

News Stories Posted Tuesday September 3, 2024



GCSU welcomes new AVP for University Communications

[University Communications](#) : Tuesday September 3, 2024

Michael Cavaliere has been named [Georgia College & State University](#)'s new assistant vice president of [University Communications](#) and chief communications officer, effective Oct. 1.

Cavaliere joins Georgia College with 15 years of experience in communications—10 at [Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University](#) in Daytona Beach, Florida, where he currently serves as executive director of News and Media Relations.

He's been a journalist—both reporter and editor—as well as a university public relations specialist under multiple titles. He also worked in publishing and has written two books.



"Mike comes to us with more than a decade of higher education communications experience—plus news, journalism and creative writing experience, all of which will impact our ability to tell the impressive stories of Georgia College in a more comprehensive and positive way," said GCSU [President Cathy Cox](#).



Mike Cavaliere

“He also brings a positive, thoughtful and can-do persona that will be a great fit for our campus,” Cox said. “We are all looking forward to his leadership.”

Raised in Flagler County, Florida, Cavaliere got his Bachelor of Arts in English/creative nonfiction at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He worked at Ocean Publishing in Flagler Beach two years, rising from proofreader to writer and editor. His most satisfying accomplishment comes from that job: He was asked to step in, after a writer withdrew from a contracted assignment about turtles.

“Long story short, I was offered the job. I didn't know anything about turtles. I'd never written a book before. I had no idea what I was doing,” he said.

“

Mike comes to us with more than a decade of higher education communications experience ... He also brings a positive, thoughtful and can-do persona that will be a great fit for our campus.

- President Cathy Cox

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Nevertheless, Cavaliere finished the book by deadline, providing a human element to “Tracks in the Sand: Sea Turtles and Their Protectors.” This “massive learning experience” taught him the importance of “storytelling and setting lofty goals.”

From there, he worked for Observer Media Group in Palm Coast, Florida, writing for their Palm Coast and Ormond Beach Observer newspapers. He “covered every news beat possible” and wrote an opinion column, “Common Nonsense.” Cavaliere served as business editor, associate editor and finally multimedia director.

He won four awards, all in the top three, from a local media association in Florida and in the Better Weekly Newspaper Contest.

“

It taught me how to work under pressure and deadlines, how to put the reader—and later, the student—first ...

- Cavaliere

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“Being a reporter was hard, but it was the most valuable job I've ever had,” Cavaliere said. “It taught me how to work under pressure and deadlines, how to put the reader—and later, the student—first, how to find and value truth, and how a byline isn't just about credit. It's also a personal mark of quality. There's no better training.”

Cavaliere worked at Embry-Riddle since 2014. He started as a communications specialist, moving on to digital communications coordinator, digital managing editor and news manager before pursuing his master's in business administration and leadership at the same university.

He's written talking points and speeches for senior leaders, headed a team of veteran communicators, created databases, managed websites, overseen social media and successfully led that university's crisis communication during hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recent years, Cavaliere was Embry-Riddle's director of News and Media Relations before serving in his current position as executive director.

Why come here?

Cavaliere wanted to work in a liberal arts environment. He was attracted to Georgia College specifically for its tight community, diverse interests and big ambitions.

"Once I got on campus," he said, "it became immediately obvious how much people cared about their work, about this school and about growing together. Passion like that isn't always easy to find, but it's energizing and inspiring."

At Georgia College's Office of University Communications, Cavaliere will lead a team of 12 [staffers](#) handling [media](#) and [public affairs](#), [Front Page](#) content, the alumni magazine and [campus publications](#), [marketing](#), [web](#), [photography](#), [video](#), [public radio](#) and [creative services](#), as well as communications for [University Housing](#) and [Auxiliary Services](#).



Cavaliere with his wife Rebecca, a flight attendant, and step-daughter Charlotte.

“

Once I got on campus, it became immediately obvious how much people cared about their work, about this school and about growing together. Passion like that isn't always easy to find, but it's energizing and inspiring.

- Mike Cavaliere

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Promoting a university requires visual storytelling, which Cavaliere said “starts with a good subject, driven by action and change. In higher ed, that means focusing always on student growth. Each new university initiative should be brought back to how it will improve the student experience and, ultimately, increase the value of their degrees.”

In his early days as AVP and chief communications officer, Cavaliere plans to go on a “fact-finding campaign” to learn how his new team can best address the university's needs.

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Relationships and trust are huge with me.

- Cavaliere

That will also be his most challenging role.

“It will take patience,” Cavaliere said. “We’re all eager to start new projects and campaigns but, if we want to go far, we need to—to steal a line from self-help—‘begin with the end in mind.’ Painting that picture takes time.”

“Relationships and trust are huge with me,” he said. “I like supportive and collaborative atmospheres where I really get to know the people I work with as people, and where each team member has a clear understanding of their roles and goals. Once expectations are set, I want my team to feel empowered to ‘own’ projects and pitch new, ambitious or even seemingly weird ideas in an environment that values and encourages their feedback.”



The Cavaliere family dogs: Geno and Winnie the Pooch.

Who is Mike Cavaliere beyond the resume?

For fun, we sprung a few unorthodox questions on him.

When asked who’d win in a fight between a bobcat and an eagle—the mascot at Embry-Riddle—Cavaliere answered like a public relations pro.

“The Eagle has the power of flight,” he said, “but the Bobcat is scrappy. It would be a long, hard fight and, realizing this, I think the two would set aside their differences then pour each other bowls of Cinnamon Toast Crunch to enjoy while watching ‘Seinfeld’ reruns instead.”

Something most people don’t know about Cavaliere is his fondness for movies.

He’s such a big fan, in fact, Cavaliere logged and rated every single film he saw in the past 18 years. In addition to the “The Godfather” series, his top picks include “Mulholland Drive” and “Eternal

Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.” He also likes horror and anything directed by Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino or Alfred Hitchcock.

The most treasured item he’ll bring for his office desk in Newell Watts House is his coffee mug.

Cavaliere is moving to Central Georgia with his wife, Rebecca, and stepdaughter Charlotte, who’s in seventh grade. They love to travel and look forward to exploring the North Georgia mountains. The family has two dogs: Winnie the Pooch and Geno.

He’s excited to explore Milledgeville with its “love for arts and culture.” He wants to participate in visiting writer events and, of course, not miss anything film-related.

“It will be a lot of change all at once, which is exciting,” Cavaliere said. “I’m looking forward to working

with a bunch of positive and passionate people. I've worked in a lot of communications roles over the years. But mostly, I have no interest in being the 'smartest person in the room,' and I like to see that as a strength."

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There's a huge amount of wisdom and knowledge on every team, and I plan to tap into that at GCSU to help craft a vision for the future that we can all buy into and feel proud of.

- Mike Cavaliere

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PILLAR V

ADVANCE

(verb): 1. To move forward in a purposeful way,
2. To make or cause to make progress



[Learn more about the Advance Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)

News Stories Posted Monday September 9, 2024



GCSU's new solar business program ends with plan for expansion

[School of Continuing and Professional Studies](#) : Monday September 9, 2024

[Georgia College & State University](#)'s free pilot program—blending business entrepreneurship with solar panel physics—ended this summer when participants [installed 38 solar panels](#) at Baldwin County's Water Treatment Facility.

