

## Digital technology transforms and modernizes the humanities at GCSU



Dr. Elissa Auerbach (above), Sophomore art major Ella Leach (below).



You might remember writing a research paper for class. Perhaps you included a chart or timeline, a poster or picture to jazz it up. Today, digital technology has moved humanities off dusty shelves into a fast-paced, modern world—making literature, history, language, philosophy and religion courses more interactive, fun and visually appealing.

Words on paper simply don't compare to advanced technology students now use for reports, presentations and research. And that's the point. Digital humanities are meant to be seen and experienced. "In digital humanities, we're using digital tools as a way to rethink humanities research and use digital tools to collect and analyze data in ways we can't do with traditional research," said Dr. Elissa Auerbach, professor of art history and faculty coordinator of the Digital Humanities Collaborative.

Digital skills easily transfer to other disciplines and the job market, making students more competitive after graduation. "There's an increased demand for students going into graduate programs to have technology skills. So, we want to make sure our students are equipped," Auerbach said. "Most importantly, employers are looking for well-rounded humanists who can think beyond the narrow scope of their discipline and use digital tools to see things in a different way."

Auerbach started Georgia College & State University's Digital Humanities Collaborative by sponsoring visiting scholars and holding digital workshops for faculty in 2019. At that time, Dr. Aran MacKinnon, chair of history and geography, was looking to use more technology in his department, as well.

They banded together to create an ad hoc committee and held several meetings headed by Dr. Eric Tenbus, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. A graphic design student created the program's first website. Students can earn grants for presenting digital humanities projects at the university's annual student research conference. The collaborative

also recognizes faculty who give students research opportunities in the digital realm.

Last year, the collaborative supported faculty fellowships for digital humanities projects: A history project on women barbecue pit masters in Georgia and another on contemporary artists in Latin America. More than 50 faculty now use digital humanities in their coursework. The collaborative encourages students to use free online tools for data visualization like Datawrapper, which transforms artifacts and text into professional-looking maps, graphs, charts, dashboards and infographics, or RAWGraphs, which turns complex data into cool, colorful visual representations. Students use websites like ArcGIS Online to connect people, locations and data using interactive maps; Tiki-Toki to make interactive timelines with 3D capabilities; and Palladio to visualize complex historical data and explore relationships.

In Auerbach's upper-level classes on Renaissance art, students were asked to research 15th- and 16th-century artists and their connections. Using Kumu, students translated Excel spreadsheets of facts into a giant online family tree image—with crisscrossing lines mapping out various artist relationships.

Senior art major Ashlyn Simmons of Columbus said the program gave her research "kinetic energy."

Last semester, sophomore art major Ella Leach of Athens used Kumu to develop a virtual timeline representing deities for Auerbach's class on prehistoric and medieval art. A digital humanities approach helped Leach transform traditional research into a highly visual learning tool featuring video, imagery and maps.

"Going into an art history class, I never would've thought I'd learn anything digital," she added. "It has helped me develop skills—like data and spreadsheets—and shown me how to present information in a visually appealing way, so anybody can see and learn from it online."

"I can take the skills that I've learned and use them in another class or when searching for a job," she said. "Being able to use digital skills

### GCSU online graduate programs get high ratings

The graduate programs offered by Georgia College & State University (GCSU) to meet critical workforce needs in nursing, logistics and other high-demand fields were recognized this week as "Best Online Programs" in rankings by U.S. News & World Report (USNWR).

GCSU online graduate programs in nursing earned the highest mark among all Georgia universities and ranked 24th nationwide. USNWR recognized the university's Family Nurse Practitioner program as the #13 program in the country, and the only program in Georgia to appear on the list for that specialty.

"We are delighted at the further validation of our efforts to provide the highest quality graduate education to help prepare our students for careers in high-demand fields," President Cathy Cox said. "Our dedicated faculty continue to find innovative ways of delivering the quality education we are known for in an online environment."

Georgia College's online master's degree in business programs (non-MBA) are the second

most-highly rated online business programs in Georgia and ranked 75th overall. That includes Georgia College's Master of Logistics and Supply Chain Management and its Master of Management Information Systems (MIS). The Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Georgia College also ranked among the best in the country.

Notable online graduate education programs including Educational Leadership, Teacher Leadership and Master of Arts in Teaching at GCSU made significant strides rising 39 spots over 2022's ranking.

USNWR also recognized Georgia College's online criminal justice program among the best in the country.

Applications for admission to graduate programs during summer or fall Semester 2023 at Georgia College are open now at [www.gcsu.edu/graduate/online-graduate-applications](http://www.gcsu.edu/graduate/online-graduate-applications).

