



## Bobcat CALENDAR

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

### Tuesday

3

3-6 p.m. GCSU Farmer & Artisan Market, Front Campus.

6-8 p.m. GCSU Volleyball vs. USC Aiken in Centennial Center.

7:30 p.m. Saxophone Studio Recital in Max Noah Recital Hall.

### Wednesday

4

6-8:30 p.m. GCSU Soccer vs. Clayton State University at Bobcat Soccer Field, W. Campus.

### Thursday

5

5-7 p.m. Artist talk by Hannah March Sanders at Fray exhibit in Leland Gallery, Ennis Hall.

7:30 p.m. "Wandering Hearts" faculty recital in Max Noah Recital Hall.

### Friday

6

### Saturday

7

## GC Journeys wins AASCU's Excellence & Innovation Award

GC Journeys—a widely-acclaimed program at Georgia College & State University that ensures all students graduate with high-impact experiences in-and-outside the classroom—won the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) prestigious 2023 Excellence & Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion.

The AASCU awards committee selected GC Journeys "for its outstanding results and potential to influence and serve as a model for other institutions," according to association President and CEO Mildred García. She congratulated Georgia College on its "noteworthy achievements and contribution to the higher education community."

"We are thrilled that the GC Journeys program has been recognized for excellence and innovation," said Georgia College President Cathy Cox. "This supportive program provides a roadmap, putting transformative practices in which students learn-by-doing at the center of every student's campus experience. It prepares them for today's workforce or graduate school in ways that traditional classroom experiences alone cannot."

"The AASCU award confirms our commitment to student success," Cox said, "and shows GC Journeys continues to be an effective catalyst for students to explore career pathways, engage with the local and global community, cultivate their critical thinking skills and develop into tomorrow's leaders."

GC Journeys specifies five paths students can take for transformative outcomes. Three are required for all students to graduate: First-year Experience, a yearlong debut of seminar-style classes, information literacy and activities to help students navigate college; career plan-

ning to guarantee early job exploration; and Senior Capstone, a faculty-mentored culminating project during senior year.

Students must also select at least two more transformative experiences: mentored undergraduate research, study abroad, internship, community-based engaged learning or the leadership program.

When students undertake multiple high-impact practices, research shows they're more likely to graduate on time, get a job or go to graduate school. Top business leaders often say they're looking for the kind of skills gained in a liberal arts education.

"Providing students with a well-rounded, highly engaged learning experience is the pillar of a Georgia College education," said Dr. Jordan Cofer, associate provost of Transformative Learning Experiences. "Our students graduate with authentic experience in solving complex problems and leadership. They enter the workforce having already participated in real-world settings. They know how to put ideas into action."

In 2020, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) showed Georgia College first-year students entering college on the same level as their national peers. But by graduation, they exceeded their national peers in a variety of categories including collaborative learning; student-faculty interaction; supportive environment; reflective and integrated learning; and discussions with diverse others.

Georgia College and GC Journeys also earned the



Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA) in 2020 and was named the nation's top undergraduate research program by the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR). In 2021, the University System of Georgia (USG) awarded the program its "Regents' Momentum Year Award for Excellence in Teaching and Curricular Innovation."

The latest AASCU award will be given at the association's annual conference Nov. 4-7 in Chicago, Illinois. Award recipients will be acknowledged in the AASCU "Advantage" newsletter and social media and on its website.

## GCSU's first medical physics student lands full-tuition graduate program in Tennessee



Thanks to Georgia College & State University's new medical physics program, this graduate's future is off to a healthy start.

Kaylee Kallam of Cumming was Georgia College's first student to complete its new medical physics pathway. Now, she's been accepted into the University of Tennessee's Medical Physics master's program

with a full assistantship teaching position, tuition waived and a monthly stipend.

"I feel very prepared based on the classes I took and the resources I was given at Georgia College," Kallam said. "The physics course requirements enabled me to move forward with everything I needed."

"All the required upper-level coursework was already in the curriculum," she said. "So, I have no undergraduate requirements to fulfill upon entry into the program. It was all completed at GCSU."

Kallam "absolutely loved" her years at Georgia College and the "charming" city of Milledgeville. At first, she planned to pursue engineering. But after career exploration junior year, she decided on the university's new medical physics pathway.

It was a good decision.

After graduating in May, Kallam fielded offers from four out of the five graduate

programs she applied to.

"I feel very prepared based on the classes I took and the resources I was given at Georgia College," she said.

