

# LaGrange College

# COLUMNS

winter 2020-2021



## **A clear vision**

New president meets  
challenges head on

## **New era of teaching**

Faculty use technology to  
forge future path





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Georgia's oldest private institution of higher learning, LaGrange College is consistently ranked among the South's top colleges by U.S. News & World Report. A four-year liberal arts and sciences college affiliated with the United Methodist Church, LaGrange offers more than 70 areas of study with an emphasis on global engagement and service.





## COMING TO LIFE

Some things just should not be. The shift to all online instruction in March (page 12) created an especially long period of silence on the Hill. Since the college moved here in the 1840s, I doubt that it has ever been so quiet for so long on campus. What a great relief it was when students returned this fall. Yes, there were masks and distancing requirements, but life had returned. And learning was taking place once again on this “lofty hilltop.”

—the Editor

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**PHOTO:** More than 300 hours have been logged by Music and Digital Creative Media and Film faculty, students and guests to produce the college's annual Service of Lessons and Carols in a video format. The finished product premiered on LC's YouTube channel on Dec. 6. See it at [YouTube.com/LaGrangeCollege](https://www.youtube.com/LaGrangeCollege).

**ON THE COVER:** Dr. Susanna Baxter took office in July as the 26th president of LaGrange College in the middle of an unprecedented pandemic. Her calm leadership and commitment to student success have guided the campus response.

# POSSIBILITIES

A semester of firsts

by Dr. Susanna L. Baxter,  
26<sup>th</sup> President of LaGrange College

My first days on the LaGrange campus will always live in my memory. The warm reception I have received means so much, and it reinforces my impressions of the Hill as a welcoming and transformative place.

Of course, I won't forget arriving in the midst of a pandemic. Preparations for launching fall semester already were in full swing when I began on July 1. Though we planned as diligently as possible, we all wondered what the outcome of those plans would be.

Now, at semester's end, I can happily report a great deal of success. Our number of positive COVID-19 cases remained low. Students largely followed our mask and social-distancing mandates. And faculty reported successful progress from both in-person and online courses.

We have been challenged by a very tight budget and by limitations on our athletic program, but, on the whole, we have been making lemonade out of the coronavirus lemons that have come our way. Faculty, staff and students have all worked amazingly hard to make this success possible.

In LaGrange's long and storied history, I am confident that these present days will become only a small blip on our path of progress. Thank you for your support as we walk through this time together.



# College places in top 5 in ranking

For the second year in a row, LaGrange College was named a top-five school in annual rankings released by U.S. News & World Report.

The institution was rated at number five among 122 Regional Colleges in the South, the only Georgia college in the category's top 25.

LaGrange College also was named a "best value," a label the magazine says factors a school's academic quality and cost after accounting for total expenses and financial aid. "The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal," the publication said.

"We are pleased to again have the value of a LaGrange education recognized by an independent source," said college President Susanna Baxter. "Our goal in all things is to provide a deep, student-centered education, one that prepares young men and women for both career and for life."

The 2021 rankings also placed

the college at number 9 in its category for best undergraduate teaching.

"Our small class sizes enable professors to build relationships with students, allowing them to become effective mentors and encouragers," Dr. Baxter said. "Their influence has helped LaGrange grads go on to become physicians, pastors, White House photographers and Grammy and Emmy award winners."

The college also was featured on a Top Performers on Social Mobility list. New last year, the recognition measures how well schools perform in graduating students who receive Pell Grants, federal aid reserved for the



nation's neediest students.

Joseph Miller, LaGrange College Vice President for Enrollment, said that more than 99 percent of the school's students receive some form of financial aid, and families are often surprised at the amount they receive.

"The average financial aid package from LaGrange meets about 92 percent of a student's total need," he said. "That means that the vast majority of our families are investing about the same amount in a college education as they would at a public institution."

## THE FAXIES

Recognizing Excellence in PR & Marketing

### RUNNING WITH THE BIG DOGS

The Sports Management Program picked up some national recognition this fall thanks to a student-sponsored online NBA2K eSports Tournament for COVID Relief. Their efforts earned them third place in the annual Cablefax magazine Faxies competition, recognizing excellence in public relations and marketing. "We were up against companies like MTV and the Big 10 Network," said Dr. Preston James, Assistant Professor of Sports Management and Business Law. "And we were the only college program in the country to be nominated. I am so proud of these students because they did it all themselves."

## CULTURAL ENRICHMENT EXPANDS SCOPE

There were many challenges when all classes went online last spring, but one of the more daunting was how to do Cultural Enrichment offerings virtually.

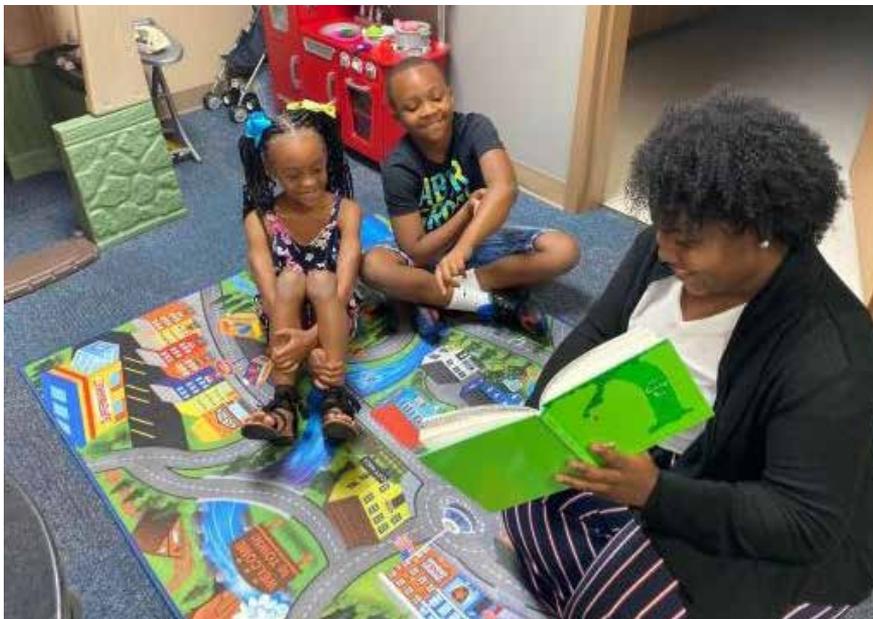
Normally, students attend presentations at 11:15 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday on topics ranging from Interim Term travel reports to knowledgeable speakers on literature, culture, politics and more. Students must accumulate a certain number of CE event credits before they can graduate.

Dr. Anthony Wilson, Associate Professor of English, took up the CE challenge. He created a version last spring for seniors that included links to virtual museum tours and symphony performances. But this year, he's relied on faculty and staff to propose and sponsor events.

"This fall, we've had interviews with young alumni, a lecture from Tracy Lightcap for Constitution Day and some great events sponsored by the library and the Counseling Center," he said. "All of these events have been very popular."

Dr. Wilson doesn't want the virtual events to replace in-person CEs, but he's pleased with the outcome so far.

"I'd have to say that our emergency solution has turned into a success," he said. "It's a lot of work for Vickie (Evans, Administrative Assistant) and me, but it's been an elegant way to work through a challenging time."



## Internships offer opportunities

All her life, Kiara Tookes-Williams '21 knew she wanted to work with children who have experienced trauma.

"I wanted to be that person who comforts them and guides them through a painful and confusing time," she said.

Thanks to supportive professors, caring counselors and inspiring mentors, she is living that dream now as a victim advocate at Children's Advocacy Center of Troup County.

The journey to that goal began her first year on the Hill when she met her faculty advisor, Dr. Stephanie Thomas, Assistant Professor of Psychological Science.

"She saw something in me and understood my passion," Kiara said. "She encouraged me to apply for an internship with Twin Cedars' children's advocacy program my junior year."

Working with Dr. Thomas and Jacob Wise, Internship Coordinator and Career Advisor, Kiara earned a

place at CAC.

Wise said his office emphasizes internships that will provide a well-rounded experience.

"One of our goals is for our interns to develop the skills needed to be competitive as job and graduate school candidates."

John Harrell, assistant program coordinator, said Kiara embraced her work from the start.

"Kiara definitely was an asset to us during her internship," he said. "She worked in direct services with our clients, as well as behind the scenes to evaluate our success. In fact, she did so well that we offered her a job."

Harrell has high praise for Wise and the internship program at the college.

"Jacob screens the students very well and sends us interns who really embrace what we do here," he said. "Our partnership with the college goes back a long time, and we are very appreciative of these fine students."

# Outdoor productions keep live theater alive

While colleges around the country were canceling their 2020-21 theater seasons, Kim Barber Knoll refused to surrender to the pandemic.

“I knew we could come up with something we could do safely and responsibly,” said Knoll, Director of Theatre Arts and Co-Director of Musical Theater.

Where could they realize live productions and how could they keep actors and the audience safe—during a pandemic? The answers, “outdoors ... and in masks,” led her to the perfect solution: Greek Theatre.

She took two Greek classics – “Antigone” and “Medea” – and adapted them for a 30-minute performance each. Audiences were limited to 20.

And that was only the beginning of the adaptations required to assure LaGrange students a live theatre experience this fall.

Auditions had to be scheduled farther apart with careful attention to logistics. Then, she had to find conve-



nient outdoor locations that would lend themselves to the stories being told.

“I found the two sites walking early mornings around campus,” she said.

“Medea’ was set under the pecan trees at Sunny Gables Alumni House, and ‘Antigone’ took place in a creek bed along the entrance to Hills and Dales Estate, next to campus.

“Nature is our scenery.”

By design, the style of the plays allows for social distancing of the actors, and students built full Greek face masks with fabric covering the mouths.

“With so many programs offering online-only options right now, our students realize and appreciate how fortunate they are to be performing, working and creating live theatre at this time,” Knoll said.

## TREE CAMPUS DESIGNATION EARNED

The college’s work to encourage healthy trees and engage the campus in the spirit of conservation has earned LaGrange recognition as a Tree Campus USA. To obtain the distinction, five core standards for effective campus forest management had to be met.

“Thankfully, we have a good history of prioritizing trees,” said Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Mark Yates. “This work would be more difficult if we didn’t have the plants and the history that we have here.”

Sponsored by the Arbor Day

Foundation, the recognition has been earned two years in a row, and it reflects the ongoing work of the Tree Advisory Committee, Sustainability Council and Campus Services.

The Tree Campus designation also requires student involvement. As part of the college’s continuing work on Park Creek, the stream in front of Price Theater and Lamar Dodd Art Center, Dr. Yates and his Conservation Biology class removed kudzu from the area. The invasive plant overtakes the native trees that have been planted along the

banks of the stream. Last year, the Sustainability Council sponsored an event to remove privet in the same area.

The work all builds together to create larger academic and ecological connections, said Dr. Yates.

“The Tree Campus honor feeds into the Sustainability minor and connects with our Chattahoochee River Research project, which ties us into the community, and on a larger scale, the entire watershed area,” he said.



## Garden offers oasis of calm, community

The sound of a flowing fountain and the sight of lush greenery set the scene for the new Glover Garden, located next to Smith Hall.

Thanks to the generosity of Shearon Wiggins Glover '72 and her husband, Taylor, the Maidee Smith Patio underwent a transformation over the summer.

The brick pavers were removed and replaced with slate chips. The borders were redone to create a more garden-like setting, while the fountain was replaced by a modern masterpiece in a more central location. The kiosk was removed, and the flag was slightly relocated.

When Glover was a freshman, her room in Hawkes Hall overlooked the space.

“At that time, the area was a very vibrant place where many students gathered between classes, talked with friends and relaxed,” she said. “As the campus has grown over the years, new meeting spots have sprung up and the

patio has become more of a pass-through than a gathering place.”

Glover, a member of the college’s Board of Trustees, mourned the fact that current residents of the Hill didn’t have a beautiful and welcoming place like the one she and her classmates enjoyed. Then she heard former President Dan McAlexander mention that the patio should be upgraded, and she knew she had to help.

“I have a love of gardens that I share with my husband,” she said. “We knew this was a perfect project for us.”

Glover is thrilled with the result. “A core tenet of LaGrange College’s mission is to challenge the minds and inspire the souls of its students,” she said. “I love gardens because they are beautiful, tranquil and vibrant, and they inspire my soul. We think turning this area into a garden, with green space and gathering benches, will greatly improve this part of campus that meant so much to me as a student.”

## ACADEMIC YEAR KICKS OFF WITH VIRTUAL CONVOCATION

A nontraditional academic year kicked off this fall in a nontraditional way. The annual Convocation service was presented online, with each part individually filmed.

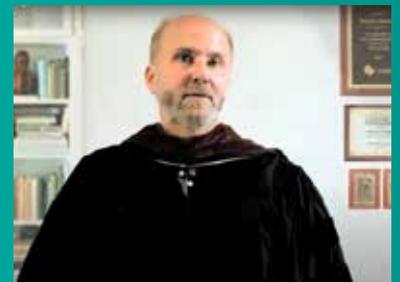
Dr. Karen Aubrey, Vice President for Academic Affairs, oversaw the project.

“We had such a great response to our virtual Honors Day last spring,” she said. “We knew this would be the best way to mark the official start of the year and symbolize a joint commitment to teaching and learning.”

Many people – students, faculty and staff – worked for two months to record videos for use in the ceremony.

“Some set up sessions with Communications and Marketing to record video and some submitted their own from a smartphone,” she said. “No one saw the final ceremony until the day before it went live.”

“And while we would have loved to be there in person with all of the students, we all agreed that the virtual ceremony was a moving and beautiful event.”



As recipient of the 2019-20 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Exemplary Teacher Award, Dr. Mark Yates was the speaker at this year’s convocation. He is an Associate Professor of Biology.

# Biology explores world of nature

A degree in Biology offers an abundance of opportunities for students, according to Dr. Nickie Cauthen, Chair of Sciences.

“Our students go on to graduate or professional school in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy or physical therapy,” she said. “Others have careers in conservation, zoology and hydrology.”

Hudson Lab Sciences Building, opened in 2017, houses state-of-the-art laboratories and gathering spaces for biology students to study, explore and socialize. The \$17 million facility includes student research areas, a special projects lab, ecology lab, cell culture facility and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance equipment.

“We are so blessed to have this amazing facility,” said Dr. Cauthen. “We also have state-of-the-art equipment for molecular biology and chemistry research. Our students have access to some of the best labs in this region.”

That has been evident in the undergraduate research projects produced by students and presented on the state and national levels. The Biology faculty understands the value



of research and internships and assists students in finding opportunities that provide experience in specific skills.

Dr. Cauthen said one of the advantages of being a biologist is that the degree can be combined with other interests, resulting in new and exciting pursuits.

“A biology degree is exactly the foundation you’ll need in diverse fields such as forest conservation, medical illustration and science writing and communication,” she said. “Our grads also become biology teachers, lab scientists and water resource advocates.”

A benefit of studying Biology at LaGrange is the proximity to West Point Lake and its surrounding forests.

“They provide a natural classroom that helps facilitate efforts like the Chattahoochee River Research Project and ongoing work with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper,” she said.

Students also have access to travel/study experiences to complement their studies. Recent journeys examined the natural wonders of the Galápagos Islands, the wildlife of the Yucatan Peninsula and the biodiversity of the Apalachicola River basin.

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Dr. Don Livingston**, Professor of Education, has been elected to serve the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators as its President-Elect for 2020-2021. Dr. Livingston previously led the Georgia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education as president as well as organized advocacy efforts as chair of its legislative committee. He served the

23-member Georgia Association of Independent Colleges of Education as president for two separate terms.

**Dr. Linda McMullen**, Ely R. Callaway Sr. Associate Professor of Management and International Business and Co-Director of Cornerstone, presented “I Had No Idea!”: Helping Students

Imagine the Integration of Economic and Social Value Creation” virtually at the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs Region 3 fall conference. Her presentation was selected as best of region. In June, Dr. McMullen will deliver her winning presentation at the national conference.





# A CLEAR VISION

New president meets challenges head on

**I**t wasn't exactly the best time to start a new job as president of a college, but it was the best time to follow God's call.

Dr. Susanna Baxter was named LaGrange's 26th president at the end of the April, almost six weeks after the COVID pandemic forced all classes to move online. Although she knew the challenges facing her, she was secure in the knowledge that she was where she needed to be.

"My father is a retired Methodist minister," she says. "Growing up, we were taught to try to be servants of God by giving ourselves in service to others."

When she learned LaGrange College was looking for a new president, she felt the next step in her journey would be on the Hill.

## A CAREER OF SERVICE

Dr. Baxter has worked in higher education all her life. She served as dean of students at Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, and C.O.O. of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association. In 2010, she was named president of the Georgia Independent College Association. Recently, the organization named her President Emerita.

During her time with GICA, Dr. Baxter came to know LaGrange College well.

“My staff and I always looked forward to coming to LaGrange for meetings,” she says. “We were so impressed with the campus, but even more so with the people. There is a true culture of caring at this place, and that makes it so special.”

Her early days at LaGrange in July were hectic as she visited donors, did press interviews and got to know the college.

“She spent her first few months building relationships,” says Rebecca Roth Nicks, Vice President for External Relations. “She made a point of visiting and listening to the dreams of faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college.”

Dr. Baxter also was determined to meet the challenges of COVID head on.

Dr. Karen Aubrey, Vice President for Academic Affairs, says the framework for the fall return to campus was



President Baxter talks to faculty outside Lewis Library during the celebration of her 100th day on campus. She has met individually with all full-time faculty since her arrival.

already in place when the new president arrived, but she quickly began to build on that foundation.

“She increased our communication efforts across campus, making them as transparent as possible,” she says. “For example, we created a COVID dashboard on our website that updates our COVID activity twice a week.”

To make testing more convenient for employees, the District 4 Public Health office was invited to campus.

“We continue to go back to our original faculty and staff COVID committees when questions arise,” Dr. Aubrey says. “Susanna also stays in contact with other campuses about their policies.”

The new president also has been faced with financial challenges associated with the pandemic. A lower fall enrollment created a budget shortfall.

“We were grateful to have received federal funding to add resources for our students who were learning remotely,” Dr. Baxter says. “We’ve also been working hard to make sure we are doing our best to be strong stewards for this college.”

## STUDENT CENTERED

Brian Carlisle, Vice President and Dean of Students, says Dr. Baxter has made an impact in just a few short months.

“She has already proven that

## PACESETTER

Since taking office on July 1, Dr. Baxter has embraced a rapid pace. While managing the campus pandemic response, she also has logged these milestones:

- Individual meetings with all 77 full-time faculty
- Group meetings with all staff departments
- More than 50 appointments with donors
- Two open discussions with all student-athletes
- Efficiency studies of administrative, academic and athletic areas launched
- Virtual opening-of-school events hosted
- Halloween open house for students at President's home
- Home-baked sweet treats for all staff members
- Numerous alumni and friends leadership events, including Homecoming Zoom meetings



President Baxter records a welcome video for new and returning students at the start of the academic year.



As part of the traditional finals late-night breakfast, Dr. Baxter (far left) joined the Cabinet in serving students.



## MEET THE FAMILY

Dr. Baxter is married to Mark R. Huffman, a consultant who specializes in helping nonprofits and small companies. “We met at church,” she says. “Some of his friends decided Mark and I needed to meet. They scouted out which Sunday School class I attended and, unbeknownst to me, invited him to go to that class.”

The couple has two sons – Inman, 12, and Wade, 7. The family pet is Thor, a Goldendoodle who is almost 2. Dr. Baxter attributes Thor’s name to the boys. “What else can you expect when your sons are big fans of mythology?”

The family enjoys watching sports such as Duke University basketball, Atlanta United soccer and Atlanta Falcons football. They love spending time together. “Reading and snuggling sure help keep perspective,” she says. They also have family game nights – cards, dominoes, etc. “That’s not always easy because both boys really loathe losing.”

During the first few months of quarantine, Dr. Baxter turned to gardening. “I spent a lot of time pulling weeds, planting and being in nature. All of these things help me remember that creation is full of complexities and surprises, and the present moment isn’t the way the story ends.”

she is a strong student-centered servant-leader,” he says. “In the midst of a national pandemic and financial strain, Dr. Baxter is leading the college forward with courage, strength and compassion.

“She listens carefully, follows through with her commitments, is creative and inspiring, and has a great sense of humor.”

**“WE HAVE ALL BEEN CHALLENGED TO FIND NEW AND BETTER WAYS TO PROVIDE A GREAT EDUCATION ....”**

—Dr. Susanna Baxter

Nicks agrees.

“Susanna’s drive and determination to make LaGrange College fully student-centered and accessible for all students is energizing,” she says. “She brings fresh eyes and ideas to make this institution sustainable for years to come.”

However, those innovations take money, so Dr. Baxter has been working hard with organizations, friends and alumni to secure more funding.

“We also have our first-generation and low-income students who need financial assistance,” Nicks says.

“Never has our annual fund been more important. We anticipate even greater student financial needs as COVID-19 continues to work its way through our economy.”

## FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Despite the distractions of an ever-changing higher-education landscape, Dr. Baxter is keeping her eyes on what lies ahead.

“We are positioning ourselves for a bright future,” she says. “We’re looking at the modernization of classrooms, improvements to residential housing and creating inviting spaces for students to interact in living and learning communities.

“I am so proud of the great work we did in planning for the return to classes, as well as the efforts of our students to keep campus safe and open,” she continues. “Our faculty came up with creative techniques for engaging students online. I was immensely impressed with their innovations.”

If there is a silver lining to the pandemic, it is this, Dr. Baxter says.

“We have all been challenged to find new and better ways to provide a great education for our young men and women. In time, it will be exciting to discover what innovations we incorporate into our ‘new normal’” ■

# A NEW ERA OF TEACHING

## Faculty use technology to forge future paths

Dr. William Yin, Professor of Mathematics, saw it coming last spring.

“I was keeping an eye on the news, so I had a pretty good idea about the spread of the pandemic,” he says. “But it was still a shock when we sent everyone home on a Monday and we were supposed to go totally online by Thursday. I think we all panicked a little at first.”

That anxiety didn’t last long. The math faculty quickly put their heads together and came up with a plan.

“We had to figure out what resources were available and what we could offer virtually,” he says. “We

were ready to go live in two days.”

Similar scenes were happening all across campus in March. Anxiety at first, then a commitment to provide the best online education possible for LC students. It took a lot of teamwork to make that happen.

### TIME TO REGROUP

Classes were canceled March 16 and were scheduled to resume online on March 19.

To prepare for that, measures were taken to make sure the faculty had everything they needed before going live.

Dr. Jon Ernstberger, Associate

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Mathematics, and Amber Spratlin '11, Director of Online Learning at Lewis Library, sprang into action.

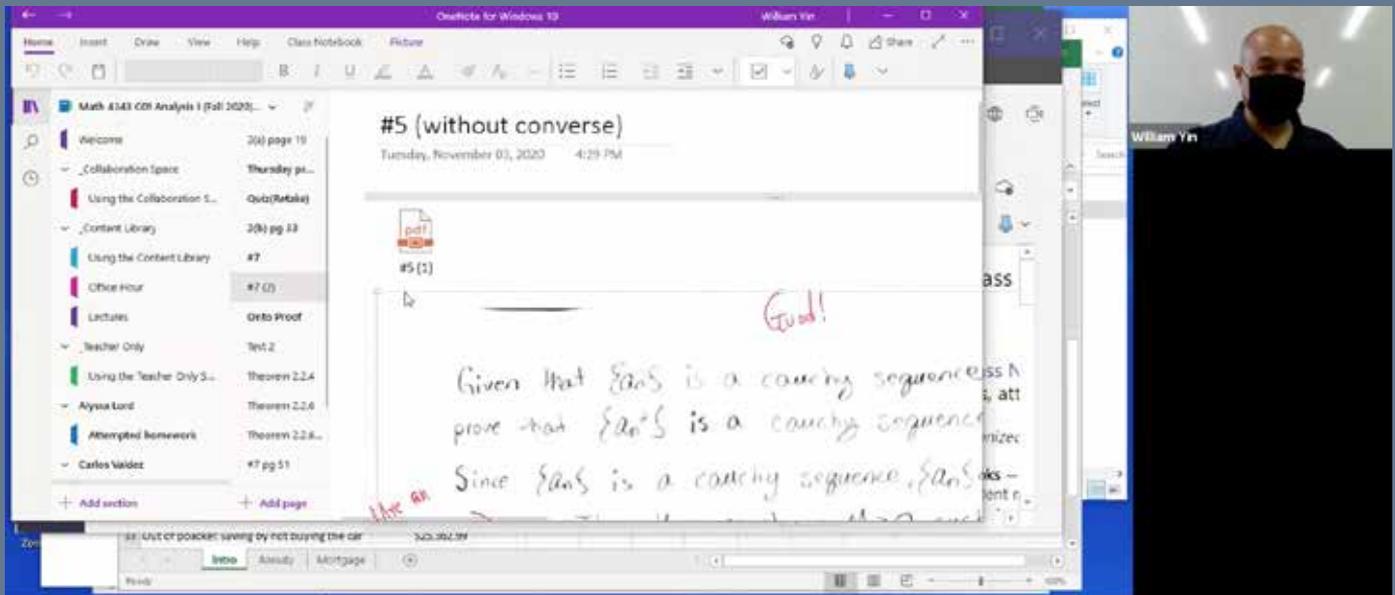
“We had to work quickly to prepare an introductory lesson to Connect, our online learning management system,” Spratlin says. “While many of our professors were already using Connect, others had not.”

The team put together two training sessions for the faculty and posted them for those who could not attend.

Then all they could do was wait for everything to go live.

“There were a few glitches, but all in





all, it went well,” Spratlin says. “Perhaps more importantly it gave us a good idea of what worked and what didn’t.”

But things were about to get even busier.

## REAL SOLUTIONS

When spring semester ended, the real work began.

Dr. Ernstberger and Spratlin were members of a faculty development committee appointed by Dr. Karen Aubrey, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“We were asked to find solutions for online learning in a COVID environment, specifically tools that could be used to livestream and record classroom lectures for students in quarantine,” Spratlin says.

The group tested many platforms and surveyed both faculty and students to learn more about what was wanted and needed, with courses meeting both online and in person in the fall.

“We found Microsoft Teams met these requests and was also the most secure video conferencing platform at the time,” she says.

They also saw huge potential in the

flexibility of the program.

“Teams would allow our faculty not only to stream but also to interact with our students in new and necessary ways in a time when faculty and student interaction was at a low point.”

That was especially true for Dr. Yin and his fellow math professors.

“You don’t do a lot of writing in math – you work with equations,” he says. “We were able to come up with a plan.”

Lectures were given and recorded and in-class work was done in Teams, allowing courses to be delivered just as if students and faculty were face-to-face in the classroom.

“I set up a tripod with my cell-phone’s camera, then I went to Teams on my iPad so we could share our screens with each other through an app called Scancam,” he says. “This worked very well because, as manager of our team, I could see everyone in that day’s class, and we could work together.”

## CHORAL CHALLENGES

Teaching chorus classes presented different challenges to Dr. Samuel Miller, Director of Choral Activities

and Assistant Professor of Music Education.

“In conducting, I usually do a lot of physical corrections in position and technique, but that was no longer an option,” he says. “So, I made videos for each unit/topic that we cover.”

The students were expected to watch the videos before they came to class, where Dr. Miller worked with them on refining their technique. For their assessment, students created a video of themselves conducting that was shared with Dr. Miller through an unlisted YouTube account.

Things were a little different for choral rehearsal.

“I started in the summer by sharing PDF copies of the sheet music with students, along with digital audio rehearsal tracks made specifically of their part,” Dr. Miller says. “I asked that they show up at the beginning of the semester with as much learned as possible.”

In rehearsal, they did extreme social distancing, and practiced only 30 minutes.

“We’ve used Callaway Auditorium

for rehearsal and have often split the choir into smaller groups and used different spaces,” he says. “This has all been in preparation for our virtual Lessons and Carols project that will premiere Dec. 6.”

### EXPANDING TECHNOLOGY

Putting everything online also was a huge task for the technology team.

James Blackwood, Chief Information Officer for Information Technology, says their first mission was to outfit the faculty for online instruction.

“We were able to purchase 100 new laptops for faculty and library use that were funded through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act,” he says.

Campus internet bandwidth was doubled, and more wireless access points were provided for more exterior Wi-Fi coverage in key areas.

“This would allow for instruction and work to take place outside, if preferred,” Blackwood says.

Software training was offered to

allow people remote access to their office computers so they could work from home. Also, a new firewall was installed to provide more security.

### LESSONS LEARNED

Throughout the changes necessitated by COVID, administrators and faculty have strived to always keep students at the center of everything. And through the move to online courses, they have discovered new methods they plan to keep once life gets back to normal.

Dr. Yin has been impressed with the increased student engagement he’s seen in his online classes.

“Everyone is visible to each other, so they automatically feel like part of the group,” he says. “They can’t hide.”

He’s also seen an increase in the number of students who attend his virtual office hours.

“I have set times when students can reach out to me with questions,” he says. “One day I was working at my desk when I suddenly heard someone say, ‘Hey, Dr. Yin.’ It really startled me, but it was just



Theatre professor Tim Fitz-Gerald and accompanist Ken Passmore work with a theatre student in the lobby and front landing of Price Theater.

a student checking in virtually.

“I will definitely continue to use some of this technology in the future,” he says.

Dr. Miller agrees.

“I know the conducting videos will be something I keep even when I get to have three hours with the students again,” he says. “They’ve been fun to make, and it’s a way to incorporate a little more excitement into the course.”

### LOOKING FORWARD

Dr. Aubrey is proud of how everyone stepped up this year.

“We created development opportunities for faculty to meet the online challenges, to creatively redesign course modalities and to adapt personal workplace habits to ensure safety for our students and our campus,” she says. “It takes courage to do these things and embrace such massive challenges.

“We had that courage.” ■

Chief Information Officer James Blackwood oversees the installation of new technology.



## Teams practice, prepare to play

While the COVID pandemic forced the postponement of fall sports at LC, it did not stop Panther teams from preparing for their seasons.

Athletic Department staff members used CDC and NCAA guidelines—along with protocol set by the college—to closely monitor LC’s student-athletes. To date, there have been 11 positive tests reported for the 365 Panther student-athletes since the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year.



During the fall, teams practiced under a progression system of three 10-day blocks. Teams would move from small groups to low-intensity sessions

and then to large group high-intensity sessions. Daily COVID symptom screenings and temperature checks were in effect for continuous data reporting to observe changes in each student athlete’s well-being.

At the time of this publication, the USA South Athletic Conference was tentatively planning to start men’s and women’s basketball schedules in mid-January. Fall and spring sports start dates have yet to be determined.

## New athletics website unveiled

A new Panthers website was launched in November.

Sports Information Director John Hughes '78 coordinated the redesign with PrestoSports, which originally helped launch the website in 2010.

“We felt like it was the perfect time to make our website more modern,” said Hughes. “The new pages provide an easy-to-navigate experience. It will help in all facets of the athletic experience for our current and prospective student-athletes.”

The upgraded interface has a contemporary and interactive feel. The website features a scoreboard at the top of each of the sport pages and provides more emphasis on social media and

a user-friendly experience from smartphones.

The prominent scoreboard offers results and upcoming games in a rotating fashion, with direct links to recaps, box scores, video broadcasts and live statistics.

The site also provides direct access to the Panthers’ Instagram, Twitter and Facebook feeds.

In addition, the new design supplies traditional sports-information materials, including rosters, schedules, statistics, news and historical archives. It also features the athlete of the week, Athletic Training Department, Hall of Fame and Panther Club. Made up of donors to the sports program, the



Panther Club has played a vital role in raising the profile of LC athletic programs and giving student-athletes additional resources.

For future Panthers, the website offers easy access to recruitment forms and an ability to get in contact and learn about coaches.

# Classnotes

## DESPITE SOCIAL DISTANCE

Who knew? Even a surging pandemic can't stop a flood of LC spirit. Our Homecoming celebration this year featured online meetings of class-year and academic-interest groups. And what great gatherings they were! Alumni from around the country—and several from around the world—came together to celebrate their Hilltop connections. Thank you for proving the power of the Panther spirit.



—MARTHA PIRKLE  
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

P.S. We'll be hosting additional virtual meetings in the New Year. Watch your email for details.

## 1960s

**1964** The Rev. Donald J. West of Thomasville has been elected to the Synod of the South Atlantic of the United Presbyterian Church. He will oversee all Presbyterian institutions in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

## 1970s

**1978** The Rev. Rick Maeser of Greensboro was appointed by the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church to serve as associate pastor at Greensboro First United Methodist Church.

**1977** Dr. Zachary Taylor III of Gainesville is the health director for District 2 of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

## 1980s

**1982** Miriam W. Lukken M'85 of LaGrange authored the book "Your Child's First Teacher is You."

**1984** Nancy Winter Fitzgerald of Lawrenceville retired June 2020 from education after 30 years in the classroom. She was named teacher of the year for 2019-20 at Jackson Elementary in Gwinnett County.

**1988** Barbara L. Harris of LaGrange will participate in the 2020-2021 Leadership Troup Class.

## 1990s

**1991** Antonio Owens of Manchester is the assistant principal at Christian Way Academy.

**1993** Shane Pulliam of LaGrange was honored as coach of the year

by the United Soccer Coaches organization. He has coached men's soccer at LaGrange High School for 30 years.

**1994** Mayor Jim Thornton of LaGrange was elected as the first vice president for Georgia Municipal Association.

**1995** Craig Garner of LaGrange is head baseball coach at Northside High School in Columbus.

## 2000s

**2000** Katie Tillotson Brown M'04 of LaGrange, principal of Long Cane Elementary School, will participate in the 2020-2021 Leadership Troup Class.

**2000** Sarah Snyder Keating of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is employed as a school nurse and pre-K4 assistant at Trinity Episcopal Day School.

\* This issue's Classnotes are from information received through Nov. 3, 2020. (Unless otherwise noted, geographic locations refer to Georgia.)



Tom Conway '69 of Bainbridge and Bill Hardy '68 of Tampa enjoyed a visit.



The Rev. Dan' 76 and his wife Carol Blanton Brown '76 of Canton enjoyed his drive-by retirement celebration hosted by Dunwoody United Methodist Church. He retired from the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

2007 Amber Johnson Baldrige is the Registrar for LaGrange College.

2007 The Rev. Dan Dixon of Greenville was appointed by the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church to serve as pastor in charge at Greenville United Methodist Church.

2007 Matt Montgomery M'09 of Albania is teaching middle- and high-school art at an international baccalaureate program.

2007 Elizabeth Story North of Smyrna is president of Georgia Association for Women Lawyers.

2007 Benjamin Podbielski of Birmingham is the assistant vice president of Protective Life Insurance Co. and was one of 22 people awarded the NextGenBHM that recognizes emerging leaders in health, innovation and tech fields.

2008 Melvenette Lowe Bryant Ed.S'16 of Newnan is the assistant principal of Newnan High School.

2008 Adrienne Brown Cantrell of Duluth serves on the board of directors for Atlanta Angels, an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization. Atlanta Angels' mission is to offer consistent support to children and families in the foster care system through intentional giving, relationship building and mentorship.

2009 Ryan Gatens of Greenville will participate in the 2020-2021 Leadership Troup Class.

2009 Joshua R. Watson M'11 of Salem, Arkansas, is the head football coach at Salem High school.

2001 Todd Mitchell of LaGrange is owner and operator of T&D Towing.

2003 Brooke Henderson Kinney of LaGrange is Assistant Professor of Nursing at LaGrange College.

2003 Valerie Longshore-Sargent of LaGrange is a director, actor and teacher. She was chosen as one of LaGrange Daily News' 20-under-40 honorees for 2020.

2003 Lucinda Person Muncy of Franklin is the Director of Human Resources at LaGrange College. She completed her doctorate in business management with a specialization in human resources management from Capella University.

2004 Lindsay Thrush Bell of Woodstock works with Empowered, LLC.

2004 Jake Richardson of Carrollton is an art teacher at Carrollton High School and the pitching coach for the baseball team. He is also the athletic director for Indian Acres Summer Camp in Fryeburg, Maine.

2004 Larcie Lyle Richardson of Carrollton is a home health physical therapist for Kindred At Home.

2005 Laura C. Anderson of Atlanta earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Emory University in 2015. She is employed as the director of nursing and post-anesthesia care unit RN at Summit Medical Associates in Atlanta.

2006 Pablo Bobadilla of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a producer of "Where's Rose" with some of his University of North Carolina School of the Arts colleagues. He is preparing to bring it to the big screen with stars Ty Simpkins, Anneliese Jones and Skyler Elyse Philpot.

2006 Lloyd Buchanan of Columbus contributed to the singing and writing of "Sun on Shade" by Heath Fogg of Alabama Shakes, released by ATO Records.

**2009** Kacey Smith Werle of LaGrange is a capacity planner for Aflac.

## 2010s

**2010** Jennifer Putnam Davis of Grovetown received the National Library of Magazine’s Research Data Management Project award for Greenblatt Library at Augusta University.

**2010** Ali Jones of Atlanta is a yoga instructor at Haven Yoga. She and her mother, Heidi Hayes Jones, co-authored a children’s e-book, “Keeping You in My Heart: A

Collection of Poems, Prayers and Mediations for Children during COVID-19,” to alleviate anxiety and stress during the pandemic.

**2010** James Webb McGehee of Brookline, Massachusetts, is the associate director of financial assistance at Bentley University.

**2010** Lieutenant Junior Grade Richard Okpani of Honolulu, Hawaii, was recently commissioned as an industrial hygiene officer by the Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit 6.

**2011** Render O’Cedra Terrell Jr. M’11 and his wife, Monica Smith

Terrell ’97, M’06 of Newnan were honored as the 2020-21 Parents of the Year by Tuskegee University. Since 2004, the couple has mentored Tuskegee University students who have graduated and achieved professional careers as attorneys, doctors, educators and nurses.

**2012** Blake Craft Jr. M’14 of LaGrange is the boys’ varsity basketball head coach at Troup County High School.

**2012** Lauren Gledhill Gann of Carrollton is a donor relations coordinator for Tanner Foundation.

# Alum’s cancer battle leads to “Lacee’s Law”

For teacher Lacee Landrum ’13, April 2019 started a journey that would change her life—and the lives of women across Georgia.

Nine months after the birth of her son, Lacee, then 29, found a lump on her breast. After initially being turned away for a screening because of her age, despite a family history of breast cancer, she was eventually diagnosed, receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatments and undergoing a double mastectomy.

After talking to state Rep. Trey Kelley, a friend since their childhood in Cedartown, Georgia, about her



frustrations of initially being rebuffed, they went to work on drafting House Bill 1125. It made its way through the state House and Senate. Then, on Aug. 5, Lacee, her mother and fiancé stood in the state Capitol and watched Gov. Brian Kemp sign “Lacee’s Law.”

“That was just amazing,” she said.

Effective Jan. 1, the law implements new provisions for those on state health insurance plans that provide for breast cancer screenings to anyone considered to have high risk, such as those with a family history. Previously, only those 35 and older were covered.

“Knowing it’s already helping women across the state, it’s just—I don’t even know how to describe it,”

Landrum said. “It’s just a great feeling because I know that early detection is key to saving lives.”

One month before she watched Gov. Kemp sign the law, she celebrated another milestone: She is cancer free.

**2012** Nick Griffin of LaGrange, site coordinator and mentor at Community in Schools, was chosen as one of LaGrange Daily News' 20-under-40 honorees for 2020.

**2012** Trae Long of LaGrange serves as the immediate past-chair in the 2020-2021 Leadership Troup Board.

**2012** Casey Dugas Montgomery M'14 of Albania teaches second grade at an international baccalaureate program.

**2013** Sanders Dorough III M'15 of Albany is the boys' basketball and girls' soccer head coach at Worth County High School in Sylvester, Georgia.

**2013** Emma Higgins of Sharpsburg is a project consultant at Moda Floors & Interiors in Atlanta.

**2013** Henry Jacobs of LaGrange has been recognized among the 40-under-40 in Georgia Trend Magazine for his work with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

**2013** Frederick Lambert of Lawrenceville works with Global Power Technology as an electrical engineer.

**2014** Dustin Baxter of Cookville, Tennessee, is working in the

Kenyetta Alexander '99 of Coral Springs, Florida, was named partner at Osherow, PLLC, a litigation firm.



management department at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**2014** Nate Crawford M'17 of LaGrange is the interm director for DASH, LLC.

**2014** Alyese Wilkerson Cross of LaGrange teaches music at Hollis Hand Elementary and was recognized as a 20-under-40 honoree for 2020 by LaGrange Daily News.

**2014** Stephanie Clary Hall M'14 of LaGrange is the assistant principal at Heard County High School.

**2014** Jerod Howard of Columbus is a program analyst at TSYS.

**2014** Denzel Robinson of Columbus is a mainframe systems administrator at TSYS.

**2015** Kadeshia L. Brown M'16 of Hinesville works as a teacher at Bradwell Institute. She teaches ninth grade in the fall and 11th grade in the spring.

Josh Fenn '00 of Newnan and Spencer King '00 of Smyrna enjoyed a visit to campus.



**2015** J. Austin Fetner of Riverview, Florida, is a veterinarian with Boyette Animal Hospital.

**2015** Jordan Johnson of Canton is a logistics planner at WestRock.

**2015** Nick Mitchell of Lithonia is a senior executive at Soliant Health. He is the owner of Fresh Kickz Market and co-owner of Optimal Progression, LLC.

**2016** Hayley Ritchie Hinson of Auburn, Alabama, graduated with her doctorate from Auburn's Harrison School of Pharmacy.

**2016** Jasen Jonus M'16 of LaGrange was named Head Coach of the LaGrange College Women's Basketball team. He also serves as the college's Cross-Country Head Coach and previously spent seven years on the Men's Basketball coaching staff.

**2016** Janice Job-Marquis of LaGrange graduated from Liberty University with a master's in political science.

**2016** Morgan McDonald of Carrollton is a pediatric nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She works in the comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation unit at Scottish Rite hospital.

Stacie Waters Geaney '01 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and her husband, John, visited campus with their family.



**2016** Kelsey Mitchell M'19, a native of Fort Myers, Florida, is working as a community counselor in Alpharetta.

**2016** Mark Wagner of Cape Coral, Florida, is an attorney in Fort Myers, Florida.

**2016** Mike White of LaGrange is an account executive at Torgersen Causey in Pensacola, Florida.

**2017** Sydney Aronson of Peachtree City earned a Doctor of Juris Prudence degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. She is studying for the Georgia bar exam and applying for jobs in the sports industry.

**2017** Emily Arnold M'18 of Gulf Breeze, Florida, is a fifth-grade teacher at Holley-Navarre Intermediate School in Navarre, Florida. She has also coached the freshman volleyball team at Gulf Breeze High School and the 12U national volleyball team for the Panhandle Elite Volleyball Club.

**2017** Nicholas Beamenderfer M'17 of LaGrange has been named Head Coach of the LaGrange

Holly Hatcher Price '02 and her girls Bethel, 4, Anna Elizabeth, 9, and Abigail, 12, of Columbus visited campus.



## JACOBS NAMED TO STATEWIDE LIST

Henry Jacobs '13 was named in September to the Georgia Trend Magazine "40 Under 40" list.

Jacobs is the Middle Chattahoochee Director for Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, which educates people about and monitors the health of local waterways. He has partnered the Riverkeeper with LC students many times for their service work and for onsite experience. Some projects have included water testing at various tributaries and lake cleanup.



The magazine selects "Georgia's best and brightest" from nominations provided by readers throughout the state.

College Swimming program.

**2017** Kate Chancellor-Butz of Appling graduated from Mercer Law School and was granted her certification of fitness to practice law. She is eligible to take the Georgia Bar exam.

**2017** Davis Conley of Winter Haven, Florida, accepted the director of baseball/softball and a football assistant position with Louisiana Tech.

**2017** Braxton Ford of LaGrange is Assistant Director of Admission and volunteer Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at LaGrange College.

**2017** Tyler Langston of Tampa, Florida, is a sales coordinator at FieldXperience.

**2017** Corey Morgan of Camilla was accepted into Florida State University College of Law.

**2017** Daniel J. Prohaska M'17 of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, is the director of development of Lions Club Vision Services.

**2017** Casey Jane Pruett and her fiancée, Drew T. Cantrell, both of LaGrange, are the owners of Station Coffeehouse in Hogansville.

**2017** Paige Smyth of St. Augustine, Florida, graduated with her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of St. Augustine Health Sciences.

**2018** Nina Wyman Bradford of LaGrange is a staff accountant at J.K. Boatwright & Co., P.C.

**2018** Emily Cauldwell of Crawfordville, Florida, is stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, with the U.S. Navy. She will report to Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida, in January.

**2018** Dyshon M. Hines of LaGrange is an authorizer at American Home Shield.

**2018** Lauren Johnson of Canton works as a corporate recruiter at FIS in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**2018** Rebekah Lee of LaGrange serves as program coordinator for

Association Services Group.

**2018** Justyn Olson of LaGrange is teaching seventh-grade life science at Long Cane Middle School. He is the boy's junior-varsity basketball head coach and varsity assistant coach at Troup County High School.

**2018** Sarah Bearden Wagner of Cape Coral, Florida, is the associate manager in social media for Chico's FAS in Fort Myers, Florida.

**2019** Kylie Cofield Addison of Newnan is a fourth-grade teacher at Odyssey Charter School.

**2019** Robert Allen Jr. of Fort Valley is a licensed life and health insurance agent in the State of Georgia.

**2019** John Mitchell Benton of Greensboro, North Carolina, is in his final year pursuing a master's in higher education administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is working as an assistant coordinator of residence life for his graduate assistantship.

**2019** Bianey Guadalupe Diaz of Griffin is an Admission Counselor at LaGrange College.

**2019** Sarah E. Gage of Taylorsville is in her final year of earning her master's in social work at Kennesaw State University. She will begin working at Paulding County Child Advocacy Center as a therapist and family advocate for children who have been sexually abused.



Andy Porter '04 of LaGrange had his artwork selected for Hogansville's Hummingbird Festival 2020.

**2019** Eli Grant of LaGrange received four Ostrander Award nominations for his properties designs for "Memphis," "On Golden Pond," "Book of Will" and "When We Get Good Again"



## Your gifts help change lives

"Since coming to LaGrange two years ago, I have been much more involved than I ever was in high school. I was always very shy, but by coming to LaGrange I've come out of my shell and really started realizing that what I have to say is important and I can make an impact.

I am a member of the softball team, SGA senate and Phi Mu, where I serve as the philanthropy chair and coordinate events to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

My major is nursing because I enjoy helping people, and I felt like this is what I've been called to do. My goal is to be a pediatric nurse. I love working with kids and I feel like I can benefit the most people that way.

Without the scholarships I received, I would not be able to afford tuition on my own. They have helped tremendously, and I am so grateful for the donors who made that possible."

—Maggie White '23  
Alabaster, Alabama

*If you haven't made a gift this year, it's not too late to help the next class in their transformative journey on the Hill. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [lagrange.edu/give](http://lagrange.edu/give)*



Ryan McArthur '04, '14 of LaGrange fighting COVID-19 in the ICU.

at Playhouse on the Square. He won two for drama and musical. The Ostranders Award honors excellence in professional theater in the greater Memphis area.

**2019** Nikkola M. Guzzi of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019 Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

**2019** Richard Hendricks M'19 serves as director of athletics at Shorter University.

**2019** Jason Hernandez of LaGrange serves as house producer/audio engineer in the Music department at LaGrange College.

**2019** Kelton D. Hunt of Temple, a Composition and Music Technologies major, just released his first full-length album titled "Fearless" on Spotify and Apple Music.

**2019** Jonathon W. Jones of Griffin

graduated from Mercer University School of Medicine with a master's in pre-clinical sciences. He will continue his current position as emergency room chief scribe at Piedmont Hospital.

**2019** Blake Konans of Box Springs is the account manager with Spot Freight.

**2019** Madison R. Lester of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019 Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

**2019** Jamison McCray of Ozark, Alabama, is an educator and coach at Greenville High School.

**2019** Hayley E. Olive of LaGrange is employed with Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center as a emergency department registered nurse.

**2019** Lauren Sanders of Peachtree City is a pre-kindergarten teacher at Carrollton Elementary School and the volleyball head coach at Carrollton High School.

**2019** Luke Sauls of Carrollton and his mother, Jane Sauls, own Sauls Storage Group, LLC. The duo

Sara Gilreath Whitehurst '04 of Valencia, California, serves as PTA secretary and a member of the site council at a local school. She is a past member of the family advisory council at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, where her son has a triage room named in honor of him.



Matt '07, M'09 and his wife, Casey Dugas Montgomery '12, M'14 visited campus on the way to their new home in Albania.

recently purchased Commercial Realty Services of West Georgia.

## 2020s

**2020** Chloe Linda Battle of Charlotte, North Carolina, has accepted a position as neonatal intensive care unit nurse at Novant Health.

**2020** Michael Bleimeyer of LaGrange is a staff accountant with Gay & Joseph, CPA.

**2020** McKenzie Brunel of Broxton works in the critical care department at Piedmont Newnan Hospital.

**2020** Libby Compton of Huntsville, Alabama, is the Graduate Assistant for Institutional Effectiveness at LaGrange College.

**2020** Riley Densmore of Ball Ground is an officer with the LaGrange Police Department.

**2020** Katelyn S. Dino of Roswell joined the United Methodist Missions team as a global missions fellow for a two-year



LTJG Richard Okpani '10, at right, of Honolulu, Hawaii, recently received his new commission as an industrial hygiene officer with the Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit 6.

term between Miami and St. Petersburg, Florida, working with an organization that helps immigrants obtain green cards and visas.

**2020** Leah O. Harrison of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019 Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

**2020** Kaitlyn Hollis of LaGrange is the marketing teacher at Callaway High School.

**2020** Nicole Joseph M'20 of LaGrange is a mentor and therapist. She was chosen as

one of LaGrange Daily News' 20-under-40 honorees for 2020.

**2020** Savannah E. McMillian of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019 Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

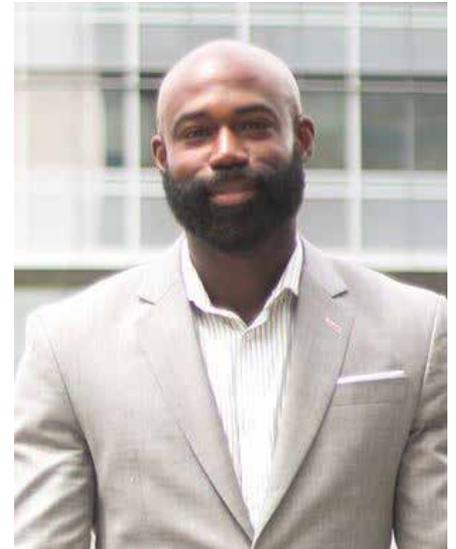
**2020** Liz Minick of Carrollton is a registered nurse at Piedmont Newnan Hospital. She has been working on the front lines during the pandemic in the hospital's designated non-ICU, COVID-19 floor.

**2020** Grace Neal of Newnan is director at Covenant House.

**2020** Melanie Prater of LaGrange is attending the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue her Ph.D. in counseling psychology.

**2020** Lance Shealy of Moultrie was accepted at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine of South Georgia in Moultrie.

**2020** Jessica L. Siggers of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019



Sidney Divine '11 of Lithonia is the CEO and founder of Divine Wealth Strategies. He has been named one of the top advisors in the United States on the Investopedia 100 list of the most influential advisors for 2020.

Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

**2020** Morgan L. Sikes of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019 Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

**2020** Teagan M. Smickle of LaGrange was one of the recipients of the 2018-2019 Sims Scholarship. She works for Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center.

**2020** Payton Smith of Denver, North Carolina, was accepted to Faulkner University School of Law.

**2020** Matthew Jamal "Bodie" Turner of West Point graduated Army basic training.

**2020** Destinee Carlyle of Wren was accepted into the master's program at Howard University School of Social Work.

## DELTS MARK 50 YEARS

The 50th anniversary of the Zeta Beta chapter of Delta Tau Delta was celebrated in this summer's issue of the fraternity's national magazine, Rainbow. More than 200 alumni, undergraduates and guests gathered in March to mark the occasion. Shown here are early participants, front row, from left, Stan Moor '72, Jimmy Terrell '69 and Ken Scroggs '70; back row, from left, Ces Lawton '72, Bob McLendon '70, Bill Sanders '72 and Andrew Cox '70.





Hector C. Becerra '12 of Balch Springs, Texas, received his master's as a family nurse practitioner at the University of Texas.

## Births

To Jeremy Lee Dockins '07 and Abbey Wright Dockins '08, a daughter, Elizabeth Sutton, on October 1, 2020.

To Lacey M. McDonough '09 and her fiancé, John, a son, Amir John Bestman, on May 21, 2020

To Carrie Reif-Stice '10 and husband, Matthew, a daughter, Nora, on October 12, 2020

To Sidney Divinie '11 and his wife, Shantelle, a daughter, Ava, on August 25, 2020

To Jeff Anderson '12 and his wife, Jori, a daughter, Ollie Josephine, on August 25, 2020

To Kyle Allen '12, M'14 and his wife, Amanda Steverson Sanders '13, a son, Deacon Cecil, on July 9, 2020

To Abigail Hall Baughns '13 and her husband, Ferris, a son, Ferris Jr., on June 15, 2020

To Stevie Harrison '13 and his wife,

Kaylyn Marie, a daughter, Lucy Lynn, on January 10, 2020

To Frederick Lambert '13 and his wife, Diamond, a son, Dallas, on August 4, 2020

To Hayley LaFontaine Cunningham '14, M'16 and her husband, Caleb '15, a daughter, Caroline Grace, on June 12, 2020

To Tyler Miller '14, M'15 and his wife, Jeanna Rountree '15, a son, Andrew, on August 25, 2020

To Brittany Blanks Aplin M'14 and her husband, Chip M'14, a son, Grayson Charles, on July 3, 2019

To Sade Loreal Turner '20 and Matthew Jamel "Bodie" Turner '20, a son, Amari Ares, on October 24, 2020

## Engagements

Luke Riley '10 to Claire Pritchard on September 6, 2020

Paul G. Standard III '13 to Caitlin Shepherd on July 12, 2020

Tyler Eady '15 to Jenna Oden on June 5, 2020

Drew T. Cantrell '17 to Casey Jane Pruett '17 on June 9, 2020

Blessing Harison '16 of LaGrange started her own biligunal art business in March 2017. <https://blessingvhart.us>.



Jake '04 and Larcie Lyle Richardson '04, had a son, Rhodey Lyle, on August 21, 2020. They are joined by brothers Jet and Rooks.

Eli Harrison Grant '19 to Chelsey Tyler Martin '19 on January 23, 2019

Collin Taylor Sander-Lamoree '19 to Mary Elissa Chandler '20 on July 11, 2020

Chloe Linda Battle '20 to Austin Ross on February 21, 2020

## In Memoriam

Mrs. Catherine Werner Hicks '39  
Mrs. Mildred Hogg Shaver '39  
Mrs. Charlotte Michael Deverall '41  
Mrs. Edna Waldrop Hamilton '41  
Mrs. Rachel Sorrow Sheppard '41

Kelsey Seals '18 of Missoula, Montana, works with the Missoula Children's Theatre



Mrs. Estelle Emily Greenway Richardson '42  
 Mrs. Jean Bell Delffs '42  
 Mrs. Hilda Lamkin Davis '42  
 Mrs. Dorothy Barr Woods '43  
 Mrs. Helen Katherine Walker Childs '44  
 Mrs. Ena Smith Moore '48  
 Mrs. Melba Sokol Seymour '48  
 Mrs. Claire Cospers Johnson '49  
 Mrs. Louise Babb Smith '50  
 Mrs. Alice Paxton Norris '52  
 Ms. Mary Anna Allison-Houston '53  
 Mrs. Mary Sherwood McCorkle '53  
 Mrs. Sarah Maxwell Arnall '54  
 Mrs. Mary Welden Brown '54  
 Mrs. Eleanor Haynes Holmes '54  
 Mrs. Nancy Manning Stephens '54  
 Mrs. Patricia Shellnut Yarbrough '54  
 Dr. Jacquelynn Northcutt Wattenbarger '55  
 Ms. Vija Palde Moore '56  
 Mrs. Virginia Langford Powers Koester '57  
 Mr. Eldon Swan Duke '58  
 Mrs. Diane Fowler Duke '59  
 The Rev. Dr. John E. Horton Jr. '59, H'88  
 Mrs. Maxine Richardson Bradley '59  
 Dr. Youn-Suk Kim '60  
 Mr. John Neal Wilkinson III '60  
 Mrs. Emily Mitchell Calhoun '61  
 Mrs. Lynn Mason Waller Harp '61  
 Ms. Betty Sue Brantley '63  
 Mr. Alfred W. Brown '64  
 Mr. Charles Ray Owen '64

Jeremy '07 and Abbey Wright Dockins '08 had a daughter, Elizabeth Sutton, on October 1, 2020. She joins big brother, Hudson.



Mr. Thomas Elvin Robinson Jr. '66  
 Ms. Vicki L. Gleeson '68  
 Mr. Robert Wesley Newell '69  
 Ms. Jeanne Marie Blackburn Cox '70  
 Mrs. Susan Montgomery Stover '71  
 Mr. Stephen Curtis Ellis '75  
 Mrs. Betty Price Majors M'75  
 Mrs. Patricia Pattillo Slade '76, M'79  
 Mrs. Alma Laverne Smith Hill '77, M'78  
 Mr. Daryl Hurshel Overcash '77  
 Mr. Bert Verdier Carter Jr. '79, '81  
 Mr. Lawrence Eugene Grice '79  
 Mrs. Johnnie Gauntt Heath '80  
 Mrs. Roberta "Bobbie" Anderson Jolly '80, M'81  
 Mrs. Brenda Robinson Neese '80, M'84  
 Mrs. Aileen Murphy Broome M'81  
 Mrs. Jo Ann Fanning Simpson '81  
 Mrs. Sara Horn Singley '81  
 Mr. Willie James Woodard '83  
 Mr. Rickey Kyle Riley '86  
 Mrs. Louise Childs Jeter '89  
 Mrs. Nelda Faye Bruce Sledge '91  
 Mrs. Cynthia McLeroy Cofield '93  
 Ms. LaGail Ward '93  
 Mr. Christopher Lee Landrum '96  
 Mrs. Juanita Creed Thomas '96  
 Mrs. Janice McClellan Wearden M'11  
 The Honorable John Robert Lewis H'06

Landon '08 and Sarah Cline Baize '09, had a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, on October 5, 2020. She joins big sister, Emily.



Ms. Marie Gunn, former staff  
 Dr. Maynard Loyd Reid Jr., former faculty

## Weddings

Emmie Leigh Trull '12 to Lucas Cass on June 27, 2020  
 Kristoffer Emil Appel '13 to Matias Vestergard on October 10, 2020  
 Harry Haak Hinson '14 to Hayley Elysse Ritchie '16 on July 6, 2020  
 Katie Leigh Anderson '14, M'17 to Zach Kent on July 17, 2020  
 Christina Marie Flick '15 to Douglas Burges on November 16, 2019  
 J. Austin Fetner '15 to Chandelle Doreen Ulmer on May 31, 2020  
 Matthew Bodie Turner '20 to Sade Loreal Branch '20 on April 4, 2020  
 Sara Ann Bryant '20 to Trey Carlisle on September 19, 2020  
 Emmie Ann Marcellini '20 to Hunter McMillian on October 24, 2020

Andrew '09 and Adrienne Brown Cantrell '08 along with their children, James Graham and Charlotte Grace



## BRINGING BACK THE BRICKS

LaGrange College alumni have been taking home pieces of campus this year.

With the creation of Glover Garden, the patio next to Smith Hall was completely transformed. Among many changes, the uneven brick pavers were removed. Although gone, they are far from forgotten.

“There were so many stories about the patio—sororities’ candlelight celebrations where women revealed their engagement, students gathering and many people meeting their significant other,” said Mark Davis ‘98, Director of Development at LC. “The patio was there for more than 40 years and was the hub of social activity for many students.”

After news of Glover Garden circulated, alumni immediately started asking what would happen to the original patio bricks. “They are a piece of LC history,” Davis said. “We thought by selling them we could give people a keepsake of something that means so much.”

Proceeds from the bricks count as a donation, so sales provide important student resources like financial aid, research support and classroom tools. Almost 100 have sold since summer, netting nearly \$2,300 for the LaGrange College Fund during a year where COVID has created more need.

To get yours, go to [lagrange.edu/give](http://lagrange.edu/give), make a gift of \$25 for pickup, or \$35 if shipped, and put “brick” in the comment. For more information, contact Trevor Lane ‘13 in the Development Office at 706-880-8773 or [tjlane@lagrange.edu](mailto:tjlane@lagrange.edu).



Cody Allen Muren '14 and his wife, Lindsay Lauren, of Jacksonville, Florida, announce the upcoming arrival of their son with the use of Cody's LC baseball bat. Team Boy!



William Daniel Cofield '16 and his wife, Hannah Lewis, had a daughter, Ryan Marcella, on September 26, 2020.



Christopher Prewett '12, M'14 and his wife, Ashley, pause with their daughter, Blakely Claire, of Roswell. Christopher is the head football coach for Roswell High School.





Hank Price '09 to Jessica Morris on October 31, 2020



Laura Allison Weeks '14 to Eric Hines on August 1, 2020



Mark Wagner '16 to Sarah Grace Bearden '18 on October 23, 2020



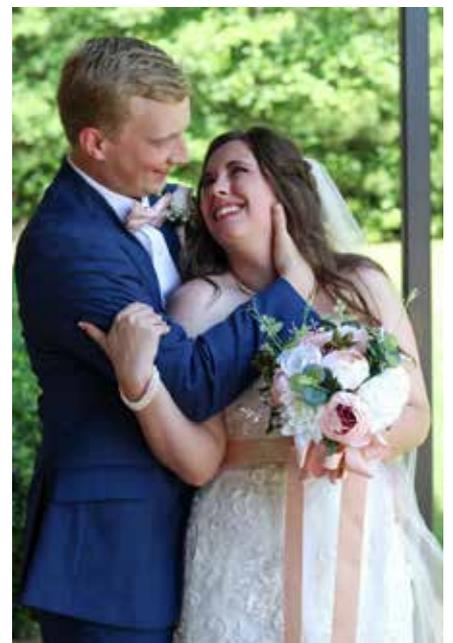
Hank Barnes '17 to Anna-Maria Palma on October 11, 2020



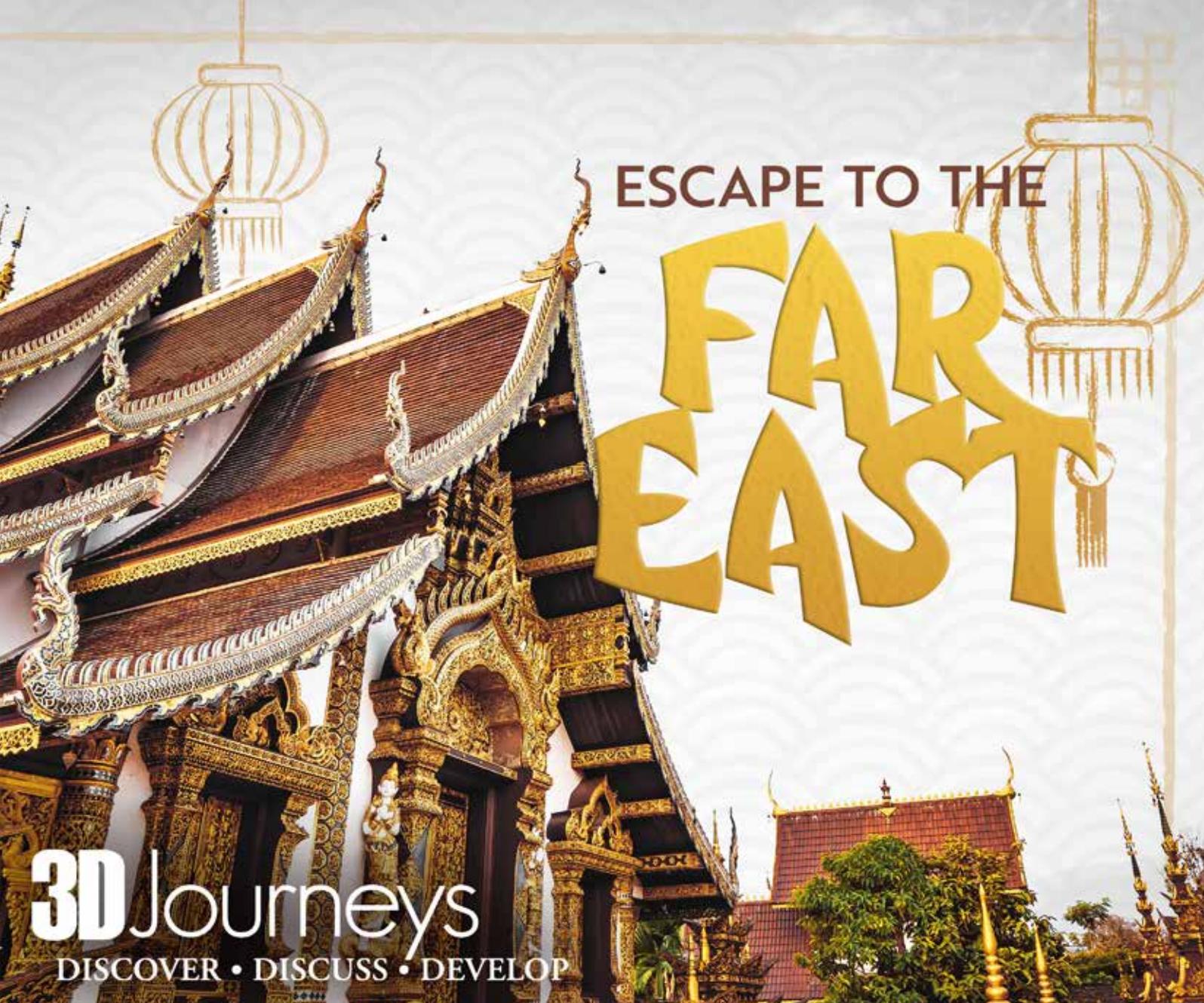
Tavin Lee Thompson '17 to Emily Margaret Middlebrooks '17 on October 24, 2020



The Rev. Garrett Wallace '18 and Kylie Taunton '18 on October 19, 2020



Carli Jones '20 to Nathan Burdette on May 30, 2020



ESCAPE TO THE

# FAR EAST

**3D Journeys**  
DISCOVER • DISCUSS • DEVELOP

**JANUARY 14**

**Alumni Lunch and Learn**

Noon – 1 p.m.

“Self-Care Is Not Selfish! How to Balance Your Life in 2021”

Dr. Kelly Veal, LPC

**JANUARY 21**

**Alumni Lunch and Learn**

Noon – 1 p.m.

“Professional Development” for the Classes of 2010 – 2020

Center for Leadership and Career Development, and Alumni and Community Relations

**JANUARY 25**

**3D Journeys virtual lecture**

10 a.m.

“Himalayan Mysteries: The Religions of Nepal”

Dr. David Ahearn, Religion and Philosophy

**FEBRUARY 3**

**Alumni Lunch and Learn**

Noon – 1 p.m.

“Creating Your Personal Email Archives”

Felecia Moore M’93, Suber Archives, Lewis Library

**FEBRUARY 8**

**Panther Athletics Virtual Trivia Night**

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Presented by Athletic Director, Jennifer DeMooney Claybrook ’99, M ’01

**FEBRUARY 22**

**3D Journeys virtual lecture**

10 a.m.

“Thailand, Land of Smiles”

Dr. Sharon Livingston and Dr. Don Livingston, Education

**MARCH 22**

**3D Journeys virtual lecture**

10 a.m.

“Vietnam - A Historical Legacy of Invasions and Resistance”

Dr. Joe Cafaro, History

**OCTOBER 29 – 31**

**Homecoming 2021**

Details available mid-summer at [lagrange.edu/alumni](http://lagrange.edu/alumni)



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## Athletic trainer earns national award

Rob Dicks M'05, Assistant Athletic Director/Director of Athletic Training/Compliance Director, was named Head Athletic Trainer of the Year for NCAA Division III by the Intercollegiate Council of Sports Medicine committee. The group is part of the National Athletic Trainers Association.

Athletic Director Jennifer Claybrook praised Dicks' many contributions to the college.

"Rob does an amazing job with any task he is given," she said. "He has made LC's athletic training department one of the best in NCAA Division III and the country.

"Rob has been a role model for many student-athletes and student workers, and we are extremely proud of



his accomplishment."

Dicks is involved in promoting athletic training through the Southeast Athletic Training Association and the Georgia Athletic Training Association. Mentoring and nurturing the profession are his greatest pleasures.

"Each day I try to give all I have to help those around me be all they can be. I feel like that's my true calling,"

Dicks said. "So, as I see them growing into something so much better and improving daily, so do I."

He began working with the Panthers in the fall of 2001 as the school's first full-time assistant athletic trainer, taking the helm of the Athletic Training Department in 2007. Five years later, Dicks took on more administrative roles at the college and was named Director of Athletic Training.

His staff has grown to four full-time athletic trainers and over 25 student athletic training aides. He also served as a preceptor and clinical supervisor for student athletic trainers in their final semesters of their accredited Athletic Training Educational Program.