

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST SPIROU
26 APRIL 2024 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. **FACULTY PROMOTION & TENURE** Twenty GCSU faculty members recently received promotions with 11 also earning tenure. Congratulations to each of you for your service and dedication to our students and to Georgia College!
 - a. **College of Arts & Sciences**
 - i. Simplice Tchamna-Kouna–Promotion to Full Professor
 - ii. Kasey Karen–Promotion to Full Professor
 - iii. David Weese–Promotion to Full Professor
 - iv. Stephanie Opperman–Promotion to Full Professor
 - v. Ashleigh Ikemoto–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - vi. Stephanie Jett–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - vii. Matthew Milnes–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - viii. Laurie Peebles–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - ix. Kristine White–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - x. Eric Rindal–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - b. **College of Business & Technology**
 - i. Brooke Conaway–Promotion to Full Professor
 - ii. Joy Godin–Promotion to Full Professor
 - iii. Brent Evans–Promotion to Full Professor
 - iv. Sina Amiri–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - v. Scott Cox–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - vi. Nicholas Creel–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - vii. Dean Copelan–Promotion to Senior Lecturer
 - c. **College of Health Sciences**
 - i. Catherine Fowler–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - ii. Damian Francis–Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor
 - d. **Ina Dillard Russell Library**
 - i. Shaundra Walker–Promotion to Full Professor
2. **USG UPDATES** The Board of Regents met earlier this month and approved several items of particular interest to our campus
 - a. Approved a 2 ½% tuition increase for all USG institutions – only the third time in the past nine years that tuition has been increased.
 - b. Changed the mandatory fee policy so that online students will be assessed a new “online learning fee” equivalent to 50% of fees that traditional residential students pay plus the full technology fee.
 - c. Approved the allocations for FY25, which will include a 4% COLA to all fulltime state-funded employees up to a maximum of \$3,000, effective July 1. The allocation also includes a return of the \$66 million that the Legislature cut from the USG’s budget last year; for GCSU, this is a return of approximately \$750,000 to our budget.
 - d. (From a budgetary standpoint, while the tuition increase will generate new revenue for us, as will the return of the \$750,000, our budget for the new fiscal year includes a cut of more than \$2.8 million – based on what we were going

through two years ago, with the 2-year look-back nature of the funding formula. The good news is that this should be the last year we have to face a cut under the funding formula because our improvements to enrollment and retention over the past two years since the pandemic will have caught up with the formula, so to speak. So there is light at the end of this bleak tunnel, at least in the not-too-distant future!)

- e. All of the necessary construction funding was provided in the new state budget for us to go forward with the renovation for Herty Hall -- \$16.5 million. Please thank Rep. Ken Vance, Rep. Mack Jackson, and Sen. Rick Williams when you see them – they really helped us get this through the budget process!
- f. The Chancellor recommended and the Regents approved a continuation of the standardized testing requirement for admissions to Georgia College, UGA and Georgia Tech for the coming year, with a waiver of this requirement to the other 23 USG institutions.
- g. The Regents approved the awarding of an honorary degree to our Commencement speaker, Dr. Lisa Cook.

3. **CAMPUS UPDATES**

- a. **AVP & Chief Communications Officer/University Communications** – Mr. Joel Robinson, Senior Associate Vice President, has agreed to chair this search. The search committee is composed of the following individuals.
 - i. Joel Robinson, Chair
 - ii. Michelle Aquino, Advancement/Director of Annual Giving
 - iii. Dr. Nathan Bedsole, Assistant Professor of Communications & Director of Forensics
 - iv. Lauren Easom, Executive Director of Student Success and Career Development
 - v. Wes Hardin, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police
 - vi. Brooks Hinton, Senior Manager, Creative Services
 - vii. Mary Beth Pennington, Administrative Manager, Office of the President
 - viii. Sarah Whatley, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life
- b. The search will kick off soon, and I greatly appreciate your support as we work to hire the next Chief Communications Officer for the university.

