

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
15 MARCH 2024 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. CAMPUS UPDATES

- a. **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** Mr. Lee Fruitticher shared last week his intentions to retire on June 1, 2024. We are working to identify an interim and plan to kick off a search early in the fall semester.
- b. **GENERAL COUNSEL** Our recent General Counsel search did not yield a candidate for us, but I would like to thank Professor Jehan El-Jourbagy for chairing this search along with committee members, Rhonda Fowler, Dr. Josie Doss, Dr. Indiren Pillay, Kadian Leslie and Susan Kerr. I am discussing next steps with my Executive Cabinet.
- c. **TITLE IX COORDINATOR** The search committee for this position, led by Dr. Dan Nadler, has narrowed the field of applicants to the candidates who will be invited for campus interviews, hopefully before the end of March.
- d. **MODIFIED SUMMER SCHEDULE REMINDER** The campus-wide modified summer schedule will begin on Monday, May 6, and will conclude on Friday, August 9, 2024.

2. STATE BUDGET UPDATE

- a. The Board of Regents met yesterday afternoon to vote on allocations of the funds that were included in the Amended FY24 budget for the USG. That included the restoration of the \$66 million that was cut from the budget in last year’s legislative session, and a new bucket of \$80 million for extra MRR funds for the USG institutions.
- b. We were pleased that in the final negotiations of the Amended budget, the House and Senate each put in \$5.5 million for our renovation of Herty Hall – a total of \$11 million. So this money is now “in the bank,” as a matter of speaking, and has been allocated for our project. We still need the other 1/3 – a final \$5.5 million, which the Governor originally proposed in the FY25 budget. That has been included by the House in its version of the FY25 budget which is now awaiting action in the Senate.
- c. When \$66 million was cut from the USG’s budget in last year’s legislative session, GCSU’s portion of the cut was approximately \$750,000. In yesterday’s meeting, we got back \$624,450 of that. However, this is “one-time” money to be expended in this fiscal year; it is our hope that the General Assembly will also restore this to the budget permanently in the FY25 budget.
- d. We received \$2.3 million in new MRR money for much-needed repair and maintenance projects, including \$800,000 that will be used for exterior repairs to Herty Hall, another \$800,000 to replace the roof of the Arts & Sciences building, \$350,000 to replace windows in Porter Hall, \$160,000 for roofing and exterior repairs to the Health Sciences Building, and \$190,000 to rebuild the central plant cooling tower.
- e. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on March 28, so we should have a final resolution on these pending issues at that time.

3. ENROLLMENT HURDLES

- a. Dr. Spirou will update you on our enrollment prospects for Fall 2024, but as we look to the next year and beyond, we are expecting the Chancellor to make a permanent recommendation to the Board of Regents at their April meeting on whether we will have to require SAT/ACT scores in admissions going forward.
4. **PROMOTION AND TENURE** The Provost has shared with me the files for 21 Promotion and Tenure candidates. Twelve of you are going up for tenure, and as in years past, I would like to meet with each of you as this is such an important stage in the career of a faculty member and in the life of the university. My office will be reaching out to schedule these meetings as soon as possible. I am looking forward to these conversations!
5. **COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS** We have selected a strong array of speakers for our spring Commencement ceremonies, including two alumni
 - a. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION** Dr. Kathleen Truitt, Education Specialist '10, Superintendent of Lee County, Georgia, Schools
 - b. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES** Ms. Anresa Davis, Nurse, GCSU '75, College of Health Sciences Leadership Board and GCSU Foundation Board
 - c. **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES** and **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY** Dr. Lisa D. Cook, the first African-American woman appointed as a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board; she is a Milledgeville native, daughter of the late Peyton Cook and Mary Cook (first Black tenured faculty member here). Dr. Cook was formerly a faculty member at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She earned her BA in Philosophy at Spelman, and as a Marshall Scholar, she earned a second BA in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University. She earned a PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

6.



