

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
17 NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. BOARD OF REGENTS UPDATE

- a. The Board of Regents held its November meeting earlier this week and announced that fall enrollment reports showed the USG had an all-time record enrollment of 344,392 students, a 3% increase after two years of enrollment declines.
- b. The diversity of the enrollment also continues to climb. While the number of white students increased for the first time since 2011 by a small 0.3% (387 students), white students as a percentage fell from 48% to 44% over the past four years. Growth among Hispanic and Asian students showed the largest percentages over the past four years.
- c. The Regents re-elected Harold Reynolds as Board Chair for a third year, and named Regent Dallas Smith as the new vice-chair.
- d. Chairman Reynolds said the Board’s priorities for 2024 would be:
 - i. Outcomes for students in all areas
 - ii. Funding – collaborating with the Governor and Legislature to receive the funding we need and maintaining affordability
 - iii. Increasing Board engagement on campuses
- e. Chancellor Perdue looked ahead to the budget hearings that each university will be having over the next two months with the System office staff and said that ROI – a detailed focus on return on investment – will be the main thrust of the hearings. He also will be drilling down in the Colleges of Education at those universities with teacher-preparation programs to assure that we are preparing teachers to teach reading skills in appropriate ways.
- f. The Regents also announced in a press release after the meeting that they’d selected a new president for Gordon State College, Dr. Don Green, a former president of Georgia Highlands College and the current interim president at Gordon State.

2. **WINTER COMMENCEMENT** Our Winter Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 16, at 1:00 p.m. in the Centennial Center. Mr. Brad Fowler, Senior Lecturer of Information Systems, will serve as our Commencement speaker. Mr. Fowler was the recipient of the 2023 Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is to encourage and reward excellence, innovation, and effectiveness in teaching. The recipient of this award will be the university’s nominee for the Regent’s Teaching Excellence Award and serve as the December Commencement speaker.

3. **FLAG FOOTBALL REGIONAL CHAMPIONS**

- a. Our Men’s and Women’s Intramural flag football teams are once again heading to the National Championships after big wins at the Regional Tournament at the first of this month. Our Men’s team, named the Future Daddy’s, beat Georgia Southern 34-14 in the championship game to win the tournament. Our Women’s team, named Future Mommy’s, placed second in the tournament to the University

- of Central Florida, and had won earlier games against the University of Georgia, beating one of their teams 45-0.
- b. The National Championship will be played in Oklahoma between December 18-20.
 - c. Approximately 40% of our students participate in various intramural programs on our campus, and these programs have been shown to have a strong positive impact on the retention of students.
4. **STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS** The annual State of the University Address will be held on Friday, February 2, 2024, at 2:00 PM in Russell Auditorium. More details to come in January.
 5. **ANNUAL COMPLIANCE TRAINING** Annual compliance training is required by the University System of Georgia for all employees (faculty, staff, full-time & part-time) and student workers hired PRIOR TO November 1, 2022. All must complete the 2023 Required Annual *Compliance Training and Ethics Refresher* module and the Acknowledgement Quiz. Individuals who drive on university business must also complete the *Motor Vehicle Use Program* module. The training must be completed by Thursday, November 30, 2023. This is a USG system wide requirement, as well as a Georgia College & State University requirement. If you have any questions please call Ms. Kelly Beall in Human Resources at extension 8573 or by email at kelly.beall@gcsu.edu.
 6. **SAVE THE DATE**



- a. ***Hanging of the Greens***
Thursday, November 30, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Front Campus
- b. ***Tacky Holiday Sweater Party & Contest***
Monday, December 11, 2023
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Atkinson Porch
- c. ***Winter Commencement***
Saturday, December 16, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Centennial Center
- d. ***Classes begin for Spring Semester***
Monday, January 8, 2024

