

Subject: FITD: Sherry Barnett Award, Holiday Photos, Awards & More!
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Web Version



Filling in the Details

News for Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends of the DCG

January 13, 2022

Dora Hawes Wins Sherry Barnett Award



The Sherry Barnett Customer Service Award was established to recognize the values of professionalism, understanding, respect, service and excellence exemplified by former AU staff member Sherry Barnett. Congratulations to the recipient of the 2022 Sherry Barnett Award: **Ms. Dora Hawes!** Hawes is an Office Specialist in the Department of Oral Biology and Diagnostic Sciences, and has been a DCG employee for 41 years!

Hawes was nominated by her department peers. Her nominators stated: "She is hardworking, dedicated, and very good at her job. She pleasantly greets you at the start of the day, on the way out in the evening and she is genuinely interested in how each and every one in the department is doing. She is always willing to take on tasks outside of her job description and the extra

duties she takes on are no small task, as she single-handedly manages the department courses all the way from course set up to final exams.”

Her nominators go on to say that she is "the epitome of professionalism and integrity and we are so fortunate to have her in our department. Her strength and resilience to bounce back from personal hardships are remarkable. She serves as an exemplary role model not only for staff, but also for faculty and we all look up to her.”

[Enjoy photos from her surprise award ceremony here.](#)

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Student News

CMDA Members Volunteer for Operation Christmas Child



The [Christian Medical & Dental Associations](#) (CMDA) Dental Fellowship student chapter partnered with Warren Baptist Church to provide toys and other essential items including soap and toothbrushes to children around the world through an international ministry called “Operation Christmas Child.” Hosted by [Dr. Kevin Frazier](#), DCG Vice Dean, CMDA members brought age-appropriate gifts to pack in shoe boxes for distribution to impoverished countries and territories by [Samaritan’s Purse](#).

More than 85 volunteers participated in the event and packed more than 100 boxes for underprivileged children. Drs. [Greg Griffin](#), [Van Haywood](#), [Kevin Plummer](#) and [Kevin Frazier](#) served as faculty sponsors.

[Click here to enjoy photos of the Operation Christmas Child event.](#)

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DCG Celebrates L.A.T.E. Reception with Senior Students



DCG Student Affairs hosted the annual L.A.T.E. (Light at the End of the Tunnel) Reception for senior students on Jan. 10 in the Fifth Floor Lobby. Designed to help students take a breather from the crush of final-semester activities, the reception recognizes their coming accomplishments and encourages them to socialize with their peers for an evening. [Click here to enjoy photos.](#)



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Faculty News

Dr. Eladio DeLeon Wins Legend Award



Congratulations to **Dr. Eladio DeLeon** for being honored with the Orthodontic Legend Award by the **Southern Association of Orthodontists**. The award is reserved for special recognition of an orthodontic educator only when it is deemed justified by the SAO president.

For the past 24 years, DeLeon has provided mentorship and leadership for the DCG Department of Orthodontics, as both Program Director and as Chair. He is past president of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO), and served as director of the Southern ABO from 2008 to 2019. He continues to serve as an examiner for the certification exam.

He served as Commissioner for Orthodontics for the Commission of Dental Accreditation from 2019 to 2020, and is a diplomate of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists.

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Photo Gallery: Dr. Van Haywood Retirement Reception



Colleagues, friends and family attended the retirement reception for **Dr. Van Haywood**, Professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences, on Dec. 16. Dr. Haywood dedicated more than 29 years of service to the Dental College of Georgia and Augusta University.

Senior Director of Philanthropy **Rhonda Banks**, announced at the reception that the Class of 1997 would name their newly established \$25,000 scholarship endowment in Dr. Haywood's honor, due to his positive influences on them over the years.

[Click here to enjoy photos from the event.](#)

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Other News

DCG Family Supports Days of Service



Dozens of faculty and staff lent their strength to the annual **AU Days of Service** project. More than 85 members of the DCG family gave more than 200 hours of service in time, physical effort and money to help non-profits meet their goals.

