



General Consul Rachel Galloway discusses tea, royals and all things British

Rachel Galloway, His Majesty King Charles' Consul General to the United States, spent an afternoon and evening at Georgia College & State University recently meeting with students, faculty and community leaders about leadership and her role as an ambassador.

While here, she also enjoyed talking about things that fascinate Americans about Britain, like the monarchy and royal family; what we have in common—history, music, military partnership— and excitement generated by sports like the World Cup.

Oh, and tea.

When senior mass communication major Elizabeth Newlin of Hochtton, Georgia, asked Galloway how she liked Southern Sweet Tea, the ambassador laughed heartily.

She's been at the British Consulate in Atlanta since July 2022 but admitted "I just can't get past it psychologically. I always think, 'Oh, my tea's gone cold' and then, 'It happened again.'"

The Leadership Programs at Georgia College sponsored Galloway's visit.

After meeting Milledgeville city officials, members of the media, GCSU President Cathy Cox and Provost Costas Spirou, Galloway spoke at the university's Usery Forum on Leadership.

The Usery Forum is Georgia College's presentation-discussion series on leadership. Named in honor of W. J. Usery, the 15th U.S. Secretary of Labor, it explores leadership that brings people together, bridges division, finds value in new perspectives and showcases innovation and service.

About 150 faculty, students and staff attended the forum. Afterwards, Galloway had dinner with a dozen students from the leadership program.

"We were deeply honored to host Consul-General Rachel Galloway at Georgia College," said Dr. Harold Mock, director of Leadership Programs. "She brings, of course, her expertise in world politics, diplomacy and leadership. But she also gave deeply of her insights practiced over a career of public service and gathered from rich experiences

across the globe."

"I am especially grateful for her insights on how we can build relationships beyond our differences," he said, "and communicate productively with those with whom we might disagree."

Good leadership is about recognizing what people have in common, as well as their differences, Galloway said. By talking and listening to each other, she is confident people can work together.

From 2018 to 2022, Galloway served as the late Queen Elizabeth II's ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia. At the time, that territory was trying to change its name to allow membership in NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Galloway helped strengthen diplomatic relations in the region by working closely with Americans and Europeans.

"Once they came to an agreement," Galloway said, "they were able to join NATO. They are an ally of the West. They're a friend of the United States and United Kingdom. We want our friends to be with us in NATO."

"And, of course, while I was there," she said, "Russia invaded Ukraine. People in North Macedonia woke up that morning and thought, 'We're in NATO.' That means something. It was really important to them."

Galloway was only four weeks into her new job as Consul General in Atlanta when Queen Elizabeth II died. It was a tough situation for her, especially being far from home. The British Consulate had a book where people could sign their condolences.

But it's a trip to the grocery store that stands out most in Galloway's memory.

"A gentleman came up to me in the Kroger and said, 'You're British,' and he took my hand and said, 'Sorry.' It happened again and again, you know, people genuinely sharing their relationship with me about the UK, because they could hear my accent."

Galloway is now responsible for building relationships with the UK and Southeastern United States.



Rachel Galloway, above, at GCSU's Leadership forum. Below, she speaks with students.



Andalusia wins 2024 Special Project Award

Georgia College & State University's Department of Historic Museums earned a prestigious state-wide award Friday, Jan. 19, for Andalusia: The Home of Flannery O'Connor.

The Georgia Association of Museums (GAM) presented its 2024 Special Project Award to Georgia College's Andalusia Interpretive Center—a 5,300 square-foot, \$3.5 million building completed in March 2023. The center competed against the largest and most well-funded museums in the state for GAM's highest-tier Special Project category.

GAM President Marcy Breffle and Award Committee Co-Chairs Melissa Swindell and Karin Dalton presented the award to Matt Davis, director of Historic Museums at Georgia College, and Cassie Munnell, curator at Andalusia.

"The department of Historic Museums is pleased to receive this award," Davis said. "It is truly gratifying to be recognized by your peers in the industry, and we are honored that our work at the new Andalusia Interpretive Center has been

recognized in this way."

