georgia College liberal arts mission by bringing to campus eminent scholars from the arts, humanities, social sciences and physical sciences, the disciplines at the heart of our liberal arts mission.

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 5 p.m.- Georgia College Leadership Programs will host Jim Link, founder and managing principal at C2Lead, in Magnolia Ballroom. 7 p.m.- Newell Scholar Dr. Carla Walter will present "Indigenous Sacred Dance and Religious Histories" in Peabody Auditorium of Kilpatrick Hall. 7-9 p.m.- Enjoy a GC Jazz Jam Session at Amici Café– presented by Jazz at Georgia College. Bring your instrument if you want to play or come just to enjoy the menu and the live music at Amici Café	**26** 5-10 p.m.- Spirit Night at Bollywood hosted by the Council for Exceptional Children. All proceeds will be given to the local school system to benefit their special education program. 5:15- 7:15 p.m.- Draw from a live model in an academic setting in Ennis Hall 217. There is a suggested minimum donation of $4 to pay the model. Model may be undraped or draped for creative purposes. All artistic skill levels are welcome. For more information, please email valerie.aranda@gcsu.edu or call 478-445-2431.	**27**	**28**	**29**