- a. ***GCSU Research Day***
Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Magnolia Ballroom
- b. ***Integrated Science Complex Naming Ceremony (Dr. Ken Saladin)***
Friday, April 12, 2024
3:00 p.m. – Integrated Science Complex
- c. ***Spring Family Day***
Saturday, April 13, 2024
West Campus
- d. ***Celebration of Excellence***
Friday, April 19, 2024
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium
- e. ***Book Talk: Author Michael Thurmond, Dekalb Co. CEO & former Ga. Labor Commissioner***

James Oglethorpe, Father of Georgia: A Founder's Journey from Slave Trader to Abolitionist

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
4:00 p.m. – A&S Auditorium

f. Midnight Breakfast

Monday, April 29, 2024
9:45 p.m. - The MAX

g. 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. Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

1. Georgia Academy of Sciences Meeting At the 101st Georgia Academy of Sciences meeting, 35 BIOL & ENSC students were involved as author/coauthor with 11 different faculty mentors. Once again, our students were recognized for their work. For Earth Sciences, students Tori Morgan & Shannon Northen won research awards. For Biomedical Sciences, Elizabeth Seidita won a research award. For Biological Sciences, Sally Sir won a research award. Other department research students presented 45 research posters or oral student presentations at numerous regional conferences this semester. Our students swept the awards at the Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting with Amber Stubbs winning Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation Award, Ashley McMahan winning Best Graduate Poster Presentation Award, and Elizabeth Noble and Ashley McMahan winning the student travel award. Congratulations to our students!

2. Professor Sam Mutiti was featured in a documentary: *Zambia: Clean Up Toxic Lead Waste at Mine Site | Human Rights Watch* (hrw.org) and Assistant Professor Kris White was invited to Guam to participate in a biodiversity survey and to present at the associated Mini symposium.

ii. Department of Communication faculty members have recently published in the *Journal of Ethnography* and the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* and there have been mentoring students for conferences presentations in Las Vegas and Orlando. In Fall 2024, the department will introduce an Audio Production Certificate in collaboration with the Music Department, enriching its offerings with practical skills training.

- iii. **Department of English** The department recently hosted Billy Collins, former U.S. Poet Laureate under President Obama. Collins visited campus and met with students and faculty before giving a reading from his works.
 - iv. **Department of Government and Sociology** The Mock Trial Team performed well under Professor Lamparello's guidance at the recent regional competition by defeating the College of Charleston, Duke University, and the University of Alabama.
 - v. **Department of History and Geography** The is working strategically to expand GIS internship opportunities for students while integrating community-based engaged activities. Recent internships include work for Baldwin County Government, the Lockerly Arboretum Tree Conservation Mapping program, and the Oconee River Greenway Foundation.
 - vi. **Department of Music** The department celebrates notable achievements of faculty Andrew Allen, Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, and Tina Holmes-Davis who have been honored for Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors, and University Service respectively, on behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences. The department also welcomed Evren Kutlay as the COAS Spring 2024 Visiting Newell Scholar, focusing on Ottoman-European and Ottoman-American musical interactions. In April, Kutlay will present lecture-recitals and lectures (April 4 & April 12).
 - vii. **Department of Psychology** undergraduate research achievements will be showcased at the 70th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, which will be held in Orlando, Florida, from March 13th to 16th, 2024. The conference will feature the work of 60 students who actively participate in various undergraduate research projects, seven research poster sessions featuring 23 titles, two paper sessions, and two panel discussions. Students are guided and supported by 12 faculty who serve as mentors or presenters.
 - viii. **Department of Theatre and Dance**
 - 1. **Student Mary Morgan Collier** was awarded the prestigious regional KCACTF award for dramaturgy, demonstrating the department's success in fostering exceptional talent; she now advances to compete with seven other students nationally at the Kennedy Center.
 - 2. **Amelia Pelton** The Department of Theatre and Dance bids farewell to Amelia Pelton, Director of Dance, who will retire after 29 years of distinguished service. Her retirement reception is being held on April 14th from 12-2 pm in Magnolia Ballroom, recognizing her contributions to the department.
 - ix. **Department of World Language and Cultures** The department welcomed to campus the Provost's spring Visiting Scholar, Dr. Laurenz Volkmann who is Professor of Teaching English as a Foreign Language and Chair of the Institute of English and American Studies at the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany. He provided two public lectures to the campus.
- b. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

