



Bobcat CALENDAR

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Tuesday

27

7-9 p.m. GCSU Jazz Jam Session at Amici Café, downtown Milledgeville.

Wednesday

28

5 p.m. Talk about women and Nigerian art by Lauren Tate Baeza in Peabody Auditorium.

7:30 p.m. GCSU Theatre production "We Will Rock You" in Russell Auditorium.

Thursday

29

7:30 p.m. GCSU Theatre production "We Will Rock You" in Russell Auditorium.

Friday

15

7:30 p.m. GCSU Theatre production "We Will Rock You" in Russell Auditorium.

Saturday

2

7:30 p.m. GCSU Theatre production "We Will Rock You" in Russell Auditorium. The play's last showing is tomorrow, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3.

Newell Scholar fills gaps between Eastern, Western music

Dr. Evren Kutlay is the spring 2024 Martha Daniel Newell Visiting Scholar. Thanks to an endowment by Georgia College & State University alumna Martha Daniel Newell, experts in the arts, humanities and social and physical sciences have been visiting campus for over a decade.

Kutlay is the embodiment of scholarship and the interdisciplinary nature of Georgia College's liberal arts mission.

Born and raised in Turkey, she developed a love for the piano early on. Transfixed by the piano sounds coming from a neighbor's apartment, Kutlay would listen for hours through the walls of her family's home.

This same neighbor encouraged her to take the next step in her musical journey: auditioning at a local conservatory. She was told she was "too old" to be a piano student. She was, however, accepted as a violin student. Still enamored with the piano, she took private lessons with her neighbor while studying violin.

Early on, it became clear she was a gifted pianist. She took three years' worth of lessons in one year.

"I was curious," Kutlay said. "I loved listening and just watching and listening and so on, and I had that passion in me, somehow."

She got her MBA at the University of West Georgia, on a full scholarship. The next semester, she was

Today, she has performed across Europe and the United States, written books and contributed to various Turkish music journals, the national newspaper Star and the public broadcast channel TRT.

She says her extensive resume and list of accomplishments are the result of taking opportunities as they arise.

"Nothing was planned," Kutlay said. "So, that's what I would say to these [Georgia College] students. You should pursue your passions, dreams, and you should expand your horizons. Explore things and ask questions about them and see that nothing is separate."

That idea — exploring and questioning topics, seeing that nothing is separate and everything is interconnected — is the basis of Kutlay's class this semester, "East meets West or West meets East?"

Her course focuses on the back-and-forth relationship of the music in the Ottoman Empire and the countries that once formed the Ottoman Empire, Europe and the United States.

The intersection of music and history is not exclusive to her course. A lifelong learner with a wide range of academic interests, Kutlay became fascinated with the gaps in music literature between



Dr. Evren Kutlay plays the piano at GCSU's Max Noah Recital Hall.

different genres and eras. She has dedicated her career to filling these gaps in — through a multi-disciplined approach.

"My systematic approach to things, which I think I inherited from my problem-solving abilities, which come from what I learned studying math. So," Kutlay said, "those are the things that I'm combining and working on and bringing as a new output, a niche that didn't exist in academic literature at Georgia College."

Kutlay will give a public performance at 7:30 p.m. April 4 in Max Noah Recital Hall.

GCSU online graduate programs in nation's top 100, nursing program No. 1 in state

The Georgia College & State University online nursing program placed first in the state and tied for No. 28 nationally in the "Best Online Programs" rankings by U.S. News & World Report released today. Only three schools from Georgia ranked in the top 100 on U.S. News & World Report's list of best online nursing programs.

The online graduate programs offered by Georgia College in business, criminal justice and education all rank in the top 100 overall against other programs across the nation.

"The School of Nursing at Georgia College & State University continues to attract the best and brightest students at every level, from bachelor's to master's to our doctor of nursing practice," said Georgia College President Cathy Cox.

"Our online graduate degrees in nursing provide even more students access to our talented and dedicated faculty and assure

that working nurses can pursue advanced degrees with convenience. Our ranking as No. 1 in the state is well deserved," Cox continued.

Two programs from Georgia College's J. Whitney Bunting College of Business and Technology are also highly ranked. The online Master's Degree in Business (non-MBA) is second only to the University of Georgia statewide and No. 43 on U.S. News & World Report's overall list.

Georgia College and UGA are the only two schools in Georgia to rank in the top 100 on U.S. News & World Report's list.

