



Obituaries

Alfred Estil "Al" Brewer Jr., 81, a native of Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Survivors include his wife, Lynne Harding Brewer of Milledgeville; brother, Darrell Brewer, Sr.; daughters, Sherri Collins of Haddock and Andrea Brewer of Winter Park, Florida; son, Stephen Brewer of Orlando, Florida; grandchildren, Cheyenne Bennett (Stan), Harrison Elliott, Caitlyn Collins, and Malakai Montague; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Shelia Marie Hammock Taylor Cooper, 73, passed away Thursday, April 17, 2025. Survivors include two daughters, Erica Butts (Wayne) of Gordon and Andrea Thompson (Andrew) of Eatonton; son, Randy Taylor (Tina) of Forsyth; sister, Carole Miller of Milledgeville; a brother Jerry Hammock (Patty) both of Milledgeville; and grandchildren, Abby C., Blake C., Maddy B., D.J.T., James T., Abby T., Christopher T.

Nora Jeanne Davis (Jeannie) passed away Saturday, April 19, 2025. Survivors include many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and friends from Devereux Baptist Church in Sparta.

Cynthia Hogan, 67, of Gray, passed away Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Monte William Smith, 75, of Richmond County, passed

away on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Survivors include his stepchildren, Rita Johnson (Kenny), Patrick Wilkerson (Robin); daughter-in-law, Denise Wilkerson; 11 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and brother, Douglas Smith (Viki).

Calvin Lamar "Scrup" Tanner, Sr. "Granddaddy", 87, passed away Monday, April 14, 2025. Survivors include his wife of 60.5 years, Lillian Dooley Tanner; daughters, Vanessa McDade (Rocky), and Cindy Way (Daryl); son, Cal Tanner (Melinda); grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Megan Kennedy(John), Nathan and Jackson, Marci Masters (Kenny) Josie, Miranda Bowen (Maddie and Jayden), Parker Way (Dominique) Messiah, Skyia, DeShawn, Kendric; Casey Tanner (Brianna) Rylynn (and soon to be Baby Kane); MacKenzie Loudin (Heath) Tanner; Elizabeth Freelan (Matt); sister, Martha Ann Turner; a number of nieces and nephews; and bonus families, Robert, Joy, Prissy and Elisha Devadhas.

Marie Griffin Wade, 94, passed away Thursday, April 17, 2025. Survivors include her children, Rose Marie, Randy, and Rodney, all of Atlanta; sister Vivian Griffin; brothers, Thomas Griffin, Van Griffin, and Ronnie Griffin; and many nieces and nephews.

Nona J. Watson, 74, of Milledgeville, passed away Monday, April 21, 2025.

>> GEORGIA COLLEGE

GCSU Research Day grows to largest ever

An annual celebration of all the mentored research taking place across the university, Georgia College & State University (GCSU) Research Day was significantly larger in 2025 than ever before. More than 250 projects were showcased, an increase of 32% over last year's event, including 38 graduate projects and 216 undergraduate projects.

In collaboration with the Women's & Gender Symposium, which hosted 23 student presentations, Research Day offered a chance for students to share their research outside the classroom with the broader campus community.

Research is foundational to the experience of Georgia College students. In the latest graduating class, for instance, 67% of all graduates conducted undergraduate research during their time on campus — many as early as their freshman year.

This experience puts GCSU grads firmly ahead of the pack when launching their careers. A recent study by The American Association of Colleges and Universities showed that employers are "much more likely" to hire job candidates with specific experiences, including those who have worked as interns, held leadership roles, conducted undergraduate research, or performed community service.



A student presents her research titled the "Impact of Urbanization and Land Connectivity on Scavenger Behavior."

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All of these high-impact learning experiences are fundamental to GCSU's liberal arts mission. They also contributed to the university being named "most innovative" by *U.S. News & World Report* last year.

Sophomore Sarah Carter is a biology major and her research analyzed protein structures within an enzyme found in *Cherokia georgiana*, a millipede species common in the Southeast and known for producing hydrogen cyanide as a defense mechanism. Carter cites the importance of the hands-on, experiential nature of her work in the labs of assistant professor of biology Dr. Arnab Sengupta and

associate professor of biology Dr. Bruce Snyder. "I think it is very useful to have research experience as an undergrad to possibly get into master's programs, and just have hands-on research experience," said Carter. Carter and the rest of the research team are also using generative AI software to predict protein structures.

In addition to honing their skills in the lab, research provides students with real-world problem solving, analytical, and communication skills needed to be successful beyond the classroom.

"Students are learning all about their particular research area, but they're also learning

those communication skills, those collaboration skills," explained Snyder. "They're learning about how what they do fits into the broader picture of the world, and the importance of the work they are doing."

-Contributed by Anna Leavitt



Students presented their research presentations to the broader campus community.

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