- i. Following approval for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice by the University System of Georgia, the College of Health Sciences expects 25-30 students to begin the program in the summer.
 - c. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
 - i. **Historical Letter Press Lab** The University Library will host an open house for our Historical Letter Press Lab on April 10, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to experience the press and there will be takeaway items.
 - ii. **Unsilenced Voices: An Oral History Project of Central State Hospital** A new exhibit, Unsilenced Voices: An Oral History Project of Central State Hospital, is now available on the 2nd floor of the University Library, near Special Collections.
- 2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**
 - a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**
 - i. **Graduate Admissions Information Session** In collaboration with the Career Center, The Graduate School will host a Graduate Admissions Information Session in the Career Center on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.
 - ii. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** is March 25 – 29, 2024.
 - iii. **Graduate Research Travel Grants Committee** anticipate making award decisions that support graduate research at GCSU.
 - iv. **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award Committee** recognized six graduate students with awards for the 2023-2024 academic year. The student recipients are biology, health and human performance, music therapy, and nursing majors.
 - v. **Research Day 2024** includes 44 graduate students.
 - vi. **Spring Reception** The Graduate School's 6th Annual Spring Reception is Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Old Governor's Mansion in the Museum Education Building.
 - b. **HONORS COLLEGE**
 - i. **Critical Language Scholarship Program** The Honors College is pleased to announce that Ama Kpoyizoun (Sophomore, Nursing) and Matthew Malena (Freshman, Management) were both selected to participate in the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS Spark) program, making them the first GCSU students selected to participate in any CLS program. CLS Spark is a virtual initiative for U.S. undergraduate students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world. Designed to leverage best practices in online language learning developed by the CLS Program during the pandemic, CLS Spark provides American students the opportunity to study critical languages virtually when they may not have access to studying these languages on their campuses. Participants will spend the summer learning either Arabic, Chinese or Russian through online classes and activities facilitated by native speakers at a host institution abroad. Ama and Matthew were both admitted into the CLS Spark Programs in Chinese.

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

- i. **Academic Outreach** Registration is now open for Kids' U and Specialty camps for kids' 3rd grade and up. Kids' U is offering an early bird registration until May 15. Academic Outreach is also offering *Science Camp: The Science of Food and Creature Camp, Creatures of the Deep*. [Please check out the new summer camp catalog online](#).
- ii. **Afterschool Achievement** To support the *Imagine 2030 Strategic Plan*, Afterschool Achievement is seeking to partner with the College of Business and Technology, the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Health Sciences to support GCSU service-learning students and to provide supplemental programs to youth during afterschool times 3:30-6:30 pm. If you are interested in partnering, please contact Sequena Stanton, Director of Afterschool Achievement at 478-445-5613.
- iii. **The GCSU Alumni Lifelong Learning Series** is a collaboration between the Office of Alumni Relations and the School of Continuing & Professional Studies. The goal is to share the talent and knowledge of our alumni and encourage lifelong learning in an ever-changing world. [Register](#) for our next FREE GCSU ALLS virtual lunch and learn event, Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities that Come with Career Changes with Adam Hammond, Class of 2008. The event is scheduled for April 17th at 12 p.m. via Zoom.
- iv. **Historic Museums** is encouraging the university community to join several events scheduled for Flannery's 99th birthday celebration at Andalusia. Specifically,
 1. Thursday, March 21 6:00 p.m. Performance by Colin Cutler at Andalusia Storytelling court
 2. Saturday, March 23 Flannery O'Connor's 99th Birthday celebration! Birthday Cake & Singing Free Tours Andalusia
 3. Opening of new exhibition in the Andalusia Interpretive Center: Flannery O'Connor's miniature collection
 4. Monday, March 25 Virtual Event Time – TBD Louis Cline and members of O'Connor family
- v. **Summer Precollegiate Workforce Readiness Grant** The School of Continuing & Professional Studies was awarded a grant for \$21,500 from the University System of Georgia for the development and implementation of a summer precollegiate workforce readiness program for youth experiencing foster care in Georgia. The program is led by Angela Criscoe, Executive Director, School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and will be developed and implemented through the expertise of Program Coordinator in Communities in Schools, Courtney Bentley, Director of CTAE and Assistant Principal, Natalie Stowe, and GCSU Employee Relations Specialist, Kayla Brownlow. Seventeen other institutions are participating in this initiative and [registration](#) for these programs are open.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

