

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
28 APRIL 2023 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. **FACULTY PROMOTION & TENURE** Twenty-one GCSU faculty members recently received promotions with 10 also earning tenure. Congratulations to each of you for your service and dedication to our students and to Georgia College!
 - a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
 - i. Daniel Burt - promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - ii. Julian Knox - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - iii. Min Kim - promotion to full Professor
 - iv. Kelley Ditzel - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - v. Jebessa Minjena - promotion to full Professor
 - vi. Andrew Allen - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - vii. Whitney Heppner - promotion to full Professor
 - viii. Daniel Holcombe - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**
 - i. Jessie Folk - promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - ii. Stephen (Brad) Fowler - promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - iii. Margaret (Meg) Geddy - promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - iv. Susan Manrodt - promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - v. Paige Rutner - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - vi. Stephen Rutner - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - vii. Eddie Thomas - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - c. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
 - i. Josie Doss - promotion to full Professor
 - ii. Ernest Kaninjing - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - iii. Sterling Roberts - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - iv. Sheryl Winn - promotion to full Professor
 - d. **INA DILLARD RUSSELL LIBRARY**
 - i. Lamonica Sanford - tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - ii. Edward Whatley – promotion to full Professor
2. **USG UPDATE** The Board of Regents held a two-day meeting on the campus of the University of North Georgia last week and took several actions of importance to our campus.
 - a. **MUSIC PRACTICE FACILITY** The Regents approved construction of a new Music Practice Facility with a budget of \$2.67 million that will include 7,000 square feet of space to accommodate individual and group rehearsal areas for GCSU’s concert, orchestra, and jazz bands. It will provide for a large rehearsal room with a 20-foot ceiling designed with appropriate acoustical treatments and capacity for 65-70 musicians, along with other spaces in the building for practice and storage of individual instruments, restrooms, and mechanical space. The building is designed so that a matching wing could be added in the future as funds are available to provide for a large choral practice area. It will be located at the corner of Wayne and Montgomery Streets, across from the Miller Gym. (We expect

construction to get underway in coming months and completion before next summer.)

b. **POST-TENURE REVIEW**

- i. The Regents adopted a revision to the Post-Tenure Review process (see complete language attached) that will better align and distinguish the Post-Tenure Review policy and process from the separate policy on Grounds for Removal (Board Policy Subsection 8.3.9.1).
- ii. The biggest substantive change to the Post-Tenure Review process is that a new hearing option was added if a faculty member is recommended for separation from employment at the conclusion of the post-tenure review process. In that situation, the faculty member may “request a final faculty hearing for the purpose of confirming that due process was followed in reaching the decision of separation of employment. The outcome of the faculty hearing will not be binding, but only advisory to the President who will make the final decision.”(Board Policy 8.3.5.4)

c. **ACADEMIC FREEDOM** The Regents adopted a “Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom” which contained three principles (see attached for full language of policy). The first principle was an affirmation of the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom from the American Association of University Professors. The second and third principles read as follows:

- i. **PRINCIPLE 2:** USG values the diversity of intellectual thought and expression, which shall be reflected in a student body and faculty that respect the individuality and beliefs of all.
- ii. **PRINCIPLE 3:** The BOR values our faculty and the important role they play in teaching, conducting research and providing service. Faculty have the right to be unburdened by ideological tests, affirmations and oaths. The key basis for hiring, promotion and tenure should be achievement and a commitment to student success.

d. **ADMISSION TESTS**

- i. The Chancellor made a recommendation that the BOR continue to waive SAT/ACT scores for admission into all USG schools through academic year 2024-25 – except for UGA, Georgia Tech, and Georgia College & State University.
- ii. The Regents approved the Chancellor’s recommendation and further agreed to “hold us harmless” if our enrollment drops and our budget is harmed, so we will document any declines if they develop during the coming recruitment cycle. We will do the best we can to urge students to take the standardized tests and meet our requirements, but we are fighting an uphill battle when some 80% of colleges and universities across the nation, and in all of our surrounding states except Florida, have already eliminated this barrier to student access.

