

HONORS



GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY • 2019-2020

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
OF THE GEORGIA COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we end the 2019-20 academic year, I am mindful of the stress and sadness that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our lives; I'm especially saddened that our honors seniors are not getting the celebratory send-off that is normal at this time of the year. Nothing, though, can take away from their academic and other achievements. They are a remarkable and delightful group of students.

They are, of course, graduating in a very special year in the history of the Georgia College Honors Program--our 50th anniversary--which will bring some big changes. As I write, we are still hoping to move into our newly designated "Honors House" this summer. The Humber-White House, right next to the Admissions Office on W. Hancock Street, will provide us with office space, a seminar room for honors classes and extracurricular activities, a student lounge, and plenty of study space. The Honors House will become the hub of our intellectual and social community. The other big change for us in 2020 will be the transition from an Honors Program to an Honors College. This will raise the profile of Honors on the GC campus and beyond, bring with it a more robust honors curriculum, and, with additional resources, create more academic growth opportunities for honors students. We will also have some new honors scholarships in 2020, thanks to alumni and friends of the Honors Program (and a very generous matching gift). These scholarships will help us further raise the academic profile of incoming first-year students, enrich their undergraduate experience, and help them achieve their longer term academic and professional goals

This year will thus be a turning point in the history of the Honors Program; a year that builds upon the inspiration and vision of our founding director, Dr. John Sallstrom, and the dedication and resourcefulness of his successor, Dr. Doris Moody,



in growing the program. I am deeply indebted to Drs. Sallstrom and Moody, as well as Dr. Ken Saladin who served on the Honors Faculty Council for 20 or so years. These three are my "Wise Council." We have met for breakfast once every three months or so since I came here in 2008, and the three have provided me with support, guidance, and friendship. It has been a privilege to serve as honors director over the past 12 years, to have met and taught so many wonderful students, and to have been a part of the rich history of the Georgia College Honors Program. I've felt grateful every day.



GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Honors Program

Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

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Assistant Director
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Newsletter edited by Becca Fallon



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“The Honors Program has offered me countless opportunities to push my boundaries.”

Julian Lopez, an Honors senior from Gainesville, Georgia, reflects on his time in the Georgia College Honors Program, in addition to his two-year presidency of Eta Sigma Alpha. Through his study of business management, Julian has been able to participate in extensive faculty-mentored research projects, study abroad, Swipe Out Hunger, Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honors society, and peer mentorship for the GC Leadership Program. He has also played in the Classical Guitar Ensemble.

“As an honors student, I have engaged in extracurricular academic seminars and discussions on a very wide variety of interesting topics, both related and unrelated to my major. I’ve really enjoyed unpacking complex and/or controversial topics at honors discussions and seminars, especially since the room is always full of knowledgeable professors and intellectually curious students.

The Honors Program has allowed me to work closely with some of my favorite professors. For example, last year I studied the negative impacts of “Voluntourism” with my Leadership professor.

I’m currently working with my International Management professor on a presentation called “Globalization: Friend or Foe?” The main product of our work will be an hour and fifteen-minute class discussion, led solely by myself, on the impacts of globalization, both positive and negative, on our global and local communities.

The academic and social opportunities that come with being a student in the Honors Program, paired with the leadership experience I’ve gained from serving on Eta Sig’s exec board, have done much to prepare me for a successful post-graduation career.”



Julian Lopez
President
Eta Sigma Alpha

The Liberal Arts Initiative: Students at GC are more than just their major—these three Honors students discuss the growth, opportunities, and transformative experiences from their Georgia College education that have enabled them to pursue their passions and be ready for what's beyond.



"While the nursing cohort can be very challenging, the teachers and peers are amazing. For my first year, I've been placed at Putnam General Hospital for clinicals—I mainly help on the Med Surg floor and at a nursing home. We're learning how to do assessments, communicate, and administer shots to patients.

My favorite part of the cohort has been the patient interaction. They're usually in a rough spot, so it's nice to see them light up when they get to see students.

While rigorous, the cohort is also incredibly motivational. The professors want all of us to succeed; for me, I'd love to become a certified nurse anesthetist or a geriatrics nurse practitioner."

Keila Kolden, Nursing,
Lawrenceville, GA, Class of 2021



"Because of the Honors Program, I've had access to events like discussions on prevalent topics.

This access has both expanded my perspective to understand new points of view and helped me make new friends that I'll hopefully know for a long time.

I've also gotten to be involved in competitive gaming on campus. I play with many peers I met during my freshman year living in Bell Hall.

I appreciate the community that the Honors Program has provided for me. Having a bunch of people you can work, play, and improve with is one of the greatest feelings you can have."

Harris Collier, Computer Science,
Athens, GA, Class of 2021



"I participated in the Congressional Hunger Center's Zero Hunger Internship over the summer. The program was focused on addressing hunger in the U.S. and abroad.

I was placed at the nonprofit Bread for the World; in addition to this 9-5 internship, I also participated in an anti-hunger summer seminar hosted by the Congressional Hunger Center in which interns from around D.C. came together to learn about the root causes and solutions for hunger.

My internship has affirmed my interest in public policy and anti-hunger work, and I now want to pursue my Master of Public Policy once I graduate from GC."

Kendyl Lewis, Economics and Psychology,
Cumming, GA,
Class of 2021

A “Stranger” Summer



“Last summer,” said junior Emma Parry (’21), “I had the opportunity to work as a background actor on several episodic productions in the Atlanta film industry, including “Stranger Things” season 3, “Insatiable” season 1, and “Stan Against Evil.” I also worked on two movies that are coming out soon, the “Impractical Jokers” movie and “Just Mercy.”