- a. **FINANCIAL AID**
 - i. The GCSU Financial Aid Office has initiated the institutional scholarship selection process for the upcoming school year. The scholarship application that students complete had a deadline of February 19, 2024. The Scholarship Committee members are currently reviewing student applicants who have been matched to the minimum scholarship requirements. Scholarship recipient selections must be completed by March 31, 2024, so that the GCSU Financial Aid team can notify the awardees for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.
- b. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**
 - i. **Leadership Certificate Program** The Office of Leadership has over 70 students enrolled in their Leadership certificate program—an all-time high.
- c. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**
 - i. **Admitted Student Receptions (ASR)** will begin taking place at the end of March and continue through April. ASRs will take place in Savannah, Kennesaw, Lawrenceville, Macon, and Milledgeville. Students will have an opportunity to mix and mingle with staff from various departments, ask questions, and overall celebrate their admission to GCSU.
 - ii. **Cat Crew Volunteers** for Fall 2024
 - 1. 250 Volunteers Needed -- Wednesday, August 14 from 8 am to Noon.
 - 2. 400+ Volunteers Needed -- Thursday, August 15 from 7:30 am to Noon.
 - iii. **Freshman Applications** As of March 11, 2024, Freshman Applications are up by 6% compared to last year at this time. We are down 4% and down 10% in admits.
 - iv. **The GCSU Sophomore Explore Day** will take place on April 17th.
 - v. **Junior Day** is taking place on April 6, 2024, and will provide an opportunity for high school students to learn about the admissions process, meet with various departments and faculty members, and explore GCSU's campus.
 - vi. **Multicultural Student Leadership Conference** Over 150 high school sophomores have been nominated for our annual summer Multicultural Student Leadership Conference.
 - vii. **ThunderBOLTs (Bobcat Orientation Leadership Team)** have been participating in various trainings to prepare for this summer's orientations. Returning ThunderBOLTs recently attend the annual Southern Region Orientation Workshop (SROW), which is put on through NODA. These students learned vital skills needed to support our incoming class, educate, and prepare their fellow ThunderBOLTs, and gained a deeper appreciation of the important role orientation plays in the overall success of incoming students.
 - viii. **Transfer Applications** Fall 2024 Transfer Student Applications are up by 22% compared to last year at this time.
- d. **OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT**

- b. OGSP will route the proposal for necessary approvals from department chairs, deans, and other institutional officials.

4. Submission (3 week to 1 day before deadline)

- a. OGSP will complete all forms and documentation required by the sponsor.
 - i. Ensure that the proposal meets all federal, state, and university compliance requirements as well as the solicitation guidelines.
 - ii. Submit the proposal electronically through the designated submission portal or sponsor website to meet the sponsor deadline.
 - iii. Verify that all components of the proposal, including attachments and supplementary materials, are included and formatted correctly.
 - iv. Confirm submission receipt and follow up with the sponsor if necessary.
 - v. Maintain a copy of the submitted proposal.

5. Post-Submission (after submission)

- a. PI, project team, and OGSP will await notification of the proposal status from the sponsor.
- b. OGSP will respond promptly to any requests for additional information or clarifications.
- c. If awarded, OGSP will begin preparations for project implementation, including a PI award meeting for all new awards.
- d. PI and project team will begin hiring personnel, purchasing equipment, and establishing project protocols.
- e. If not awarded, PI and project team will seek feedback from the sponsor and/or internal reviewers to improve future proposals.
- f. If not awarded, PI and project team will consider resubmitting the proposal to sponsor or other funding opportunities, if appropriate.

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

- i. ***GCSU Fact Book*** This is the tenth year of the publication of the *GCSU Fact Book*. If you wish to receive a copy, please email Chris Ferland at chris.ferland@gcsu.edu.
- ii. **Reports** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness is working on various external requests and surveys such as IPEDs, National Science Foundation's 2023 Survey of Graduate Students in Science and Engineering (GSS), Princeton Review, and College Board Big Futures.
- iii. **Website** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness recently revamped the website to improve its use. Please visit it at <http://irut.gcsu.edu>.

g. **OFFICE OF THE PROVOST & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