"AU's annual Days of Service campaign is so vital because it not only



provides our AU family with the opportunity to give back, but it also reminds us of the great need that exists right here in the CSRA. We're always impressed with the DCG's willingness to show up and lend a paw," said **Kristie R. Johnson**, Community Engagement Manager for the [Department of Volunteer Services and Community Engagement](#).

[Click here to read more.](#)

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Photo Gallery: Grits & Gratitude



Deans and department chairs in the Dental College of Georgia at [Augusta University](#) cheerfully came together for a morning of serving those who serve others at the annual DCG Grits & Gratitude breakfast on Dec. 16. For more than 12 years, DCG leadership has dished up grits and grins as they welcomed the staff and residents to a warm, hearty, holiday breakfast to demonstrate appreciation for the more than 400 members of the DCG family who provide tremendous support throughout the year. Thank you to Dye's Catering for the lovely meal, and to all of our DCG employees who bring their best to work every day. [Click here to enjoy](#)

[photos.](#)

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Photo Gallery: Resident Retreat



The annual DCG Resident Retreat is a chance for residents to gain ancillary training in their field. Covering topics outside of the classroom, the retreat brings together residents from all specialties into a single day-long educational experience to enhance their professional preparation. This year, residents were treated to a team-building activity presented by DCG Residency Program Coordinator [Corliss Norman-Williamson](#), a professional development session on mastering workplace agility and time management from AU Human Resources Organizational Development Specialist [Kellie Brooks](#), and a presentation on life after residency from guest speaker (photo left) [Dr. Amber Perry](#) (DMD, 2000; Pediatric Dentistry Residency, 2002), a business and life coach. [Dr. Nancy Young](#), Interim Dean, presented raffle prizes and a boxed lunch capped off the event. [Click here to enjoy photos from the event.](#)

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DCG Hosts Annual Staff Retreat



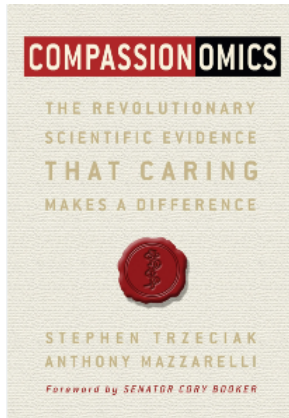
The DCG hosted the annual Staff Retreat for classified employees on Dec. 21 in the Education Commons. The annual event is designed to enhance knowledge, develop bonds between employees, recognize excellence, and explore institutional values. Along with a boxed lunch,



employees enjoyed an award presentation, door prizes, and educational lectures. [Click here to read more.](#)



DCG Launches Lending Library for Employees



A lending library that includes books from the late Dr. Connie Drisko, former DCG dean, along with leadership and development books, is now available in the Dean's suite (GC 5203). The collection available for checkout include the book [Compassionomics](#) that **Dr. Robert Kaltenbach** shared in the Staff Retreat. [Click here to see the full list of books.](#) [PDF]

The library is available to all DCG employees. Please visit Office Specialist **Alex Maltzberger** in the dean's office for access to any book.



Annual Tri-College Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Returns



In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Augusta University will take part in the annual tri-college celebration with Paine College and Augusta Technical College at noon Friday, Jan. 13 at the Gilbert-Lambuth Memorial Chapel on the campus of Paine College. The event is free and open to the public and will be [streamed online](#) for those who are unable to attend.

This year's guest speaker is [Lewis Baldwin, PhD](#), emeritus professor of religious studies at Vanderbilt University. Baldwin is an historian, author and professor specializing in the history of Black churches in the United States. He's also an acknowledged expert on the Spencer Churches, the oldest Black denominations in the country.

[Click here to read more about the tri-college celebration.](#)



AU Commemorates 50 Years of Women's Athletics



Augusta University Athletics is excited to celebrate 50th Anniversary of Title IX and to commemorate the strong legacy of Augusta Women's Athletics since their founding in 1973. To celebrate this anniversary, the Jags will welcome back the three all-time leading scorers from the women's basketball program to Christenberry Fieldhouse on Jan. 21.

