

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU  
19 JANUARY 2024 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**1. MODIFIED SUMMER SCHEDULE**

- a. Beginning Monday, May 6, we will begin our campus-wide modified summer schedule. As you may recall, following an in-depth discussion last year about ways in which we can work to reduce the rising utility costs across campus, especially during the summer months, and exploring a way in which we could offer a little flexibility for work schedules during the summer, the Executive Cabinet approved a campus-wide modified summer schedule. This summer’s schedule details are below.
  - i. Monday-Thursday -- 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a mandatory half hour lunch.
  - ii. Fridays -- 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., campus offices closed on Friday afternoons.
  - iii. This schedule will remain in place through Friday, August 16, 2024.
  - iv. We will have three state holidays during this time period on Monday, May 27, Wednesday, June 19, and Thursday, July 4. For the weeks of May 27 & June 17 in which those holidays fall, we will work a four-day work week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For the week of July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a campus closure on Friday, July 5 (for which employees will need to take annual leave), and the observance of the holiday on Thursday, July 4. We will work Monday through Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. that week.
  - v. This modified schedule will be in effect for all faculty and staff members during this summer period.

**2. BOARD OF REGENTS UPDATE**

- a. The Board of Regents held its first meeting of the calendar year this week and briefed members on the State Budget items that have been included in Gov. Kemp’s proposed budget to the General Assembly. Of particular interest to GCSU:
  - i. The Governor only included 1/3 of the money needed for the renovation of Herty Hall (\$5.5 million) instead of the full \$16.5 million recommended by the USG, so we will have to lobby the House and Senate to each add another \$5.5 million to get the full funding to proceed with the renovation. Our local legislators, Rep. Ken Vance, Rep. Mack Jackson, and Sen. Rick Williams are helping us a great deal with this effort.
  - ii. The Governor recommended a 4% COLA raise for all state-funded, fulltime state employees, not to exceed \$3,000, effective July 1, 2025; we’ll have to see whether the Legislature decides to go along with this. (The budget also included funding to cover the \$1,000 bonuses that were paid out at the end of December 2023.)
  - iii. There are larger surpluses in the state budget than ever before, and the Governor proposed funding a variety of projects/initiatives:
    1. More than \$1 billion in transportation projects for the Georgia DOT

2. A new dental school at Georgia Southern's Savannah campus (formerly Armstrong) - \$178 million
  3. A new stand-alone medical school at UGA - \$50 million (with additional monies expected in coming years, and UGA and its foundation being expected to chip in monies)
  4. \$88 million to the USG for a new statewide computer system for all finance, HR and student record systems, to replace the current 20-year-old system
  5. \$80 million in additional monies to the USG to chip away at the backlog of maintenance and repair projects on all USG campuses (MRR – Major Repair & Rehabilitation funds, in addition to \$65.9 million already in base budget)
  6. Restoring the \$66 million cut to the USG that the Legislature imposed last year to all USG campuses; GCSU's share was just under \$1 million in the final allocation of the cut, and just over \$1 million in the budgeted proportion of the \$66 million.
  7. More than \$32 million to cover the increased costs of the employer portion of health insurance premiums and new retirees as well as increased TRS contribution rates.
- b. The Regents approved some clarifications to the criteria used for evaluating academic administrative officers under Policy 8.3.5.3, which I will attach to my report. In essence, the change says that each institution will establish the criteria for evaluating the performance of each academic administrative officer, addressing “the distinctive nature of administrators’ work and leadership roles and shall include constituent feedback,” rather than having all such officers evaluated by one list of criteria contained in this policy.
  - c. Dr. Angela Bell, the USG's Vice Chancellor for Research and Policy Analysis, presented a report on the results of research conducted on student success by course modality – face-to-face versus online, which you can find on the USG's Research and Policy Analysis website ([click here](#) then under Research and Policy Reports see drop down box). Her study compared both undergraduate and graduate courses and did not find systematic or significant evidence that students performed better in online courses than they did in face-to-face courses.
  - d. A new member of the Board of Regents was introduced – Mr. Matthew Swift from Columbus, replacing Dr. Tommy Hopkins, who had served on the Board since 2010.
3. **STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS** The annual State of the University Address will be held on Friday, February 2, at 2:00 PM in Russell Auditorium. A reception will be held immediately following on the lawn in front of Russell Auditorium.
  4. **HOMECOMING** Homecoming festivities are scheduled to begin on Monday, February 12, through Saturday, February 17. This year's theme is “Road Trip: It's all about the Journey.” The annual concert will take place later in the spring on March 28. From cheering on the Bobcats in baseball, softball, and basketball during the week, to office decorating competition, announcing the Homecoming Court, and much more, there will be a lot of fun and exciting activities for all ages. For more information, please visit [www.gcsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.gcsu.edu/homecoming).

