

>> GEORGIA COLLEGE



The Georgia College Alumni Band performs with world-renowned drummer Carl Allen on front campus.

SHADIMON SMITH/Staff

GCSU and Allied Arts host annual Art & Jazz Fest

Shadimon Smith
The Baldwin Bulletin

Georgia College & State University's Music Department and Allied Arts held the 36th annual Art and Jazz Fest on April 26 on front campus.

GCSU's Porter Combo opened the festival with a selection from Duke Ellington and played for around 25 minutes.

"I think it brings jazz to Milledgeville," said Clifford Towner, director of band activities. "We have a lot of people that like jazz. We don't have a jazz club. So, this festival is our opportunity to give back our jazz program to the

community."

The McComb Combo went on after the Porter Combo and played for another 25 minutes.

The combo was composed of Preston Rayburn, on saxophone, Yolanda Wright on trombone, Jacob Hall on clarinet, Gray Samowski on drums, Joey Johnson on keys, Jim McKinney on bass and Alex Humara on vocals.

Those in attendance could explore the booths set up and purchase art, photography, and jewelry. Sigma Alpha Iota, or SAI, GCSU's professional music fraternity for women and non-binary people on campus was one of the featured tents.

"We support women through music and a whole bunch of philanthropies through music," said Riley Greer, president of SAI and senior music education major. "This is our annual fundraiser we do.

"I don't think jazz gets to be very accessible to many people, so the fact that it's out in an open space, right next to downtown, it's a really cool way to create and express at the same time," Greer added.

The Putnam County High School Jazz Ensemble, the Baldwin High School Jazz Band, and the Davidson Fine Arts Band performed multiple selections during the evening.

Putnam played pieces from artists, such as a piece by Bobby Timmons entitled "Moanin." They also played a swing piece entitled "Fat Cat" and have been practicing all year to perform.

"We're playing 'Bad Dog,' 'Ponthea,' which is a Brazilian rhythm piece and then we're closing out with 'Chameleon' by Herbie Hancock," said Thetheus White, Putnam's band director. "I tell them that if they are proficient on their instruments, they can go anywhere they want to go and play in anybody's band, and I try to expose them to as many different styles of jazz

as possible, so they'll be well rounded."

The GCSU Alumni Band performed with Carl Allen, a world-renowned drummer, to close out the night with a few compositions written by Allen and ended with his piece entitled "Relativity."

"I always enjoy the talented students at Georgia College," said Helen Allen, a Milledgeville citizen. "It's amazing how beautiful the music is. They're awesome."

The audience was offered to attend a jam session in Porter and to get a piece of Allen's birthday cake after the event ended.

GCSU Music Therapy Program and LEC host Memory Lane

Amelie Sengupta
The Baldwin Bulletin

The Memory Lane program celebrated 25 years of its music therapy partnership, April 23 at New City Church at the Mill. The Life Enrichment Center (LEC) and the Georgia College & State University (GCSU) Music Therapy Program fosters connections between the adults with disabilities at the Life Enrichment Center and the GCSU community to show people how much their talents can impact others.

LEC Executive Director Barbara Coleman described

Memory Lane as paying tribute to past and present members in their creative expressions.

"For me it's to be able to see our individuals shine and live out a dream for that 2-3 hours," said Coleman. "They are musicians, performers, and everything they dreamed to be. They are equally as important as the college students, the staff. It's really their time to shine."

When listening to Coleman speak about the days when they started off, pride is prevalent in her voice. She has been changing the lives of everyone around her.

"I've watched our program start off with original groups,

which was Music in Motion. I was a part of that group and I have seen it grow and grow and grow."

Music connects communities together. Coleman expressed the community's shared bond over music.

"It has allowed us to show that we are more alike than different," Coleman said. "No matter what differences we have, there are always some ways we can connect, even if it is the least way we can accept.

Coleman estimates more than 600 students have come through the program over the past 25 years. Many of them

stayed involved even after their internships were over.

"Kate Whipple helped to start the creative expressions program and take it to the next level," Coleman said. "Over the years our creative expressions internal program that partners with Georgia College is staffed with former GCSU students who were doing an internship with us.

