



GCSU's Math Jeopardy team dominates their way to first-place win

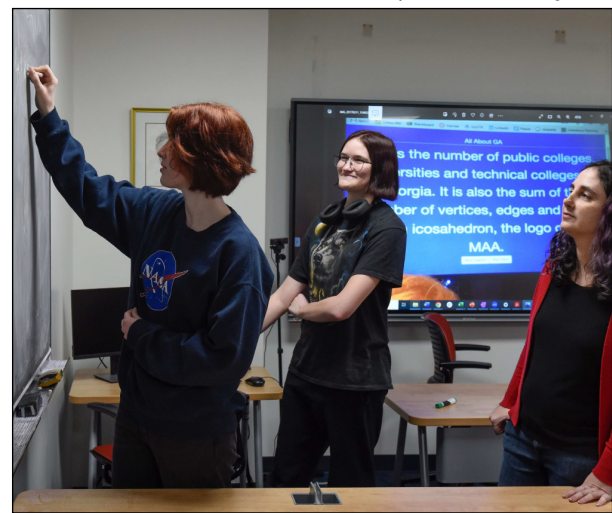
Jeopardy usually means a crisis or threat. That's how some people feel about math too. But a group of Georgia College & State University (GCSU) students turned jeopardy into victory last week—snatching the Math Jeopardy championship title at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Southeastern conference at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina. "I am so proud of our team for winning the Math Jeopardy tournament," said Dr. Rachel Epstein, associate professor of math and Math Club co-advisor. Retired Math Professor Dr. Hong Yue also helped the team prepare. "They did an amazing job answering some tough questions," Epstein said. "I love how passionate they are about math and how much they enjoy discussing problems and learning new techniques. It has really been a privilege to work with them." Math Jeopardy is part of the MAA conference each year. The three-day venture includes research presentations, a math scavenger hunt, math recreational games and fun talks about general math subjects like "Pascal's triangle" or the "Fibonacci Sequence." The main show, however, is Math Jeopardy—modeled after the popular TV game show, Jeopardy, complete with buzzers to punch, categories to choose and answering in the form of a question. A generous donation by alum Harlan Archer, '89, '09, of Sandersville enables Georgia

College to send students to Math Jeopardy and other math conferences. Georgia College students have participated for many years—only missing competitions that were canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic. They won second place in 2022, 2017 and 2011. They took third place in 2019. This was the first time Georgia College won the top prize—a trophy and medals for each participant. Team members from the GCSU Math Club include: Jacob Carter, senior math major from McDonough; Monica Lichtenwalner, senior math major from Cumming; Caroline Hegwood, junior math major from Marietta; and Anna Marti, first-year math major from Loganville. They competed against 15 schools from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Epstein knew she had a strong team this year. They work together well, explaining mathematical concepts to each other. "There are a couple things that are super valuable about the Math Jeopardy experience for students," Epstein said. "One, students get a lot of practice when working together and talking and learning about math that they might not have gotten otherwise. Two, the experience of going to this conference and meeting other students and going to math talks is super beneficial." "There have been times when one person really dominates the game and that can be

frustrating," she said, "But most of the time it's not like that, and I like that everybody on our team contributes." When preparing, the team reviewed screenshots of old Math Jeopardy questions, working them out together. They also looked up interesting facts about things, like prime factors, and new techniques, like doing square roots by hand. This was Caroline Hegwood's second Math Jeopardy competition. Math just "clicks" for her; it's always been something she enjoys. After graduation, she'd like to teach high school math or work as an actuary. Even for smart math whizzes, however, Math Jeopardy can be a "bit stressful." But Hegwood said she kept cool by reminding herself she could do it. "We have a lot of really smart people on our team," Hegwood said. "The hardest part would have to be the time constraints. If we had more time and were graded on whether the answer is right or wrong—anybody could do that. The time constraint is what makes Math Jeopardy a little bit spicy." In the end, the winning stroke is teamwork. "We had each other's backs," Anna Marti said. "Our teamwork speaks to how well Georgia College students collaborate with each other and how we can remain focused and cool-headed even while competing. "We are happy to make Georgia College proud," she said.

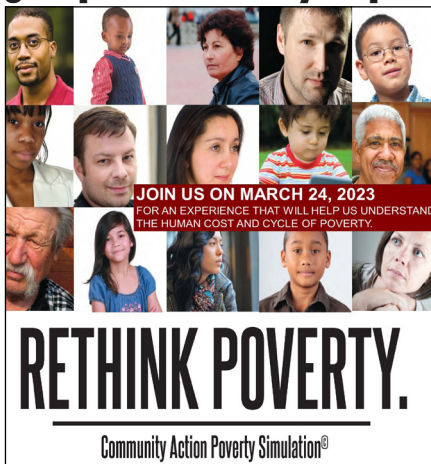


Joshua Carter, Monica Lichtenwalner, Anna Marti, Dr. Epstein and Caroline Hegwood.



