

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

DEAN'S WELCOME

DR. ERIC TENBUS, DEAN
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

This week in mid-April I've been reminded why the College of Arts and Sciences is a special place.

On a recent Monday night, one of our creative writing faculty, Chika Unigwe, presented a book reading from her latest novel, *The Middle Daughter*. She was recently listed by Oprah Daily as one of the ten best writers from Africa.

On a following afternoon, I had the pleasure of introducing PBS' Judy Woodruff to GCSU during a virtual talk with our Mass Communication students and faculty from across the college. Currently, the most-decorated female news broadcaster in the country, she regaled the students with tales and life lessons from her storied career in journalism. She spoke to us from where she's working on her latest PBS exclusive. Thanks to Mass Communication faculty member Molly Wilkins for arranging this fabulous event.

The next night, I attended the Department of Music's *Musical Scenes* performance, done in collaboration with the Department of Theatre and Dance. With a cast of some fifteen students, a pit orchestra of faculty members and a trove of whimsical songs from various musicals, this was one of the best shows I've experienced in my five years here. I saw some of those same student actors the previous weekend in a performance at Blackbird Coffee House downtown.

And we've just heard that a political science major won GCSU's first ever Truman Scholarship award—one of the most prestigious undergraduate awards given to the best scholars who exemplify the spirit of public service in the country. Mr. Colin Hall is one of only 62 recipients this year from universities across the country, including Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Stanford.

You may also remember that just last year, we had our very first Goldwater Scholar, another prestigious national scholarship given to students in STEM fields. As such, Mr. Wesley DeMontigny, the Goldwater winner, will be delivering the first student commencement speech at Centennial Hall in early May.

We have such incredible student talent at GCSU! But we also know that this student success would not have happened without the incredible faculty talent and dedication we have here, especially in the College of Arts and Sciences.

As I complete my fifth year here as dean, it has been and continues to be an honor to represent this excellent college at this fine institution of higher learning. I can't wait to see what the next five years will bring, but, since we are in higher education, I am sure it will be unexpected and exciting.



FROM THE EDITORS

With new faces in A&S, there's bound to be new ideas. With that in mind, the editors would like to bring your attention to our refreshed look and feel for the College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter.

You might notice A&S Success, our designation for all-things-news: student, faculty, programs and initiatives—or, what we're proud of. These are shortened for the newsletter, and may be read in full online at Front Page. Following thereafter will be our cover story, this year's theme being Mass Communication, their new Speech and

Debate team and the achievements they've made in their first year.

We're proud of our alumni too, so you'll notice a spot for featuring fantastic alums and our alumni awards—in their second year.

Then, to say thank you, we'll take space to show our gratitude toward those who make what we do in A&S possible.

Thank you for your continued support of the College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter, and here's to a new outlook in 2023!



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ARTS & SCIENCES SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

DEAN

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DEPT. OF GOVERNMENT
AND SOCIOLOGY

U.S. SECRET SERVICE AGENT AND FUTURE ALUM IS A MODEL FOR GIVING

► B. “Alan” Reeves has lived a life of service to others. As a Secret Service agent, he protected former Presidents Bush, Obama and Trump. Today, he provides protection for former President Jimmy Carter.

While visiting GCSU, Reeves said that being in public service means you should give of yourself, and give back. He exemplified that belief in his greatest act of service—his decision to donate a kidney to an area educator in need of a transplant.

He shared his law enforcement career with students and praised the many ways Georgia College faculty, staff and fellow students enable him to earn a master's degree while continuing his career as a secret service agent.



Alan Reeves shared his law enforcement experience as a Secret Service Agent with GCSU students.



Dr. Elissa Auerbach started the Digital Humanities Collaborative by sponsoring visiting scholars and holding digital workshops for faculty in 2019.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES
COLLABORATIVE

DIGITAL HUMANITIES COLLABORATIVE TRANSFORMS AND MODERNIZES THE HUMANITIES

► Today, digital technology has made literature, history, language, philosophy and religion courses more interactive, fun and visually appealing.