3. **CAMPUS UPDATES**

a. **CHIEF AUDIT OFFICER SEARCH** Mr. Brett Montroy, General Counsel, has agreed to chair this search. The search committee is composed of the following individuals.

- i. Brett Montroy, Chair

- ii. Daphne Campbell, Accountant I, Business Office & Accounting Services
- iii. Shanoya Cordew, Title IX and Student Compliance Coordinator
- iv. Dr. Nicholas Creel, Assistant Professor of Business Law

The search will kick off soon, and I greatly appreciate your support as we work to hire the next auditor for the university.

4. **SAVE THE DATES**

a. ***Midnight Breakfast***

The MAX

Monday, May 1, 2023

9:45 p.m.

b. ***Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies***

Centennial Center

College of Health Sciences Friday, May 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Rodriques Lambert, '02 (Public Health), CDC

College of Education Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Ms. Amy Jacobs, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning (DECAL)

College of Business & Technology Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Speaker: Hon. Brad Raffensperger, Georgia Secretary of State

College of Arts and Sciences Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Ms. Brandice Bailey, '00 (Mass Communications), VP & News

Director, WITI-TV Milwaukee/FOX6

c. ***Modified Summer Schedule***

May 8, 2023 – August 4, 2023

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**

a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- i. **The Department of Communication** began a new program titled “In the Media Studio,” in which media practitioners engage with students. Our first virtual visitor was Judy Woodruff, Senior Correspondent and former Anchor for the *PBS NewsHour*, who has been a national political reporter since the 1970s.
- ii. **The Department of World Languages and Cultures** has two community-based engagement initiatives underway. Dr. Stoyanova is working with a group of French and Spanish majors who are conducting bilingual story times at two Milledgeville locations. Dr. Castillo-Scott and Dr. Kirven engaged with 10th grade students in Sandersville on producing Spanish-language materials about college life at GCSU.
- iii. **Faculty and Chair Searches** The College of Arts and Sciences is completing several faculty searches in Writing Studies, Digital Media Production, Political Science, History, Philosophy/Religion, and Psychology. Eric Griffis was hired as the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

- iv. **Dr. Catrena Lisse**, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the GCSU Science Education Center, won the Charles Dunn award from the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), awarded to the faculty member from nearly fifty COPLAC campuses who best embodies going above and beyond as a teacher and mentor.
- b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**
- i. **Dr. Bill Donoher**, Chair of the Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics, has accepted an offer to become Dean of the Hasan School of Business at Colorado State University Pueblo. His last day at Georgia College & State University will be May 19, 2023. Dr. Herb Snyder, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Business Law, will be interim MML chair until we hire a permanent replacement. Dr. Tanya Goette will chair the search, which will commence in May.
 - ii. **Faculty Searches** The College of Business and Technology (CoBT) is conducting ten faculty searches (lecturers and tenure-track) in finance, economics, marketing, computer science, and data science.
 - iii. **Leadership Board** The college welcomed alum Raymell Shannon to the CoBT Leadership Board; she is a tech leader at MARTA in Atlanta and graduated from GCSU with a BBA in Business Information Systems.
- c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
- i. **2023 John H. Lounsbury College of Education Early Childhood Education Conference** The juniors in the Early Childhood Education Programs are hosting the 2023 John H. Lounsbury College of Education Early Childhood Education Conference on Friday, April 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Kilpatrick Hall. This event is open to all students enrolled in education related GC1Y courses, EDUC 2110, EDUC 2120, EDUC 2130, juniors in the Special Education and Middle Grades cohorts, and College of Education faculty. The purpose of the 2023 John H. Lounsbury College of Education Early Childhood Education Conference is to share innovative and developmentally appropriate strategies and approaches that engage students ages four to ten years while developing the organization, communication, and leadership skills of teacher candidates enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program at Georgia College & State University.
 - ii. **The College of Education Senior Sendoff** will take place on Thursday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m.
 - iii. **Dean Celebration** A celebration will be held to honor Dr. Joseph Peters' time as Dean of the College of Education on Wednesday, May 3rd from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - iv. **Dean Search** The search for the Dean of the College of Education is nearing completion.
 - v. **Faculty Searches** are taking place in the COE for the following positions: Call Me MiSTER / AAMI Director, Assistant Professor of Literacy, and Assistant Professor of Elementary Education.
 - vi. **The GC Thrive Program** received the Inclusive Excellence Award by GCSU.