PROVOST’S REPORT

1. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**
 - a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- i. **Digital Humanities Collaborative**
 - ii. **Dr. Robert Blumenthal**, Chair of the Department of Mathematics, will be retiring at the end of this fall semester after twelve years at GCSU. There is a special retirement celebration from 2-4pm on Friday, December 8 in the A&S building.
 - iii. **The Coverdell Scholar**, Dr. George Kieh, this year residing in the Department of Government and Sociology, hosted The Coverdell Symposium last week titled “Democracy in the World.” Dr. Kieh hosted scholars from across the Southeast last week, including three of our own from the political science and history programs, for a series of panels on democracy.
 - iv. **The Digital Humanities Collaborative (DHC)** is currently engaged on an art project titled the Art of Social Engagement within the Milledgeville community. Additionally, the DHC has engaged Dr. Scott Graham to provide an interactive campus workshop on January 26. Dr. Graham is a rhetoric professor at the University of Texas-Austin and will lead the workshop for GC faculty on the topic of “Using AI to Teach Writing.”
 - v. **Herty Hall Renovation** The formal component of the Herty Hall renovation started on November 1st with the meeting of BOR representatives, faculty and staff, architects, project managers, and construction representatives.
 - vi. **Professional Leave** The College of Arts and Sciences is pleased to have nine professional leaves granted for AY 2024-25. Faculty from the departments of Mathematics, Psychological Science, Art, English, Chemistry and Physics, and Government and Sociology will be taking their leaves next year to embark on a series of exceptional research and teaching projects and endeavors.
- b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**
- i. **The Department of Accounting & Business Law** partnered with 11 sponsoring accounting firms for an introduction to the profession event on the campus lawn. Over 150 students attended.
 - ii. **Elevator Pitch** The fall semester Elevator Pitch concluded. Out of the 533 students who competed in the first round via Zoom, the Top 20 students were invited to an in-person final competition where they presented a 60-second elevator pitch about their personal skills and experiences to a panel of judges. Our top five winners of the Elevator Pitch Final Round Competition, sponsored by TTI and Central Garden & Pet.
 1. 1st Place - Michael Champa- Marketing major
 2. 2nd Place - Sruti Sajja- Marketing major
 3. 3rd Place - Mattie Hutcheson- Marketing major
 4. 4th Place - Tucker Balch- Management Information Systems major
 5. 5th Place - Ashley Meyer - Management major
 - iii. **GC Bizcast Podcast** (interviews conducted by students and supervised by Dr. Ward Risvold) hosted three podcasts in October featuring Promptmaster's visionary CEO, David Taylor, Holacray's CEO Brian

Robertson, and author Jay Sullivan. To listen – subscribe at [GC Bizcast - YouTube](#).

- iv. **GCSU SAP Student Award Certificate Program** SAP has approved the GCSU SAP Student Award Certificate Program. Students who complete CBIS 3120, CBIS 4120, and CBIS 4140 with a B or higher will have the ability to earn the certificate beginning in Spring 2024.
 - c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
 - i. **The Teacher Education and Professional Learning and Innovation Departments** are working on developing measurable goals as part of the *Imagine 2030* strategic plan.
 - d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
 - i. **Public Health Program** As part of its career development efforts, the College of Health Sciences Public Health Program hosted a professional development and networking dinner for 36 public health seniors on November 1. Led by Dr. Francis, the *2nd Professional Development and Networking Dinner* is part of the capstone course introduced in Fall 2022.
 - e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
 - i. **Virtual Exhibit** A new virtual exhibit, “The Sky’s the Limit: Adam Hawkins and the 555th Parachute Infantry Company,” which chronicles the sacrifice of the first African American parachutist to die in the service of the United States, was curated by the University Library (Evan Leavitt).
2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
- a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
 - i. **Administrative Graduate Assistant Requests** The Graduate School is accepting Administrative Graduate Assistant requests for AY 2024-25. The application is available on The Graduate School website and the deadline to submit is December 15. The total number of administrative departments that requested Administrative Graduate Assistants for AY 23-24 was forty-five and thirty-six allocations were approved.
 - ii. **Graduate School Fairs** In September and October, the College of Business and Technology, the College of Education, and The Graduate School traveled the state to attend graduate school fairs and industry-specific conferences and professional meetings to meet with prospective students and discuss GCSU's graduate degree options and opportunities. Below are a few of the events the recruiters attended: Accounting Recruitment Fest (COB&T), Andrew College Visit (COB&T), Dalton State Graduate School Fair (COB&T), GaETC Conference (COE), GCSU Graduate & Professional School Fair (all GCSU colleges), Georgia Council for Social Studies (COE), Georgia Mathematics Conference (COE), Georgia Gwinnett College's Job/College Fair (COE), Graduate Assistant Information session for upper-level GCSU accounting classes (COB&T), Forsyth County Schools (COE), Middle Georgia All industry Career Fair (COB&T), Wesleyan College (The Graduate School).
 - iii. **Graduate Research Posters** The all-time downloads for Graduate Research Posters and work in progress in the Library’s institutional