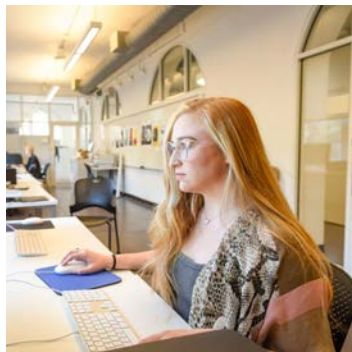
“In digital humanities, we’re rethinking humanities research and using digital tools to collect and analyze data in ways we can’t do with traditional research,” said Dr. Elissa Auerbach, professor of art history and coordinator of the collaborative.

And, digital skills easily transfer to other disciplines and the job market, making students more competitive after graduation.



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—we’re helping students do that.

Dr. Elissa Auerbach



▲ Sophomore art major Ella Leach developed a virtual timeline of pre-historic and medieval artwork.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS CELEBRATE WOMEN BARBECUE PITMASTERS

► The history professors behind The Georgia BBQ Trail website are exploring the stories of two restauranteurs who challenge the stereotype of southern barbecue pitmasters.

“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, women pitmasters and businessowners behind successful barbecue restaurants Vanna BBQ in Vanna, and Smokey’s BBQ in Garden City.

“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.”



Tammy Woodard of Smokey's BBQ shares photographs during an interview for the "Keepers of the Flame" documentary series.



History professors James "Trae" Welborn and Craig Pascoe, center, interview Vanna BBQ owner Jenica Gilmore.



GCSU FIRST IN STATE TO OFFER NEW ELECTION ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATE

► More than 8,000 election officials and 100,000 poll workers administer elections in the U.S.

Georgia College’s Election Administration Certificate started this fall as a way to prepare students for a career in public service—and to graduate students who are knowledgeable about election laws and procedures, election bureaucracy, voting rights and political parties.

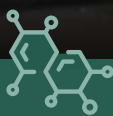
This is the first academic certificate on elections in the state of Georgia and one of a few nationwide.

“Certificates in election administration go a long way in educating students about the election process, which builds public confidence in the election system,” said Claire Sanders, senior lecturer of political science at Georgia College.

NMR MACHINE WILL TRAIN THE SCIENTISTS OF TOMORROW



▲ Dr. Sayo Fakayode (left) and Dr. Ronald Okoth with the new NMR Spectrometer at the Integrated Science Complex.



For a small, liberal arts university, Georgia College has an amazing array of scientific machinery. The new ISC is already out of space, Fakayode said. It's a good problem to have, because equipment like this gives Georgia College students an edge over their peers when applying for graduate school or jobs.

"The best way to drive a program is to expose your students to the best, because they desire the best," he said.

DEPT. OF CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

▲ A sophisticated, high-field 400-megahertz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectrometer will now give GCSU chemistry, physics and astronomy students the best possible training.

"This is top of the line. That's a Cadillac. It's like going from riding a bicycle to driving a Mercedes Benz," said Dr. Sayo Fakayode, chair of chemistry, physics and astronomy, with an ear-to-ear grin.

Showing off the NMR to visitors, he looks like a kid in a candy store.

"That is the instrument that can tell you exactly the chemical structures of organic compounds," he said. "The way you use an MRI to diagnose disease—we use this instrument to diagnose chemicals to know their structure."

Faculty and students can use the NMR for almost any scientific purpose: organic synthesis, biochemistry, bio-organic and material science, forensics, environmental science and analytical chemistry.

MATH JEOPARDY TEAM DOMINATES THEIR WAY TO FIRST PLACE

DEPT. OF MATHEMATICS

▼ A group of our 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.

“They did an amazing job answering some tough questions,” said Dr. Rachel Epstein, associate professor of math and Math Club co-advisor. “I love how passionate they are about math, and it has really been a privilege to work with them.”

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 comprised the winning Math Club team members.

Attending events like this was made possible by a generous donation from alum Harlan Archer, '89, '09, of Sandersville.

