We all gear up for fall semester, knowing it will be filled with meetings, classes, grading, students, advising and so many other opportunities such as fine arts performances, athletic competitions and student research. Spring semester seems to take us by surprise with the fullness of its calendar, the unexpected but urgent tasks such as search committees and professional development opportunities. At the risk of overlooking other key events and people, I did want to give a quick acknowledgement of the success of the Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Teaching Matters Conference. This was my first experience with each of these and I was thoroughly pleased to see the quality of the presentations. These are valuable contributions to the Gordon experience and heighten the profiles of our students, our faculty and our institution. There are certainly many other equally valuable events and activities at Gordon.

Speaking of a hectic spring schedule, though.....One recent evening, there were four events occurring simultaneously that I wished I could attend. That evening, I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Paul Wood, president and CEO of Georgia EMC (Electric Membership Corporation). He delivered a delightfully engaging talk about FDR and his connection to the history of the EMC in Georgia with particular emphasis on the historical connections to Barnesville, Georgia. For those of you who were able to attend his presentation, I know you will agree that it was a particularly enjoyable evening. I was also fortunate enough to receive a signed copy of his book, *It’s My View* (2011). This book is a collection of columns he has written over the years for the *GEORGIA Magazine*. One of the columns was

advice for graduates and for graduation speakers. I was particularly taken by his sage advice as we approach our own spring commencement ceremony. Among his advice to graduates:

♦ Listen.
♦ Leave the beach ball at home. Life is not a beach. You will not need a ball; you will need your brains and your ethics.

Some of his advice to graduation speakers was equally sensible:

♦ Keep it brief. Less than 10 minutes is fine.
♦ Leave them a-Twitter. They will be tweeting their friends during your speech, so give them something to tweet other than, ‘So lame; can’t believe doofus is still talking.’
♦ Keep it brief. Ten minutes? Six minutes is better.

With this in mind, I will close with all best wishes for a successful closure to the spring 2014 semester.
Lobbying Reminders for USG Employees

Dr. Margaret Venable

DO NOT:
1. Campaign for any USG (or other personal) initiative on state time, with state funds, or as a representative of the Board of Regents/USG/Gordon State College.
2. In a public setting where you have been invited as a representative of the Board of Regents/USG/Gordon State College, state how citizens should vote on issues.
3. Acting on behalf of the Board of Regents, USG or Gordon, directly or indirectly, make any gift, loan, contribution of anything of value to any group to win approval or disapproval of any issue which may come before the citizens for a vote.

In other words, be clear that you are acting as a private citizen when/if you engage in political activities and donations. In your role as a USG employee, you MAY share facts or point people to websites for information but you should not project conclusions or opinions. The bottom line is that we may educate but not advocate.

New Campus Hours for Summer 2014

Dr. Margaret Venable

Although the campus hours do not impact faculty as greatly as staff, it is worth noting the new campus hours for summer 2014. For the period May 12, 2014 – August 1, 2014, our standard operating hours will be:

- 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday (with an hour lunch)
- 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (no lunch hour) on Fridays.

All staff should observe the modified operating hours unless a flex time agreement has been authorized. In order to accommodate for Memorial Day and Independence Day, the following schedules will be observed:

- **Memorial Day week** – Employees will be required to work 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 2014.
- **Independence Day week** - Employees will be required to observe standard hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 30 – Thursday, July 3.