repository, the Knowledge Box, is 6,643 from 117 countries as of 11/1/2023. Readership distribution is far-reaching, drawing readers from Australia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and many more exciting places around the globe.

- iv. **The Graduate Research Travel Grant Committee** awarded fall 2023 travel grants to four graduate students for the presentation of their scholarly work at professional conferences and meetings. The application window is now open for the spring 2024 cycle of grants.

Graduate Student Name	Graduate Degree Program	Work	Conference
Todd Bennett	Biology	Effects of Snake Digestion on Small Mammal Skeletons	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 83 rd Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH.
Kimberly (Driskell) Vinson	Education (Ed.D)	Inclusive Interrogations: Interrupting Literacy Hierarchies by Honoring the Voices of Striving Readers.	Literacy Research Association's 73 rd Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
Marine Feron Leabeater	Education	Inclusive Interrogations: Interrupting Literacy Hierarchies by Honoring the Voices of Striving Readers.	Literacy Research Association's 73 rd Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
Kaitlin Van Voorhis	Health & Human Performance	An Exploration of the Prostrate Cancer Survivorship Experience of Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the United States	16 th AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities, Orlando, FL.

b. **HONORS COLLEGE**

- i. **Fulbright Scholarship Applications** Eleven GCSU students have applied for Fulbright Scholarships—an increase over last year when eight students submitted applications.
- ii. **Legends of Honors** The Honors College recently completed its Fall 2023 Legends of Honors series for students, alumni, and friends of the College.

The speakers were three distinguished alumni: Kevin Morris ('17, Program Associate in the Democracy Program at the Carter Center in Atlanta), "The U.S. in Southeast Europe;" Devlin Cooper ('02, attorney at Cooper, Barton & Cooper in Macon), "Fake News, Real News;" and Susan Presley ('90, recently retired as Special Education Dept. Chair at Windsor Forest High School in Savannah) "Reflections on a Career in Public Education."

c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

i. **Academic Outreach**

1. **The Adopt-A-Stream** monitoring program by Academic Outreach is scheduled for Friday, December 6, at Lake Laurel (9:00a – 10:00a) and Andalusia (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) [Register now](#). *GCSU Thirst for Knowledge* Alternate Winter Break is scheduled for December 16 – January 7. Contact Ruth Eilers (ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu) for more information.
- ii. **Afterschool Achievement** is competing again for the FY25 GODOE Nita M. Lowery 21st CCLC Program for Lakeview Academy. The submitted proposal can be viewed on the [YES program at LVA's newsletter](#) after the RFP due date. The High Achievers Program collaborated with Academic Outreach in celebrating Lights on Afterschool, which was recognized in the press.
- iii. **Christmas at the Mansion by Historic Museums** is now open. Reserve your spot in a Christmas Candlelight Tour scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd or December 6th at 6:00, 7:00, or 8:00 p.m. Professional photo sessions by the Christmas tree can be reserved for Friday, December 8 by calling 478-445-4545.
- iv. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County** is collaborating with the First Methodist in sponsoring a coat drive for the Baldwin County community. Through some funding from the Exchange Bank and the Georgia Power Foundation, Communities in Schools has been able to provide food for several homeless students and their families.
- v. **Continuing & Professional Education (CPE)** is exploring opportunities for specialized programs in the Department of Art, Department of Music, and the Deal Center. CPE is working closely with the new Learning in Retirement board members in growing the partnership and programs to support lifelong learning.
- vi. **GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series** Alumni Relations and the SoCPS are offering the GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series. If you would like to share an idea for this series, please contact Angela Criscoe (angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu) or Nadirah Mayweather (nadirah.mayweather@gcsu.edu).
- vii. **The Production Services** team received great reviews for their support of GMC's statewide One Act competitions, one of which ranked 1st place in the region. They also supported Putnam County's One Act competitions, which received 4th place in the region. To request the support of