- i. **Study Abroad** The International Education Center is working on Study Abroad programs for Summer 2024. Currently, 216 accepted students (Up 40% from this time last year), 20 nations. Students are also pursuing 8 internships; an all-time high.
 - ii. **Michael Ncube**, a GCSU State Department international student from 2019, has been named a Nelson Mandela Scholar by the Nelson Mandela Foundation in South Africa. The award includes a generous scholarship for graduate studies, plus leadership training. Michael has written the IEC that, “as the first Georgia College alumnus” to win the recognition, “it is indeed a proud moment to remember all the steps I took in Milledgeville that have led to this.” He continued that he is “really grateful to Georgia College ... for building the foundations of the young leader that I have turned out to be.” “Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat,” Michael wrote, and he hopes to later pursue a doctorate at Harvard or Oxford.
- d. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**
- i. **2nd Rural Changemakers Lecture** The Rural Studies Institute will host its 2nd Rural Changemakers lecture with David Montgomery and Anne Biklé on April 16th virtually at 2:30 EST. There will be a Meet and Greet event with the speakers prior on April 16th at 1:30 EST. Copies of their book, *What Your Food Ate*, are also available.
- e. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
- i. **Harrisburg Tale Trail** The Deal Center team is collaborating with the Office of Community Engagement and Service to install the Harrisburg Tale Trail. The trail will include a series of twelve permanent signs on the Harrisburg community walking trail to be installed on Friday, March 29th. The established signs will initially house enlarged pages of locally authored *Grayson’s Playdate*. Invitations and press release for the ribbon cutting are forthcoming. Ribbon cutting will be on April 2nd at 5:30p.m.
 - ii. **Review Article** In response to HB 538, 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. This review was submitted to the *Georgia Journal of Literacy* and was accepted for publication in February.
 - iii. **School District Inventory** The Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy completed a school district inventory to evaluate Georgia’s readiness for HB 538 requirements and to provide guidance to legislators regarding allocation of resources. The survey was distributed by DOE and sent directly to district superintendents. The survey opened on January 31 and closed on March 1, 2024. A preliminary 35-page report of survey responses from 113 districts was distributed to stakeholders on March 8, 2024. Raw data is available upon request and has been shared with interested parties.

5. **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES**

a. **QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

- i. **Faculty Research Small Grant** Congratulations to the recipients of the Faculty Research Small Grant program (Round II=\$37,373). The program is funded by the Office of the Provost:
 1. Tsu-Ming Chiang, Psychological Science, *Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 on Young Children's Social-Emotional Development to Build Tools for Emotional Coaching*, \$2,786.10
 2. Dominic DeSantis, Biological and Environmental Sciences, *Effects of roadways on seasonal movement strategies and mate location success in an imperiled pit viper (Crotalus horridus)*, \$4,970.
 3. Susmita Sadhu, Mathematics, *Early warning signals of tipping in multispecies ecological models*, \$5,000.
 4. Ashley Taylor, Psychological Science, *Enhancing Social-Emotional Learning in Rural Classrooms: A Teacher-Centered Needs Analysis*, \$5,000.
 5. Amy Johnson, Government & Sociology, *Appalachian Anthropocene: Wayfinding with Women in Northwest Georgia*, \$4,915.
 6. Jamie Downing, Communication, *Mapping and Making Sense of Munich's Dispersed WWII Monuments*, \$2,222.
 7. Katie Simon, English, *Driving While Black: Mobility, Travel, and Violence in Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find,"* \$3,150.
 8. Kystal Canady and Joyce Norris-Taylor, Nursing, *Primary Prevention of Incivility in Nursing Students*, \$580.
 9. Matthew Forrest, Art, *Dyslexia resource support K-12*, \$4,750.
 10. Kevin Hunt, Health and Human Performance, *Virtual Service-Learning Study Abroad: Medical Electives Belize*, \$4,000.

- c. **STUDENT UNIVERSITY-RELATED EXCUSED ABSENCE FORM** If students are participating in a university sponsored event (i.e. class trip, athletics, RSO activity), the faculty mentor or instructor can fill out a [Student University-Related Excused Absence](#) form for the group. The form *requests* that each student's professors excuse them from class, with the understanding that the work will be made up. Absences should be kept to a minimum. Absences requested for RSO activities require additional approval by Student Life, who will ensure each student is in good academic standing before approving.

10. **CALENDAR**

- a. **CONVOCAION** Please reserve the afternoon of August 23, 2024, to welcome the Class of 2028 during Convocation. The program will begin with a College Open House (2:30-3:15pm); Convocation (4:00-5:00pm); and Faculty and New Student Picnic (5:00-7:00pm). *GC Reads* will be held on August 16, 2024 (1:00-4:00pm). The First Year Convocation Organizing Committee will be meeting in the next few months as we focus on welcoming and supporting the onboarding of our new students.
- b. **GCSU RESEARCH DAY 2024** will take place on March 27th. Please consider this event to serve as an alternative teaching day since there will be research activities

happening throughout our campus. This year's Research Day looks to have more student participation than last year.

- c. **SUMMER ORIENTATION** for first year students who will be joining the Bobcat nation opened on March 2nd. There are currently over 200 students already registered across the six summer orientations. Freshman orientation dates are June 4, 6, 11, 13 and July 23 and 25.