U.S. News & World Report is a multi-platform publisher of news and information, which includes [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com), as well as the digital-



Online graduate nursing program ranked 1st in Georgia.

only U.S. News Weekly magazine. U.S. News publishes annual print and e-book versions of its authoritative rankings of Best Colleges, Best Graduate Schools and Best Hospitals.

For more information on Georgia College's online graduate programs, visit [gcsu.edu/graduate](http://gcsu.edu/graduate).

### Did you know?

The former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces engaged Milledgeville audiences in a conversation about leadership during a recent visit to Georgia College & State University.

Gen. Philip M. Breedlove was the 17th Supreme Allied Commander of Europe. He gave a talk on leadership and the lessons he learned commanding American forces and building consensus in a diverse political-military alliance.

Breedlove also talked with local media and students about the current war in Ukraine.

Breedlove retired from the US Air Force as a highly decorated general. He was the guest of Georgia College's Usery Forum on Leadership.

"As Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, Gen. Breedlove had one of the most difficult jobs in the world," said Dr. Harold Mock, director of Leadership Programs. "There's no one more qualified to help our students and our community understand the challenges of the 21st-century than Gen. Breedlove."

### Alumna gains experience in entertainment and film

Harlee Pope, '18, is all wrapped up in the entertainment and film industry. From working on the set of the CBS TV series "MacGyver," interviewing rock legends like "Men at Work," starring in the Pretense music video by Alex Gräey, Pope applies the knowledge gained through her Georgia College & State University degree daily.

"Being a part of Georgia College's Georgia Film Academy program allowed me to learn the ins and outs of the film industry," she said. "At the end of the course, I got an internship in the Atlanta Film industry, then a full-time job on the MacGyver reboot for CBS."

Pope is a film industry freelancer. She's worked on more than 34 professional film productions in three years. You may have seen some of her credits in films and television series including DC

Universe's "Doom Patrol," Lionsgate's "Heels," Netflix's "Insatiable" and "Thunder Force" and Fox's "The Resident."

Pope enjoys watching coworkers collaborate creatively to make a film great.

"To watch patient, hustling, problem-solving, creative, forward-thinking people work every day is so inspiring and challenges me to grow," she said. "You never know who or what is going to come to set each morning. It's exciting to adjust constantly. I am never afraid of change."

In the YouTube concert series "Live at the Print Shop," Pope contributes both on- and off-screen. She operates cameras and conducts interviews with musicians who play a private concert.

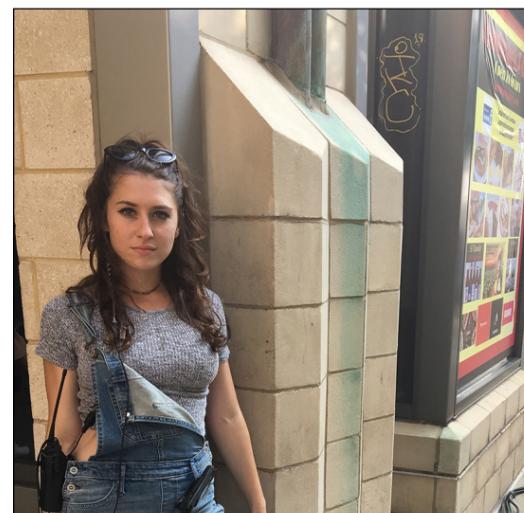
"I just love being on the set and hearing the amazing stories," Pope said.

She recently acted in short films and two music videos, as well. One film, called "Hush," was featured in several film festivals.

Pope got her start in theatre at Georgia College, where she played leading roles in "Miss Nelson is Missing!," "Chicago the Musical," "Almost, Maine," "Intersexion," "American Idiot," and "Cabaret." Her production credits include: "Anything Goes," "Big Love," "The Cat in the Hat" and multiple solo performances.

In addition to playing leading roles, Pope worked as a choreographer, director, editor, interviewer, on-set film assistant, props master and stage manager.

"Because of this experience, I am a go-getter and not afraid to take 'no' for an answer," she said. "It taught me how to spot talent and help individuals grow to their potential. Mostly, I learned the art of collaboration."



GCSU alumna Harlee Pope working on the set of the Fox TV series, "The Resident," Season Three in Atlanta.

## What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

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

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>7-9 p.m. GC Jazz Jam Session at Amici Cafe.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>11 a.m.-1 p.m. GCSU Softball vs. Emmanuel at Peeler Complex.</p> <p>1-5 p.m. GCSU Softball vs. Carson Newman at Peeler Complex.</p>