4. **SAVE THE DATES**

- a. ***Midnight Breakfast***
The MAX
Monday, April 29, 2024
9:45 p.m.
- b. ***Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies***
Centennial Center

College of Health Sciences	Friday, May 3, 2024 at 2:00 PM
Speaker: Ms. Anresa Davis, '75, Registered Nurse (Retired)	
College of Education	Friday, May 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Speaker: Dr. Kathleen Truitt, '10, Superintendent, Lee County Schools	
College of Business & Technology	Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 9:00 AM
Speaker: Hon. Lisa D. Cook, Governor, Federal Reserve System	
College of Arts and Sciences	Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Speaker: Hon. Lisa D. Cook, Governor, Federal Reserve System

c. ***Modified Summer Schedule***

May 6, 2024 – August 9, 2024

Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Friday – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**

a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- i. **Faculty Awards** Dr. Jennifer Flory was recently awarded the 2024 Bobcat Award for Outstanding Service to GCSU Students. In COAS, Dr. Andrew Allen was recognized by the COAS for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak was recognized by the COAS for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Endeavors. And Dr. Tina Holmes-Davis was recognized by COAS for Excellence in University Service. Dr. Gorzelany-Mostak and Dr. Holmes-Davis were given the same awards at the university level Celebration of Excellence.
- ii. **Student Award** The President's Purchase Award (PPA) was awarded to Genesis Williams, Art Department this spring. She will be returning to GCSU for her (MMIS) master's in management of information systems in Fall 2024.
- iii. **The Department of Music** received notification on April 19 that American Music Therapy Association has granted approval of the Bachelor of Music, Post-Bachelor Equivalency, and the Master of Music Therapy degree programs at GCSU as of April 19, 2024.
- iv. **The Department of Philosophy, Religion & Liberal Studies** hosted a guest lecture by Robert Bernasconi titled "Philosophy's Failure in the Face of Slavery" in April. Dr. Bernasconi is the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Philosophy and African American Studies at Penn State University. He is a founding co-editor of the journal *Critical Philosophy of Race* and is the author of over 50 articles in that area.
- v. **Department of World Languages and Cultures** Students in two of the World Languages and Cultures Department courses (GC1Y on Don Quixote and an upper-level French In Search of Lost Women) were recipients of two of this year's four awards for exceptional scholarship in Digital Humanities presented at *Research Day*. Students of French and Spanish in our Bilingual Storytime course read bilingual stories and led language-learning activities Midway Hills Academy and at the Mary Vinson Library. Two sections of Spanish 3010 hosted "Spanish Day" for students at Early College, full of games and activities and culminating with lunch at the Max.

b. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY**

- i. **Atkinson Honors** The CoBT hosted the annual Atkinson Honors on Thursday, April 25. In addition to recognizing the exemplary accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students, the college will celebrate Mike Madison as the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductee. This accolade is

bestowed upon alumni and friends of the College who have distinguished themselves within their profession, have been actively involved with GCSU, and have had a sustained and positive impact on the local community as well as our region, state and beyond. Mike is currently the Senior Director of Product for Westhill. He was previously the Product Manager for Acoustic and has also worked in several other capacities including: Senior Manager, Customer Success- Aha!, Senior Director/Head of Product-dESCO-FieldEdge, and SAI Global Ethics and Learning. Mr. Madison earned a BBA in Management Information Systems in 2006, an MBA in 2007, and completed his Master of Management Information Systems in 2015, all from Georgia College & State University. During his time as a Bobcat, he was highly involved in campus life and was named the Outstanding Student of the Year for the J. Whitney Bunting College of Business and Technology (2006) as well as the Outstanding Departmental Major, MIS (2006).

- ii. **Global Scaling Competition** Under the leadership of the co-directors of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Profs. Nicholas Creel and Caroline Collier, CoBT students participated in the Global Scaling Competition, hosted by the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management. The team, including Trey McCallum, Grant Jones, Joe Dubsky, and Grayson Stoudenmire, received the "Gold Medal" for the Americas and will compete in the global challenge next month. These four students came out on top thanks to their exceptional presentation skills, innovative ideas, and extraordinary ability to think on their feet during the Q&A portion of the event.
- iii. **Student Commencement Speaker** The 2024 CoBT student commencement speaker will be Gavin Inrocci. Out of ten nominees from faculty and chairs, Gavin stood out as a student who models the way as an entrepreneur with an unmatched spirit of resilience, risk-taking, and purpose-driven actions that we espouse here in the CoBT. With five publications in major media outlets, including *Newsweek*, and a peer-review publication in the *Journal of International Banking Law and Regulation*, Gavin has taken advantage of the tremendous opportunity to learn beyond the classroom here at GCSU. Additionally, he has started no less than 14 companies during his time here, the two-time winner of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship's Venture Capital Challenge and is now a licensed defense contractor.
- iv. **University-Employer Partnership** The CoBT is establishing a University-Employer Partnership with Fouts Bros. Inc. that includes a faculty externship, talent pipeline development, graduate program recruitment, HIPs, and philanthropic activity). In addition, the college is in the process of revising the MOU with Robins AFB to specify parameters that will be for STEM and non-STEM areas.