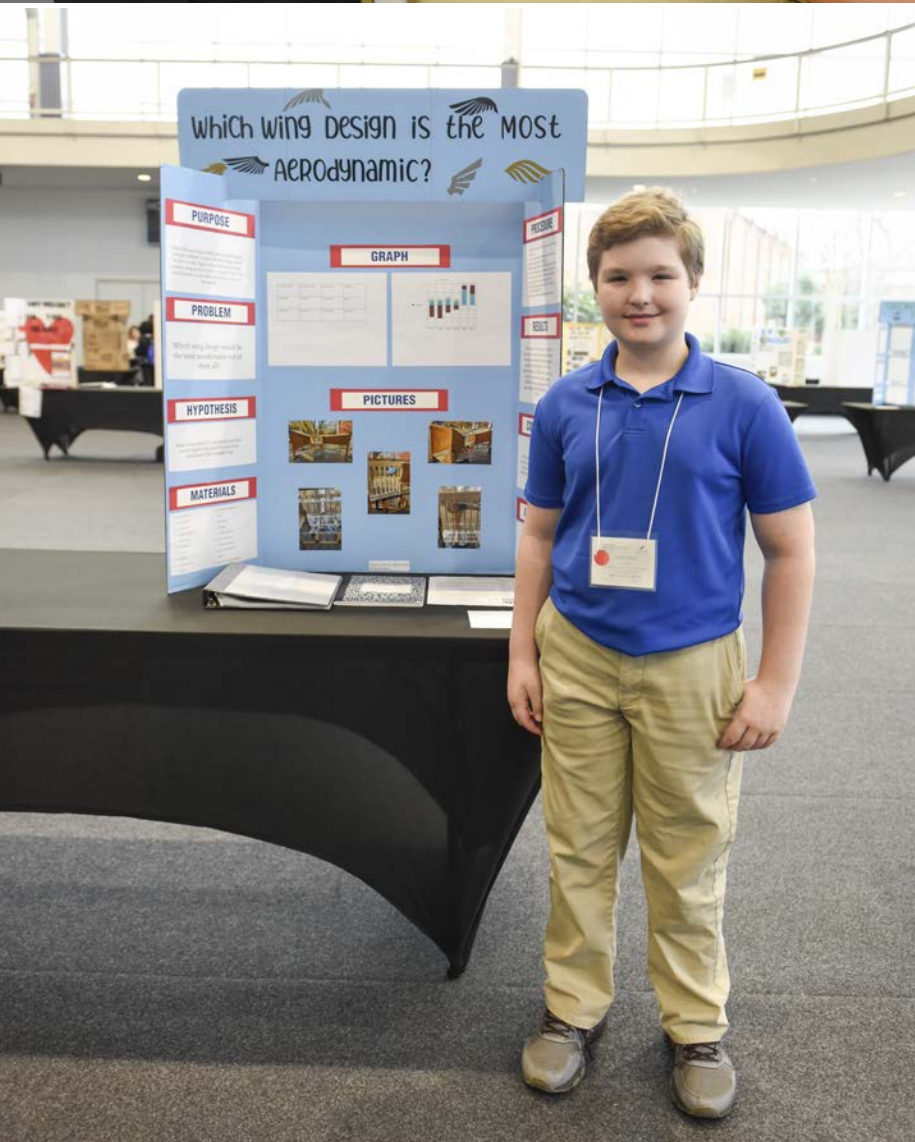
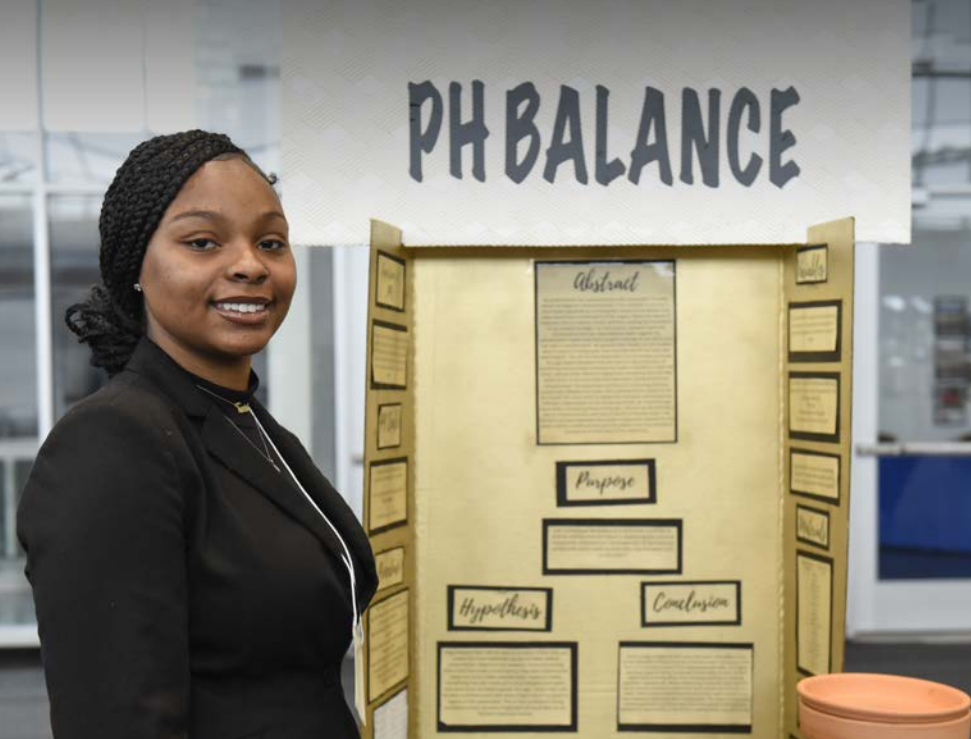


