

GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Prepared by the Office of University Communications Jan. 24, 2023

# In High Demand: Education students are top commodity at recruitment fair

Alumni of the John H. Lounsbury College of Education are everywhere in Central Georgia. They are superintendents, principals and teachers. Some come back to Georgia College & State University (GCSU) after graduation as pre-education instructors to help shape tomorrow's instructors.

This week, many will return to their alma mater for what they consider their most important task: hiring new teachers.

Many education majors will get on-thespot offers from one of the 70 area schools that attend Georgia College's annual Teacher Recruitment Day. The rest will be hired before graduating in May.

"Our graduates are highly desired. We get calls constantly from around the state from employers who want to hire our students," said Dr. Joseph Peters, dean of the College of Education. "A lot of this success is due to our mentor/cohort program. Having someone in your corner, who knows you and is there for support creates stronger student teachers."

Georgia College implemented the mentorled cohort program nearly 30 years ago to support students as they maneuver studies and in-classroom practicums. Cohort members go to classes together and share a common mentor who acts as a confidante, guiding and counseling students through their junior/senior years.

"Having this adult advocate is tremendously important. They get to know you, and you develop a deep relationship. They help develop leaders," said Dr. Joanne Previts, interim chair of the department of Teacher Education.

"That person is not just your instructor but your teacher, your guide, field supervisor someone who's going to lead in a variety of different ways and provide quality feedback," she said.

In the spring, 80 to 100 senior education majors are assigned classrooms with veteran teachers throughout Central Georgia. They help teachers develop, deliver and access every aspect of curriculum.

Senior Early Childhood Education major Madelyn Sutton is student teaching this semester. She recently stood before a class of fidgety but attentive first graders at Lakeview Primary School in Milledgeville. They sat on a rug before her with upturned faces, and she told them to turn on their "listening ears."

For her special project, Sutton created interactive lessons about Sacajawea, the native American guide who helped Lewis and Clark on their expedition of the Louisiana Territory. Her pupils made explorer hats, acted as explorers on the playground, sent home postcards about their travels.

Her partner teacher, Rebecca Snow, '17, '18, received her bachelor's and master's in early childhood education at Georgia College. Snow said she's learned as much from Sutton as Sutton has from her.

Georgia College students often update

teachers on emerging trends in education. They provide tips on data collection, evidence-based lessons, digital apps and new educational strategies.

"It's a reciprocal relationship," Snow said. "She's teaching me new methods, new skills and new ideas. Her PowerPoints are amazing, and she's a little more organized. She's teaching me how to engage my students in a different way with more hands-on activities." By the time students graduate and become actual teachers, they've put in more than 1200 hours of field experience —double what

most schools require, said Nicole DeClouette, interim associate dean of education and associate professor of special education. One alumnus, Superintendent of Jones

County Schools Charles Lundy, can attest to the preparedness of Georgia College education students. He got both his undergraduate degree in biology and M.Ed. degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia College. Each year, Jones County hires about 50 new teachers and hosts about 20 student teachers in classrooms.

"Without question, the most critical component to any child's education is the teacher who teaches the child," Lundy said. "GCSU students are far and away the most prepared college students we have for both student teaching and practicum placements. I can proudly say that we very often hire from its pool of student teachers."



Madelyn Sutton with first graders. (Below) Alumnus Brian Bownman teaches at GCSU



#### New Retrospective exhibit presents the visual art of writer Peter Selgin

The Georgia College & State University Department of Art presents an exhibit featuring the art of Peter Selgin at Underwood Gallery through Feb. 23.

The exhibit, "Peter Selgin: A Retrospective of Visual Art" features over 60 original paintings, watercolors, gouaches, pen & ink drawings and notebooks spanning Selgin's years as a painter, illustrator and graphic designer. Though Selgin teaches creative writing and is better-known at GCSU as a writer, this retrospective will introduce audiences to a lesser-known part of Selgin's creative output.

Selgin is a novelist, essayist, playwright, editor and professor in GCSU's Department of English. He is the author of the novels "Duplicity," "Life Goes to the Movies" and "The Water Master;" the short-story collection "Drowning Lessons;" and a full-length memoir: "The Inventors."

The artist and writer recently answered questions about these different aspects of his creative career and how they fit together in



Peter Selgin's art is on display at Underwood House. pursuit of his artistic vision.

