



Sophomore recently completed nuclear physics training at Duke University

Joel Saucedo's head is full of nuclear fusion, clean energy, fractional calculus, radioactive particles—and all that jazz.

The jazz part? When he's not studying physics, he plays saxophone in Georgia College & State University's Jazz Band.

These elements all weave together into a liberal arts education at Georgia College that Saucedo credits for helping him win a prestigious nuclear physics traineeship at Duke University this summer.

"Georgia College is a hidden gem for hungry undergraduates like me. It's a small university that welcomes students with big ideas," Saucedo said. "The liberal arts equip students with new lenses to view the world. But what's special about Georgia College is the focus on leadership through the liberal arts."

"This is an environment that's ripe for cultivating new heights of passionate, multi-disciplinary practitioners and future leaders in the world," he said, "aligned with values our society is in desperate need of."

Now a sophomore, Saucedo's working to expand the Student Research Circle through MURACE (Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors). Saucedo wants the group to be a pipeline for students who want big-impact experiences in college.

Saucedo wants to share the professional connections he's made, emboldening others to travel to conferences and share their research

too. He wants to encourage experienced undergraduates and faculty "to take new students under their wings." He'd like all students to "walk in and learn something new about themselves."

He believes he can be a campus leader, because he understands how transformational his educational opportunities have been. Research done freshman year with Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge was enough to make him feel an equal among other trainees and Ph.D. students at Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory (TUNL) in North Carolina.

Mahabaduge met Saucedo through the National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM Scholars program. Saucedo worked on two different research projects with Mahabaduge, meeting twice a week, even through winter break.

"Joel is the poster child for a self-driven student," Mahabaduge said. "By the end of his freshmen year, he has presented his research at local, national and international conferences. It sure is a very rare feat for a freshmen undergraduate student."

Saucedo was stunned and elated to learn he'd been accepted into Duke's traineeship. Funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, the program is highly competitive with as many as 300 applications for eight spots.

When he got the acceptance letter, Saucedo said he went "running out of the learning center screaming and about to have a heart attack."

"The magnitude of competition for these programs is nuts," Saucedo said. "This was so unexpected and so validating to me to keep doing what I'm doing and trusting myself and my own capabilities."

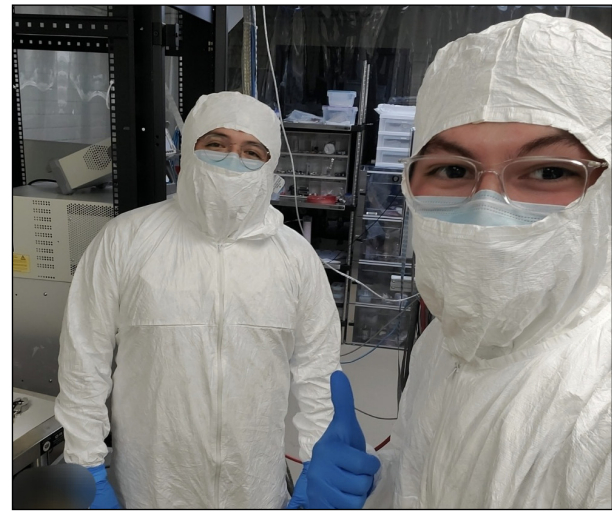
"I'd been rejected by prestigious institutions many times before," he said. "So, it felt unreal at first. I'm so glad I kept putting my name out there. Now I'm hungry to give back and share my experiences."

Saucedo spent 10 weeks at Duke, housed in an apartment with a Ph.D. student. His days were filled with self-paced reading, meetings and seminars on nuclear physics. The research portion was self-motivated. Trainees were expected to work at their own pace, doing what interested them.

Next summer, Saucedo would like to get a Dept. of Energy internship researching nuclear fusion at Princeton University's Plasma Physics Laboratory. He'd also like to research thin film photovoltaics for solar panels at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado. He wouldn't mind doing a cooperative internship with Goldman Sacs or SpaceX either to better understand the business side of things.

For a career, he'd like to work in renewable energy as an employee, researcher and, eventually, entrepreneur.

"Physics inspires me to dream big for humanity," he said. "This experience definitely changed my career path to think bigger."



Joel Saucedo (front) suited up in lab at Duke. (Below) Saucedo playing the sax.



GCSU names Seth Walker new Vice President for University Advancement

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) welcomes Seth Walker as the new Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the GCSU Foundation. Walker will begin his tenure at Georgia College & State University on December 1, 2023.

"Georgia College is well known as a transformative institution, and its uniqueness as Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University underscores the need for significant philanthropic investment. I am eager to collaborate with President Cox, GCSU leadership, the advancement team, and the entire GCSU community to work with donors to create innovative philanthropic partnerships that will propel GCSU to new heights," Walker said.

Walker currently serves as the Vice Chancellor for Advancement and CEO of the SIUE Foundation at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). In that capacity, he has doubled the fundraising output which has resulted in the highest fundraising year in the history of SIUE. Additionally, he created a robust qualitative and quantitative



Seth Walker

metrics system for his Development Officers, Deans and Department Chairs that has been effective in emphasizing the collective institutional responsibility in raising private dollars.