I loved the atmosphere of the set and seeing firsthand how all the departments work together. To that end, there is so much time and thankless effort that goes into making a production, which as average consumers is so hard to quantify until we actually see how long and how many people it takes for just one scene of a TV show to be shot. It’s fantastic, but also humbling, to have that kind of perspective about how films and TV shows are made.”

The GC Nudge Unit

“Behavioral economics is the study of economic decision-making and why people sometimes make bad decisions. Why don’t we eat healthier? Why don’t people save more? Why do some people recycle and others don’t? I’ve always been interested by these questions,” said senior Cam Watts (’20), “And about a year and a half ago, I had the idea to create a group of students and faculty that could apply the insights of behavioral economics to serve local organizations and help our community make better decisions.

That idea has materialized as the Georgia College Nudge Unit, where students can earn upper-level course credit by learning about behavioral economics, consulting with real organizations in Milledgeville, and publishing research.

Our first client was Sodexo Catering, and we designed and helped administer a nudge to improve employee absenteeism at the Max. As we begin our third project in Spring 2020, I’ve not only learned about the large potential that behavioral



economics has to impact our community, but I’ve gained unique experiences in project management, research design, and real team work.”

Porch Critters Magazine

Caroline Duckworth, senior creative writing major, solicited submissions for her senior capstone literary journal, *Porch Critters*.

“It just sounded so fun to be young and creative and lifting up voices through the design of a literary magazine,” said Caroline. “The journal name came from the idea of representing the rich variety of identities that exist in Georgia and in the South.”

“The goal of the capstone in the creative writing major is to have a finished product as a result; my finished product will be a printed magazine, which will not only be part of my portfolio, but has given me so much experience in curating and designing pieces, which has taught me a lot about publishing and writing,” she said.

In her foreword, Caroline wrote, “I hope reading this journal feels like sitting on a porch, the air just beginning to cool as the sun disappears, listening to the stories of someone sitting next to you and to the songs of critters in the night.”





Bobcats, Vote!

Ruby Zimmerman ('20), a rhetoric and political science double major, has always been dedicated to increasing voter registration, especially after her spring semester as an intern through the GC in D.C. program for Congressman David Scott.

To bring the lessons she learned in D.C. back to the Georgia College campus, Ruby founded the BobcatsVote club, whose chief goal is to make GC a voter-friendly campus. The first major event for the club was the Milly Harvest Voter Festival, a play on the festival featured in an episode of the show, "Parks and Recreation."

Over 150 students attended the festival to register to vote, check their voter status, or change their address, while also enjoying Leslie Knope's favorite food, waffles, and competing for Pawnee-inspired prizes by answering government-related questions.

"Every voice matters," says Ruby, "Which means every vote matters, too. BobcatsVote is here to simplify the voting process and make civic engagement fun."

A Project of Shakespearean Proportions

Jacob Dallas ('21), a creative writing major, has been working with the assistance of Professor Jason Allen on an exploratory novel into the themes of free-will and fate in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

"The project is essentially an alternate take on the *Macbeth* story," said Jacob, "Altering the ending of Shakespeare's play so that King *Macbeth* remains on the throne of Scotland and is able to become the tyrant the original play was setting him up to be."

This premise puts into question Fleance's prophesy to be "Scotland's Salvation," making the reader decide if Fleance is better or worse than *Macbeth* for following his own destiny.

According to Jacob, "The entire thing is a huge examination of destiny, free-will, and moral choice in a world of extreme moral ambiguity, all set to the background of Neo-Shakespearean Scotland."



THE BELL HALL COMMUNITY



Whether it's being close to on-campus activities, being able to walk upstairs to the third-floor classroom for an Honors class, or hanging out in the Internet Lounge in between classes, living in Bell Hall definitely has its advantages. But perhaps what makes Bell so special is the group of people and community one is surrounded by. Whether you're a first-year or a senior, Bell is a space where all students can all feel at home.

“
Like having a
second family
on campus.”

-Katherine Gilliam ('23)

“
Fun activities,
great people.”

-Emma Lancaster ('23)

THE HUMBER-WHITE HOUSE



For the Honors Program's 50th anniversary, the Georgia College Cabinet has designated the Humber-White House as the "Honors House" on campus. After its refurbishments are completed this year, the Humber-White House will feature honors offices, a reception area, a seminar room, a student lounge, and study space.

"This will be our new home, our intellectual hub, where we will have all of our activities," says Dr. Gower. "It will host our book discussions, dinner seminars, and so on. I couldn't be happier about this, and am grateful to the university administration for making this possible."

"Bell Hall has had a lasting impact on my Georgia College experience—from the long Internet Lounge study sessions to the Harry Potter Murder Mystery Dinner, I'm left with countless memories and stories for years to come.

I've met my best and closest friends through Bell and the Honors Program; I love how everyone is so supportive of each other in pursuing passions and helping to make the Georgia College community a better place.

Bell is an incredible place to meet other peers who also hope to excel on campus, and I'd definitely recommend it to any incoming freshman—it'll give you a warm welcome to an amazing community."

Becca Fallon, Creative Writing, Minors in Marketing and French,
Alpharetta, GA, December 2020





An Interview with
DR. JOHN SALLSTROM
Founding Director
Georgia College Honors Program

by Juniper Guthrie

Dr. John Sallstrom: The Honors Program's Founder



Dr. John Sallstrom completed graduate work at Duke University and was hired to chair the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Georgia College. He was asked to develop a major in philosophy, which did not then exist at GC. Dr. Sallstrom began teaching at Georgia College in 1967, the same year GC became co-ed. The school had also recently integrated, and there was an influx of first-generation college students.

At the time, the school focused on helping students adjust to college—there was no organization for high-achieving students. In his first few years at the school, he heard his colleagues expressing the need for an accelerated learning community—an honors program. Dr. Sallstrom, as well as other department chairs, wanted to “challenge [honors students] to perform at the highest possible level by offering them the

best opportunities [they] could.”

