



Bobcat CALENDAR

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Tuesday

17

Noon-1 p.m. Constitution Day welcome and debate in Pat Peterson Museum Education room at Ina Dillard Library.

6 p.m. A lecture and lively concert of political campaign music in Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion.

Wednesday

18

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Georgia Court of Appeals will have a welcome address at 10:30 a.m., then hear three oral arguments, followed by a Q&A.

12 p.m. A lunch talk on "Gender and the 2024 Election" will be Ina Dillard Library.

6-7:30 p.m. A panel discussion on the separation of powers and Constitutional checks and balances will be in Peabody Auditorium.

Thursday

19

At noon, there will be a lunch discussion on separation of church and state in Atkinson Hall, room 202.

6-7:15 p.m. A Supreme Court review panel will talk about recent cases before the court in A&S auditorium.

Friday

20

7:30 p.m. Guest artist and flutist Nave Graham will give a recital, "Flute Music by Black Composers," in Max Noah Recital Hall.

Saturday

21

GCSU's solar business program ends with plan for expansion

Georgia College & State University's free pilot program—blending business entrepreneurship with solar panel physics—ended this summer when participants installed 38 solar panels at Baldwin County's Water Treatment Facility.

The free certificate course officially wrapped up with officials from the Partnership for Inclusive Innovation visiting campus to celebrate its PIN 2024 Community Research Grant Program. The Georgia College course was one of four projects funded last year.

Now, the successful solar business program moves forward with a recent \$400,000 EPIIC grant from the National Science Foundation. EPIIC stands for Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity.

The grant is Georgia College's third largest award from NSF.

"I am very pleased with this achievement," said Dr. Eric Tenbus, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "This NSF award will no doubt contribute to GCSU's growing reputation in the natural sciences and STEM arena and stands us well with our fellow selective public institutions within the state."

The concept of merging business with solar physics was the underlying factor for the NSF award, proving innovation is at the core of Georgia College's liberal arts mission.

The certificate course also served as a workforce development program for the city of Milledgeville.

"Collaboration, community engagement and the delivery of transformative educational programs to learners of all ages are at the core of our mission," said Angela Criscoe, executive director of the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.



Tavaris Veal of Baldwin County, left, and Jonathan Lenz of Jones County inspect a solar panel at Baldwin County's Water Treatment Plant.

The department of Continuing & Professional Education was instrumental in obtaining the original \$100,000 PIN grant and recruiting area residents for the 40-hour course that launched in January.

Dr. Nicholas Creel, professor of business law and ethics co-directs Georgia College's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He worked with Dr. Hasitha Mahabuduge, associate professor of physics, to develop and teach the free course.

The closest comparable classes in green technology and

solar are three hours away and can cost up to \$2,000, Creel said. Coupled with business knowhow, the course helped make participants more competitive for jobs in the solar industry.

Alumnus Ryan Agnew directed the recent solar panel project in Baldwin County. The recent installation was managed by alumnus Ryan Agnew of South East Solar.

His company donated solar panels for the project. The remaining supplies were funded by the grant.

About 40 residents took the course.

In July, 10 put what they learned into practice.

Tavaris Veal of Milledgeville works with municipalities around the United States. Pre-planning and safety were his biggest lessons.

He hopes to become certified soon.

"I'm always trying to gain knowledge, trying to better myself," Veal said. "Trying to help my family, push my abilities and do additional things to stay on top of the technology side of things. Things in the world are progressing. So, I'm trying to progress too and lead by example."

The new NSF grant allows programs like these to continue and expand. Some classes will still accommodate area residents.

But now, Georgia College students will also be able to participate.

"With the new grant," Creel said, "we'll be able to increase the number of partnerships we have with industry programs, like solar," Creel said. "As part of my role as co-director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, what I'm really looking to do is expand operations to other sectors and build on what we've started. This is going to be awesome."

GCSU's impact on regional economy rises to \$308 million, up 9% over past three years



Georgia College & State University's economic impact in Central Georgia jumped to \$308 million in 2023, up 1.8% over the previous year.

That figure marks a 9% increase—\$26 million—over the past three years.

The university continues to create jobs in the area, as well. According to a report

released by the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia, GCSU generated more than 2,840 jobs in the local area, both on- and off-campus.

