



Newly-caught sea creatures at home in GCSU's Aquatic Sciences Center

It looks like the water tables toddlers play at—only this 300-gallon aquarium is home to newly-caught translucent blue crabs, hermit crabs, mantis shrimp and miniature starfish that like to bury themselves in the sand.

Georgia College & State University Associate Professor of Biology Dr. David Weese took his Intro to Marine Biology class on a recent research trip to experience the thrill of the open sea and salty breezes.

They used trawling nets to capture multiple ocean dwellers and brought an ample supply back to put in Georgia College's new marine lab behind the old greenhouse at Herty Hall.

The critters now live in the vast tank—already fighting territorial disputes—just feet away from other smaller tanks that hold sea urchins for research.

"The students got to see how marine research is done," Weese said. "They got to deploy so much instrumentation and measure things like conductivity and temperature. Usually, we read the book, and I show them pictures. But to actually take them out—so they can see how scientists work—is invaluable."

The daylong trip aboard the research vessel, Savannah, was part of a program through the University of Georgia's Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. About 10 students went on the educational trip, funded through the University System of Georgia.

Few universities have large holding tanks to keep saltwater organisms alive, Weese said. This project "opens the door to all kinds of student research," like water quality analysis, pH or temperature changes in water and pollution studies.

"Even if your institution is on the coast, this size tank is very unique. It's not something that many schools have," he said.

Dr. Kristine White, assistant professor of biology, teaches oceanography in the new Marine Sciences concentration at Georgia College. Faculty would like to further develop a reef system in the big tank, she said, and use it for experiments and teaching.

These plans excite junior biology major Amelia Pound of Savannah. The sea trip opened her eyes to possible careers she might choose. Her brother is a microbiologist and her mother a nurse, so Pound grew up curious and asking questions. She feels destined to do experiments and research.

"Coming to Georgia College and getting to experience the different labs here, I realized how fun research is and how much I enjoy trying a diversity of things," she said. "Just learning in general has always been a big passion of mine. Georgia College was the right choice to experience that."

Being on the open sea brought textbook reading and classroom instruction to life. Holding and interacting with marine organisms—like sea squirts, sand dollars, coral and sponges—helped Pound familiarize herself with their anatomy and personality quirks.

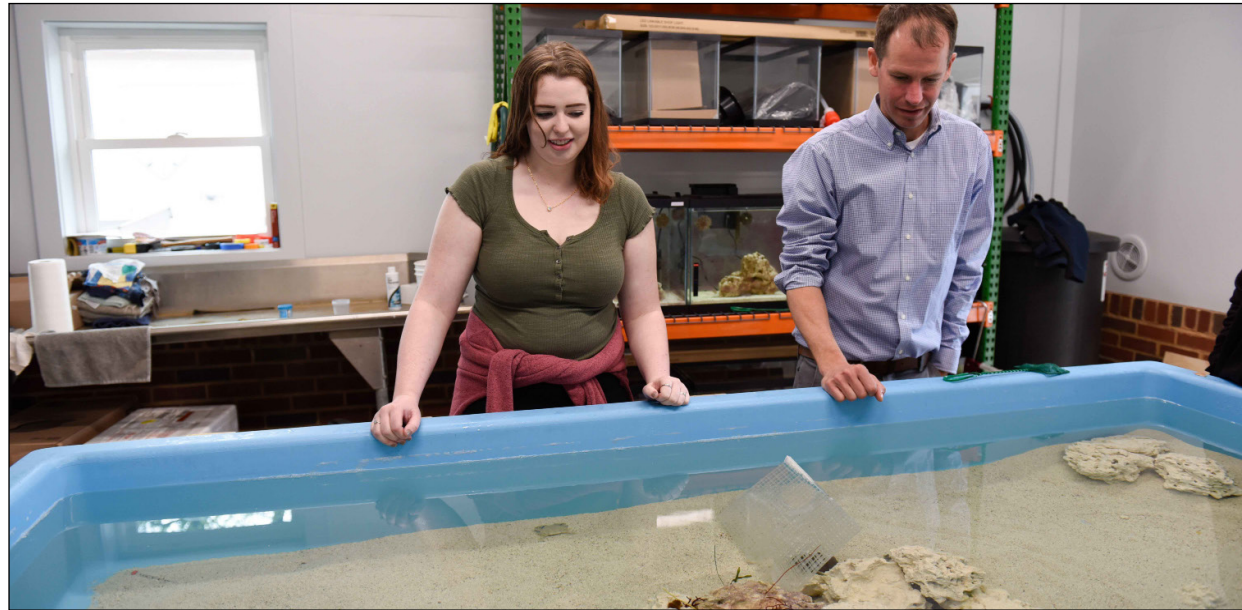
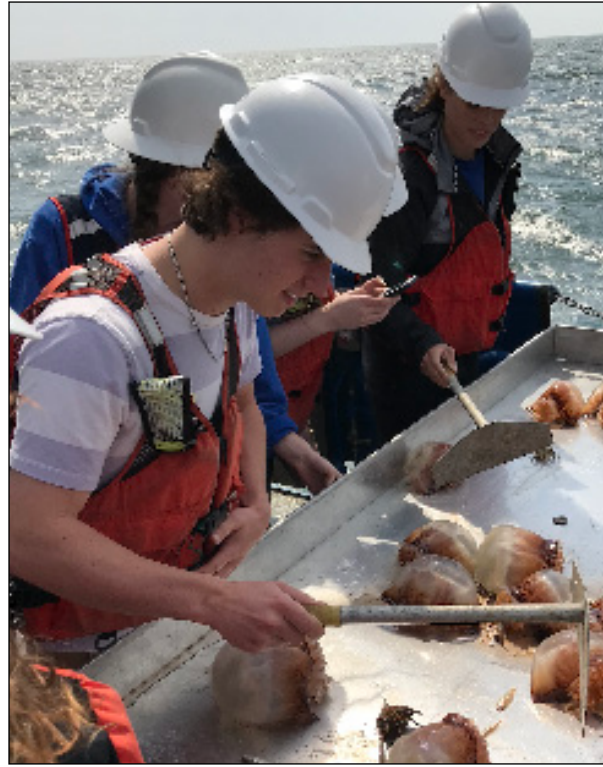
The group even caught a pufferfish and stingray but returned them to the ocean after examination.