Dr. Sallstrom began his career of directing programs with the joint three-year master's program with the University of Georgia (UGA). It was at this time that he met Dr. Lothar Tresp, founder of the Honors Program at UGA, who later helped in advising the program. He operated in this position from 1969 until 1971, when the Honors Program was underway. Through this directorial experience and relationship with Dr. Tresp, Dr. Sallstrom built a solid foundation that would enable him to spearhead the GC Honors Program.

To begin, Dr. Sallstrom gathered several like-minded department chairs to form the first Honors committee. These members included David Cotter, O.W. Taylor, and Dorothy Pitman. Together, they created the nascent Honors Program that we know today. While the program faltered at first due to outside criticism, a strong network of faculty support and UGA advice kept the program afloat. Dr. Sallstrom operated as the head of the program from the beginning, but it was not until a few years later when he was designated as the formal director of the organization, and was officially named the Coordinator of Advisement and Honors Program in 1978.

At this time, Dr. Sallstrom's role was threefold: “to chair the Honors Committee, advise undecided honors students, and provide general information to all honors students.”



In 1973, Dr. Sallstrom helped students initiate the Honors Student Association (later renamed Eta Sigma Alpha). As advised by Dr. Tresp, he created a space for students to have a say in programming, and to make an impact on campus. Dr. Sallstrom heavily encouraged student leadership, and enjoyed interacting with students' ideas.

At first, the Honors Program consisted of special "honors sections" of core classes—English, biology, and history.

Despite backlash against removing Honors students from general classes, the program continued to offer them as they evolved throughout the years. The program began with around 25 students in its first year and with very little budget. Eventually, class offerings extended beyond just core subjects and reached into sophomore seminars. While those seminars did not enjoy a large amount of success, in time they became general seminars which were open to the entire program.

Many of these initiatives and experiences would not have been possible without Dr. Tresp, the longtime director of the UGA Honors Program. He had an immense impact on the program, inspiring some of its most crucial and recognizable features. In 1973, he visited Georgia College to officially help restructure the program as a consultant. Among his suggestions, a student honors association and independent study projects were two of the most impactful. He also advised having a full-time administrative assistant to help manage the program—advice which would prove to be very helpful in the future. Through his guidance, the GC Honors Program was able to truly flourish.

By 1983, the Honors Program had moved to Parks Hall. Dr. Sallstrom juggled his responsibilities as Honors director with executing admissions policies, maintaining the Honors curriculum, ensuring eligibility for Honors graduation, and coordinating the Honors Day program. Dr. Sallstrom's title changed eventually to Associate Vice President for Academic Services, but his responsibilities stayed the same. Unfortunately, due to his split workload, he could not yet devote his full attention to the still-developing Honors Program. To mitigate this division of time, Dr. Sallstrom took on student assistants, and Lori Westbrook became the administrative assistant. In 1995, Dr. Bob Wilson became the assistant director of the program, helping restructure the program and ensure its success. He left the position in 1998, allowing Dr. Robert Viau to succeed him and improve the program further.

Honors seminars were an essential part of the early program, one that Dr. Sallstrom described as the "most interesting part of the whole program." Some of the most interesting seminars included one on George Orwell's "1984" in that same year. In a similar vein, the longest-lasting seminar was "Utopias and Dystopias," taught by many professors. It explored various versions of the idea, both both fictional and real, including





Past Honor Directors Dr. Doris Moody, Dr. John Sallstrom, and current Honors Director Dr. Steven Elliott-Gower

off-campus field trips to Americus, where Habitat for Humanity started. Honors students eventually became involved with the local affiliate. Other seminars explored the ideology of Nazi Germany, Flannery O'Connor, and evolution.

As director, Dr. Sallstrom loved to see student work and independent study. He learned more than anyone else by interacting with other Honors professors at GC, including Ken Saladin in biology, Sarah Gordon in English and Martha Turner Keber in history. He also met other faculty and students at state, regional and national meetings. Even after leaving his position as director, Dr. Sallstrom has demonstrated this love by maintaining a solid and impactful relationship with the Georgia College Honors Program. In 1996 he established the Honors and Scholars Endowment Fund to provide additional long-term financial support for the program. He also urged former Vice President/Dean of Faculties Ralph Hemphill to provide an adequate budget, which he did while serving as acting president.

On May 22, 1997, Dr. Sallstrom passed the mantle of director to Dr. Doris Moody. He continued to support the program by supervising Dr. Moody and the program until 2005. Though he retired nearly 15 years ago, Dr. Sallstrom is still involved on campus today—his name can be seen on signs for a blood drive, or in support of scholarships. Each year, the prestigious Sallstrom Award is given to a graduating Honors student who meets a rigorous set of criteria. Georgia College will long remember the outstanding founding director of the Honors Program.

DR. JORDAN COFER

on transformative experiences

For Dr. Jordan Cofer, Associate Provost of Transformative Learning Experiences, transformative experiences (TEs) are more than just a graduation expectation—they are the high-impact practices that have been statistically proven to help a student further towards their personal and professional goals.

“Transformative experiences have shaped the entire trajectory of my career,” says Dr. Cofer. “Through a close faculty mentorship, I encountered Flannery O’Connor’s writing for the first time, and it ended up being what I did my master’s thesis on, then my dissertation on—I wrote a book on Flannery O’Connor and I have another one coming out! It all came down to one class and one professor that formed my professional and personal path.”

In order to bring these types of opportunities to students, Georgia College has created GC Journeys, which consolidates eight transformative experiences into one cohesive program. This allows students to clearly see the connection between their transformative experiences and understand how they can translate them into postgraduate career plans.