**THEY DID AN AMAZING
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- DR. RACHEL EPSTEIN



▲ The GCSU Math Jeopardy team after winning 7,300 points in the first round of the competition. (Left to right) Monica Lichtenwalner, Anna Marti, Jacob Carter and Caroline Hegwood.



GCSU'S 46TH REGIONAL
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

**MORE THAN
160 MIDDLE &
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

IN 12 SURROUNDING COUNTIES





Science fairs open opportunities to win awards and scholarships. They challenge students beyond the classroom, giving them a deeper understanding of science and how it impacts our world.

Dr. Catrena Lisse

11th Newell 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, this spring's Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar, is teaching a course at Georgia College & State University based on his recent book, "What Jesus Learned from Women."

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 biblical passage, Luke 2:52, that states Jesus "grew in wisdom."

From there, McGrath makes the case Jesus learned from the women around him—most notably his mother, Mary. 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."

McGrath is developing the new course 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.

On Feb. 28, McGrath explored the ethics of information flow. He discussed whether the computer on Star Trek is better than Google or chatbot, ChatGPT. McGrath examined whether simple answers given by the Star Trek computer are preferable to millions of results from a Google search.

"I'm not sure it's utopian to get one short answer," he said. "But, on other hand, so much information out there today is misinformation and easily spread."

"My short answer—from someone who thinks way too much about these things—is: If you're on a starship, and you often encounter crisis situations, then you want to be able to ask the computer and get a quick answer," McGrath said.

He'll also moderate a panel of campus speakers in April. From religious studies, history, mythology and other disciplines, they'll talk about the importance of studying popular culture in academia.

"I consider it a real privilege to be able to spend a semester as the Newell Scholar," McGrath said. "Everyone has been incredibly welcoming." 🏠

▼ James McGrath explored ethical issues with AI and search-engine algorithms, and how this technology may not be utopian.



ABOUT THE *NEWELL SCHOLAR PROGRAM*

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.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT





FACULTY MEMBER TRIUMPHS AT 2023 INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTORS WORKSHOP AND COMPETITION

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Bryan Hall, assistant professor of music and director of orchestras, walked away with an award for best conductorship at a well-known and highly-regarded conductor training program in January.

"I approached it through the lens of being a better conductor," Hall, hired in 2022 to teach upper strings, said. "I don't care what a person does. If you stop learning, you become irrelevant and should probably do something else. Things are always developing, and it's nice to be able to develop with it."

A violinist, Hall was one of 11 musicians who took part in the 31st International Conductors Workshop and Competition (ICWC) in Atlanta. The other two winners were Tal Benatar, co-artistic director of the SONUS Choir in Nashville, Tennessee, and James Chang, a freelance conductor from Jacksonville, Georgia.

The four-day workshop required reading five books on conducting, studying 8 hours a day, taking master classes and being individually coached by three regional directors and co-directors of symphonies in Gwinnett and Macon, Georgia, and Kiev, Ukraine.