Production Services at a Georgia College event, please complete the [request form](#).

- viii. **Reading Clinic** The School of Continuing & Professional Studies is collaborating with the College of Education, the Deal Center, Communities in Schools, and Continuing & Professional Education to develop a reading clinic that will serve our community's need to improve literacy.
- ix. **Wonders of Greece** [Registration is open](#) until February 1, 2024. Provost Spirou will share with the participants his upbringing and the history of the region prior to this adventure. If you missed the Information Session on November 16, please reach out to Angela Criscoe (angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu) to acquire information about the adventure tour. You can also visit the [website](#) for more details.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

- i. **GeorgiaForward Forum** On Friday, 20 October 2023, the Leadership Programs co-sponsored the GeorgiaForward Forum in Columbus, Georgia. The forum brought together statewide business and civic leaders to identify practical solutions related to long-term economic development and talent/workforce planning and development. A team of students, led by Harold Mock and student Samantha Paton, will author the proceedings and final report for publication by the Georgia Municipal Association. On Thursday, 16 November 2023, the Leadership Programs hosted their annual Delegation to Tifton focused on rural prosperity and workforce development.

b. **MURACE**

- i. ***Undergraduate Research Journal*** The next issue of *Undergraduate Research* is scheduled to appear soon. We received 50 submissions and are publishing 5 articles (10% acceptance rate). Here are some of the universities from which we received submissions: University of Montana, Harvard University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, DePaul University, University of Memphis, University of Utah, and many others.

c. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

- i. **Applications** The Office of Admissions received 4,066 applications for our October 15 early action deadline. 2,715 students were admitted for early action on November 15, 2023. This is an increase of 53% in applications and 65% increase in admits compared to the last cycle (fall 2022) when GCSU was test-required.
- ii. **President's Scholarship Competition** As we look forward to our annual President's Scholarship Competition scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2023, at GCSU, we are excited to see the level of support we have received from our faculty members. A total of 60 faculty members have volunteered to be interview judges for the day-long competition. The competition will host high-achieving high school seniors who will visit our campus and compete for our 4-year renewal as well as one-time institutional scholarships.