AAMI Grant Funding

Gordon State College has been notified that (contingent upon the funding approvals for the USG AAMI for FY15) we have been selected for funding for the 2014-15 academic year to continue our AAMI (African American Male Initiative) Living-Learning Community project. Please congratulate and thank Ms. Michele Perry-Stewart and Mr. Fredrick Baily for their good work and strong grant proposal.
Welcome to the SSC’s New Success Coach

Dr. Margaret Venable

The Student Success Center is pleased to announce that Mr. Fredrick Bailey has joined the SSC team. As the Student Success Center’s new Success Coach, Mr. Bailey will work to expand the Highlander Peer Mentor program. Since Fall of 2013, the Peer Mentor program has trained 48 mentors, who have in turn reached 89 students, all of who were referred to the SSC for Early Alert-related concerns. We are excited to see the positive impact his experiences and leadership skills will bring to this growing project which provides both support to students in need and leadership opportunities for many of Gordon State College’s successful students. In addition, Mr. Bailey will participate in the SSC’s intrusive advising programs, doing interventions for Always Alert, a referral program for struggling students, and for Learn2Learn (L²), an intervention plan for students placed on probation by their second semester of college. Mr. Bailey received his Associates Degree from Gordon in 2010 and his Bachelors in Early Child Education from West Georgia in 2012. He is currently working on a Masters of Education in addition to serving as coordinator for the African-American Male Initiative (AAMI), professor for the Gordon First Year Experience courses, mentor for the Highlander Basketball players, and Resident Director.

Welcome to the Student Success Center, Fredrick Bailey!

Affordable Learning Georgia Updates

Dr. Margaret Venable

Based on a recent survey by OSU, it is estimated that ~42% of students cannot afford one or more textbooks during a single semester. This occurrence is not surprising since the cost of textbooks has risen over 30% in the past 6 years. It is also estimated that students spend 26% of their cost of tuition on textbooks and over 30% of the students do not purchase textbooks because of financial reasons. In order to address this issue, the University System of Georgia is championing a fledgling program titled Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG). The program stresses low cost or free course material for students. In partnership with California State University system, USG is presently seeking contributors to MERLOT II, a website containing free course materials for students. Another free website that may be of interest for faculty and students is OpenStax which may also contain course materials that may be beneficial to the students. For years, the members of the faculty at Gordon College have independently attempted to reduce the cost of education for their students. Many have published their own course materials, lab manuals and other essential resources that is necessary for student success. Based upon the recent focus of USG to lower the cost of education for students, it is encouraged that the faculty lessen their reliance on costly textbooks and continue to find new ways for course cost reduction. This is an opportunity for professional development and scholarly work (note that peer reviewed open source materials are scholarly works). Please talk with Dr. Philip Jen and/or Ms. Brenda Rutherford if you want more information about the ALG initiative. You may also wish to visit the USG website for additional resources: http://www.usg.edu/facultyresources/resources/open_textbooks

Department Head Announcement

Based upon the consensus of the department, Dr. Tom Aiello has agreed to continue as Department Head of History and Political Science (with “Interim” removed from his title) effective July of 2014. Please congratulate Tom and thank him for his service to Gordon when you see him!
Academic Dishonesty Reporting Changes

Dr. Edward Whitelock

We will change our reporting process for cases of academic dishonesty, effective August 1, 2014. For the past two years, any report of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty has gone directly to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. Starting in fall 2014, we ask that such reports be directed to the dean of the school in which the class is convened.

Records of reported cases of academic dishonesty and insufficient citation will be kept in the deans’ offices. The deans will report egregious cases of academic dishonesty to the VP of Student Affairs and that office’s policy of placing students on academic suspension following two reports will continue.

As has previously been discussed in GSConnect, it is important that we guide our students towards constructive academic habits while acknowledging the lack of experience many bring to our classrooms. I’ve had conversations with local educators who acknowledge that instruction in proper citation methodology is inconsistent at the secondary level throughout this region. We need to give our students space to learn from their mistakes through adequately scaled penalties.

Honors Program News

Dr. Richard Baskin

In the process of considering applications for Director of the Honors Program, the Honors Council has proposed the following: as a college with baccalaureate programs, we should be doing more with the Honors Program—greater material support from the college, continued expansion of the program, including a more structured faculty involvement; a continuing director position, rather than having an artificial time period; and a revised director job position. They would like to then open up the director’s position again (this next year) and conduct a more involved search process. Dr. Venable and I agreed that this direction would be appropriate for the College, and the Council will be working this summer on a formal proposal to this office. The Council has asked Dr. David Janssen to serve another year, with the understanding that a new search will be conducted. David has agreed, and he strongly supports the Council’s concept.

