

CORRELL *Scholars* PROGRAM



2016 - 2017

Year in Review

Report



H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, Correll Scholars Program
Dean, School of Social Sciences

478-289-2048
lcheek@ega.edu
www.drleecheek.net

Dear Friends:

What a great year for the Correll Scholars Program! East Georgia State College has graduated our first class of Correll Scholars, and we are very proud of the success of our students, and as our students continue their education, we are confident they will have a great impact on our region and country! The Program began as the result of an exceedingly thoughtful idea and gift, and is now quickly developing into a vital and energetic fixture in the social and academic life of East Georgia State College.

Our second class of twenty Correll Scholars is already having a dramatic impact upon campus life, and the Correll Scholars themselves are developing into young professionals who will assume important roles in the future, advancing the Wiregrass Region, the State of Georgia, and beyond. Our Correll Scholars, who came to East Georgia State College from a diversity of backgrounds and educational environments, are becoming united in their pursuit of academic excellence and service to their fellow men and women. In the last year, the Correll Scholars collectively spent thousands of hours mentoring and tutoring underprivileged students from surrounding area schools. In the second year of the program, our Scholars will participate in career-related service internships during the Fall semester, and during the Spring term, each scholar will work directly with a professor in their chosen field of study so that each Correll Scholar can be exposed to even more service opportunities.

In our fast-paced world, filled with distractions unlike those ever witnessed before, the Correll Scholars are afforded the time to reflect more deeply on the challenges that are ahead of us. As we welcome with much excitement our third class of Correll Scholars in August 2017, our enthusiasm for the Correll Scholars Program only increases and intensifies!

Cordially,

H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, Correll Scholars Program
Dean, School of Social Sciences





CORRELL *Scholars* **PROGRAM**

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Overview

The Correll Scholars Program was established in 2014 and began Fall semester 2015 to recognize and prepare exceptionally promising students as future community leaders in our region.

- Awards are \$5,000 per student, renewable annually, for a maximum of four years. Twenty scholarships will be awarded each year.
- Students must attend East Georgia State College's Swainsboro Campus.
- Correll Scholars who meet eligibility requirements and continue their studies as a junior or senior in a baccalaureate degree program at EGSC will be given first consideration for subsequent year awards.
- Students must attain qualifying enrollment status to receive subsequent year funding: "sophomore" for year two, "junior" for year three, and "senior" for year four.

Application Process

The Application process is designed to identify students who demonstrate the talent, motivation, and potential to transform themselves and their community.

- Completion of EGSC Admissions Application (Automatic Non-Resident Waiver) and college acceptance
- Completion of the Correll Scholars Program Application
- Submission of an essay, "How will you use your education to transform your community?" (1000 word maximum) (included in online submission)
- Interview

Selection of Scholars

Each spring, new applicants will participate in the "Correll Scholars Selection Day" for interviews with faculty, staff, community leaders, and donors. Scholars will be selected based upon committee approval.

Criteria

SCHOLARSHIP

- GPA, SAT, ACT scores
- Challenging course load
- General knowledge beyond field of study
- Ability to think critically

LEADERSHIP

- Ability to make an impact and influence others
- Focus on the global society
- Excellence in communication
- Motivation to excel
- Strong character

SERVICE

- Demonstrated strength in coaching, tutoring, and mentoring
- Nonprofit work experience
- Demonstrated commitment to others

Rigorous Program Standards

- Maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- Complete at least 26 credit hours in freshman year to maintain eligibility for sophomore year.
- Participate in a one-hour-credit course each semester that focuses on issues and challenges facing our region and work collaboratively to design solutions for those challenges.
- Actively participate in tutoring and mentoring of local high school students at the Fulford Center.
- Attain the Service Seal of Distinction.

2016 - 2017 Correll Scholars



Student Name

Madison Beardon
Macie Brassell
Kaylee Coleman
Lillian Deloach
Carlie Dixon
Garett Dixon
Bethaney Fortner
Tiffani Gordon
Darryl Henderson
Kara Henry
Taylor Hooks
Braxton Johns
Abigail Johnson
Monique Johnson
Naomi Mason
Adrianna Minton
Tanner Peebles
Grace Pittman
Erick Vilches
Braswell Walraven

Hometown

Waynesboro
Louisville
Mt. Vernon
Reidsville
Swainsboro
Waynesboro
Wrightsville
Vidalia
Swainsboro
Swainsboro
Swainsboro
Statesboro
Macon
Swainsboro
Swainsboro
Swainsboro
Waynesboro
Vidalia
Metter
Soperton

High School

Homeschooled
Thomas Jefferson Academy
Montgomery County High School
Tattnall County High School
David Emanuel Academy
Edmund Burke Academy
Johnson County High School
Robert Toombs Christian Academy
Swainsboro High School
David Emanuel Academy
Emanuel County Institute
Statesboro High School
Rutland High School
Swainsboro High School
Swainsboro High School
Emanuel County Institute
Johnson County High School
Vidalia High School
Metter High School
Treutlen County High School

2015 - 2016 Correll Scholars



Student Name

Avery Berry
 Brannon Braddock
 Caleb Brown
 Lauren Conner
 Taylor Culp
 Jessica Dixon
 Jordan Fox
 TJ Freeman
 Elizabeth Gross
 Kaitlin Hill
 Hannah Jenkins
 Schuyler Johnson
 Madison Lawson
 Thang Lieu
 Kirstyn Morris
 Alexandra Rios
 Catelyn Sherrod

Hometown

Swainsboro
 Toombs County
 Nunez
 Waynesboro
 Reidsville
 Swainsboro
 Kite
 Swainsboro
 Swainsboro
 Louisville
 Waynesboro
 Vidalia
 Swainsboro
 Swainsboro
 Swainsboro
 Swainsboro
 Swainsboro

High School

Swainsboro High School
 Robert Toombs Christian Academy
 Swainsboro High School
 Burke County Comprehensive High School
 Toombs County High School
 Patrick Henry High School
 Vidalia High School
 Swainsboro High School
 Swainsboro High School
 Jefferson County High School
 Edmund Burke Academy
 Emanuel County Institute
 Swainsboro High School
 Swainsboro High School
 Swainsboro High School
 Swainsboro High School
 Swainsboro High School

Bobcat Buddies Mentoring Program

Correll Scholars mentored/tutored selected Swainsboro Elementary School 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students from September 13, 2016 through December 1, 2016 during Fall semester and January 19, 2017 through April 20, 2017 during Spring semester.

The twenty Swainsboro Elementary School students who participated in the program were selected by teachers, administrators and the school counselor.

Students Served

3rd grade	7 students
4th grade	7 students
5th grade	6 students

"My child feels better and more at ease about his work, and he likes the program a lot!"
- Parent Survey Comment

"My child is happy about doing homework!"
- Parent Survey Comment

Total Mentoring & Tutoring Hours

1,088.5 hours

Surveys were completed by teachers and parents at the end of each semester. Following are the highlights.

From parents:

100% rated the overall program either good or excellent

100% rated the program content either good or excellent

General parent comments centered on wanting more than two days a week for tutoring!

From teachers:

100% of the teachers involved in the program rated the overall program either good or excellent

100% of the teachers reported an improvement in their students

"This is my second year using the program with my students, and I have seen a lot of great gains!" - Teacher Survey Comment

Information About **COSP1101**

**East Georgia State College
Correll Scholars Program Seminar (COSP) 1101 (CRN:80287)
Fall 2015/One Credit Hour**

I. Professor: H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Ph.D.

II. Office location: School of Social Sciences, C-277

Office Phone:(478)289-2048

E-mail address: lcheek@ega.edu

Office Hours:0800-1700 daily

- EGSC's official mode of communication is via email. Therefore, check your EGSC and D2L email daily.

III. Course Description:

"The introductory course in the Correll Scholars Program that is premised upon introducing first year scholars to the value and importance of service to the local community and the State of Georgia, as well as surveying the many facets of the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of the State of Georgia (Catalog of East Georgia State College, 2015-2016, [forthcoming])."

IV. Prerequisites: Selection by EGSC as a Correll Scholar.

V. Textbooks

TEXTS:

-McGregory, Jerrilyn. Wiregrass Country, Folklife in the South (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1997).

ISBN: 0878059261

-Early, Lawrence. Looking for Longleaf: The Fall and Rise of an American Forest (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004).

ISBN: 0807856991

VI. Course Learning Outcomes with Linkages to General Education Student Learning Outcomes

The Correll Scholars Program is a new initiative at East Georgia State College. This one-credit hour course (to be taken each year), along with required service-learning experiences, are intended to introduce Correll Scholars to the importance of service and civic and cultural awareness in our region, nation, and world, through an integrative curriculum that challenges them to think critically about all of these concerns. Each week, the Correll Scholars will interact with some of EGSC's senior faculty on a variety of topics.

By combining an introduction to service with an academic seminar, Correll Scholars have the unique opportunity to contextualize the knowledge acquired within the classroom with their individual service-learning experiences. Through class dis-

cussions, reading, and reflection, scholars will also be able to connect the relevance of service-learning work to the course objectives and their broader academic fields of study.

Working to enhance the quality and breadth of the undergraduate education for our Correll Scholars, this course strives to achieve the following goals:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the Wiregrass / Pine Barrens region of Georgia.
- Demonstrate ability to compare and contrast the local region with other regions in the South, other areas in the country, and other parts of the world.
- Demonstrate ability to critically evaluate information.
- Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
- Demonstrate successful participation in active learning through service.
- Demonstrate ability to create a comprehensive portfolio of learning experience in Correll Scholars Program.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the value of service to the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia.
- Recognize that service to others is a natural and necessary response to the world around us.
- Have insight into appropriate forms of service-its source, its meaning, and its impact on both the performer and the recipient.
- Understand how they can use their chosen vocation to serve others.

VII. and VIII.: Evaluation and Grading

Specific Course Assignments: Will vary from semester to semester.

Quizzes/Tests

Quizzes and tests will cover the text, lectures, and any additional material passed out or assigned. It is important to both read the material and listen attentively in class.

Missed Quiz or Test or Late Assignment

Making-up a missed quiz test or turning in an assignment late will be allowed only in special circumstances and if accompanied by official documentation. Let me know prior to the deadline or test date if there is a genuine conflict or crisis. Please discuss all concerns about completing course requirements or conflicting life situations with me. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Academic Integrity is expected. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failure of the test or assignment and possible consequences from the College.

What to Bring to Class

Your personage, a writing instrument, textbooks, and writing paper.

Disruptive Behaviors in Class

Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt this class or its learning activities will be considered under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which are considered to be inappropriate in this classroom include sleeping, eating, coming in late, interrupting others, talking out of turn, inappropriate behavior during group work, texting, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive. Students who exhibit such behavior may be

temporarily dismissed from the class by the instructor and may be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the EGSC Student Handbook.

GRADING SCALE

Grades for the semester will follow the USG scale:

1 - Weekly quizzes on readings and handouts: 50%

2 - Final Paper integrating learning and service(Due 30 Nov.): 50%

The grading scale:

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69 – 60

F = 59 - 0

ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

IX. Attendance Policy

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the course notes from a classmate. I will not copy and hand out my lecture notes, except in extreme circumstances documented by a medical or other agreed upon official documentation. Classroom attendance is important as it supplements the text readings. Excessive absences will hurt your understanding of the material, comprehension of what is expected in assignments, and your grade.

XI. Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty (please see EGSC Student Handbook at

<http://www.ega.edu/policy/O4-student-handbook.pdf>)

See also VII. and VIII. above.

XII. ADA Statement (can be found at

<http://www.ega.edu/policy/O4-student-handbook.pdf>)

XIII. Course Withdrawal Policy Statement:

Students are responsible for their own academic progress. Decisions regarding withdrawal from courses should only be made after consultation with an academic advisor. Before withdrawing from a course, students must meet with a Financial Aid representative to discuss their personal financial aid situation. More information regarding withdrawal from courses can be found in the EGSC catalog at <http://www.ega.edu/images/uploads/egsc-catalog-2014-2015.pdf>

XIV. Campus Emergency Policy

a. In the event the fire alarm is sounded, everyone must evacuate the building at once and in a calm and orderly fashion, using the nearest exit. In the event of a severe weather warning everyone must proceed immediately to the nearest designated shelter area which are marked by a small tornado symbol. All severe weather shelter locations are posted on the EGSC website. Each student should, on the first day of class, determine the location of the nearest exit and the nearest designated shelter area for each of his or her classrooms. If you have difficulties locating either ask your instructor to assist you.

- b. The Connect-ED system is a communication service that enables East Georgia State College administrators and security personnel to quickly contact all East Georgia State College students, faculty and staff with personalized voice and text messages that contain emergency-related campus information (e.g., campus closing, campus threat, health scare, etc.) With Connect-ED, East Georgia State College students can be reached and provided with vital instructions anywhere, anytime, through their cell phones, home phones, e-mail, TTY/TDD receiving devices, or other text-receiving devices. (<http://www.ega.edu/connected.pdf>)

XV. Additional Course Requirements

XVI. Outline of Topics and Course Calendar

1 - Week One: 8/15/16

**Introduction to Course and Service Learning; and, Student Honor Code
Sherrie Helms**

Readings: Course Syllabus and Handouts

2 - Week Two: 8/22/16

**Historical Setting of the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/
Service Opportunities**

Dr. John Derden

Readings: WC/2

3 - Week Three: 8/29/16

**Historical Setting of the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/
Service Opportunities**

Dr. John Derden

Readings: WC/3,4

Labor Day Holiday – No Classes 9/05/16

4 - Week Four: 9/12/16

**Politics and Government in the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/
Service Opportunities**

Professor Randy Carter

Readings: Handouts

5 - Week Five: 9/19/16

Meeting with the President

President Bob Boehmer

6 - Week Six: 9/26/16

**Religion and Community Organizations in the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region
of Georgia/Service Opportunities**

Dr. Lee Cheek

Readings: WC/5

7 - Week Seven: 10/03/16

**Literature of the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/
Service Opportunities**

Dr. Carmine Palumbo

Readings: WC/6

8 - Week Eight: 10/10/16

Demographics of the Wiregrass Region

Professor David Strickland and Dr. Harry Vogel

9 - Week Nine: 10/17/16

**Art and Cultural Enrichment in the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/
Service Opportunities**

Professor Desmal Purcell

Readings: WC/8 and 9

10 - Week Ten: 10/24/16

**Physical Environment of the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/
Service Opportunities**

Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp

Readings: LL/1 and 2 and 3

11 - Week Eleven: 10/31/16

Ecology of the Wiregrass/Pine Barrens region of Georgia/Service Opportunities

Dr. Breana Simmons

Readings: LL/4 and 5

12 - Week Twelve: 11/07/2016

Business and Industry in the Wiregrass Region

Professor Mike Lisenby

Readings: LL/6 and 7

13 - Week Thirteen: 11/14/16

Study Tour

Dr. Lee Cheek

Thanksgiving Holiday, NO Classes: 11/21/16-11/25/16

14 - Week Fourteen: 11/28/16

Group Social/Service to Community Discussion Gathering

Final Exam



Information About **COSP1102**

**East Georgia State College
Correll Scholars Program Seminar on State Regional Issues
Tuesdays: 8:30 am - 9:20 am • COSP 1102
Spring 2017/One Credit Hour**

I. Professor: H. Lee Cheek, Jr., Ph.D.

II. Office location: School of Social Sciences, C-277

Office Phone:(478)289-2048

E-mail address: lcheek@ega.edu

Office Hours: 0800-1700 daily

-EGSC's official mode of communication is via email. Therefore, check your EGSC and D2L email daily.

III. Course Description:

"The second required seminar of the Correll Scholars Program, this course builds upon the content of the first course, an introduction to service and a variety of issues of local importance, expanding the focus to the impact of these issues state-wide and regionally. Methods of evaluation of student success include short essays, quizzes, journal assignments, examinations, presentations, and portfolio development. (Catalog of East Georgia State College, 2016-2017, p. 84)."

IV. Prerequisite: Successful completion of COSP 1101.

V. Textbooks

- COSP 1102 Reader.

- Early, Lawrence. Looking for Longleaf: The Fall and Rise of an American Forest (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004).

VI. Course Learning Outcomes with Linkages to General Education Student Learning Outcomes

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By combining an introduction to service with an academic seminar, Correll Scholars have the unique opportunity to contextualize the knowledge acquired within the

classroom with their individual service-learning experiences. Through class discussions, reading, and reflection, scholars will also be able to connect the relevance of service-learning work to the course objectives and their broader academic fields of study.

Working to enhance the quality and breadth of the undergraduate education for our Correll Scholars, this course strives to achieve the following goals:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of the Georgia and the Southeast.
- Demonstrate ability to compare and contrast Georgia with other regions in the Southeast.
- Demonstrate ability to critically evaluate information.
- Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in oral and written forms.
- Demonstrate successful participation in active learning through service.
- Demonstrate ability to create a comprehensive portfolio of learning experience in Correll Scholars Program.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the value of service to Georgia.
- Recognize that service to others is a natural and necessary response to the world around us.
- Have insight into appropriate forms of service-its source, its meaning, and its impact on both the performer and the recipient.
- Understand how they can use their chosen vocation to serve others.

VII. and VIII.: Evaluation and Grading

Tests/Quizzes

Quizzes are based on assigned reading, lectures, and any additional material passed out or assigned. It is important to both read the material and listen attentively in class.