5. **SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

- a. This Spring we will hold four commencement ceremonies to honor our May and August 2024 graduates. These ceremonies are divided by college and each ceremony includes graduate and undergraduates. Ceremony dates and times are:
  - i. **College of Health Sciences:** Friday, May 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM
  - ii. **College of Education:** Friday, May 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM
  - iii. **College of Business and Technology:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM
  - iv. **College of Arts and Sciences:** Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM

6. **WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS IN FLAG FOOTBALL, AGAIN!**

- a. Three Georgia College & State University flag football teams recently participated in the national championship tournament in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Our men's team, Future Daddy's won the national championship for the 2nd consecutive year and 3rd time in the last 4 seasons. Our men's team beat the University of Maryland in the championship game by a score of 26 to 18. Marcus Prestwood was named the Men's Tournament MVP (top overall player) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year and Garrett Gauthreaux was named an All-American Player (top 7 in the country).
- b. Our women's team, Future Mommy's, had a very strong performance losing in the semifinal game to the University of Florida by a score of 13 to 19. Maggie Glover was named an All-American Player her second consecutive year (top 7 player in the women's division).
- c. Our Co-Ed Rec Team, Future Parents, in their inaugural competition outing, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country, losing to the defending national champion University of Georgia by a score of 6 to 7. Hank Harper and Kenda Williams were both named All-American Players (top 7 in the Country).
- d. Additionally, Brice Phillips was one of 36 student officials selected to work the national championship tournament. Bruce was the first student to officiate the national championship tournament since 2018.
- e. We look forward to recognizing the success of our flag football teams and students during Homecoming Weekend.

7. **SAVE THE DATES**

- a. ***State of the University Address***  
Friday, February 2, 2024  
2:00 p.m. – Russell Auditorium
- b. ***Homecoming***  
February 12 – 17, 2024  
[www.gcsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.gcsu.edu/homecoming)
- c. ***GCSU Loves Me Event***  
February 14, 2024  
2:00 p.m. - Front Campus
- d. ***SACSCOC Reaffirmation On-Site Visit***  
February 26- 29, 2024
- e. ***Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Brunch***  
Friday, March 15, 2024  
10:00 a.m. – Magnolia Ballroom
- f. ***GCSU Research Day***

- March 27, 2024  
Magnolia Ballroom
- g. ***Spring Family Day***  
April 13, 2024  
West Campus
- h. ***Celebration of Excellence***  
Friday, April 19, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium
- i. ***Midnight Breakfast***  
Monday, April 29, 2024  
9:45 p.m. - The MAX
- j. ***Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies:***  
Centennial Center
- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| College of Health Sciences       | Friday, May 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM   |
| College of Education             | Friday, May 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM   |
| College of Business & Technology | Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM |
| College of Arts & Sciences       | Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM |

## **PROVOST’S REPORT**

### **1. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**

#### **a. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- i. **Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Max Harleman**, and three of his students presented a well-received proposal to Milledgeville City Council on January 9, 2024, to encourage and cultivate public art within the city.
- ii. **Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Chika Unigwe**, was knighted into the Order of the Crown at the Consulate of Belgium in Atlanta. She was also a finalist for the Christoffel Plantin Prize, a prestigious award for Belgian nationals living abroad who contribute to the reputation of their nation.
- iii. **The Department of Art** will be welcoming on campus Professor Hannah Israel for her Leland Gallery show "Rowing Forward and Looking Back." Israel is Professor of Art and Gallery Director at Columbus State University. The show is on display from January 11 through February 7, 2024.
- iv. **The Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy** has established a new Industrial Chemistry concentration for chemistry majors. The goal is to promote workforce readiness and students' industrial career preparation, and it includes a strong partnership between the department and local industries.
- v. **The English Department** is welcoming American Poet and former US Poet Laureate, Billy Collins, for a lecture scheduled on March 4, 2024, in the A&S Auditorium from 6-8pm.

#### **b. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**

- i. **Artificial Intelligence Lab** The College of Business and Technology is establishing this semester a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab, spearheaded by Dr. Ward Risvold. The AI Lab will serve as an

interdisciplinary hub to advance AI education, research, and innovation with the following objectives:

1. **Educational Enhancement:** The lab will offer workshops, training sessions, and project support to help learners—especially those in business, MIS, computer science, and data science—develop technical competencies in AI and machine learning. The focus will be on generative AI technologies.
  2. **Research and Innovation:** The lab aims to become a center of excellence for AI research. Learners and faculty will be encouraged to pioneer new AI applications and techniques.
  3. **Collaboration and Growth:** By uniting expertise across domains, the lab will facilitate collaborative education. Learners in business will gain deeper insight into leveraging AI to enhance customer experiences and decision-making.
- ii. **The Halle Foundation** awarded \$96,000 to the COBT to support student travel to Germany.
- c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
- i. **Lounsbury Lecture** The next Lounsbury Lecture in the College of Education will take place on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Peabody Auditorium. The speaker is Dr. Peter Johnston, a Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York at Albany and member of the Reading Hall of Fame. Dr. Johnston has published over 80 scholarly articles and a dozen books. His research explores the relationships among classroom talk, engagement, and children’s social, emotional and literate development. This focus is reflected in his books, *Opening Minds: Using Language to Change Lives* and *Choice Words: How our language affects children's learning*.
  - ii. **Dr. Nicole DeClouette** is serving as the Interim Teacher Chair and Associate Dean.
  - iii. **Dr. Stacy Pettit** will be serving as the Chair of Teacher Education beginning July 1, 2024. Dr. Pettit is currently a faculty in Teacher Education at Augusta University.
  - iv. **Dr. Joanne Previts** has agreed to lead as Interim Dean of the COE beginning July 1, 2024. Dr. Previts has served the university in numerous roles and her research interests include Middle Grades Teacher Education, Inquiry-Oriented Approaches to Teaching and Learning, and Video Analysis.
- d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
- i. **Mobile Clinic** A Georgia foundation awarded \$100,000 to the COHS for the mobile clinic.
  - ii. **School of Nursing NCLEX Pass Rate** for calendar year 2023: 94.81% for first time test takers (135/128 pass). In 2022 GCSU had a 97/109 for 88.99% rate.
  - iii. **Simulation Center** The university is working on identifying space to support the growth of the Simulation Center currently operating at the local hospital.