- d. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
 - i. **Academic Forecast** The Office of the Provost will not be submitting an academic forecast to the USG during the upcoming academic year, following a USG directive.
 - ii. **The GCSU Budget Hearing** took place on Thursday, October 26th with Deans and the Provost presenting various funding requests.
 - iii. **University System of Georgia Strategic Plan** The USG released the Strategic Plan 2029. The plan includes the following goals: (1) Student Success, (2) Responsible Stewardship, (3) Economic Competitiveness, (4) Community Impact. Academic Affairs will be focusing on student success and community impact goals.
 - e. **OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
 - i. **Award for Student Success and College Completion** GCSU received the 2023 American Association for State Colleges and Universities Excellence and Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion on Monday, November 6, 2023.
4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
- a. **ANDALUSIA INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Album Release Party** The Andalusia Institute hosted the album release party for singer/songwriter Colin Cutler. His new album, *Tarwater*, is inspired by Flannery O'Connor. Cutler was a participant in the NEH Summer Institute on Flannery O'Connor, hosted by GCSU.
 - ii. **Flannery O'Connor Oral History Project** Andalusia Institute has held two recent workshops around oral history, as part of their Flannery O'Connor Oral History project. In addition, the institute continues to partner with CREATE to offer literacy workshops to 5th graders in the community.
 - b. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**
 - i. **GeorgiaVIEW Template** The Center for Teaching and Learning has created a new course template for GeorgiaVIEW based on best practices from Quality Matters. CTL is seeking feedback to pilot the new template. Email jim.berger@gcsu.edu if you are interested.
 - ii. **Underrepresented Minority Faculty Mentoring Network** In conjunction with the Office of Inclusive Excellence, CTL is recruiting mentors and mentees for our Underrepresented Minority Faculty Mentoring Network.
 - c. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. **Psychometric Review of the Universal Reading Screeners** At the request of the Georgia Council on Literacy, the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center conducted an independent psychometric review to evaluate the strength of each approved screener. The purpose of the review was to provide school districts with additional context regarding approved screeners to support their decision-making as they select the most appropriate screener for the students they serve. The full report is available below. <https://www.galiteracycenter.org/resources-landing>

- ii. **Research Grant Initiative for Implementation Research to Improve Early Language and Literacy Outcomes** The Deal Center hosted an implementation research workshop on October 30, 2023, offering assistance with the application process for our Research Grant Initiative for Implementation Research to Improve Early Language and Literacy Outcomes. Awards of up to \$50,000 will fund implementation aimed at embedding evidence-based practices that foster early language and literacy. We are pleased to accept applications from University System of Georgia institutions and state agencies. The request for application closes at 5pm on November 27, 2023. More information can be found here, <https://www.galiteracycenter.org/deal-center-announces-grant-awardees>
 - d. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**
 - i. **Study Abroad Advisor** The International Education Center appointed a new Study Abroad Advisor (Ariana Youmans). She holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from GCSU – studied abroad in London through GCSU, visiting Ireland while on the program. She later moved to Ireland and spent ten years there before recently returning to Georgia.
 - e. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Faculty Affiliates** The Rural Studies Institute hopes to select 5 faculty affiliates, 1 per College and the Library to support rural efforts this year. The efforts can be scholarly, artistic expression, creative endeavors, digital platforms...etc. The Rural Studies Institute will launch a call in January 2024.
 - f. **WRITING CENTER**
 - i. **Graduate Writing Group** The Writing Center offered an in-person and virtual Graduate Writing Group opportunity in October. The meetings include assistance with academic writing and accountability check-ins for writers to set goals and reflect on personal writing habits and progress on a project. Meetings are held three times a month.
- 5. **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**
 - a. **UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**
 - i. **College Goals** On November 1, the Deans presented short term/medium term/long term goals in accordance with the five pillars of the GCSU Strategic plan. A presentation to the Academic Leadership Team is scheduled for December 14.
 - b. **UNIVERSITY RETENTION COMMITTEE**
 - i. **Fall 2023 Retention Summit Series** “Don’t Cancel Class Campaign”, facilitated by Dr. Cara Smith and Emily Jarvis. The session will be held on November 29, 2023, in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.
- 6. **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**
 - a. **THE GEORGIA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE (GURC)** was held last Saturday (November 11). Georgia College sent a record number of students (36). Thank you to all the faculty for supporting those students.
 - b. **SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM** GCSU will be hosting the [Summer Science Program](#) on campus in Summer 2024. The Summer Science Program is a highly competitive, national program that provides educational experiences to high

school seniors. The GCSU program will be in Astrophysics with a possible second program in Biochemistry.

- c. **USG TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE** The USG Office of Student and Faculty Success announced that the USG Teaching and Learning Conference is scheduled for April 15-16, 2024, in Athens, Georgia. Registration opens in January 2024. Faculty can access archived Office of Teaching and Learning Excellence webinars (including the recent series on Artificial Intelligence) via MomentumU@USG.