Thank you, Dr. Janssen, for your excellent work on behalf of our students.

Advising:
Tip of the Month

Each year, there are changes in the curriculum that impact advising. For example, did you know that students will now be required to earn a grade of C or higher in several of our science classes in order to enroll in subsequent science courses? This is only one example of potentially significant changes that we make in our curriculum each year. Please review the updated online catalog, Academic Policy Council minutes and/or Faculty Senate minutes to make sure your advisees are aware of such requirements up front.

A student who has not mastered the practice of paraphrasing and citing sources in a paper should be penalized for the individual work; this student should not suffer the same penalty as one who has submitted his or her roommate’s essay from the previous semester. The first has committed an error of ignorance, the second a conscious act of dishonesty.
We caught a riverboat, learned how to fire a cannon, and we consorted with pirates....and that was just on the ride down!!

Seriously, we did those things, and more, at last month’s Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Savannah. Lauren Williams presented “Leading Students to Success with Innovative Technology,” and Samantha Watt and Stephanie Hogg co-presented “Diana Prince and Helene Cixous: The Wonder Women of Their Age.” This is the first time we have participated in this conference. The talent from across the region was impressive. Lauren, Stephanie, and Samantha did an outstanding job representing Gordon State College!

The Third Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium took place on Wednesday, April 2, 2014. By all accounts, the event was the best yet with fourteen presenters. Emily Mumford received the award for best paper, and David S. Cromer received honorable mention. Zachary Burke received best poster, and Ashley Dean received honorable mention. The keynote speaker, Dr. Loren Dean Williams, from the Georgia Institute of Technology, gave a fascinating lecture on the origins of life, and GSC was fortunate to have an address by such a distinguished scholar. Special thanks go to History’s Dr. Frank Winters for arranging Dr. Williams’s visit and for all the hard work he has put into making this event an ongoing success that has benefitted the students and the wider community at Gordon State College.

Honors Program Admission Deadline:

Our next deadline is May 1. Please encourage qualified students to apply in order to take advantage of the academic and social opportunities that the Honors Program offers. For new students with less than 12 credit hours, a score of 1150 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT is required as well as a 3.2 high-school GPA. For current students with at least 12 credit hours, a minimum 3.5 GPA is required as well as a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Application details and forms can be found here: [http://www.gordonstate.edu/admissions/advanced/honors/index.asp](http://www.gordonstate.edu/admissions/advanced/honors/index.asp)
On April 7, 2014, Dr. Jeff Rogers delivered a talk titled “William Gilmore Simms: Southern Writer, American Original” at Southern Crescent Technical College in Griffin. Rogers was the first guest speaker in a planned series at the NET, which is SCTC’s center for excellence in teaching. Also, his article titled “Young Man with a Press: The First Six Months of Simms’s Editorship of the Charleston City Gazette” will appear in Vol. 21, Number 1 & 2 of The Simms Review, the lead journal for scholarship on William Gilmore Simms, the prominent nineteenth-century American author. Dr. Rogers also had an essay is titled “The Demands of Citizenship in the Confederate Republic: Simms, Confederate Nationalism and the Civil War” appear in a compilation of essays touching upon William Gilmore Simms’s experience of the American Civil War titled William Gilmore Simms’s Unfinished Civil War: Consequences for a Southern Man of Letters (The University of South Carolina Press, 2013). In addition, The University of South Carolina Press, in conjunction with the Simms Initiatives of the Libraries of the University of South Carolina, has just published a new edition of Simms 1847 biography The Life of the Chevalier Bayard to which Rogers wrote the critical introduction.