Missed Test or Late Assignment

Making-up a missed test or turning in an assignment late will be allowed only in special circumstances and if accompanied by official documentation. Let me know prior to the deadline or quiz date if there is a genuine conflict or crisis. Please discuss all concerns about completing course requirements or conflicting life situations with me. There will be no make-up quizzes.

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What to Bring to Class

Your personage, a writing instrument, textbooks, and writing paper.

Disruptive Behaviors in Class

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ily dismissed from the class by the instructor and may be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the EGSC Student Handbook.

GRADING SCALE

Grades for the semester will follow the USG scale:

The grading scale:

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69 – 60

F = 59 - 0

Participation - 10 points

Weekly Quizzes - 50 points

Final Exam - 40 points

IX. Attendance Policy

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the course notes from a classmate. Excessive absences will hurt your understanding of the material, comprehension of what is expected in assignments, and your grade.

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a. In the event the fire alarm is sounded, everyone must evacuate the building at once and in a calm and orderly fashion, using the nearest exit. In the event of a severe weather warning everyone must proceed immediately to the nearest designated shelter area which are marked by a small tornado symbol. All severe weather shelter locations are posted on the EGSC website. Each student should, on the first day of class, determine the location of the nearest exit and the nearest designated shelter area for each of his or her classrooms. If you have difficulties locating either ask your instructor to assist you.

b. The Connect-ED system is a communication service that enables East Georgia State College administrators and security personnel to quickly contact all East Georgia State College students, faculty and staff with personalized voice and text messages that contain emergency-related campus information (e.g.,

campus closing, campus threat, health scare, etc.) With Connect-ED, East Georgia State College students can be reached and provided with vital instructions anywhere, anytime, through their cell phones, home phones, e-mail, TTY/TDD receiving devices, or other text-receiving devices. (<http://www.ega.edu/connected.pdf>)

XV. Outline of Topics and Course Calendar

1 - Week One: 01/10/2017

Introduction to Course and Service Learning

2 - Week Two: 01/17/2017

Historical Setting of Georgia and the Southeast in the United States

Dr. John Derden

3 - Week Three: 01/24/2017

Historical Setting of Georgia and Southeast/Service Opportunities.

Dr. John Derden

4 - Week Four: 01/31/2017

Politics and Government of Georgia and the Southeast/Service Opportunities.

Professor Randy Carter

5 - Week Five: 02/07/2017

Meeting with Dr. Boehmer.

6 - Week Six: 02/14/2017

Social Demographics of Georgia and the Southeast.

Professor David Strickland

7 - Week Seven: 02/21/2017

**Religion and Community Organizations in Georgia and the Southeast/
Service Opportunities.**

Dr. Lee Cheek

8 - Week Eight: 02/28/2017

Literature of Georgia and the Southeast/Service Opportunities.

Dr. Carmine Palumbo

9 - Week Nine: 03/07/2017

**Art and Cultural Enrichment in Georgia and the Southeast/
Service Opportunities.**

Professor Desmal Purcell

10 - Week Ten: 03/14/2017

Spring Break

11 - Week Eleven: 03/21/2017

Business and Industry in the New South.

Professor Mike Lisenby

12 - Week Twelve: 03/28/2017

Physical Environment of Georgia and the Southeast/Service Opportunities.

Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp

13 - Week Thirteen: 04/04/2017

Ecology of Georgia and the Southeast/Service Opportunities.

Dr. Breana Simmons

14 - Week Fourteen: 04/11/2017

Study Tour

15. Week Fifteen: 04/18/2017

Final Exam

Student Comments



Madison Beardon

From the beginning of the interview process, I told my family that if I did not get the Correll scholarship, I did not know what I was going to do, as we could not afford for me to attend college. During that time, I had moved back home from the Dominican Republic and so many things in my life was changing. Getting into college was a hassle, as I was homeschooled, and I did not think someone would give me a chance. However, when I received the call that I received the scholarship, my life turned around for the better. Since being awarded the Correll scholarship and attending East Georgia State College, my life

has changed so much and I have learned more than I ever thought I would. The Correll Program has made my education possible. As the result of the Correll scholarship, my life through has been impacted by the acquisition of a more integrated intellect, patience, and authentic friendship.

The Correll scholarship has allowed me to attend East Georgia State College to obtain a college degree. When I first arrived at East Georgia, honestly, I did not think I was going to like coming to school there. The environment were so different from what I was accustomed to through A Beka Academy homeschool program. Not just with school, but culturally America was very different from where I had lived for four years. Surprisingly, my first semester of college was wonderful. I have gained some much knowledge from coming to school at East Georgia State College. If I did not have this scholarship, I would not be in college today experiencing the college lifestyle and gaining more knowledge. At East Georgia, I have enjoyed my professors greatly and glad that I can have a personal relationship with them all. At bigger universities, you are mainly a number to them or a paycheck, but my professors here care about my will-being and academic achievements. I have enjoyed learning about different subjects, thinking analytically, and having intelligent discussions. Since coming to East Georgia State College, I have notice a difference in my writing, mathematical skills, and speech. Again, the Correll scholarship program has made an impact on my life for allowing me to gain a college education and enhance my intellectual spirit.

Another way the Correll scholarship has impacted my life is through patience. If you have ever met me, I am a very impatient person. Being able to have patience with life has helped me tremendously. I learned to be patience through community service through the Correll scholarship volunteer program. It has meant a lot to me to be able to use my academic skills to teach others. The children we have been tutoring for the past year all come from unpleasant households and do not get the attention they need. I have had to learn to be patient with these children because of what may be going on in their schoolwork or households. They are very rambunctious and hard to handle some days, but I have enjoyed getting to know these kids. Each child has a different personality and it has taught me how to handle each person delicately, as well as, patiently. I am glad I have learned patience through tutoring these children and helping them academically succeed, as well. One of the best days for me was when a child I was helping passed her spelling test and she was smiling from ear to ear when she told me. I am very glad that I get to be a volunteer through this scholarship program because I get to impact other lives, as well as, the scholarship and children impact me.

One of the best things about the Correll scholarship is making new friends. I was very skeptical about coming to college because I thought I would not make friends or have people around East Georgia State College like me. This program helped to change that. I have met so many people through this program and I have the greatest friends. This scholarship has helped me to be more involved on campus and through campus activities I can meet new people. From every Correll scholar, I have met new people, in which, they have introduced me to around campus. It is as if I am the center point with my friends as spooks circling into a wheel that just keeps rolling with new friendships. The friends I have met will probably be my best friends forever. I am usually a very shy, introversive person when it comes to people my age, but this scholarship has helped me break my shyness. Not only that, people wonder if you are a Correll and ask you about the program. It is an honor to have people know you on campus, especially professors, as the academic excellence students. If it was not for this scholarship, I would not have the friendships I do now or the college lifestyle. This scholarship has help to be more sociable and outgoing which has been a major achievement.



Avery Berry

This scholarship has meant the world to me. It is the greatest accomplishment I have ever done in my life. I am truly grateful that you chose to invest in my life. It has helped me to succeed in my classes and do my best, as well as, achieve these three attributes into my life. I would not be where I am today without this scholarship and I am truly thankful. You have invested in what has become a young woman with a humanitarian heart and intellectual and sociable courage. Thank you for your vision for this scholarship. I would not have wanted to be anywhere else than East

Georgia State College for my first semester of school. Thank you again for investing in my life because it has meant an exceeding amount of excellence into me.

The Correll Scholarship has meant so much to me. The Corrells' have provided me with a great college experience and I will be forever grateful. Through the Correll Scholarship I have not only made lifelong friends but I have also been giving so many opportunities. I have had the opportunity to also form bonds with many of my professors and the faculty of East Georgia State College. The Correll Scholarship has also brought me and all the scholars under the mentorship of Dr. Cheek. Dr. Cheek has gone above and beyond for all of us and I have no idea how I would have survived my first two years of college without him. Whenever you need someone to talk or vent to, Dr. Cheek is always there. He has accepted me for who I am as a person, and the Corrells' could not have asked for a better person to run their scholarship program.

I have also had the opportunity to be involved in many service activities and the opportunity grow with my involvement in the community. By doing all these services, I have made so many new friends and formed such strong relationships with these people. The services have helped me become more of a leader, and to not be afraid to voice my opinion. In a career of service, you are going to need to be an amiable person. You will also need to have patience in a career of service. Working as a Bobcat Buddy has helped me develop a lot of patience, especially for the rising generation. Sometimes the students did not want to do their work, so instead of getting irritated, I learned to just talk it out with them and find a good middle that we could agree on.

The Correll Scholars Program has help to evolve me into the person I want to be in my career. It has shaped me in so many ways and I am forever appreciative for every opportunity it has given me. I have become a patient, determined, and caring person because of this amazing program and I will be forever thankful for it.

The Correll Scholarship has allowed us to go on trips and enjoy many other activities. One of my favorites is whenever we go to Dr. Boehmer's house for lunch. I enjoy it so much because all the Corrells can hang out together outside of the classroom environment. I also enjoyed our Correll Practicum trip to Savannah that we were able to take. I am now a better citizen of my community and state and world because of my Correll experiences.

The Correll Scholarship is shaping us all to be the future leadership of East. It is helping us lead the way for future bobcats and show all future students what they are capable of achieving. It has inspired me to make a difference in this world. I want to be looked at as one of East Georgia State College's notable alumni in future years. It pushes me to be better as a student and work hard for all the things I want to succeed at in life.

Dr. Cheek is constantly telling me that I am going to be something great in this world, and I can honestly say that I believe him. The Correll family haas impacted me tremendously, providing me with the opportunity for an excellent education. They have given me with the opportunity for relationships that many people never have the opportunity to acquire. They have provided me with the opportunity to know that I am going to be great in life.

I will never be able to put into words how much the Correll Scholarship has meant to me. I am "beyond grateful" for it. So, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Correll, and thank you, Dr. Cheek; you all will never know the impact that you have had on my life. Forever and always a Correll Scholar and East Georgia State College Bobcat!



Brannon Braddock

I have only been a Correll Scholar for two semesters now, but I cannot put into words the gratitude I have for the program. This gracious giving of money has allowed me to continue my education at East Georgia without any financial issues, continued to uncover the importance of being involved in the community, opened doors for me to attend colleges I never considered attending, and placed an accomplishment on my résumé that does and will continue to impress people like college advisors and future employers. It is my hope that the Corrells read this and realize—if they haven't already—

that they are not just, paying for young adult's tuition, fees, and books; instead, they are supplying us with the tools to build a quality future. For that, my fellow Correll Scholarship recipients and I will be forever grateful.

Obviously, considering it is the biggest magnet of the program, the money has completely paid for my way here at East Georgia. I find myself with some savings, and instead of being irresponsible and spending it—I wouldn't do that to myself or to the Corrells—I created a "four-year college" fund of my own will. This fund is at or around \$3500 now and because of it, I had the inspiration to apply to the University of Georgia. Let me explain. This year, on January 21, I travelled with SGA to the Tate Center on UGA's campus and I remember thinking, "I could never afford to go here." However, at the end of February, against my financial will, I applied to the University of Georgia and was accepted. I want the Corrells to read this and understand this: That would never have been possible without you guys. My finances just would not allow it.

Currently, because of the Correll Scholarship, I have no debt. I have only spent \$1100 on my college career, and that was summer 2016 semester before I even got the Correll Scholarship and to avoid wasting HOPE hours. This is also another factor allowing my attendance to UGA. The fact that I have completed an associate's degree with minimal debt opened my ranges of future schools dramatically. Thank you for that.

My first year at East Georgia, I had a friend ask me to join the Ambassadors. "it's cool," he said, "you'll get to meet a bunch of cool people—students and faculty alike." My first year here, as far as extracurricular and community service, this is all I did. It was really rewarding as I got to build a good relationship with not only incoming or veteran students but people like President Boehmer and Ms. Vicki Sherrod as well. Entering my second year—the time that I received the Correll Scholarship—I was inspired to join more clubs. My reason for this may have been academic greed. I told myself that I wanted to wear the most regalia at Graduation when I walked across stage. Believe it or not, the Correll Scholarship was a big factor in that. I hoped I would be receiving regalia for becoming a part of the first Correll Scholars to graduate from EGSC; I knew I had an Ambassador cord, and because of these two things, I was inspired to join SGA and become the President of our local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. I say all of that to say this: community service is important. This is something that students tend to hear but rarely ever capitalize. Because of the Correll Scholarship I attended a majority of our NEA Big Read events, worked one-on-one with a faculty member (Ms. Palumbo), and travelled with many important people on an East Georgia State College Bus Tour—among other things. The participation in community service has now become a characteristic that I never want to abandon. People like the Correll Scholars make the world a better place.

I am an education major at East Georgia, and will transfer to the University of Georgia where I will major in Social Studies Education. With this degree, I have multiple aims in mind: I would use it to get involved in the mission field, and I could use it to simply place myself in a high school to try and instill positive values in troubled children. I would use it to teach college (here even); and, to use a cliché, the possibilities are endless. Recently I attended an alumni event for education majors at the University of Georgia with a good friend of mine—an alumnus of UGA. Before the event started, he set out to introduce me to important people—old friends, deans, enrollment management people, recruiters, and the like. I met all sorts of interesting people and with each one, was asked to tell what I did in both academics and extracurricular activities. I can remember the look on one lady's face in particular—an academic advisor for education majors—when I told her I was a Correll Scholar, and I believe that it is that look that makes it all worthwhile. I believe through the simple statement "I am a Correll Scholar" images are placed in people's mind of someone who is not only devoted to academics, but also to community service and making the world become a better place.

This accomplishment will enhance my professional legacy for as long as I live and, in blatant disregard for repetition, I must once again stress how thankful I am for the opportunity that Mr. and Mrs. Correll have bestowed upon me. I can only hope that one day, I can give back to these wonderful people an even greater sense of my appreciation. Know once more that you are advancing our futures.



Macie Brassell

The Correll Scholarship has been a great opportunity for me. I have been able to meet some amazing professors, as well as many friends. The professors at East Georgia State College are willing to help me in any way they can, and I am very grateful for that. They go above and beyond for students that are willing to put in effort. I also spend quite a lot of time with the nineteen other people in the program between classes, tutoring at the Fulford Center, and late-night study sessions. We have become a family, and they are very dear to me. In fact, I consider some of the other

Correll Scholars my best friends! This program has definitely brought me new friendships that I would not have otherwise. This program has also brought many other wonderful opportunities my way.

Other than great friendships that will last a lifetime, this scholarship has also brought other incredible opportunities. If it wasn't for this scholarship, I wouldn't be able to have a debt-free first year of college. I have been able to work and save for nursing school, which will be expensive, instead of working to pay for my first year of college. This has given me more time to focus on school. I have realized just how important getting an education is, and also that I have to maintain a very high GPA to get into nursing school because it is a competitive field. So far, I have only had one B, and I do not intend on making anymore! In fact, I have all A's for this semester as of now, and I am very excited. I am beyond grateful that I have the opportunity to focus completely on my school work. I know that there are many people that do not have the opportunity to focus completely on school, and they have to work long hours just to pay for schooling; I am very blessed that I am able to focus on school, and work at a moderate rate to save for future schooling.

Tutoring every Tuesday and Thursday has become part of my weekly schedule. This opportunity has taught me many things that I will value throughout my life. I am able to help others by tutoring and mentoring the Swainsboro elementary children, and that is what the program was created for; to give back to the community. There are some challenging days for the college students and elementary students, but overall it has been a fun journey tutoring and mentoring the elementary students. I am also making wonderful memories with the other Correll Scholars and elementary students; we all have a special connection with each other that I wouldn't trade for anything. Next academic school year, I will actually miss spending my Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Fulford Center.

Being a Correll Scholar has taught me responsibility. I wasn't irresponsible before, but I have learned to manage my time well. Each week, I make time for studying, work, as well as extracurricular activities. I help other college students with classes I excel in, and when I need help I do not hesitate to ask for help! I rather get help to understand material being taught in class, than struggle and not do well. I set aside time every day, even on the weekends, for school work. I also work as a student assistant for the math/science department at East Georgia State College. Other than responsibility, this program has also taught me leadership skills. I am also an Ambassador for East Georgia State College. If it were not for this program, I do not believe I would lead as much in the community.

This program has allowed me to learn more about our area through the class we take each semester with Dr. Cheek. He arranges to have a guest speaker every week for us, and I have learned so much about our local area, the state of Georgia, and about the South. Learning is fun, especially in our Correll class with Dr. Cheek. I have met many professors of East Georgia State College through this course, and have learned many interesting facts about the South!

Being in this program has been an amazing experience. I never would have thought that my first year in college would be so great. I am so blessed that I am able to participate in the Correll Scholar Program. We were invited to the East Georgia State College president's house for a gathering on one Sunday afternoon, and on April 27th we are taking a trip to UGA for the practicum. These memorable experiences with amazing professors and great friends are opportunities that would not be possible without the Correll Scholar Program. I am able to share these fun times with my close friends that I have met because of this program.

This year has been challenging, but it has also been very rewarding. I feel like I have accomplished a lot this school year. I was invited to be a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in January, and I paid my dues; therefore, I am a member of an honor society. I would have never thought I would be invited to be a member of an honor society at the beginning of my college career, but I have realized that hard work pays off. Because of this program, I do believe I can accomplish anything with hard work and dedication.

I would like to thank you for everything you do, and I am honored to be a part of the Correll Scholars program. It has meant the world to me to be a Correll Scholar. This program has helped with the pressures of the first year of college because of all the help and support of the other Scholars and professors at East Georgia State College. It has truly been an honor to be chosen to participate in this program.



Caleb Brown

Describing what it means to be a Correll Scholar is difficult due to all the excitement and joy that comes to mind when hearing the word "Correll." Being a part of the Correll scholarship program has impacted my life in a very positive way and has helped me financially as well as growing to become a better student and leader.

Throughout my two years at East Georgia State College as a Correll scholar, I would say it has been a life changing experience. The program has allowed me to acquire an education, meet new friends, give back to the community, and better myself as a person.

The first year as a Correll we were given the opportunity to give back to the community by tutoring grade school kids. Tutoring kids is an investment in our local economy by investing our time into helping children of our community gain an education. As I have said before, Education is the backbone to our economy. The tutoring not only helped the kids but also helped me as a college student. While dealing with students in grade school you learn quickly to gain a sense of patience as well as leadership skills. Both skills learned can be used throughout life. One thing I really gained from the tutoring experience was to learn to see things from other perspectives and be accepting to new views or ideas. As the year went on we were involved in other community events where we met friends who I will treasure for life. After the first year I would have said that being a Correll was one of the greatest things I have ever been a part of and a life changing experience.

Coming upon completion of my second year it has been proven that being a Correll has been a true blessing. The second year of being a Correll was quite interesting due to us being involved in internships. After interning at Bennett Farms and Cattle I am now sure of what it is I want to do in life. Prior to the internship I was undecided. With the help of staff at East Georgia and the internship I have found the love for what it is I want to do in life. Had I not gotten the opportunity to be a Correll scholar, and have a chance to intern, I would have not known exactly what I would want to pursue in life. Through the internship I gained qualities such as a good work ethic, responsibility, thinking critically, and being able to communicate in an efficient way with others. One of the most important things that I have learned from being a Correll Scholar is to be a leader in whatever environment you are put in, being a leader with a goal to serve is exactly what will get the Correll Scholars where they want to be in their lives. If it was not for the philanthropist efforts to give back to the Swainsboro community I would have never had the amazing opportunity to be a Correll Scholar.



Kaylee Coleman

I could have never imagined the opportunities provided to me by one single scholarship. Opportunity for growth, opportunity to imagine, opportunity to impact. The previous sentence describes, in short, exactly what the Correll Scholarship has meant to me. This scholarship has made college much less stressful, allowing to become more focused on my studies as well as giving me the time to give back to this wonderful area. Through various activities such as bobcat buddies and the different class lectures, I have learned valuable lessons that I will be able to carry into my future career.

First, I would like to elaborate on my statement "opportunity for growth". With this statement, I am specifically referring to the Bobcat Buddies program in which we are given the opportunity to mentor and tutor students with low social economic statuses from Swainsboro Elementary School. These students have given me more true insight to my future career in Special Education than any amount of practicum ever could. These students have shown me different disabilities that are not seen by the naked eye and different struggles that many cannot even begin to realize. Gaining this insight has pushed me to be innovative. I have had to brainstorm ways to help these children learn this material. While they struggle so much with certain things, they yearn so much just to be able to grasp the material. To me, these skills and ideas that I am coming up with to help these students reach these goals are helping me grow into the best teacher that I can possibly be.

Opportunity to imagine. I feel that the opportunity to imagine is something that I value most about this scholarship. Through exposure to many different things, many different people, and many different ideas, I have had the opportunity to imagine bigger. I have had the opportunity to imagine better. Specifically, I would like to discuss a class meeting in which the mayor of Swainsboro came and spoke to our group. Not only did he explain to us the way that the city government worked, he gave us the opportunity to give opinions about things that should come to Swainsboro, events that should be held, and ways that the city can encourage the students to become more involved in the community. Additionally, he wanted to know how he could make the students want to stay in Swainsboro. Personally, this made me think of the potential growth for Swainsboro. I imagined bigger. I imagined "healthier" statistics such as lower poverty and unemployment levels, higher base salaries, higher graduation rates.

Now, I would like to discuss "opportunity to impact". This statement in a way combines the previous two. The "opportunity to grow" and "opportunity to imagine" ignite the "opportunity to impact". Through growth I began to imagine and imagination made me want to impact this community to make my imagination reality. I feel that this all leads back to what I can do in the school system. Education gives opportunity to influence students on a daily basis. When you can influence students on a day-to-day basis you are given the opportunity to inspire, innovate, and ignite. These three little words can make the biggest difference in the lives of your students who are the future of your community. To inspire means to fill someone with the urge, desire, or ability to do something, especially something for a cause bigger than themselves. As a teacher, you can teach students skills that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn. Inspiring students is essential to ensuring that they are successful and that they fulfill all their dreams. When education is better, communities are better. Innovation is what powers the universe. Without innovation, America would not improve, there would not be an increase in technology, new jobs, or new means for survival. Now earlier I mentioned "ignite". I was referring to igniting passion. The type of passion that I have about turning my imagination into a reality. When you have passion for something, you can ignite the passion in others. As an educator, you can ignite passion in your students. When people have a passion for something they want to do more, there is a lust for the thing that they are passionate about. When you are passionate about something you are constantly working toward a goal in that area.

To inspire, innovate and ignite essentially means to be a positive role model. Being a positive role model for my students will influence them to become positive role models who are contributing to society in a positive way. Community development is not something that just happens, it starts with people like me who desire to produce better community members. I sincerely aim to promote personal growth and premier leadership through inspiring my students, innovating education, and igniting a passion in my students for whatever it is that they may be interested in. I aim to serve my community and make it a better place.

Simply put, to me this scholarship has meant one word: opportunity. Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to get as much out of my education here at East Georgia State College. I would not have been given the opportunity to work with students one-on-one to gain the knowledge that has set everything that I have previously discussed into motion. I will be a positive role model producing positive assets for my community. By being awarded this scholarship, it has enabled me to obtain a degree that has put me back into the public-school system and given me the opportunity to lead and guide students to be a part of the bigger picture. While I hate that my time here at East Georgia is quickly approaching an end, I look forward to the opportunities that it has opened for me, specifically opportunities opened by this scholarship. I cannot put into words exactly how this scholarship has influenced me or exactly what it has meant to me, but with this essay I have done my best to do just that. Opportunity.



Lauren Conner

Over the course of the past two years, I have made friends that I hope to keep for the rest of my life, I've discovered that I would like to become a 1st grade teacher, I've been able to give back to the community by tutoring at the Fulford Center and I've gotten an education; this is all because of the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Correll. This scholarship has been a blessing to my family and I, and

I am so grateful that I have had to the opportunity to be a part of this program. I am truly going to miss my fellow scholars, Dr. Cheek, and East Georgia State College when I leave.

When I first met the other scholars, many of them were complete strangers that I never thought I would speak to, much less be friends with. But, by tutoring at the Fulford center, I had the opportunity to get to know them better and now, I consider a few of them to be my close friends. These are the people I have turned to when I needed help on a tough assignment, or forgot to write something down, or if I simply had a bad day. This scholarship has given me people who I hope, will be my lifelong friends.

I am also very thankful that we were able to tutor the children from Swainsboro Elementary last year. I loved working with the children and watching them grow over the course of the year. I loved being able to help them, which is why I have decided to become a teacher. I have always loved children, but this program helped me realize that kids need good teachers. They need someone to not only help them learn, but to love them and to root for them. I want to be that person. I want to make a difference and encourage them to work hard and follow their dreams.

There are not words that can adequately express how thankful I am for Mr. and Mrs. Correll. This scholarship has meant so much to me and I will never be able to repay the Corrells for the kindness they have shown. This program has affected my life in so many way, from my career choice, to my friends, and I would like to believe that it has helped make me a better person. It has opened my eyes to how important it is to serve my community and to help others. By becoming teacher I hope I will be able to give back some of what the Corrells have given to me and inspire others to give back as well.



Lily Deloach

The Correll Program has made a major impact on my life. It has provided me with schooling and experiences that in the future I will be able to use to give back to my community. It allowed me to not stress about how I would and will in the future pay for my schooling. The Correll Program also allowed me to serve my community by tutoring the local elementary school children.

The scholarship has meant the world to me. This scholarship allowed me to attend East Georgia State College without the worry of taking out a loan or feeling like a financial burden on my family. Not to mention the doors and opportunities it has opened for me. By being in the Correll Scholars Program it has made me a leader on campus. It allows me to make a positive impact to other students at East Georgia as well as the local youth. Students on East Georgia recognize us and feel comfortable asking us for help.

The Correll Scholar Program allows us to tutor a few students from Swainsboro Elementary School. This has made me more aware of how I can use my life experiences and knowledge to help others. Tutoring is the highlight of my week. No matter how rough the day or week may have been, I know I can count on the kids to make it better. They are so happy and excited to have college students to help tutor them. Whether it is just simply helping them with their math homework or listening to them read you a book. You can tell by their actions and expressions how grateful they are.

Sometimes balancing school, softball, and tutoring can be difficult, but I would not trade it for the world. The Correll Scholar Program allows me to gain knowledge in my classes that I can later use to better my community for my friends and family. It also allows me to benefit the community now in tutoring the elementary school students and being seen as a leader by my fellow peers. Even though it can stressful to balance everything, I realize how big of an honor it is to be a Correll Scholar. It is an honor I would not trade for the world.

The Correll Program also provides a class in which we can learn more about the Wiregrass region. We have a guest speaker who is a faculty member of East Georgia. They use their special knowledge in their field to help us learn more about where we live and have grown up in. We have learned all about the biology, literature, geology, art and more of the Wiregrass region. I personally did not realize or know most of the information they are telling us. I am grateful for the fact the Correll Program gives me the opportunity to learn more about the Wiregrass region.

The Correll Program also introduced me to Dr. Cheek. He reminds us every class how blessed we are to have this chance to have this scholarship. He also reminds us to use our role in the program wisely. Dr. Cheek makes sure he keeps our Correll class interesting and that there is never a dull moment. Whether it is him making a corny joke or telling us a story about his past, he always has our best interests at heart. Dr. Cheek is always available to guide us in school or even to offer us advice or even let us talk through our personal life problems.

My fellow peers at East Georgia State College look up to the Correll Scholars as leaders. When they are unsure of how to do something in a class, their first move is to ask a Correll Scholar if there is one in their class. They look to us for guidance. If they need tutoring, they turn to us for help. Our peers understand we were given this scholarship due to our academic achievements as well as our leadership skills. It is an amazing feeling to be looked up at by our peers and know that if they need help you are one of their first options for help.

I want to be an Occupational Therapist in my future. I want to be able to help the ones in need in my community. An Occupational Therapist assists people in teaching them how to do the everyday tasks that many people take for granted every day. They help soldiers who have suffered from trauma, people with special needs, as well as older people who are losing their memory. That is just a few ways they can benefit the people of their communities. I am going to be able to take the life experiences I get from being in the Correll Scholar Program to help make me a better Occupational Therapist.

In the Correll class, we are also taught ways we can help serve in our community. Dr. Cheek and our other speakers encourage us constantly to become more involved in our community. They provide us with tips and ideas to do so. They show us how the small things we do add up and make a big impact on the ones around us. Dr. Cheek makes sure we know about the events that are taking place on campus. He also encourages us to attend as many of these events that our schedule allows whether it is a talent show, athletic event, or book reading on campus.

The Correll Scholar program has allowed me to grow as a person. It gives me many opportunities normal college students could only dream of. We are able to attend special events and attend school without the worry of financial problems. Since we do not have to worry about financial stability, we are able to better focus on our studies and serving our community. The Correll Scholarship means the world to me.



Carlie Dixon

When I was getting close to graduating high school, I was anxious to decide which college I would attend. I was wanting something small, close to home, and with very friendly people. East Georgia State College was the college I wanted to attend and I didn't want to go anywhere else. East Georgia was the perfect college for me because it was inexpensive, close to home, and it was small just like my high school. When I got accepted to East Georgia, I was overwhelmed with excitement. What I did not know was that was only the beginning for me and journey at East Georgia. My counselor told me

about the Correll Scholarship and I immediately applied for it. That was the best decision I have ever made.

The great journey began when I found out that I made it through the first part of the process. I then found out that I would be going for an interview. The interview part of the scholarship was something different for me, but I was looking forward to it. When I got to East Georgia, I saw many familiar faces, but I also saw many unfamiliar faces. That didn't last long. As soon as we all got there for the interview, we all started interacting with each other and we all got real close. At that point, even if I would not have received the scholarship, the interview portion brought me many new friends that I knew I could keep throughout my time at East Georgia. The interview portion also taught me many professional techniques that I could use for the rest of my life. The Correll Scholarship was already impacting my life even when I had not known that I would receive it. I wanted to be a part of the Correll scholarship because I knew it was a great program and I knew it would benefit me in many ways. When I found out that I was one out of the twenty to receive the scholarship, I was so shocked. I was so excited to find out who the others were and I couldn't wait for all of us to meet.

The first day we all met was real exciting but we were also all nervous. Little did we know that one day we would all be great and close friends. The Correll Scholarship has brought me many new friends and lifelong friends. That was one of my fears of going to college, that I would not have any friends to talk to. The scholarship helped solve that fear and now I am never scared that I will not be talked to. We all see each other every day and it is so nice to just get told "hey" or "how are you" by a Correll friend. Knowing that we have one another also helps are self-esteem and self-confidence because we know that we will be there for each other. This scholarship has helped the group create a special bond that is indescribable. My favorite part about the scholarship is tutoring the Swainsboro Elementary School children. These children with always hold a special place in my heart and I will never forget them. If it were not for the Correll Scholarship, I would have never known these kids and they would not have been able to change my life in the way they have. These kids have shown me different aspects in life and different ways to enjoy life. These kids are so full of excitement and happiness, and their faces light up when they walk through the doors of the Fulford Center. I love being able to help all the Bobcat Buddies improve in school and even become their friend. Without this scholarship, I would not be able to experience tutoring these amazing kids.

This scholarship has also helped me and my family tremendously financially. My parents and I were already trying to figure out the best way to pay for my college. They told me no matter what they had to do, I would be going to college just as I wanted. We were already talking about getting one more job or getting financial aid, which might would cause debt later down the road. When I received this scholarship, my family and I were relieved and felt very blessed. This scholarship was a blessing to my family because now I can go to college without them having to worry about college financially. They can focus more on my little sister in helping her instead of stressing about college funds. This scholarship has also helped me in my leadership skills. I have learned how to be myself and to help others who need help. This scholarship has also widened my knowledge in Georgia. The classroom part of the scholarship has taught me many new things about Georgia that can benefit me in my future. I have learned about the biological parts of Georgia, Georgia literature, Georgia art, and many other things. This scholarship has brought me close friends, knowledge about Georgia and most importantly it has brought me closer to the East Georgia State College community.

I am very blessed to have received this scholarship and I am very blessed to use it my full four years at East Georgia State College. Without this scholarship, my college experience would be very different and I would not have the friends I have now. This is the greatest opportunity I have ever had. I always tell people about this scholarship and I encourage high school students to apply for it. Not only is the Correll Scholarship a great experience, there are also very special people who make sure the Correll Scholarship possible. Receiving this scholarship not only impacts me as a student, but it also impacts my family. I hope in a few more years my younger sister can have this opportunity of receiving the Correll Scholarship. This scholarship has meant so much to me and I am not sure where I would be without it.



Garrett Dixon

As I finish my freshman year of college, I would like to look back on these last two semesters and express my gratitude to the Correll Scholars Program of East Georgia State College. If I would not have received the Correll Scholarship, it would have been a great struggle to pay my tuition for college. Receiving the Correll Scholarship has not only helped me financially. The Correll Scholarship has also given me the motivation to not give up and to keep trying my best to further my education. The friendships I have made during my time at East Georgia State College and in the Correll Scholars Program are ones that will carry on well after I graduate from East Georgia State College. I have

thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Bobcat Buddies Program not only because I was helping the children of Swainsboro Elementary with their abilities to learn, but it was also a good opportunity to practice my social skills among the youth of Swainsboro. The three main things that I will take away from the Correll Scholars Program is patience, friendship, and kindness.

Patience is key when you are working with twenty children that want to do everything but finish their homework. It was a good experience to work with the children of Swainsboro Elementary School because it helped me by molding my listening skills and giving me more patience towards the kids. Mrs. Jean Schwabe was an excellent director in the Bobcat Buddies Program. She was always there to help any of the Correll scholars or kids that were being tutored and she never failed to give us all a good laugh or brain-teaser. My new outlook on how important patience is in the real world will help me tremendously throughout my life.

The friendships that I have made not only in the Correll Scholars Program, but also all around Swainsboro and East Georgia State College are the kind that will carry on throughout the rest of my college career and into adulthood. I never knew that I could meet so many good people, not only students, at one place. I hope I am speaking for all the Correll Scholars in my class when I say that it will not be the same when I do not get to laugh with them every day. It has been a blessing to be able to call most of the people I see on campus friend and get along with nearly everyone.

I was not always very high up on the list of kind people in the world, but working with the children of Swainsboro Elementary School changed my outlook on how important it is to be kind to everyone you come in contact with. It took some time but with the help of my peers and Mrs. Jean Schwabe I was able to become a much friendlier person in many aspects of my college career. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that the Correll Scholars Program.

The Correll Scholars Program has also humbled me very much. I am so blessed to have received this scholarship. Without the Correll Scholarship, paying my tuition would have been nearly impossible. To receive this scholarship over the three other people that applied for it from my school not only humbles me, but motivates me to never give up, even when the academic road gets rough.

The Correll Scholarship has inspired me to do whatever I can to better East Georgia State College and the city of Swainsboro. I am not a local of Swainsboro so it means a little more to me to know that every day that I come to college as a Correll Scholar I will one day do my part to better the region for future generations. Learning about the region that East Georgia State College is in, known as the wiregrass region, was a real treat because it shows that the Correll Scholars Program is not just about going to school and helping out, but also learning about all the different plants and wildlife around Swainsboro. In the Correll class we also learned a lot about famous Georgia writers and artists.

The Correll class was an opportunity for us to explore many of the different four-year programs at East Georgia State College, and also it was a great tool to help all the scholars decide their major. There were many guest speakers that came and presented us with everything from nursing programs, nature walks, and the mayor of Swainsboro even made an appearance, which might have been my favorite speaker. Mr. Purcell of the art department also gave a presentation that was by far the most entertaining because of the infamous bucket man himself.

I would like to thank Dr. Lee Cheek for all he has done for me in this very exclusive scholarship. Without the help of Dr. Cheek I would not have even made it this far in college, he is an extremely helpful advisor and a good friend of mine. Dr. Cheek has helped all the Correll Scholars in every way; from registering for classes to just calming us down when college gets the best of us sometimes. I am very excited to have the opportunity to be an intern in the field of my major, not many people can say that they have done that. The internship opportunity will help me greatly by helping me figure out where I want to take my communications major. I was able to meet congressman and senators with Professor Randy Carter at the Eggs and Issues breakfast in Swainsboro and that was an experience I will not forget any time soon. I would like to thank the Corrells again for giving me this scholarship. By receiving the Correll Scholarship, so many doors have been opened for me and my career path. It is a true blessing to be able to call myself a Correll Scholar of East Georgia State College. Thank you once more to the Corrells, they have done so much for all of us and I know we will be forever grateful.



Jessica Dixon

There are not enough words to express what the Correll Scholarship means to me, especially not in the one-thousand-word limit that we were given to express our gratitude and give an insight on how the Corrells have affected each Correll Scholar individually. I would first like to express my gratitude to the Corrells for such an astounding program. I think I can speak for every Correll Scholar when I say that we are all truly blessed to have been chosen for one of the best opportunities that East Georgia State College has to offer.

When I first started college I was completely set on going to get my doctorate in veterinary medicine after pursuing a bachelor's in biology from East Georgia State College. After long thought, and my experience with the Correll scholars I decided to change my career path to become a nurse. During our class time with Dr. Cheek we were able to hear from guest speakers on campus about what they do and what kind of career we could pursue with the majors that we are currently seeking. After given this opportunity to listen to others thoughts about what I could choose to do with my degree I decided to change my major, along with career path and focus on helping people directly, not only through their pets.

For my last semester at East Georgia State College we were to shadow a faculty member on campus. Since I was employed with the CHOICE program on campus, I decided to take that opportunity to find out more information about the program that I had been working for. I also took the chance to research the opportunities I could have within my new career path to work with an inclusive program on a college campus. If it wasn't for the Correll Scholar program, I would have never looked into a new career path nor would I have ever found a way to continue helping students with disabilities but still following my chosen career path. I truly believe that a career in nursing will fulfill my drive to help others and I strive to be able to give back to my community as Mr. and Mrs. Correll did with creating the Correll Scholarship program.

One of the most important things that I have gained from everything that I have been involved with at East Georgia State College, including the Correll Scholarship is the friendships. Throughout the two semesters that I was included in the Correll Scholarship I have been surrounded and taken in by students who are just as driven as I am to continue serving our community in every way that we can. Having such positive influences to surround myself with within the program has been so rewarding and I will forever cherish the friendships and memories I have made by serving our community together as Correll Scholars.

I have mentioned the opportunities I have been given throughout this essay numerous times but I truly cannot express my gratitude for what the title of being a Correll Scholar has given me throughout my time at East Georgia State College. One of my favorite opportunities that we were given is to spend an afternoon with President Bob Boehmer and his wife, Joyce Boehmer. How amazing is it to be able to have one on one time with the president of our beloved college? Surely not every student has the opportunity to form a type of a relationship with the president of our college along with the first lady, and that's is a remarkable thing I will cherish when I leave East Georgia State College.

The life skills and qualities I have gained from this scholarship are absolutely amazing and will get me so far in life and my career. Throughout the program we all strive to become better students and even more importantly better philanthropists starting as freshman in college when well-deserving individuals are given the opportunity to serve as a Correll Scholar. Before my time at East Georgia State College, my reign as Miss East Georgia State College 2016, and the being a part of the Correll Scholar program, I was unable to truly display my personal best leadership skills, communication skills and ability to influence others as well as impact their lives. This program has truly left me with a remarkable set of skills that will assist me in my future in every way possible, through self-growth and financial stability the Correll Program has been an amazing honor to be a part of.

As my time at East Georgia State College comes to a close, I have taken time to reminisce on the many things that I have been truly blessed with at this college, and the Correll Scholarship will always come to mind. I will forever cherish the opportunities, friendships and good qualities that I have gained throughout my experience as a Correll Scholar. I know that these skills will get me so far in my career. Once again, I'd like to thank the Corrells for this amazing experience that I was given to serve my college and my community. I strive to give back the way they did one day, because they truly have changed my life, my views on life and my future by giving me this experience.



Bethaney Fortner

On Friday, April 29, 2016 I received an email, little did I know it would be the beginning of a journey like none other. Upon opening it, reading it, and finding out that I had been chosen as a "Correll Scholar", the choice was suddenly made of where I would attend college. No longer was it a difficult decision of whether or not I was going to be a Bulldog or a Bear. I was certain that I was going to be a Bobcat—an East Georgia State College Bobcat! Nonetheless, I was ecstatic because I had received such an honor. I was a recipient of one of the most lucrative scholarships in the University System

of Georgia, which meant that my financial obstacles of going to college would no longer be a burden I must carry. When asked the question, "What has the Correll Scholarship meant to me?" It is simple. Being able to attend my first year of college without having to pay anything out of pocket, being able to be surrounded by 19 other fellow first year Correll Scholars, who are equally as inspired as I am for their future aspirations. Yet, most importantly being able to have the opportunity of service, all adequately answer the question.

Let me begin with the catch phrase of the scholarship (honestly, what gained my attention) "Earn \$2,500 per semester." All I can say is thank you! Never in my life would I have imagined that a couple whom I have never met before would be willing to give up their hard earned money, so that not only me, but 19 other scholars could be given a free college education. Because of your generous amount of giving, I was reimbursed from both fall and spring semester. However, that money went directly into my savings account. Not only are you all allowing me to gain an associate's degree through your kindness, but it will also aide to further my education once I transfer. From tuition, to a calculator for calculus, to the rental of a biology book, and everything in between, Mr. Pete and Mrs. Ada Lee, all to you I owe.

Now, perhaps I should enlighten you on how well we scholars have come together and molded into individuals that I know you would be so proud of. From the softball field, to the baseball diamond, from Burke County to Toombs and many in between, we all come from such a vast array of backgrounds however; we all have one thing in common—we are truly honored to be titled "Correll Scholars." During fall semester, it became quite comical some days during Dr. Cheek's class. We would find ourselves antagonizing Abigail or Braxton because of their softball and baseball attire, and we would say that we needed shirts that said "Correll's." I feel certain there isn't another college across the state that has been able to bring together 20 of the most elite young people into a class, with the focus of building a community of leaders and keeping them together. We are truly like one big family with Dr. Cheek leading us. I only knew one scholar before we were chosen. Now, these once strangers are my dearest friends. Each one is so different and intellectually talented in their own certain way. Thank you for blessing me with the opportunity to have lifelong friends.

One thing I will never forget is walking into the Fulford Center for the first time—the day of interviews, and hearing the story of this magnificent building. I remember learning all about how it was named after Mrs. Sudie and her passion for leaders. Specifically, her passion for teaching and molding elementary aged children. Through the help of my innate love for children as well and the help of our beautiful building on campus, twice a week I am able to help change lives. Every time I walk into the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I catch myself glancing over at the portrait of Mrs. Sudie hanging on the wall. The thought always crosses my mind, "with the good Lord's guiding hand, may I enlighten a child a little more today than I did the day before." Every day is a new challenge, but that is what I love about it.

Unlike a lot of scholars, prior to Bobcat Buddies, I had no background experience with tutoring. However, it did not take long for me to catch on. From the very first day, to where we are now (only three sessions left), these children have made tremendous gains. It is truly humbling to see children come to us for 1 ½ hours, twice a week and be able to just let all of their burdens disappear. Some have never been in "such a pretty house" as the Fulford Center, while some have never even been given an afternoon snack unless they come to us. At Bobcat Buddies, it is more than just helping them with their schoolwork, it is mentorship, and that is what Mrs. Sudie was all about.

I have thoroughly enjoyed living up to the Correll distinctions this year. In the fall, I finished with a 3.47 GPA due to a slight challenge with Calculus; while now I am pleased to say I should finish the semester with all A's. At times it can be challenging, but who does not like a good challenge. I have always been an overachiever, so I aim to do my absolute best, plus more. The component of service will be one I will never forget. It has taught me to open up my eyes and to be more aware of the diversity. Just because I was raised in a home where my parents adored me and expected the very best from me, many of our students come from completely different backgrounds.

Mr. Pete and Mrs. Ada Lee, thank you for your investment and belief in my education here at East Georgia. God Bless!



T.J. Freeman

There have been many things about this program that have meant so much to me and the experience that I have had is one that will be unforgettable. Along with the different events, people, lessons and activities with this group this scholarship has given me a group of lifelong friends that I would not trade for anything. The Scholarship has also taught me a good deal about leadership and that has given me a new way of dealing with situations, which

that means a whole new world of opportunities has opened up. The things that have meant so much to me about this scholarship is the close friends I have made and the generosity the Corrells have shown us these past couple years.

College is where students come to expand their minds and learn and being in this program has given me that opportunity. The Correll program has showed me that giving back to your community and helping make it grow is the best thing you can do. Giving back means a lot to me and while in this program I have had great opportunities to do so. If I would not have received the scholarship I may not have started college on time so a big meaning for me is that I received a college education and I am so grateful that the Corrells have given me that opportunity to make a better life for me and show me that giving back has its rewards. Without this program I would not have been able to achieve the things I have and would not have given back as much as I have.

The other thing that has meant so much to me in this program in the great friends I have made and will always have. The friends in this program with me are some of the most out-going, selfless, and more respectful people there are. We have all gained great friendships from the Correll Scholarship and none of us would disagree that teamwork and friendship is a big part of what has helped up get through East Georgia so far. When you come to college you expect to meet new people and make new friends but when I was given this scholarship I never expected to gain this group of friends and the experiences I have had alongside of them. I also never expected to meet the great professors that have helped out with the scholarship over the past couple years and my relationships with them will stick with me forever.

This scholarship is a whole lot more than just a way for your college to get paid it is a great experience and I would not have wanted to attend East Georgia in any other way. From the great lectures and friends to the dreaded papers and projects the way I look at East Georgia would not be the same if I would not have been in the Correll program. This scholarship means new people, new experiences, and new friends that I wouldn't want to give up for anything. Receiving this scholarship has meant so much to me and many people in my life and I am very grateful to be a Correll Scholar.



Tiffani Gordon

The Correll Scholarship program has had a major impact on my life that will forever be remembered. After finding out I was chosen to be a Correll Scholar, I was overwhelmed with happiness because I knew what a huge help this would be to my parents. Little did I know that not only would I just be saving my parents money, but I would also meet friends and have opportunities that I would never forget. I have learned so much about the area I live in and just how many special qualities it has. This scholarship has turned in to being way more than a money thing for me. The Correll Scholarship program has given me amazing friends, helped me assist a

child, shown me endless opportunities, and enlightened me about the area I live in.

The first time I met the other scholars I was nervous because this was a whole new stage in my life where I knew barely anyone. Through this program I have met friends that I will never forget. Many people say that the friends you meet in college will be your lifelong friends, and with this group I believe that will also be true in my life. Memories have been made with these people, and those memories will last long after my college days are over. Being able to bond and have a connection with others my age has been so much fun. I cannot think of a better group of college students to have been chosen for this scholarship.

This scholarship has also allowed me to tutor a fourth grader from Swainsboro Elementary School every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. I never imagined that one little boy could make such an impact in my life. Being able to invest in him and help him with his school work has been so rewarding. He always seems to brighten my day. Nothing makes me happier than him coming in and telling me he was accepted into beta club, or that he had a great report card. It's the little things like asking him about his day, complimenting his work, or playing games with him that I can tell brighten his day. Seeing his happiness in turn brightens my day, and I realize how lucky I am to have this opportunity placed before me. When I was initially told that I would have to tutor I was not so sure that I would be good at it; however, after these two semesters I am so thankful this opportunity was placed before me. Children are so special and being able to help them grow in their education is pivotal. I truly believe that not only has tutoring helped my student grow, but it has also helped me grow in many ways as well. Knowing that I am someone he looks up to makes me realize that I have to set a good example for him, and this makes me strive to be a better person.

Through the Correll Scholarship class, I have met so many professors and learned more than I ever knew about the region I live in. These professors have opened my eyes and showed me the various jobs and industries available around me. I never knew all the jobs offered in this area, but the possibilities are endless. So many people feel as though they have to leave our region in order to be successful; however, there are opportunities for all kinds of jobs that will lead to success. The region we live in is full of nature and wildlife that is so critical in making our area what it is. I have learned the importance of giving back to my community and just how much we are needed in the future to help our community grow. Often times college students are so ready to leave the town they live in and get far away, but some of us need to stay. Through college we learn skills that we need to bring back to our community to make a change and help our community grow.

The Correll Scholarship has meant hope, success, and opportunity for me. I have been given hope that I will be able to get through my college career without being stopped due to financial inability. This has also meant success to me. I have felt that with your assistance, along with the assistance of Dr. Cheek, my possibilities seem almost endless. I know that through this program success will definitely be in my future. Also, many opportunities have come along with this scholarship. One opportunity is that I will be allowed to do an internship in the field I want to study in the upcoming semester. I know that this internship is not only going to open up the doors to my future, but it will also allow me to learn things I have never known before. The opportunities I have been given through this scholarship has made me realize the many doors that will be opened in my future through getting my education.

Thank you so much for choosing me to be a Correll Scholar. This has been a life changing opportunity. Your generosity has been appreciated more than you will ever know. Being able to further my education with your assistance has made me realize what huge things I can accomplish in life. This scholarship has been a blessing that I cannot even fully begin to put in words. I cannot wait to be able to look back on my career at East Georgia State College and see all the awesome accomplishments and opportunities I will have had a chance to be a part of thanks to your help. You have made a lasting impact on not only me, but also many other students through this great program. My education is of utmost importance to me, and without your help I could not have gotten as far as I already have, or as far as I will go.



Elizabeth Gross

Thank you so very much for funding my associate's degree along with many others. It really means a lot to me because now I will be able to go to my next university without any prior debt which will really lessen my hardship. I currently work two jobs while attending school and I was able to save some money for my journey to Georgia Southern University rather than spend it all on tuition at East Georgia. The scholarship money I had leftover was enough for me to get a better working laptop for school and I was able to put some of that money aside for later, too.

Another reason this scholarship helped me out a lot is because I am not eligible to receive basic financial aid because my parents make too much money even though they are already putting my step daughter through college which takes a lot of money. Also they aren't rich by any means and have a lot more expenses to take care of and many of which not even related to me at all. Colleges like to think that parents' paychecks go directly into students' tuition and this is almost never the case. Like me, most students have to work to get what they want and need and it's really awesome that you both started this scholarship that helps students like me. Thanks to you guys in part, I will be graduating from East Georgia in May, and you guys have given that to me, and that is just so amazing because you don't even really know me and education is the best gift you could ever give a person. You know the saying "give a man a fish... teach a man to fish..." that sort of thing. And I hope that the students here at East Georgia, especially the Correll Scholars and myself included, go on to accomplish great things and we would have to credit you guys for your help. You guys are so selfless and kind and it's nice to know that there are people like you out there to keep doing what you do and also to inspire others to support just causes. Maybe us Correll Scholars will go on to accomplish great things and have enough monetary success to start our own scholarships and non-profits. It would be funny to call the kids, "The Gross Scholars." Gross is my last name ha ha!. Well I would probably call it something else because my name is a little weird but the inspiration to do something like that would come from you guys because it would only be fair to show others the same kindness and opportunity I was shown. I just want you guys to know that what you are doing is incredible and you are helping so many young people have a better future. You both really understand that being a college student isn't easy, and many of us need extra help. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and definitely not put to waste.



Daryll Henderson

Mr. and Mrs. Correll have truly blessed me with the opportunity to attend East Georgia State College by offering the Correll Scholarship. The Correll Scholarship is a very lucrative and rewarding scholarship that I was very fortunate to receive. If it were not for the financial support of this scholarship, I do not think that I would have been able to cover all of my expenses to attend college. This scholarship has provided me an opportunity to learn new things and provide service to the community. I believe the Correll Scholarship will help me maximize my full potential. The requirements and obligations have

pushed me to not slack and keep myself focused on school. Being able to work along with other bright and smart minds is a reward itself.

The Correll professor Dr. Cheek always makes sure each student is headed toward the right direction with our classes but also speaks to us in a friendly manner with his joyful and energetic persona. He cares about each and every one of his students. He takes the time to get to know all of us on a personal level so we can feel like we are cared about instead of being just another student. Every week in class we are presented with a professor from different fields of study who teaches us fascinating new materials. For example, a professor presented a slideshow of different cool attractions around Georgia and jobs associated in that field that people may not have had an idea of. Another presenter talked of her degree in ecology and the places she has visited and worked that looked cool and interesting. With every professor that presents to the class, it seems that new insights and potential areas of intrigue are brought up that helps the class understand new things that we may have never thought of. It really makes you believe that if you set your sights on a goal, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to, no matter what your background.

