2020 Annual Report
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Overall Health of Unit
The year began with a continued focus on prospective student recruitment as well as academic advising, experiential learning, student leadership, student organizations, and FACS 2000. The SSAC also continued to focus on ways to elevate student experiences using the FACS 2025 Strategic Plan as a guide. In March 2020, the declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic changed the trajectory of operations for the University of Georgia, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the Student Success and Advising Center. Despite the dramatic impact that COVID-19 had on the entire campus community, the Student Success and Advising Center’s student-focused mission remained at the forefront of our activities and operations in a dramatically altered campus environment.

Highlights for the Student Success and Advising Center in 2020 include an enhanced social media presence; shifting the SSAC internship experience to a hybrid/virtual model; a continued focus on prospective student recruitment; student leadership; and a successful transition to a virtual academic advising model to serve students. In the coming year, the SSAC will continue to focus on ways to elevate student experiences using the FACS 2025 Strategic Plan and the forthcoming Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan as guides.

Student Success and Advising Center Staff
Professional Staff
Director: Cara Simmons, Ph.D.
Assistant Director: Melissa Garber
Administrative Associate: Kassie Suggs
Academic Advisor: Anne Allen
Academic Advisor: Beverly Hull
Academic Advisor: Julie Patterson
Academic Advisor: Debra Peavler
Academic Advisor: Christie Sanders
Academic Advisor: Ahmaud Templeton

Student Staff
Student staff are an integral component of the success and day-to-day operation of the center. Their range of responsibilities include front-line management, prospective student recruitment, content creation for various communication mediums (e.g., FACS Connection newsletter and The inSTALLment), and planning events for various constituents. As a center, we understand and value the importance of providing valuable career and learning opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students. Student staff provided significant support to in-person/virtual events and how to share our story via social media. Our FACS Instagram highlights were developed by SSAC interns.

Student Assistants
Spring 2020 – April Bullard, Resean Wallace, and Kenya Wilson
Summer 2020 – April Bullard and Resean Wallace (partial)

Fall 2020 – April Bullard, Kenya Wilson, Sam D’Alba, and Jasmine Jones

**Student Interns**
Spring 2020 – Alexis Smith (Lead), Alyssa Andrews, April Bullard, Resean Wallace, Kaitlyn Godfrey, Marisa Hutchens, Joanna Eleftheriou, Erin Mason, Celeste Dawson (Impact Hours = 1240.75)

Summer 2020 – Averi Hill, Amelia Holley, April Bullard, Merryn Ruthling (Impact Hours = 503)

Fall 2020 – April Bullard (Lead), Morgan Sager, Sabrina Lotti, Tatiana Nguyen, Olivia Sawyer, Jennifer Zhu (Impact hours = 1,128)

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**Staff Accomplishments, Training, and Professional Development**
Training and professional development is an important focus for all SSAC staff in order to advance their personal professional growth. During 2020, staff attended a virtual spring campus-wide Academic Advising Workshop; various virtual courses offered by UGA Training and Development, and other virtual webinars and conferences. The Assistant Director, Melissa Garber, participated in the Women’s Leadership Professional Development Circle sponsored by the Office of Training and Development. Dr. Simmons presented four times to internal and external audiences. Staff meetings continued to balance learning, professional development, and developing best practices for academic advising and were held in a virtual environment.
The annual SSAC staff retreat offered an opportunity for the group to reflect on the previous spring and fall semesters. Due to campus restrictions, the retreat was held virtually. Despite the altered meeting format, SSAC staff welcomed the opportunity to spend time together to discuss the impact of the changes that occurred during the spring semester and to prepare for summer orientation.

Staff Accomplishments
Several SSAC staff members received awards and accolades during 2020. Christie Sanders was selected as the FACS Advisor of the Year. Recognition was included in the Celebrating Excellence video released in the fall. Ahmaud Templeton was recognized in the Advising Oracle Newsletter for his work on developing a new advising software tool for FACS advisors. Several SSAC staff were also identified by the Career Center as individuals who contributed to the career development of recent UGA graduates. Debra Peavler completed the Academic Advising Certificate offered by Training and Development.