- vii. **The Secondary Master of Arts in Teaching Program** received the Teaching Excellence Award for Department or Program.
- d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
 - i. **Dean Celebration** A celebration will be held to honor Dr. Sheri Noviello's time as Dean of the College of Health Sciences on Thursday, May 4th from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - ii. **Dean Search** The search for the Dean of the College of Health Sciences concluded with the appointment of Dr. Will Evans.
- e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
 - i. **Nancy Davis Bray**, Associate Director of Special Collections at Russell Library, will retire, effective May 1, 2023. Ms. Davis Bray has been employed at Georgia College & State University for nearly 40 years. We appreciate her many contributions to the library and to the university and wish her well in this next phase of her life.
 - ii. **Student Exhibit** The University Library is currently hosting a student exhibit featuring the work of students in Dr. Meagan McNaught's Exhibit Design class. Located across from Special Collections on the 2nd floor of the library, the exhibits are on the history of tea and Milledgeville Hauntings.
- 2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
 - a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
 - i. **Application Fee Waiver Campaign** The SpringForward23 application fee waiver yielded 146 graduate admissions application across the colleges with 47 applicants admitted. The limited time offer was promoted March 20 – April 4, 2023. The FALLFEST22 application fee waiver yielded 76 graduate admissions applications across the colleges with 19 applicants admitted. The limited time offer was promoted for the full month of October 2022.
 - ii. **Career Fairs, Graduate School Fairs, and Professional Meetings** The Graduate School and graduate coordinators from across the colleges attended and participated in various career and graduate school fairs and professional meetings across Georgia.
 - 1. All About Graduate School Panel, GCSU Career Services
 - 2. Augusta State University, National Writing Conference
 - 3. Clayton County Public Schools 2023 Employees Continuing Education Fair
 - 4. College of Coastal Georgia
 - 5. CWN and Macon Magazine – Women in Business Meeting
 - 6. Dalton State College
 - 7. Emory University Graduate School
 - 8. Fort Valley State University
 - 9. Georgia Academy of Science
 - 10. Georgia College
 - 11. Georgia Council of Graduate Schools, UGA Griffin Campus
 - 12. Georgia Mathematics Conference at Rock Eagle
 - 13. Gordon State College

14. Graduate & Professional School Career Fair, GCSU Career Services
 15. Houston County Teacher Recruitment Fair
 16. National Science Teaching Association
 17. Teacher Recruitment Fair – UGA Career Center
 18. Savannah State College
 19. Stem/Steam Conference
 20. Valdosta State College
 21. Wesleyan College
- iii. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** The Graduate School celebrated Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week, March 27 – 31, 2023. Events organized for the special week included free professional headshots, virtual networking, Research Day 2023, a graduate studies giveaway, and the 5th Annual Spring Reception. The first in-person graduate writing groups were organized for the Master of Art in English and the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing programs with meetings beginning spring 2023. The writing groups provide for academic writing support, encouragement, and accountability. An MFA graduate assistant leads the weekly writing groups. This initiative was made possible in collaboration with the Writing Center.
- iv. **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award** The Graduate School awarded five graduate students the Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award for the 2022-2023 academic year. The award package includes \$200.00 from the Georgia College & State University Foundation, a framed certificate, and a GCSU gift bag. The Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, established in 2019, recognizes the contributions graduate assistants provide in supportive roles to students, faculty, staff, and the university while pursuing graduate studies. The 2022-2023 Winners include:
1. Brooke Bowen – Master of Education, Library Media, assisting the College of Education, Maker Space
 2. Cherisse Howell – Master of Science in Nursing, Nurse Midwifery, assisting the School of Nursing, Clinical Placement
 3. Victoria Massey – Master of Management Information Systems, assisting The Learning Center
 4. Logan Timm – Master of Science, Biology, assisting Herty Hall – ISC
 5. Nathanael Williams – Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing, assisting The Writing Center
- b. **HONORS COLLEGE**
- i. **The 2023 Honors Giving Challenge**, held on April 4-6, was a success, exceeding the \$4,000 goal and—with \$6,000 in prior contributions from '89 alumnus Dr. Roger Best and members of the Honors Advisory Board—giving the Honors College the resources needed to support a fall break trip to NYC for students in Dr. Jenny Flaherty's Honors GC2Y on Underworlds and Afterlives.

