On January 30, I had the good fortune to accompany several of our Academic Affairs leaders to the USG Workshop for New Deans and Department Chairs at Middle Georgia State College. Early in the training, we had to complete a group pre-test covering policies and procedures of the USG and Board of Regents. I’m happy to report that the Gordon State College team tied with Georgia Perimeter for having the highest score on the pre-test! I must admit that it gave me a great source of pride that our team beat out schools such as UGA, Georgia Tech, and Georgia State.

While it was fun winning that competition, the much greater source of pride was the reminder that our leaders really do “know their stuff.” I said this frequently as Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences, and now as Interim Provost I feel it even more acutely: at Gordon State College, we truly do have an outstanding group of Deans and Department Heads. I don’t say thank you nearly enough, but my job is immensely easier because of their dedication and competence.

These are individuals who are usually in their offices well before 8:00 am; they’re typically still in their offices well after 5:00 pm. They address student complaints. They take calls from helicopter parents. They reassure faculty members. They teach their own classes. They attend committee meetings. They write degree proposals. They plan curricular revisions. They write grants. They continue conducting their own research. They focus on professional development for themselves as well as their faculty members. They continuously advocate for their faculty to higher administrators. And even with such busy schedules, I have confidence that I can pick up the phone at any time and call anyone of them with a request...and it will be taken care of.

So I have a request of each of you. The next time you bump into your Dean or Department Head, tell him or her “thank you” for all he or she does for Gordon State College and our students. I know I plan to.
Home-Grown Early Alert Presentation

Dr. Richard Baskin

Peter Higgins and I recently presented at the 34th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience. We had a great audience for “Tale of a Home-Grown Early Alert Program: Successes and Lessons”—plenty of questions and input. We appreciate the hard work that staff and faculty put in to making this process work. The conference as a whole was a useful experience, and we came away with a number of good ideas.

Claymore Named Most Improved Paper—Again!

For the second consecutive year, The Claymore has been named the most improved college newspaper in Georgia (see picture of the members of the editorial board displaying their award). The Georgie College Press Association held its annual awards luncheon on Saturday 2/7 at the Georgia Press Institute and recognized The Claymore in five categories:

- Improvement: 1st Place (staff)
- Best Sports Story: 1st Place (Zachery Findley, “Harlem Globetrotter to Highlander Coach”)
- Best Sports Photo: 2nd Place (Danielle Samuels, Photo of basketballer Reed Dugan)
- Best Entertainment Story: 2nd Place (Bridget Ingram, “The Magic of Success”)
- Best Entertainment Story: 3rd Place (Sharri-Ann Solomon, “A Play for our Times”)

This year’s awards are especially significant because they reflect a much more competitive field: until last year, awards were given in separate divisions for predominantly four-year and two-year institutions. This year, those divisions were collapsed, and our students were competing against schools with established journalism programs and enrollments of up to 8000 students. We’re very proud of the paper’s talented staff, and the awards at the statewide level are an acknowledgment of the hard work they put into every issue.

Apply to the ADR Summer Institute

The University System of Georgia (USG) Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution offers mediation training at their annual Summer Institute on Conflict Management in Higher Education. The Summer Institute is a weeklong training, taught by experienced USG faculty, to assist employees resolve conflict by acting as mediators in discussions with the involved parties. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) committee is part of the Board of Regents’ Initiative and Policy Direction on Conflict Resolution passed in 1995 and is composed of Tonya Johnson, the college’s staff ADR liaison; Dr. Peter Boltz, the college’s faculty ADR liaison; Sue Gilpin, 2012 alumna of the Institute; and Dr. Lynn Rumfelt, 2014 alumna of the Institute.

The ADR Committee is seeking applicants to go to the 2015 Summer Institute on Conflict Management in Higher Education at Chateau Elan in Braselton, Ga., June 8-12, 2015. The fully funded training is open to all staff and faculty, and the ADR Committee will review the applications and send its recommendations to the president for final approval. Members of the ADR Committee invite you to contact them personally for more information concerning mediation and the Summer Institute.