"Georgia College & State University will benefit from Seth's experience both in and outside of the University System of Georgia. Additionally, his

history working with private sector companies such as Georgia Aquarium and United Way will also serve him well as he brings a new corporate perspective and approach to our fundraising efforts," said GCSU President Cathy Cox.

"Furthermore, Seth is prepared to move University Advancement in a strategic direction using our Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan as a strong guiding force. His fully staffed advancement team is capable of and ready to follow his ambitious lead, which will take GCSU to new heights in the years to come," said Cox. "We are looking forward to working with him as he firmly believes that all University stakeholders play a vital role in the advancement of our institution."

Walker has a noteworthy academic record, including numerous publications and presentations. He also has deep expertise in board recruitment and management, as well as philanthropy and alumni relations.

Did you know?

On Thursday, Nov. 2, the NEH Oral History project "Flannery O'Connor and Milledgeville: Collecting the Past" will host a virtual kick-off event.

Dr. Stephanie Opperman will speak with Sandra Worsham, a writer and retired high school teacher, about the oral history project she directed with Baldwin High School students.

The Milken Family Foundation published the collection of stories in "Everybody Has a Story to Tell: Stories of Flannery O'Connor's Milledgeville (1999)."

The event will take place virtually from 6 until 7 p.m. To register and receive the Zoom link, visit https://bit.ly/46Vve11.



Upcoming concerts at GCSU feature 'Women in Music' and Jazz Band grooves

Guest artist and flutist Ziqing Guan will perform "Women in Music—a Flute Recital" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, in Georgia College & State University's Max Noah Recital Hall.

Originally from Guangzhou, China, Guan is a Haynes Young Artist and recently earned her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of South Carolina. She earned her bachelor's in flute performance at Xinghai Conservatory of Music in China and her master's at Texas State University.

Next, get into the swing of things with GCSU's annual Jazz Band Concert, "Groove in the Pocket," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, in Russell Auditorium.

A variety of 1950's jazz grooves like swing, bop, Latin and 6/8 require a different 'pocket'—a concept being studied by students this semester.

In jazz, pockets mean a musician is playing in a solid way with great feeling.

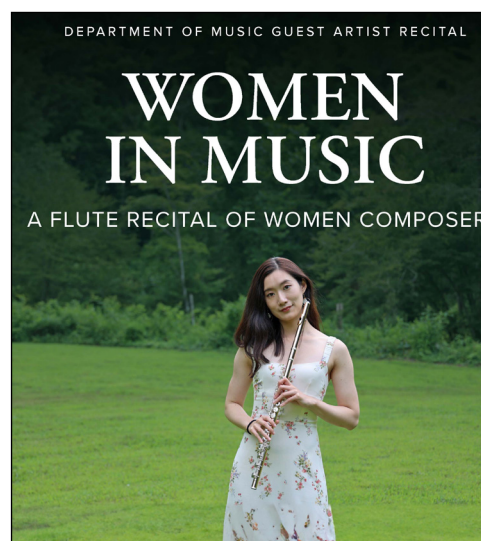
The title of the concert comes from the famous bassist, Victor Wooten, who said, "You can't hold no groove if you ain't got no pocket."

Compositions include Thad Jones' "A Child is Born," Benny Carter's "Easy Money" and Miles Collins' "Teddy the Toad," as well as Sammy Nestico's arrangements of "Georgia on my Mind" and "Splanky."

Both concerts will also be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GCMusicDepartment.

A \$5 donation is encouraged for all concerts. Proceeds benefit music scholarships or the GCSU Music Department through GCSU Foundation Inc.

For more information, please email music@gcsu.edu or call 478-445-8289.



What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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7:30 p.m. Guest flutist Ziqing Guan will perform "Women in Music" in Max Noah Recital Hall.

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10 a.m.-2 p.m. Flu shots in Wooten-Garten House conference room.

6-7 p.m. A conversation with Sandra Worsham for NEH Oral History project "Flannery O'Connor and Milledgeville: Collecting the Past." This is a virtual event, visit: https://bit.ly/46Vve11.

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9-10 a.m. With "Thirst for Knowledge" program become Adopt-A-Stream certified in chemical monitoring at 315 Lake Laurel Rd., Milledgeville.

4-6 p.m. Dunk for Diabetes, a basketball dunking competition, at GCSU's Wellness & Recreation Center, W. Campus.

6-8 p.m. GCSU Volleyball vs. Lander University at Centennial Center.

7:30 p.m. GCSU's annual Jazz Band concert "Groove in the Pocket" in Russell Auditorium.

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9 a.m.-1 p.m. Day of foraging at GCSU's Andalusia Farm: The Home of Flannery O'Connor. Explore fields and fence lines of Andalusia Farm and have refreshments made from items we collect. For more info call 478-445-5277.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. "Cleanway at the Greenway," a clean-up at the Onconee Greenway in Milledgeville.