Last week, the free certificate course officially wrapped up with officials from the Partnership for Inclusive Innovation visiting campus to celebrate its PIN 2024 [Community Research Grant Program](#). The Georgia College course was one of four projects funded last year.

“

This NSF award will no doubt contribute to GCSU's growing reputation in the natural sciences and STEM arena and stands us well with our fellow selective public institutions within the state.

- Dr. Eric Tenbus

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Now, the successful solar business program moves forward with a recent \$400,000 [EPIIC](#) grant from the National Science Foundation. EPIIC stands for Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity.

The grant is Georgia College's third largest award from NSF.

“I am very pleased with this achievement,” said Dr. Eric Tenbus, dean of the [College of Arts & Sciences](#). “This NSF award will no doubt contribute to GCSU's growing reputation in the natural sciences and STEM arena and stands us well with our fellow selective public institutions within the state.”





Participants in GCSU's first solar business course inspect a solar panel before installation recently at the water district in Baldwin County.

The concept of merging business with solar physics was the underlying factor for the NSF award, proving innovation is at the core of Georgia College's liberal arts mission.

The certificate course also served as a workforce development program for the city of Milledgeville.

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Collaboration, community engagement and the delivery of transformative educational programs to learners of all ages are at the core of our mission. We're proud to be a part of this collaborative effort to bring innovative educational programs to enrich our community.

- Angela Criscoe, executive director of the School of Continuing & Professional Studies

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The department of [Continuing & Professional Education](#) was instrumental in obtaining the original \$100,000 PIN grant and recruiting area residents for the 40-hour course that launched in January. Director Angie Woodham and her CPE team worked closely with Georgia College business and physics professors to coordinate classroom space, promote the program and track progress.

Dr. Nicholas Creel, professor of [business law](#) and ethics co-directs Georgia College's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He worked with Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge, associate professor of [physics](#), to develop and teach the free course.

The closest comparable classes in green technology and solar are three hours away and can cost up to \$2,000, Creel said. Coupled with business knowhow, the course helped make participants more competitive for jobs in the solar industry.

The recent installation was managed by alumnus Ryan Agnew of South East Solar. His company donated solar panels for the project. The remaining supplies were funded by the grant.



About 40 residents took the course. In July, 10 put [what they learned into practice](#).

Jonathan Lenz, an electrician from Jones County was one of them.

Lenz plans on taking the exam for certification by [NABCEP](#), the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. This would allow him to expand his business with solar panel consulting and installation.

Lenz learned about the program on TV, after [13WMAZ featured](#) the university's program.

"After that, the program was pretty booked. I was excited to get in," Lenz said. "I got a sense this is needed in this area and to do any kind of work in Georgia as an electrician, you basically have to be licensed."

"We all need a little help, especially in this day and age," he said. "I hope Georgia College can come up with other innovative classes like this. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn."



Alumnus Ryan Agnew directed the recent solar panel project in Baldwin County.



Melanie Byas of Gray, middle, watches a demonstration on how to install solar panels.

Melanie Byas, a retired marketing director living in Gray, Georgia, intended to install solar panels on her house years ago. Taking the Georgia College course allowed her to learn more about the process.

"The professors have been awesome," Byas said. "The course was enlightening. I hadn't realized how much planning goes into it and how many regulations there are. I'm probably like most consumers, thinking it's simple, but it's much more involved."

Travaris Veal of Baldwin County works with municipalities around the United States. Pre-planning and safety were his biggest lessons.

He hopes to become certified soon.

"I'm always trying to gain knowledge, trying to better myself," Veal said. "Trying to help my family, push my abilities and do additional things to stay on top of the technology side of things. Things in the world are progressing. So, I'm trying to progress too and lead by example."



The new NSF grant allows programs like these to continue and expand.

Plans are underway to establish an "Institute for Academic Innovation," utilizing the university's four colleges and



Tavaris Veal of Baldwin County.

other campus units to implement grant activities.

Some classes will still accommodate area residents.

But now, Georgia College students will also be able to participate.

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With the new grant, we'll be able to increase the number of partnerships we have with industry programs, like solar,” Creel said. “As part of my role as co-director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, what I'm really looking to do is expand operations to other sectors and build on what we've started. This is going to be awesome.

- Dr. Nicholas Creel

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PILLAR IV

ENGAGE

(verb): 1. To occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention), 2. To participate or become involved

[Learn more about the Engage Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)



News Stories Posted Tuesday September 10, 2024



Biology major researches marsupials in Australia's rainforests

[International Education Center](#) : Tuesday September 10, 2024

One of the biggest challenges at first was the lack of Wi-Fi.

“

... by the end of the trip, I had made friends I didn't want to let go of, and returning home was the most difficult thing in the world.

- Skye Mears

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Nestled deep in [UNESCO's World Heritage](#) rainforests in North Queensland, Australia, senior Natalie Skye Mears of Sugar Hill, Georgia, felt disconnected from family, friends and everything she knew.

“I was left pretty much alone on the other side of the world with people I had just met. But by the end of the trip,” Mears said, “I had made friends I didn't want to let go of, and returning home was the most difficult thing in the world.”

A [biology](#) major with a minor in [chemistry](#), Mears searched for the perfect study-abroad experience that mixed stunning sites with the chance for research.



She decided on a month-long summer program with the School for Field Studies. The [SFS Rainforest Studies Centre](#) is in the Atherton Tablelands, a protected area of UNESCO's Wet Tropics.

The endangered [Mabi Rainforest](#) is the only place in Australia where marsupial tree kangaroos live.

"We were isolated high in the mountains and deep in a rainforest and spent a lot of time studying the many marsupials of the area," Mears said. "North Queensland has several different forest types, as well as savannas."

"We took many day trips to observe marsupials in their natural habitats," she said. "We camped in the savanna and made inventory of the behaviors of rock wallabies. We also went spotlighting in [Curtain Fig National Park](#) and noted which nocturnal marsupials we saw, such as striped possums and green ringtail possums."

Research involved setting trail cams and comparing three rainforests to see where the most marsupials lived. These included pouched mammals like Kangaroos, wombats (looks like a groundhog), bandicoots (a large, mouse-like critter with a long nose) and opossums.

Mears learned much about the area's history—from the [Gondwanan supercontinent](#), an ancient land mass, to the teeth of [Northern quolls](#), a small and cute but ferocious, spotted marsupial.



Alternate Text

It was easy to find creatures they were studying. Mears discovered a bandicoot in their camp kitchen. She fed rock wallabies and watched them jump four times their body length from cliffside homes with young nestled in pouches.

She saw exotic giant clams, snakes, spiders and porcupines.

"I learned a lot more about the fragmentation and subsequent conservation of rainforests than I anticipated," Mears said. "My favorite tidbit is how wildlife overpasses are built out of ropes for marsupials to climb across so they can access different patches of habitat."

In two long weekends in the nearby [city of Cairns](#), Mears went skydiving, snorkeling and up a mountain by sky rail. She feasted on mushroom gnocchi and spent "an obscene amount of money on gelato and art."

Now that Australia's crossed off her bucket list of places to see—Mears knows the study-abroad experience will help on applications for graduate school.