Further information on mediation and application for the Summer Institute training may be found at Human Resources Alternative Dispute Resolution web page.
The mission of the Gordon State College Career Services Center is to:

- **Guide student career exploration** and facilitating holistic career decision-making.
- **Connect employers** to students and the campus community, effectively promoting employment opportunities.
- **Promote career development** as an integral component of the college experience, integrating career into academic and co-curricular efforts.
- **Teach the essential skills** to seek and maintain meaningful employment.
- **Communicate the importance of experiential learning** in all its forms to students and coordinating internship and community service opportunities.

Each service is uniquely designed to assist students with identifying their desired lifestyle, educational, and career goals. Through the utilization of tools like the Myers Briggs personality assessment, students have the ability to make educated decisions about the best career path based on their personality type. Career Services also provides a Fall and Spring Career Camp to assist students with the development of job readiness skills, particularly the "Soft Skills" that the corporate environment has indicated is missing in our millennium talent pool.

Our fall 2014 semester was quite successful, with 30 active participants in the Basic Career Camp. The "Project Hired" fall career camp provided students with the ability to develop skills to become gainfully employed. Students really enjoyed the opportunity to participate in mock interviews with Human Resource Professionals to obtain feedback that will assist with landing employment. At the end of the camp, students were able to distribute resumes during the Georgia Career Consortium Career Fair to put their skills to the test!

Ornella Oluwole, a senior biology student here at Gordon State College, and our current Student Government President, attended the career camp and job fair in the fall, and had positive things to say about the program. When asked about her experience with the program, she said, "I attended the Job fair in November and received various networking opportunities. About a month after the fair, I got a call back from Creek Side High School for an interview...now I know that my skills are marketable."

Another student that attended the "Project Hired" career camp and the job fair was Eli Ingram. He said, "The Gordon State Career Services career camp offered great opportunities for me. I graduated in December 2014 with an associate's degree in business. Through the various modules, "Project-Hired" prepared me to dress for success, master interviewing skills, create a resume to get hired, and many other helpful tips...Thanks to Project-Hired, I graduated college with a job lined up for full time employment! Thanks for all the help and inspiration!" Eli is currently employed by State Farm as an aspiring independent agent, and is continuing sales and service training to prepare for a future career within the insurance industry.

For the spring 2015 semester, the Gordon State College Career Services Center is centralizing its focus on the Advanced Career Development Camp on March 11th-April 22. Programming has been designed to prepare students for potential careers upon graduation. Events will include an "Innovation Meets Technology" project in which students have the opportunity to showcase their creativity and bring new ideas for technological advancement. Students will also have an opportunity to visit Cobb EMC and Cryolife to learn about business commerce from a leadership and economic perspective.

Other opportunities for students to take advantage of professional development would be the resume drop in and critique days on March 25th and April 6th, the Georgia Association of Colleges and Employers (GACE) Career Fair on April 7 at the Cobb Galleria, and the Gordon State College Building a Solid Foundation Spring Career Fair on April 15th.

Student involvement can be greatly encouraged by the faculty and staff here at Gordon State College. Professors can utilize Career Services classroom visits to encourage student participation, and potentially offer students grades for participating in the career planning process.

The Gordon State College Career Services Center has assisted over 800 students with career exploration and planning so far this academic year. In addition, Career Services has also reached out this semester to 150 plus students in the Gordon First Year Experience courses to target first year students with assistance in the development of Academic and Career Plans.

Along with targeting freshmen and adult learners, Career Services also targets veterans seeking employment. There are many resources available to veterans in the Career Services Center, during our spring Veteran Employment Resource Day Veterans can get essential information for success through a one-stop-shop format.

Additional information about the Career Services Center and resources for students can be found on the Gordon State College website.

Students wishing to speak with a Career Services Advisor about career opportunities should make an appointment via Microsoft Outlook.

Instructions for the appointment process can be found on the Gordon State College Career Services webpage under the "students" link.
Dr. Lee attended the Touching Triton Workshop offered by Hudson Alpha Biotechnology on Saturday, February 7th, as part of GSTA Annual Conference. Touching Triton is an online educational activity focused on building understanding of common complex disease risk. Risk for common complex diseases such as colon cancer, age related macular degeneration and heart disease is influenced by many factors from many sources. Touching Triton uses the engaging storyline of long-term space flight to highlight how risk is influenced by factors from three sources: family history, environment and an individual’s genomic profile. By engaging students in an interesting storyline and graphical interface, Touching Triton aims to create an activity that is both enjoyable and educational.


