



Bobcat CALENDAR

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Tuesday

24

7:30 p.m. GCSU Orchestra's "Virtuosity" concert in Russell Auditorium.

Wednesday

25

2 p.m. AI in Education workshop in Ina Dillard Library, room 376.

2-4 p.m. GCSU Soccer vs. Catawba College at Bobcat Soccer Field, W. Campus.

6-8 p.m. Dr. James Hill "Trae" Welborn III will give a talk about his new book, "Dueling Cultures, Damnable Legacies: Southern Violence and White Supremacy in the Civil War Era" in Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion.

Thursday

26

6 p.m. GCSU Volleyball vs. Middle Georgia State University in Centennial Center.

6-8 p.m. Student panel on "The State of American Democracy" in A&S room 263.

7:30 p.m. GCSU Wind Symphony's "Landmarks" in Russell Auditorium.

Friday

26

Saturday

27

Coverdell Visiting Scholar warns 'Don't go down that path'

Few today in the United States have borne the kind of scars Dr. George Kieh has for freedom.

Born and raised on a rubber plantation in Liberia, Georgia College & State University's latest Coverdell Visiting Scholar learned about injustice firsthand. His father worked the plantation 35 years, and treatment for laborers could be harsh.

By middle school, Kieh had organized his first social-justice movement. He later became president of the University of Liberia's Student Government Association. When he was in college in 1979, he was arrested, charged with treason and tortured.

He was imprisoned three months. After his release, Kieh went to the United States to get his master's and Ph.D. in political science from Northwestern University. Going back to Liberia in 1983 to research his dissertation—again, Kieh was arrested. This time, he was sent to a maximum-security prison and did four month's hard labor.

Kieh was imprisoned both times for protesting against his government.

"In an autocracy, you got to go with the program. There's no room for independent views," Kieh said. "Eventually, authoritarian regimes consume their own supporters. If you challenge them, you do that at your own peril."

"You don't have the right to think freely anymore. You don't have the right to express alternative views. That's only in a democratic system," he said.

Twice, in 1989 and 1999, Kieh witnessed the oppression that disintegrates countries into civil war. He knows how hard it is for freedom to come back once a nation embraces the absolute power of dictatorship.

These life lessons pushed him to become an educator, and it's what continues to energize him—prompting him to warn all who will listen: "Don't go down that path."

"The best authoritarian system is worse than the most flawed democratic system," Kieh said, pointing to Russia, China and Venezuela.

"We no longer want democracy; we want autocracy, because it's like a shiny object that people run after that's gonna solve all their personal and group problems and whatnot," he said. "But Americans need to be mindful. We need to preserve this system, because I will argue that it provides the best opportunity for us to advance both the country's best interests as well as our own."

Kieh spent his long career promoting those very notions.

He's an expert on foreign policy, conflicts, civil wars, global terrorism and genocide. He taught politics at six universities including the University of West Georgia, University of Memphis in Tennessee, Illinois Wesleyan University and Morehouse College in Atlanta.

His subjects range from international relations and comparative political systems to contemporary African politics and democracy. Right now, he's on sabbatical from Texas Southern University in Houston, where he was dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs.

His resume is 39 pages long—an illustrious career filled with teaching positions, research, administrative experience, academic memberships, grants received, leadership and teaching awards and many publications



Dr. George Kieh, GCSU's 2023 Coverdell Visiting Scholar.

of books, book chapters and journals.

As Georgia College's Coverdell Visiting Scholar—a position that started in 2019 through the College of Arts & Sciences—Kieh is expected to teach a course, lead campus conversations and hold public events.

He recently lectured on "Clashing Political Values" during Constitution Week.

While imperfect, he argued, American democracy is still better than living with rigged elections and people disappearing when they "cross the line" or their political use is gone.

"One of the good things about democracy in America," Kieh said, "is that at least it provides an opportunity, a way for citizens who have grievances."

Chemistry freshman from Eatonton is Georgia College's first Project SEED scholar

Morgan Collins, a first-year chemistry student, is the first from Georgia College & State University to receive an American Chemical Society Project SEED Scholarship.

This year, this competitive research funding opportunity was awarded to 45 students nationwide with Collins the only recipient from Georgia. The Eatonton, Georgia, native was awarded the scholarship's maximum amount of \$5,000, which covers his tuition—leaving him to conduct research.