- e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
  - i. **Affordable Learning Georgia** The Library is working with the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) to encourage applications for Round 25 of the Affordable Learning Georgia grant program.
    - 1. An Online Interest Meeting will take place on January 22 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (see Frontpage for additional information and the meeting link)
    - 2. Applicants must submit an intent to apply application to OGSP by February 16.
    - 3. Completed applications are due to OGSP by March 6.
    - 4. For more information, contact Shaundra Walker at [shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu](mailto:shaundra.walker@gcsu.edu) or 478-445-0987.
- 2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
  - a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
    - i. **Enrollment** As of January 12, 2024, Spring graduate student enrollment is 4% higher than this time in 2023. The Graduate School would like to thank faculty, graduate coordinators, chairs, and deans for their efforts to increase graduate enrollment.
    - ii. **Graduate Assistant Requests** The Graduate School received 41 Administrative Graduate Assistant Requests for AY 2024-25. The committee on Administrative Graduate Assistants will meet mid-January for review and decisions.
    - 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, was 7,539, from 122 countries as of 1/1/2024. Readership distribution is far-reaching, drawing readers from Australia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and the United Kingdom, and many more exciting places around the globe.
    - iv. **Graduate Research Travel Grants** The Graduate School is accepting applications for the spring cycle of Graduate Research Travel Grants. Georgia College graduate students are encouraged to apply for Graduate Research Travel Grants to support the registration costs associated with the presentation of their own original scholarship at in-person and virtual professional academic conferences. The application can be found on the Graduate Opportunities web page of The Graduate School website. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2024.
  - b. **HONORS COLLEGE**
    - i. **Legends of Honors** The Honors College will launch its co-curricular lunch/dinner seminar series this semester, with more than two dozen events for Honors students. All members of the campus community, as well as alumni and friends of the Honors College, are invited to attend three Legends of Honors sessions featuring Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak (January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.), Dr. Jenny Flaherty (March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.), and Dr. Jim Winchester (April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.). Please register via *GC Connect*. Many thanks to *all* the faculty and staff who are leading sessions this semester.

- ii. **Research Day 2024** The Honors College is partnering with MURACE to host Dr. Richard Newton, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama, as the keynote speaker for *Research Day 2024*’ kickoff event, which will be held on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Magnolia Ballroom. Announcements with registration links will be circulated later this semester.

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

- i. **Academic Outreach** will be organizing numerous GCSU Thirst for Knowledge events and science enrichment for all ages throughout the middle Georgia area. Please contact Ruth Eilers ([ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu](mailto:ruth.eilers@gcsu.edu)) for more information.
- ii. **Alumni Lifelong Learning Series** The School of Continuing & Professional Studies is collaborating with Alumni Relations to offer the GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series. Please contact Angela Criscoe ([angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu](mailto:angela.criscoe@gcsu.edu)) or Nadirah Mayweather ([nadirah.mayweather@gcsu.edu](mailto:nadirah.mayweather@gcsu.edu)) for more information.
- iii. **The High Achievers Program** is seeking to partner with the College of Business & Technology, the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Health Sciences to provide supplemental programs to high school youth during afterschool. If you are interested in partnering, please contact Program Coordinator Kenneth Daniels at (478) 445-8509.
- iv. **Historic Museums**
  - 1. **Andalusia** received a special projects award from the Georgia Association of Museums in the Category of Special Projects.
  - 2. **Historic Museums** is developing a promotional strategy to showcase the Mansion and Andalusia across the state.
  - 3. **Georgia’s Old Governor’s Mansion** had a successful “Christmas at the Mansion” season with 2,500 visitors participating in the tours and special programming.
- v. **Registration for Continuing & Professional Education Programs** such as Adult Ballroom Dancing, Declutter Your Life, and others will be available for registration soon. [Kids’ U Spring Break](#) is just around the corner as well.
- vi. **Wonders of Greece: Adventure Tour** is sponsored by the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Travel to Greece May 31 – June 8 and explore the architecture, food, and history. Visit the [website](#) for more details. [Registration is open](#) until February 1, 2024.
- vii. **The YES Program** is competing for funding to continue the GADOE Nita M. Lowery 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program for Lakeview Academy-Fy25 Cohort. The YES Programs at LVA and OHMS are partnering with the BCSD to implement the Baldwin Reads Literacy Academy Initiative. The focus of the Literacy Academy is to provide additional academic support in the areas of ELA to students in grades 3-6 who are struggling with reading.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