Dr. Tom Aiello presented his paper, “Lancashire, Dallas and the Cotton Trade: The ties that bind,” at the 49th Annual Walter Prescott Webb Lecture at the University of Texas-Arlington on March 6, 2014. Organized under the theme “Currents in Transatlantic History: Encounters, Commodities, Identities,” the presentations were in honor of retiring Professor Stanley Palmer, who has taught at the University since 1973.

Dr. Brian Webb presented two co-authored papers at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference in Chicago, IL from April 3-6, 2014. The first, “Measuring the Influence of American States in Congress,” examines how much actual voting power state delegation get in Congress considering the over-representation of small states in the U.S. Senate and the individual characteristics of members of Congress (presented with Michael P. Fix and Daniel P. Franklin). The second, “Inner-Group vs. Outer-Group Policy Support and its Impact on Presidential Job Approval,” investigates how African American voters adjust their approval for President Obama when he support policies geared toward other minority groups (presented with Precious Hall and Maurice Mangum).

Dr. Jeremy Richards presented a paper at the South Carolina Historical Association meeting in Columbia, SC on Saturday, March 15, 2014. The title of the paper is “Anticommunism in Moderation: The Story of South Carolina’s Committee to Investigate Communist Activities.”

The Department of History & Political Science received a donation of several hundred new monographs, many of which include transcribed original documents, from the Organization of American Historians. This donation was made in conjunction with that organization’s annual meeting held in Atlanta, April 10-13, 2014. We will, after cataloguing, have a valuable research resource available for our history majors.
During the fall semester 2013, history students at Gordon State College petitioned for the creation of a local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society. After completing the application process, the national chapter approved the establishment of the Alpha-Omicron-Omicron chapter at Gordon in the spring semester 2014. On March 26, 2014, Dr. John Thomas Scott, history professor at Mercer University and member of Phi Alpha Theta’s national board of directors, presented the chapter’s charter to Dr. Erica Johnson, the chapter’s faculty advisor.

After the installment of the new chapter, in the same ceremony, Dr. Johnson inducted 17 students and 2 faculty members into the Alpha-Omicron-Omicron chapter. Induction into Phi Alpha Theta requires at least 12 hours in history, a 3.1 GPA in all history courses, and a 3.0 GPA overall. Membership is for life and provides members with access to Phi Alpha Theta’s peer-reviewed publication, The Historian, conferences, scholarships, and awards. The 17 student inductees were Preston Allen, Jessica M. Bailey, Christopher D. Childress, Scott Dalton, Cory Dees, Ahmed Foggie, Pamela Fuentes, Wendy Giere-Frye, Justin Gunnels, Stephanie C. Martin, Holli Stouffer McCord, Andrew W. Odegaard, Sophia Queen, Yzaivera Sheniese Smith, Parker A. Stevens, Deborah Vaughan, and Victoria Ward. The 2 faculty inductees were Dr. Tom Aiello and Dr. Jeremy Richards.

On March 29, 2014, 2 newly inducted Phi Alpha Theta members from Gordon, Ahmed Foggie and Wendy Giere-Frye, presented their research at the Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference at Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia. Dr. Johnson chaired one of the conference’s panels. Preston Allen, Scott Dalton, and Pamela Fuentes, 3 other inductees, attended the conference as representatives of Gordon State College.

On April 15, 2014, the Alpha-Omicron-Omicron chapter met to nominate officers for the 2014-2015 school year. The members have already begun discussing a t-shirt design and events on and off campus, and they are all sure to continue making Gordon State College proud.

Guest Speaker
Paul Wood, president and CEO of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, spoke at Gordon State College Thursday, April 11, 2014, as a guest of the Department of History & Political Science. Wood discussed President Franklin Roosevelt and his role in bringing rural electrification to Georgia. Wood is on the Board of Directors of the Warm Springs Foundation and is a friend of Dan White, who endowed the FDR History Scholarship. White was also in attendance.
History Club Cookout and Kickball Game

Dr. Erica Johnson

The annual History Club vs. Veterans Club kickball game took place on Gordon State College campus on Saturday, April 5th from noon to 4. A few representatives from Rotaract showed up as well. The clubs held a cookout before playing. The tasty food included hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, and apples. After eating, a number of participants played kickball on the soccer field. The History club, which is advised by Dr. Jeremy Richards, performed well, as usual. The History Club also assisted with the Carnival on April 15, 2014, as a part of Spring Fling Week at GSC.