- ii. **Awards & Graduation Banquet** On April 6, the Honors College held its annual Awards & Graduation Banquet in Magnolia Ballroom. Dr. Cullen Wallace, the 2022 Honors Young of the Year, delivered a wonderful keynote address. Thank you, Dr. Wallace, and congratulations to the graduates and faculty/staff/student award recipients!
- iii. **Fulbright Summer UK Summer Institutes** Two of our students, Alexis Keeney and Peyton Rodgers, were selected to interview for Fulbright UK Summer Institutes (UKSIs). Alexis interviewed for the program at Queens-Belfast, and Peyton is interviewing this Friday for the program at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. We learned on April 25 that Alexis had been selected for the program at Queens-Belfast, and we expect to hear the decision on Peyton next week. The Fulbright UKSIs are special summer study abroad programs geared towards students in their first and second years who haven't had an opportunity to go abroad. This is an extremely competitive program. This year, they received 700 applications for 38 spots. This year's end of year reception, held on April 20, was well attended by a mix of applicants, their mentors, and selection committee members.
- iv. **Southern Regional Honors Council** At the March 2023 meeting of the Southern Regional Honors Council, Brian Newsome was elected Secretary of the organization.
- v. **Student Success** Axel Hawkins was named our Newman Civic Fellow for this year. Of our four students who advanced to the semi-finalist stage in the Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship application, Anagha Ramakrishnan was our only recipient. Although Fulbright had overall fewer applications this year, 3/4 semi-finalists applied to countries that actually had *more* applicants in years past. The Maastricht University grant that Julian Lopez-Hanson applied for had 31 applicants vying for 2 spots, the Norway ETA program that Kelsie Doran applied for had 93 applicants vying for 4 spots, and the Greece ETA program that Anagha Ramakrishnan applied for had 203 applicants vying for 13 spots. Cameron Alee was also a semi-finalist for the South Korea ETA program.
- vi. **Truman Scholarship** Congratulations to political science major Colin Hall, the first Georgia College & State University student to receive the prestigious Truman Scholarship. Colin is the only student in Georgia to earn this scholarship recognizing his dedication to public service. For this award, he was competing against students from Georgia Tech, Barnard, and Colgate at the interview stage.
- c. **THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
 - i. **Continuing and Professional Education** is storming into summer with summer camp options for all ages! Kids U, athletic camps, creature camp, theatre camp and songwriting camp are on the calendar for this summer. Book now for early bird Kids U pricing <https://summercamps.gcsu.edu/>!
 - ii. **Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion** has hosted several successful events over the last few weeks, which included a Mansion Series Lecture by Dr. Bob Wilson on the 125th Campus History, Music at the Mansion, and

various group and program tours. The Mansion’s Education Building will close for renovations over the summer to upgrade exhibitions, technology, and mechanical systems. The Department of Historic Museums will participate in the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Excursions to Milledgeville in June, which will showcase the campus and community’s historic assets.

- iii. **The Leadership & Management Essentials Certificate** is being offered at Georgia College (School of Continuing and Professional Studies) this summer July 10 – 13. If you are interested in registering for this program, please contact Sheryl Melton at sheryl.melton@gcsu.edu.
- iv. **Literacy Grant** The School of Continuing and Professional Studies received a \$50,000 grant to partner with the Baldwin County Schools to ensure students are reading on grade level by the 3rd grade. These grant funds will enable K-2nd grade students to build a home library and offer parent engagement literacy events.
- v. **The Sallie Ellis Davis House** was the beneficiary of a \$40,000 donation from the estate of Ms. Carolyn Thomas. This funding will be used to support exhibitions and programming at the museum.
- vi. **Strong Daughters** We are sponsoring a student group called “Strong Daughters” for girls whose mother has passed away. This group provides social and emotional support to these young girls and their guardians (often the grandmothers) giving them an outlet to express their emotions and provide a community in their common struggles.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **AUXILIARY SERVICES**

- i. **Barnes & Noble Bobcat Bundle** The previously discussed change to the Barnes & Noble textbook process (Bobcat Bundle) seems to contradict the USG’s Equitable Access Policy and will be revisited.

b. **GC JOURNEYS**

- i. **4th Annual High Impact Practices (HIPs) Summer Institute** GC Journeys and the Center for Teaching and Learning present the 4th Annual High Impact Practices (HIPs) Summer Institute. The program offers a professional development opportunity for Summer 2023, where all course completers are eligible to receive \$500 in professional development funds. This institute takes a HyFlex approach to assist faculty in incorporating one (1) Transformative Experience as a cornerstone of their course during the Fall of ‘23 or Spring of 24’. Please sign up by May 5. To sign up, follow the link to the survey:

https://gcsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6zlj24r7rAvAR3E.

c. **LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

- i. **Leadership Ideas Festival** On Friday, April 14, 2023, the Office of Leadership Programs hosted the Leadership Ideas Festival. The gathering featured a dozen research and public service projects conducted by Georgia College’s leadership programs students across the academic year.
- ii. **GEM Spring Reception & Dinner** On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the Office of Leadership Programs hosted the Spring Reception & Dinner

celebrating the students and mentors of the 2023 class of the Georgia Education Mentorship Program. A one-of-a-kind partnership between Georgia College and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the GEM Program prepares the next generation of Georgia's leaders for the public good. A mentorship and leadership program, GEM matches students with senior state leaders for a yearlong partnership that creates mutual benefit between Georgia College and its partners.

d. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS (MURACE)**

- i. **GCSU Research Day 2023** was held on March 29th and included 401 student presenters, making it our largest research event today. Next year, we will hold Research Day on March 27th. Fifty-three graduate students participated in Research Day 2023, providing for poster and/or oral presentations.
- ii. **National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)** On April 13-15, GCSU sponsored 22 students to NCUR, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The students did an amazing job representing GCSU.
- iii. **Summer Undergraduate Research Award** We have six students who have received the Summer Undergraduate Research award. These students are:
 1. Camile Browning, mentor Dr. Kasey Karen
 2. Marissa (Rose) Wagley, mentor Dr. Wathsala Medawala
 3. Belen (Ava) Avalos, mentor Dr. Jamie Downing
 4. Evan Dunnam, mentor Dr. Hasitha Mahabaduge
 5. JinYeong Kim, mentor Dr. Arnab Sengupta
 6. Gavin Incrocci, mentor Dr. Nicholas Creel
- iv. ***Undergraduate Research Journal*** The latest issue of *Undergraduate Research Journal* is now available; look for that around campus.

e. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

- i. **Applications** Our freshman application closed on April 1. GCSU received a record number of first-time student applications for fall 2023. As of April 24, 2023, we received 7,893 first-year applications, a 39% increase over last year. We admitted 5,283 students, a 63% increase over last year. We have received 1,845 confirmation deposits, a 49% increase over last year. 1,531 students have registered for fall classes via the POUNCE form, a 51% increase over last year. 1,614 have submitted a housing application, a 46% increase over last year. We anticipate that we will welcome the largest, most academically prepared, and most diverse freshman class since GCSU was designated as Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University in 1996.
- ii. **Junior Day** GCSU held a successful Junior Day event on April 22 with over 200 students in attendance. Students had the opportunity to hear from departments such as financial aid, admissions, leadership programs, chemistry, nursing, and many more. This gave them insight into the strong academics and engaging environment our university offers. In a post-event

survey, approximately 97% of respondents stated the event impacted their desire to apply to GCSU when the application becomes available.

f. **OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

- i. **New Student Admitted Receptions** The GCSU Financial Aid team attended all of the New Student Admitted Receptions held in March and April. The locations of the receptions were Lawrenceville, Savannah, Macon, Atlanta and Milledgeville. These recruiting events were attended along with the Admissions staff, student ambassadors, and other staff members of GCSU to answer final questions and resolve any concerns that students and parents may have regarding our institution. These events reassured families that the right decision was made for their student to attend GCSU fall 2023.

g. **OFFICE OF GRANTS & SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- i. **Newsletter** The Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects will be issuing our first quarterly newsletter starting with the May Issue, to be released on Front Page on May 1, 2023. The newsletter will include a sponsored project faculty profile, upcoming grant opportunities and regional grant jobs, along with any upcoming OGSP events.

h. **OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS**

- i. **SMART Report Deadlines** Outstanding incomplete SMART reports were due March 23rd. Please complete these ASAP as they are essential evidence for our SACSCOC reaffirmation. If you need any assistance, contact Lauren Farmer at extension 3350 or Cara Smith at extension 3530. FY23 SMART reports are due absolutely no later than August 15, 2023. Please be sure to collect data for these reports from any faculty who will not be returning to GC in the fall.
- ii. **Quality Enhancement Plan** Please contact Cara Smith or Emily Jarvis if you are interested in participating on GC's QEP Design and Implementation Team. GC's new QEP is Bobcats First: Finding Inner Resilience and Skills to Thrive, focusing on student mental health and wellness.

i. **OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

- i. **Student Success and Retention Series** The last installment of the Student Success and Retention Series was hosted by the Office of Student Success and Career Development. The session took place on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. Dr. Indiren Pillay, Chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, facilitated the event and his session provided insights into the department's approach to engaging and retaining first year students. Questions about this initiative may be directed to Lauren Easom, lauren.easom@gcsu.edu, or Dr. Erin Weston, erin.weston@gcsu.edu.

j. **OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY** A number of sustainability events were held in April including:

- i. **April 6th 5:30 p.m. Library Education Room – Sustainability Film Series.** *The Sacrifice Zone* (2020). Documentary film highlighting issues with toxic pollution in Newark, New Jersey.
 - ii. **April 11th 6:30 p.m. Peabody Auditorium – Rural Studies Institute Changemakers Lecture & Book Signing with Catherine Coleman Flowers.** Flowers is a 2020 MacArthur genius fellow who is internationally recognized for her work on environmental issues.
 - iii. **April 17th 7:00 p.m. Library Education Room – Sustainability Film Series.** *Plastic Earth* (2003) is a fascinating new film about the spread of plastic waste across Earth and what we can do to contain it.
 - iv. **April 20th 5:30 p.m. A&S Auditorium – Sustainability Symposium & Geospatial Public Health Forum.** Panel Discussion and Breakout Sessions to direct our environmental justice knowledge into sustainable action in the Middle Georgia area. Let’s use this event to organize and direct future involvement of Georgia College to support our community in the pursuit of a safe and sustainable world.
4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
- a. **ANDALUSIA INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Book Discussion** The Andalusia Institute recently hosted an online discussion of O’Connor’s “Judgement Day” and had over 40 people in attendance, representing several different states and even two different countries.
 - ii. **Writing for Success Grant** The Andalusia Institute, as part of their Writing for Success grant, recently sponsored field trips for all 5th graders in Baldwin County to visit the Andalusia Interpretative Center and farm.
 - iii. **Writer Residency** This week, The Andalusia Institute brought in Mary Carpenter, author of the children’s book, *Flannery O’Connor: A Girl Who Knew Her Own Mind*. She will be working with all 5th graders in Baldwin County, conducting a 2-week residency in the schools. Furthermore, she delivered a public talk and book signing on Wednesday, April 26th that was very well attended.
 - b. **ANDALUSIA INTERPRETIVE CENTER**
 - i. The Andalusia Interpretive Center received the original sewing table of Regina O’Connor back from the conservator. The piece will be on display in the new exhibitions within the Interpretive Center. The new Interpretive Center usage is off to a resounding start. We have hosted various tour groups, campus rentals, and community events. The center will have ongoing work over the summer, which will include the installation of the storytelling court, more exterior lighting, and a porch structure. Conservation will continue on the interior spaces of Andalusia as we continue to restore the home.
 - c. **THE CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP** hosted the first VC-Squared competition. It was open to all majors and gave 12 enterprising students opportunity to realize their ideas with the potential to save lives, make a difference, create an impact, engage the community and more.
<https://frontpage.gcsu.edu/node/14244>.