7. **CURRICULUM**

- a. **CORE CURRICULUM** The university is moving forward with the implementation of the USG Core Refresh. During the last two months, presentations of the refresh were shared with the University Senate, Department Chairs, Deans, General Education Committee, Enrollment Management.
- b. **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION** The College of Education is sending the final courses through governance for the Elementary Education MAT that will start the Summer of 2024. Final preparations to start the Special Education paraprofessional credentialing program (Summer of 2024) are underway.

8. **FACULTY**

a. **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

i. **Grant Opportunities** through the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects

1. NSF EPIIC Limited Submission Competition:

Internal Competition Concept Paper Due Date: November 15, 2023

NSF Preliminary Proposal Due Date: December 15, 2023

Funding Amount: \$400,000 over three years

This opportunity, limited to one proposal per institution, focuses on broadening participation in innovative ecosystems in key technologies. These include advanced manufacturing, advanced wireless, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum information science, semiconductors, novel materials, and microelectronics. One team of 3 people to be selected by Dr. Costas Spirou to represent Georgia College & State University, by November 27, 2023.

2. Teagle Foundation Grant:

Application Deadline: December 1, 2023

Planning Grant: Up to \$25,000 over 6-12 months

Implementation Grant: Up to \$300,000 distributed over 24 months

The Teagle Foundation Humanities Initiative seeks to reinvigorate general education using transformative texts. This initiative aims to integrate liberal arts faculty into STEM classrooms, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and enriching the educational experience.

3. Georgia Climate Pollution Reduction:

Grant Program: \$5 billion for planning and implementation

Planning Grants: \$250 million (noncompetitive)
Implementation Grants: \$4.6 billion (competitive)
Aligned with the Inflation Reduction Act, this grant program supports states and local governments in developing and implementing plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has secured a \$3 million planning grant and plans to submit an implementation grant ranging from \$100 million to \$199 million by March 1, 2024. GCSU has the opportunity to participate if included in the Priority Climate Action Plan.

- ii. **Teaching and Service Excellence Awards** are due to the colleges by November 20th. More information about the requirements can be found online.
- iii. **The Women's Leadership Faculty Fellow Program** was established in 2019 and is administered by the Office of the Provost. The goal is to provide faculty members with dedicated time to develop and hone leadership skills and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education, specifically with a focus on issues women face in academic administration. The Fellows for 2023-2024 are:
 - 1. Dr. Kalina Manoylov, Professor of Environmental Sciences
 - 2. Dr. Stephanie Jett, Assistant Professor of Psychology
 - 3. Dr. Hedwig Fraunhofer, Professor of French and German
 - 4. Dr. Jamie Downing, Associate Professor of Rhetoric
 - 5. Dr. Jennifer Goldsberry, Associate Professor of Nursing

b. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES**

- i. **Dean of the College of Education** The second finalist for the next Dean of the College of Education visited campus on October 30-31. The first finalist was on campus October 26-27. The final candidate joined us this week (November 15-16).

9. **CALENDAR**

- a. **COMMENCEMENT** Winter commencement will be Saturday, December 16, 2023. Faculty should arrive in the designated faculty line-up area by the Centennial Center Swimming Pool no later than 12:15 PM. The University Registrar will email additional information and instructions the week before the ceremony.
- b. **FINAL GRADES** All Fall 2023 final grades are due on Wednesday, December 20, no later than 9:00 AM. Grade entry instructions will be sent to all instructors via email.
- c. **GCSU RESEARCH DAY 2024** will be on March 27th. Preparations are currently underway to open the submissions portal and start accepting proposals. Last year, we had over 400 student presentations at research day, as well as over 80 faculty participating.
- d. **ORIENTATION** Spring Orientation will take place on January 5, 2024, for incoming freshman and transfer students. Orientation will take place from 2-4pm

and will provide an opportunity for students to get their final task items completed before the semester begins.