



This Week

Prepared by the Office of University Communications Dec. 10, 2025

Georgia College tops nation in Academic Success Rate among NCAA DII public schools for fourth straight year

For the fourth consecutive year, Georgia College & State University ranked No. 1 for academic success rate in the country among all public universities within NCAA Division II.

Georgia College tied both Michigan Technological University and the University of Texas at Dallas for the No. 1 spot among public institutions, recording a 92% academic success rate, a metric used by the NCAA to measure the percentage of students who graduate within six years of initial college enrollment.

"I am so incredibly proud of our Bobcat scholar-athletes," said GCSU President Cathy Cox. "They are disciplined, focused and hard-working on their courts and playing fields, as well as in their classrooms."

Georgia College Athletics also ranked 12th overall among all public and private institutions competing in NCAA Division II. They topped the Peach Belt Conference and placed second among all Division II schools in the three conferences of the Southeast region.

"Bobcats set big goals for their competition

BY THE NUMBERS

Georgia College scholar-athletes earned the following distinctions this year from the NCAA.

- No. 1 academic success rate among all public institutions within NCAA Division II
- No. 1 in Peach Belt Conference
- No. 1 of 43 total recipients of the President's Award for Academic Excellence
- No. 12 overall among all institutions (public and private) within NCAA Division II

seasons and for their lives, and that's what this statistic represents to us," Cox added. "Our scholar-athletes work hard to be the best in everything they do. That's what makes them winners — for life!"

Additionally, Georgia College was one of 43 total NCAA Division II institutions to earn the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence this year. Awarded to schools that have achieved an academic success rate of 90% or higher, this distinction has gone to Georgia College for the past five years.

"This recognition pays tribute to the emphasis Georgia College places on student success every single day," said Wendell Staton, director of Athletics. "From coaches, to faculty, to admissions reps and all staff, Bobcats invest a lot of personal care and attention into our campus. These honors are truly a team effort. Academic excellence at Georgia College is not an accident — it's by design."

Academic success rate is calculated based on graduation rate and includes athletes who transfer into a school while removing those who left the school in good academic standing. In addition, the data includes the more than 30,000 student-athletes who are not on athletically related financial aid.

Professor featured in Taylor Swift-inspired poetry book

An anthology of 113 poems inspired by Taylor Swift was released Dec. 3 and features the work "Auld Lang Syne" by Dr. Kerry Neville, interim co-chair and associate professor of English at Georgia College & State University.

"Invisible Strings," referencing one of Swift's songs from the album "Folklore," is currently available as a hardcover, e-book or audiobook.

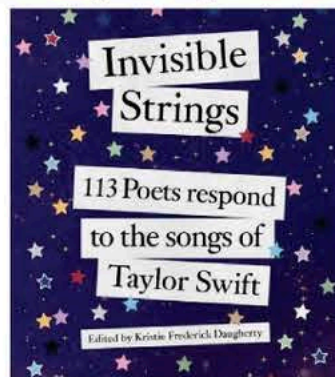
Kristie Frederick Daugherty, editor of the anthology, assigned each poet a song by Swift to use as inspiration for their poem.

Neville's poem reveals the kind of disappointment

that is felt when a friend or lover does not live up to your expectations, and how it feels reflecting on that past love after growing from it and realizing that you can be fine on your own.

"It's a poem written from the perspective of this more elderly woman. She's out in the woods with her dog and there is no husband or boyfriend or partner or lover around, no corks from champagne bottles on the floor and she's by herself and for the most part, content," said Neville.

"Invisible Strings" is now available from publisher Penguin Random House.



Bobcat CALENDAR

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/calendar

Tuesday

10

Ongoing throughout December
Enjoy the holiday lights on GCSU's Front Campus!

Wednesday

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Ongoing throughout December
Christmas at the Mansion - Enjoy Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion at its holiday best! Open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 2 to 4 p.m. Tours begin on the hour!

Thursday

12

Flannery O'Connor Book Club
Join us to discuss "Dear Regina" by Monica Miller. Miller has collected O'Connor's letters home during her years in the MFA Program in Writing at the University of Iowa.
2 p.m. in person at the Georgia Writer's Museum in Eatonton, GA
7 p.m. via Zoom

Friday

13

The Nutcracker at 7 p.m.
The 28th season of The Nutcracker. Tickets available at tickets.gcsu.edu. For more information call 478-445-4226. General admission is \$15. Senior citizens, Non-GCSU students and GCSU faculty and staff \$12. GCSU students and kids 12 and under \$5. Russell Auditorium

Saturday

14

GCSU Commencement
1 p.m. in Centennial Center
The Nutcracker at 7 p.m.
Tickets available at tickets.gcsu.edu. For more information call 478-445-4226. General admission is \$15. Senior citizens, Non-GCSU students and GCSU faculty and staff \$12. GCSU students and kids 12 and under \$5. Russell Auditorium

Sunday

15

The Nutcracker at 2 p.m.
Tickets available at tickets.gcsu.edu. For more information call 478-445-4226. General admission is \$15. Senior citizens, Non-GCSU students and GCSU faculty and staff \$12. GCSU students and kids 12 and under \$5. Russell Auditorium

Did you know?

Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. with tours starting on the hour.

However, the Old Governor's Mansion is expanding its "Christmas at the Mansion" dates this year. The Mansion will be open for three additional days during the holiday season:

Monday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Mansion is normally closed on Mondays, however it will be open Monday, Dec. 23. On Dec. 27 and Dec. 30, the Georgia College campus is closed; however, the Mansion will be open for tours these two additional days between Christmas and New Year's.

The Old Governor's Mansion is also hosting a Santa Photo Night on Friday, Dec. 13, starting at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 and advance reservations are required. Visit www.gcsu.edu/mansion to reserve a timeslot for up to six family members.

Finally, the Mansion has one additional Christmas Candlelight Tour date remaining on Saturday, Dec. 21. Tour times are 6, 7 or 8 p.m. and available by reservation only at www.gcsu.edu/mansion. Adults \$10, Seniors \$7, Students \$2 and children under 6 years are free.

Call 478-445-4545 for more information.

THE GCSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS
THE 28TH ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OF TCHAIKOVSKY'S IMMORTAL CLASSIC

The Nutcracker

DEC. 13-14, 2024 | 7 P.M.
DEC. 15, 2024 | 2 P.M.
RUSSELL AUDITORIUM

DIRECTED BY
NATALIE KING

General Admission: \$15
Senior Citizens, GCSU Faculty and Staff, Non-GCSU Students: \$10
GCSU Students/Children 12 and under: \$5

G SUITABLE FOR ALL AUDIENCES

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