Dr. Cara Simmons was a nominee for the FACS Alumni Association’s Creswell Award. Dr. Simmons, in collaboration with Dr. Melissa Kozak, Dr. Rob Pazdro, Dr. Beau Seagraves, and Dr. Carrie Smith were awarded $2,160 in faculty support funds for their research proposal entitled “Exploring Faculty Awareness and Knowledge of Student Support Structures.” It was one of five programs selected out of 13 applications. Kassie Suggs assumed responsibility for planning the Learn. Grow. Go. Showcase, the Step into Success Open House, and assumed a lead role with FACS student organizations.

Leadership Roles & Committee Service
Staff hold membership and leadership responsibilities in the college, across campus, and the state of Georgia. Both Dr. Simmons and Melissa Garber are members of the FACS Curriculum Committee. Dr. Simmons holds a state officer position as President-Elect of the Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Simmons is also a member of the new Transitions Collaborative with the Office of Student Transitions in the Diversion of Student Affairs and serves as a co-organizer on the TEDxUGA Advisory Council. Additionally, she serves on the Career Center CORE group, the Embark@UGA Campus & Community Board, and the UGA Gymnastics Ten-O Board of Directors.

Dr. Simmons continues her service on the university’s Staff Grievance Committee when needed. Dr. Simmons and Melissa Garber are both members of the Office of Instruction’s Academic Advising Coordinating Council (AACC) and Melissa continued to serve as AACC Chair during the 2020-2021 academic year. Melissa serves on the AACC Advisor Awards Committee, the AACC Retention Committee, and co-chairs the AACC Orientation Committee. In addition, Melissa is also a member of the Office of the Registrar’s Graduation Clearance Officer Committee. Dr. Simmons serves as the SSAC liaison to the FACS Alumni Association Student Engagement Committee.

Melissa Garber serves as a Hearing Administrator for the Office of Student Conduct and Student Judiciary and attended specialized training in both the fall and spring. Melissa also serves as an
Academic Honesty facilitator for the Office of Academic Honesty and Student Appeals. In addition, Melissa also serves as a Title IX panelist for the Office of Student Conduct.

**Budget**

Kassie Suggs and Dr. Simmons maintained the over $37,000 combined SSAC state and UGA Foundation monies. Funds support staff professional development, student programming, Bulldog Basics, the Faculty and Student Ambassadors, promotional materials, giveaways, and prospective student recruitment. Additional funds were also allocated to the SSAC by the dean to support emerging leaders in policy, teaching, interns, and student leadership.

**Academic Advising**

Academic advising is a key component of the student experience in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Advisors saw increases in caseloads as enrollment in degree programs and minors continued to grow. Several FACS degree programs continued to see enrollment growth in 2020. Advising successfully shifted to virtual and electronic platforms in March 2020 in response to COVID-19.

**Advisor Caseloads**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Percent Time</th>
<th>F_18</th>
<th>F_19</th>
<th>F_20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen, Anne**</td>
<td>AA III</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>452*</td>
<td>585*</td>
<td>628*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull, Beverly</td>
<td>AA II</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>363*</td>
<td>460*</td>
<td>457*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson, Julie</td>
<td>AA III</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peavler, Debra</td>
<td>AA III</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>96*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanders, Christie</td>
<td>AA II</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>408*</td>
<td>561*</td>
<td>403*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templeton, Ahmaud</td>
<td>AA I</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>455*</td>
<td>515*</td>
<td>467*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Caseload</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2480</td>
<td>2364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes students with a FACS minor.  ** Previous percent time was 0.75.
Advising for Undecided Students
Ahmaud Templeton continued his service as the dedicated academic advisor for students who are undecided about a FACS major. Advisees benefit from in-depth discussions about academic and career goals in order to identify possible majors. This type of focused advising allows the SSAC to continue to serve these students within FACS, while also allowing unspecified students to benefit from the services offered by the Exploratory Center. Undecided students were also encouraged to use Dawson Drop-In hours as a vehicle for addressing questions regarding specific majors.