The Bobcat Buddies program provided me the opportunity to provide service to the community by tutoring Swainsboro Elementary School students. Every Tuesday and Thursday the Correll Scholars help the elementary school students with their homework in a variety of subjects. My Bobcat Buddies were fifth graders Abraham and Irvin. When I first partnered with them, they were kind of shy and quiet. As the program progressed and they became comfortable, they became energetic and kept conversations funny and upbeat. Assisting those two taught me many things as well. When assisting people, you learn many skills such as responsibility, reliability, adaptability, and patience. Establishing a relationship with the students is an important aspect of tutoring. Simply being able to be there for your buddy and lifting them up could go a long way in lifting their spirits. On some days, the kids are a little riled up from school, but it's important not to scream at and berate the kids. It is very effective to just speak with them at their level to try and calm them down. Many of the kids just need someone to look up to, a positive role model in their lives, to take the next step in being all that they can be.

The Correll Scholarship also helps me to start planning for my future career. I am majoring in Computer Science although I am not sure what path I want to take for my career. I have mulled over becoming a computer systems analyst, network system administrator, computer systems engineer, or a database administrator. East Georgia State College provides classes that have transfer credit and the Correll Scholarship has allowed me to take those classes at this small institution instead of struggling to see the professor at a large institution. After I receive my associates degree from East Georgia I plan to transfer to Georgia Tech to receive my bachelors degree. In the second year of the Correll Scholars Program, we have the opportunity to engage in internships. This will give us the chance to gain experience in the field that we are majoring in. Getting experience in our respective fields is a great way for us to see if the job we are interning for is what we want to do as a career. Also, establishing connections with people from that field will give us an advantage when applying for other jobs.

Having the Correll Scholarship grants me the opportunity to go on exciting trips that teaches me fantastic new things. Dr. Boehmer and his wife graciously opened their home and invited the first and second year Correll Scholars to a social. The social allowed the first year Correll Scholars to meet and make friends with the second year Correll Scholars. It was a wonderful experience to be around the fellow Corrells. Every person is unique and had a different story to tell. In the spring semester of the Correll Scholars program, the Correll Scholars engaged in the Correll Practicum. The Practicum was held at the University of Georgia. While at the University of Georgia, we visited the College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital as well as the Journalism - Peabody Awards center. We learned so much and had insight into possible careers that we may want to enter.

The Correll Scholarship has meant a great deal to me. As I said before, if it were not for the Correll Scholarship I would not be able to attend college. Being part of the Correll Scholars Program is very rewarding. Not only is it rewarding financially, but having the feeling that you are able to make a difference in the community is a reward in itself. The Correll Scholars Program will help you establish your future in your career. Providing service to the community is an important aspect of showing leadership and responsibility that your future employers will look for. I highly recommend the Correll Scholarship to anyone with the drive to be all that they can be and has a passion to give back to the community.



Kara Henry

My experience as a Correll Scholar has been phenomenal. I do not know where to begin talking about all of the benefits that I have been blessed with through this scholarship. First off, I want to thank the Correll family from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done and will continue to do for not only East Georgia State College, but our community and other communities, as well. I strive to, one day, have the heart and dedication that you all possess, and to give back to my community for all that it has done for my peers and I. You all are wonderful people who have started a wonderful

organization that gives students great financial, social, and educational benefits, and anyone who receives this scholarship does not realize what a blessing it truly is.

When I applied for this scholarship, I was surprised that I had even been considered as a recipient. I had very little hope that I would have been selected as one of the twenty students who would make up the new group of Correll Scholars. I had only been through one interview in my entire life, which was for my job, where I was up against two or three other people. The interview for the Correll scholarship was a bit different, though, as I was up against somewhere around 40 people. I was nervous, as I am sure everyone else was, too. I had the very first interview, so I had no idea what to expect. God pulled me through my interview just as He has pulled me through with this blessing of a scholarship.

I love being at East Georgia State College. I was going to attend my first two years of college here regardless of whether or not I received this scholarship, but I am so thankful that I did. I love the fact that it is a small college in a small town. I am blessed to still be able to live at home with my parents. Although I would have loved to have the "full college experience," I could not be happier with where I am and who I am around. I cannot express how much this scholarship will help my family and I financially. Every refund that I get is deposited straight into my savings account, and I will not touch it until I graduate from East Georgia State College and enroll somewhere else.

I have made tons of new friends and reunited with some that I have not seen since fifth grade. Not only have I just made friends, but I have made a family at East Georgia State College, and that family is an outstanding group of young adults called the Correll Scholars. When we first started school last semester, I only knew two or three of my fellow Correll Scholars, but now, I feel like I have known all of them for my entire life. Through tutoring the children from Swainsboro Elementary School, to doing our own little things on the weekend, I have made friends that I feel will last a lifetime, and I will forever be thankful for the friendship that they have given to me. I have recently went through a very hard time in my life, and although I have only knew my little group of friends for a few months, they have been more of a friend and supported me and my decisions more than any other "friend" I've ever had. I do not even want to think about leaving East Georgia State College and parting ways with my friends. After all, they are the best friends that I've ever had.

One of my favorite parts about this program so far has been tutoring the children from Swainsboro Elementary School. When we first started tutoring, I did not think that I would like it much because I've never been good at tutoring. I can say that I have thoroughly enjoyed spending the last two semesters with the children and getting to know them. Every time I run into one of them around town, they always come up to me and hug me, and I love it. I am going to miss seeing them twice a week, but I know that the upcoming semesters are filled with great opportunities, too.

The Correll classes have been very interesting. I love learning about our region and all of the components that make it so unique. I also enjoy the guest speakers that take time out of their schedule to come speak to us about different issues. Each of the speakers are so passionate about their presentation topic. Dr. Cheek is also very enthusiastic. He keeps us on our toes, but always keeps us laughing.

If I would not have received this scholarship, I would not have been as motivated to take as many credit hours as I am. I work part-time at Citizens Bank of Swainsboro. I am a bank teller, and I have been there since June of 2016. Especially during my first semester in college, I did not want to overload myself with more work than I could handle on top of working every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. During my first semester as a full-time student at East Georgia, I took 12 credit hours. I had already taken 6 credit hours while I was in high school through the MOWR program. This semester, I am taking 15 credit hours, and next semester, I will be taking 16 credit hours. I am blessed to have a boss that understands how important my education is to me, and I am very fortunate that she is lenient with my work schedule. Of course, they need me at work as much as I can be there, but they understand that college comes first.

I cannot begin thank the Correll family enough for supporting not only my family and I, but all of my fellow Correll Scholars and their families. Thank you all for all of your contributions to East Georgia State College. They are very much appreciated by the students and the staff.



Taylor Hooks †

To start off, my biggest thanks go out to the entire Correll family. Without them the opportunity of this scholarship and meeting some of the best children would not be possible; along with some pretty awesome friends as well. The children have taught me, and the other scholars I'm sure, a lot. As college students, we are always on the grind or have a task in the back of our minds that we have to accomplish or check off our "to-do" list. It is not often that we just get to sit down and relax. While tutoring these children we get to play games, color, and Mrs. Jean always has a good brain teaser. Even though we are still engaging in school work it is a major

step back for us and we can really enjoy the down time along with the presence of some great kids!

At the start of the Fall 2016 semester all the scholars were skeptical about the tutoring. We asked several times why we had to tutor kids but now, I am so happy that tutoring is something that we scholars get to do, along with the entire Correll scholar group. We have built relationships with these children. We get excited to see them two days a week and they get even more excited to see us! Some weeks I find myself wishing I got to see them more than just two days a week. They tell us their problems and expect us to help them work it out. They tell us about their day, family, school, hobbies, they tell us about everything and that is what this program is all about. We get to meet their parents and for them, an adult, to thank us for helping their child is one of the most rewarding things to hear. I know growing up my parents could not help me with schoolwork and I wish back then I could be in Bobcat Buddies. My entire perspective has changed so much about this program since last semester; definitely for the better.

Another lesson I have learned through this program is to be giving. Not just from the Correll's giving me money that allows me pay for college but from the children as well. Us scholars can give an hour our time, our knowledge of how to work a simple math problem, or just give them 10 minutes of attention while they tell us about their day. Giving to these children in the simplest of ways means the world to them; and in return it means equally as much to us. Seeing their faces light up when they talk about something they are passionate about is something that really hits home for me. When I was growing up and riding horses people would always look at me with a puzzled look because they did not understand and that was really upsetting to me. Other students referred to as the "horse girl" because I was horse crazy and it simply did not make sense to them. So to listen to the children talk about the craziest hobbies which brings them happiness really makes me smile!

I like to go to the recreation department and watch my younger cousin play baseball. He is 9 years old and is very passionate about the sport. I was at the park one afternoon and several of the children from tutoring were there as well. As soon as they saw me they ran up and gave me hugs and told me how their day was. Here I am, an adult, sitting cross legged in the wood chips of the parks playground talking with four children. It was such a rewarding feeling. I got to meet some of their parents while I was there as well. I really did not believe the children's parents appreciated us very much but my mind was quickly changed. When I finally got up and got some more hugs and went on I could not help but feel peace inside. To know that those children shared friendships with me, looked up to me, and missed me on days we did not have tutoring was something completely indescribable. That is what I believe this scholarship is about. I know without the money I do not know how I would afford college but it goes so far beyond that. Getting to meet these kids and help them is what it is all about to me now and I will miss them so much when this semester ends. My first kid I was partnered with in the fall was the most amazing one in the entire group. His name is Marlin and we all adored him. He did not come from the best family he told us but he talked about his parents like they hung the moon. He moved to Florida in December and it broke all of our hearts. We cried the day he left and I would give anything to see him one more time before the semester ended.

I am truly blessed and thankful to have received this scholarship so I could better my education and pursue my dream of becoming a Pharmacist. I am even more blessed and thankful to have met 20 of the sweetest, smartest, and most fun to be around children. Being able to tutor and interact with these children is so humbling and really brings me back down to earth and takes me out of the hustle and bustle of today's world. It is so rewarding to work with the children and to see the look of excitement on their faces when they get a problem correct or finish their assignment. I am honored to represent East Georgia State College and the entire Correll family as a Correll scholar. I will forever be grateful to the Correll's for the amazing opportunity. This scholarship means so much to me. I am genuinely going to miss meeting two days a week to see these kids. They have been an amazing blessing to us scholars.



Hannah Jenkins

What has the Correll Scholarship meant to me? It has given me endless opportunities, new friendships, and experiences I would have never been able to have anywhere else. When I chose to come to East Georgia State College I would have never dreamed I would have the opportunity to do all of the things that the Correll Scholarship program has allowed me to do. When I was writing my essay for this scholarship, I talked about how I wanted to become a nurse and work in my hometown, but over the past two years my plans have changed. I have set my goals even higher and I want to now become a physical therapist. Once I graduate from East

Georgia in the Spring of 2017, I plan to attend Augusta University in the summer then transfer to Georgia Southern University in the Fall to obtain my degree in Exercise Science. Throughout the Correll Scholarship program I have realized that I can achieve even greater things such as going to graduate school once I finish with my bachelors degree. When I first came to East Georgia I did not believe that would ever be able to achieve such a hard degree, but the support group I have had behind me these past two years has boosted my confidence significantly.

My first semester at East Georgia State College my group of scholars participated in tutoring the Swainsboro Elementary School students, which was one of the biggest eye openers for me. I enjoyed meeting and working with the students and the reason it was such an eye opener for me was because not all children are as fortunate as I was as a child. Not every child has a parent or parents who are able to sit down with them every night and make sure that they get their homework done and that they are not struggling in school. It made me feel very good that I could make sure that a child had all of their work done and that they were finally feeling confident with their ability to do the work. I felt as if I was being not only a mentor, but a big sister to my "Bob Cat Buddy".

Once we were finished tutoring after our first year as Correll Scholars, we moved on to our internship. I chose to do my internship at the Burke County Hospital, which is in the town that I am from, in the Physical Therapy department. Since I was only in my second year of college, it was not actually time to do an internship, but through the Correll Scholarship program I got a head start on my internship and could actually see if I could really see myself doing that job for the rest of my life. Most internships do not occur until you are basically finished with all of your major classes, but we got to intern before we even got to our major courses, which I really liked. During my internship I got to deal with patients young and old, athletic and non-athletic, and people who were recovering from surgery. While I was there Mr. Von, who I interned with, had planned for me to experience therapy with a swing bed patient, but the patient was actually moved to a different location before I got the experience. When working with all of the different patients, I felt like I was really learning a lot not only from my internship leader, but from the patients as well. I would spend most of the time with the patients talking about how they acquired their injury and what their treatment plan was, which helped me to grow a personal relationship with each and every one of them. I have not always been able to talk to just anyone, but when I was thrown into college and did not know anyone, I learned to communicate with others, even if I did not know them at all. The Correll Scholarship program helped me to develop social skills that I did not even know I had, which I think really helped me during my internship so that I could talk to all of my patients without feeling nervous at all.

When I came to East Georgia State College, I only knew two people in the whole school. I was honestly scared to go from my small private school with only 450 students, to an overwhelming amount of students, who were all strangers to me. Going to a smaller college has been a huge blessing for me, since I have never been in a larger school. I believe that East Georgia State College has prepared me for Georgia Southern University in so many ways. Even though Georgia Southern is much bigger, the Correll Scholarship program has taught me how to communicate with strangers and get out of my comfort zone, when I usually would not.

When deciding on the right college for me, East Georgia State College was not my first choice. I had original plans to attend Augusta University, but once my high school guidance counselor told me about the Correll Scholarship at East Georgia State College, I went immediately to my computer and researched what it was really all about. Once I saw that this scholarship was a leadership and a service oriented scholarship, I knew that it was perfect for me. I have always enjoyed helping others and being a leader not only in my high school, but my community as well. I firmly believe that God will always lead you down the right path and that you must be open to changes and doing things that may be completely out of your comfort zone, but He will always lead you down the right path for you. Me and my family have been blessed these past two years and I truly thank both of you from the bottom of my heart for the endless doors and opportunities the two of you have opened up for me and I will never be able to thank either of you enough.



Braxton Johns

What has the Correll Scholarship meant to me? How can such a simple question have such an impactful answer on not only my life, but the people's lives around me that this scholarship has given me the ability to touch as well? The Correll Scholarship means many things but if I had to sum it up in one word it would be opportunity. The opportunity to make lifelong friends, learn a vast amount of information, serve people who truly needed and appreciated it, be the leader and lead with some amazing people, and love others just like they were family.

The relationships one forms through life are something one should truly cherish. I once heard, "There is nothing more on this earth to be prized than a true friendship" (Aquinas). The many friendships I have formed through the Correll Scholarship is something I will take with me forever. The relationship that a Bobcat Buddy and their mentor form

is something truly special. There are some days that I get to the Sudie A. Fulford building after spending hours at baseball practice and do not feel like giving one hundred percent to my buddy. But, when they run off of the bus smiling and screaming those sometimes annoying little kids can change your perspective and make you realize that life truly is bigger than yourself. The long hours I have spent working on what seems like the same multiplication problem over and over becomes clearly worth it when your buddy comes running into tutoring bragging about how well they did on their latest math test. The friendship you build with a child is something truly special because no matter what happens your last tutoring session, you start with a brand new slate next time and as their best friend right when they get done with a long day at school. The friendships I have built with my fellow Correll Scholars has been something truly special in itself. Everyday walking down the hall I know I am in special company because I can see my fellow scholars smiling and helping each other and other students out studying for the next big test. Not only will we always be willing to help each other in class, but outside of class if anyone has a problem or just wants to talk I know any of my fellow scholars will be there for me and that is something truly special. Lastly the friendship I have made with Dr. Cheek, the leader of the Correll program, is something very important to me as well. From endless jokes in class to putting bunny ears on top of my head during our group portrait, Dr. Cheek has always kept us energized about the program. Not only is Dr. Cheek great in class as a leader and teacher, but away from class his loud hello and joke always brightens my day.

From day one of our Correll class we dove into everything about the wiregrass region and the southeast. Because of the scholarship I am much more knowledgeable of the biology, business, art, literature, politics, history, and pretty much every other facet of the southeast. One of the coolest things I have learned through the scholarship was how a city is managed through the executive branch. Having the Swainsboro Mayor come talk to us is something I will never forget. Learning about the ins and outs of a city like Swainsboro really made me appreciate all that was going on around this town. To me being immersed in so much information about our region not only makes you smarter, but it makes you a better community member because it teaches you to truly appreciate the various things that are unique and special to our city and region.

Serving has always been something near and dear to my heart. The ability to serve the Bobcat Buddies has been a life changing experience for me because it opened my eyes. Tutoring and mentoring the Bobcat Buddies proved to me that not everyone is presented with the same opportunities as I was growing up. After I truly formed a bond with some of the buddies it didn't feel like serving anymore because I had so much fun. I realized the huge impact I was making on these children's lives every time I was with them. The buddies truly looked up to each one of their mentors and the opportunity to serve was not something taken for granted at all. A quote that I think resembles tutoring Bobcat buddies is "The best way to do ourselves good is to be doing good to others; the best way to gather is to scatter" (Brooks). All of the mentors after the first couple weeks accepted that the best way to make everyone happy is to go in full heartedly and serve. I think the Bobcat Buddies program is just as important in the fact that when these kids grow up they will have the chance to scatter. One of the biggest opportunities of the Correll Scholarship is the words, thoughts, feelings, and love we have the chance to implant in the buddies.

