

## \$ 100,000 allocated to GCSU’s new student-managed investment fund

The Georgia College & State University Foundation allocated \$100,000 to a new club, the GCSU Student Managed Investments Committee.

Led by five leadership board members, the new student group will complete internal analysis and pitch ideas for investing their fund to Georgia College’s Foundation Board of Trustees and the Finance and Investment Committee. “We are proud to make an investment in these students that will result in giving them workforce skills in a competitive market,” said Foundation Board Chair Jeff Wansley. “We are enthusiastic about investing in the potential of our students and envisioning them as future contributors to our mission.”

The Student Managed Investment Committee rose from the work of sophomore finance and economics major Jeffrey DiBenedetto of Johns Creek, Georgia. A student initiative from the beginning, DiBenedetto enlisted the help of Dr. Brent Evans, associate professor of economics and Dr. Eric Kobbe, lecturer of management information systems.

“I’m really excited about the opportunity it creates to take down some of the barriers that come from trying to get students into investing their money,” Evans said. “This is something we should be proud of, and I suspect the benefits will become more obvious over time. I think for the students, it creates opportunities for them to take ownership of something.”

With Evans and Kobbe’s help, DiBenedetto recruited four more students to join him on

the committee’s leadership board: senior finance and economics double-major Grayson Stoudenmire of Maxeys, Georgia; junior finance and economics double-major Joseph Dubsky of Dunwoody, Georgia; sophomore business management and mass communication double-major Halle Bergstrom of Cumming, Georgia; and sophomore finance major Whit Kessinger of Roswell, Georgia.

These students serve as president, vice president of sectors, vice president of finance, vice president of public relations and vice president of recruiting, respectively.

“Dean Micheal Stratton [of the College of Business and Technology] was on board with it immediately, and he loved the initiative we took,” DiBenedetto said.

“To us, it’s more than a club—our goal is to make it big. \$100,000 is a great starting place, but I want to see this grow to a million dollars in 10 years, or more,” he said.

The group will oversee 10 managing directors representing the S&P 500’s sectors with materials and utilities combined. Each student director will lead other groups of three to four student analysts.

These 35 students will perform financial analysis and valuation of their sector’s companies.

Each team will present to the Student Managed Investments Committee, which will confirm or deny their pitches. The leadership board will then present successful pitches to the

governance that oversees the fund.

“The Student Managed Investments Committee dovetails perfectly with the new finance major, which has quickly become one of the largest majors within the GCSU College of Business and Technology,” said Vice President for Advancement Seth Walker.

The new committee’s progress will be reported on their LinkedIn page, “GCSU Student Managed Investments Committee (SMIC).”

All proceeds from the Student Managed Investments Committee’s work benefits the Georgia College Foundation.

“It’s a great feeling to be entrusted with this much responsibility,” Stoudenmire said.

“Once we showed both the drive to get it done and that we have some degree of competence,” he said, “they really allowed us to create it.”



From left to right: Dubsky, Stoudenmire and DiBenedetto form part of the SMIC leadership board. Board members below with Dr. Eric Kobbe, third from left.



## Behind the scenes: What it takes to land an epic Spring Concert at GCSU

Hundreds of Georgia College & State University students gathered recently for the university’s annual musical competition, “Battle of the Bobcats.”

Part of the Spring Concert, this band competition is a favorite for students.

This year, the student-led band, “Subject to Change,” earned the opening spot.

An up-and-coming band that formed at Auburn University, “The Stews,” and Quavo, one-third of an Atlanta rap trio and hallmark Migos, rounded out the show’s lineup.

“The Stews” introduced Milledgeville to their blend of alternative and indie rock.

Quavo closed out the night with a mix of fan-favorite Migos songs and tracks from his two solo albums, “QUAVO HUNCHO” and “Rocket Power.”

For students, this was the culmination of weeks of Homecoming celebrations and festivities.

But for the Office of Student Life, it was the result of months of work.

Sara Goodelman, student engagement program



Quavo on stage at Centennial Center. Photo: Peyton Miller.

coordinator for Georgia College, was at the forefront.

“It’s a lot of preparation and a lot of little, tedious things, but it’s fun to learn what goes on behind the scenes,” Goodelman said.

