

GCSU assists relief efforts in Hurricane Helene's devastating aftermath

From security and supplies to chainsaws and Chick-fil-A—Georgia College & State University was there to help its sister institutions, Augusta University and East Georgia State College in Swainsboro, Georgia, after Hurricane Helene tore a destructive path through multiple states in late September.

“So many of our sister campuses in the University System of Georgia were hit hard by Hurricane Helene and we had expected to be one of the hardest hit based on original forecasts.

“I’m glad we were in a position to help and even more grateful that our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners have been so generous in helping to provide basic needs to these campuses.”

— GCSU President Cathy Cox

“A number of our staff traveled to the heavily damaged areas and worked long shifts to help get these campuses back in operation,” Cox said. “Our folks are the best!”

Georgia College largely dodged a bullet Sept. 27, but Augusta University suffered “unprecedented” devastation after Category-4 Hurricane Helene slammed into Florida’s Big Bend packing 140 mph winds. It raged across Georgia into Tennessee, the Carolinas and as far as Virginia and Kentucky.

Georgia College Facilities crews responded almost immediately. They cleared debris, sawed down trees and removed fallen power lines and road signs at Augusta University’s Summerville campus.

The morning after, Cox delivered Chick-fil-A meals from Milledgeville to Augusta University’s Emergency Response Team and other first responders. She was aided in this effort by alumnus and Chick-fil-A corporate board member Evan Karanovich, ’12.

Cleanup efforts continued through Oct 10. Two deliveries of non-perishable foods, water, electrolyte drinks, hand sanitizers and other critical items were made. Items were donated by Georgia College faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as Georgia College’s dining and food vendor, Sodexo.

Volunteers in Augusta included five staffers from Georgia College Facilities skilled in construction, carpentry, electricity and air conditioning: Ryan Campbell, Brad Thomas, Eric Griffith, Alec Hansel and Steven Baxley.

Georgia College also sent two maintenance vehicles, a fuel tanker, dumpster trailer and truck, two tractors and five chain/pole saws.

Two GCSU Public Safety officers—Sgt. Paul Bernichon and Cpt. Gary Purvis—took charge of police duties for a week at East Georgia State College, so officers there could tend to their own water-damaged homes. GCSU police took turns in 12-hour shifts running campus security. Georgia College also provided two patrol cars.

Chief Trey Drawdy commented on Facebook: “Captain Purvis and Sergeant Bernichon were a Godsend for the College and its officers. The EGSC Community is immensely grateful! Thank you Chief Hardin for sending these guys to our aid!”



Above: a trunkful of supplies loaded by Jeremy Nobles, GCSU Emergency Manager.



Above & below left: GCSU Facilities staff Ryan Campbell and Brad Thomas.



Area students gather at Andalusia to create impromptu art “En Plein Air”

Using watercolors, charcoals, paintbrushes, easels and canvasses—students from Central Georgia crafted impromptu art during Georgia College & State University’s first “Artober Celebration at Andalusia: Home of Flannery O’Connor.”

It was a day of “En Plein Air” painting on Saturday, Oct. 5. The term refers to artists leaving the confinements of four walls for an open-air experience.

Students from Georgia College and other local schools, like Mercer University and Wesleyan College, gathered outdoors to paint the landscapes of Andalusia.

“They set up easels wherever inspiration struck, whether it was under the shade of the ancient oaks, beside the tranquil pond or near the charming farmhouse,” said Matthew Forrest, interim chair of GCSU’s Department of Art.

The public was invited to watch art-in-the-making, enjoying access to the Andalusia Interpretive Center and the farmhouse where popular



Southern writer and GCSU alumna Flannery O’Connor lived.

While creating artwork, students interacted with community members.

Completed paintings are displayed in Georgia College’s Underwood House Gallery, 102 South Columbia St. in Milledgeville. The exhibit runs through Oct. 30. An Arttober artists’ celebration



will be 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30.

Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the exhibit is free.

“This was the first event of its kind for the university,” said Megan McNaught, gallery director and museum studies lecturer. “It was a wonderful way to watch landscape painting while enjoying an important piece of Milledgeville history.”

Did you know?

Georgia College & State University’s Aquatics Sciences Center and Academic Outreach “Water Education Week” is underway with river cleanups, stream monitoring, a water movie and symposium.

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. there will be cleanup and monitoring of Tanyard Creek. Group meets at Herty Hall.

On Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m., there will be a water-related movie.

On Friday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, there’ll be more stream monitoring at Champion and Tobler Creeks.

Also Friday: the Aquatics Sciences Center symposium will be 2 to 4 p.m. in the campus Integrated Science Complex. Saturday, Oct. 19, from noon to 3 p.m., bring your family and friends to the Integrated Science Complex for fun, hands-on activities presented by GCSU Environmental Science and Academic Outreach students.

For locations, please contact Ruth Eilers at ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu.

What’s going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/events

Tuesday

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Wednesday

16

Noon - Times Talk in Ina Dillard Russell Library with Dr. Kelly Massey, associate professor of exercise science on “GLP-1 Agonists for the Win? How the Obesity Drug is Changing the Game.”

3-5 p.m. GCSU’s Water Education Week hosts cleanup and stream monitoring at Tanyard Creek. Group meets at Herty Hall.

7-9 p.m. GCSU Women’s Soccer vs. UNG at Bobcat Field, W. Campus.

Thursday

17

6 p.m. - GCSU’s Water Education Week will show a water-related movie. Location to be announced. Contact Ruth Eilers at ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu for more information.

Friday

18

9 a.m.-noon - GCSU’s Water Education Week hosts stream monitoring at Champion and Tobler Creeks. Contact Ruth Eilers at ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu for more information.

6-8 p.m. GCSU’s Bobcat Bash for student athletes at Centennial Center.

Saturday

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1-3 p.m. GCSU Women’s Soccer vs. Lander University at Bobcat Field, W. Campus.