Every leader knows that every day has its ups and its downs. But, the best leaders are able to push their own feelings to the side and listen to the others needs around them. The Correll Scholarship taught me this in some major ways. When I got to campus as an athlete and Correll Scholar people immediately looked up to me. From day one of being at East Georgia State College, The Correll Scholarship put me in place to be a leader and the type of person that my teammates and classmates would look up to when they needed help in class. The Correll Scholarship not only bestowed a sense of responsibility of being a leader inside of a class, but also a sense of pride in the fact that I am able to help classmates and teammates in and outside of the classroom. With my fellow Correll Scholars, being looked at as leaders to our buddies is also something we took pride in. I am the oldest of three siblings that I look after and protect, and the Correll Scholarship has made me feel as if I should look after my buddy and lead him in the right direction just as I do my siblings. I have learned that even something as simple as a smile and being there for someone can make you a better leader.

If I could take one thing from the Correll Scholars program it would be the love I have felt since day one from all the buddies, scholars, Dr. Cheek, and Mrs. Schwabe. The Correll program has led to many smiles and hugs from buddies that I will remember forever. Seeing the other scholars and their buddies hugging goodbye after a long day of studying is something you will never forget. The bonds that the scholars have formed is truly special because I can truly say some of my closest friends have come from this amazing program. The love from Dr. Cheek and Mrs. Schwabe is something all the Correll Scholars can appreciate because no matter what, they were always there in a great mood and truly made us feel special even when college didn't. The Correll Scholarship gave me the opportunity to create relationships and love others I would have never met without it.

In conclusion, the Correll program has meant more than words can describe to me. The Correll Scholarship is and always will be an amazing opportunity by itself. Being a true Correll Scholar is different. Being a true Correll Scholar means taking advantage of all of the opportunities given to you and learning from them. I have learned that when you take advantage of all the opportunities that the Correll Scholarship gives you, you not only become a better person but the people and the community of Swainsboro become better too.



Abigail Johnson

Growing up I have always been a hard and dedicated worker. I am the oldest of three children. By being the oldest, I was held up to high expectations by my parents and other adults. When I received the email of acceptance into the Correll Scholars Program, at the end of my senior year, I was simply overwhelmed. It was at that time that I realized all of my hard work and all of the high expectations I was held to paid off. I was judged based on three things for the Correll scholarship: academics, leadership, and service. While some of those things were often stressful and hard to obtain throughout high school while juggling my social life, extra-curricular activities,

and my schoolwork, the end result was worth so much more than those times of struggle. It is hard to pin point just one thing that the Correll Scholarship has meant to me. So, to name a few words that describe this program for me, I would use aspiring and helpful.

With the help of the Correll Scholars Program I have been able to broaden my options for a potential occupation in the future. One of the neat things about the Correll class is that we get to hear from many different guest speakers. These guest speakers have all shared various and unique stories on their perspective field of study and how it is beneficial, to not only this school, but also the community and region. Coming into the program, I was set on one specific profession. However, many of the wonderful guest speakers were able to open my eyes to other possibilities. Tutoring elementary students for the past year has also been another eye opening experience for me. I would have never thought I would be interested in going into the education field. However, after creating a bond with those students and watching them grow in their education by reaching new goals every day, I found that it is very rewarding. I think it would be very fulfilling to have this feeling every day for the rest of my life by simply entering a profession in education. The Correll Scholars Program has formed and molded me into the person I want to be in any career that I become a part of.

Not only was the tutoring important because it opened my eyes to possible jobs I have never thought of doing, but it also showed me why it was so important to give back to the community. To whom much is given, much is expected. We are often reminded of this by Dr. Cheek. This simply means that we should not take this opportunity for granted and to use it to our full advantage, by excelling in and out of the classroom. During this program, I have seen the importance of giving back to the community. Over the past year, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with a young 5th grader from Swainsboro Elementary on every Tuesday and Thursday. This was often the highlight of my week. She would always enter the room with a smile on her face and eager to get better every single day. She would often tell me that she made the highest grade in her class on tests we would spend our time covering the material for at tutoring. It was rewarding to see her achieve and maintain her goals throughout the year. I was happy to use my skills in a way that would be so rewarding and result in a young girl reaching her goals.

Financially, I will always be grateful for this opportunity. I am blessed enough to have parents who work hard and strive for their children to have the best education that is offered. However, we all know money does not grow on trees. With the money received from the Correll Scholarship, on top of others, I am able to attend college debt free. Being the oldest of three children can be a scare to those who are not financially stable enough for the costly amounts that college acquires. It was very comforting to know that my hard work was put to a good use. I was able to take some of those financial burdens away from my parents, with the gracious donations from the Corrells. For that I will forever be grateful to this program and all that they have done in order to make it possible for a student's dreams, along with their parents, to become a reality.

Being a part of the Correll Scholars Program has been one of my greatest accomplishments. By being a Correll Scholar, I have been able to push myself in ways that I have not been able to do in the past. I have been able to broaden my knowledge through the course and information from the many guest speakers. I have been able to use my communication and interpersonal skills from the time spent tutoring each week. I have physically and emotionally received so much from being a part of this program. It is so encouraging to impact East Georgia State College, Swainsboro, Georgia, or anywhere for that matter when given the opportunity to succeed. I hope to become half of the person that the Corrells are. The love and generosity that the Corrells show and have provided drove me to work hard in class and want to give back to this community I have come to love. Swainsboro may be small, but with the help of the Corrells and anyone who has devoted their time to this amazing program, we can make a difference. This year has broadened my knowledge in ways that I never thought was possible. This program has prepared me for life after college and can only imagine what I will get from continuing this program. I am so excited to see what else this program has to offer and will always be grateful for this opportunity. I thank the Corrells from the bottom of my heart.



Monique Johnson

The Correll Scholarship means everything to me. This scholarship had a great impact on my life and helped me to become more independent. It has set up the foundation for me to be successful in life. Bobcats Buddies allows me to make a difference in a young kid's life. I learned that college is not easy; hard work and dedication is key. Being in this program I am able to grow with the other Corrells and what we have in common. Through the guest speakers during class I was able to take something that I did not know and somehow apply it to my everyday life. The program has pushed me out of my comfort zone to try new things and get involved. Not only with the community but with the college as well. Being known as a Correll is a big deal and much is expected from us; as it should be. Getting involved is an insight on what's going on in the world and how can I make a difference.

This scholarship is important to me because I had people that doubted me. They said that I would be nothing and I will be just like my mother. Anytime I set my mind to do something they always doubt that I can do it or that I'm not going to make it. I am proud to be able to prove them wrong because I am the first out of my family to go to college. This scholarship means the hard work has really paid off, especially from my mama and grandma who have supported me from the beginning. The scholarship for me is not the end but just the beginning. I have had a lot of support at this school and many people to help push me all the way. They encourage me and tell me that I am going to make it. I've got to make sure of my responsibilities to represent that society and make sure I give back to my community. When I do something I do it at my fullest potential, so I am going to do the best I can to make everyone proud. I'm very grateful for the opportunities that my education has given me. I can only do my best to give that kind of education to my family and friends.

This education has affected my life in many ways: my family has noticed the change in the way I walk and talk. It has taught me to believe in myself and to conquer my fears. Just like they say, "It's not how hard you fall; it's how quickly you pick yourself up!" I am thankful for this experience. Not only did they give me a chance to further my education, but they also selected the right teachers that changed not only my future, but help me to be the best that I can be. This program has helped me to develop a better personality. I am able to find the right directions in my life. It taught me to value relationships and other things above career. I try to be a role model to young people and others. It has helped me make better judgements about who I hang out with. I will always have people to thank for my accomplishments and mainly the Corrells for this amazing opportunity.



Schuyler Johnson

The Correll Scholarship has provided me many opportunities that I would not have had otherwise during my time at East Georgia State College. It has helped me in many ways including financially, socially, and academically. All of these factors have helped me to further my education without the financial burden, social challenges, and large amount of emotional stress that is inevitable during the first years of college. These multiple facets of the Correll scholarship program are all important. Not everyone was as fortunate as I was to receive this prestigious scholarship which encompasses the best of what East Georgia State College has to offer.

The first and probably the most important is the financial aspect. I would like to say thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Correll for being so generous and helping me and fellow Corrells by taking away the burden of debt to further our educations. The average student who graduated from college in 2017 with a bachelor's degree has \$37,172 in student loan debt, up six percent from last year. If that number continues to increase, by the time I graduate with my bachelor's degree that amount could be as much as \$44,272.45. Since the field I would like to enter requires a master's degree, my personal student debt would be much higher if it were not for the assistance I have received through the Correll program. The \$5000 that they have provided me is truly a blessing. The money, in addition to my ability to maintain my HOPE eligibility, has gone directly towards my books and tuition and has meant that my first two years of college have been virtually free of cost. While the money from the Correll is significant, it is not the only thing that this scholarship provides. Another aspect of the Correll Scholarship program which has helped me is in the social side of my life as well. The Scholarship also includes a one hour credit class which provides information about various programs at the college as well as opportunities to represent the college. The Correll class is a great way to meet new people, discover programs about the college that may seem interesting, and to find activities to stay active within the college. I have made some great friends in the Correll class whom I hope to be in contact for many years to come. For me personally, this program requirement has helped because I often have to make myself interact with people I do not know well. It is difficult for me. The class allowed me to meet and interact with the other Correll scholars in an new and interesting way, exposed me to activities on campus of which I had not been aware, and forced me into some public speaking opportunities which did not turn out to be as challenging as I thought they would be and which, to my surprise, I actually enjoyed. I found myself participating in activities and events on campus which I would probably not have attended if it were not for my participation in some of the program's requirements.

The Correll scholarship helps me academically too by providing me with information about my classes that help me to succeed in the classroom. My fellow Correll scholars help me to complete my and help me with classes that I may be struggling with by providing tutoring when I need it. I, in turn, am able to help them when I can. This not only effects my academics but helps psychologically as well. Everyone that is involved with Correll scholarship is so encouraging that it helps us maintain the positive mindset that is needed to help with the stress that college brings. From Dr. Cheek to my fellow Corrells to the faculty and staff to Dr. Boehmer inviting us into his house, everyone is just very positive and gives each one of us a feeling that we can achieve the dreams we have set out for ourselves. They are very supportive and help us to see in ourselves that which we often overlook, they help us break our goals down into manageable steps that are easily achievable, and they encourage us to seek out their assistance should we ever need it.

Students from local school systems often assume that East Georgia will be a continuation of their high school experience. Why wouldn't they? It's local, small, and most of us have already taken courses here through the Move On When Ready program before we even graduate from high school. It is a serious wake-up call when you enroll and realize your parents cannot even speak to your professors without your permission because you are legally an adult. My parents both teach in the Emanuel County school system so I was accustomed to them being in contact with my teachers on an all too regular basis. In college, they do not even know the names of most of my professors and I have been forced to handle my own interactions with them. This is a completely new experience for a teacher's kid, I promise you. The night our internet went down and I missed a deadline for submitting a huge paper on-line for one of my classes is not a night I will ever forget. My parents could not, and would not, help me. I had to contact the professor, explain the situation, and throw myself on his mercy – which worked, much to my relief. This is just one example of how the transition from high school to college is daunting enough without adding the stress of financial burdens, unfamiliar faces in all classes, and being exposed to new experiences and opportunities on an almost daily basis. These challenges have almost become a lot easier now and I no longer feel like everything is happening so fast for me that I cannot keep up with it. The Correll program helps with all of that and I am proud to be able to say I am a Correll scholar.



Naomi Mason

The Correll Scholarship has impacted not only my life for now, but for my future. Thanks to the Correll Scholarship, my financial situations have been taken care of. With the benefits that come from the scholarship, not only financially, but academically, it has helped me to decide on how I want to decide my future.

Every day I wake up thankful for my father. He has been able to provide my sister and I with everything that we needed throughout public school. My senior year, I thought about giving back to my father by doing Move On When Ready, this allowed me to help burden the cost of college tuition considering I do not have a second parent. With the benefits, financially from the Correll Scholarship, I know that this has helped my father to maintain his finances as well and not have to pay for college. This financial opportunity as meant a lot because I can now prepare for my future career at Armstrong State so that I can prepare for becoming a physical therapist. I have always had the passion of helping others, but I never knew that I could impact my community. Through this program, I have learned how important it is to give back to this community.

Alongside financial situations, the Correll Scholarship has provided me with various types of outside resources and helped me to view my area from a different perspective. I have gained the knowledge of my surroundings and how important it is to always come back to serve and lead your community. By achieving my goal as a physical therapist, I can be the leader that my community needs while also helping others so they can strive to be their full potential.

Through this program, it has brought me closer to a bunch of friends I know that will always be my "fan club". This program has shown me different, and smarter types of people that want to bring more to the world. There is no doubt that the Correll Scholarship has helped me to find my best and closest friends. But, there is more to this program than just meeting and finding your best friends. It is about meeting people who want to change the world, smart, inventive people, who want to come back to their community. Hearing the goals that my fellow peers want to accomplish has been indescribable. In our class, we have students that want to teach, and want to be a nurse, and even be a dentist. Students in our class strive to accomplish goals that will help others not only in their community but their life. With this program, it has provided us receiving the benefits of the scholarship with the knowledge of our surroundings. and why it is so important to understand why our community is so resourceful.

The Correll Scholarship has meant opportunity. There have been so many opportunities given to the students in the program. I have learned so much from all of the professors that come into the classroom and show us how important our community is. From learning about art, to turtles, and trees, I have learned so much about why our community is so valuable to not only our society, but to the world. We depend on the resources in our region, and that is why it is so important that we come back as Correll Scholars, and take care of this community to help protect these resources.

Lastly, the Correll Scholarship has meant a value of leadership. In order to be successful, we must always be leaders. With this scholarship, I have learned that leadership is important for not only team sports, but for life. In order to be successful, you must learn to be in control of your life, be the leader. Leadership is what has gotten me so far in life. I have followed the path that I wanted to take in order to join the profession that I yearn to be in. I have learned that by becoming a leader to yourself, you can become a leader in your community, which is important. By volunteering in your community, and creating new programs and projects, helping and being a leader can create an impact in your community that could leave marks for ages.

The Correll Scholarship has meant to me opportunity. I am forever thankful for the scholarship because it has helped to keep my family financially stable before I have to pay for a more expensive school in order to become a successful physical therapist. This scholarship has brought me opportunities that the other students cannot begin to imagine. Being born into a community that is so rich in values and opportunity for growth has brought so much attention to so many scholars. It has shown me that with perseverance, you can reach your goals and help to preserve this valuable ecosystem. Leadership is important to make a community, that is why the Correll Program is so important, because we are given the opportunity to learn how important it is to value. We were given this opportunity through "Bobcat Buddies" and I hope that I impacted those children for the rest of their lives.



Adrianna Minton

Every single person in this world has an opportunity. It could be the chance to travel somewhere new, or possibly the opportunity to finally get a sip of clean water. No matter the situation, we all have some sort of potential. I have been blessed with several life-enriching opportunities that have allowed me to create the best memories that I am incredibly appreciative of. However, the chance of me going to college has been slim since the day I was born. Neither of my parents went to college, nor did they make it a point to create a college fund for me. I have known from an early age that if I attended college, I would be paying for it on my own.

I would not be a full time Pre-Nursing student at East Georgia State College if it weren't for the Correll family's kindness. This scholarship has provided me with the help I need to succeed in this life, and that means to me than I can put into words.

I grew up in a single parent home so I decided at an early age that I would earn my degree and acquire a steady job to avoid trying to survive paycheck to paycheck. As I came closer to the end of high-school, I began to seriously worry about how I was going to pay for college. I knew the Hope Scholarship was available to me and that I would most likely receive the Zell Miller Scholarship because I was ranked second in my class. But I had to consider my living expenses and bills that would come with moving away for college. I had my mind set on moving off until I saw tuition rates and housing costs at other schools. After much thought, I decided to attend East Georgia so I could continue to live with my father in Swainsboro and keep my job in town. Little did I know that my dad had other plans for me to pay half of rent and utilities. I had a steady job so I respected his decision, but I figured it would be more beneficial to move out on my own and split half of living costs with a friend. I work part-time in the office of a local family business. If I had to work full-time at forty hours per week, my grades would be severely unimpressive. The Correll Scholarship enables me to survive on my own while only working part-time. I feel financially secure at the moment and that is a heavy weight off of my shoulders.

The financial privileges of this scholarship are a blessing and the people I have met through this program are just as important. Throughout my first year as a Correll Scholar, I have become acquainted with some amazing people that I probably would not have met otherwise. My fellow Correll Scholars are all intelligent, unique individuals that have enriched my life in different ways. It is helpful to be surrounded by people who are in the same shoes as you. I have learned a lot about the college process from talking amongst my Bobcat Buddies! Also, meeting various professors during our Correll class introduced me to some awesome mentors that seem dedicated to increasing the quality of my education. It is comforting to know these people are always willing to help me during my time at East Georgia State College. I have really enjoyed my time spent with the people I have encountered because of the Correll Scholarship.