"I'm a big hands-on person—I don't really learn well from just reading a textbook," Pound said. "We dissected starfish not long ago, but it's nice to actually see them in action. Getting to apply what we learn in the classroom to real life and doing research with the equipment

we've learned about is so cool."

Now, Pound helps manage these sea creatures—making sure the water stays filtered for optimal survival. The entire experience made her consider working as a marine biologist at the Georgia Aquarium someday.

"This has definitely opened my eyes to different opportunities," Pound said. "Ocean research is important in the long run to make sure water quality stays good and ensure we keep our seas clean."



Georgia College & State University student is Georgia's sole Truman Scholar

Colin Hall, a political science major from Jones County, is Georgia College & State University's first-ever Truman Scholar.

Created as a living memorial to United States President Harry S. Truman, the Truman Scholarship is a highly competitive national award given to exceptional college juniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership potential, a commitment to public service and academic excellence.

"The Truman wants someone who's dedicated to a life in public service," Hall said, "and I can say that one of my big missions in life is to serve people."

Hall joins a class of 62 new Truman Scholars selected from 705 applicants representing 275 colleges and universities nationwide. This year, Hall is the only student in Georgia to earn this prestigious honor recognizing his commitment to public service.

Hall applied for the Truman Scholarship upon the recommendation of National Scholarships Office Coordinator Anna Whiteside, who first learned



Politics major Colin Hall received a Truman Scholarship, about Hall through his participation in GCSU's Election Administration Certificate program. "While we've had several students make it to the finalist level over the past few years, Colin is our first Truman recipient," Whiteside said. "I am thrilled that the rest of the country is going to get an opportunity to learn through Colin how much

GCSU students care about improving the world around them."

Hall credits his parents, Geoffrey and Valerie Hall, and his Christian faith for instilling his strong sense of duty to others.

"Something that really motivated me is being able to witness my mother as a teacher," Hall said. "She's been a teacher for 28 years and seeing how much time she invests into students year after year in her classroom has made me gain an appreciation for educators and administrators in education across the state."

Hall aspires to a life of public service with the ultimate goal of being elected governor of Georgia.

He looks forward to participating in the Truman Foundation's Summer Institute, during which Hall hopes to meet and work with elected officials and career civil servants to better understand constituent services and policymaking at the federal level.

Did you know?

Five inspiring writers achieved finalist status recently for their poetry and/or short story—earning the Margaret Harvin Wilson Writing Award from Georgia College & State University.

Their creative works were selected out of 70 submissions. The 14th Annual Awards ceremony took place March 30.

Charlotte Aexel of Wind Lake, Wisconsin, won first place for the second year in a row for the First Year and Sophomore category. Her poem, "Miss Flannery," took first place while her short story, "Indiana's Ghost," landed second. The sophomore is an English and French double major.

First-year English major Olivia Ver Steegh placed third for her short story "The Silent Song of Mushrooms."

Junior creative writing major Aner Gendellman of Alpharetta won first place in the Junior and Senior category for her poem, "A God's Ice-Cold Diet Coke."

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/events

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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6 p.m. Creative Expressions Performance Arts Group's "The Great Adventure" concert at New City Church, 224 E. Walton St., Milledgeville.

7-9 p.m., GCSU Jazz Jam Session at Amici's Cafe, Milledgeville.

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5:30-8p.m. The 2023 Sustainability Symposium & Geospatial Public Health Forum: "Examining Environmental Justice by Exposing Waste Issues in our Community and Exploring Our Role in Remediation" in the A&S Auditorium.

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6-10 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. USC Aiken at John Kurtz Field.

7:30 p.m. Senior and violinist Nicholas Koebert gives his senior concert at Max Noah Recital Hall.

8:30-10 p.m. Open house at GCSU's Observatory, 3rd floor Herty Hall.

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2-6 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. USC Aiken at John Kurtz Field.

6 p.m. Music at the Mansion concert at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion.