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# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

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*Journal*

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**Dear Reader,**

We are excited to launch the inaugural edition of *Undergraduate Research*. This journal represents a nationwide collaborative effort between faculty and students. For several years, supporting mentored undergraduate research and creative endeavors has been a central focus at Georgia College. We have developed an internal initiative, GC Journeys, which offers all students access to high-impact practices, including undergraduate research. Georgia College is also active in supporting undergraduate research at the state and national level. We have served as a founding member of the Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective's Posters at the Capitol and prioritize faculty participation in the Council on Undergraduate Research, as well as student participation in National Council on Undergraduate Research.

We know the benefits that these research experiences have on students in their collegiate and post-collegiate lives. This high-impact practice is a means of making all disciplines more accessible to students while providing experiential and hands-on learning opportunities. In short, undergraduate research is transformative. We are pleased to have worked with so many colleagues from around the country on the new journal, whether it is on our editorial board or review board, or the faculty mentoring projects — the collective dedication to undergraduate research is unparalleled. This gives us great hope about the future of higher education.

Finally, we are so pleased to have received such a high volume and quality of submissions. All submissions underwent a double-blind peer reviewed process. Overall, the selection decisions were difficult and while our acceptance rate was around 10%, this speaks to the amazing work of faculty in their role of mentoring undergraduate research students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Costas Spirou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Costas" and last name "Spirou" clearly distinguishable.

**Costas Spirou**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Georgia College & State University  
Milledgeville, GA

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COVER ART ..... **JOSHUA WORTHY**

GEORGIA COLLEGE CLASS OF 2021 • MASKED WOLF

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BACK COVER ART ..... **MARY DOUBERLY**

GEORGIA COLLEGE CLASS OF 2022 • JOUSKA: SHE'S GOT SNAKES IN HER HEAD

6 X 8" • MULTI PLATE COLOR INTAGLIO ETCHING WITH AQUATINT • 10/2/19

## About Georgia College:

Georgia College is the state's designated public liberal arts university — where practical education meets life-altering, real-world experiences. For us, a liberal arts education goes beyond simply memorizing facts and philosophies. A liberal arts curriculum teaches students how to navigate the complexities of life, assess the world around them, and become critical thinkers. Our skills-infused approach provides our students with an advantage that employers are looking for and expands the personal and professional lives of our graduates.

The university offers undergraduate and graduate education, and serves more than 7,000 students in the following colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business, the John H. Lounsbury College of Education, the College of Health Sciences, and the newly-established John E. Sallstrom Honors College. With its sprawling idyllic campus paired with talented faculty and staff, Georgia College stands at the forefront of offering a holistic liberal arts education. Our students are engaged citizens who are encouraged to think independently and lead creatively as they acquire the skills to navigate life-long challenges.

Georgia College is one of 26 institutions in the University System of Georgia, and we consistently rank among the top three universities in terms of student retention and graduation rates. Georgia College also ranks 21st on U.S. News & World Report's Best Regional Universities – South, and is recognized as a top university in the nation by the Princeton Review, Forbes Higher Education, and Kiplinger's.

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