"It's all about rewiring your brain to little things like that. It's challenging, but it's fun," he said. "It takes a little bit of tough skin, but I thought the faculty at this workshop were really nice and approachable. They gave tough love but in a very instructive, nurturing way."

Hall conducted a composition by Tchaikovsky in a concert at the end of the workshop. Orchestra members said they felt the strongest connection with him, according to workshop leaders.

Developing his conducting skills ultimately helps his students and improves the GCSU Orchestra, Hall said. Its next concert, "Classical Masterpieces," will be at 7:30 p.m. March 28 in Russell Auditorium. 🏠

“““

If you stop learning, you become irrelevant and should probably do something else. Things are always developing, and it's nice to be able to develop with it.

Bryan Hall



THE REMAKING OF A MONOLITH:

*Speech & Debate team
off to a running start*

Once upon a time—in the 1990s and early 2000s—Georgia College & State University’s Speech and Debate team was recognizable on the national stage.

Led by former English faculty, David Muschell, the team won countless awards, including the first-place “Parli in the Swamp” trophy at University of Florida’s national tournament in 2002.

“We jumped in with both feet out...we brought these big trophies home and were off,” Muschell said. “From then on, the program grew by leaps and bounds. We beat teams from Cornell and Notre Dame and Emory over our years.”

“I would tell students, ‘Don’t worry about their name, they’re students like you with all the problems you have,’” he said, “They believed that, and we did very well. It was a big time for Georgia College in the national spotlight of debating.”

Taking up the mantle, while forging their own identity, are a fresh batch of interdisciplinary students—under the guidance of Dr. Nathan Bedsole, assistant professor of rhetoric.

“I’m tasked with keeping an ongoing presence in our regional competitive circuit, but I am particularly interested in effective oratory and the exercise of debate as a community-focused exercise,” Bedsole said. “I consider speech and debate an eminently educational practice, and that’s how I approach it when teaching students and coaching them to realize their skill within it.”

The current Speech & Debate team, open to students of all majors, hovers around 15-20 active participants.

They’ve already seen major success. Their travel team placed second in Division III’s Team Sweepstakes at Novice National Forensic Association’s Novice Nationals, hosted this year by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.





Their team scored the second-most cumulative points of all Division III schools across all entries.

Of the seven competitors representing Georgia College, three speakers placed in the final round of their events. Halle Bergstrom placed fourth in Informative Speaking, McKenzie Weathers-Skinner placed sixth in After Dinner Speaking; Slam Poetry, and Jack Durham placed sixth in Extemporaneous Speaking.

"This is going to sound really weird, but I like to argue with people," Durham, a sophomore economics major, said. "It's great to hear other people's ideas—you don't have to agree on everything—and transition them into better ideas that could help everybody."

"I think it's really important to do those things, because it can help facilitate a better society and create a more stable environment," he said.



Speaker Sairsha Connor and debaters Ryan Meyer, Drew Oldham and Nicolas Wimbish comprised the rest of the travel team; Connor competed in After Dinner Speaking, Meyer and Oldham in Parliamentary Debate and Wimbish in IPDA Debate and Impromptu Sales.

When the team rehearses and prepares for competitions, repetition is key. Each Monday and Wednesday, they gather in the basement of Terrell Hall to practice prepared speeches or hash out a debate scrimmage.

"We've got kids coming back every week for the goal of finding their voice and cultivating a critical attunement of the world in a way that's driven toward increased understanding, not necessarily competitive victory," Bedsole said.

"Don't get me wrong," he said, "I'm going to bring back the trophies, but I want this to be a fixture on campus."

The organization, while still developing their ethos, is already working toward that goal. They've created an annual, on-campus event called The Protagoran, named after Protagoras—a famous teacher of speech from the ancient Mediterranean.

The fall event gives campus a chance to embrace the opportunity to explore real differences, Bedsole said.

"We're not after victory for victory's sake," he said, "but we're about responsible, ethical understanding, learning, growing our community, growing our own ability to articulate ourselves and growing our understanding of the world."

"These values are attractive to the students we have at Georgia College, particularly in the environment of a liberal arts university," he said.

Even if those in the organization don't plan to compete, they're still building valuable skills that will last a lifetime, while promoting personal growth.

