

# Newsroom

April 30, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern project to be funded by \$50,000 Teagle Foundation grant

APRIL 30, 2019

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Georgia Southern University Associate Dean of the College Arts and Humanities and English professor, Teresa Winterhalter, Ph.D., and her team have been awarded a planning grant of \$50,000 by The Teagle Foundation for their project, "Narrative Competence for Nurses: The Liberal Arts in the Professions." The project is a humanities-based, eight-week module that will supplement the gateway course for students entering the nursing program.



*Teresa Winterhalter, Ph.D.*

"Not only does the project align with the Teagle Foundation's theme of fostering the relationship between the liberal arts and professional majors, but it also advances our university's expanding mission," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Carl Reiber, Ph.D.

The interdisciplinary module will address three key learning outcomes for nursing majors. It will integrate knowledge from the liberal arts as the basis for professional nursing practice; it will enhance students' opportunities to discuss legal and ethical accountability, responsibility and behavior as it relates to patient care; and it will emphasize effective communication skills that maintain the humanity in professional relationships.

"As participating humanities and health sciences departments recognize the potential such curricular redesign has to boost enrollments in professional and humanities-based minors and majors, the grant planners anticipate this program becoming self-sustaining and expanding beyond the nursing program into our general education offerings," Reiber said.

Winterhalter's team consists of history professor Felicity Turner, Ph.D., nursing professor Catherine Gilbert, Ed.D., Associate Dean of the College of the Arts and Humanities, Norton Pease, MFA, and nursing professor Helen Taggart, Ph.D. They will begin work on the module on June 1 and anticipate completion on May 30, 2021.

The Teagle Foundation works to improve teaching and learning in the sciences and arts while focusing on accountability and financial sustainability in higher education.

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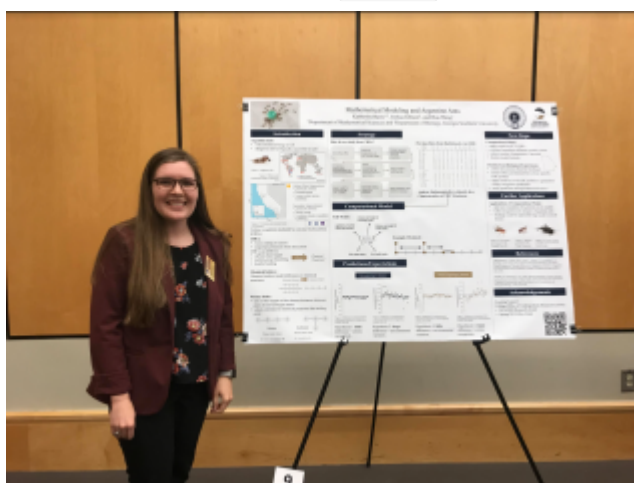
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Tags: [College of Arts and Humanities](#), [Department of Literature](#), [Georgia Southern School of Nursing](#)

# Georgia Southern student earns distinguished Barry Goldwater Scholarship, selected for summer National Science Foundation Research Experience at Yale University

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Two years of professor-mentored research integrating biology and mathematics on Georgia Southern University's campus has culminated in two distinguished opportunities for undergraduate student Katherine Barrs.

Barrs, a Statesboro native double majoring in math and biology, has garnered a Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the preeminent undergraduate award for students pursuing research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. She is one of only 496 college students from across the United States to earn the scholarship, which she will apply to her remaining four semesters of coursework.

"This is well-deserved recognition at the national level for Katherine Barrs' hard work and dedication," said University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl L. Reiber, Ph.D. "The Goldwater Scholar recognition is of national standing and demonstrates her ability at that level, as well as her research efforts at Georgia Southern. It is an honor to call Katherine an Eagle."

Barrs has also been selected to participate in the 2019 Sackler/National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates: Interdisciplinary Research Training Across Biology, Physics, and Engineering at Yale University. For 10 weeks this summer, she will conduct research on the molecular machinery of endocytosis using experimental, quantitative and imaging methods with a professor in Yale's Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. The program has a particular focus on helping students prepare for graduate school and expanding networking opportunities.

"Both of these opportunities mean a lot for my future," said Barrs. "For me, being awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and earning the research opportunity at Yale is recognition of all of my hard work. Also, knowing that I can contribute to a field, even though I'm only a sophomore, is rewarding. I am grateful to my research mentors, Dr. Joshua Gibson and Dr. Hua Wang, and Dr. Steven Engel and Dr. Francis Desiderio in the University Honors Program. Their support and encouragement made this possible."

Currently, Barrs conducts research that bridges mathematics, biology and chemistry. She presented her work on colony recognition in Argentine ants at Georgia Southern's 2019 Honors Research Symposium, the College Office of

Undergraduate Research Symposium and two regional conferences.