News from Math and Physical Science

Dr. Allen Fuller

Dr. Marwan Zabdawi presented “Strategy for Graphing Trigonometric Functions Using Mapping & Superposition” at the 2014 ICTCM (International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics) on March 22nd in San Antonio Texas. The paper will be published in the 2014 ICTCM proceedings.

Chad Davies and Richard Schmude, Jr. presented at the Teaching Matters Conference on April 4, 2014.

In March, Dr. Osborne presented a talk: “Partnerships in Service-Learning and Environmental Stewardship” as an invited speaker at the 2014 Confluence Conference, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Dr. Osborne also presented on a similar subject at the Governor’s Teaching Fellows Reunion and Conference in January.

Richard Schmude presented two talks at the Georgia Academy of Science meeting in August, GA on March 29, 2014: (1) “Mars’ North Polar Region in Late 2013” and (2) “Mars’ South Polar Cap: 1907-2005”

Congratulations to Wendy Giere-Frye, BA History, May 2014, who has been accepted into the doctoral history program at Georgia State University. We are sure Wendy will do GSC proud!
The Human Services Club, under the guidance of advisors Drs. Barry Kicklighter and Christy Flatt, hosted the First Annual Human Services Appreciation Banquet on April 2. Over 20 professionals of 15 local human service agencies were treated to dinner, flowers, and door prizes by our talented human services majors. The event was co-sponsored by the Student Government Association and Academic Affairs.

A team of our human services faculty members invaded Atlanta April 2-4 to attend the Southern Organization for Human Services annual conference. Those in attendance were: Drs. Jeff Knighton, Barry Kicklighter, Brenda Johnson, Pam Terry, Qi Zhou, Melinda Hawley, Kalisha Smith, and Christy Flatt. They came back to campus with many new ideas and increased motivation to work with our nearly 100 human services majors!


The Rotaract Club of Gordon State College partnered with local, First Baptist Church of Barnesville to collect donations for a mission trip aimed to provide relief to the homeless population in New Orleans. Rotaract collected donations on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, and was able to raise enough to provide 30 extra care-packages.

Dr. Alan Burstein made two presentations at Teaching Matters. One of these presentations was as a panelist in the Gordon State College iPad Teaching Circle, discussing pedagogical uses of the iPad both in and out of the classroom.

Dr. Burstein also presented with co-presenters Dr. Christy Flatt of Gordon and Dr. Robert Vaughn of Clayton State, a presentation entitled “Interdisciplinary Adventures.” The presentation focused on two joint class projects: one between Dr. Burstein’s Finance class and Dr. Flatt’s Poverty class on preparation and review of micro-finance perspectives; the other between Dr. Burstein’s Finance class and Dr. Vaughn’s Early American Literature class reconsidering hospital financing described in Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography in a 21st century context.

Drs. Barry Kicklighter and Christy Flatt traveled to the Center for Diseases Control with twenty students on Friday, April 11, for a tour of the facility given by Dr. Leigh Willis, a Medical Sociologist.

Special congratulations go out to Emily Mumford, our first expected human services baccalaureate graduate, for winning the Best Paper award (Humanities & Social Sciences) at the 2014 Undergraduate Research Symposium on Wednesday, April 2nd.

