Please Pardon Our Progress

Dr. Margaret H. Venable

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.

Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it.

Make your mistakes, next year and forever.”
— Neil Gaiman

A year from now, we will either be better or farther behind. I’m going to push myself to do things I’ve never done before and to do some things better than I have in the past. I challenge you to consider making aspirational goals that force you beyond your comfort zone. Let’s also motivate our students to do more than they thought possible — to explore subjects more deeply, to participate in leadership roles on campus, to make the Dean’s List or graduate with honors. I encourage you to challenge each other and continue to challenge me to be the best we can be. I don’t know about you, but my couch is going to be lonely this year. I’m getting off the sofa, away from the sidelines. Please bear with me when I make a few mistakes along the way and I promise to do the same for you.

We don’t always make formal resolutions, but as we contemplate the start of a new year and a new semester, I suspect we are all thinking of things we hope to do differently or better, things we hope to start doing or stop doing. What are your personal and professional goals for this year and semester? Why are these goals important to you? Are you pushing yourself to be better? Are we pushing our students to be the best they can be? Are we prepared to make mistakes in the attempt to stretch ourselves? Are we willing to risk failing in order to make bold efforts?

A year from now, what will have changed? Will we simply be a year older? At this time of year, many of us reflect on the past year and anticipate the possibilities of the future. It is the middle of our academic year, yet it is the start of a new semester and certainly a new calendar year. How lucky that we have so many opportunities for fresh starts!
Faculty Evaluation Timeline
( Abbreviated and updated from GSC Statutes )

Spring Semester

Week 1  Syllabi submitted to Department Head/Dean
Weeks 2-11  Classroom Observation performed by Department Head/Dean
Week 5  Faculty Self Evaluation submitted to Department Head/Dean. Faculty development goals also submitted at this time.
Weeks 8-10  Individual evaluation meeting between faculty and supervisor. Faculty Evaluation Agreement for next year completed cooperatively with supervisor.
Weeks 11-15  Faculty Rating by Student completed

SACS Visit to Henry County Academy for Advanced Studies

Dr. Richard Baskin

Last fall, SACS-COC approved our offering an AA in General Studies and an AS in Business at the Academy in Henry County. A committee will pay a three-day visit in March to confirm our ability to offer quality programs at this site. In preparation for that visit, Dr. Ric Calhoun, our site director, and I began work last fall, with a special focus on facilitating student access to services and main-campus offices. Our SACS-COC liaison Terry Betkowski is studying SACS-COC requirements, reviewing our compliance, and guiding the collection of information that will help us be ready. A strong report from the site committee will allow us to continue our momentum in Henry County, a key county in our service area.

ADVISING:
Tip of the Month

DegreeWorks is a very useful tool in guiding students to plan for timely course completion toward graduation. It will also help a student see the consequences of changing majors or associate degree concentrations. Please plan to attend one of these workshops if you need to learn more about this resource:

Wednesday, January 29th
2 PM – 3 PM
IC 103

Thursday, February 6th
10 AM – 11 AM
IC 102

For a brief tutorial video and other excellent resources, visit: http://www.gordonstate.edu/departments/computerservices/degreeworks/

Contact Mrs. Kristi Hayes at (678) 359-5510 or degreeworks@gordonstate.edu for additional questions.
Fine and Performing Arts News

Dr. Edward Whitelock

The Gordon State College Theatre Department will present Arthur Miller’s play *The Crucible* February 12 through 15 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a matinee performance of the play on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 2:00 p.m.

This production features a three-tiered staging designed to mirror the increasingly insular world of the play. Additionally, this production features a large ensemble cast made up of a mixture of GSC stage veterans with new performers.

Approved Absences

Don’t forget to review the list of Approved Absences on the Academic Affairs website (http://www.gordonstate.edu/departments/academicaffairs/). This list is most often for our student athletes and is updated frequently as games are cancelled and rescheduled. Our student athletes are excused from classes missed while they are representing Gordon State College on our athletics teams. Please work with these students to help ensure that they are allowed to make up missed work for excused absences.

Updates from the Department of Humanities

Dr. Steve Raynie

Mark King spent a good part of the winter break toiling away at desk number 2289 of the British Library’s Humanities Reading Room in London. He was researching his “Reconsidering Flashman” book. The trip was paid for in part by the generosity of a Summer 2013 GSC President’s Faculty Development Initiative grant.
There’s something for everyone at CETL this semester! Our **Workshop on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**, led by Dr. Bill Buskist from Auburn, is on January 31 from 1 to 4. The workshop promises an interesting, productive afternoon for all of us; please sign up by emailing CETL@gordonstate.edu so that we can know how many are coming.

Five **Teaching Circles** are under way this semester. Look over the list of topics, and join the circle by contacting the coordinator:

- **Motivating Low Achieving Students** will go beyond mere groaning about today’s students to see what actually works in motivating students with a weak academic background. **Contact Mark King.**
- **Teaching Outside the Box** will discuss strategies for breaking away from the traditional lecture format, from integrating newer technologies like classroom response systems to designing simple activities for active student learning. **Contact Sarah Rosario.**
- **Effective Lectures** will examine the future role of lecturing in the classroom and its need to evolve. **Contact Frank Winters.**
- **The GSC Challenge Course** will explore, in the context of experiential learning theory, the ways by which the Challenge Course can be used to foster learning. **Contact Andy Osborne.**
- **iPads in the Classroom** will explore ways by which the iPad can be utilized by both instructor and students, in both discipline specific and cross-disciplinary contexts. **Contact Tony Pearson.**

For information on other conferences and CETL activities, see our website, www.gordonstate.edu/cetl, or stop by 112 Smith to pick up our information flyers.
News from the Department of Biology

Dr. Theresa Stanley

The Department of Biology has been busy lately. Here are some of our accomplishments:

Dr. Gretchen Ionta had two articles accepted for publication:


⇒ LC Majure, GM Ionta, JD Skean, WS Judd. 2013. New records and notes on species from Parc National Pic Macaya, Massif de la Hotte, Haiti, including a new species of Pilea (Urticaceae) Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 7(2), 681-691.