The Georgia College online MBA is No. 94 nationally and second in Georgia. Again, Georgia College was one of only two schools in the state to rank in the top 100 for online MBA programs.

"These rankings speak to the superb quality and innovative spirit of our faculty. They consistently deliver a student-centered, highly engaging learn-

ing experience for working professionals and emerging leaders," said Dr. Micheal Stratton, dean of the College of Business and Technology.

Two other graduate programs round out Georgia College's top 100 rankings: the online Criminal Justice program at No. 61 nationally and third in Georgia; and the online Master of Education at No. 100 in the nation and top 10 in the state.

The online education graduate program at Georgia College also made significant gains since last year, climbing to the top 100 from No. 132 in the rankings.

"These rankings are another indicator that our accessible and affordable graduate programs are of the highest quality. These programs remain innovative and forward-looking to anticipate the needs of maturing professionals in all sectors represented by the rankings," said Dr. Holley Roberts, associate provost for Academic Affairs and director of the

Graduate School.

U.S. News & World Report designates Georgia College as a Regional University South, a geographic area that includes a dozen southern states. According to U.S. News, "Regional Universities offer a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's programs" and limited doctoral programs.

Among Georgia's other regional South public institutions, Georgia College is No. 1 for its online Master of Business, online MBA and online Criminal Justice programs — in addition to being the No. 1 online graduate nursing program among all Georgia institutions, both public and private.

U.S. News & World Report is a multi-platform publisher of news and information, which includes www.usnews.com, as well as the digital-only U.S. News Weekly magazine. U.S. News publishes annual print and e-book versions.

Chemistry professor publishes new study on plastics

Dr. Sayo Fakayode, chair of Georgia College & State University's Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, has a new peer-reviewed publication with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Fakayode was one of 14 scholarly authors from several universities across the United States who collaborated on "Microplastics: Challenges, toxicity, spectroscopic and real-time detection methods." The paper discusses the "global microplastic (MP) pollution epidemic" caused by increasing amounts of single-use plastics and the ineffective ways we dispose of garbage and recycle solid waste.

Microplastics have negatively impacted the ecosystem and public health, the group determined. But

plastics remain in high demand for a variety of uses worldwide due to "their low cost, versatility, lightweight, low density, flexibility, high strength, and durability."

The article provides an in-depth survey of current literature about the toxicity and challenges of microplastics and looks into methods for detecting them, such as spectroscopic and real-time satellite imagery, unmanned aerial vehicles and aquatic drone technology.

In recent years, molecular spectroscopy methods like Near Infrared (NIR), Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR), Raman and fluorescence spectroscopy for analysis



of microplastics gained interest because of their fast results, low cost, accuracy and portability.

The collaborative paper discusses all these approaches, along with machine learning, micro-hyperspectral imaging and chemometrics, as well as challenges and possible answers for dealing with microplastics in the future.

Did you know?

Starting in May, a travel program about the beauty of Georgia—created by Georgia College & State University's Professor of Instructional Technology Chris Greer—will be aired to more than 55 million homes nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) channel.

The show, "View Finders," already had two popular seasons on Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB.) PBS is picking up Greer's second season. It was filled with the natural magnificence and ecology of Georgia—featuring dramatic scenery like a floating sand dollar against a fiery-orange sunset and a pathway strewn with trees draped in Spanish moss.

Greer begins his third season with GPB this summer. It will explore beyond the boundaries of Georgia with episodes of great scenic sites from across the U.S.

Hamilton named to state board

The United States Composting Council (USCC) recently approved the newly formed Georgia Composting Council (GACC) with Georgia College & State University's Chief Sustainability Officer Lori Hamilton serving as a founding board member and treasurer.

Georgia is the 16th state in the nation to have a composting council.

"GCSU represents the next generation of passionate, creative thinkers and problem solvers—in this case, the next generation of composters," Hamilton said.

The goal of the United States Composting Council (USCC) is to promote composting and recycling for all people and the environment.

These practices are central for healthy soils, clean air and a regenerative society. The new state chapter, the Georgia Composting Council (GACC), is dedicated to increasing the use and production of compost in Georgia.

Hamilton was approached by the Georgia Recycling council, where she is also a member, to serve on the GACC board as well. In her new role, Hamilton will help support development of composting within the state, oversee quality control and training, and provide public education and legislative advocacy.

The GACC is currently seeking new members, sponsors and anyone interested in serving on committees.