Dawson Drop-Ins
Dawson Drop-Ins allow students to meet with an SSAC advisor to ask degree program questions, discuss a major change, inquire about FACS resources, or to address other topics that do not necessitate a formal advising appointment. Dawson Drop-Ins offers availability two days per week to allow for open drop-in hours on a designated day and for advisor-specific drop-in hours on the other. Academic advisors continued to assist students with their current degree programs and provide information about other academic programs and opportunities available to FACS students. Due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 in mid-March, Dawson Drop-Ins were temporarily paused during spring semester. Beginning in fall 2020, Dawson Drop-Ins were offered via Zoom and assisted 102 participants.

SAGE
The Student Advising and Guidance Expert (SAGE), continued to be used by all colleges and schools on campus in 2020. The Assistant Director attended virtual SAGE User Group meetings to help troubleshoot issues with the software. During the first two months of spring semester the SSAC began piloting the SAGE Kiosk feature, which allows students to check-in for their advising appointment from a designated computer in the SSAC. Once advising appointments shifted to virtual formats in mid-March the Kiosk feature was not able to be used. The SSAC will continue to pilot this feature when in person advising appointments are able to be conducted.

Academic Advising Surveys
Students provided feedback about their academic advising experience by completing an advising survey facilitated by the Office of Instruction. The 2020 survey was distributed using the “To Do Item” feature available in SAGE. Once the Assistant Director attaches the “To Do” to a student in SAGE, a customized email with a link to the advising survey is sent directly from the software system. Advising surveys provide valuable insight into the academic advising experience and allow the SSAC to monitor any potential issues that may be impacting FACS students. Survey results indicate that 89% of respondents were satisfied with their FACS academic advising experience.

Orientation
SSAC staff welcomed 201 students (136 first year & 65 transfer) during 2020 new student orientation sessions. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on campus operations, the summer orientation format shifted from the traditional in-person format to a virtual model. Academic
units contributed information to online orientation modules, which included the information that would be included in an academic area meeting. Once students completed their online orientation modules and a small group with their designated orientation leader, the Assistant Director contacted each student directly with instructions for academic advising. Students were able to schedule a virtual academic advising appointment to be conducted via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. In contrast to previous orientation seasons, appointment times were able to be extended because advising appointments were not limited to a one-day window. SSAC staff and interns also hosted virtual drop-in hours for new students to address any additional questions or concerns.

**Academic Status**
The majority of FACS students are classified in good academic standing. However, there is a small population who are either on scholastic probation or dismissal. Students on scholastic or continued academic probation must meet certain academic benchmarks in order to maintain enrollment eligibility. During 2020, Melissa Garber worked as part of a group of colleagues assembled by the Division of Academic Enhancement to develop a proposal for an update to UGA’s probation and dismissal framework, which will continue into 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Standing</th>
<th>SP_20</th>
<th>SU_20</th>
<th>F_20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholastic Probation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued Probation</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Dismissal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Dismissal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACS Convocation and Graduation**
Due to health and safety restrictions spring 2020 convocation and graduation ceremonies were cancelled. The University of Georgia hosted an in-person, socially distanced ceremony in Sanford Stadium for spring and summer graduates on October 16, 2020. To honor graduates, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences sent each student copies of a printed graduation program and a gift. The same was done for fall 2020 graduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors Conferred</th>
<th>SP_20</th>
<th>SU_20</th>
<th>F_20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Honor Graduate</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>137</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degrees Conferred</th>
<th>SP_20</th>
<th>SU_20</th>
<th>F_20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total BSFCS</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Reporting
The SSAC continues to maintain a centralized data storage location housed in OneDrive, allowing administrators, department heads, and designated departmental contacts convenient access to the information. The OneDrive houses the most requested types of information (e.g., enrollment, student demographics) from departments related to undergraduate and graduate enrollment. The information is updated at designated points during the semester by utilizing reports from UGA’s ARGOS Reporting System. At the end of the semester, information is updated from reports provided by the Office of Institutional Research’s FACTS & FIGURES portal.