"As for what the visual arts offer me, apart from a chance to relieve my word-weary brain, they let me say the things that can't be said or said in the best way with words, that want expression through colors, shapes, lines, and textures, the language of visual arts. Much as I love words—and like all writers I love them very much—no word for the color "red" (or scarlet or crimson or whatever you call it) does to us what the color does when we actually see it."

"... When I decided to become an academic, I felt that to succeed I had to put my visual arts career aside. My paints, my easel, my drafting table, my flat files—all went into a storage facility in the Bronx, where they remained for seven years while I concentrated on writing and teaching writing. But more and more as time went on, I felt a lack, something missing from my life. A few years ago, as one of my service duties here, I took on the task of re-designing Arts & Letters, the national literary journal staffed by our graduate students. The result was my first cover design. Of all the things I've done as a visual artist, none has given me as much pleasure. Design, illustration, typography—cover design brings together all the things I love."

### Did you know?

The Georgia College & State University Future Daddy's team won the national championship this month—besting the University of Texas-San Antonio at the 2023 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association National Flag Footbal Champsionship in Round Rock, Texas.

The men's team went undefeated throughout the three-day tournament.

Future Daddy's Marcus Prestwood won the tournament's Most Valuable Player and was recognized as the top men's flag football player in the nation.

Another intramural team, Beast, finished fourth in the women's flag football tournament—winning two of four games that weekend.

Georgia College's Maggie Glover, Jonah Paul and Hunter Payne were named to their respective National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association All-American teams.

This is the second time in three flag football seasons that the Georgia College men's teams won the national championship. Its women's teams have finished in the top four for two consecutive seasons.

Congrats to these outstanding Bobcat players.

Music to your ears: Upcoming concerts at Georgia College & State University

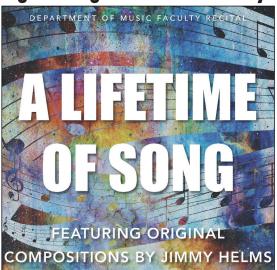
Tomorrow's Jan. 24, faculty recital with hornist Andrew Sehmann and pianist Lev Ryabinin has been canceled. It will be rescheduled for later this spring.

But don't worry! More exciting concerts at Georgia College & State University are coming soon! Featuring guest, faculty and student performers—they promise to keep music lovers grinning. At 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26, the ViMaDeAn Duo will be guest artists in Max Noah Recital Hall. The concert, "Based on Actual Events," features violinist Anastasia Petrunina and percussionist Denis Petrunin. Petrunina was born in Ukraine and Petrunin is from Russia.

The duo performs and conducts workshops worldwide with recent appearances in Brazil, Russia and France. Included in the program are Anton Prischepa's "Based on Actual Events," Salina Fisher's "Komorebi," Harold Arlen's "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and Emmanuel Sejourne's "Attraction."

Then, on Wednesday, Feb. 8, faculty member Jimmy Helms will give a recital, "A Lifetime of Song," at 7:30 p.m. in Max Noah Recital Hall. He'll perform original compositions that reflect the timeline of his life.

Both concerts will also be livestreamed at www.facebook. com/GCMusicDepartment.



# VIVIADEAN DUO

CINASTASIA PETRUNINA, VIOLIN Denis Petrunin, percussion

> Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023 <sup>7:30 P.M.</sup> Max Noah Recital Gall

# What's going on in Bobcat Territory? Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/events

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28
5 to 6:30 p.m. USAF Gen Philip M. Breedlove will speak in Magnolia Ballroom at GCSU's first Usery Forum on Leadership event for 2023. 6 to 7:30 p.m. "An Evening with a Holocaust Survivor" in A&S Auditorium. Manuela Mendels Bornstein shares her story. 7:30 p.m. Faculty Recital: Andrew Sehmann, a French hornist in Max Noah Recital Hall.	5 to 9:30 p.m. GCSU Basketball doubleheader vs. Lander live at Centennial Center.	2 p.m. A special talk with Deborah Cohan exploring intimacy and violence will be in the A&S Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. Guest artist recital, ViMaDeAn Duo in Max Noah Recital Hall. Violin and percussion.	10 a.m. to noon GCSU's annual Teacher Recruitment Fair at W. Campus Wellness & Recreation Center.	1:30 to 5:30 p.m. GCSU Basketball doubleheader vs. Columbus live at Centennial Center.