



## Bobcat CALENDAR

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

### Tuesday

7

5 p.m. Reception for artist Esteban Patino in Leland Gallery, Ennis Hall.

7:30 p.m. Piano and literature recital, "Oh, the Humanity!" in Max Noah Recital Hall.

### Wednesday

8

5-6 p.m. Artist-in-residence Esteban Patino will speak about the process of his artwork in A&S room 272.

### Thursday

9

7:30 p.m. The university Jazz Band will perform "Contemporary Jazz" in Russell Auditorium.

### Friday

10

1-4 p.m. GCSU Tennis doubleheader vs. Wingate at Centennial Center courts.

5-9 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. USCB at John Kurtz Field.

7:30 p.m. The GCSU Jazz Band will perform "Contemporary Jazz" in Russell Auditorium.

### Saturday

11

2-6 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. USCB at John Kurtz Field.

## Scholar explores impact of women in early Christianity

A renowned scholar on Christianity is visiting Georgia College & State University to help further his research about the impact of women on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Dr. James McGrath, an expert on Christianity and this spring's Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar, is teaching a course this semester based on his recent book, "What Jesus Learned From Women."

McGrath is developing the new course and plans to take it back to Butler University in Indiana, where he is a professor of religious studies and the Clarence L. Goodwin Chair of New Testament Language and Literature.

"Dr. McGrath was chosen as the Spring 2023 Newell Scholar because of his vast scholarship and disciplinary reputation on the subject of early Christianity, a topic that we believe would be of great interest to our students," said Eric Tenbus, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

"He has a tremendous teaching and publication record and joins us after having spent a semester on sabbatical at Oxford University," Tenbus said. "We're very excited to have someone of his academic record bring his expertise on this important and exciting topic."

Scholars have visited and shared their unique expertise since 2011, when the Newell Scholar program was established with an endowment from alumna Martha Daniel Newell, '42. The program provides opportunities for students to engage, learn from and work alongside recognized scholars from other distinguished higher education institutions.

McGrath is the 11th Newell Scholar to visit. His course, "Women in Early Christianity," has been well received by students.

"I've gotten a good reception here," McGrath said. "There's been a lot of academic curiosity and faith-related interest in this subject."

He grew up in New York City in a mixed-faith family where one parent was Irish Catholic and the other Jewish. As a teenager, he began to question things and had a personal, religious experience which led to his decision to study more. He got his undergraduate degree at the University of London and Ph.D. from the University of Durham, both in the United Kingdom.

McGrath came to Georgia College because it's a vibrant, liberal arts school similar to Butler University. Also because it's a place where his "wide diverse range of academic interests" would have "conversation partners." There may not be a large number of religious studies majors here, he said, but "they're enthusiastic and doing interdisciplinary, creative things."

The course is based on McGrath's belief that some areas of the bible might've been misinterpreted. Much emphasis has been placed on the divinity of Jesus, he said, while ignoring the humanity. Because Jesus was human, McGrath said, he must also have had to learn. He points to a biblical passage that states Jesus "grew in wisdom" (Luke 2:52).

From there, McGrath makes the case Jesus learned from the women around him—most notably his mother, Mary. Some concepts in the Magnificat, which Mary professes to her cousin Elizabeth before Jesus' birth, are later repeated by him. For example, Mary states the mighty will be brought low, and Jesus later teaches the first shall be last.



"These texts have proven to have depths to them that, when you dive in and start swimming, you find there is more," McGrath said. "You can't be born knowing everything and be fully human. Presumably, the best of humanity has to be open to learning and growing."

Other women McGrath teaches about this semester are the Samaritan Jesus meets at the well, Mary and Martha, and the woman brought to him by the Pharisees, accused of adultery.

McGrath came to his conclusions by asking questions.

"When I started looking in the gospels, I realized it had been there all along, but I had not really seen it," he said. "One of my biggest take aways from this book project is if we don't ask these kinds of questions, then we miss things."

## Keepers of the Flame: GCSU documentary films celebrate women barbecue pitmasters



The Georgia College & State University history professors behind The Georgia BBQ Trail website have veered off the beaten path to explore the stories of two restaurateurs who challenge the stereotype of the southern barbecue pitmaster. "Keepers of the Flame Fan the Flames of Change: A Digital Oral History Project on Georgia Women in Barbecue" is a series of documentary films from historians Craig Pascoe and James "Trae" Welborn.

The first two films in the series profile Jenica Gilmore and Tammy Woodard, the women pitmasters and businessowners behind successful barbecue restaurants Vanna BBQ in Vanna and Smokey's BBQ in Garden City.

In "Keepers of the Flame," Pascoe and Welborn present Gilmore and Woodard as women pitmasters who have overcome preconceived notions of who can cook authentic barbecue and who can be successful in the barbecue business.