- d. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING** The latest annual report for the Center for Teaching and Learning was published recently and it can be found [here](#).
- e. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**
 - i. **Caught You Caring** Susie Ramage and Jason Wynn again received several “Caught You Caring” awards for their outstanding service to GCSU students.
 - ii. **New International Students** The International Education Center welcomed 42 new international students this semester representing 24 separate nations, several for the first time. GCSU continues to be a preferred partner of the US State Department, sending a half dozen students to Milledgeville.
 - iii. **Student Success** IEC staff once more mentored GCSU internationals to successful U.S. graduate school placements that included full-ride scholarships and solid graduate assistantships, including one prestigious full-ride doctoral Distinguished Fellowship – plus a large stipend – awarded to the unit’s graduate assistant. Additionally, one former student was assisted to a full-time Student Life position at Stanford. With IEC support, a former State Dept-sponsored student is in line to land a coveted US/Pakistan Fulbright scholarship for studies at McGill after recently passing her Bar exam. That student credits GCSU for giving her the skills to succeed and to advocate for the marginalized.
 - iv. **Study Abroad** By summer’s end, the International Education Center will surpass last year’s Study Abroad numbers and have restored Study Abroad numbers to pre-pandemic levels. The number of students opting for semester and academic year studies is up, and students are increasingly desiring immersive programs abroad, plus internships and service-learning opportunities.
- f. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Dr. Veronica Womack**, of the Rural Studies Institute, was invited by Google to spend a week at the Google Headquarters where she will be discussing rural food systems and sustainability.
- g. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. **2023 Deal Center Virtual Learning Series** The Deal Center successfully kicked-off the 2023 Deal Center Virtual Learning Series entitled: Professional Learning Community: Emergent Literacy. The first two sessions included over 70 attendees each from all parts of Georgia, the United States and Canada. The Deal Center is set to host the 2023 Annual Governor’s Summit on July 12 & 13, 2023. This year’s theme is focused on supporting emergent literacy development with evidenced-based practices for young children. The purpose of the summit is to convene influential leaders and stakeholders to support the center’s vision of propelling every Georgia child to read proficiently and beyond.
 - ii. **Collective Impact Grants** The Deal Center funded five new collective impact grants (\$125,000) for early language and literacy. The grant recipients include: The Housing Authority of the City of Dalton, Lanier County Family Connection, Atlanta Fulton Family Connection, Inc.,

Moultrie-Colquitt County Library System, United Way of Northwest Georgia.

- iii. **Executive Director** Dr. Lindee Morgan has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy and will join Georgia College & State University on July 1, 2023. Dr. Morgan comes to GCSU from Emory University.

