

**REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST ROBERTS
20 SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

1. **THANK YOU TO NEW LEADERSHIP IN PROVOST’S OFFICE** My thanks to Dr. Holley Roberts, Dr. Mandy Jarriel, and Dr. Kevin Bucholz – our leaders in the Office of the Provost – who all have stepped into new roles over the past 6-7 weeks, with little chance to prepare for what would be handed to them. There is a literal “buzz” in the hallway of the third floor of Parks Hall because of all the work they are doing to make sure that so much first-of-the-academic year work keeps moving forward, and I could not be prouder than to work with such a dedicated team as this one.
2. **UPDATES FROM THE SEPTEMBER BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING**
 - a. The Board of Regents met last week at the studios of the Georgia Film Academy in Fayetteville and hosted that evening the annual Regents’ Scholarship & Awards Gala, at which two of our Georgia College community members were honored.
 - b. Congratulations to Dr. Joe and Mrs. Patti Samprone who were named recipients of the USG 2024 Regent’s Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award. The Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award is given to an individual or couple known for championing academic excellence and access to higher education in Georgia.
 - c. We nominated the Samprones for their involvement with our campus for more than 40 years. As you know, Joe and Patti moved to Milledgeville when Joe became part of our faculty and ultimately earned the rank of emeritus professor of economics. Patti earned her MBA from Georgia College and went on as an alumna to co-chair our last capital campaign, helping to raise some \$50 million for the university. Joe also became our cross-country coach for 14 years, and he and Patti both poured their hearts and souls into supporting and traveling with hundreds of Joe’s students and student-athletes and continue to stay in contact with many of them years later.
 - d. As part of their lifetime commitment to the university, the Samprones started making charitable donations in 1989. They now sponsor eight of Georgia College’s flagship Presidential Scholarships, which include a stipend for study abroad. They also fund one of the university’s first endowed professorships for junior faculty members in the sciences, as well as endowed scholarships for first-generation students and for student-athletes in women’s basketball, volleyball and golf.
 - e. At the business meeting of the Board of Regents, the Board approved some clean-up language to policies that impact out-of-state tuition to reflect the Board’s newly added “out-of-country” tuition tier for USG institutions, which was previously adopted at its April meeting.
 - f. The Board also approved the final MRR funds (Major Repair & Rehabilitation Funds) to each USG institution for FY25. GCSU will receive \$1,875,00 (out of more than \$8 million on our running project list), which will cover Phase II of the replacement of the air handler and the roof for the Arts & Sciences building, and various upgrades to life safety systems across campus (emergency generator).

3. **US NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS** The annual US News & World Report rankings will be released on Tuesday morning of this coming week. I can't give you that information today because it is embargoed until then, but let me just say – the news is going to be good! 😊
4. **PERSONNEL**
 - a. Our new AVP of University Communications/Chief Communications Officer Mike Cavaliere will start on Oct. 1. He comes to Georgia College after a decade in Communications at Embry-Riddle University in Florida. He's excited about joining a liberal arts university campus, and he and his wife and daughter are all looking forward about the move into our area.
 - b. My thanks to Al Weston for taking over the Interim AVP position since last November, only a few months after he left Sports Information and joined the University Communications office. I am grateful for his willingness to take on the leadership of this department during this time.
5. **UNIVERSITY BUDGET FORUM** The FY 2026 University Budget Open Forum will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room. As a part of our commitment to shared governance and transparent decision making, all campus community members are encouraged to participate. The deans from each of the colleges will present their funding priorities for the coming budget year. Following the deans, the vice presidents will present. This forum is open to the university community and provides an opportunity for understanding the funding needs across the university.
6. **OPEN ENROLLMENT**
 - a. USG Open Enrollment will be open to benefit-eligible employees October 28 – November 8, 2024. Enrollment in benefits for the 2025 plan year will take place via OneUSG. This year is considered an active open enrollment; all employees will be required to login and complete the certification of tobacco use and working spouse (if applicable). If employees do not login and take the required action during Open Enrollment, they will default to the status that results in a surcharge. This year, the respective surcharges will remain \$150 per month. Even if employees have zero interest in making any changes to their current coverage, it is vital that they login to complete their respective certification(s). The Office of Human Resources' Benefits Team will be available to assist employees with Open Enrollment questions in the Library, Room 302 on several different occasions throughout the two weeks of Open Enrollment; specific dates they will be available are listed below and the schedule will also be circulated via FrontPage as Open Enrollment approaches. Contact benefits@gcsu.edu for questions or more information.
 - b. At the August Board of Regents' meeting, the Regents approved health plans for the coming year that will increase employee premiums in 2024. A summary of the approved plan design changes and premiums are available on the [USG Benefits website](#) (see 2025 Board Approved Rates and Plan Design linked on the right side of the screen).
 - c. The Benefits Fair will take place in the Student Activities Center/Magnolia Ballroom on Wednesday, October 17th from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.