"Katherine's research project combines mathematics and biology in a really exciting way," said Gibson. "She uses modeling through mathematical analysis and chemical graph theory to understand the behavioral interactions of ant colonies using a complex blend of chemicals."

Wang was also impressed with the scope of Barrs' work. "She saw the common theme in our research and came up with this completely novel idea for a project," he said. "It's inspiring."

Last summer, Barrs was selected to participate in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she studied division of labor in hygienic honey bees in a social insect lab.

Barrs is a member of the University Honors Program, National Biological Honor Society, TriBeta, national honor societies Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa, and the University's Honors Ambassadors. She intends to pursue a Ph.D. in biomathematics or applied sciences and hopes to one day conduct applied research at the interface of biology, chemistry and mathematics in an industry or a government institution.

"Katherine is one of the more outstanding students at Georgia Southern," noted Martha L. Abell, Ph.D., professor of mathematics. "Faculty members appreciate how she completely engages in the learning process by attending all classes, giving her full attention, providing thoughtful responses during classroom discussions and solving problems to the extent that she understands the complexities of the underlying theory. Her fellow students appreciate her helpful nature and ability to bring new perspectives to problem-solving."

The Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to serve as a living memorial to honor the lifetime work of Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate. Goldwater Scholars have impressive academic and research credentials that have garnered the attention of prestigious post-graduate fellowship programs, including Rhodes and Churchill Scholarships, as well as numerous other distinguished awards like National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships.

The Sackler/National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates: Interdisciplinary Research Training Across Biology, Physics, and Engineering at Yale University features a series of workshops that group exercises with short periods of lecturing and discussions to complement the research experience participants obtain in individual laboratories. The workshops help students develop strong communication skills, briefly explore scientific ethics and help participants learn about the graduate application process. Participants are provided with the opportunity to present their research to the Yale community.

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# Georgia Southern AVP of Auxiliary Services honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

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Georgia Southern University Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services Eddie Mills ('92) was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS) South Regional Conference, held in Sandestin, Florida, in April.

With more than 23 years of experience in Auxiliary Services, Mills has dedicated much of his career to improving the field and the institutions with which he has been involved. Starting his career in Athletics at Florida International University (FIU) after college, the Georgia Southern alumnus was eager to grow

professionally.

Felecia Townsend, then FIU Auxiliary Services Coordinator, took Mills under her wing and suggested he take a job at the campus print shop. He followed her guidance and obtained new skills in finance and management. He also attended his first NACAS conference in 1997.

Right away, Mills was inspired by the welcoming group of people he met.

"Everyone was so friendly and willing to share their knowledge as well as their problems they were working through," said Mills. "I fit right in, and I really enjoyed it."

Mills became involved with the organization, taking on roles in membership, technology, publications and more. He volunteered during his time at FIU and later at Florida State University, serving as the NACAS South secretary, vice president elect, president, past president and host conference chair, among other positions.

Since coming to Georgia Southern in 2010, Mills has also become involved in leadership roles with the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers Board of Directors, the NACAS Foundation and NACAS National. He also served as a faculty member for the University of Kentucky's College Business Management Institute and received the Certified Auxiliary Services Professional distinction in 2011.

"My favorite part of being in the organization is creating relationships with colleagues and business partners," he said. "It's so beneficial to have the opportunity to create this network of professionals. I'm grateful to work in such a diverse field with different perspectives."

Georgia Southern Auxiliary Services Executive Director for Administration Jeff Blythe nominated Mills for the award earlier this year. Having worked with Mills for nearly a decade, Blythe was eager to nominate someone he felt was so deserving.

"Eddie is the epitome of a leader," said Blythe. "He cares about people. He cares about his staff, and he genuinely wants the best experience for the students at Georgia Southern."

NACAS South Membership Coordinator Chris Fulkerson also appreciates Mills' dedication.

"From my personal interactions with Eddie through NACAS and NACAS South, I know that he is a role model for people in Auxiliary Services," he said. "He is highly respected throughout the industry. People either know Eddie, have a story about him, served on a committee or board with him or have been taught or mentored by him."

Though he has impacted many, it was Mills who was most humbled by the recognition.

"It was honestly such a surprise," he said. "I heard the description of the winner being read, and it wasn't until nearly the end that I realized they were even talking about me. I'm so appreciative. Awards like this are so meaningful because they come from your peers. The fact that they see value in what you've done is pretty special."

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given annually to an individual who has excelled in the field of auxiliary services. The recipient should be a role model for aspiring auxiliary services professionals, and the recipient's action must have benefitted both their institution and higher education. All nominees should have an extensive list of professional achievements, strong management skills and a history of providing leadership to their institution and profession.

"We are so proud of Eddie and his accomplishments," said Townsend. "The award is well deserved."

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