



Bobcat CALENDAR

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

Tuesday

12

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. WGUR's Car Smash outside Ina Dillard Russell Library.

Wednesday

13

7:30 p.m. Third Biennial Terry Endowed Concert, "En Mémoire" in Russell Auditorium.

Thursday

14

7:30 p.m. Third Biennial Terry Endowed Concert, "En Mémoire" in Russell Auditorium.

Friday

15

6-9 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University at John Kurtz Field.

Saturday

15

2-5 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University at John Kurtz Field.

Grace Hopper, TAPIA pave the way for women in technology

From smartphones to social media to artificial intelligence, the technology industry is critical to our day-to-day lives. But it is not representative of our society.

"It's so heavily male-driven still," said Jeannie Pridmore, chair of Georgia College & State University's Department of Information Systems & Computer Science. "I mean, if you look at the field of computing as a whole, it's about 24% female. If you look at the market, only about 24% of the jobs are held by females. And when you look at going up the ladder, or you look at other demographics, like color or ethnicity, it drops down to like 3%."

She says the long-term goal is for the field to be 30% female.

"There's something magic about that 30% number," Pridmore said. "When you get at least 30% diversity in the population, it changes the systemic view and thought of what's happening. Once you reach 30%, it's no longer the one woman in the room; now, it's three women in the room."

In an effort to improve representation overall, the department sends female, non-binary and minority students to two conferences: the Grace Hopper Celebration of Computing, or Grace Hopper Conference, and the CMD-IT/ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference, or TAPIA.

Grace Hopper is for female and non-binary students; TAPIA is for minority male students.

Last year, the department sent 25 students to Grace Hopper and four to TAPIA.

Madison Farmer, a senior management information systems major, landed a full-time job at last year's conference and found the on-site interview process

refreshing and reassuring.

"Going into my career post-graduation, I had nothing but a team of female interviewers when it came to my job that I have lined up for July," Farmer said. "Seeing that everybody on my team is very diverse in both gender and ethnicity, race, it's very welcoming, in a sense, considering I had two female employees kind of lead me in the direction. I was able to get the job through them, so it's kind of more reassuring that I feel like I'll be more welcomed there."

Junior MIS major Richa Moses still has a little over a year to line up an internship or full-time job. She says the conference made her more confident in herself and her career path.

"I felt completely empowered," Moses said. "I felt like such a superwoman there, just being and hearing their journeys, and the best part about that environment was how these women — who are in great positions — really humbled themselves to speak to us, to encourage us and to be able to share about their journey with us. And just staying in that environment, I definitely was like, 'OK, I chose the right path, and I'm not alone in this.'"

Margeaux Messier, a senior MIS major, left the conference feeling optimistic about the possibilities within the industry.

"Grace Hopper helped me prepare for my future career by showing me that, honestly, the sky's the limit," Messier said. "We are going to define our own past, and if you're a hard worker, and if you are dedicated to pushing this goal and pushing this dream and making



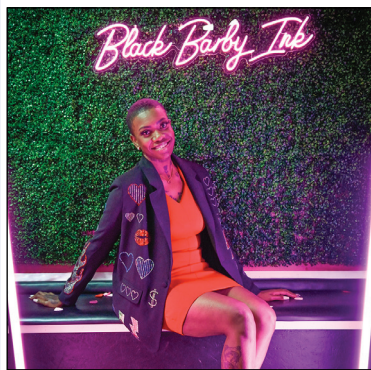
Some Grace Hopper attendees at GCSU's Women in Technology Day.

that a reality, then really, there's nothing that's ever going to stop you."

The Women in Technology Club hosted Women in Technology Day Friday, Feb. 23. GCSU students walked local high school students through workshops in an effort to increase young women's interest in technology.

Pridmore hopes the event and the conference will create a cycle: increasing female interest in technology, providing them with opportunities to succeed, both in the classroom and in the workforce, and giving back to the girls who come after them.

Artistic alumna: The first Black woman to open a tattoo studio in Milledgeville



Antionette Reames, '12, discovered her zeal for art when she was seven, after an Orlando city bus encounter with a young rider who held a sketch book.

"My mother and I noticed he kept looking at me," Reames said. "She eventually walked over to ask, 'Why do you keep staring at my daughter?' He said that he was drawing a picture of me. I was sitting in a chair with my little teddy bear. When he showed us, I just knew that's what I

wanted to do."

Years later, she did just that. Taking advantage of her natural drawing and painting skills, Reames opened her own private tattoo studio, Black Barbie Ink, in 2021. She's the first African American woman to do this in Milledgeville.

When Reames was young, she enjoyed playing with Barbies™. Her mother wanted to get Barbies™ that looked like her.