During halftime of the women's game, Augusta will honor the three all-time leading scorers in Augusta women's basketball history. Dr. Lawanna Monday(-Harden), Beth Mckie (Meyer) and Debbie Born have each had their jersey retired and mounted in Christenberry Fieldhouse. Tip-off is set for 1:30 p.m.

[Read more about the event here.](#)

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Publications

Bansari Shah, Monali Shah, Maria Geisinger, Muhammad H A Saleh, **Mohamed Meghil**, Hom-Lay Wang. [The effect of non-surgical therapy on plasma C-reactive protein levels in periodontitis patients. A single arm prospective clinical trial.](#) Journal of Periodontology, 2022 Sep. doi: 10.1002/JPER.22-0231

Mohamed Meghil, Scott Lowry, Collins Lyons, Mira Ghaly. [Alveolar ridge augmentation for implant placement in a growing patient.](#) Clinical Advances in Periodontics. 2022 Sep 3. doi: 10.1002/cap.10223.

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From the Interim Dean

As we settle into a new year and new semester, I am thrilled to lead the Dental College of Georgia as Interim Dean. I feel grateful for my fantastic colleagues, excited to work with wonderful students and determined to tackle any issues that arise.

I plan to continue the momentum we enjoyed during **Dean Carol Lefebvre's** invaluable guidance and confidence in leadership these last eight years. We all thank Dr. Lefebvre for the confidence we've inherited from her strategic leadership. She led the DCG to new successes and greater recognition.

We now look forward to a new chapter. One of our invaluable strengths is our community. The DCG family is one that celebrates innovation, excellence, inclusion, and ethics. We address the challenges of health care by implementing our varied talents and experiences.

Our faculty and staff are committed to delivering transformational experiences that prepare our dental students not only for professional excellence, but also to impact our community. We are optimistic about the opportunities ahead of us, and excited to embark on this new journey together.

Of course, successfully supporting students in their dental studies and future careers is my number one priority as Interim Dean. Our teaching and learning happen beyond a traditional classroom.

We strive to provide relevant, innovative, and field-based instruction. Learning happens in sim labs and patient labs, in mobile dental units, community clinics, and on farms. With the opportunities we provide, students will be ready to participate as professionals and citizens in a diverse and rapidly changing world. Our alumni are pacesetters of progress, they are leaders, and in time our students will be too.

We are united in our mission and where there are shared goals, there are shared accomplishments. The DCG is a center of academic research, connecting students, faculty and the community through the sharing of knowledge, resources and perspectives. The DCG will continue to navigate change and support teaching, learning, and research in new ways. We will

continue to lead economic growth and innovation.

We will focus on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, on championing our regional and national significance, and on valuing our colleagues for their individual contributions – faculty, residents, and staff. Together, we will succeed.

For the duration of my appointment, I will work out of the Dean's suite in GC 5202A. **Dr. Regina Messer** will serve as Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs and also of Admissions. I am grateful to Dr. Messer for taking on this challenge, and know that she is supported by her very capable staff.

Thank you to everyone who has made my first days in the office so welcoming. I look forward to celebrating our successes in the coming weeks and months.

Have any great events or stories share with us?

Please send them to DCG_DEANS_OFFICE@augusta.edu.

On the Horizon

January 13

Tri-College Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

January 16

MLK Day - Campus Closed

January 19

JagPulse Launch Party

January 26

Dr. Henry "Butch" Ferguson's Retirement Reception

January 31

Dr. Frederick Rueggeberg's Retirement Reception

February 19-25

Homecoming Week

March 8

34th Annual Research Table Clinic Day

April 28-30

Alumni Weekend

April 28

44th Annual Marvin C. Goldstein Lecture Series and Luncheon
Dental College of Georgia Alumni Reception

April 29

Strengthening Our Legacy
President's Brunch
DCG Class of 1973 Dinner
DCG 40th Reunion Emeritus Dinner
DCG Class of 1973 Reunion Dinner

Opportunities. Experience. Research.



The Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University
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