The concentration in medical physics started last fall at Georgia College. It prepares students to get a master's degree for careers in radiation therapy. After getting a master's and working in a residency training program, students must pass an exam to become certified as medical physicists.

Medical physicists work in hospitals checking radiation equipment. They work side-by-side with doctors controlling the dose of radiation for cancer therapy and working with radiation imaging. They often travel between hospitals, checking and certifying operation of radiation equipment and safely disposing radioactive materials. They read CT-scans, help diagnose illnesses and perform research for better radiation detection.

During her coursework at Georgia College, Kallam shadowed a medical physicist in Atlanta. She took Dr. Ralph France's nuclear physics class that focuses on medical physics and a second semester of physical chemistry as an elective. She also did undergraduate research in France's nuclear physics lab and presented her research at the 2022 Southeastern conference of the American Physical Society in Oxford, Mississippi.

Her favorite class was physical chemistry with Dr. Ken McGill, who she said can explain even the most difficult concepts. He'd bring snacks to class, and students loved his "off topic" stories. That class became like family.

"It was probably one of my favorite classes to go to every day. It was always a mood booster and enjoyable to be a part of," Kallam said. "All the physics faculty were amazing to work with. They're all very knowledgeable."

## GCSU Gives Day has estimated impact of \$101,760

Georgia College & State University's Class of 2027 served 3,000 hours during this year's GCSU Gives Day—with an estimated \$101,760 in economic impact on the local community.

Approximately 1,500 first-year students clocked in community service hours—playing games with residents at the Georgia War Veterans Home; leading activities and games for kids during the Life Enrichment Center's "End of Summer Celebration," making blankets for the Linus Project; painting baseboards, window trim and a porch for Milledgeville Cares; and removing weeds, tires and trash at Oconee River Greenway.

Psychology major Kadima Rogers of Augusta, Georgia, volunteered by playing games with veterans at

the Georgia War Veteran's Home.

"People in assisted living don't get many visitors, so, it's nice to be a smiling face they get to see," Rogers said. "I think this experience has grounded me a little more. It makes me feel humble and really appreciate the situation I'm in."

Psychology and Spanish major Kylie Gregg of Fayetteville, Georgia, was excited to help her Georgia College peers. She was the "Vanna White" of bingo at the Georgia War Veteran's Home.

"Bing able to do something like this is really important. It helps the community and builds our own community at GCSU," Gregg said.

"I have a lot of personal respect

for veterans. I think this would be something I could come back to do myself that I wouldn't otherwise



have known about before GCSU Gives Day."

Braving the heat while working outdoors, marketing major Chance Phillips from Canton, Georgia, said "More than anything else, I'd rather be ... giving back."

## Students abroad in Italy, Greece



Sydney Ryder makes phyllo dough during an excursion in Greece.

Twelve Georgia College & State University students got a close-up view of the cultures in Italy and Greece this summer. They experienced new places, tastes and broadened their thinking by learning how local food there is produced and processed.

Students returned with skills they can use and a new understanding of how foods help define culture.

"I structured the program to allow students to interact with local people, so they could get a truer picture of the culture and traditions of the places they visited," said Dr. Craig Pascoe, a history professor at Georgia College. "It opened a new world of knowledge for these students, seeing how cuisine reflects culture."

Students spent the first 10 days in Florence, Italy. They toured historic sites and museums like the Uffizi Gallery, Accademia Museum, the Duomo (Florence Cathedral) and the Roman amphitheater in Fiesole, located in the hills above Florence.

Their classrooms included farms, industries and businesses. They learned in kitchens, butcher shops and cooking schools.

Students experienced authentic cuisine through "learning dinners" at traditional Italian and Greek restaurants.

In Athens, Greece, students dined at a variety of restaurants and toured the Parthenon—a former temple on the Athenian Acropolis. Most students spent their free time at pristine beaches near Athens.

## Did you know?

Dr. Chris Greer, professor of Instructional Technology at Georgia College & State University has been nominated for a 2023 Emmy Award for "View Finders," which he co-hosts. The outdoor-adventure show airs on Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Greer considers the nomination an honor.

"The television show has been a tremendous amount of work, and I have put long hours into producing it, so it feels encouraging to be recognized for the program," he said. "The nomination will help get the word out about the show to an even larger audience, which I hope will result in greater exposure and more awareness about the beauty of Georgia and ways it can be preserved."

Georgia College wishes him the best through the Emmy Award process.

Learn more about Greer's Georgia travel show at [frontpage.gcsu.edu/node/14414](http://frontpage.gcsu.edu/node/14414).