She wants to get a master's in forensic science and work as a crime scene investigator.



Senior biology major Natalie Skye Mears, right, at camp in an Australian rainforest.

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Studying abroad and doing research helped me get far out of my comfort zone and learn how to find the answers to my questions without the structure of a classroom.

- Skye Mears

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 Front Campus graphic for Imagine 2030. Text reads: Empower: To give someone the authority to do something
[Learn more about the Empower Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)

News Stories Posted Friday September 13, 2024



New Alumni Board member hopes to boost synergy with athletics, students and GCSU

[Athletics](#) : Friday September 13, 2024

Aaron Clark '08 was an unmistakable presence on the campus of Georgia College & State University.

A member of the Bobcat Basketball Team with a spirit nearly as large as his 6-foot-9-inch frame, Clark loved his time at Georgia College and has always remained close to the university. This year, he has joined the Alumni Board with the hope of making even more of an impact.

After playing professional basketball in Turkey and Switzerland, he began a career in sales and has spent the last 14 years in the payroll/human resources software industry.

He is the Vice President of Sales at Thread HCM in Alpharetta and married to Amanda (Hannay) Clark '08. They met at Georgia College and have been married for 15 years. They have two daughters, Logan (5) and Harper (3), and live in Roswell, Georgia.

Q: Which professor made the biggest impact on your life at GCSU and how?

Aaron Clark: I can't narrow it to one. There are three who made distinctly different, yet large impacts on my life at Georgia College. Dr. Chuck Ryan was the first professor to challenge me and dare me to be better than I thought I could be. He didn't let me rest with the status quo and forced me to raise my level. That's a lesson I have tried to continue living throughout my career. Dr. Sally Humphries was a

great professor and friend during my time at Georgia College. She has a way of taking business concepts and giving us real life applications. I still use things she taught me in how I communicate with others both personally and professionally. Lastly, Dr. Joanna Schwartz taught me how to make life fun. She brought a zest and energy to her class. It taught me that life doesn't need to be taken too seriously. At a time in my life when I felt the weight of school and basketball pressures, she taught me how to enjoy the moments. I will always be thankful to her for that.

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Georgia College was the school I never knew I needed, which helped mold me into the man I am today.

- Aaron Clark '08

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Q: Why did you join the Alumni Board and what do you hope to accomplish in the role?

AC: I joined the Alumni Board because I hope to be able to give back to a university that gave so much to me and my family. Georgia College was the school I never knew I needed, which helped mold me into the man I am today. I would also love to help incorporate even more synergy between the athletics program and the university at large. Athletics can be such a unifying force for both the athletes and the students who support them. More energy toward that will help create a better college experience for all Georgia College students.

Q: What was your favorite spot on campus?

AC: There are so many spots that come to mind. From Adams Hall where I met my suitemate/lifelong friend Joe Bence, to the Brick where my childhood friend Alex Jones and I would meet every Tuesday for wing nights no matter how busy we were. My favorite spot has to be the Centennial Center. That building molded me in so many ways. From the early morning workouts, to hearing Coach Terry Sellers' whistle, to the amazing Bobcat crowds on gamedays. Even with all of that, the reason that makes it my favorite spot is it is the first place I ever saw my future wife, Amanda.

Q: What advice would you give to the 2024 Georgia College First-Year class?

AC: Enjoy! Enjoy everything GCSU has to offer. (Former Athletic Director and GCSU Hall of Famer) Dr. Stan Aldridge once told me that college isn't solely about school, and in my case it shouldn't be all about athletics, either. You grow and mature as a person in college, and so much of that occurs outside of the classroom. Make friends, make mistakes and learn from them, and most importantly make memories. As Andy Bernard says in *The Office*, "I wish there was a way to know you're in the

good ole days before you've actually left them." Your time at GCSU will be the good ole days before you know it, so treasure the time you have while you're there!



Clark was a standout for GCSU Men's Basketball



PILLAR IV

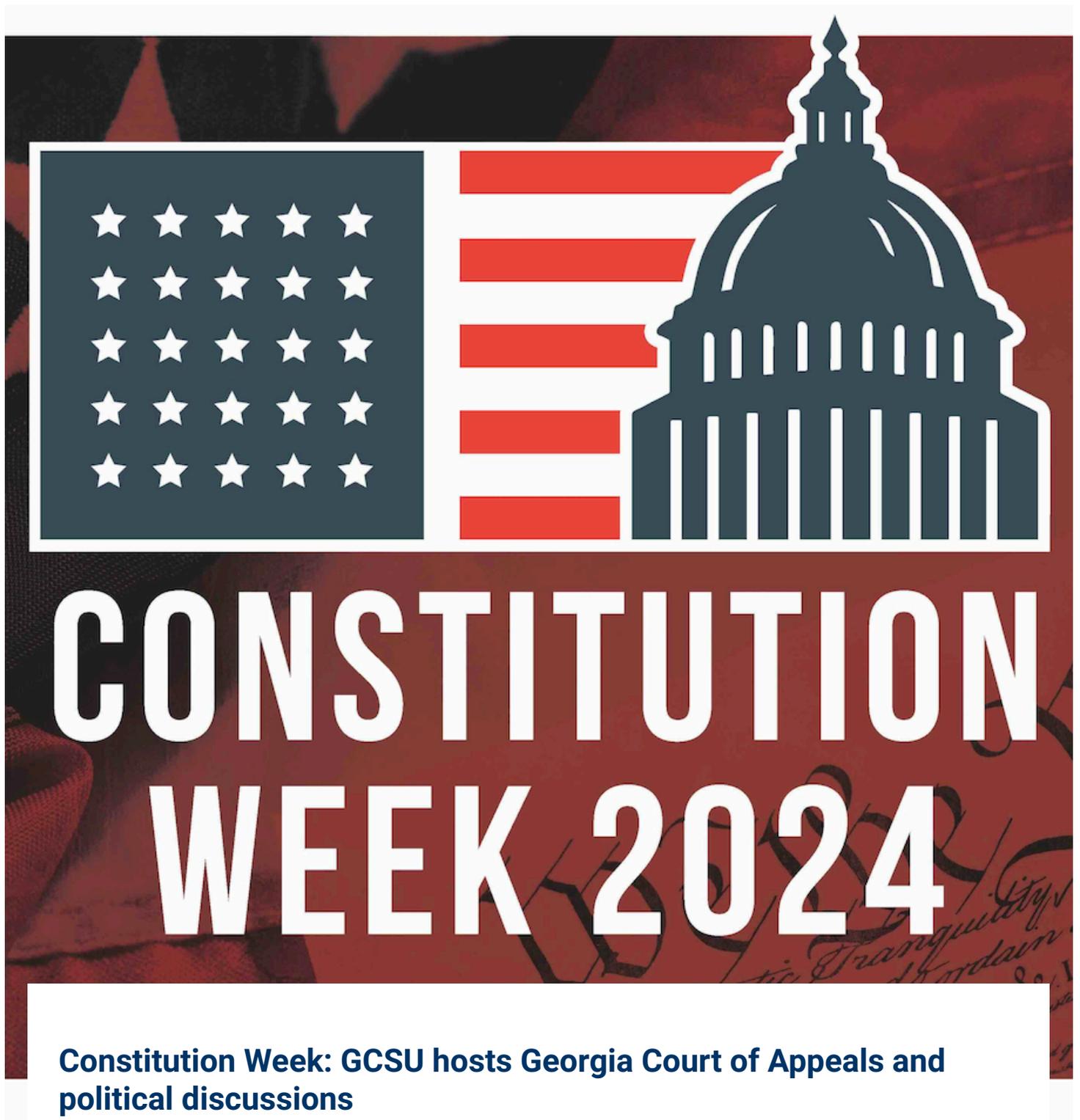
ENGAGE

(verb): 1. To occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention), 2. To participate or become involved

[Learn more about the Engage Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)



News Stories Posted Monday September 16, 2024



Constitution Week: GCSU hosts Georgia Court of Appeals and political discussions

[Leadership Programs](#) : Monday September 16, 2024

Georgia College & State University's annual [Constitution Week](#) is back with political topics for students and the public Tuesday through Thursday, Sept. 17-19, at locations around campus.