"It is clear that this connection with GCSU has become a core part of the LEC's heartbeat. It has been a wonderful partnership with GCSU. It has brought national recognition to GCSU and our organization," added

Coleman. "We have presented at state national conferences with the partnership."

Coleman has many memories from past performances that have stuck with her, but one in particular was Brad Williams' performance of 'Music in Motion' and his other signature song, John Lennon's 'I Can Only Imagine.' She said the performances are deeper than music. The music holds emotions like joy, dignity, and empowerment.

"We are partnering all over the community. But it started with the seed that was planted with the creative expressions group," said Coleman.

Bobcats' golf season ends in Augusta at PBC championship

Jackson Gallagher
The Baldwin Bulletin

The Georgia College & State University (GCSU) golf team completed its season April 18-20 at the PBC Conference Championship, shooting a 39-over-par 903 over three rounds.

The tournament took place at Forest Hills Golf Club in Augusta. USC-Beaufort shot 13 under par as a team, taking home its first-ever PBC Championship. USC Aiken placed second, North Georgia was third, and Georgia College finished eighth.

GCSU graduate senior Billy Goddard finished his

collegiate career with a final score of 230 over the three rounds.

"It was not our best tournament, but it was nice to be out there with the boys one last time. The team is in good hands with Coach [Ben English] and the underclassmen we have," Goddard said. "It is really bittersweet."

Junior Matthew Rogers led the Bobcats with a team-best 222. Rogers scored a one-over par round on two days, turning in an overall performance of six-over par. Despite a solid individual performance, Rogers wanted a better end to the season for the team.

"I love these guys, and I

was hoping to finish on a better note than we did," Rogers said. "We have been improving, so hopefully next year we see some good results."

Junior Kam McDaniel also turned in a solid performance, scoring a seven-over par score of 223. McDaniel spoke on the privilege of playing a great tournament at a great course.

"Obviously not the result we wanted but I am thankful to play a beautiful course like Forest Hills. Augusta is obviously a very special place for golf, so being able to play in this tournament is special," he said.

The tournament marked

the end of English's first year coaching the team, and under his leadership the Bobcats have seen some significant improvements. Despite a few bad results at the end of the year, the GCSU golf team posted a top-10 finish at the Bearcat Spring Invitational and placed 11th of 19 at the Lander Invitational.

Several Bobcats had top-20 finishes as individuals this year. Kam McDaniel had a career best tournament at the Lander Invitational to go along with several top 20 results. Billy Goddard and Jack Hutcheson finished 10th and 12th, respectively, at the Bobcat Invitational in March.



COURTESY OF GCSU

Junior Matthew Rogers in action at the Peach Belt Conference Championship.

>> FIRST FRIDAY

Milledgeville Main Street presents Hometown Celebration

Milledgeville Main Street will host its Hometown Celebration event May 2 from 5-11 p.m., in the heart of downtown Milledgeville.

This exciting event promises an unforgettable evening filled with entertainment, local flair, and community spirit. Attendees can look forward to a variety of activities and attractions, including:

- Live music by Alex Stone and the Tuesday Hangovers from 5-7 p.m., followed by community groups

performing from 7-9 p.m., and Nu South Playaz closing out the night from 9-11 p.m.

- An artisan market with a diverse array of handcrafted goods and unique creations from local artisans and craftsmen, many of which are children.
- Delicious food and drink with a mouthwatering selection from local eateries.
- The Family Fun Zone with a range

of kid-friendly activities, including a giant bouncy slide and a basketball game, guaranteed to keep them smiling all night long.

- Community Engagement with fellow residents and local businesses, fostering a sense of unity and pride within the Milledgeville community. The Hometown Celebration event serves as a testament to the vibrant spirit and rich cultural heritage of Milledgeville. The event started in 2014 as a

community celebration for winning the national title of a Great American Main Street City by the Main Street America organization. This award is given to communities whose success serves as a model for comprehensive, preservation-based revitalization efforts in their historic downtowns and commercial corridor districts.

Admission to the Hometown Celebration event is free.

— Contributed