More than 200 museum professionals from across the state convened in Athens for the GAM annual meeting, which started Jan. 17. The theme of the 2024 conference was "Finding the Right Frequency: Museums and Communities in Harmony." Participants attended a variety of sessions and workshops ranging from developing education programs to designing exhibits.

"We are pleased to present the Special Project Award to a very deserving recipient," Breffle said. "Our members represent a good cross section of museums and cultural organizations in Georgia's communities, both large and small."

During the years Flannery O'Connor lived at Andalusia, she completed two novels and 32 short stories centered around the American Southern gothic genre.

In August 2017, the site was gifted to Georgia College, O'Connor's alma mater. Today, Andalusia collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits items that illustrate the history of the site in the time



period when Flannery O'Connor lived on the property, 1951-1964.

Andalusia was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and listed as a "Distinctive Destination" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2019. In 2022, it became a National Historic Landmark.

Did you know?

Last Friday, Feb. 2, Georgia College & State University held its 47th Annual Regional Science and Engineering Fair in Centennial Center.

There were 85 displays on topics like breast cancer, water quality and solar panels.

More than 100 middle and high school students participated from 14 counties around the state. Two new counties joined the list this year: Columbia and Richmond. Other counties included Baldwin, Bibb, Hancock, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Laurens, Monroe, Putnam, Twiggs, Washington and Wilkinson.

Georgia College faculty, alumni and students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) served as judges. A STEM Marketplace included hands-on activities and demonstrations

Georgia College's Science Education Center also hosts the state's only K-5 Science and Engineering Fair. This year, it will be held March 29 at Centennial Center.

New lab at GCSU for educating Middle Georgia on artificial intelligence

Georgia College & State University is introducing the AI Lab at the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology. It will be used to prepare students and the public to use this developing technology.

The AI Lab will be a resource for the Central Georgia community with workshops on artificial intelligence, faculty-led research and projects for employers in the area. The lab is currently housed on the fourth floor of Atkinson Hall.

"The emerging technologies inherent to AI will have a fundamental impact on the workplace," said Georgia College Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Costas Spirou.

"This new lab is an excellent example of the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit central to a public liberal arts education," Spirou said, "as

we adapt and seek out new ways to ensure our students are prepared for the opportunities, challenges and possibilities ahead."

Led by Dr. Jeannie Pridmore, department chair of Information Systems and Computer Science, and directed by Dr. Ward Risvold, lecturer of business communications, the AI Lab will centralize Georgia College's efforts to navigate changes brought by the technology.

Students will have access to workshops and guidance, allowing them to master the tools of artificial intelligence. It will be a place for faculty too, where they take part in interdisciplinary research and find ways to integrate AI into their teaching.

The School of Continuing and Professional Studies at Georgia College will also leverage its

outreach to lead the charge in area schools, helping students understand AI tools. They'll provide courses for students, community members and local businesses.

"We're at a crossroads," Risvold said. "Technologically speaking, this is an industrial revolution of a different kind. Our students, all of them, have to be prepared to be more effective and productive, being able to use AI."

The AI Lab's first event is 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium. The speaker will be Greg Lane, retired senior director for the CIA.

He will discuss the use of AI and what skill sets employers need in relation to AI.

For more information about the AI Lab, contact Risvold at ward.risvold@gcsu.edu.

Advertisement for AI Lab event featuring Greg Lane, Ret. CIA Senior Director, on Feb 7, 2024 at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm in A&S Auditorium.

What's going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/events

Tuesday

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2-8 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. University of West Georgia at John Kurtz Field, W. Campus.

Wednesday

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5-10 p.m. GCSU Basketball vs. North Georgia University at Centennial Center.

5:30-7 p.m. Retired CIA Senior Director Greg Lane talks about artificial intelligence at A&S Auditorium.

Thursday

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5-7 p.m. Art reception for the exhibit "Rowing Forward Looking Back" with virtual talk by artist Hannah Israel in Ennis Hall, room 105.

7:30 p.m. Spring 2024 Voice Honors Recital at Max Noah Recital Hall.

Friday

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Saturday

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7:30 p.m. Valentine's Day Rendezvous concert with Max Noah Singers in Magnolia Ballroom.