Events include a session by the

Georgia [Court of Appeals](#) 10:15 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Sept. 18, in Magnolia Ballroom.

“In light of polarizing social media posts and opinion commentary masquerading as fact-checked news, Georgia College’s Constitution Week is an opportunity to strip away the noise and provide information about the foundational underpinnings of our nation’s government,” said Jehan El-Jourbagy, a main organizer of the event and associate professor of business law and ethics at Georgia College.

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Constitution Week creates a space, where students and public citizens can consider how the Constitution and rule of law apply to current events.

- Jehan El-Jourbagy

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The Court of Appeals acts as the state’s intermediate appellate court. There are 15 judges altogether, but oral arguments are heard before panels of three. The court makes its judges more accessible to the public by hearing some cases offsite.

At Georgia College, the court’s presence is an opportunity for students to see the justice system in action and interact with judges for mentorship and career advice. Presiding judges that day are Stephen Dillard, Trenton Brown and Wade Padgett.

A welcome address by GCSU [President Cathy Cox](#) at 10:15 a.m. will precede oral arguments. After [cases](#) are heard at 10:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m., there will be a question-and-answer session at 12:15 p.m. giving students from GCSU’s [Leadership Program](#), [Student Government Association](#), [Mock Trial](#) and business-law classes a chance to mingle with judges.

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Students will benefit from seeing how two parties appeal a case and present differing perspectives to the three-judge panel. This is not only the essence of the judicial process in general, but it furthers an understanding among our students that there is a civil way to disagree. Here at the state’s public liberal arts university, that is an important concept for our students to learn.

- Cathy Cox

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“We are delighted the Georgia Court of Appeals has chosen to hold oral arguments on our campus this fall,” said GCSU President Cathy Cox. “Many of our undergraduate students are interested in legal



CONSTITUTION WEEK 2024
September 17-19

WEEK EVENTS

TUESDAY, SEPT. 17

Constitution Day Welcome and Debate
Noon - 1 p.m. • Pat Peterson Room
Welcome by President Cathy Cox
Constitution Day Public Forum Debate

Constitution Day Lecture and Trax on the Trail Concert
6 p.m. • Georgia’s Old Governor’s Mansion
Lecture by Dr. Billy Coleman, Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19

Lunch Discussion on Separation of Church and State
Noon - 1 p.m. • Atkinson Room 202

Supreme Court Review panel
6 - 7:15 p.m. • A&S Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

Georgia Court of Appeals Oral Arguments
10:30 a.m. - Noon • Magnolia Ballroom

Lunch Times Talk: Gender and the 2024 Election
Noon - 1 p.m. • Ina Dillard Russell Library

Panel Discussion on Checks and Balances
6 - 7:15 p.m. • Peabody Auditorium



DEBATE • LISTEN • LEARN • SHARE

More information available at <https://libguides.gcsu.edu/constitutionweek>

This event is made possible through the work of Campus-wide Constitution Week committee members: Jackie Queen (CTL), Dana Socolowicz-Morok (A&S), Brian Weisner (Honors), Jan Hoffman (A&S), Harold Mock (Academics), Jessica Wallace (A&S), Dean Copelan (CoB), Nicholas Creel (CoB), Tonya Darden (Library), Andrea Christoff (COE), Brian Gibbs (COE), Adam Lamparello (A&S), Amelia Marcom (COHS) and Jehan El-Jourbagy (CoB).

SCAN FOR DETAILS 

Alternate Text

careers, and many others want to understand how our judicial system works.”

“Students will benefit from seeing how two parties appeal a case and present differing perspectives to the three-judge panel,” Cox said. “This is not only the essence of the judicial process in general, but it furthers an understanding among our students that there is a civil way to disagree. Here at the state’s public liberal arts university, that is an important concept for our students to learn.”

Other highlights:

Tuesday, Sept. 17 Welcome address at 12:30 p.m. by GCSU President Cathy Cox in the Pat Peterson Museum Education room at Ina Dillard Library. Followed by a public forum debate.

- Lively 6 p.m. concert of presidential campaign music from 1840 to 1964 at [Georgia’s Old Governor’s Mansion](#) with a lecture on “[Constitutional Democracy](#)” by Dr. Billy Coleman, associate director of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri.

Wednesday, Sept. 18 [Georgia Court of Appeals](#) 10:15 a.m. to noon p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom, followed by questions and answers.

- [Times Talk](#) on “Gender and the 2024 Election” noon to 1 p.m. in Ina Dillard Library.
- Panel discussion 6 to 7:15 p.m. on “Who has the power? Our three branches of government and their evolving powers” in Peabody Auditorium.

Thursday, Sept. 19 Lunch discussion noon to 1 p.m. on “Separation of Church and State” in Atkinson Hall, room 202.

- [Supreme Court Review](#) 6 to 7:15 p.m. in Arts & Sciences Auditorium. Legal experts will discuss cases from the court’s recent term.

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With a Presidential election around the corner. Constitution Week provides students—many of them voting in a presidential election for the first time—information about substantive issues, like the impact of Supreme Court appointments, giving attendees the opportunity to think more critically and ask questions of experts in the field

- El-Jourbagy

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PILLAR IV





ENGAGE

(verb): 1. To occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention), 2. To participate or become involved



[Learn more about the Engage Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)

News Stories Posted Tuesday September 17, 2024



Georgia's Teacher of the Year is busting barriers

[College of Education](#) : Tuesday September 17, 2024

Holly Starmer Witcher, '01, a special education teacher at Tesnatee Gap Elementary School in White County, is the 2025 Georgia Teacher of the Year. A 23-year teaching veteran, she was also named Teacher of the Year in two other school districts: Rockdale County in 2006 and White County in 2023.

Witcher was selected out of approximately 110,000 teachers to be [the state's Teacher of the Year](#). She feels it's "a huge honor" to be selected and has been advocating for other Georgia teachers since her term began July 1, 2024.

"Having good administrators speaks volumes," Witcher said. "Sometimes they see something in you that you may not see in yourself. My administrators saw the way I interacted with these students and said, 'Hey, you've got this—you've already done this.'"