Three of these TEs, the First-Year Experience, Career Milestones and Senior Capstones, are already built into every student’s degree path. From there, students will decide on two additional experiences, whether it’s an intensive leadership program, undergraduate research/creative endeavor, community-based engaged learning, study abroad or an internship to pursue alongside their degree.

In addition to TEs, GC Journeys also places an emphasis on a thinking-focused curriculum—each class that students take at Georgia College lines up with a certain essential skill, such as critical thinking, that is aimed towards developing students into more agile thinkers who are ready for postgraduate opportunities.

The GC Journeys program sets apart GC students from other universities as creative and analytic prob-



lem-solvers. Students will complete at least five TEs through GC Journeys, which is exponentially higher than the nationwide average of 1.7.

“There’s a real competitive advantage to participating in GC Journeys because it provides you with the ability to articulate what you’ve done,” says Dr. Cofer. “You won’t just say ‘I’m a critical thinker,’ you’ll say, ‘I’m a critical thinker and here’s proof.’”

There is a lot of crossover between the types of experiences that GC Journeys and the Honors Program encourage students to partake in. Both programs value higher-level opportunities with a passion for learning, campus involvement and working closely with faculty in a one-on-one mentorship on a sustained project.

The Honors Program is proud of its students’ accomplishments, and the following section of the newsletter is dedicated to highlights their hard work, ingenuity and passion for learning.

Honors Program

Transformative Experiences

In the following section, we highlight some of our Honors students who have enhanced their education through transformative experiences such as study abroad, undergraduate research, creative endeavors, internships, and community engagement.



Allie Bell ('21), an English Literature major with minors in dance and marketing, interned with the Woodruff Arts Center in the Individual Donor Department, helping to update donor information, collect data for promotional material, and plan corporate events.

Thomas Burriss ('20), an environmental science major with a minor in biology, traveled to Zambia over the summer with Drs. Sam and Christine Mutiti to collect water, air, soil, and plant samples to test lead levels due to past improperly managed mining activity in the region.

STUDY



Tiera Evans
Biology
Spanish Minor
Sparta, GA
Fall 2020



SANTIAGO, CHILE

Tiera Evans, a senior biology major and Spanish minor, studied at the Universidad de los Andes in Chile for three weeks over the summer.

It was a full-immersion program, where she took Chilean business and culture classes Mondays through Thursdays and worked at the university hospital on Fridays.

Tiera was able to shadow professionals in the hospital, making the experience a valuable addition to her pre-med degree path. "Studying abroad has always been a dream of mine," said Tiera. "Being able to use language skills in the professional world, while also getting hands-on experience of prospective jobs, such as the day-to-day responsibilities of a doctor, was really beneficial towards my studies."

When classes were over for the day, Tiera would explore the local Chilean area through tasting new cuisine and visiting the city's many landmarks.

Professionally, this program had quite the impact on Tiera, as it really solidified her interest in pursuing a medical career in the future. However, it also made an impact on how she sees the world as a whole.

"Visiting places like Museo de Derecho Humanos has allowed me to view the world with an open mind," said Tiera. "I am not so focused on events that are just happening in the United States. I feel more like a global citizen."

ABROAD

Throughout the years, Honors students have engaged with other cultures, developing skills that will enhance their post-graduate opportunities and enrich their lives.

MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Julian Lopez spent last summer studying abroad and completing an internship experience in the Netherlands.

"There were three objectives of the program," said Julian. "To help students gain a fundamental understanding of Global Corporate Leadership and how to serve as a successful international leader, to allow us to delve into the topic of environmental sustainability from an international viewpoint, and to expose us to new cultures and international business practices that would help shape us into globally minded professionals."

In addition to his classes, Julian also fulfilled these goals by serving as a research intern for the Maastricht Chapter of Amnesty International during his time in the Netherlands.

"As an Amnesty intern," said Julian, "I conducted in-depth interviews with local volunteers to garner viewpoints on how the chapter can improve its overall functioning, specifically its volunteer attraction and retention rates."



Julian Lopez (center), Business Management,
Gainesville, GA, Class of 2020

As for how this experience has impacted his college experience, Julian says, "My view of the world has shifted, and I desire to experience more of it, both through my personal and professional endeavors."

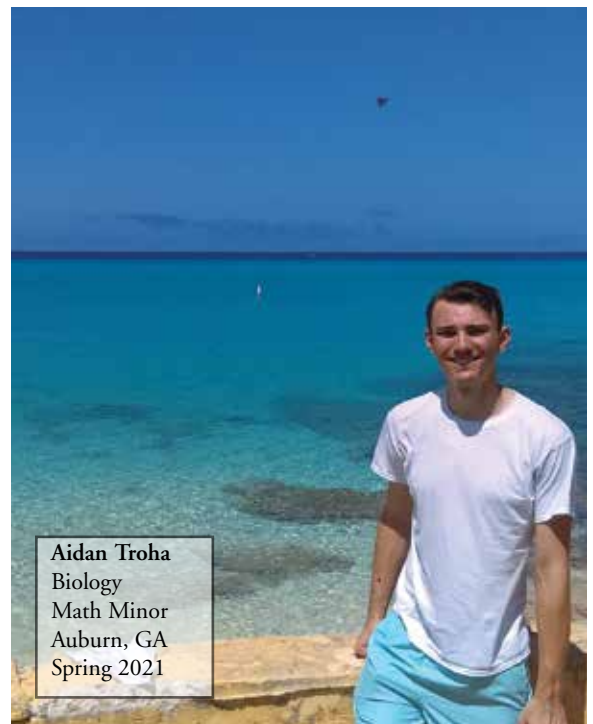
SAN SALVADOR ISLAND, THE BAHAMAS

Studying and growing plants have always been passions of junior biology major, Aidan Troha, making last summer's study abroad experience in The Bahamas the perfect choice for his major and interests.