- a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**
  - i. **POUNCE** Fall 2024 first-year student registration (POUNCE) will begin on Thursday, February 1. Students who POUNCE early are typically the students who are most excited about attending GCSU, and class registration is one of the strongest indicators that they will matriculate in the Fall. Last year, the Academic Advising Center received registration requests from 640 students on the first day of POUNCE, and they were able to register 180 of those students the same day. Enrollment Management anticipates an equally exceptional start this year.
- b. **FINANCIAL AID**
  - i. **The Georgia College & State University Scholarship Application** for the 2024-2025 academic year is now available. The application is open to both current students enrolled for the Spring 2024 semester, as well as newly admitted students starting Fall 2024. The application can be accessed through Unify, and the deadline for submission is Monday, February 19, 2024.
- c. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**
  - i. **Leadership Scholars** The Office of Leadership is working with our Student Success Equity Initiative (SSEI) to launch the Leadership Scholars in Fall 2024.
  - ii. **Usery Forum** The Office of Leadership’s January Usery Forum will host Rachel Galloway, the British Consul General to the United States, on Monday January 22nd from 5:00-6:30. The Consul General will be accompanied by her head of Head of Public Affairs, Caitlin Dean, who will lead a workshop on the Marshall Scholarship.
- d. **MURACE**
  - i. ***Undergraduate Research Journal*** The next issue of *Undergraduate Research* was published in December. We received 50 submissions and featured 5 articles (10% acceptance rate): University of Calgary, Salve Regina University, Monmouth University, Cumberland University, University of Memphis.
  - ii. **Undergraduate Research Travel** The Office of Mentored Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors (MURACE) saw an increase participation in student undergraduate research travel, including at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC).
- e. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**
  - i. **Applications** Our recruitment efforts for the Fall 2024 first year class are underway, and our completed applications and deposits are up compared to last year. Our admittances are down. Additionally, our “High Ability” student category is up in both completed applications and deposits - \*High Ability criteria for Fall 2021, Fall 2023, and Fall 2024 applicants are those who meet either (1) at least a 3.5 GPA *and* 1270 redesigned SAT or 26 ACT, or (2) at least a 3.7 GPA regardless of test score (data from January 2, 2024).
  - ii. **Junior Day**, GCSU’s annual preview day for high school juniors, will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024.



- iii. **Springfest**, GCSU’s annual spring preview day for high school seniors who have applied and been admitted for the fall 2024 semester, will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024.
  - f. **OFFICE OF GRANTS & SPONSORED PROJECTS**
    - i. ***Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects Newsletter*** This Spring, the *Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects Newsletter* will highlight the work of the College of Health Sciences.
  - g. **OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
    - i. **The GC in DC Lunch and Learn** will be held on January 24, 2024, in Lanier Hall 140.
    - ii. **On Campus and Summer Jobs Fair** will be held on February 29, 2024, in Magnolia Ballroom from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
  - a. **ANDALUSIA INSTITUTE**
    - i. **Andalusia Institute Programming** for the Spring 2024 term includes:
      - 1. January 25: Letters written in 1958 and 1959, pp. 261-368 of *The Habit of Being*
      - 2. February 15: Letters written in 1960, pp. 368-425 in *The Habit of Being*
      - 3. March 21: Letters written in 1961 and 1962, pp. 425-503 in *The Habit of Being*
      - 4. April 25: Letters written in 1963 and 1964, pp. 503-96 in *The Habit of Being*
    - ii. **Interpretive Center** Phase II of Construction for Andalusia’s Interpretive Center will be completed in early February and visitors will enjoy the new Storytelling Court, a covered Front Porch, and additional site lighting and parking.
    - iii. **Jean M. and William C. Laidlaw Research Fellow** The Andalusia Institute is proud to announce their first Jean M. and William C. Laidlaw Research Fellow, Alex Taylor from the University of Dallas.
  - b. **CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
    - i. **Business Start-Up Incubator** The university is preparing to launch a GCSU Business Start-Up Incubator led by the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
  - c. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**
    - i. **Artificial Intelligence Champions** The Center for Teaching and Learning hosted the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Champions Day long workshop. There were 27 participants.
    - ii. **Liberal Arts Skills in Professional Programs** The Center for Teaching and Learning is working on a faculty development initiative titled “Liberal Arts Skills in Professional Programs.” The purpose of LASP is to support faculty in reflecting how they can integrate key liberal arts skills (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, problem solving) into their teaching practices.
  - d. **EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