Recruitment
Recruitment remained an important priority in 2020 with a focus on engagement improvements and new ways to connect with students. SSAC staff, led by Debra Peavler and Dr. Simmons continued efforts to promote the College of Family and Consumer Sciences across a variety of platforms. Beginning in 2020, we exhibited in person at the Georgia Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (GATFACS), HOSA-Future Health Professionals, DECA and the Georgia Technology Student Association (GaTSA). Promotional materials including folders, prospectus sheets, major overview sheets, cups, and hand fans were used to generate interest and to better articulate and highlight the value of FACS curricular and co-curricular opportunities. These items were distributed to prospective students and guests at recruitment events throughout the beginning of 2020.

In response to COVID-19, many in-person events shifted to a virtual platform. We were able to continue our partnerships with multiple organizations and exhibit virtually at several events and conferences. As many events, including our SSAC hosted events including FACS Info Sessions,
went virtual, our focus remained on engaging students and providing information through new platforms. We were able to attend the National FCCLA conference as well as participate in FCCLA and GaTSA state conferences. This year we also increased our engagement and partnership with UGA Extension and Outreach.

The biggest shift in our recruitment efforts centered on how we engaged and had direct contact with prospective students. We no longer had a physical exhibiting space to highlight our upgraded materials. We were able to utilize PowerPoints and videos to connect with students. With our exhibiting partners shifting to virtual conferences, the SSAC was able to enjoy a larger reach, but not as much direct contact. An example of this is the GaTSA Conference. We were asked to record a presentation of our program to be made available for participants to watch. FCCLA’s national conference had the ability for us to ‘sit’ in a booth and we were able to chat with participants.

Each interaction with a prospective student is an opportunity to encourage them to choose FACS. With this in mind, we prioritized the ability to truly showcase the college through individual conversations and presentations. Over the course of the year, we were able to meet with over 100 students individually, continue to hold our FACS Info Sessions and create stronger relationships with our partners. When meeting with prospective students, parents, and supporters individually, we were able to create an opportunity to connect outside of time-restricted events like Info Sessions and tabling events. As FACS Info Sessions transitioned to virtual formats, we were able to utilize our Faculty Ambassadors, Student Ambassadors and interns more frequently. The flexibility of joining a virtual meeting and speaking with students helped us connect prospective students to current students. We were also able to connect with Extension and Outreach from all regions and districts to discuss our partnership and ability to serve as a resource. In the future, we believe we will be able to continue to offer virtual experiences and host virtual meetings to offer more flexibility for prospective student visits.

Examples of presentation models utilized during 2020 are included below. After the transition to virtual formats, we utilized pdf versions of our materials and highlighted the FACS website as
a resource. A new Business and Entrepreneurship flyer was created to highlight the opportunities available to students within each FACS major.