The objective of the program was to study the local plant life and to draw connections between the environment and climate change. Through collecting this data, students were able to better understand how Bahamians could fight climate change.

The days were long but rewarding. Students would wake up at 8 a.m. to have breakfast, then go out into the field to collect data. They would then return to the research center to picnic for lunch and then continue researching until 4 p.m. After that, students would have two hours of free time to study or snorkel, until dinner at 6:30 p.m. and two hours of class afterwards.

"Being on this trip," said Aidan, "has made me realize how much better we have it in the U.S., and also how important it is for American foreign policy to improve to the point where the whole world can come together to agree on environmental issues."



Aidan Troha
Biology
Math Minor
Auburn, GA
Spring 2021

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



Kate Noah, Biology
Sugar Hill, GA, Spring 2020

Kate Noah, a senior biology major, worked as a fawn capture technician for Southern Illinois University over the summer. In this position, she, along with her crew, would hike through the woods to place ear tags and radio collars on newborn fawns to track their mortality rates. This valuable research was passed on to a graduate student for further analysis.

"This job gave me a good idea of what a career with wildlife would look like," said Kate. "Wildlife work isn't all about cute animals. It also comes with starting your day before sunrise, hiking 8+ miles per day, and pulling ticks off yourself before going to bed. For me, it's worth it."

This experience even further strengthened Kate's motivation to pursue a career in this field, and she returned to Georgia College excited to learn even more in her classes like mammalogy and herpetology.

Senior economics major Noah MacDonald was a recipient of the MURACE Summer Research Funding grant. This grant provided him the ability to research with Dr. Brent Evans a variety of credit card reward systems by looking at how credit card rewards influence consumer spending patterns, including the amounts and what type of consumers benefit most.

"The study was entirely theoretical in nature, so we spent eight weeks drawing on the white board in Dr. Evans' office, trying to determine the best way to illustrate the effects of credit card rewards on consumers with different levels of demand and sensitivities to price changes," said Noah. "It was really cool to see how individual consumption choices in aggregate can influence macro-level topics like retirement and social security."

Noah presented his findings at the 2019 MURACE Symposium as well as the 2020 Academy of Economics and Finance conference, and his research has now been published in "Financial Services Review."



Noah MacDonald, Economics
Conyers, GA, Spring 2020



Tomiwa Oderinde, Chemistry
Hampton, GA, Spring 2020

Tomiwa Oderinde, senior chemistry major, shadowed two internist doctors over the summer, which provided valuable experience for his goal to pursue medical school after graduation. For one doctor, he answered patients' calls in the clinic's office, and for the other, worked the night shift and got a feel for what it was like to be on-call.

"Both were pretty grueling, but I think totally necessary. During the night shift, I functioned mainly as a scribe for the doctor as we visited the nightly influx. The adage of admitting quickly when you think you might be wrong was soon reinforced. In a business where you have that great of an influence on people's well being, it's better to fail and admit it quickly rather than to keep it to yourself and have to deal with the repercussions later."

From this experience, Tomiwa learned how much a physician relies on their team and, because of this, has focused on creating connections with students at Georgia College with other motivated students and faculty.



(From left to right) Dr. Bruce Snyder (Biology), Nathan Whatley ('21), Christina Cortes ('20), and Cole Brogden ('20) in front of the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Three Honors students presented research at the 18th International Congress on Myriapodology at the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, Hungary. Christina Cortes, senior biology major, and Cole Brogden, senior physics major, presented “Analysis of millipede microbiome and N-deposition,” a study which was coauthored with Dr. Snyder, Dr. Allison VandeVoort, and Dr. Shawn Brown from the University of Memphis.

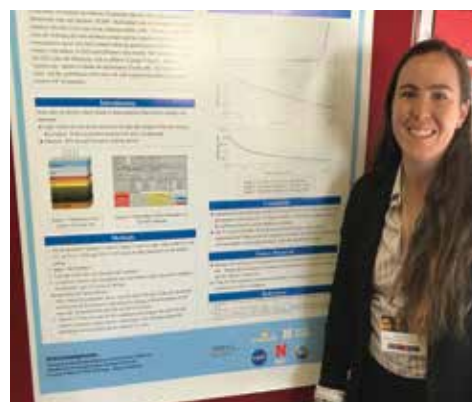
Nathan Whatley, junior biology major, presented “Moisture requirements of Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae,” which was coauthored with Amarah Shakur and Dr. Snyder.

Sophomore physics major Jessie Barre presented research at The Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physical Sciences (WoPhys) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on cadmium telluride solar cell performance using SCAPS software.

“The biggest takeaway from this conference,” said Jessie, “Is realizing all the opportunities that are out there for women in physical sciences. The conference provided a multitude of diverse female scientists, and I was able to learn so much in such a short amount of time.”

Jessie was enabled to make invaluable relationships with professors in her field from all over the country and credited Georgia College for its role in her experience.

“I would like to thank Georgia College for giving me all the tools to succeed, in addition to the Honors Program and MURACE for their help with funding—without them, this conference would not have been possible.”



**Jessie Barre, Physics
Pooler, GA, Spring 2022**



Reagan Thornton, Biology, Minor in Psychology, Milledgeville, GA, Class of 2021



Reagan Thornton, junior biology major, has truly demonstrated Georgia College's liberal arts initiative through her passions of zoology and theatre.

Through her internship with the North Georgia Zoo, she was able to learn about animal care through assisting in animals' diets, shadowing zookeepers, and leading tours for visitors of the zoo.