- i. **Montessori Academy** Enrollment at The Montessori Academy includes 96 students (28 GC Faculty and Staff children, 22 BOE Staff children, 46 community children). This is a record high enrollment for the Montessori Academy. The Montessori Academy serves as a practicum and research site for the following GCSU students: 2 GC Music Therapy Students, 14 GC Nursing Students, 9 GC Psychology students (Empathy Study), 1 GC Pre-Education Student, and 5 GC Student Workers.
- e. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**
  - i. **Exchange and Short-Term Visitor Program** The International Education Center’s application to the State Department on behalf of GCSU for the recertification of the university’s Exchange and Short-Term Visitor (J-1) Program was successful and the university has been redesignated as an official government sponsor under the Fulbright-Hayes Act of 1961. The Act was created to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries and to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations.”
  - ii. **International Students** The International Education Center welcomed six new international students this semester representing Germany, South Korea (2), Spain, Taiwan, and Zimbabwe.
  - iii. **Study Abroad Applications** are up 47% from this time last year, with an anticipated final participation level also above last year.
- f. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
  - i. **Prime Time** In December, the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy hosted Prime Time. GPLS Children’s Librarians and Community Representatives attended the Prime-Time training at Georgia College & State University. This training supports GPLS implementation of an evidence-based, statewide family literacy program with national affiliates that creates a precondition for all future learning by empowering parents/guardians to help their children enjoy reading and improve their reading abilities.
  - ii. **Research Grant Initiative for Implementation Research to Improve Early Language and Literacy Outcomes** The Deal Center recently completed its fifth annual Research Grant Initiative for Implementation Research to Improve Early Language and Literacy Outcomes. Awards of up to \$50,000 were offered to fund implementation aimed at embedding evidence-based practices that foster early language and literacy. We received twelve applications and five of them were selected to receive funding as follows:
    - 1. Augusta University, Dr. Rebecca Harper, “Building Foundational Literacy Skills Through Collaborative and Family Partnerships”
    - 2. University of Georgia, Dr. Kevin Ayres, “Development of a Research Informed Classroom Tool for Evaluating Special Educators Implementation of Read Aloud”