5. **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

- a. **BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING** at the University of North Georgia (April 18 & 19):

- i. **Test Optional/Test Required** “That the Board approve the request of Chancellor Sonny Perdue to continue to waive SAT/ACT scores for admissions into the majority of USG schools through academic year 2024-2025, effective April 19, 2023.”
- ii. **Post-Tenure Review**
 - 1. Item #1: “If the department chair and the dean do not agree on their assessment of sufficient progress in performance, the provost will make the final assessment.”
 - 2. Item #2: “However, if the remedial action is separation from employment, the faculty member has the right to request a final faculty hearing for the purpose of confirming that due process was followed in reaching the decision of separation of employment. The outcome of the faculty hearing will not be binding, but only advisory to the President who will make the final decision. The procedures of this final faculty hearing will be governed by the procedures found in Post-Tenure Review in the Academic & Student Affairs Handbook.”
- iii. **Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression** “That the Board approve the request of Board Chair Harold Reynolds and Vice Chair Erin Hames to approve the proposed “Statement of Principles,” effective April 19, 2023.”
 - 1. Principle 1: The BOR affirms the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom.
 - 2. Principle 2: USG values the need for diversity of intellectual thought and expression, which should be reflected in a student body and faculty that respect the individuality and beliefs of all.
 - 3. Principle 3: The BOR values our faculty and the important role they play in teaching, conducting research, and providing service. Faculty have the right to be unburdened by ideological tests, affirmations, and oaths. The key basis for hiring, promotion, and tenure should be achievement and a commitment to student success.

6. **CURRICULUM**

- a. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** The Office of the Provost submitted a proposal from the College of Education for a Nexus Degree with a Major in Education (with a stackable Baccalaureate Degree with a Major in Special Education). The

Elementary Education MAT Degree and certification add on program is approved through Georgia College governance and is awaiting approval by the USG/BOR.

- b. **USG GENERAL EDUCATION** refresh will focus on (1) retention and (2) transferability.

7. **FACULTY**

- a. **Governor’s Teaching Fellows Summer Symposium** Two Georgia College & State University educators have been selected to attend the Governor’s Teaching Fellows (GTF) Summer Symposium—a selective program that helps teachers increase their knowledge of new technologies and innovative instruction for the classroom. The two fellows are Dr. Suzanna Roman-Oliver, assistant professor of Secondary Education and Dr. Omolola Akinola Ologunorisa, lecturer in Geography. They join about a dozen other educators statewide for an intensive five days of learning at the University of Georgia (UGA) from May 15th to 19th, 2023.

8. **CALENDAR**

- a. **COMMENCEMENT** Spring commencement will be held on Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6. There will be four combined graduate/undergraduate ceremonies, one for each college. Faculty are encouraged to attend their college’s ceremony. Faculty should arrive at the line up area near the swimming pool at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. The Registrar will circulate a survey next week to obtain a count of the number of expected participants and to provide faculty with a parking pass to use at the event. Additional information for graduates, families, faculty, and staff is available at <https://www.gcsu.edu/registrar/may-commencement>.
- b. **FINAL GRADES** Spring 2023 final grades are due by Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The Spring term requires particularly prompt processing since the Summer term starts before the grade deadline. Please be on time and ensure that all of your grades have been received. The green “completed” indicator in the grading status column will confirm that you have successfully entered the grades for each class.
- c. **SUMMER 2023 SEMESTER** The Summer 2023 Semester will include three holidays. Summer classes that would have met on one of these days will need to meet on the following Friday, as follows:

If your summer class would have met on:	You will meet on this day to make up that class session:
Memorial Day: Monday, May 29	Friday, June 2
Juneteenth: Monday, June 19	Friday, June 23
Independence Day: Monday, July 3 or Tuesday, July 4	Friday, July 7

- d. **NO-SHOW REPORTS** for summer classes must be submitted by the second-class day. This applies to all courses: graduate and undergraduate, in person and online.
9. **SUMMER ORIENTATIONS** will begin in June. Orientation dates are June 6, 8, 13, 15, and July 18, 20. Our first orientation is filling up quickly with 235 students registered.