c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

- i. **Awards/Sendoff Celebrations** The College of Education faculty/student activities include the Special Education Awards/Sendoff Celebration,

April 23rd; Elementary Education Awards/Sendoff April 30th at 2:00 p.m.; Middle Grades Awards/Sendoff May 3rd at 3:00 p.m.; COE-Wide Sendoff April 30th at 4:00 p.m.

d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

- i. **Council on Education for Public Health** The School of Health and Human Performance is moving forward with a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) self-study to have the GCSU BS degree nationally accredited after approval was received from CEPH this month.
- ii. **Mobile Clinic** COHS is making substantial progress in their efforts to secure a mobile clinic with the help of a local donor who is in the truck manufacturing business.
- iii. **The School of Nursing** reports a 98% NCLEX first quarter pass rate for undergraduate nursing students taking the test.

e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

- i. **Art Display** A display of work by students in Dr. Sandra Trujillo's ARTS 2510 Ceramics I course is on display on the second floor of the University Library.
- ii. **Finals Week Hours** The University Library will offer extended hours during Finals Week. All floors of the library will be open until 2 a.m.; the first floor will be open 24 hours per day.
- iii. **Therapy Dogs** will be at the library next Monday and Tuesday, April 29-30, 2024.
- iv. **Dr. Shaundra Walker**, Georgia College's Library Director, was recently elected as Vice-Chair/Chair-elect of the Regents Committee on Academic Libraries for the 2024-2025 year.

2. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**

a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

- i. **Double Bobcat Pathway** Twenty-five Double Bobcat Pathway students will graduate in Spring and Summer 2024. Increased Double Bobcats pathway options from 3 available pathways to 10 pathways across all four colleges. The number of students enrolled in Double Bobcat pathway courses in Spring 2024 is 65.
- ii. **Graduate Admissions Applications** The Graduate Admissions office transitioned to SLATE CRM for graduate application processing. The new CRM provides a variety of functionalities and enhances the efficiency of graduate application processing.
- iii. **Graduate Admissions Coordinator** The Graduate Admissions office has hired a new Graduate Admissions Coordinator. The new coordinator will assume the role starting May 1, 2024. The Graduate Admissions office is currently offering an application fee waiver APPLY4FREE for all new graduate school applicants from April 22 through April 28, 2024.
- iv. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** The Graduate School celebrated Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week held from March 25-29, 2024. Events during the special week included complimentary professional headshots, Research Day 2024, Resume and CV Review sessions facilitated by the Career Center, a Graduate

Admissions Information Session in collaboration with the Career Center, a graduate studies giveaway, and The Graduate School's Sixth Annual Spring Reception.

- v. **Graduate Research Showcase** As of April 1, 2024, the Graduate Research Showcase in the Knowledge Box had 9,033 downloads from 129 countries, since inception, spring 2021. Downloads by region included countries such as Australia, Canada, China, Germany, India, the Philippines, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Downloads originated from four sectors, education (71%), commercial (18%), organizations (5%), and government (4%).