3. University of Georgia, Dr. Erin Hamel, “The Talkative Teacher Project: Reducing Job-Related Stress to Improve Communication in Preschool Classrooms”
  4. University of Georgia, Dr. Kristin Sayeski, “Using a University-Practice Partnership as a Lever for the Training and Delivery of a Summer Early Literacy Intervention”
  5. Valdosta State University, Dr. Matthew Carter, “Using Pre-Service SLPs to Increase Access to Early-Reading Intervention”
- iii. **Strategic Planning** This month the Deal Center held a strategic planning retreat to create a revised vision and mission as well as a draft strategic plan aligning with the five pillars of *Imagine 2030* strategic plan. An official launch, in conjunction with the Annual Governor’s Summit, is scheduled for July 17-18, 2024.
  - iv. **Universal Reading Screeners** In response to HB538, the Georgia State Board of Education approved 16 universal reading screeners in July 2023. 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. In December, this review has been submitted as a manuscript to the *Georgia Journal of Literacy*.
- g. **THE WRITING CENTER**
    - i. **Tutoring and Workshops** experienced a 10.4% increase in students tutored in Fall 2023 vs Fall 2022 (902 in Fall 2023 vs 817 in Fall 2022). The Writing Center doubled the amount of workshops offered in Fall 2023 vs Fall 2022 (108 in Fall 2023 vs 54 in Fall 2022).
5. **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**
    - a. **ANDALUSIA TASK FORCE**
      - i. **Implementation of Recommendations** The Office of the Provost is working to implement the recommendations of the Andalusia Task Force. The Sustainability Task Force is nearing completion of its report.
    - b. **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE**
      - i. **Launch** The Office of the Provost will be launching an Artificial Intelligence Task Force to investigate the role of AI across the university. Dr. Pridmore, Professor of Computer Science and Chair of the Department of Information Systems & Computer Science, will be leading this effort.
    - c. **UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**
      - i. **College Goals** In December, the Deans presented short term/medium term/long term goals to the Academic Leadership Team in accordance with the five pillars of the GCSU Strategic plan. More information about these efforts will be forthcoming.
6. **CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**
    - a. **MOMENTUM SUMMIT VII** opens on January 19, 2024. The face-to-face session will take place on March 1, 2024, at Georgia Gwinnett College.
    - b. **REGENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RESEARCH** The first in-person University System of Georgia (USG) Regents Advisory Council on Research (RACR) meeting will be hosted at Georgia College & State University on January 26, 2024.

7. **ACCREDITATION**

- a. **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH** The College of Health Science has submitted paperwork to have the BS program in Public Health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).
- b. **THE SACSCOC** on-site visit is scheduled for February 26-29, 2024. Please be available on campus as we prepare for this visit.

8. **CURRICULUM**

- a. **AUDIO PRODUCTION CERTIFICATE** The Department of Communication is developing a new audio production certificate, which is a collaboration between the Departments of Communication and Music. This will make students more aware of changes happening in rapidly developing fields.
- b. **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY** The Geography program is revising the B.A. with multiple proposals to improve program recruitment and student retention outcomes.
- c. **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING TO DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE** The College of Health Sciences is finalizing a submission for the BSN to DNP program in the School of Nursing.
- d. **COREXPLORE** During the Spring semester we will be launching the CORExplore program. The purpose of this initiative is to provide students with additional academic opportunities to their program of study through the core.
- e. **DIGITAL HISTORY/HUMANITIES** The Department of History and Geography is developing a new curricular pathway in Digital History/Humanities with a foundational course and planned collaborations with the Library's Information Studies Minor.
- f. **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DOUBLE BOBCATS** The Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences has reconfigured the curriculum pathway for the Double Bobcats program for Environmental Sciences and has currently enrolled 11 students.
- g. **FRESHMAN BIOLOGY** In an effort to make introductory courses more accessible, the Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences will be creating new freshman biology course versions that have combined lecture and lab ("K" courses), which will better serve our majors by ensuring that students have the necessary co-requisites.
- h. **GC1Y/GC2Y** The College of Arts and Sciences will be submitting three new GCXY courses reflecting the different subject areas within the department: 1) GC2Y on Art History and Visual Cultural, 2) GC1Y on Studio Art Focus on Community art and outreach programming, and 3) GC1Y Museum Studies, Archives, and Community Building. These courses are expected to support the current offerings in 2024 and 2025.

9. **FACULTY**

- a. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES** Faculty searches in the College of Business and Technology continue for data science (lecturer) and business communications (assistant professor), as well as the Chair position for the Department of Management, Marketing, and Logistics.

10. **CALENDAR**

- a. **GCSU RESEARCH DAY 2024** will take place on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Please consider allowing this day as an alternative teaching day, there will be research activities happening throughout the day.
  - b. **NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION** The Spring 2024 new faculty orientation program welcomed 6 colleagues to GCSU.
  - c. **SPRING ORIENTATION** Spring 2024 Orientation (January 4) included 65 new first year and transfer students.
11. **SUMMER ORIENTATION** Summer Orientation dates for incoming freshman are June 4, 6, 11, 13 and July 23, 25.