

## Bobcat CALENDAR

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

### Tuesday

29

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Christmas Tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. Tickets \$10 for adults; \$7 for pre-booked adult groups and senior citizens; \$2 for students; and free to children under 6.

### Wednesday

30

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Christmas Tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. Tickets \$10 for adults; \$7 for pre-booked adult groups and senior citizens; \$2 for students; and free to children under 6.

5:30-7:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens. Come help decorate Front Campus for Christmas! Refreshments, music and activities.

### Thursday

1

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Christmas Tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. Tickets \$10 for adults; \$7 for pre-booked adult groups and senior citizens; \$2 for students; and free to children under 6.

6 p.m. Holiday Music Sing-a-Long, directed by Susan Craig and hosted by the GCSU Instrumental Survey Class in front of the Campus Theatre downtown Milledgeville.

### Friday

2

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Christmas Tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. Tickets \$10 for adults; \$7 for pre-booked adult groups and senior citizens; \$2 for students; and free to children under 6.

7:30 p.m. GCSU's 15th Annual Holiday Concert 2022 in Russell Auditorium.

### Saturday

3

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Christmas Tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. Tickets \$10 for adults; \$7 for pre-booked adult groups and senior citizens; \$2 for students; and free to children under 6.

6, 7 & 8 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$2 for students.

## Pre-med mentor program has 100% application success rate

They say going to college is like drinking from a water fountain—in medical school, a fire hose.

At Georgia College & State University, a group of pre-med students already know what it's like to drink from a hose and withstand the deluge.

They have a mentor by their side.

When senior Sarah Fix of Fayetteville, Georgia, switched her biology major concentration from nursing to pre-med, she checked resources at other schools.

"There's nothing comparable to this," Fix said. "Private tutoring sessions for the MCAT exam would cost thousands of dollars. But, here, we have Dr. Hegde."

Dr. Ashok Hegde is the William Harvey Endowed Professor of Biomedical Science at Georgia College. In 2016, he took over the university's pre-med mentorship program from Dr. Kenneth Saladin, distinguished professor emeritus of biology, who wanted to better equip tomorrow's medical students.

The results of Saladin's vision have been nothing short of astounding.

Since the program started in 2009, every student who applied to medical school has been accepted.

Every single one.

In 14 years, only a handful of students decided not to pursue medicine. Some opted for health-related jobs with fewer working hours. The rest—about 140—got into medical school.

That's unusual.

But so is the mentorship itself.

Most universities have larger pre-med numbers—but only an academic advisor to help students along. Advising generally means one meeting and a brochure.

"There's not a program like this in Georgia or

anywhere in the country," Hegde said. "I talk to people at national conferences. I dug online. As far as I can tell, there is not a comparable program anywhere. There are varying degrees of pre-med advising but not pre-med mentoring. There's a huge difference."

"It's not about giving them a little bit of information," he said. "It's about actually preparing them with all the skills that they require. I don't leave anything to chance."

To underscore how unusual the 100% application rate is—one only has to look at admission rates for medical school.

Prior to coming to Georgia College, Hegde taught first- and second-year students at Wake Forest Medical School in North Carolina. Part of that job was interviewing prospective students. During that time, Wake Forest received about 8,000 med-school applications. Only 500 were chosen for interviews and roughly 200 accepted.

That's about a 2.5% chance of success.

Even more troubling: According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AMMC), as many as 18.4% of medical students drop out during four years of medical school.

That's why Hegde accepted the position at Georgia College.

Med students at Wake Forest often told him they wished they'd been better prepared and knew what they were getting into.

Junior biology major and pre-med student Carter Coursey of Loganville, Georgia, came to Georgia College for the mentorship. Coursey wanted to be a doctor since



high school. He loves science and enjoys helping people. He hopes to become a dermatologist or orthopedic surgeon.

Like so many other pre-med students before him, however, Coursey wasn't sure he was good enough. What if he messed up the school's 100% application rate by failing to get into medical school?

But there's something special about having a mentor on your side.

Someone who believes in you and helps you believe in yourself.

It creates confidence.

Now, Coursey knows he'll make it into med school with Hegde in his corner.

## Georgia College & State University named a 'most engaged campus' for student voting



feature of campus life.

Its goal is to help students graduate with the knowledge, skills, behaviors and values needed to be informed and active citizens.

Georgia College joins a group of 394 colleges and universities recognized for making intentional efforts to increase student voter participation and nonpartisan democratic engagement.