The Project SEED Scholarship assists Project SEED Program participants like Collins in their transition from high school to college. Project SEED also funded two years of Collins' summer research with the Georgia College Young Scientist Academy beginning in 2022.

According to their website, the American Chemical Society's Project SEED mission is to "provide sustained STEM research, learning, and growth opportunities for



Morgan Collins, a freshman chemistry student, is GCSU's first Project SEED scholar.

high school students with diverse identities and socioeconomic backgrounds..."

With the funds, Collins started creating a heavy metal indicator alongside Dr. Catrena Lisse, director of the Science Education Center and professor of chemistry.

The indicator should change colors to

find which metals are present in water or soil. In college, Collins' goal is to make an indicator that is reusable and efficient at identifying metals.

He wants to speed up the process for identifying what is contaminating water or soil, finding that contaminant and

reversing its effects while preventing it from happening again.

"I'm really interested in water and soil quality because I want to be an environmental chemist," Collins said. "That's my career path and being able to use a heavy metal indicator for water samples will boost my goals and help me along the way."

Out of Georgia's three selective institutions, Collins chose Georgia College precisely for this opportunity to conduct undergraduate research.

"I've always loved nature—hiking, fishing, camping—I'm an Eagle scout, so this is my passion," he said. "Being introduced to chemistry was mind blowing because I understand it, it's fun and hands-on."

"That's what drives me: my love and passion for environmental science, for nature and for chemistry," Collins said.

GCSU offers original LGBTQ+ Marketing course



Dr. Joanna Schwartz, marketing expert.

Most of us are familiar with the rainbow-colored pivot companies make when June rolls around each year. To LGBTQ+ consumers, this marketing strategy says one thing: insincerity.

Dr. Joanna Schwartz, professor of marketing and subject-matter expert at Georgia College &

State University, is working to change that narrative.

With her one-of-a-kind course titled LGBTQ+ Marketing, she invites interdisciplinary students to examine marketing failures and successes, find community through discussion and become well-rounded, culturally-sensitive marketing professionals.

"It's not like any course, anywhere," Schwartz said.

"The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accredits our business college, and one thing they want us to do is give our students a broad perspective."

"Wouldn't it be great if we had more coursework that creates connections to people who are

different to us? So, I proposed this class," she said.

In her course, Schwartz fosters an academic environment that enriches her students' perspectives. Through her professional expertise, Schwartz guides students through complex themes, LGBTQ+ history and market segmentation so they understand the value of connection and differences.

The course is broken into three parts: marketing basics, aspects of LGBTQ+ identity, and how that identity intersects with other aspects of society. It was designed by Schwartz from the ground-up.

"There's no other course like it," she said.

It's listed as a business elective, marketing elective or women's and gender studies elective.

2023 Newman Civic Fellow



Junior Axel Hawkins has been named a 2023 Newman Civic Fellow due to her outstanding leadership at Georgia College & State University and in the Milledgeville community.

The McDonough resident is majoring in history with a minor in political science.

"I feel truly honored to be recognized for my commitment to public service. Of course," Hawkins said, "I don't take on the work I do for the recognition. You go into public service knowing it's often a thankless job."

"But I'm very glad to know that my work stood out and that people have been able to see how much I value leadership for the public good," she said. "I am very, very thankful to have been given such a unique opportunity."

Campus Compact is a non-profit coalition of colleges and universities dedicated to public purpose in higher education. It selected 154 student leaders nationwide as Newman Civic Fellows for its 2023 cohort. The program "recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world."

Hawkins was one of two students in Georgia to be chosen—the other is a student at Mercer University.

Colleges and universities can submit one exceptional student candidate for the fellowship per year. Georgia College students are appointed through the university's Leadership Program.

Did you know?

On Thursday, Oct. 26, Georgia College & State University's 2023 Coverdell Visiting Scholar Dr. George Kieh—in collaboration with the GCSU Departments of Government & Sociology and History & Geography—will host a student panel discussion on "The State of American Democracy" from 6 to 8 pm. in the Arts & Sciences building, room 263. This discussion involves five students majoring in history and political science. They will present on topics like elections and access to ballots. Questions and discussion will follow. This forum is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Dr. Kieh at george.kieh@gcsu.edu.

Then, Nov. 9-11, Kieh is hosting a conference at Georgia College on "Democracy in the World." Thirteen professors will speak from Georgia College, the University of West Georgia, North Carolina Central University and as far away as California.

The presentations will become chapters in two books Kieh plans to publish.