b. **HONORS COLLEGE**

- i. **Academic Recognition Day** Vivian Cassaniti, '23, has been recognized at GCSU's Academic Recognition Day representative. She participated in a luncheon with Chancellor Sonny Perdue and fellow ARD representatives and university executives from across the USG.
- ii. **Awards & Graduation Banquet** The Honors College hosted its annual Awards & Graduation Banquet on April 18. Dr. Jennifer Graham delivered the keynote address. The college recognized alumni award recipients, endowed scholarship recipients, and Eta Sigma Alpha award winners. The latter included Dr. Scott Butler and Dr. Scott Buchanan, who were recognized for longstanding contributions to the Honors community.
- iii. **Southern Regional Honors Conference** Fourteen Honors students presented research at the Southern Regional Honors Conference, held in Jacksonville, FL, from April 4 to April 6. History & Sociology double major Chloe Melton was elected Student Vice President of SRHC. [For highlights, please check out our slideshow.](#)
- iv. **Truman Scholar** Axel Hawkins, Junior History major, was named Georgia's Truman Scholar for 2024. Axel is our second student to win this award, with Colin Hall names Georgia's Truman Scholar in 2023.

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

- i. **Academic Outreach** opened registration for summer camps: [Creature Camp-Creatures of the Deep!](#) and [Science Camp](#).
- ii. **Afterschool Achievement** The High Achievers Program will submit a continuation for FY25 to continue services for participants grades 9-12 (~\$185K) for up to 2 years.
- iii. **Communities in Schools** was awarded funding from the USG to offer a program that is designed to increase equity in postsecondary education attainment for students who have experienced foster care. CIS will provide students the opportunity to explore career and academic pathways as well as develop personal leadership skills.
- iv. **Historic Museums** In partnership with ARTGlass, Historic Museums is launching an AR Augmented Reality Tour of Andalusia's grounds and buildings. This program will be open to the public on May 1.
- v. **Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion Museum** will host on May 18 a Day of Play, a day of historic games, programs, and school aged, focused tours for children on this date. Pre-registration will be required.

- vi. **Kids U** Continuing and Professional Education has opened registration for their many summer camp options for children of all ages! Kids U, athletic camps, creature camp, making music camp, and theatre camp. Book now for early bird Kids U pricing <https://cpe.gcsu.edu/camp/category/category.aspx>.
- vii. **WRGC 88.3** The School of Continuing and Professional Studies is pursuing numerous grants to enhance the radio programming at WRGC 88.3.
- viii. **The YES Program** at LVA is advancing to phase 3 of the acceptance process for the FY25 21st CCLC cohort which includes a grant of approximately \$1.7million to continue services for participants in grades 3-5 over the next 5 years.

3. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **FINANCIAL AID**

- i. **FAFSA** After several Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) processing delays by the U.S. Department of Education, the GCSU Financial Aid Office has begun the process of loading applications into our system. Many students will start receiving award notifications and communications for the upcoming school year by May 1, 2024.

b. **THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**

- i. **Georgia Education Mentorship** The Leadership Programs hosted the GEM dinner on April 24 for students in the Georgia Education Mentorship (GEM) program.
- ii. **Leadership Ideas Festival** On Friday, April 12th, the Leadership Programs hosted the Leadership Ideas Festival for students to share their final projects, and for leaders from across the state to give talks. Ann Cramer, who retired from IBM as Director for Corporate Citizenship for the Americas and serves as a Senior Consultant with Coxe Curry, was the keynote speaker.

c. **MURACE**

- i. **GCSU Research Day 2024** proved very successful with more than 500 presenters and almost 120 poster sessions. Please save the day for Research Day 2025 scheduled for April 16, 2025.
- ii. **The MURACE Summer Research Awards** were awarded to the following students. Dr. Ania Rynarzewska, COBT, chaired the committee.
 1. Samuel Kinney
Mentors: Dr. Brooke Conaway & Dr. Kelly Lee (Economics and Finance)
Topic: Unintended Consequences of Waiting Periods for Divorce in the United States
 2. Abigail Dugger
Mentor: Dr. Kristine White (Biological and Environmental Sciences)
Topic: Documenting Amphipod Diversity of Sapelo Island
 3. Amber Stubbs

Mentor: Dominic DeSantis (Biological and Environmental Sciences)

Topic: Pioneering exploration into personality and thermal behavior syndromes in wild-ranging snakes

4. Ella Cooper

Mentor: Dr. Brooke Rudow (Philosophy, Religion, and Liberal Studies)

Topic: Application of Rasa theory in Architecture

iii. **Travel Awards** So far this year, MURACE has supported 167 students, including 130 individual travel awards (which is up from 85 last year).

d. **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

i. **Freshman Applications** The Office of Admissions generated 8,297 freshman applications for the fall 2024 class. This number breaks last year's record-setting application number of 7,842. For the second year in a row, we closed the freshman application on April 1.