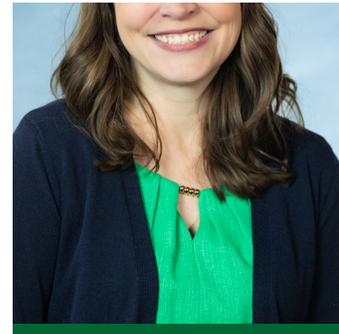
"It's so cool to see the changes in my students," she said. "When you're with the kids every day, sometimes you don't notice those improvements, but then you look back at the beginning of the year and you think, 'This child couldn't do this before.' It's a very rewarding career."

After Witcher was named the state's Teacher of the Year May 31, 2024, she had one month to transition her classroom to ensure her students are taken care of while she's out with her new duties.

Witcher is an ex officio member of the Georgia Board of Education, where she provides input during the meetings about how certain



issues affect teachers and students.



Holly Witcher



Holly Witcher works with her students.

This kind of representation at the Board of Education turned the tide in the way the organization works.

“I wish every teacher could see the things I get to see—the experience is phenomenal,” Witcher said.

Her platform “You Matter,” serves to remind teachers, administrators and community members what they’re doing is important and affects lives. She aims to spread hope to all who serve Georgia’s children.

“As teachers, we know our hearts are in it, but oftentimes we don’t hear it enough,” Witcher said. “The work we do impacts Georgia. We may not see the difference we’ve made for 20 years. But as these students get older, they’ll say, ‘Wow, I had you as a teacher.’ I know I played a part in that.”

“That message also goes for administration,” she said. “I speak with superintendents and how their decisions impact students and teachers.”

As a child, Witcher frequently gathered the neighborhood children, positioning them in a circle to play

school. Her mother always knew Witcher would make a great teacher someday.

"I loved my teachers so much when I was growing up that I just wanted to be like them," she said. "I also loved school."

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In my class, we celebrate big, because the hurdles many students overcome are huge. So, when we see them accomplish something new, we recognize them. It's so cool, because my students know one another and each other's struggles. When they see another student do something they've not done before, I'm not the only one celebrating. The other kids are cheering one another on too. I can't help but smile.

- Holly Witcher

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When Witcher attended [Georgia College & State University](#), special education was not on her radar. Instead, she wanted to teach first graders how to read. But through the years, Witcher had special education students in her general education class, giving her the opportunity to co-teach and guide, providing them with one-on-one attention.

"I loved seeing the strategies used by the special education teacher," she said. "I also loved being challenged. There was always something different happening in the classroom."

After graduating from Georgia College with a [Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education](#), Witcher received a master's from the American College of Education.

Once Witcher had her son, she took time off to raise him. Her principal suggested she get certified to teach students diagnosed with significant developmental delays.

"Once I got my foot in the door, I realized this is what I loved doing. I could transform these children, teaching them life skills and critical skills," she said. "I never looked back."

When her students overcome hurdles, they celebrate each other's accomplishments.

"In my class, we celebrate big, because the hurdles many students overcome are huge," Witcher said. "So, when we see them accomplish something new, we recognize them. It's so cool, because my students know one another and each other's struggles. When they see another student do something they've not done before, I'm not the only one celebrating. The other kids are cheering one another on too. I can't help but smile."

This collaboration prompts more success.

"I have the best job in the world," Witcher said. "And everybody says, 'You have a hard job.' It is, but it's absolutely the most rewarding to develop relationships with not just students, but their families, including their brothers and sisters because you must all be in it together."

Dr. Dee Russell was her favorite professor of [Early Childhood Education at Georgia College](#).

"He walked alongside us to make us the best teachers possible," she said. "Dr. Russell taught me how to stop, think and reflect on things."

Witcher turned her papers in promptly, because she didn't want her assignments to be late. Russell would return them to make her think on the assignments for a few days and adjust where needed. He also taught her a strong, transferrable liberal arts tenet.

"Now, I'm good at processing information and being organized," Witcher said. "He also taught me how to think for myself and see situations from multiple angles. Spending two years with him was fantastic. I often think back on things he told us and use these tools today."

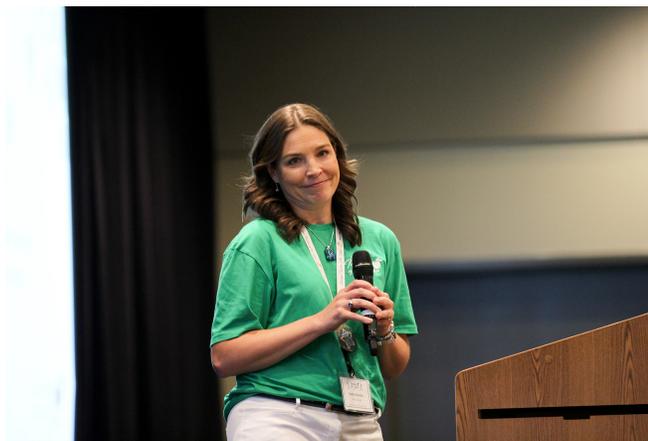
Witcher was also taught by former Georgia Teacher of the Year Sandra Worsham in her Early Literacy Class. She learned about the importance of language and vocabulary words from Worsham.

"Every day, I teach the strategies she taught me—playing with words, rhymes, riddles and other concepts," Witcher said.

She also learned how to become a leader at Georgia College—and uses these skills as [Georgia's Teacher of the Year](#).

"I said, 'yes' to any campus opportunities that came up," Witcher said. "The student-led organizations I participated in had advisors to guide us. That prepared me for life and making independent decisions."

Witcher was in the Baptist Student Union and Kappa Delta Pi—the International Honor Society of Education, which focuses on leadership, scholarship and service. She also played flute in concert band and bass in jazz band.



Holly Witcher delivers her "You Matter" address to Georgia's District Teachers of the Year during a conference.

During her senior year, Witcher pushed beyond her comfort zone to teach in Sweden. She was curious about education in other countries and how it compared to schools in the United States. Then, she used Swedish concepts to challenge the status quo in American schools.

"Even now, as we talk about different education policies and things in our schools, I think about how they're different from Sweden, and how they could be," Witcher said. "Saying 'yes' to leadership opportunities at Georgia College grew me as an individual in ways I had not anticipated."

In October, most of her time will be spent traveling throughout the state to speak for recognition programs and conferences. She has several speaking engagements for teachers and organizations like the [Georgia Foundation for Public Education](#). She'll also present to the administrators at the [Georgia Association of Educational Leaders](#) Conference in January.

Witcher has been traveling, meeting other state teachers of the year and hearing their stories.

"Sometimes when you share, it just blooms something into you," Witcher said. "I'm enjoying seeing these people and listening to their heart-felt input. There's a lot of inspiration and encouragement out there."

In her down time, she's applying for the National Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced in spring 2025.

Witcher is also preparing for the next contenders for District Teacher of The Year. She'll meet all the teachers who are being announced this fall as District Teachers of the Year. They'll learn to elevate their voice to explain what's happening and what's needed in their schools.

"I love partnering with teachers and the families of students to figure out how I can help them," Witcher said. "Many of my families have commented, 'My child will never ...' or, 'I struggle to help ...' I

enjoy working alongside them, busting through those barriers.”

“I just love making an impact on students and their families, period,” she said. “There's something so contagious about being able to bring joy into the life of someone else.”