Poverty simulation gives glimpse of anxiety experienced by the poor

A unique poverty simulation Friday, March 24, will replicate the conditions of the poor, giving participants a hint of what it's like to face everyday hardships, scarceness of food and insufficient shelter. The Community Action Poverty Simulation will be 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Georgia College & State University's Health Sciences building on N. Wilkinson Street, room 314. About 80 participants—from students, faculty and staff to local civic leaders—will experience this virtual reality of deprivation, designed by the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) in Missouri. Millions live at or below the federal poverty level. Nearly 40% of Milledgeville's residents live in poverty. That's 26% higher than the state average and nearly 30% higher than the national average, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The simulation is designed to sensitize people who frequently deal with low-income families, creating a broader awareness of poverty among policymakers and community leaders. The ultimate goal is to inspire change and improve lives. "This program helps people understand the complexities and frustrations of living in poverty daily," said Toyia Barnes, diversity officer in the College of Health Sciences (CoHS). "With a greater awareness of its impact, CoHS is meeting its goal of developing equity-minded, healthcare



practitioners." Participants will role-play the lives of low-income families using simulation kits. Some will be single mothers with children receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Others will play the disabled, senior citizens on Social Security or people with chronic illnesses. All will have the stressful task of meeting basic needs and finding shelter on limited budgets during the course of four, 15-minute 'weeks.' The room is the community; a participant's chair is their home; and those sitting nearby, their neighbors. Participants will move around the room perimeter to get resources they need. They'll interact with human service agencies, schools, banks, grocers, pawnbrokers, bill collectors, job interviewers and police officers, among others. Volunteers from local community service agencies will act as resource agents.

Did you know?

Georgia College & State University explores the "Power of the Public Square" in its inaugural TEDx event this Friday, March 24. TEDx Georgia College will be from 3 to 7 p.m. in front of a live audience in the Black Box Theatre downtown Milledgeville. Dr. Harold Mock, director of Leadership Programs said the TEDx format provides an opportunity to demonstrate what universities do best. TEDx Georgia College is organized in the spirit of TED's mission to research, discover and share "ideas worth spreading." Alumni, professors and friends of the institution will share ideas ranging from personal to the profound. Following the live event, videos of each speaker's TED Talk will be available online. To learn more about TEDx Georgia College, see a list of speakers and purchase tickets for the live event, please visit: tedxgeorgiacollege.com.

Join us for the opening of GCSU's new Andalusia Interpretive Center

A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Georgia College & State University's new Andalusia Interpretive Center will be at 10 a.m. Friday, March 24, at 2628 N. Columbia Street in Milledgeville. The 4,860 sq. ft. building is designed to blend in with the historic architectural aesthetics of the site. Alumna and author Flannery O'Connor, '45, spent her last years at the Andalusia farmhouse, composing many of her short stories, articles and letters. The center will be used as a point-of-entry for public tours at Andalusia. There is an exhibition room, research area, gift shop, offices and rental facilities. A story-telling courtyard is outside with a walkway connecting to the rest of the property.

"I'm excited about the opportunities this new center will bring," said Matt Davis, director of historic museums. "From a state-of-the-art exhibition and collection storage facility to research rooms and event spaces, this facility will allow us to better meet our mission and tell a more complete story about the history of Andalusia, Flannery O'Connor, her writing, family and life on the farm," he said. Andalusia Farm is Georgia College's second National Historic Landmark (NHL), along with Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion. This designation has been awarded to a small number of campuses in the U.S., and is carried by less than 3 percent of America's historic sites. O'Connor graduated from Peabody High School in Milledgeville in 1942 and enrolled at Georgia

State College for Women (GSCW), now known as Georgia College & State University. After graduation, she participated in the Iowa Writers' Workshop and later studied journalism at the University of Iowa. In 1950, O'Connor was stricken with lupus. She moved back to Milledgeville to reside with her mother at Andalusia. During this time, until her death in 1964, O'Connor completed the bulk of her work: two novels, 32 short stories and over 100 literary critiques. Many of the personalities and places in her writing were inspired by Andalusia and Milledgeville. On Friday, there will be free tours at the top of every hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning at the Andalusia Interpretive Center and ending at the main house.



PRESIDENT CATHY COX INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AS WE CUT THE RIBBON FOR THE NEW

Andalusia Interpretive Center

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/events

Tuesday

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9 a.m.-2 p.m. Renewable Energy Day with first and second graders from Lakeview Primary and Midway Hills Primary Schools, Milledgeville, at Centennial Center. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. GCSU Golf continues hosting Bobcat Invitational at the Golf Club at Cuscowilla in Eatonton. 2-5 p.m. GCSU Men's Tennis vs. Augusta live at Centennial Center Courts. 4-8 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Southern Wesleyan at John Kurtz Field. 7-9 p.m. GCSU Jazz Jam at Amicj's.

Wednesday

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11 a.m.-2 p.m. Bobcat Petting Zoo at Ina Dillard Russell Library green space with animals from Buck Nekkid Farms. 2-5 p.m. GCSU Women's Tennis vs. Augusta at Centennial Center Courts. 5-6 p.m. Talk on "Constructing the International City: Latinx Labor, Politics, and Culture in Atlanta, 1950s-2000s" by Dr. Yami Rodriguez in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room at Ina Dillard Russell Library.

Thursday

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7:30 p.m. Guest artist Michael Adon Darmanie and faculty music member Bryan Hall will give a piano and violin recital at Max Noah Recital Hall.

Friday

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10 a.m. Ribbon cutting ceremony at GCSU's new Andalusia Interpretive Center, 2628 N. Columbia St., Milledgeville. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. GCSU's Women's Leadership Conference on "Leading Change" in Peabody Auditorium. 2-4:30 p.m. Community Action Poverty Simulation at GCSU Health Sciences Buiding, room 314. 3-7 p.m. GCSU's inaugural TEDx Georgia College event, live at Black Box Theatre downtown Milledgeville. 8:30-10 p.m. Open house at GCSU's Pohl Observatory in Herly Hall.

Saturday

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2-5 p.m. GCSU Softball vs. Lander at Peeler Complex.