"My favorite part was assisting on encounters," said Reagan, "Because I really enjoyed getting to educate people and see the dynamic with animals that people don't normally get to interact with, which makes both the animals and the guests really happy."

The skill of holding an audience transferred well onstage when Reagan earned a role in the campus production of "Barbecue."

"I love performing on opening night and getting that energy back from the audience because if they're excited, laughing, or clapping, getting to engage with and entertain them onstage is one of the best feelings.

"While pursuing both STEM and the arts can be time-consuming," said Reagan, "It broadens your experience and is rewarding in the long run."



CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

The Georgia College Armed Farces are a student-led improv troupe that performs two shows every week in Milledgeville's Blackbird Coffee, one at 7:30 p.m. and one at 9:00 p.m.. Many Honors students have joined the team, including Club President Christina Cortes ('20), Natalie Miller ('21), Sullivan Conner ('21), and Maddie Ballentine ('22).

In addition, the team practices once a week and travels throughout the semester to improv competitions. Through these experiences, students are able to develop quick and critical thinking while also having fun.

When asked about her involvement in the Armed Farces, Natalie Miller, creative writing major and psychology minor, said, "I joined the Armed Farces in the beginning of Fall 2019 and it quickly became the event I looked forward to most every week. Not only is it a fun way to hang out with my friends and relax, it has also taught me so much about leadership, public speaking, confidence, and teamwork, which will all translate into my life beyond GC."

Natalie also thanked the Honors Program for its involvement in helping her develop key employable skills.

"It's these kinds of skills that the Honors Program has instilled in me and have allowed me to grow and improve on during my time at Georgia College," she said.



AN INTERNSHIP WITH THE SMITHSONIAN



Raasha Gutierrez, Art, Minor in Psychology,
Suwanee, GA, Spring 2020

Raasha Gutierrez, a senior art history major, interned with the Smithsonian Freer and Sackler Gallery this summer. The GC liberal arts education enabled Raasha to pursue her passions of art, psychology, and research, and the GC faculty had a major impact on encouraging her to apply.

“The professors care so much and are passionate about education,” says Raasha. “If we wanted to do something, they supported us. After working very closely with Dr. Katie Anania, I wanted to pursue an internship about museum work and art history. It was something I was interested in, and I wanted to understand better. My major has pushed me so much and has allowed me to grow and make mistakes that I will take with me for the rest of my life.”

While working in the Freer and Sackler Gallery, Raasha learned how the museum documented images and events held in the gallery while also helping out with videography needs.

One of Raasha’s most extensive projects was working on film from an Iranian photographer before the Iranian Revolution.

“An Iranian photographer went to the opening of the Tehran Contemporary Art Museum. This museum opened two years before the revolution, the Fall of the Shah, and a decent amount of these works are stuck in the collection (because the Iranian government is conservative) or have been destroyed. I have been photographing and digitizing this film for it to be passed onto art historians within the gallery and eventually curators.”

Through experiences like this, Raasha was able to learn how to enable the connection between people and art, and became inspired to implement the same sort of inspiration in other’s lives.



Abhinav Guneta (second from right),
Economics, Minor in Finance
Alpharetta, GA, Class of 2022

Freshman in Finance

Honors student Abhinav Guneta, a sophomore economics major, interned over the summer with a company called Fiserv—the top-ranked financial technology provider in the world. Abhinav benefited from a great deal of hands-on experience in the industry, including working on Zelle (an app similar to Venmo) for banks, collaborating with TriState Capital Bank on a project called PARIS, and spearheading closeout packet automation for credit and debit fraud cases.

In addition, he led the budget team for a charity event called Fiserv Gives Back where they made 3,500 snack packs for children in Atlanta who normally relied on school lunches.

“This experience put me in the real world of business and made me realize how dynamic the real world is,” says Abhinav. “Everything is constantly changing and therefore you must constantly be willing to accept change and be able to adapt to succeed.”

A Summer with the Symphony

This summer, junior music education major Haley Strassburger worked as an Ensemble Librarian at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, the summer division of the year-round Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan.

In this position, Haley worked with a team of seven other librarians to prepare music for the World Youth Wind Symphony, the Junior Band, and the Festival Choir; she also received bowing and errata experience through her work with the World Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Interlochen Philharmonic.

Over six weeks of camp, Haley’s ensembles performed 10 concerts, each with a different set of four-seven pieces, which required extensive copying preparation and preservation of vintage music. She also had the opportunity to play as a percussionist with the World Youth Wind Symphony and perform under the baton of many world-famous wind band conductors.

“I was lucky to work with many of the world’s top performing ensembles,” said Haley. “I’ve developed an enhanced passion for musicology and music library sciences, and the connections I made with conductors and librarians will aid me in the future, both in my career and personal musical life.”



Haley Strassburger, Music Education,
Atlanta, GA, Class of 2021



Juniper Guthrie, History, Minors in
French and Museum Studies,
Atlanta, GA, Class of 2021

At the Atlanta History Center

This summer, history major Juniper Guthrie interned at the Atlanta History Center in the Southeastern Museum Conference (SEMC) department. As an intern, Juniper worked under the executive director of SEMC, which allowed them to see firsthand the daily operations of the museum.

“My work over the summer included synthesizing information for the conference programs, updating presentations, managing member lists, and organizing office space,” said Juniper. “At the SEMC itself, I got to meet museum professionals from across the region, as well as attend sessions and explore local museums with a more critical eye.”

“I got to meet with Georgia College alumni, was introduced to educators and archivists, and all week, heard discussions of current news in the field, recent issues, prevalent attitudes, and working climates. It was fascinating to be steeped in such a diverse range of professionals and to see the ways they interacted and spoke about museums.”

COMMUNITY



Junior nursing major McKenna Yearick has been honored with the Gold Medal Congressional Award, due to her completion of 400 hours of volunteer service as well as 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness. She also planned and executed a five-day expedition.