PILLAR II

DISTINGUISH

(verb): 1. To make noteworthy or remarkable: to give prominence or distinction, 2. To mark as separate or different

[Learn more about the Distinguish Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)



ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge

Georgia College & State University

Milledgeville, GA

4-year Public

Enrollment: 6,989

Join Year: 2016



GCSU awarded silver seal for high number of voting students

[American Democracy Project](#) : Tuesday September 17, 2024



Alternate Text

Just in time for [National Voter Registration Day](#), Sept. 17, comes news about Georgia College & State University's student voting rate. It is 5% higher than the national average, earning the university a [Silver Seal](#) distinction from the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#).

"Georgia College has a historic student voting registration and voting rate to be proud of, and I'm confident we will continue that tradition," said Dr. Janet Hoffmann, campus coordinator for the [American Democracy Project](#), a nonpartisan group that encourages students become actively engaged in democracy and civil discourse.

The voting-rate percentage ties directly to the number of registered college students who actually cast votes on election day.

The Silver Seal is for campuses with a 30 to 39% participation rate during the 2022 midterms. That year, 36% Georgia College students voted, compared to the national average of 31%. Statistics are from

the [National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement](#) report released by Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

Georgia College is one of more than 520 campuses participating in ALL IN's nonpartisan democratic efforts to encourage students to register and vote.

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge began in 2016 as part of an initiative by [Civic Nation](#) to recognize student voting engagement and campuses with programs of excellence. Georgia College won its first ALL IN Bronze Seal that year for a student voting rate between 50 and 59%.

The university won a Gold Seal for its 2018 midterm election rate and another Gold Seal when nearly 77% of its students voted in the 2020 presidential election. Georgia College also won “Best in the Nation” in its class of public universities for registering 94.7% of its student to vote that year.

These higher numbers dropped in 2022 across the board. Nationally, student voting rates decreased by about 40% compared to midterms in 2018, NSLVE reported.

“Typically, voter rates in midterm elections are significantly lower than presidential election years,” Hoffman said, “and that was the case in 2022.”

More than 8 million young adults are newly eligible to vote in 2024, according to ALL IN.

During Georgia College’s annual [Constitution Week](#), engaged students from the American Democracy Project and other political organizations like College Republicans and Young Democrats will be at tables on campus encouraging peers to register, find their polling places and turnout to vote.

Senior [history](#) major Axel Hawkins of McDonough, Georgia, is one of them.

In April, Hawkins was recognized on the nationwide [ALL IN’s Student Voting Honor Roll](#) for going “above and beyond to advance nonpartisan student voter registration, education and turnout efforts in their communities.”

She is also president of the Georgia College’s [Student Government Association](#).



Axel Hawkins

“I was so glad to see GCSU was recognized by ALL IN for our high levels of voting in the midterms,” Hawkins said, “which is much more difficult to achieve than in a presidential election year. It just goes to show how our liberal arts curriculum and community-oriented focus makes a more informed and socially responsible student body.”

“This year,” she added, “I’m focusing on making sure our students are fully informed about their rights in an election and know just how important it is to exercise those rights to create the type of future they want to see.”





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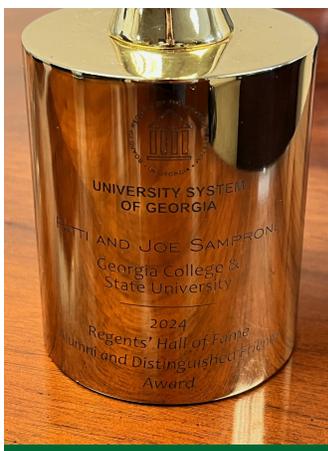
News Stories Posted Thursday September 19, 2024



Lifelong GCSU supporters Joe and Patti Samprone named to USG Regents' Hall of Fame

[University Advancement](#) : Thursday September 19, 2024

Dr. Joseph and Patricia Samprone of Gold Canyon, Arizona—known affectionately around the Georgia College & State University campus as Joe and Patti—received the University System of Georgia’s 2024 Regents’ Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award during the 20th annual Regents’ Scholarship Gala Sept. 12.



Alternate Text

The Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award is given to an individual or couple known for championing academic excellence and access to higher education in Georgia. Nine people were inducted into the Regents’ Hall of Fame recently.

The Samprones were nominated for this honor by Georgia College for more than 40 years of campus involvement.

“

The breadth and depth of their commitment to and support of Georgia College & State University and its students makes Joe and Patti Samprone uniquely deserving of the Regents’ Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award.

- GCSU President Cathy Cox

”

Dr. Joe Samprone taught economics from 1983 to 2003 in what was then known as the J. Whitney Bunting School of Business, while Patti Samprone earned her MBA from GCSU in 1988 and worked in human resources at Vought Aircraft Industries, now Qarbon Aerospace, in Milledgeville.

Joe also became head coach of the Bobcat Cross Country team for 14 years, well into his retirement. In 2007, he earned Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year honors. Patti co-chaired the university’s last capital campaign, which concluded in May 2020 with more than \$50 million in philanthropic support.

“

It’s quite an honor to showcase people who’ve made such a big impact here and statewide. It also shows how alumni can express their love and deep appreciation for the university and its uniqueness.

”

Through all these endeavors, the Samprones became beloved figures to hundreds of Georgia College students every year, many of whom they remain in contact with years after graduation.

As part of their lifetime commitment to the university, the Samprones started making charitable donations in 1989. The Samprones now sponsor eight of Georgia College’s flagship Presidential Scholarships, which includes a stipend for study abroad. They also fund one of the university’s first endowed professorships for junior faculty members, as well as endowed scholarships for first-generation students and for athletes in women’s basketball, volleyball and golf.

“It’s quite an honor to showcase people who’ve made such a big impact here and statewide. It also shows how alumni can express their love and deep appreciation for the university and its uniqueness,” said Seth Walker, vice president of GCSU’s Office of University Advancement.

“The Samprones understand that without philanthropy, we would be much more limited in what we can offer our students,” Walker said. “They love and appreciate our uniqueness as the state’s designated liberal arts institution and understand that philanthropy is a huge aspect of being able to continue to provide top quality resources for faculty and students.”



PILLAR II

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News Stories Posted Friday September 20, 2024



GCSU alum earns \$40,000 Quad Fellowship award

[National Scholarships Office at Georgia College](#) : Friday September 20, 2024

Nadya Gutierrez, '22, was one of 10 U.S. citizens and 50 people worldwide to earn a Quad Fellowship this year.

The fellowship, worth \$40,000, is an initiative by the governments of Australia, India, Japan and the United States to build ties between scientists. The fellowship sponsors “master's and doctoral students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the United States.”

The Quad Fellowship is managed by a non-governmental task force with leaders from each country and administered by the Institute of International Education, a global non-profit.

“This fellowship gives me the freedom to study the questions that interest me and that I think are important,” Gutierrez said. “Outside of that, I’m invited into a unique cohort of other fellows. Having international, multicultural perspectives can be really valuable.”

“An engineer would solve a problem differently than I would as an ecologist, but we can work together to help each other address the problems that we’re trying to address, and hopefully build a community that really supports each other,” she said.



Awarded the Hollings Scholarship as an undergraduate, Gutierrez studied environmental science and freshwater ecology at Georgia College & State University with academic assistance and an internship with NOAA.