"Everything I do—and the return of investment that I'm seeing—makes me feel more solidified in what I'm doing," said Abigail Watkins, sophomore mass communication major and Speech & Debate team president. "Every time I get involved in something else I realize, 'Whatever I put my mind to, I just have to put the work in and it'll work itself out.'"

"I'm finally getting out of that anxiety of public speaking," she said, "and now that I'm learning to debate, politics aren't nearly as scary now."


Speech and Debate—including behind the scenes marketing and recruiting—pushed Watkins out of her comfort zone. She always wanted to be a journalist, and both the technical and soft skills she's developing will add to her versatility—



“ ”

*WHEN YOU'RE IN
THE TRENCHES,
PRACTICING, AND
COMPETING IN
SPEECH AND
DEBATE, THERE IS
A LOT OF BONDING.*

- DAVID MUSCHELL



making her a catch no matter what career she decides to pursue in the industry.

Anna Lippy is a senior environmental science major and debater on the team. Her dream is to work in organic waste diversion, similar to her internship at the Office of Sustainability's campus compost operations.

"I have no idea which facet of environmental science or sustainability I'll end up in after college, but I think it'll be important for me to effectively communicate with people and employers who aren't familiar with environmental concerns," Lippy said. "Since I'm building these skills, I can help educate and advocate for the environment and people it affects."

"This club has been a great support system," she said. "All of the students involved and Dr. Bedsole really encourage and push us to be brave."

At least on that front, being a part of speech and debate hasn't changed much since the '90s.

"In retrospect, it was this relationship with all the students that was most important to me," Muschell said. "Seeing them grow, seeing them learn things, going to a tournament and coming out smiling ... is something I remember the most."

"When you're in the trenches, practicing and competing in speech and debate, there is a lot of bonding," he said.

Georgia College's Speech and Debate team are going to be at it again in the fall when they compete in their marquee tournament—Berry College's "Autumn in the Mountains." Their annual Protagoran will take place mid-November, and their journey through it all will be chronicled on their Instagram page, [@gc_speechanddebate](https://www.instagram.com/gc_speechanddebate). 🏠



▼ Harlee Pope on the set of the CBS hit TV show MacGyver, Season 4.



BECAUSE OF THIS EXPERIENCE, I AM A GO-GETTER AND NOT AFRAID TO TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER.



▼ Harlee Pope on the set of MacGyver, Season 3.

YOUNG ALUMNA WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES ON BIG-TIME PRODUCTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

◀ Harlee Pope, '18, is all wrapped up in the entertainment and film industry. She's worked on the set of CBS TV series "MacGyver," interviewed rock legends like "Men at Work" and starred in the Pretense music video by Alex Gräy.

"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."

Pope is a film industry freelancer. She's worked on more than 34 professional film productions in three years. You may have seen 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 got her start in theatre at Georgia College & State University, 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. Her experience with the Georgia College, Georgia Film Academy taught her the ins- and-outs of the industry—and put her foot in the door for an internship with the Atlanta Film Industry. 🏠

▲ Adkins uses her expertise in psychology to aid the GBI in investigating criminals.



◀ Cynthia Wahl Adkins, GBI's first division director of investigations.

PSYCHOLOGY ALUMNA IS GBI'S FIRST FEMALE DIVISION DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

► Cynthia Wahl Adkins, '97, '98, is the first woman to serve as Division Director of Investigations for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. She oversees the Investigative Division—where she can be in meetings, or on the scene.

She was hired with the GBI at just 26 years old, her career progressing alongside her goal to help people, and powered by her psychology classes at Georgia College & State University's Graduate School.

She figured counseling would be her future, and took the first job available in Milledgeville—counseling at Baldwin State Prison. Over her two years there, she discovered a new fascination with what drives people's actions.

"Every day is different," Adkins said. "That's a good thing about the job, but it can also be a bad thing. But getting an advanced degree can do nothing but help you." 🏠

For the second year, A&S will be recognizing our alumni's outstanding success—and showing our current students what great things they're capable of doing.

"We're looking for alums who have gone on to have impact beyond financial success," said Dr. Eric Tenbus, dean of COAS. "The following alums—we think—have absorbed our lesson of lifelong learning, taken it into the world and lived it."