“The whole program is designed—and it may seem like a negative connotation, but it’s positive—to help kids grow up. Truly it’s made me so much more responsible and mature because I was always working toward a goal,” said McKenna.

“McKenna is one of those once-in-a-decade students you encounter who is a force of nature, exuding brightness and energy,” said Dr. Steven Elliott-Gower, director of the Honors Program. “It’s intuitive, but you just know that this is a very special person, so it’s no surprise that she would achieve an honor like the Gold Medal Congressional Award.”

Because McKenna achieved the highest level Gold Award, she will be honored in June 2020 at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Members of Congress will present the awards to their constituents at a distinguished ceremony.

“Participating in this program helped prepare me for college by teaching me to set goals and achieve them,” she said. “A lot of the time people, including college students, don’t realize their actions have consequences, but also that good things can come out, so being able to be rewarded and awarded for the stuff I did is awesome.”

ENGAGEMENT



Do Good Health

At the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, Eta Sigma Alpha officially adopted the philanthropy Do Good Health, a nonprofit started by GC alumnus, Johnny Golden, which raises money to build hospitals and clinics in rural Rwanda.

ESA has set the goal to raise \$2,000, which is the cost of an education room within a clinic. In education rooms, patients will be able to learn about best practices, including CPR and mental health information.

So far, ESA has raised \$1,300 through small fundraisers like bake sales, tie-dye events, and a “Pie” Day fundraiser.

ESA’s Do-Good Game Show for the Spring 2019 semester was a major success; the Valentine’s-themed fundraiser included games like Live Tinder, the Not-So-Newlywed Game, and blind dating. Students from a variety of campus organizations all came together to support ESA and their Do Good Health initiative. Because of fundraisers like this, ESA is much closer to its goal.

Senior biology major and ESA community service director, Caroline Fowler, took great initiative in planning and leading these events.

“Working with Do Good Health has really inspired me to think about how I can help others by thinking outside the box and on a global scale, especially considering the founders of this nonprofit are GC graduates that left just two years ago,” says Caroline. “In such a short period of time, they have provided accessible healthcare for an entire community, and, as a result, they are saving lives. I am aim to work in healthcare after graduation, and seeing what some of my peers have done, has only encouraged me to think about how I can use my degree to help communities moving forward.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jenny Flaherty



Dr. Jenny Flaherty has long been committed to helping Honors students grow in their understanding of literature and its impact on society. Through the variety of classes she teaches, such as “Shakespeare and the Teenage Girl,” “Underworlds and Afterlives,” and “Jane Austen on Film,” Dr. Flaherty has always combined her literary passions with class topics, making each day of class an engaging immersion into new literature.

“One of the reasons why I love this college is that they support me when I want to develop fun new classes,” said Dr. Flaherty. “For example, I love Greek mythology, which I get to teach along with Dante and French theatre in my GC2Y.”

In these classes, Dr. Flaherty has mentored students on a wide array of individual projects. “I have worked with students on Honors Options, which has been a truly rewarding experience—I’ve seen students create research projects that I couldn’t have imagined, such as an evening of choreographed dance based on Shakespeare, studies of dance in Jane Austen’s time, and a curated museum exhibit.”

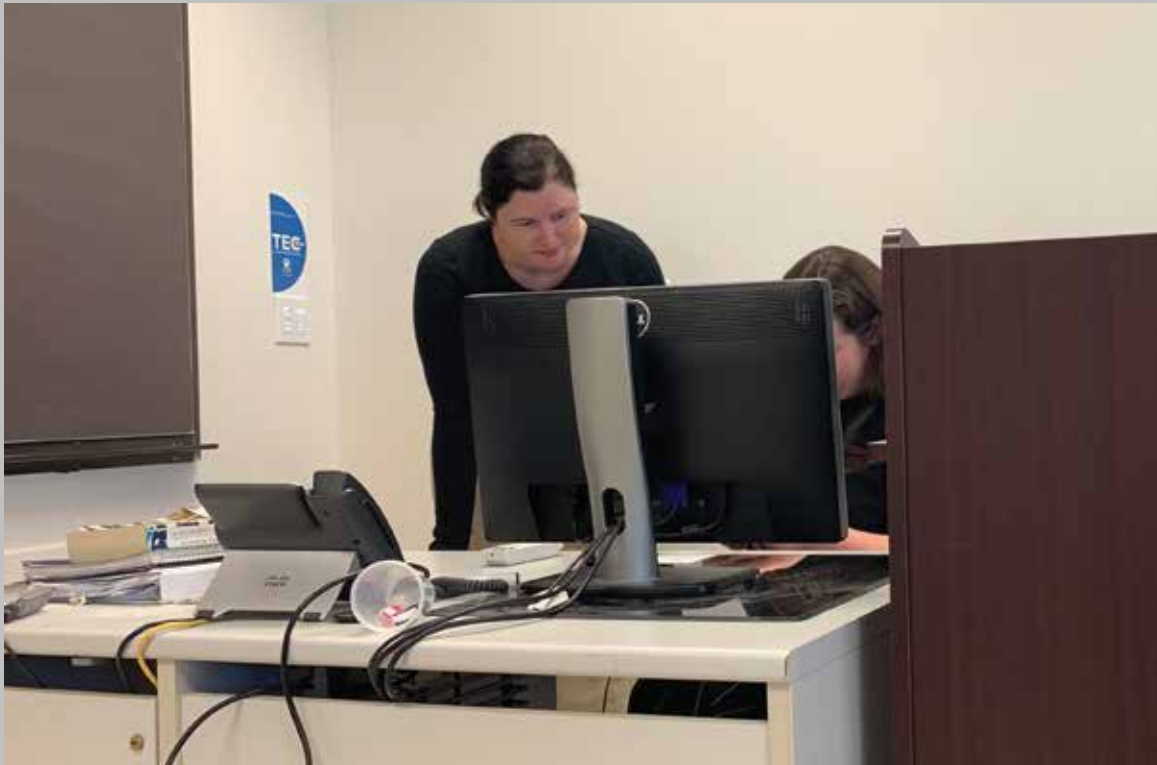
In addition to classes, Dr. Flaherty also volunteers her time through the American Experience program. This program is a chance for professors to take students to an area of the country that they know well and would want to introduce to students. In years past, Dr. Flaherty has been able to show three groups of students around New York City.