Dr. Amanda Duffus and her Herpetology students have had 12 new species records accepted for publication in the March issue of the Herpetological Review.

Dr. Amanda Duffus and her research students have had 5 posters accepted for presentation at the 2014 Georgia Academy of Sciences. Dr. Duffus would like to thank the Faculty Development Committee for her award which makes attendance here possible!

Dr. Amanda Duffus and 3 student volunteers will be attending the annual meeting of the Southeastern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SEPARC) where they will be presenting 5 posters between them.

Dr. Amanda Duffus and colleagues from the University of Tennessee and Washington State University have submitted a manuscript to the Journal of North American Herpetology (JNAH) for publication.

Dr. Greg Hartman was part of a group of academic, State, and Federal biologists who met to revise the mammal conservation section of Georgia’s State Wildlife Action Plan. The meeting was held on 16 December at the Rum Creek WMA Nongame Conservation Section office, located near Forsyth.

On 17 December, Dr. Hartman assisted in hosting the annual meeting of the Georgia Bat Working Group. The meeting was held on the Gordon State campus, and had participants from multiple Federal and State agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector. Dr. Hartman was named to the Board of Directors of the Group.
Dr. Linda Hyde took EarthWindFire (the science club) to the Tennessee Aquarium in November. In addition to touring the aquarium, club members took part in a behind-the-scenes tour of the river environments building.

Last spring and fall semester some of Dr. Mike Womack’s microbiology students placed insect oviposition traps in their backyards for an 8 week period in both the Spring and Fall semesters. The purpose of this was to collect mosquito eggs from local counties. This study has provided background data for both the Georgia Department of Human Resources & the US Centers for Disease Control. With the introduction of West Nile Virus, both agencies are in need of real time field data. This work could not have been accomplished without our students. They both learned and enjoyed the experience. He is in the process of hatching, rearing, and identifying their collections. So far, collections came from sites in Lamar, Spalding, Pike, Henry, Upson, Monroe, and Fayette counties. Their efforts have:

1. established the week in the year that oviposition activity begins
2. established the week in the year that oviposition activity stops
3. established a base line for the species types found in ovitraps
4. established a new county record for the Asian Bush Mosquito, Ochlerotatus japonicus japonicas

Drs. Durojaiye, Lee, Rosario and Stanley attended the National Association of Biology Teachers meeting in Atlanta, GA, in November.

Dr. Jennifer Gardner assisted in the treatment and successful release of a Bald Eagle. The bird was transported from the Dublin area to Pike County for her care and rehabilitation at a raptor fa-

Updates from the School of Education

Dr. Mike Mahan

Dr. Mike Mahan, Dean of the School will present a program on Professional Development in Biology Education in conjunction with the Georgia Aquarium at the Georgia Science Teachers Association meeting in February in Macon.

Dr. Sheryl O’Sullivan has had a paper accepted for presentation at the Huck Conference in California.

Dr. Kim White-Fredette has accepted the role of edTPA coordinator for the School of Education. This is a new required program for all schools of education in Georgia. Meetings will be set up with content partners to education at Gordon.

GACE scores show results!

The results of the last GACE examinations for teacher certification were released and Gordon State College has an overall pass rate for 5 years of 96% of the graduating Elementary Education majors and 94% for the examination of Special Education Teachers. Both of these marks are higher than the State average. In October of 2013, ETS (Educational Testing Service) won the contract to provide the GACE exams for the future for the State of Georgia. During the first examination period in October, Gordon State College Elementary Education students passed at the rate of 100% (29/29) and at 90% on the Special Education exam 27/29. These are also superior to the State Averages for these examinations. Gordon State College offers a Blended program that certifies teachers in Early Childhood/Special Education.
Updates from the Department of Math and Physical Science

Dr. Allen Fuller


**Dr. Marwan Zabdawi** was a judge for the science fair at Spalding High on Friday January 17th.

Exciting News from Hightower Library

Brenda Rutherford

Affordable Learning Georgia is a USG initiative. More details and resources may be found on the web page: [http://affordablelearninggeorgia.org/](http://affordablelearninggeorgia.org/).

Hightower Library has added the following databases to the GALILEO databases.

**Gale Global Issues in Context** Global Issues in Context offers global perspectives on issues of international importance and current world events and topics in the news related to these issues.

**Gale Virtual Reference Library** Gale Virtual Reference Library is a database of encyclopedias, almanacs, and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research.

**Literature Resource Center** Literature reference database designed for both the undergraduate and graduate student. Biographical, bibliographical, and critical content.

**Opposing Viewpoints In Context** Different views of the same topic, a good source for argumentative papers or speeches.

**U.S. History in Context** Articles, primary sources

**World History in Context** World History in Context offers its users integrated access to a virtual library of resources needed to study the history of the world.