"This amazing surge in our economic impact, plus the added income a college degree provides to our graduates, emphasizes the worth of a liberal arts

education and our overall contributions to this community," said GCSU President Cathy Cox.

The study was commissioned by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

Numbers are based on institutional spending for personnel services, operating expenses and student spending. Data was collected between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

During that time, 26 colleges and universities in the USG contributed a total of \$21.9 billion to the state economy, a 9% increase over the previous year.

This amounts to about the same employment impact in the state as the top five employers combined, the study found.

In 2023, Georgia College generated 982 jobs on campus, while another 1,856 off-campus positions existed due to institution-related spending.

Every campus job creates two jobs off campus, according to the study.

This economic impact extends to Baldwin, Bibb, Hancock, Jones, Putnam, Washington and Wilkinson counties.

In addition, 2023 graduates with a bachelor's degree can expect to earn \$1.4 million more throughout their lives.

"As the county's largest employer, we are committed to improving lives on campus and beyond," Cox said.

"This economic value not only translates into jobs, higher incomes and spending in local restaurants and shops—but we also offer continuing education for adults, summer and sports camps for children and many free cultural events throughout the year."

"This relationship between university and society and the intellectual capital we generate," she added, "benefits everyone."

GCSU students earn spots in competitive state program

Junior nursing major Ama Kpoyizoun and sophomore management major Matthew Malena were two students of 500 from across the country to land a spot in the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship.

Chosen from a pool of 5,000 students nationwide, Kpoyizoun and Malena are now part of a government initiative to "expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages," according to the Department of State.

"It was unbelievable that I got accepted, but I was also grateful for it," Kpoyizoun said. "So now that I'm in, I'm trying to take advantage of every resource at hand."

In tandem with their summer

studies at Georgia College & State University, both students participated in the CLS Spark program for learning Mandarin Chinese from an institution based in Beijing, China.

The program, online this summer, covered all expenses for language instruction, textbooks, learning materials and more.

Born in Togo of West Africa, she already speaks three languages: her tribal language, Ewe, English and French.

"I hope to marry my fascination with languages to nursing," she said. "When I was first applying for colleges, I was having difficulty choosing between language, mathematics or nurs-

ing—but I chose nursing because it would be the most difficult to learn on my own."



Junior nursing major Ama Kpoyizoun.

Kpoyizoun plans to continue her studies in the nursing cohort and hopes to master a fourth language.

Did you know?

Student interest in the experiential learning and small-class environment offered by Georgia College & State University is at an all-time high.

New students submitted an unparalleled number of applications—about 8,300—for the 2024-25 academic year. That's an increase of 44% over the past two years.

Despite being more selective, admitting 11% fewer students, Georgia College's new class is about 1,800, just shy of last year's record-breaking freshmen class of 1,816.

Growth is a by-product of the professional enrollment management approaches of Sr. Vice President of Enrollment Management Joel Robinson over the past several years.

Yet, despite extraordinary growth in applications, the university maintains its reputation for small class sizes and housing for all first-year students, as well as accessibility to faculty and staff resources.

GCSU Constitution Week is here



Georgia College & State University's annual Constitution Week kicks off Tuesday, Sept. 17, at noon with a welcome address by GCSU President Cathy Cox, followed by a public forum debate in the Pat Peterson Museum Education room at Ina Dillard Library.

Tuesday at 5 p.m., there will be a concert of campaign music and lecture by Dr. Autumn Cockrell-Abdullah, GCSU's Coverdell Visiting Scholar.

The Georgia Court of Appeals holds oral arguments Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 9 a.m. in Magnolia Ballroom. This will be followed by a lunch talk at noon on "Gender and the 2024 Election" in Ina Dillard Library. Later Wednesday, 6 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a panel discussion on "Checks and Balances" in Peabody Auditorium.

A lunch discussion on "Separation of Church and State" will be at noon Thursday, Sept. 19, in Atkinson Hall, room 202.

Constitution Week ends with the annual Supreme Court review panel, which reviews important cases in the past year. That will be 6 to 7:15 p.m. in the Arts & Sciences auditorium.

This event is free and open to the public.