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD



DR. JOHN CABLE, '13, '14

NOMINATED BY ARAN MCKINNON, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Dr. John Cable received a bachelor's degree in history and went on to complete a Ph.D. history program at Florida State University.

Cable returned to college after getting married, when he was drawn to the Civil Rights Movement in America.

He studied the African Diaspora in his undergraduate studies, and eventually concentrated his research on Neshoba County in Mississippi—a site important to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Cable said the study of history is important to identify and refute "usable pasts," used by politicians to manipulate others.

He is now assistant professor of history at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, where he advises their Homelessness Project and co-advises the History and Government Club.



YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD



DR. DANIELLE DAVIS, '14

NOMINATED BY LEE GILLIS AND KRISTINA DANDY, PSYCHOLOGY

Following graduation, Davis earned her doctoral degree in experimental psychology from the University of Vermont in 2019. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Yale School of Medicine from 2019 to 2021.

Now, she serves as an associate research scientist at the Yale School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry. There, she oversees and conducts basic and applied research, and assesses mechanisms of smoking cessation and regulation.

Davis is now conducting research to assess cannabis use among young people who vape nicotine e-cigarettes, and the effects of varying water content and flavor regulation of e-cigarettes. She's published 39 peer-reviewed publications—10 as first author—since graduating.



BEYOND FINANCIAL SUCCESS: A&S ALUMNI AWARDS

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



JESSICA MCQUAIN, '16, '20

NOMINATED BY BRUCE GENTRY, ENGLISH

McQuain is project coordinator for the Writing for Success grant at Georgia College & State University. In the community, she's a board member for PFLAG Milledgeville, board chair of Friends of Allied Arts and both founder and coordinator for the Milly Free Fridge—a mutual aid organization that provides a space for community members to donate and receive food in Milledgeville.

During her undergraduate and graduate years at Georgia College, McQuain worked with the Academic Outreach,

YES Program, Georgia College Early College and Foothills Education Charter High School—where she taught English-language part time. For her service during college, McQuain has garnered many awards.

In addition to physical service, McQuain's presentations, talks and guest lectures address social issues close to her heart—with wider implications to the community.

GENEROUS GIFT ESTABLISHES PROFESSORSHIP OF JAIN STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND LIBERAL STUDIES

A \$250,000 gift from Dr. Shailendra Palvia and Mrs. Rajkumari Palvia has established the “S & R Palvia Endowed Veetraag Vigyaan Professorship in Jain Studies” at Georgia College.

This generous gift will allow the infusion of Jain perspectives into philosophy and religion courses within the Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies. The department will hire an Endowed Professor in Jain Studies by fall 2023 to curate and teach new courses exploring Jainism.

Complementing the initial gift from the Palvia family, an annual gift of \$10,000 from the Jain Community of America will provide faculty development and student learning opportunities to the department and larger Georgia College community across the University System of Georgia.

Campus events and travel to India for faculty and students are included among additional opportunities. In the next three years, the Jain Community of America will raise money to permanently fund the program.

“The gift to endow a professorship in Jain Studies is a wonderful opportunity for Georgia College students to further explore the diverse religious cultures of the wider world and learn about the similarities and differences between various religious traditions,” said Dr. Eric Tenbus, dean of A&S. “The world is becoming a smaller place, and we in higher education have an

obligation to encourage our students to seek out knowledge and understanding from across the globe.”

“That is at the core of a liberal arts education,” he said.

Jainism is an ancient religion originating in India. Its three core pillars are “Ahimsa,” meaning non-violence towards all living beings; “Anekantwad,” invoking respect for all perspectives on any issue; and “Aparigraha,” seeking satisfaction with limited possessions.

“The Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies already embodies the core tenets of Jainism in its courses,” said Dr. Sunita Manian, department chair. “Anekantwad is the basis of our liberal arts commitment to the study of various perspectives: domestic and global, contemporary and historic.”

“Courses in animal ethics and social justice embody the philosophy of Ahimsa—as it applies to human and non-human animals—and Aparigraha is the foundation of courses in environmental ethics, food ethics and climate change,” she said.

The Department of Philosophy, Religion and Liberal Studies will build on the commitments on this endowment through the application of Jain principles, adding a new dimension to the study of contemporary challenges facing the world. 🏠







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