Over the summer, we worked with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to update and improve the information on the UGA Majors website. We continued recruitment efforts by joining the Virtual New Dawgs experiences and Virtual Majors Fair.
The shift to the virtual world proved to be very beneficial to our recruitment efforts. We were able to find new ways to connect with prospective students and reach large groups through video presentations. The versatility of meeting options gave prospective students, their parents, and supporters the opportunities to connect with FACS despite the challenging effects of COVID-19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2020 Recruitment Events</th>
<th>Direct Contact</th>
<th>Estimated General Event Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FACS Info Sessions</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGA New Student Welcome</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valwood High School Group Tour</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Visits/Communications</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GATFACS Career Expo</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin County High School Career Fair</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Public School Visit Days</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECA Career Development Conference</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOSA State Leadership Conference</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNG Gainesville Heath Career Expo</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploratory Center Meeting</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAFCCCLA State Leadership Conference</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4H College Fair</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAGE Future Educators Days</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGA Admissions Email</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSA Conference</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCCLA State Conference</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
<td>CANCELLED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGA Majors Fair</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>768</td>
<td>6,138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 2020 Recruitment Events</th>
<th>Direct Contact</th>
<th>Estimated General Event Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual FACS Info Sessions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Dawgs Information Event</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCCLA National Conference</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>6,007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The charts represent spring 2020 and summer 2020 events and estimated numbers. All fall events were virtual and submitted as presentations. Because of the presentation submissions, we do not have direct contact numbers. Direct contact numbers lower due COVID-19 and new formats in place.*
Fall 2020 Recruitment Events | Estimated General Event Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Attendance Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual FACS Info Sessions (8)</td>
<td>8 Info Sessions-10 students registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference</td>
<td>Virtual Presentation-LIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCCLA National Fall Conference</td>
<td>Virtual Presentation-Submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend in the Classic City</td>
<td>Virtual Presentation-LIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Student Association (GaTSA)</td>
<td>Virtual Presentation-Submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Visits/Tours</td>
<td>55 Individual Visits/ Virtual Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGA Virtual Majors Fair</td>
<td>Virtual Presentation- LIVE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westover Comprehensive High School Virtual Tour</td>
<td>Class of 30 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Annual Dean’s Letter</td>
<td>Sent to over 200 Students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers of direct contacts/meetings recorded, submitted and live presentations do not have exact general event attendance numbers.*

**Service and Outreach**

Outreach opportunities during 2020 allowed SSAC staff to enhance the profile of FACS both on and off campus through speaking to internal and external audiences on various topics. Dr. Simmons served on a panel to pitch an idea to second-year College of Education master’s students to assess How do FACS faculty, staff, and students know what we (SSAC) do?. The project was selected and continues in 2021.

**Bulldog Basics**

Bulldog Basics offers toiletry and personal care items to the UGA student community with a temporary or long-term need on the Athens campus. 2020 was a pivotal year for the sustainability and efficiency of Bulldog Basics. Spring 2020 started with four satellite campus locations that students could enter to get items anonymously and discreetly.

When UGA paused instruction for two weeks, Dr. Simmons developed a plan to continue providing items through a no-contact process. A Microsoft form was created for students to order up to five items. Orders were processed weekly with pickup after a certain time on a designated day outside Dawson Hall. This worked well for the spring semester, but would not be feasible for long-term success.

Over the summer, Bulldog Basics was fortunate to partner with two Terry College of Business Management Information Systems students to transition the Microsoft Form to an eStore. Students place an order and select their preferred pick-up location. Currently, orders are delivered to each pick-up location once a week. The new platform is user-friendly, maintains student confidentiality, and has reporting functions. Two of our three satellite locations now serve as pick-up locations. Read more about the transition here: [https://bit.ly/3bHybZo](https://bit.ly/3bHybZo).
After working with Bulldog Basics in a student staff support role, April Bullard transitioned into the role of Student Director in 2020. Bulldog Basics continued to work with Paw Print Agency for an in-depth analysis to increase program awareness. Our work with Paw Print Agency continues in 2021.

Throughout the year, Bulldog Basics received items, monetary donations, and support from many individuals and units on and off campus. In December, the UGA Athens Area Alumni Chapter hosted our first virtual donation drive through our Amazon, Target, and Wal-Mart wish list links. We received a $2,500 donation during UGA’s Beat Week. Bulldog Basics also continued to partner with the Athens Area Diaper Bank.

