



Bobcat CALENDAR

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Tuesday

7

11 a.m.- 5 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive at Peabody Auditorium. 4-9:30 p.m. GCSU Softball doubleheader vs. Emmanuel College DH in Peeler Complex.

Wednesday

8

10 a.m.- 4 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive at Peabody Auditorium. 4-8 p.m. GCSU Softball doubleheader vs. Albany State at Peeler Complex. 5:30-9:30 p.m. GCSU Basketball doubleheader vs. USC Aiken at Centennial Center. 7:30 p.m. Faculty Recital with Jimmy Helms, "A Lifetime of Song," at Max Noah Recital Hall.

Thursday

9

5-6:30 p.m. The Provost's Visiting Scholar Dr. Jenna Hanchley will give a lecture & discussion on her fieldwork in Tanzania in GCSU Arts & Sciences room 370. 7:30 p.m. Faculty Recital with Jimmy Helms, "A Lifetime of Song," at Max Noah Recital Hall.

Friday

10

2-4:30 p.m. In honor of Black History Month, the film "TILL" will be presented in GCSU Arts & Sciences room 272. 7:30 p.m. Spring Honors Recital in Max Noah Recital Hall.

Saturday

11

1-7 p.m. GCSU Baseball doubleheader vs. Eckerd College on John Kurtz Field. 7:30 p.m. GCSU Max Noah Singers present "Valentine's Day Rendezvous" in Magnolia Ballroom.

GCSU alumnus gives hope to female students in Zimbabwe

Teachers in Zimbabwe's Whitestone School recognized Michael Mbulelo Ncube's passion to help others at an early age. He won the school's Citizenship Award three times for his great humility and resolve to help others. This compassion for others still drives him today.

In 2020, he started the Girl Global Child Foundation. These scholarships pay school fees so seventh-grade female students can continue their education in high school.

"I love what I do with the foundation," Ncube said. "My constant need to assist society and have a larger purpose than my own goals has carried me through the years."

When African students reach the seventh grade, their parents have to pay fees in order for them to advance to high school. If parents can't afford the school fees, students leave primary school without a certificate to verify they completed it, and their education is over.

"Many times, in the African community, parents will sacrifice for the boy to go to school, and then neglect the girl," Ncube said. "This creates many social ills later on in life and a lot of possessiveness by males toward females, because females don't have a leg to stand on."

If you look at the demographics of many African countries, you'll find 60% women to 40% men. Imagine if 60% make a meaningful contribution to our economy. It can change a lot of things for us and puts everyone in a better position.

Seeing these different outcomes made him aware of the challenges women face. These disparities inspire him every day to gather as many donations as possible to give women a better chance at success.

"When I started this scholarship, I hoped to make our

society aware that education of young women is very important and shouldn't be sidelined," Ncube said.

In less than three years, the Girl Global Child Foundation has awarded more than 100 scholarships to help girls attend high school. The people of Zimbabwe see the good he's doing for young female students and contribute.

Ncube writes a letter to each scholarship recipient, encouraging them to continue to work hard to pursue their education and career goals.

The semester Ncube spent at Georgia College & State University (GCSU) in 2019, inspired him to develop his foundation.

"This experience showed me how humble Georgia College professors are and the humility they exert toward students," Ncube said. "They taught me that learning is a process that never ends."

"Georgia College also showed me how efficient America's education system is," he said. "I was exposed to research, résumé writing and the Writing Center—these different entities showed me what's possible for us, as young Africans, if we invest our minds into developing certain areas."

The attention Ncube spent on personal development at Georgia College sparked the idea to start his foundation when he returned to Zimbabwe.

"Opportunities are scarce here; oftentimes hard work is not rewarded," he said. "When a young girl is empowered to say, 'I did this on my own'—that's what we try to instill."

Ncube wants young girls who are doing well in their studies, to ask themselves, "what more can I achieve?"



Michael Ncube with 7th grader recipient of his Girl Global Child Foundation.

When he started his foundation, Ncube underestimated the gratification he'd get, because he felt like "it was just the right thing to do." Then, he ran across a girl he recognized.

"She told me that I gave her a scholarship, and she's still in high school now," Ncube said. "It really hit home when somebody I've helped tells me such good news. There's a certain fulfillment I can't describe."

"My passions largely lie in humanitarian work and community development," he said. "And, I'd like to continue to grow my efforts in these areas."

English professor gets accolades for book on goddess mythology



Dr. Mary Magoulick

Dr. Mary Magoulick, an English professor at Georgia College & State University, has received honorable mention for the Elli Köngäs-Maranda Prize from the American Folklore Society for her book, "The Goddess Myth in Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture: A Feminist Critique."

Assistant Professor of English Dr. Julian Knox said Magoulick's book is one most English professors dream of writing.

"The Goddess Myth in Contemporary Literature and Popular Culture' is not just a culmination of decades of research, but it is also a testament to the ways in which innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship enriches our interactions with the cultural products we encounter and share in our daily lives," Knox said.