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

i. **The Associate Provost for Student Engagement and Academic Excellence Search** is currently underway, and the committee welcomed two finalists to campus.

ii. **Department Chairs** The Office of the Provost is working with the Council of Chairs to launch programming related to service as Department Chair. The initiative aims to support our colleagues in their role as chairs.

iii. **Research Initiatives** In a collaborative effort between the Office of Provost, the Budget Office, the Division of Financial Administration, and the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects, the university is working diligently to implement a system that allows for the separate and more accurate accounting of research-related expenses. This multidisciplinary collaboration ensures that our approach to research expenditure tracking is comprehensive and aligned with the goals of our institution. Simultaneously, we are keenly focused on our participation in the NSF HERD Survey, which provides invaluable insights into the landscape of research and development activities at institutions of higher education nationwide. These initiatives, combined with our aspiration for the new Carnegie classification under Research College and Universities, underscore our commitment to fostering a culture of excellence in research and scholarship at GCSU.

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

i. **GRE Strategy Session** The Career Center partnered with the Princeton Review to offer students a GRE Strategy Session and a free practice exam with personalized feedback.

ii. **The Spring Career and Graduate School Fair** had representation from 84 programs and organizations and over 380 student attendees.

4. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

a. **CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

i. **Liberal Arts Skills for the Professions and Individual Well-Being** aims to support faculty and students better understand the connections between

the liberal arts and their personal and professional lives. The Center for Teaching and Learning has assembled an Advisory Council that will work across colleges to schedule and promote activities during the 2024-2025 academic year.

ii. **Dr. Nina Namaste** The Center for Teaching and Learning is hosting Dr. Nina Namaste, from Elon University, for Monday, April 29th. This is part of the 'Liberal Arts Skills in the Professions and Personal Well-being series.' Specifically,

1. For Faculty Members:

When: Monday, April 29th @ 11:00 a.m.

Where: CTL Classroom, 376 Library

What: Meet with Faculty Members – Provide strategies to help students communicate the benefits of the liberal arts curriculum.

2. For Everybody:

When: Monday, April 29th @ 3:30 p.m.

Where: A&S Auditorium

What: Public workshop on Liberal Arts Skills in the Profession and Personal Well-Being. Open to campus community!

b. **THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**

i. **Dr. James Callaghan**, Assistant Vice-President for International Education, has been named the recipient of a competitive fellowship from AASCU to participate in a ten-day institute in China this summer aimed at improving relations between the U.S. and China and fostering partnerships between American and Chinese institutions. Dr. Callaghan will be part of a delegation of about ten that will visit three regions in China.

ii. **Global UGRAD Program** International Education has received formal recognition from the State Department’s Global UGRAD program for its “long partnership and commitment.” The program brings “brings future leaders to the United States to experience U.S. higher education, gain critical professional skills, and explore new cultures and values.” Only five universities nationwide were singled out for this distinction. Jason Wynn, Assistant Director of International Student & Scholar Services, represented GCSU—as a guest of the State Department—at a recognition event in Thailand earlier this month.

iii. **Study Abroad 221** GCSU students are expected to study abroad this cycle, an increase of nearly 20% over last year’s numbers that had already returned participation to pre-pandemic levels. Besides excellent faculty-led programs, Study Abroad placements this year include summer study at foreign institutions, with full semesters and academic years—including at partner institutions—becoming more common. As many as 13 students (five different nations) will pursue resumé-enhancing international internships this summer; the most ever at GCSU by a very wide margin.

c. **LEARNING CENTER**

i. **STEM Grant** The Learning Center was awarded a \$45,000 STEM grant and will provide in-person and online summer tutoring for STEM and Economics courses.