As someone who has been on both sides of the concert, she said students have no idea how much time and energy goes into putting the show

together.

“I was a student here,” Goodelman said.

“I graduated last May, and now, I’m on the production side of everything. Students have no idea what goes on in it — because I didn’t.”

“It’s tedious ... but in a way, it’s fun,” she said. “It’s like a big maze, and then everything comes together for the concert.”

Working with students to put together a concert they’d be excited for was the best part for Goodelman.

“My favorite part would definitely be listening to the students about who they want to come see, getting the students’ feedback,” Goodelman said.

“Especially when coming to pick the opener, which was ‘The Stews’ this year,” she said. “My favorite part is getting the students what they want.”

## Did you know?

In February, Georgia College & State University held its annual Alumni Awards Dinner in Magnolia Ballroom.

Georgia Military College Colonel Pamela Harvey Grant, ‘82, ‘87, ‘07, received the Alumni Heritage Award, presented for exemplifying Georgia College ideals through at least four decades of public service.

Bibb County’s Dr. Juawn Jackson, ‘16, received the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award, presented to a graduate in the past 10 years who achieved significant success and displays future promise in a professional or business career.

Marion County’s Dr. Beverly Vashon Woods, ‘78, received the Alumni Achievement Award, presented to a prominent alum who positively affected the state, region or country in a professional field.

Sherill Crowell Jones, ‘69, ‘75, received the Ethel Rae Mozo-Stewart Alumni Award, given in honor of the late Georgia College alumna and presented for continued committed service and for affecting positive change.

## Two concerts coming next week: Cantare Brass Quintet & Chamber Music

Next week Georgia College & State University’s Music Department presents two great concerts, featuring a brass quintet and the annual chamber concert.

Monday, March 25, a guest artist recital, featuring the Cantare Brass Quintet, will be at 6 p.m. in Max Noah Recital Hall.

The quintet brings together a group of dynamic chamber musicians, committed to delivering exceptional performances.

Members are Dr. Maximilian McNutt, lecturer of trumpet at the University of Virginia; Dr. Michael Gause, assistant professor of trumpet at the University of Iowa; Dr. Andrew Sehmann, 2nd horn with the South Carolina Philharmonic and various universities within Georgia; Dr. Aaron Zalkind, principal trombone of the New Mexico

Philharmonic; and Dr. Patrick Young, assistant professor of low brass and director of bands at Idaho State University.

Six compositions are on the program, including “Luminosity” by Jessica Meyer and “Suite Impromptu” by Andre LaFosse.

Thursday, March 28, the university’s “Chamber Masterpieces” will be at 7:30 p.m. in Max Noah Recital Hall.

It will feature Ludwig van Beethoven’s early quartet masterpiece, “Op. 18 No.4,” which pays musical homage to Shakespeare’s play, “Romeo and Juliet,” as well as a piano quintet by Antonín Dvořák, featuring exotic Czech idioms with its Dumka movement.

Two guest artists—Jennifer Drake, viola, and Ismail Akbar, cello—join faculty members and

violinists David H. Johnson and Bryan E. Hall with pianist Lev Ryabinin for this concert.

Drake is music director of the Serenata Orchestra and Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestras in Idaho. Akbar is a soloist and chamber musician, educated at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and Mercer University.

Both concerts will also be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](http://www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment).

A \$5 donation is encouraged.

Online donations can be made at [alumni.gcsu.edu/music](http://alumni.gcsu.edu/music). All proceeds benefit music scholarships or the GCSU Department of Music through GCSU Foundation, Inc.

For more information, please email [music@gcsu.edu](mailto:music@gcsu.edu) or call 478-445-8289.



## What’s going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit [frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar](http://frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar)

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

19

20

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4:30-5:30 p.m. & 7-8 p.m. Zoom discussion led by Dr. Bruce Gentry on Flannery O’Connor’s letters written 1961-’62 in “The Habit of Being.” Register at: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6feb401e7a134cd4ad404e534d0dfd5c>.

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6-9 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Flagler College at John Kurtz Field.

23

2-5 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Flagler College at John Kurtz Field.