



## Congratulations Bobcats: Class of 2023!



### Spring Commencement

Nearly 1,400 Georgia College & State University students received undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees last weekend. With majors ranging from business, political science and art to finance, teaching and nursing—these students have developed skills to navigate life. At GCSU, they were challenged to think independently and lead creatively. They now leave fully prepared to make their mark on the world.



### Meet a few of our recent graduates:

Here's just sampling of the amazing young adults who just graduated from Georgia College & State University.



Nadira Colbert, a nursing valedictorian, has set her ambitions on becoming a registered trauma nurse. And she's promised herself that none of life's bumps will push her off track.

Having maintained a 4.0 GPA through all four years at Georgia College, Colbert prides herself on doing it with style. She balanced the nursing program's rigorous academics with the professional development of career placements and serving her peers through work in the School of Nursing's simulation center, skills lab and Library Learning Center. She's also earned officer roles in cocurricular organizations like Gamma Beta Phi—the national collegiate honor society—and the Black Student Alliance (BSA).

Graduating economics student, Brandon Pascali, is excited to step into his next educational opportunity—and for good reason.

The undergraduate student is jumping into a macroeconomics Ph.D. program at Emory University in Atlanta, with a full tuition, \$70,000-a-year scholarship.

Pascali credits the offer to his hard work at Georgia College & State University, where he minored in mathematics, scored very well on the Graduate Record Examinations and served in the GC Nudge Unit—a behavioral economics team. "It feels good to have a lot of hard work rewarded," Pascali said. "I want to teach the future generation nuanced tools for answering tough questions and help them think more critically about the economy."



Special education major, Caroline Pedersen of Marietta, brought the Georgia chapter of Miss Amazing to Milledgeville. She directed the pageant-like event, which builds confidence and self-esteem in girls and women with disabilities.

Pedersen will work as a special education teacher in Jones County. Bringing Miss Amazing to Milledgeville was a huge task, she said. "Now, four years later, it feels like a professional program," Pedersen said. "We have a lot of community relationships, we've more than doubled the number of participants and we have an average of 70 volunteers per year. This organization has the ability to completely change lives."