"Its magisterial bridging of diverse fields of expertise, forms of representation and modes of discourse is a timely reminder of what the liberal arts is all about," he added, "as is the fact that the book's subjects are ones Dr. Magoulick has taught across multiple programs—ranging from English to Women's & Gender Studies to Global Perspectives—during her tenure here at Georgia College."

In addition to the American Folklore Society honor, Magoulick is the also recent winner of the College of Arts & Sciences (COAS) award for Excellence in Scholarship & Creative Endeavors at

Georgia College.

Magoulick said she feels honored, grateful and proud to be recognized by her peers for both honors.

"So much work and time went into this project, including teaching numerous courses related to topics covered in the book, carving out time to write the manuscript, then rethinking it, reading more, revising more and repeating those steps," she said. "This book is the culmination of over 15 years' worth of work. But mostly it was a labor of love, and it is extremely rewarding to find it attended to and appreciated."

In an abstract on her book, Magoulick describes goddess characters as being revered feminist heroes in popular media. Their portrayal in film, television and fiction, however, often reflects patriarchal culture rather than the empowering feminist. This "remythologizing of the ancient past reflects a contemporary worldview

and rhetoric," which she says precludes women from their fuller natures.

"Within apparent good-over-evil, pop-culture narrative frames," Magoulick wrote, "these goddesses all suffer significantly. Some recent intersectional writers, like N. K. Jemisin, break through these typically dark reflections of contemporary power dynamics to offer complex characters who resist typical simplified, reductionist absolutes to offer messages that resonate with potential for today's world."

Magoulick is author of a dozen publications that include articles, book reviews, poetry and creative non-fiction. She's been at Georgia College for 23 years, teaching classes like Myth, Magic & the Modern World; some world literature; Women and Popular Culture; Women and Sci Fi; Women and Myth; Native American Literature; and Folklore and Literature, among others.

Explore Black History Month and Black culture at GCSU

Black History Month is an international celebration that offers Americans, especially, the opportunity to recommit ourselves to our foundational ideals of freedom and equality.

Begun as a weeklong commemoration of Black history, American Historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson proposed the observance that has become Black History Month as a challenge to all people to recognize the stories of countless Black men and women who contributed to the advancement of human civilization. In doing so, he asked everyone to reconsider our understanding of history, not as a list of the accomplishments of great individuals, but as a story of the aspirations of a great people and our progress toward those

goals.

Although Black History Month is celebrated in the month of February, it's meant to inspire ongoing reflection on the diversity that strengthens our collective identity as Americans and as true global citizens.

As an institution of higher education, Georgia College & State University works to contribute to the broad understanding of human progress. Embarking upon this celebration of Black History Month, we have a variety of ways for the public to learn more about Black history and culture.

These include an art exhibit at Leland Gallery on the lack of



Black representation in culture; preserved documents on the overlooked history of Milledgeville's Black history at Ina Dillard Russell Library; tours at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion that look at the life of slaves; a library exhibit on soul music; and much more.

For for information: please visit www.frontpage.gcsu.edu.

Cox storytime with local kids



GCSU President Cathy Cox reads to local school children in Milledgeville.

Georgia College & State University President Cathy Cox honored the legacy of the late Sandra Dunagan Deal recently with local school children.

Sandra Deal, '63, '66, devoted her life to the issues of education and literacy and used her public platform, as the wife of former Governor Nathan Deal, to model the civic virtues of volunteerism and community service. In recognition of Deal's lifetime of advocacy, Cox read the Dr. Seuss story "Sneetches" to kindergarteners at Lakeview Primary School in Milledgeville.

The story time took place on Deal's birthday, Feb. 1—the first since her passing in 2022. Cox joined members of the Deal family and other education advocates across Georgia in reading to children on the former first lady's birthday. The Deal family hopes to make Feb. 1 an annual celebration of education and literacy by encouraging all Georgians to read a book to a young person that day.

During her eight years as Georgia's First Lady, Deal touched the lives of countless children—sharing story time with students in more than 1,000 schools and pre-K programs in all of Georgia's 181 school districts and each of the state's 159 counties.

In 2017, the Georgia General Assembly provided funding to open the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at GCSU, continuing Mrs. Deal's commitment to advancing childhood literacy programs across the state of Georgia.

Did you know?

Around this time every year, love is in the air—or is it lovely music?

For this St. Valentine's Day, try something different and take your amour to a romantic concert. On Saturday, Feb. 11, Georgia College's Max Noah Singers will present "Valentine's Day Rendezvous" at 7:30 p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom at the Student Activity Center.

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

Music theatre favorites—such as songs from "Rent", "Titanic", "Frozen", "The Lion King" and "Aladdin"—will be performed by the full ensemble, in addition to solos and duets from the group. A \$5 donation is encouraged. Online donations can be made at alumni.gcsu.edu/music.

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.