Due to the change of Bulldog Basics from one main process to three different processes in 2020, numbers are not included. We continue to make an impact on the university community through our student response to the new eStore. Below are some selected quotes from users:

- **Bulldog Basics is such a helpful resource to have and the process of using it is incredible.** Being able to order products online and pick them up anonymously saves any worry about judgement and really makes this resource accessible. There is so much to worry about while you’re in school and not having to worry about how you’re going to get essentials is a massive help.

- **As a graduate student with a kid, I’m always on a tight budget. Bulldog Basics has been of great help. I would tell everyone that has worked, volunteered, and donated to the program; thank you. A million times over, thank you.**

- **Thank you so much. You are helping me get by.**

**FACS 2000**

FACS 2000: Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences continues to be an enjoyable course for new students. In 2020, we continued to offer two sections of FACS 2000 (in-person/hybrid) for fall and spring and the online FACS 2000E each semester including summer. Improvements will continue to be made from student evaluation feedback. Students feedback on the course is below:

- **Overall, I liked how in this class, there was always something different happening.** Even though the class was at 8 AM and I might not have been extremely awake or ready to learn, the fact that class was never the same kept it entertaining. I am glad I was introduced to so much through this class. This is my first semester in FACS and I have been in 2 other colleges here at UGA, I wish that every college required a course exactly like this one. I also really enjoyed the student involvement panel and the career panel.

- **Loved this class & it helped me get a better understanding of my college and the different pathways within.**
- (Instructor name removed) knows her stuff. She wants us to be involved and makes it easy for us to get information about being involved. I loved her as a professor!!!

Dr. Cara Simmons and Dr. Clair McClure, former FACS 2000 instructor and TXMI Lecturer, received the Sweaney Innovation Fund Grant for their FACS 2000 project. The project will create a unified and comprehensive e-resource with interactive elements for seamless instruction across all instructors and sections; illustrate the alignment between FACS 2000/E and other FACS departmental courses (i.e., FHCE 2100, HDFS 2100); and develop substantial dissemination of information about the Body of Knowledge (BoK) for student learning, instructive effectiveness, and accreditation documentation.

A new course, FACS 2001: Leadership in Family and Consumer Sciences, will be taught for the first time in spring 2021. It is an extension of FACS 2000 with a focus on leadership.

**Experiential Learning & Student Leadership**

*Learn. Grow. Go. Showcase*

FACS continued to increase student awareness of experiential learning and student leadership by offering the *Learn. Grow. Go. Showcase*. The event was again separated into two parts in 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the showcase was presented virtually. Students utilized an event playbook documenting zoom links and listing the available programs. Part I was held on September 9, 2020 and focused on FACS student organizations and opportunities. Part II was held on September 23, 2020 and focused on experiential learning opportunities including internships, the Legislative Aide Leadership Fellows Program, departmental EL opportunities, the Career Center, UGA certificate programs, and FACS Study Away opportunities.
Experiential Learning and Student Leadership opportunities were promoted by a variety of outlets including The (Virtual) inSTALLment monthly newsletter; the FACS Connection e-newsletter; and social media postings of events, other experiential learning offerings, and student leadership opportunities. The center will continue work in this area with a college-wide experiential learning infographic and website update.

**Student Success and Advising Center Internship Program**
The Student Success and Advising Center Internship Program continued to be a popular experience for undergraduate and graduate students seeking to develop career competencies or exposure to student affairs work in an academic setting. The intern curriculum was updated significantly for fall 2020 to better meet intern needs. Interns said the following about their experience:

- *The SSAC internship has been a priceless experience that has helped me to develop leadership, collaboration, and interpersonal skills that will surely guide me in my future endeavors.*

- *Being an intern for the SSAC has been one of the most cherished experiences I will have. Through this internship, I have learned about the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, how to prioritize tasks, how to utilize a variety of digital technology, and how to increase my teamwork, leadership, and communicational skills.*

**Family and Consumer Sciences Day at the Capitol**
The 2020 Family and Consumer Sciences Day at the Capitol was a successful event planned by the director and interns with 100+ attendees. Legislators were not in session, but attendees participated in pictures, capitol tours, and a luncheon with table topics to answer questions related to the important of advocating for family and consumer sciences.

