GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Prepared by Office of University Communications

Jan. 18, 2025

Georgia College commemorates the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) lived a life of service and dedication to his fellow man. The Georgia College Cultural Center and Office of Inclusive Excellence commemorated his life, teachings and legacy by providing opportunities for students to learn from his example and make a difference in their community.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spent a great portion of his life working to help manifest his idea of the 'Beloved Community' to ensure that the quality of life and the experiences of others was the best that they could possibly be. That work was not easy and was often met with opposition," said Nadirah Mayweather, director of the Cultural Center at Georgia College.

"We honor that work, because in the face of challenge, Dr. King still kept others in mind. He had a heart to help people," she said. "At Georgia College, we encourage our students to think independently and to lead creatively. Dr. King is a beautiful example of this philosophy and leadership style, and all our lives are still impacted by his work."

The theme for this year aligns with the King Center theme: "It Starts with Me... Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community."

Several events have taken place on campus over the last few days.

On Friday, Jan. 14, a mid-day ceremony kicking-off the King Weekend 2022 was held on Front Campus. The 2022 Virtual Beloved Community Global Summit hosted by the King Center was also made available for streaming.

A Day of Service was held Saturday giving students the chance to put the teachings of King into action through community service. Service sites included the Collins P. Lee Center and Brave Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center.

"Service to others is something that Dr. King was passionate about. We hope that as students engage in service opportunities, not just this weekend, but continuously, that they will also recognize the importance of helping others and understand that they are a part of a global community," said Mayweather. "Helping others is also a way of helping ourselves because we are all connected. In order to reach the beloved community, we must all continuously do our part to make it better."



The campus community gathered Friday to kick off MLK weekend

Monday, Jan. 17 was designated "It Starts with Me Day." The Georgia College and local community were encouraged to continue to engage in service and reflection on King's life. You can share on social media ways that you are implementing King's philosophies in your own life. Post pictures of service or reflections of his life and work using the hashtag #ITSTARTSWITHME. Tag us on instagram: @gc_cultural_center and @gc_oie.

"The King Center has set their theme for this year by focusing on work that is people-oriented," said Mayweather. "Thus, we have aligned our theme this year with theirs, which is 'It Starts with Me... Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community.' We hope that everyone will take an introspective look at what they can do and identify ways that they can help others throughout the year."

Did you know?



Georgia College Director of Athletics Wendell Staton was recently chosen to represent Bobcat Athletics and the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) as a member of the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee.

Under the guidance of co-chairs Wisconsin-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford and Delta State President William LaForge, the Implementation Committee will review the division's rules and policies and make recommendations, enacting principles agreed upon in the new Division II constitution in January.

"I am honored to be selected as a member of the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee," said Staton. "I am proud to represent the Peach Belt Conference and Georgia College as we are going through historical change within the NCAA."

Georgia College Athletics tops in academic success rate

At Georgia College, not only do student athletes excel on the field and court but they're also ranked nationally for their academic achievements.

For the second-straight season, Georgia College Athletics was honored with the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence from the NCAA.

The Bobcats were one of 43 schools to earn the honor in all of Division II and ranked first in Academic Success Rate (ASR) among Division II public schools.

The NCAA Division II Presidents' Award is presented to all member schools earning an ASR of 90% or better. Georgia College posted a 93% ASR, tops among Peach Belt Conference (PBC) schools. The Bobcats were tops also among public schools and best among schools in the Division II Southeast Region.

"I am so proud of the success of our student-athletes and the mentoring from our coaches, faculty and staff that support their efforts," said Director of Athletics Wendell Staton. "We strive for academic, social and athletic success, and this national recognition is another positive sign of excellence along the path towards 'Graduating Champions for Life.' I am thrilled for our student-athletes to be recognized for their outstanding work."

The 93% mark is a three-percent increase over last year's report for Georgia College. The ASR is the percentage of student-athletes who graduate within six years of initial collegiate enrollment and includes virtually all Division II student-athletes.

Unlike the federal rate, the Division II ASR includes nearly 34,000 non-scholarship student-athletes and accounts for those who transfer to a Division II school after initial enrollment elsewhere, while removing student-athletes who leave school while academically eligible. The national ASR for the four cohorts of student-athletes who entered college from 2010 to 2013 is 73%.



Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Saturday

'A Tale of Two Prodigies' concert today

Start off the new year right with Georgia College's guest artist and faculty recital, "A Tale of Two Prodigies," Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Max Noah Recital Hall.

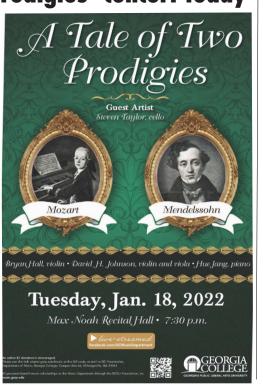
This concert will also be live-streamed at facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment.

Come enjoy classic compositions by two of the world's greatest musical prodigies: Wolfgang Mozart and Felix Mendelssohn. Both child geniuses were influenced by their sisters and died young.

Guest artist and cellist Steven Taylor joins Georgia College faculty Bryan Hall and David H. Johnson, both violinists, and pianist Hue Jang.

A \$5 donation is encouraged. All proceeds benefit music scholarships or the GC Department of Music through GCSU Foundation, Inc.

For more information, please email music@gcsu.edu or call 478-445-8289.





What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

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7:30 p.m guest artist and faculty recital, "A Tale of Two Prodigies," in Max Noah Recital Hall.						1:30 p.m GC Women's Basketball vs. Clayton State.
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