"We are justifiably proud of our civically-engaged students and our institutional commitment to prepare our students to become lifelong voters and engaged community members," said Dr. Janet Hoffmann, Georgia College's campus coordinator for the American Democracy Project.

Hoffmann is the point person for student voter education and engagement on campus. She spearheaded the work that earned All IN recognition.

Last year, Georgia College won best in

the nation in its category for public, four-year institutions with the highest student voter registration rate.

The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) report showed more than 76% of Georgia College students voted in the 2020 presidential election.

That rate exceeds the national average for student voting in 2020, which was 66%.

"We have steadily increased our voting rates since 2012," Hoffmann said. "Our registration rates have long been above average. Youth voted in record numbers in 2020, and our students led the pack in our category for registration and voter rates."

Voting results for the recent midterm election won't be released until fall 2023.

Georgia College is one of seven state universities recognized as a most-engaged campus for college student voting.

Four actions are necessary to win acknowledgement: Participation in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. Sharing data tracked by the NSLVE. Submission of a 2022 democratic engagement action plan for ALL IN, and commitment by the university president.

At recognized schools, students worked to register voters, served on campus voting coalitions, spearheaded voter education efforts and advocated for campus polling locations, according to Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

"College student voter turnout has increased since 2016," Domagal-Goldman said, "and this increase has been driven by students. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is excited to expand our ALL IN student voting honor roll to recognize these student voting champions across the country."

## The Nutcracker's magic & wonder

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) presents its 26th annual "The Nutcracker" with new choreography, 10 new and exquisite tutus, a new fog machine and more surprises for holiday audiences.

The beloved classic will be at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in Russell Auditorium.

Old favorites—like falling snow, a 22-foot smoking dragon, mechanical dolls and other special effects—will be back as more than 200 dancers, ages 3 and up in Georgia College's Community Dance Program, bring Tchaikovsky's cherished Russian ballet to spectacular life.

"I never get tired of directing this enchanting story and watching

our dancers bring its dream-like world into existence," said Amelia Pelton, director of dance at Georgia College.

Two Georgia College dancers will perform as the Sugar Plum Fairy in alternate pieces. They are senior psychology major Alicia Zarker of Perry, Georgia, and junior biology major Katie Payne of Newnan, Georgia. Their individual solos use the original 1895 choreography by Lev Ivanov.

The Snow Queen is portrayed by Nicole Snyder, a junior chemistry major from Atlanta. Junior rhetoric major David Bandy of Atlanta returns this year as the Cavalier.

Clara, the ballet's young heroine, is portrayed by Addison Davis.



Addison is a 10th grader at Jones County High School and has danced with the community program since age 3.

Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 for senior citizens, non-GCSU students and GCSU faculty and staff; and \$5 for GCSU students.

## Did you know?

Georgia College & State University's Kids' University is having a Kids' U Holiday Festival before the annual Milledgeville Christmas Parade Sunday, Dec. 4. Come have some fun, while waiting for the parade!

Bring the family to enjoy holiday activities before the parade and reconnect with your summer- and fall-break campers. There will be face painting, cookie decorating, games, crafts and party favors. The kids can even learn about snow!

Cost is \$5 per child. For more information, please call 478-445-2762.

Then, stay for the parade and see a caravan of campus golf carts decorated by each of the GCSU department staffs. The winning decorated golf cart will have the privilege of driving the Bobcat mascot, Thunder, during the parade. Don't forget to wave at Thunder!

## 2022 Holiday Concert is Friday



Georgia College & State University's 15th Annual "Holiday Concert" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in Russell Auditorium will help get you in the spirit of the season.

The entire music department comes together for this uplifting holiday tradition.

Old favorites and new holiday tunes will be performed by the Max Noah Singers, Women's Ensemble, Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Wind Symphony, Orchestra, University Chorus, Men's Quartet, String Quartet and Saxophone Quartet.

This concert will also be livestreamed at [facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment](https://facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment).

Complimentary Tickets are required using [bigtickets.com](https://www.bigtickets.com): <https://www.bigtickets.com/events/gcsu-department-of-music/holiday-concert-2022>.

A \$10 donation is encouraged. Online donations can be made at [alumni.gcsu.edu/music](http://alumni.gcsu.edu/music). Mail-in donations for music scholarships can be made out to GCSU Foundations, Inc. and sent to GC Music Department, CBX 66, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

All proceeds benefit music scholarships on the GC Department of Music through GCSU Foundation, Inc. For more information, please email [music@gcsu.edu](mailto:music@gcsu.edu) or call 478-445-8289.