**Legislative Aide Leadership Fellows Program**
After significant changes to the program in 2019, two students applied and were accepted into the program for 2020. They were placed with two local legislators at the capitol where they had an opportunity to expand their knowledge related to legislative in Georgia and assist with Family and Consumer Sciences Day at the Capitol. Five students were interviewed and offered positions for the 2021 Georgia General Assembly with Georgia legislators. We will continue to enhance this program in 2021.

**Emerging Leader in Policy**
Dr. Simmons worked with two M. Josephine Martin Emerging Leader in Policy Award Scholars in 2020, Kimberly Osborne and Dr. Taylor Newman. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support to a FACS student who has a demonstrated interest in policy, with a preference for students interested in policy centered on health and nutrition. The funds can provide support to conferences, Educational forums, Internships within state, national government, or other agencies, and school systems. Kimberly interned with a local nonprofit organization, Family
Connection – Communities in Schools (FC-CIS) of Athens-Clarke County. She developed two key documents for the organizations. First, a decision-making guide regarding COVID-19 exposures and program closures for childcare providers with an accompanying decision tree. Dr. Newman’s policy experience focused on professional development. She attended the American Public Health Association Virtual Annual Meeting and Expo in October supplemented by books. Her final project included an infographic focused on Food Activism in Athens, Georgia through a neoliberal lens.

**FACS SGA Senator**
Dr. Simmons worked with FACS senator Bridget Helms (fall 2020) in her Student Government Association role to serve as a voice for FACS students. This position sits on the college’s Student Leadership Advisory Council.

**Career Development**
Dr. Simmons worked closely with FACS Career Consultant Marla Ebert through 2020 to identify deeper connection and understanding of National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) career competencies with the SSAC Internship Program and Legislative Aide Leadership Fellows Program. Marla also joined weekly Dawson Drop-Ins to provide career assistance to FACS students. Marla also served as both a planning committee member and presenter during the annual fall FACS Leadership Retreat. The overall reach through the interactions below was 1616 students – Spring (1165), Summer (26), and Fall (425).

![2020 Career Development Services and Programming Chart](chart.png)
The strong partnership between the Career Center and FACS increases the career readiness of FACS students after graduation. In 2020, we collaborated to update the FACS Class of 2019 Career Outcomes sheet. Below is the breakdown of students and their status 6 months after graduation. Six months out, 97% of our students had post-graduation plans! See appendix for the complete FACS Career Outcomes for the Class of 2019.

Of All Full-Time Employed FACS Graduates...

- 57% obtained employment before graduation
- 88% obtained employment within 3 months of graduation
- 97% obtained employment within 6 months of graduation

FACS Ambassador Programs

Student Ambassadors
Due to COVID-19, interviews for the 2020-2021 FACS Student Ambassadors were held virtually during March and April. During spring and fall 2020, Student Ambassadors assisted with prospective student recruitment virtual meetings. During fall semester, Student Ambassadors participated in the Virtual FACS Leadership Conference. Due to the restriction of in-person events, the focus for Ambassadors turned to assisting with the development of new tour scripts and an enhanced use of social media to reach prospective students.

Faculty Ambassadors
The role of the Faculty Ambassador Program is to help increase the profile of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences by engaging prospective students, current students, and other guests. Four Faculty Ambassadors were named to assist with these efforts. Departmental representatives were Sherle Brown (FHCE), Melissa Kozak (HDFS), Clair McClure (TXMI), and Rob Pazdro (FDNS). Faculty Ambassadors participated in the annual fall FACS Leadership Retreat and with virtual prospective student events in 2020. Faculty Ambassadors meet with Dr. Simmons and the Associate Dean of Academic Programs twice an academic year to provide feedback on prospective student recruitment, current student engagement, and their role as faculty ambassadors.