The Correll Scholarship has broadened my horizons through the activities I am required to participate in. The Seminar has been very interesting and I have discovered a new appreciation for the Wiregrass region. I believe that learning about the State of Georgia and the area I am surrounded by is beneficial to my future success as a citizen of this state. Bobcat Buddies has also been a highlight of my year as a Correll Scholar! The job of a mentor/tutor can be demanding but most of these kids just need a friend to show they care. I think the Scholars as well as the kids have had a great deal of constructive fun. I will definitely miss my little Buddies when the spring semester ends! I am looking forward to the future activities lined up for the Correll Scholars. Our research trip to Athens, the last portion of the Seminar, and my future internship are a few particular events that I am anticipating. These accomplishments enhance my resume, which will aid me in applying to other colleges and jobs. My participation in the Correll Scholars Program has offered me several new experiences that will only take me further in life!

I simply cannot answer the question "What has the Correll Scholarship meant to you?" with only a few words. This generous scholarship has optimistically affected my first year of college in more ways than one. When I applied for this scholarship, I did not expect to learn and grow through this program in the way I did. I genuinely enjoy every aspect of the Correll Scholars Program. My experience at East Georgia State College would not be the same without it. I plan to stay here and earn my Associates Degree and I am eager to see what this next year holds for me. I really am blessed with way more than I deserve and I am grateful to the Corrells for believing in students like me. In conclusion, I would like to say thank you, Dr. Cheek, for being a remarkable professor and mentor to me. People like you and Mr. and Mrs. Correll are the backbone to my achievements. I could not be more content with my involvement in the Correll Scholars Program. This scholarship means the world to me and I honestly do not know what my current life would be if I was not a Correll Scholar!



Kirstyn Morris

When I think of all of the things I have to be thankful for, the Correll Scholarship is definitely one of the things at the top of my list. I was honored and very grateful to receive the Correll Scholarship in 2015. By allowing me to focus full-time on my studies, the scholarship helped make possible the completion of my Associates Degree from EGSC. Two years later, after receiving this amazing scholarship, I am still taken back that I was one of the twenty lucky students to be offered this amazing opportunity. What Mr. Pete and Mrs. Ada Lee have done for the students of East Georgia State College is absolutely amazing. Not only have the two

of them given me my first two years of college at this great school, but they have also shown me what type of person I want to be and will strive to be. What an accomplishment in life it must be to know that you truly are making a difference in so many hard working kid's lives.

When I applied for this scholarship, I wanted to be a teacher and make a huge difference in children's lives, but during my time at East Georgia State College, I have decided on something other than going into the education field. It was during one of the Correll class lectures, when I had a change of heart because of our guest speaker, Dr. Boehmer, and his message. During his lecture, I realized that I had a different calling other than teaching. His lecture was over his career and life. Everything that he was speaking about made me realize that I belong in the business world. After hearing all that Dr. Boehmer had to say and then researching many different majors that peaked my interest, I decided that I want to major in Finance and become a Financial Analyst. I have always loved managing and budgeting, so I just really feel as if this is what I am supposed to do and I am so excited! Furthermore, one thing that makes this scholarship so important to me is the high level of professionalism I see in my peers. In our Correll class, I can see just how serious the other students are about school. They are dedicated, intelligent students and that makes being a recipient of the Correll Scholarship incredibly meaningful. The Correll Scholarship has given so much more to me than just a college education. This program introduced me to a lifelong friend. I met Henry Sherrod through the program and the two of us have been very close friends since Freshman year. This is something I will be forever grateful for and will always be reminded of the Correll Program in years to come when I think of mine and Henry's friendship. Also, the Bobcat Buddies program really impacted my life in a positive way. During the program, I was given two buddies from the elementary school who stole my heart. At the beginning of the program, both of these boys were disrespectful, paid no attention whatsoever, and would cause trouble any way they possibly could. However, as the year went by, they realized that I was trying my very best to help them and I really did care about both of them. As they both noticed how much I cared for them, they both began to behave more and really listen to and respect me. At the end of the year with these kids, I reflected on how much both of them had changed and matured over the year that I was with them. It was absolutely amazing how much those kids changed in those ten months that I was with them. Because of the Correll Scholarship, I was introduced to these two precious kids that I still try to keep up with and stay aware of how they are doing in school and in life. Hopefully, because of the Correll program, I made a difference in both of their lives.

By being a Correll Scholar, I have been able to meet many people. In March, I attended the Eggs and Issues Breakfast as a Correll Scholar and was introduced to Representative Butch Parrish, and Senators Jack Hill and Jesse Stone. They were wonderful men who really cared about the youth of our community. I know that community involvement plays a key role in this scholarship. So, even in high school, I really enjoyed helping and giving back to the community and this is something that I still do and hope to continue to do for the rest of my life. I know that the best thing you can give to anyone is your time, which I am able to give a lot of since I am so young. However, as I get older and when I get a good job, I hope to be financially blessed enough where I can also give back financially to those in need. Giving back is so important in life and I will do my very best to always give my time and money wherever and to whoever I can. What I admire so much about Mr. Pete and Ms. Ada Lee Correll is how giving they are. It truly is remarkable and they are the perfect example of what all of us should strive to be. I do not regret one bit deciding to attend East Georgia State College as a freshman and applying for the Correll Scholarship. What an impact both the school and Mr. and Mrs. Correll have had on my life, and I am so grateful for both. I have learned so much at college and met so many great people, and I am forever grateful for that. Thank you so much, Mr. and Mrs. Correll for truly making a difference in my life.



Tanner Peebles

This past year at East Georgia State College has been very challenging. While trying to balance all of the schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and preparing for what lies ahead, it sometimes seems as though it is all too much. That is, until I attend the Bobcat Buddies Program every Tuesday and Thursday at the Fulford Center. Seeing the children there and knowing that we are making a change in their lives is very rewarding and makes all of the hard work worthwhile. This feat would not be possible without the Correll Scholars Program.

One of the most prestigious things about the Correll Scholarship is the unique participation and involvement we, as scholars, have. This scholarship not only supplies the monetary value to succeed in college, but also provides a gateway to commu-

nicate with the future of Emanuel County, learn necessary life and social skills through the teachers which attend our class, and discover of the importance of our hometown.

Being involved in the Bobcat Buddy program allows us to see firsthand the future of Emanuel County as we make lifelong friends and grow relationships as a class of Correll Scholars. The potential that these kids have is heartwarming and being a mentor for them is one of the most fulfilling positions I have ever held. With the help of the marvelous Mrs. Jean Schwabe coordinating and hosting these Bobcat Buddy Days, students always have a great time attending and learning necessary tools for success such as mastering their homework. One of the aspects I am always personally involved in is to make sure that they perceive college as a positive thing. Modern society stereotypes college as being too-hard to succeed, full of wild parties, and the easy ability to drop out. It is no secret that college is becoming a necessity for people to obtain a job in the workplace such as CNA's get replaced by RN's in recent hospital settings. By explaining this to these kids, I am able to ensure that the future of this community is full of adolescents with a desire to attend college and better themselves. While attending the Bobcat Buddies, we are also able to grow and have a personal relationship with the kids there. Although I did not know any of the kids upon entrance of the program, it is uncommon now to go to any store in Emanuel County and not hear their enthusiastic "Hey!" or get the occasional hug. Not only does the Bobcat Buddy Program help the kids in the program, but we, as Correll scholars, are able to feel as though we are part of something larger than ourselves, a challenge which is rarely achieved in the fast-paced world we currently live in.

As you well know, we as Correll Scholars also attend a class weekly led by the energetic Dr. Cheek, with lectures led by other professionals here at the college. In this class, we learn vital life skills such as economics, led by Mrs. Goss, the importance of Ecology, by Dr. Simmons, and the role modern art plays in our society, a lecture led by Dr. Purcell. These lectures allow us to learn the life skills necessary to succeed, but mainly the ability to see the importance of our community. One of the most interesting lectures came from Mayor Schwabe where we were able to talk about what tactics we could use to bring people back into our hometown. In general, individuals and young adults from small towns want only to get out and move to a larger city. By attending college close to home and learning about the importance we have on our hometown, I now see the importance of returning to small towns as we graduate and earn our degrees.

We all know that Dr. Boehmer is a pretty cool guy. He gives off an aura which students can feel in every speech or address he gives. However, it was not until the Correll Dinner with The President that I met the president and got to know him on a personal level. While talking to him, I was able to learn all about the Oregon Ducks, his favorite team, while also getting the opportunity to talk to him and his wife about potentially attending Medical School one day. While many people said that becoming a doctor is too challenging and requires too much schooling to complete, Dr. Boehmer expressed that I should, "Not stop until you are at the place you want to be". It means more than words can say to have the president of a college personally support you in your career choice. Because of this encounter and future encounters with the President because of the Correll Scholars Program, we regularly meet with the Dr. Boehmer, which gives a feeling of pride to go to a college which allows the administration to communicate with students regularly.

The saying is normally heard that nothing good comes without dedication and hard work. With the help of the Correll Scholars program, East Georgia State College, and the many professors here, I have seen new doors opened which lead into newfound academia and overall vision of a community which has helped me to develop greatly over the past year. It is because of my love of school and your continued support that I intend on pursuing a career which requires such a great amount of hard work and dedication.

This scholarship has also helped to offset some of the costs for medical school. Studies show that it will take > \$150,000 in tuition alone for completion of medical school. This overwhelming amount has been somewhat suppressed through the reception of this scholarship by allowing me to have a few of the costs of college be covered and to be able to graduate with a bachelor's degree entirely debt free, a feat not normally attained by many college students. To many people, becoming a medical doctor seems too costly and difficult to obtain. Through the support of this scholarship, my driven determination, and the moral support received from Dr. Cheek and the other professors here, I am sure that becoming a doctor will be a challenging but rewarding task that will allow me to become a contribution to my community.

The Correll Scholars Program has helped me to progress into the person I want to be, not only as a college student, but as a potential medical doctor. It has molded me into someone who is more patient, determined, and caring. Because of this program, I learned about the importance of community service, coming back to our hometown, and the impact we as college students have in this community. The Correll Scholars Program made my desired future attainable and for that I am forever grateful.



Grace Pittman

It was only a year ago that I was a senior in high school swamped in schoolwork, contemplating my education and career plans, and dealing with the craziness of everyday life. Applying for the Correll Scholarship at East Georgia State College was the furthest thing from my mind at that time, and because my schedule was incredibly busy since I was both a high school senior and a college freshman, time always seemed to present a problem when attempting to do anything beyond academic assignments. However, I am so thankful that I pointedly chose to carve out the amount of time it took to complete the application in the end, despite feeling unsure if my qualifications would prove outstanding to the scholarship committee, because it was absolutely worth it. This scholarship, outside of aiding me financially, has aided me

mentally and socially, and it is seldom that rewards for merit and distinction have the ability to foster both perfectly well.

Each week, the Correll program has offered me new information about the geography, economy, history, environment, state and local government, and demographics of the state of Georgia and demonstrated its diversity and impact on the nation as a whole. I seemingly thought I knew everything there was to be known about my state and its components, but the informative lectures provided each week challenged that notion and left me both constantly amazed and prouder of my home state. I am also extremely thankful to have listened to professionals, who know my state amazingly well, share their unique stories about how their profession (outside of teaching) contributes to both Georgia's diverse society and abundant prosperity.

In the course of a single year, I have come to know the other scholarship recipients chosen along with myself and have established friendships that I am sure would have been impossible had I not have been granted this wonderful opportunity. Not only have I had the opportunity to meet and know my fellow Correll peers, I also met many special individuals from the class of Correll scholars chosen before me and forged good friendships with some of them as I got the chance to know them over time.

Through the Correll Scholarship, I have been introduced to community service via tutoring the young students that attend the nearby elementary school. I never dreamed I would learn just how effective reinforcing information and assignments obtained from classrooms would impact curious minds. These same minds would jointly teach me the value of having fun and not taking things too seriously in life, especially at my age where I seem to forget about their concepts while in college. Although this was the extent of any physical act of community service within the Correll scholarship program, the lectures I have listened to throughout the year highlighted other areas in Georgia that could use assistance, and I have every intent to do all that I can in the future.

This scholarship has taught me many lessons upon reflection, and I am so unbelievably blessed to have been chosen to absorb each of them to their capacity. I received a lesson on patience from tutoring children who were full of both energy and questions, and I mirrored the patience they showed me as I tried to explain answers to the questions they sought. A lesson on respect to all professions was obtained by listening to the voices of reason within different departments and sectors of society as they sought to enlighten us with what they do and what others in the realm of their expertise do. I discovered a need to challenge what I know to be true by learning new facts about Georgia's landscape and history that I would have never known without this scholarship program. Responsibility was taken from managing my time to complete assignments required of me in this class, to uphold a standard of curiosity presumed around Correll scholars, and to continue to maintain academic excellence. An atmosphere of continuing service to my community was gained after being briefed on the impact that even the smallest of deeds can have on those around me. Finally, I learned the power of just what having a good work ethic means and of being accountable with the objectives that I complete.

This program has shown me that if I truly want something in life, I am beyond capable enough if I only concentrate on my efforts to see it through. I am immensely thankful that my talents and academic achievements were chosen to represent the Correll Scholars Program for my "first" year of college. Since spending my final year of high school as a freshman in college by utilizing the "Move On When Ready" Program and continuing my stay at East Georgia State College as a sophomore, the first two years of my college education have been virtually cost-free and loan-free which is a major plus for my educational goals. By cutting the costs of my core classes in those two years, I can splurge on graduate school, which I eventually foresee myself doing, and expand my knowledge even greater.

As I continue forward with my educational plans in preparation of venturing out into the real world as a functional adult, I have plans to major in both political science and history, two of the subject areas I am most passionate about, with a possible minor in international affairs. As of right now, I am not entirely sure of what my career will look like, even though I have several options I am keenly interested in, but I am hopeful that since these degrees offer a wide range of opportunities in the job sector of society, I will eventually zone in on the career that matches my personality the most once I complete my master's degree.

Even though my education plans will force me into a new institution in the near future, I am confident that I will forever feel and remember the lasting impacts this special program and scholarship have had upon my life. It has reshaped the way I think about my state and of those around me, it has allowed me to forge new friendships, and it has reminded me of the success I am capable of achieving and enacting in life, and for that I am truly grateful. Although I personally believe my words cannot fully express how appreciative I am, I hope to prove that I was a sound investment through the actions and decisions I make in the future, because by then I will have become a superb and proactive asset to both my state and my community. I think that is the ultimate goal of the Correll Scholarship Program in the end, to inspire people to participate in the cycle of giving, to have a notable impact, to encourage positive change, nurture growth, and generate prosperity in our communities that will jointly combine to ensure a movement towards a brighter and better tomorrow. It is that that I deeply wish to do.



Alexandria Rios

I am beyond thrilled to say I am a first year Correll Scholar at East Georgia State College of Swainsboro, Georgia. As soon as I heard of the Correll Scholarship in Dr. Bob Boehmer's, college tour PowerPoint presentation at Swainsboro High School, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. Even though many of us heard that scholarships open doors to the future many times. It is true. Without the continued generosity of donors, like the Correll Family, opportunities become even more difficult to attain. The Correll Scholarship has empowered me to approach my education with confidence. Because of it, I can focus on being a student and think about graduate school without

fearing student debt. Thank you Mr. Pete Correll and Ms. Ada Lee Correll for having faith in the younger generations to carry on the traditions of knowledge, leadership, and services. You have done so much for so many that one day I hope to be at least half the person you both are. You inspired me and now I want to be inspiring.

The amazing feeling knowing that my education is paid for is a great honor. Being a Correll Scholar has not only paid for college expenses, but also been a great investment in my future and pride as a Latina. My financial aid is something that has always concerned me, going to school without scholarship will be virtually impossible due to my family's income. Without the Correll Scholarship, I would have had a difficult time concentrating in my studies because of the constant worrying about how to cover my college expenses. I was very fortunate to use some of the money to buy a used car that I use to transport me to school and my job. My grandfather died a few months ago, and as soon as he passed, I used the money I had left to travel to Mexico, for the first time in seventeen years, to attend his funeral. Being able to be financially stable has given me such peace of mind. Since I do not have to worry about paying my way through college, I have been able to enjoy such amazing opportunities East Georgia State College has to offer!

Growing up, I considered myself lucky. Even though my parents did not have education higher than high school, my family of seven, including me, are a very close knitted Hispanic family. My parents made a significant sacrifice when they moved from a familiar city in Mexico to small-town America. At an early age, I recognize that education is very important and I do not want to miss this opportunity. I love going to school, not just because I see my friends, but because I learn new things. School has allowed me to connect with people with similar interest and to be around good energy, which is a priority to me. Anyone who knows me personally knows I do not like missing school. Going to school to get an education continues to make me grow physically, spiritually, and mentally. Education means everything to me and I thank God every day for having the opportunity to continue my studies at East Georgia State College. I cannot imagine my world without one. Having a college education will allow me to lead a healthy life and enjoy the good things this world has to offer.

My first two years of college, I have grown exponentially as a student and a person. I came into this program with my two of my closest friends from high school and I am pretty sure I have met two other people who I think will be lifelong friends. I met a wonderful humanities professor, which is also happens to be my elementary Spanish teacher and my first semester class scheduling mentor, that has helped me discover my passions. I also have supportive parents who have an unwavering belief in the power of education. They have always pushed me and my four siblings to do whatever it took to succeed in school. Today, I am glad I took my first step to join this bobcat nation. Whether it was being the image of East Georgia State College's Ambassador, tutoring a local elementary student in mathematics and language arts as an Correll Scholar, becoming president of Circle K International, being named Editor of Wiregrass Student Publications, or making the Dean's List last semester, I can leave East Georgia State College knowing that I made the absolute most of my time here.