- d. **RURAL STUDIES INSTITUTE**
 - i. **Rural Changemakers Forum** The Rural Studies Institute organized their Rural Changemakers Forum on April 16th. They hosted David Montgomery, author of *What Your Food Ate*. Dr. Montgomery is a MacArthur Genius grant award winner. The Rural Studies Institute took three GCSU students to the University of Chicago for their Rural-Urban Forum.
 - e. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. **Community Coalition Grant Initiative** The Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy recently conducted its request for proposals for our Community Coalition Grant Initiative. This year, we received an unprecedented 28 applications, up from 18 submitted last year. Grant awards ranged from \$10,000 to \$24,000, and 13 grants were awarded for a total funding amount of \$226,000. Awardees are as follows: Augusta University Research Institute, Boy with a Ball, Cobb Collaborative, Inc., Community Foundation for the CSRA, Cook County Family Connection, Lucky Shoals Community Association, Inc., Meriwether County Family Connection, Sumter County School System, Tri-County Family Connection, Troup Family Connection Authority, United Way of Northwest Georgia, United Way of the Coastal Empire and the Warren County School System.
 - ii. **Tale Trail** The Deal Center team collaborated with the Office of Community Engagement and Service to install a storybook ‘Tale Trail’ on the walking path at the Collins P. Lee Community Center in Milledgeville’s Harrisburg Community. The permanent installation features 12 storyboards featuring locally authored *Grayson’s Playdate*. Each storyboard includes questions and activities to increase engagement and understanding. A ribbon cutting was held in early April to officially open Tale Trail. The plan is for the Tale Trail to be updated to feature a new book each quarter. See GCSU Front Page story here: <https://frontpage.gcsu.edu/node/17729>.
 - f. **THE WRITING CENTER** had a 5% increase in visits this year.
5. **FACULTY**
- a. **ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY SEARCHES**
 - i. **Faculty Searches** The colleges are engaged in numerous faculty searches as the university prepares for the 2024-2025 academic year.
6. **CALENDAR**
- a. **COMMENCEMENT** Spring Commencement will be held on Friday, May 3 and Saturday May 4. There will be four combined graduate/undergraduate ceremonies, one for each college. Faculty are encouraged to attend their college’s ceremony, when possible, but they are welcome to attend any of the four. Faculty should arrive at the line up area near the swimming pool at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony; for security purposes, they must enter the building through the swimming pool corner door. Additional information for graduates, families, faculty, and staff is available at gcsu.edu/registrar/spring-commencement.

- i. College of Health Sciences, Friday, May 3, 2:00 p.m.
 - ii. John H. Lounsbury College of Education, Friday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.
 - iii. J. Whitney Bunting College of Business & Technology, Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.
 - iv. College of Arts & Sciences, Saturday, May 4, 2:00 p.m.
- b. **CONVOCATION** 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 (Lauren Easom and Winston Tripp, co-chairs) will be meeting in the next few months as we focus on welcoming and supporting the onboarding of our new students.
- c. **FINAL GRADES** Spring 2024 final grades are due by Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The spring term requires particularly prompt processing since the summer term starts before the grade deadline. Please be on time and ensure that all 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.
- 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.
- e. **SUMMER CLASSES** that would have met on either Memorial Day (Mondays) or Juneteenth (Wednesdays) will have a make-up day as outlined below. Because of the timing of the Independence Day holiday and July term dates, no make-up day is required for the Fourth of July. For more information on the summer schedule, please see the academic calendar online.

If your summer class would have met on:	You will meet on this day to make up that class session:
Memorial Day: Monday, May 27	Friday, May 31
Juneteenth: Wednesday, June 19	Friday, June 28
Independence Day: Thursday, July 3 and Friday, July 4	No make up day required

- f. **SUMMER ORIENTATION** Six orientation sessions are scheduled for freshmen entering in the fall of 2024. There are currently 1,021 students registered for summer orientation, as well as 1,600 guests that will be accompanying them. Summer Orientation dates:
- i. Freshman: June 4, 6, 11, 13, and July 23 & 25
 - ii. Bridge Scholars Program: June 15
 - iii. Transfer: July 24
- g. **THANK YOU** In conclusion, I would like to thank the University Senate for your exceptional service to the university and for your commitment to shared governance. It has been a very productive year! Thank you to all the committee members, ECUS, and Dr. Sumowski for his leadership and vision. As Provost, I look forward to working closely with the 2024-2025 University Senate to continue to serve Georgia College & State University and support our faculty, staff, and students.