Student Organizations
A focus on student organization support continued in 2020. Kassie Suggs and Dr. Simmons continued to work with the FACS Business and Finance Office on the student allocation and reimbursements process. FACS student organization executive boards were encouraged to participate in the annual fall Leadership Retreat.
Advised by Debra Peavler, the Student Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (SAFCS) continued to engage students within the college. With monthly meetings, the Executive Board worked to provide service to the community and connect students to alumni. They started the year with a Valentine’s Day Bake Sale Fundraiser as a fundraiser for an upcoming DawsonX Pageant. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the pageant, however, SAFCS was still able to hold meetings and interviews for the 2020-2021 Executive Board in a virtual format. SAFCS finished the year by hosting a virtual Dine-In Day for state members. The group looks forward to continuing their monthly meetings and service events in the coming year.

Led by Dr. Simmons and supported by interns, the Student Leadership Advisory Council, regularly convenes college leaders by providing a reciprocal opportunity for administrators to learn more about the student experience and for students to learn more about the College. Four at-large positions were added fall 2020. Meeting topics included a FACS 2001 course discussion, social media preferences, COVID-19 check-in, a presentation from the FACS Alumni Association, and moving the council forward. Students discussed their concerns and started planning for a spring student organizations event.

Accreditation
The SSAC assisted with preparation for the college accreditation process by providing information and data to the Office of the Dean, reviewing self-study submissions, and assisting with other aspects of the process as needed. SSAC staff also participated in the Dietetics program accreditation process during the on-site visit.

Annual Fall Leadership Retreat
Dr. Cara Simmons, Alexis Morgan, Marla Ebert, Kassie Suggs, Carol Halstead, Melissa Garber, and April Bullard served on the planning committee to execute the annual fall leadership retreat, held August 29, 2020 in a virtual format. Weekly meetings were held from May to August. The annual retreat brought together students, alumni, administrators, faculty, and staff to build leadership capacity through speakers, workshops, and planning time. Over 90+ people attended the 2020 retreat.

University Mentor Program
The center continues to work with the mentor program. It is an integrated part of the SSAC Internship and the Legislative Aide Leadership Fellows Program and is included on the FACS website for increased student, faculty, and staff awareness.
Appendix

College of Family and Consumer Sciences
Class of 2019 Career Outcomes

The Career Outcomes Rate is calculated from the percentage of students who are either working, continuing their education, or not seeking employment within an average of 6 months after graduation. A Career Outcomes Rate of 92% is based on the known career outcomes of 439 of the 500 College of Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS) graduates from the Class of 2019. For more information, please visit the FACS Career Outcomes webpage or email success@uga.edu.

FACS Career Outcomes Breakdown

- Employed Full-Time 54%
- Graduate School 28%
- Internships/Postdoc/Residency 7%
- Employed Part-Time 2%
- Still Seeking 4%

73% of graduates described their overall experience with the College of Family and Consumer Sciences as EXCELLENT!

FACS Students Participate In...

- 85% Career Relevant Internships
- 71% Service Learning
- 61% Research
- 31% Study Away

*Gray represents student response of Not Applicable
*Respondents could participate in multiple opportunities

Of All Full-Time Employed FACS Graduates...

- 57% obtained employment before graduation
- 88% obtained employment within 3 months of graduation
- 97% obtained employment within 6 months of graduation

Top Destinations of 2019 FACS Graduates:

- Atlanta, GA
- Athens, GA
- New York, NY
- Charlotte, NC
- Austin, TX
- Chicago, IL
- Nashville, TN
- Dallas, TX
- San Francisco, CA
- Washington, D.C.

Top Graduate & Professional Schools Include:
- Augusta University
- University of the Arts London
- Emory University
- Appalachian State University
- Medical University of South Carolina
- The University of Georgia

Top Employers Include:
- The University of Georgia
- Clarke County School District
- Teach for America
- The Vanguard Group
- Georgia 4-H Foundation
- Spanx
- Synovus
- Teach For America