Gutierrez got her first taste of research at Georgia College, where she studied diversity among insect larva populations in the local lakes of Milledgeville alongside Dr. Kristine White, associate professor of biology.



Nadya spends a day on the water.



Nadya works among tall grass.

“Every experience provides you with different opportunities, and that project allowed me to look at tiny organisms and learn the things that differentiate them,” Gutierrez said. “When I graduated, I got a job in southern Alabama looking at marine crustaceans and invertebrates. My research positioned me to be good at identifying small things, and that skill was highly valued there.”

Now, Gutierrez studies seagrass meadows and how habitat fragmentation may alter water flow throughout these ecosystems, which may have implications on coastal regions ability to mitigate shoreline erosion through wave energy dissipation, as a doctorate student at UNC Chapel Hill.

“Seagrass is a very important ecosystem, and it’s a nursery habitat for organisms we and bigger fish like to eat, such as blue crab and shrimp,” she said. “In North Carolina, we’re seeing shifts from continuous to patchy meadows, and this could alter things.”

Gutierrez is in her second year of doctoral studies, based at the Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City, North Carolina.

To secure the Quad Fellowship, Gutierrez worked with Anna Whiteside, assistant director of Georgia College’s National Scholarships Office, which offers help to undergraduates and alumni of Georgia College.

“To know I had funding lined up and that was one less thing I had to worry about was such a privilege, and really humbling,” Gutierrez said. “I love being integrated into a really big lab, helping other grad students and spending days on the water.”

“I go out into the seagrass and see the stingrays and sharks that live there,” she said. “Grad school is a lot of work but I’m lucky that I love what I do, and the day-to-day is really exciting.”



Nadya Gutierrez in the field.

News Stories Posted Monday September 23, 2024



GCSU stays No. 6 Top School, up to No. 4 Most Innovative in U.S. News' 2025 Best Colleges

[President, Office of the](#) : Monday September 23, 2024

Georgia College & State University, the state's designated public liberal arts university, gained strength among the elite top 20 universities in the Regional South in [U.S. News & World Report's 2025 Best Colleges](#) guidebook released today.



Located in Milledgeville, Georgia, GCSU is one of the three selective admission institutions in the University System of Georgia along with Georgia Tech and The University of Georgia. GCSU enrolled more than 7,100 students this academic year from 150 of Georgia's 159 counties. Students have pursued top undergraduate majors such as [Business](#), [Nursing](#), [Education](#), [Psychology](#), [Exercise Science](#) and [Communications](#) in the past five years, plus dozens of [graduate programs](#) and an unmatched [pre-med mentoring pathway](#) to medical school admission.

After moving into U.S. News's Top 20 ranking last year, [Georgia College & State University](#) solidified its position with the 2025 rankings. The university [ranks sixth](#) in "Top Public Schools, [Regional Universities South](#)," maintaining the school's position among the

top 10 public universities. Georgia College rose in other categories, reaching No. 4 "[Most Innovative Schools](#)" among public and private regional universities in the South. That's a six-point jump from its No. 10 ranking on last year's Most Innovative list.

Among all public and private universities in the Regional South – a category that includes universities in 12 states from Virginia west to Arkansas – Georgia College is ranked [No. 15 overall for all Regional Universities South](#). The university rose from an overall rank of No. 16 in last year's guidebook.

"Being sixth among all public regional universities and among the top 20 of all public or private universities in this wide territory of the South reflects the distinctive experience we offer our students," said GCSU President Cathy Cox. "Our uniquely small class sizes, undergraduate [research opportunities](#), vibrant [campus life](#) and exciting NCAA [D-II athletics](#) combine for a private college experience at a public-school price."



Small class sizes are a hallmark of the GCSU liberal arts experience.

Georgia College & State University is the only state university within Georgia to make the top 20 as a best public Southern regional university.

“

Being sixth among all public regional universities and among the top 20 of all public or private universities in this wide territory of the South reflects the distinctive experience we offer our students.

- President Cathy Cox

”

For [Undergraduate Teaching Programs](#), Regional South, GCSU rose one spot to fifth overall and is No. 1 among public regional universities in Georgia. To be ranked in this U.S. News category, universities must “have a strong commitment to teaching undergraduates instead of conducting graduate-level research.”

U.S. News & World Report also ranks



Students present during GCSU's annual Research Day.

GCSU on its list of [Best Value Schools at No. 49](#) in the Regional South and No. 3 among public regional universities in the state.

“These rankings show the world what we already know: Georgia College students benefit from our contemporary liberal arts education and graduate exceptionally well prepared for their careers with skills like critical thinking, problem solving and communication abilities,” said Cox.

“Interest in Georgia College is at an [all-time high](#). Applications to GCSU have [grown 44% since Fall 2022](#) and the 2024-2025 academic year marks our largest

overall enrollment ever.”

Georgia College students echoed the sentiments in the rankings report.

“Knowing that my institution is ranked makes me feel very secure about my education. I am quite confident in my ability to transition easily into the work force after graduation,” said [Marketing](#) major Abbey Ottaway, a senior from Flowery Branch, Ga.

First-year student Fnu “Sam” Samiya, a [Data Science](#) major from Pakistan, agrees that rankings like U.S. News & World Report make an impact. “I feel proud to be a part of a university that is not only well-recognized, but also feels like home,” Samiya said.

“

I feel proud to be a part of a university that is not only well-recognized, but also feels like home.

”

For individual undergraduate programs of study, GCSU ranks as follows in both the regional category and nationally among universities from all categories, including far larger R1 universities:

- Business: No. 1 Public Regional South in Georgia, No. 281 nationally
- Nursing: No. 2 Public Regional South in Georgia, [No. 149 nationally](#)
- Psychology: No. 1 Public Regional South in Georgia, No. 293 nationally
- Computer Science: No. 1 (tie) Public Regional South in Georgia, Top 500 nationally

U.S. News & World Report designates Georgia College & State University as a [Regional University](#). “Regional Universities offer a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's programs but few doctoral programs,” according to the U.S. News Best Colleges website. “South” is one of U.S. News’ four geographic segments and is comprised of 12 southern U.S. states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

U.S. News publishes the Best Colleges rankings each year to provide prospective students and their families with the comparative merits of the undergraduate programs at America’s colleges and universities. The rankings offer detailed



information of the institutions and data on [factors](#) such as outcome measures, including graduation rates, graduate indebtedness and post-graduate earnings.

U.S. News & World Report is a multiplatform distributor of news and information, which publishes annual print and e-book versions of its prestigious rankings of best colleges, best graduate schools and best hospitals.



Nursing students run an outreach table at GCSU Gives Day.