She is also hosting a *Hogarth Shakespeare* series for students in Honors book discussions.

“I also love being able to share an evening of discussion with students about books and authors that they love, whether they’ve loved them since childhood or might just be getting introduced to.”

Dr. Flaherty has contributed a great deal to the Honors Program, in addition to serving as a tremendous inspiration for all of her students.



Dr. Flaherty works with a student on their time-lapse painting performance project on Shakespeare's "The Tempest."



Students review the "Yellow Stocking Scene" in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."



ALUMNI CORNER

Anna Fontaine ('13)

Anna Fontaine ('13), upon graduation from Georgia College, pursued a graduate degree in theatre at the East 15 Acting School in the United Kingdom.

"My program itself was an international cohort," said Anna. "Having the opportunity to learn and work with actors from around the world was a truly unique and eye-opening experience. We constantly learned from one another as actors and as human beings."

Throughout the program, actors took intensive education modules, such as the practices of Laban and Gratowski, biological and animal studies, as well as voice technique and articulation classes. Anna also took part in many productions throughout her time in the graduate program.

"My favorite productions have been the ones where I was challenged and able to grow as a performer. Likewise, every production has its own energy given the various people involved and sometimes the best shows have been equally due to the amazing people I've been able to work with and learn from."

Anna was able to take on a myriad of roles during her time at Georgia College and East 15. Some of her past credits include Linda Loman ("Death of a Salesman"), Imogen ("Cymbeline"), Annie Sullivan (The Miracle Worker), Manuela (All About My Mother), and Evelyn (The Shape of Things).

For Anna, living in the U.K. was an incredible way to learn through travel.

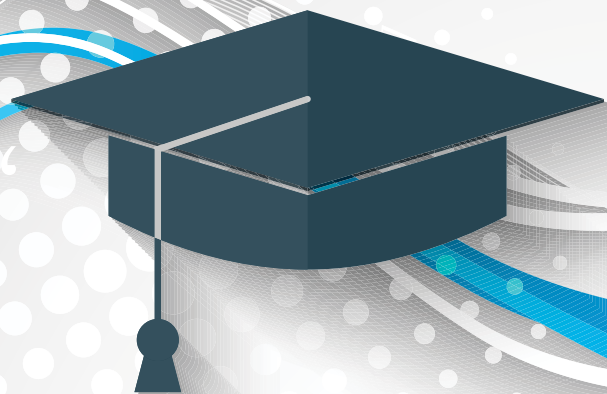
"As well as loving theatre, I also have a passion for history so it was wonderful to live somewhere you could turn a corner and be by a Roman wall or see where Ada Lovelace lived or strolled past," she said. "Our school was a little outside the city in the Epping Forest area, so I also was able to enjoy strolling in the woods. We even did a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream actually in that forest (which supposedly had inspired Shakespeare) and



so speaking those lines while the night fell, and a few deer dashed by was rather magical."

After having the opportunity to travel throughout the U.K. and Europe, Anna has relocated back to Atlanta and is focused on what's next. She sees lots of auditioning in her future.

"I've already been auditioning for both on-camera projects and theatre productions and I'm so happy for the many job opportunities in the region. I've been in a couple commercials and would love within the next year to have a solid television or movie role." We wish you the best of luck, Anna!



Congratulations

2020 HONORS GRADUATES

Joshua Anderson
Rhetoric

Joshua Ballard-Myer
Mathematics and Physics

Elisabeth Barreto
English

Shelby Bennett
Criminal Justice

Emma Boggs
English

Alexandra Bradley
Mass Communications

Cole Brogden
Physics

Lauren Butera
Biology

Oliver Carnazzo
Exercise Science

Anna Carter
Biology

Avery Cavins
Biology

Kendall Cook
Biology

Matthew Crawford
History

Bentley Earnest
Political Science

Amy Beth Edwards
Mathematics

Madison Graham
Music

Raasha Gutierrez
Art

Courtney Anne Henry
Sociology and Liberal Studies

Jenna Kemp
Nursing

Emerson Kleider
Economics

Monica Klinkmueller
Mass Communication

Claire Korzekwa
English and Political Science

Hannah Kriner
Philosophy and Liberal Studies

Julian Andres Lopez Hanson
Business Management

Nayomi Martinez-Ubay
Psychology

Allison McClure
Psychology

Amy Lynn McDonald
Mass Communication

Noah MacDonald
Economics

Kate Noah
Biology

Tomiwa Oderinde
Chemistry

Paige Overmyer
Sociology

Sidney Parker
Environmental Science

Elizabeth Pirrello
Nursing

Jacqueline Sertell
Music Therapy

Nicholas Skowronek
Philosophy and Liberal Studies

Elise Spicer
Mass Communication

Laura Swarner
Theatre and English

Margaret Todesca
Rhetoric

Savannah Vaz
Biology

Cameron Watts
Economics

Grace Wenger
Psychology

Margaret Wheeler
Liberal Studies

LeAnn Whitley
Political Science

Julia Whitten
Theatre

Ruby Zimmerman
Political Science



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