"The popular image of the southern barbecue pitmaster has been white and male," Welborn said. "But the historical record and present practice both refute such prejudicial presumptions and perspectives with Black Southerners and Southern women consistently occupying an essential, if marginalized, place around the pit and at the table in the region's barbecue culture and history."

"Keepers of the Flame" confronts the

"authenticity" standards imposed on barbecue. Welborn and Pascoe argue that the historic practitioners of the artform don't conform to the popularized image of the southern pitmaster, and the people fueling the contemporary explosion of barbecue culture will further stretch notions of who fans the flames of this regional culinary tradition.

Filmed in 2022, "Keepers of the Flame" also explores the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food service industry and how these women food entrepreneurs kept their businesses afloat.

"Keepers of the Flame Fan the Flames of Change: A Digital Oral History



Tammy Woodward fans the flames at Smokey's BBQ in Garden City.

Project on Georgia Women in Barbecue" premieres in a special screening at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 1, in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium. Woodard will be present at the screening.

## Student serves bowl of family history at The Max

First-year student Carly Walker of Marietta shared a little taste of home with diners at The Max.

With the help of Sodexo staff members, Walker served steaming bowls of chicken and andouille sausage gumbo as the first dish to be featured in the Student Takeover The Max program.

This gumbo recipe is possibly hundreds of years old. All the women on the maternal side of Walker's family have served this recipe, and they all make it differently.

But her "Grancy," Carolyn Ferrazzano, makes it better than all the others.

"I've been eating this gumbo since I could eat anything at all," Walker said. "And I've eaten it every time I've been at my

grandmother's house. I can eat it for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

Her grandmother moved around the country because Walker's grandfather served in the military.

This recipe is one of the ways she stayed connected to her home state of Louisiana. Whenever Walker's family visits Grancy in Opelousas, Louisiana, they go home with Ziploc bags full of frozen gumbo.

The secret, Walker said, is preparing a proper roux—equal parts flour and fat simmered and stirred over high heat for no less than 45 minutes. It's kind of an art form. If the roux gets too hot, it'll burn; if the pot's not hot enough, it won't impart the proper

flavor.

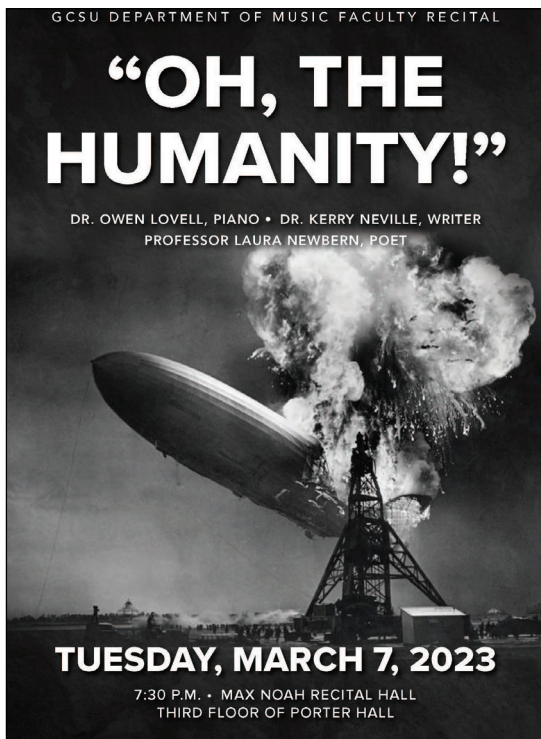
Grancy's decades of experience cooking this recipe mean each



bowl of gumbo is a true taste of Cajun culture.

Walker was keen to share this family recipe with diners at Georgia College & State University who may not know much about Cajun culture and cuisine.

## Come to tonight's piano recital!



## Did you know?

The efforts of Georgia College & State University's J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology (CoBT) to build a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion have earned national recognition. INSIGHT Into Diversity, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, awarded CoBT its 2023 Inspiring Programs in Business Award. The award recognizes programs and initiatives that promote diversity, equity and inclusion in business schools around the nation.

INSIGHT will profile CoBT initiatives like Minority Youth in Business and GC Women in Technology in its April issue.

"I am very pleased that we have received national distinction that affirms our values on the national stage," said Dr. Micheal Stratton, dean of CoBT. "So many individuals and departments across both the CoBT and GCSU are building and sustaining a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion."

Business students can choose from several courses that incorporate LGBTQ+ issues, including a first-year management course in LGBTQ+ studies and a second-year International Pride course. The college's popular LGBTQ+ Marketing course has seen a 60% increase in section enrollment during the past year.

For more than 30 years, CoBT has provided full scholarships for underserved, minority high school students from Georgia and surrounding states to attend a weeklong summer program that teaches entrepreneurship and business skills. The Minority Youth in Business program is designed to help young people start their own businesses, and the Georgia College Women in Technology club empowers female students to pursue careers in technology.