PILLAR II

DISTINGUISH

(verb): 1. To make noteworthy or remarkable: to give prominence or distinction, 2. To mark as separate or different

[Learn more about the Distinguish Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)

News Stories Posted Tuesday September 24, 2024



Humanitarian study abroad program inspires junior to continue good works in the future

[Philosophy Religion & Liberal Studies, Department of](#) : Tuesday September 24, 2024

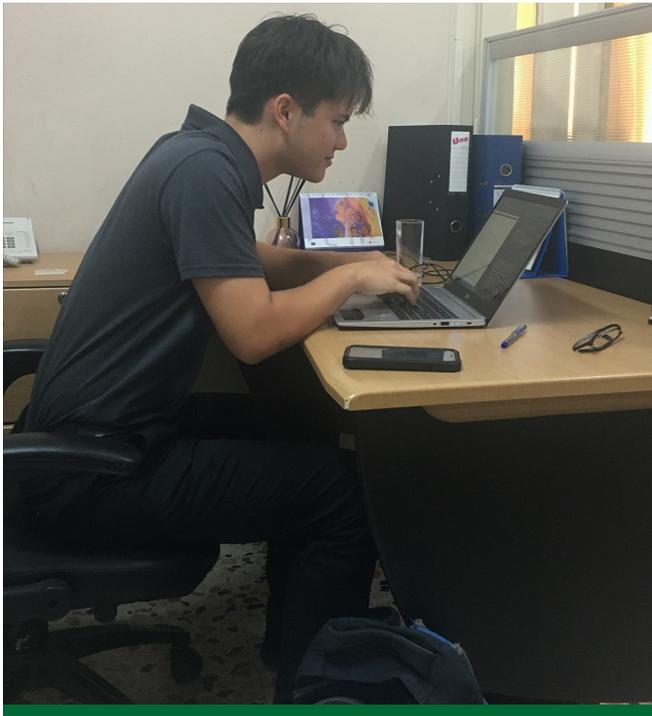
Junior [political science](#) and [philosophy](#) double major Derek Kim interned this summer helping Jordanians in need in Amman, Jordan. He did this internship through the [School for International Training](#) as part of the “Refugees, Health and Humanitarian Action in Jordan” program.

Kim wasn’t aware of the study abroad program until he inquired about this type of opportunity at the [International Education Center](#). The staff walked him through the application process.

“I looked at the program selection offered, and this one stuck out to me,” Kim said. “I was interested in the region, and the objectives aligned with my feeling of purpose, which is to help those who are disadvantaged.”



He interned as a legal researcher with the Justice Center for Legal Aid. His research promoted social programs for non-governmental organizations in Jordan.



Derek Kim translates documents and writes a summary on a workshop to improve guidelines on juvenile institutions in Jordan.

JCLA provides multiple proposals to work with and hosts different types of sessions to promote legal aid awareness that assist Jordanians and refugees. Although Kim didn't interact directly with refugees, JCLA used his research to provide aid for them.

Kim's Research Design and Systematic Analysis classes at [Georgia College & State University](#) prepared him for this internship.

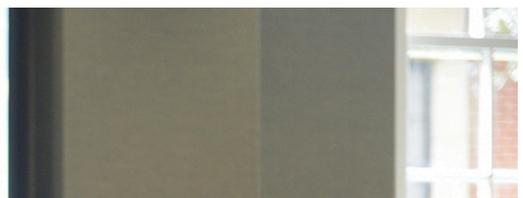
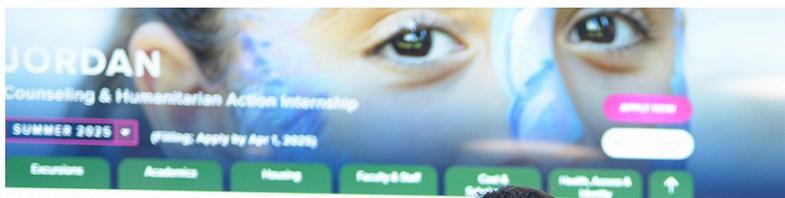
"My professors taught me how to develop a project, what to look for, how to execute it, collect the data and provide analysis that goes into research, Kim said. "Without those classes, it would've been difficult for me to conduct efficient research."

His [philosophy](#) classes also prepared him for his internship by providing an awareness of cultural, religion, social and geographic elements.

Kim enjoyed applying these skills to help others.

"NGOs need funding," Kim said. "Much of our research involved collaborating to help fund projects that provide essential services to refugees."

"Since most NGO funding comes from United States governmental organizations, it made me critically think about how our government has a strong impact on NGOs that provide essential services to refugees across the world," he said. "There's a difference between learning research in school versus being in the real world, doing research that genuinely affects the people you're trying to help," he said.





Derek Kim talks about his summer internship in Jordan to GCSU students during the Opportunities Abroad Fair.

The School for International Training's Contextual Studies, Counseling and Humanitarian Action class inspired Kim to help others. He took day-long excursions each week to learn more about Jordan and its people.

"I told my family that it felt like a tourist internship, because they took us everywhere," Kim said. "It was very nice."

"The class also developed my cultural awareness of the contemporary and historical issues in the Middle East," he said. "It sheds light on how essential education is to any individual's upbringing or beliefs and ideas."

"This study abroad program helped me understand that we may have our disagreements among each other, but at the end of the day, we're all human beings," Kim said. "The class helped me see the big picture. We want to help each other, and we can do that despite any disagreements, beliefs or values."

Kim had never been abroad before. Living with his Jordanian family was "a truly nice experience and one of the best parts of the study abroad program." They treated him with love and compassion, like he was part of the family.

His host family consisted of two parents, their children and grandchildren. They all lived together in a home with four floors. This wasn't a surprise to Kim, as extended families often live together in many parts of the world.

A young child of the family spoke English but couldn't speak Arabic well. He was taking Arabic lessons, and Kim motivated him to do his homework. The boy watched English videos on YouTube and played English-speaking Minecraft video games.

"It was interesting to see American content in an entirely different part of the world and just how similar my childhood experience was to this child's," Kim said. "I discovered how much influence the U.S. and our society has on the entire world."

This study abroad program helped me understand that we may have our disagreements among each other, but at the end of the day, we're all human beings. The class helped me see the big picture. We want to help each other, and we can do that despite any disagreements, beliefs or values.

- Derek Kim

“I want to become involved in a nonprofit organization or an NGO that deals with political issues and lobbies for certain positions on these issues,” Kim said.

Later, he sees himself as a lawyer or public defender to continue his purpose of helping others who are disadvantaged and can't afford lawyers. Since he'd eventually like to start a family, this career would enable him to have more time to spend with them.



Derek Kim after climbing a large slope of sand in the Wadi Rum Desert—a popular tourist attraction.

After graduating from Georgia College, he aspires to do humanitarian work and social activism abroad. He'd also like to pursue his master's degree while overseas. Kim's internship provided insight of the impact he could make in his chosen profession.

“I find more value in the schoolwork I do now and how important it is to be good at it,” he said. “Also, applying real-world research is essential to advance my career and see if I'm going to like a certain profession.”

As one of 13 students participating in this program from universities across the U.S., Kim noticed how eager they all were to help others. This made the experience even more “amazing.”

“There's not only professional consideration, but there's also a mental, emotional and spiritual consideration,” Kim said. “This was an eye-opening experience because of where I was and the people I interacted with. Being in another country with a different culture opened my eyes that helped create awareness of others.”

Kim was a panelist with the School for International Training during the [Opportunities Abroad Fair](#) Sept. 25, 2024. He spoke with GCSU students about his internship and the study abroad program.





ADVANCE

(verb): 1. To move forward in a purposeful way,
2. To make or cause to make progress



[Learn more about the Advance Pillar in our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan](#)