On May 05, 2017, I will be the first to graduate from college with an associate's degree in my family. I have been accepted, as an in-state transfer student for financial aid purposes, and plans to attend the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism after graduating East Georgia State College to pursue my big, ambitious dreams of becoming a bilingual field news anchor. My ideal job would be to work for CNN en Español in Atlanta, Georgia, but I also know that it would be almost impossible to get that job title without four years of college, preferably a bachelor's degree in Journalism or Mass Communications. Therefore, I want to double major in those two degrees while going to school in Athens, Georgia. That is why private sources such as a Correll Scholarship are so important for Latino students: because they support us while pursuing our careers. Being a recipient of the Correll Scholarship brings me one step closer to the realization of my dream of being a journalist and I would always thank you as a Latina student and on behalf of my family.



Catelyn Sherrod

Receiving the Correll Scholarship has been one of the best things that has happened to me in the past two years. It is such an amazing thing that there are people generous enough to give college students so much money each semester. The Correll Scholarship has allowed me to meet so many new people, experience new life changing events, and encourage me to want to give back to my community one day. Since I am originally from Swainsboro and been to Swainsboro school all of my life, I thought I knew a bunch of people. Well, I was very

wrong about that because when I got to college I would have only like one person I really knew in my class. Before I was accepted into the Correll program, I was very shy and did not want to make new friends really. Being a Correll scholar helped me overcome that problem; I made a ton of new friends just from being in that class. After meeting and becoming close with them, I began meeting a bunch of other people and making even more friends. I not only became closer with students, I also made several close friendships with some of the professors. This will be very helpful for me closer to time of needing references for continue my education at another college, but also very helpful when I needed some advisement or just someone to talk to.

During our final semester of the Correll class, we were expected to do an internship anywhere we wanted. At this time, I was considering the medical field, so I decided to go to a do family doctors office. Without the push of doing the internship, I would have never realized how much I really enjoy helping people. It also helped me realize that I should be very thankful for everything I have and the opportunity to such a great scholarship and to even attend college. While working in a healthcare environment, you see a lot of different things every day. It varies from small sickly children all the way to the elderly who can barely get in the door. Of course working with the public comes with its disadvantages; such as when a patient has been rude all day you just feel as things couldn't get worse. But when someone takes the time of their day to personally thank you, and compliment on how well you are with patients and always carry on with a smile, it does make me realize why whatever profession I do finally decide on, it will be one helping people no matter what. Without receiving the Correll scholarship, I would have ever had the push to get out and do something such as that. I would not have found my love for helping people so easy and so soon.

Before receiving the Correll Scholarship, I volunteered at a Primary School in a 1st grade class to add to my service hours. Working with the children everyday was such an eye opener, it was such a blessing. I did not get to participate in the tutoring of the children with the Corrells since I was not brought in until after, but when I worked with the children before I can only imagine how much fun the Corrells did have with them. Even though children can be a lot to handle for teenagers, it is so great to see people trying to help others. The more you work with younger children, the more they begin to look up to you. So when that starts to happen, you do not want to disappoint them. Whether it was from coming to tutoring each day, or giving them the extra help they need when they just don't quite understand something, children pay attention to the little things way more than we realize. While I was working with the 1st graders, I had believed I wanted to pursue an education major, and then the internship perused me to lean more towards the medical field.

Overall, the Correll Scholarship has encouraged me to come back to my community, after I pursue my career in whatever I decide, and give back to all of those who are in need. No matter what career path I do end up choosing, it will be to help people. I will be able do what I love and I have to give credit to Mr. and Mrs. Correll. I have been able to obtain a great degree and have been able to save my parents a ton of money as well. With me being the second child they have put through college, they know it is not cheap. My parents are so grateful and proud that I received this scholarship; it really helped them save money to pay for me to continue my education at the next college, because I basically receive a whole associate's degree for free, and none of this would have been possible without the kindness of the Correll's. I would like to also thank our advisor, who cares so much for each and every one of us. Dr. Cheek is a great person who always encourages us to get out there and try new things. Without the mentoring he has given us through the Correll experience I would not be where I am today. He has been nothing short of amazing, and I know he will continue being that way for the future Correll scholars.



Erick Vilches

As I reminisce on these past two terms at EGSC, I realize that the Correll scholarship unlocked many opportunities I had never dreamed of. That being said, what the scholarship truly means to me is a blessing and a door to opportunities in part because it has given me the chance to meet great people, form new experiences, and further my education in a unique way. Indeed, it has given me the opportunity to do things that I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise and the honor of meeting several professors and faculty, many of whom I look

up to and owe my humble gratitude for their time, wisdom, and presence.

In addition to granting me the pleasure of meeting great professors, many of whom wholeheartedly impress upon the importance of critical thinking, the Correll scholarship has also allowed me to meet other people including classmates, new friends, faculty, and Ms. Jean at the Fulford center whom I ardently believe is a role model in our community for her astounding energies when working with the bobcat buddies program and the countless other events at that the Fulford center. Still, I am well aware that I would not have had these pleasures if it were not for the Correll scholarship and I am grateful for those opportunities.

Furthermore, it has given me the chance to wonderful experiences that I now cherish. From bobcat buddies to extracurricular events at EGSC, I feel very fortunate to have been a part of them. In fact, the times I most enjoyed from these two terms were spent at the Fulford center where I and the other scholars gave our best efforts to help Swainsboro elementary students with their studies. This was a great experience because it allowed us to learn a valuable lesson of caring. Definitely, bobcat buddies reminded me of to the subtle challenges to the livelihood of others and the frailty of children; therefore, it has strengthened my ardent belief that every innocent child born into this world deserves a chance to shine.

Lastly but very dear to my heart, the scholarship has given me the chance to continue my education, something that I could not have afforded otherwise. Therefore, I feel an overwhelming gratitude at the great help it has already been. Actually, I am using it to pursue my dream career, which I hope will allow me to help others similar to how this scholarship has helped me.

In closing, the Correll scholarship has been a blessing and a door to opportunities. Indeed, it has given me the chance to meet new people and continue my education. Honestly, that means a lot to me as it would not have been affordable for me otherwise. Furthermore, it was an honor to work with the Bobcat buddies program. It was a pleasure to meet Ms. Jean all the other Correll scholars there too. I am very glad to have met many good professor who have, indeed, helped me to learn and think critically.



Braswell Walraven

My Correll experience...where do I begin? So far it has been a great journey. After applying for the Scholarship, I had little hope I would be chosen as a recipient. When I was called for an interview, I was very nervous. I had never been through a true interview process before. I just decided to try to relax and be myself. Although I was about the only guy without a suit and tie on, I guess my khaki pants and collared shirt made a good enough impression. Now here I am a Correll scholarship recipient and enjoying the benefits of this wonderful scholarship.

I so enjoy being at a small college for my first few years in college. The small college atmosphere has been an easy transition from high school to college. It is so great that the Correll family would consider a small college in a small town to help students with their studies. I am sure that I'm in the minority, but I really enjoy being at home with my family every night. I honestly don't think I was ready to move away from home my first year of college. I have such a great family and I'm happy my parents don't mind if I hang around for a while. I am very thankful for the Corrells for allowing and providing me with the means to do this.

I am currently employed at Florida Hardware in Soperton. This company manufactures farm gates, farm equipment, etc. I have been so fortunate to have this job. It has also introduced me to the 'real world'. My boss is a retired from the military and he believes that my education comes first. I worked after school when I was in high school. When I started college, he told me to come in when I could. He was very happy that I got this scholarship and he asked why I was still working. My answer to him was I enjoy work. The reason I am thankful for this scholarship is that without the financial support of this scholarship I would not be able to keep this job. If not for this scholarship I would not be able to earn the money I would need for college. I would have to get a new job and probably work night shift so I am deeply grateful for this.

Through the financial support from the Correll Scholarship, it has made it much easier for me and my parents to manage our money for college. I guess I have been double blessed since I can stay home and go to college. I only live 25 miles from the college and I commute daily. The money I need for gas and the occasional repair on my truck would not be available to me if not for this scholarship.

This scholarship has been such a financial, social and educational blessing. Of course, the financial help has been great, but I think the social and educational aspects have far exceeded the financial help. First the social benefits. I have met so many new friends in this program. We all share the same goals of getting our degrees and pursuing our dreams in our own ways. Our time spent together has been most enjoyable. Our Correll assignments are enjoyable as well as our time of fellowship outside of school. I don't even want to think about leaving East Georgia and leaving my Correll family. I hope we can stay in touch when we all go our separate ways.

The Correll classes are very interesting. I have enjoyed all the different guest speakers that visit every week. From the teachers around the campus to the mayor of Swainsboro I have enjoyed all the speakers. All of them have provided me with encouragement and guidance. I have obtained many useful resources from these presentations and I have also learned of so many opportunities that are available if I just keep my eyes on the goal.

The tutoring program has helped me realize that I can make a difference in a young child's life and maybe make school more enjoyable for the students. Although my patience does give out sometimes with these students, I think this will benefit me with my career choice. I plan to teach high school but I'm sure I can take these tutoring experiences with younger children and apply them to high school students.

The Correll Scholarship is preparing me for a career of service to others. I have grown in leadership and to me, my future looks bright. My plans after graduating from college are to become an agricultural education teacher. My experiences with this program will help me with my major. I became involved with FFA (Future Farmers of America) in the eighth grade. Throughout all my high school years, I was strongly involved with the FFA program. I held numerous offices and I received many awards as a result of me competing in various contests. FFA is an organization that really focuses on leadership and I feel like I have added to my leadership skills with the Correll program. I plan to take the things I've learned into my classroom one day. I will have many great success stories I can share with my students.

I cannot say in word how thankful I am for this wonderful opportunity I have been given. All I can say is whatever my future holds, I know I will never forget and will never stop using what I have learned by going through the Correll Scholarship Program. I want to say thank you to the Correll family for allowing the college to provide us with this great opportunity. I have almost completed my first year of college and it couldn't have been any better. I just wish my degree was offered at East Georgia so I would not have to transfer to another college. I want to end this paper by saying thank you again and I'm looking forward to having another great year with my Correll family.

Promotional Flyers

CORRELL Scholars PROGRAM *A scholarship program that empowers and inspires success*



Overview

The Correll Scholars Program recognizes and prepares exceptionally promising students as future community leaders in our region.

- Awards are \$5,000 per student, renewable annually, for a maximum of four years. Twenty (20) scholarships are awarded each year.
- Students must attend East Georgia State College's Swainsboro campus.
- Correll Scholars who meet eligibility requirements and continue their studies on a junior or senior in a baccalaureate degree program at EGS will be given first consideration for advancement year awards.
- No minimum high school GPA or test scores. Primary focus is leadership and service.

APPLY NOW!



www.ega.edu/scholarships

The Correll Scholars Program helps today's students become tomorrow's leaders.

Application Process

The application process is designed to identify students who demonstrate the talent, motivation and potential to transform themselves and their community.

- Completion of EGS Admissions Application (Automatic Non-Resident Waiver) and acceptance
- Completion of the online Correll Scholars Program Application
- Submission of an essay addressing the topic "How will you use your education to transform your community?" (1,000 word essay)
- Interview



Where do you see yourself in four years?
Participating in the Correll Scholars Program will help you achieve your dream!

CORRELL Scholars PROGRAM

Join the fun!



Selection of Scholars

Each spring, new applicants will participate in the "Correll Scholars Selection Day" for interviews with faculty, staff, community leaders and donors. Scholars will be selected based upon committee approval.

Criteria:

SCHOLARSHIP

- GPA, SAT, ACT scores
- Challenging course load
- General knowledge beyond field of study
- Ability to think critically

LEADERSHIP

- Ability to make an impact and influence others
- Focus on the global society
- Excellence in communication
- Motivation to excel
- Strong character

SERVICE

- Demonstrated strength in coaching, tutoring and/or mentoring
- Non-profit work experience
- Demonstrated commitment to others



Rigorous Program Standards

- Maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- Complete at least 26 credit hours in freshman year to maintain eligibility for sophomore year.
- Participate in a one hour credit course each semester that focuses on issues and challenges facing our region and work collaboratively to design solutions for these challenges.
- First year students will actively participate in tutoring and mentoring of local school students at the Fulford Center.
- Second year students will participate in service internships.
- Attain the Service Seal of Distinction.

East Georgia STATE COLLEGE

For more information, contact Karen Jones • 478-289-2012 • kjones@ega.edu

Field Trip Overview

CORRELL SCHOLARS TRIP TO UGA

April 27, 2017

- 6:15 a.m.** Meet at EGSC Swainsboro at Luck Flanders Gambrell Cener (Flagpole)
- 6:30 a.m.** Depart EGSC
- 6:30 – 9:30 a.m.** Travel by bus to UGA
Light breakfast *on the bus
- 10 – 11:30 a.m.** Vet Med Teaching Hospital
Dr. Gaylen Edwards, Head Physiology & Pharmacology
Dr. Scott Brown, Associate Dean Academic Affairs
- 11:30 – 11:45 a.m.** Travel by bus to Joe Frank Harris Dining Hall
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.** Lunch – Joe Frank Harris Dining Hall
Dr. Peter Shedd, Terry School of Business,
Professor Emeritus of Legal Studies
- 12:45 – 1 p.m.** Travel by bus to Grady College of Journalism and
Mass Communication
- 1 – 2:30 p.m.** Grady College of Journalism – Peabody Awards Center
Dr. Tom Reichert, Department Head, Advertising & Public Relations
Dr. Jeffrey P. Jones, Director of Peabody Center
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m.** Walk to College of Environment and Design
- 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.** College of Environment and Design
(Review EGSC conceptual physical master plan alternatives)
Dr. Danny Sniff
- 3:15 – 3:20 p.m.** Walk to Administration Building
- 3:20 – 3:30 p.m.** Meet with Dr. Kathy Pharr, Chief of Staff
- 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.** Walking tour of North Campus
UGA Welcome Center
- 4:15 – 5 p.m.** Photos on Tate Bridge
- 5 p.m.** Meet bus on Tate Bridge – Depart UGA from EGSC
- 5 – 8 p.m.** Travel by bus to EGSC
Light dinner on bus







Financial Report

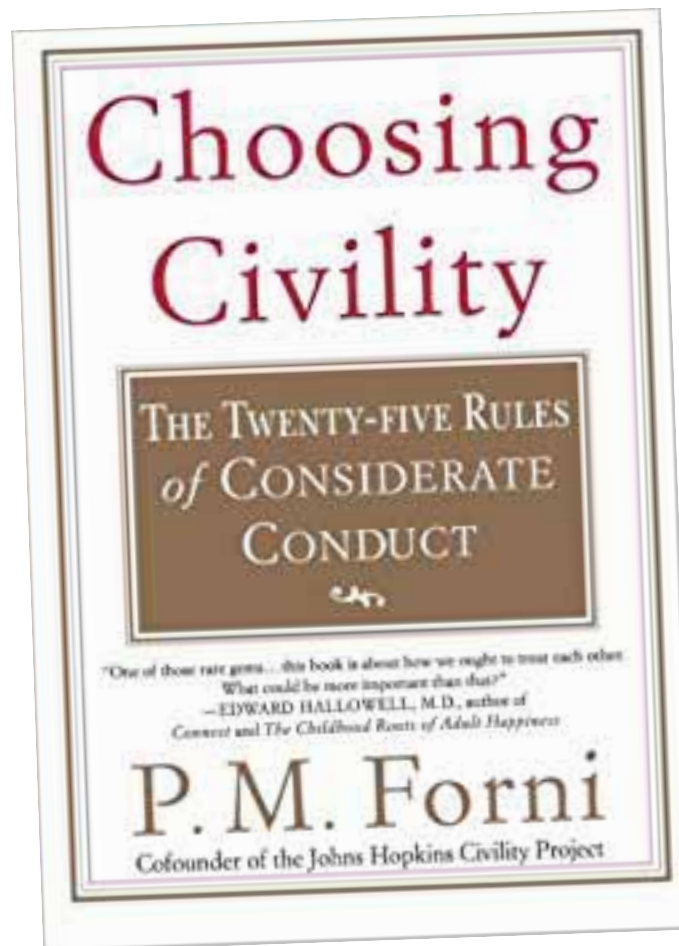
\$2,222	Athens Trip to UGA
\$470	Graduation Cords
\$267	Bobcat Buddies (Tutoring) Expenses
\$200,000	Scholarships
\$202,959	Total Expenses
\$200,000	Correll Family Foundation
\$2,500	Nordson Industries
\$459	EGSC Foundation
\$202,959	Total Income
\$0	Balanced



Summer Reading Program

Each Summer, we select a primary text for our Correll Scholars that is purchased and given to all Scholars. The text is integrated into our Correll courses. Our text for the upcoming Summer is Choosing Civility by Professor E. Forni, who teaches at Johns Hopkins University.

As the result of so many concerns, we believe the central themes of this work are most useful is helping our Correll Scholars make a contribution in the modern world. Also, recent events at educational institutions around the country suggest the centrality of civility to humane learning.



Correll Scholars Standing Committee

Chair, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Director, Correll Scholars Program

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Director of Admissions

Director of the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center

Event Planner

Information Technology Data Base Administrator



East Georgia
STATE COLLEGE®

Information Compiled By:

**Elizabeth Gilmer, VP for Institutional Advancement
Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Dean of the School of Social Sciences**

Designed By:

M. Katelyn Moore, Communications Coordinator

June 2017