Dr. Rumfelt will be teaching two children’s science day camps, each one week long in June 2015. Camp Science Explorer I for children in Pre-K – 2nd grades and Camp Science Explorer II for children in grades 3-5 will provide a structured and age-appropriate environment with exciting interactive experiences. Campers will do experiments and projects to learn about the natural world and better understand how it works, as well as keep their minds and bodies active with indoor and outdoor fun. There will be one field trip on our new college bus for each camp: Pre-K – 2nd grade campers will perform invertebrate analysis with a park ranger at High Falls State Park, and Grades 3-5 campers will do hiking and animal studies at Dauset Trail Center. In addition, the campers will enjoy daily swim sessions at our great Gordon State College Pool.

Updates from the Department of Business and Public Service

Dr. Joe Mayo’s proposal, Applying Personal Construct Theory to Engage Undergraduates and Advance Their Critical Thinking, was accepted through peer review as a presentation at an upcoming international conference sponsored by the Center for Scholastic Inquiry, which highlights research on professional practice in the behavioral sciences, business, and education. The conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, on October 28-30, 2015.

Dr. Joe Mayo was accepted to present a paper titled Social Construction of Knowledge in Teaching Educational Assessment at our 13th Annual Teaching Matters Conference on March 27-28, 2015.

Kaley Compton Bartlett, senior Human Services major, is the Spring 2015 intern for Weekend College. Kaley has contributed significantly to WC’s social media presence and serves as a peer resource for the "Weekend Warriors." (This is the name the Weekend College students have adopted.) Kaley is creating opportunities for these adult learners, who comprise the first cohort of this new, hybrid, adult learner program, to connect with each other and with on-campus colleagues.

Faculty who are teaching the first two courses in Weekend College are Dr. Brenda Johnson and Dr. James Awbrey. In March, second-half semester courses will be taught by Dr. Adria Goldman and Dr. Pam Terry. Prospective students are already beginning to apply for Fall Semester admission.
Updates from Hightower Library

Dr. Sonya Gaither

We would like for you to follow us as well as like us on Facebook and Instagram. Information will be posted regarding services and resources. Staff will be highlighted as well.

Also, stay tuned for more information regarding the library renovation. Direct links are available:

Visit our Facebook Page
Visit our Instagram Page

We would like to provide a friendly reminder that faculty may
1) request library instruction for your classes,
2) provide feedback regarding your library instruction
sessions, and provide feedback regarding databases you
would like to try or have tested by going to our online
forms found under the Services section of the library’s web
page.

Remember, THIS IS YOUR LIBRARY!

News from Department of History and Political Science

On February 7, Dr. Tom Aiello presented a paper, “North Texas, Dallas and King Cotton,” at the Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University in Montgomery. On February 14, Dr. Aiello presented a paper, “Jacob De Cordoba: Immigrant, Messenger and Texas Prophet” at the Florida Conference of Historians at Florida Southern College. And finally, on February 20, Dr. Aiello will assume the post of Chair for the Regents Academic Advisory Council on History at the organization’s annual meeting held at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Jeffery Rogers’ *A Southern Writer and the Civil War: The Confederate Imagination of William Gilmore Simms* (978-1-4985-0201-6) comes out this month. The History Club, in conjunction with the GSC Bookstore, will host a book signing for Rogers on Wednesday, March 25 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the GSC Bookstore.

Dr. Erica Johnson will present “Refractory Priests in the Atlantic World” on February 20 at the 45th Annual Consortium on the Revolutionary Era at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina at the.

The Department currently has several history students engaged in archival internships in the area. Kyle Johnson is interning under the direction of Shanna English at the Lamar County Old Jail Museum and Archives in Barnesville. Savannah Boyd, Scott Dalton, Pamela Fuentes, Jennifer Grant, and Thomas Shedd, under the direction of Cynthia Barton, are conducting research about Griffin-Spalding County in the 20th Century.

Remaining Paid Jeans Days to support Gordon Gives

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