Professor Bethany Johnson is currently in her final semester of coursework at the University of Georgia, pursuing her doctorate degree in “Workforce Education.” She will be taking her comprehensive exams on April 21st making her “ABD.” A great big GOOD LUCK goes out to her from everyone here in the Business and Public Service Department!
School of Education Updates

Dr. Mike Maham

The Gordon State College School of Education held its second annual career night for seniors in the School of Education. Twenty of the surrounding counties were invited to attend and interview the School’s upcoming graduates. Representatives from Lamar, Pike, Spalding, Henry, Meriwether, were available for interviews for teaching positions next year. One of the HR directors indicated that she places all resume’s into two piles. One pile for Gordon State School of Education graduates, and one pile for all others. If the best candidate cannot be found in the Gordon State pile, she will then look at the second pile of candidates. (Photos attached courtesy of Autumn Schaffer)

The School of Education has received notice from the Board of Regents of the University System and Georgia Power that Gordon State will again be in the running for two of our graduates this year to be considered for a $1,000 scholarship to help them begin their teaching career. This is the 11th year of the scholarship and Gordon State has had winners in previous years. The candidate must be in the top 25% of his/her class, have a high aptitude for teaching, and be recommended by the faculty.

On February 21st, Dr. Mike Borders (EDUC) presented at the Georgia Council of Exceptional Children State Conference in Savannah the topic was “Elementary Teachers Perceived Career Choices for Students with Autism”

Ms. Bev Wolfe (PHED and Challenge Course Coordinator) was asked to give instruction on rock climbing to a couple who are guest stars on Animal Planet. The couple’s home is being renovated in the hills of Kentucky. The backyard is a cliff and is being renovated while they are away climbing with Bev. The final part of the show will be aired in July on Animal Planet. More to follow.

Dr. Mike Borders (EDUC) and Ms. Donna Borders (EDUC) attended the Future Educators Association Spring meeting in St. Simons Island, GA along with junior education students Chandler Rutledge and Betania Bailon. There was a group presentation “Enhanced Classroom Teaching by Utilizing Multiple Intelligences, Learning Styles, and Birth Order”. This was March 28th 2014.
News from the Department of Humanities

Dr. Steve Raynie

Dr. Doug Davis participated in the “iPad Teaching Roundtable” at the Teaching Matters conference. He also presented a paper, “Reading Flannery O’Connor’s ‘The Displaced Person’ as Cold War Science Fiction,” at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature in Arlington, VA this March. At the SSSL conference he was recruited to be a grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

An “Author Spotlight” interview with Rhonda Wilcox was published on the Syracuse University Press blog this April.

View the article by clicking here

Stephen Powers was the featured poet at Eureka College’s third annual Writers Festival. He gave a reading from his new book on March 27th, and met with students and faculty for class visits and a craft talk on March 28th. Also, his poem, “The Mona Lisa in Spain Knows Why I Can’t Come in the Side Door Anymore,” is the winner of the Emily Stauffer Poetry Prize.

Farewell Friend

It comes with great sadness that Laura Stout will be leaving the Business Office on April 30th to pursue other career opportunities. Everyone in the Business Office will miss Laura as she has proven to be a valuable employee and great friend to those she has worked with over the past two and a half years. We wish Laura the best and know she will succeed in anything she does.

GSC Staff News

Justin White

This past Thursday, the Bookstore hosted a “Throwback Thursday” displaying older Gordon College items for giveaways if you filled out a survey. Any leftover items were donated to Institutional Advancement for use with Alumni and other visitors. I went down there to check out the older items and was greeted by an extremely OLD picture of myself from 2006 when I was a Student Assistant in the Bookstore!! I was told that I had to add the picture with this announcement! There is also a picture of a fellow employee from the same time holding a shopping bag!! Linda, I want to apologize in advance! Both pictures were taken inside the old bookstore, which was located where the Game Room and Dining Hall Office currently sit.

Finally, I wanted to thank those that filled out the College Picnic survey sent a few days ago. We had good responses and will announce the plans in the coming days. Be on the lookout for that information in your Gordon email.

Remaining Jeans Days to support Gordon Gives

May 23, 2014
June 13, 2014
June 27, 2014