"She would bring me Black Barbies™," Reames said. "Every time we went somewhere my mother would always call my sister and I her 'Black Barbies™.'"

"This stuck with me," she said. "Right before I decided to open my business, I took my daughter to the store to pick out a Barbie™. Before I cut my hair, I had curly hair with a 'fro' on top. She came to me and said, 'Mommy, this is you.' I kid you not. The Barbie™ doll looked just like me."

Reames started tattooing as a student at the University of North Florida. The first tattoo she did was on the owner of Black Ink Orlando. Since then, Reames built on that experience by applying her refined drawing and painting skills that she learned from Georgia College & State University.

"I thought, Okay, I can do this—I can get certified," she said. "I studied everything including the latest equipment and different tattoo styles, and I passed my exams. So, I was able to open a private tattoo studio."

Not only does Reames tattoo her artistic works at her studio, but she also takes her talent on the road, touring places like Atlanta, Barbados, Chicago, Jacksonville and Trinidad.

One of Reames's favorite professors was Valerie Aranda, professor of art, drawing and painting, who strongly encouraged her to push her ability to the limit.

"She knew I could effortlessly paint and draw things that I was naturally capable of doing, like portraits," Reames said.

Her painting ability and creativity are well suited for creating tattoos. Reames specializes in tattooing portraits on people.

"I know the different values and understand where light hits on the face so I can add shadows and detail to the nose, eyes and lips—everything," she said. "I love drawing and painting. I use those same painting techniques I learned from Georgia College; except I just use a machine and needles instead of a paintbrush."

Reames embraces the challenges tattooing presents.

"Not everyone can do a pop-up portrait," she said. "If you do one of these, you must get it right on the first try because it's permanent. I'm able to nail it every time from my experience with painting."

Axel Hawkins named Truman Scholarship finalist

Georgia College & State University junior Axel Hawkins has been named a finalist in the 2024 Truman Scholarship competition.

If selected, Axel will be the second Georgia College student to receive this honor.

Hawkins, a history major from McDonough, Georgia, will interview with the regional review panel in Atlanta on March 15. The Truman Scholarship Foundation will announce the 2024 Truman Scholars on April 19.

The Truman Scholarship serves as a living memorial to the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman. It's for students who demonstrate outstanding potential and plan to pursue a career in public service."

Each year, the foundation awards

roughly 60 awards to college juniors throughout the United States and its territories. The rigorous application process requires that applicants possess a strong record of public service leadership and that they compose a policy proposal that addresses a particular issue in society.

Students who are selected to be Truman Scholars receive up to \$30,000 for graduate school and participate in leadership development activities. They also have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government.

This year, the Truman Foundation selected 191 applicants represent-



ing 136 institutions from a pool of 709 applicants from 285 institutions. Only three schools from Georgia—Emory, the University of Georgia and Georgia College—had students selected as finalists.

Last year, junior political science major Colin Hall of Macon was GCSU's first Truman Scholar.

Two degrees at once for nurses



Dr. Josie Doss, director of GCSU's School of Nursing.

At Georgia College & State University, those with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing can now receive training as an Advanced Practice Nurse while simultaneously obtaining their Doctor of Nursing Practice. To take advantage of the new program, students seeking graduate studies in nursing should complete the graduate application process before March 15.

"As the state's designated liberal arts university, this program of study provides a unique blend of essential clinical principles and prepares students to meet the unique challenges of healthcare in underserved communities," said Dr. Josie Doss, director of the School of Nursing.

"This program option further demonstrates our commitment to cultivating the next generation of nurse-leaders, who are positioned to promote positive change in the dynamic and ever-changing healthcare environment," she said.

The application process has two steps, and admission to Georgia College must be granted before application to the School of Nursing is available. In addition, acceptance to Georgia College does not guarantee admission to nursing programs.

The three-year program allows those with a BSN to seek training as a Family Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner while simultaneously obtaining a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Georgia College.

Did you know?

On Thursday, March 12, there's a way to release all that negative energy building up inside. If you want to punch something, then Georgia College & State University's radio station WGUR 95.3 has a way!

WGUR is giving people a way to de-stress in today's world of constant change and uneasiness. Come to WGUR's Car Smash—and alleviate tension, anxiety and general overall anger by punching, beating with a bat or hitting 'clunker cars' with a sledgehammer.

Car Smash will be 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside Ina Dillard Russell Library. Prices are \$2 for 1 minute, \$3 for 2 minutes, \$5 for 5 minutes and \$8 for 10 minutes of bashing. Proceeds go toward WGUR operations.

For more information please contact Sophia Ricketts at [wgur.generalmanager@gmail.com](mailto:wgur.generalmanager@gmail.com).