- d. The Office of Human Resources' Benefits team will be available for Open Enrollment assistance in the Library, Room 302 on the following days:
 - i. Monday, 10/28: 11A-1P
 - ii. Thursday, 10/31: 9A-11P
 - iii. Wednesday, 11/6: 3P-5P
 - iv. Friday, 11/8: Please contact benefits@gcsu.edu or call (478) 445-5596 to schedule an appointment with the Benefits Team in their office (Wooten-Garner House) on this date.
 - e. It is highly recommended that employees NOT wait until the last minute to complete their Open Enrollment elections. Often, the OneUSG system lags during the final days as there is a significant increase in web traffic across all 26 institutions in the USG, and wait times when calling the OneUSG Connect - Benefits Call Center (1-844-587-4236) are longer toward the end of Open Enrollment as well.
7. **ETHICS AWARENESS WEEK** Ethics Awareness Week is scheduled for November 4-10, 2024. The purpose of the week is to remind everyone in the university system of our shared ethical values and expectations to incorporate into our day-to-day decisions. Ms. Rhonda Fowler is coordinating various in-person and virtual activities for the week. The week's highlight will be a campus-wide shred event encouraging all departments to organize and purge their documents according to the USG Records Retention Schedule. Records Retention Liaisons representing 19 departments have been trained to provide direction for this event. The USG will host virtual presentations that include a Chancellor's Chat and an Ethics & Compliance Best Practice Panel. More details will be communicated in October.
8. **SAVE THE DATES**
- a. ***Fallfest (More than 400 registered --- Record High)***
 Saturday, September 21, 2024
 Front Campus
<https://www.gcsu.edu/admissions/fallfest>
 - b. ***Family Weekend***
 September 27 – September 29, 2024
<https://www.gcsu.edu/parent>
 - c. ***Benefits Fair***
 Wednesday, October 17, 2024
 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Magnolia Ballroom
 - d. ***Bobcat Bash (Reinvisioned Athletic Auction)***
 Friday, October 18, 2024
 6:00 – 8:00 PM
 Centennial Center
 - e. ***University Budget Forum***
 Wednesday, October 23, 2024
 9:00 a.m. – Noon
 Pat Peterson Museum Education Room
 - f. ***Faculty & Staff Fall Festival***
 Thursday, October 24, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Front Campus

- g. ***Open Enrollment***
October 28 – November 8, 2024
- h. ***Ethics Awareness Week***
November 4 – 10, 2024
- i. ***Hanging of the Greens***
December 5, 2024
5:00 p.m.
Front Campus
- j. ***Winter Commencement***
December 14, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Centennial Center

PROVOST'S REPORT

1. OFFICE OF THE PROVOST STAFFING UPDATE

- a. Dr. Holley M. Roberts, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
- b. Dr. Mandy Jarriel, Interim Associate Provost & Director of The Graduate School
- c. Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, Associate Provost for Student Engagement and Academic Excellence
- d. Dr. Lyndall Muschell, Coordinator of Curriculum and Faculty Affairs

2. COLLEGES AND LIBRARY

a. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- i. **The Departments of Art, Music, Theatre & Dance, and Communication** will host *Artober* beginning Saturday, October 5 at Andalusia. This will be En Plein Air art event from 9am until 2pm with registrants painting in the open air in the morning and then having the chance to display their artwork at the Underwood House Gallery following the event. Other events for *Artober* will occur later in the month on main campus, such as October 30 when there will be hands-on demos, video screenings, live music, engaging displays, dance & theater performances and much more.
- ii. **Department Chair Searches** COAS will launch department chair searches this year in the Departments of English, Math, Communication, and Government & Sociology.
- iii. **New Music Practice Facility** Construction of the new music practice facility to be built on the northeast corner of Montgomery and Wayne Streets has begun. It will provide space for both instrumental and choral practices, as well as storage and equipment space.
- iv. **Herty Hall Renovation** Meetings are still occurring on the Herty Hall renovation plans.

b. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

- i. **Fouts Internship Visit** Students and faculty are on a Fouts Internship Visit on Sept. 20. Fouts Brothers are in need of interns, and COBT will be regularly scheduling visits.

- ii. **Business Executive in Residence** Barry Wolfe (JD, MBA) will be our first Business Executive in Residence: October 21-24
 - iii. **Advertising Campaign** COBT is launching a graduate MLSCM & MBA advertising campaign
 - iv. **Double Bobcat Program** September 24 is an information session for the Master of Logistics & Supply Chain Management Double Bobcat program
 - v. **The Annual Accounting Career Fair** was held Sept. 11 with 34 firms, 100+ students
 - vi. **The Annual Governmental and NFP Accounting Career Fair** was held Sept. 16.
 - vii. **An Accounting Outreach Event** (“Be Audit You Can Be”) will be on October 9, on the Front Lawn. 16 Company Sponsors. Last year’s attendance was 150+.
 - viii. **Dr. Brooke Conaway** is the new 2024-2025 President of the Academy of Economics and Finance.
 - ix. **Center for Economic Education**
 - 1. The Center for Economic Education celebrated its 40th anniversary on June 21st.
 - 2. The Center for Economic Education hosted the Minority Youth and Business Program. 12 rising high school juniors and seniors spent the week of June 16th on campus learning about rural entrepreneurship. Participants capped their week with a business plan presentation judged by GC alum and donors to the Program.
 - x. **Dr. Jehan El-Jourbagy** was recently selected as the new Executive Secretary of the Academy of Legal Studies.
- c. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**
- i. **Special Education Program** Implementation of Paraprofessional to Teacher Certification (anticipated started date of summer 2025)
 - ii. **20th Annual Collegiate Middle Level Association Summit** Friday, October 11th with keynote speaker Justice Verda Colvin (Georgia Supreme Court). Planned and hosted by GCSU’s CMLA chapter.
- d. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
- i. **National Accreditation** Developing a self-study for the BS in Public Health to be nationally accredited.
 - ii. **The Mobile Health Unit** is on site and in the final stages for the wrap design and hope to have it operational by October 1st.
 - iii. **The Center for Health and Social Issues** has 8 community-based interventions and screenings set up via from now until the end of the calendar year.
- e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**
- i. **Affordable Learning Georgia**, an initiative of the University System of Georgia focused on providing affordable course materials, recently released a Request for Proposals for Affordable Materials Grants. Grant amounts range from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Interested faculty should submit their intent to apply to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects (OGSP) by October 1. Completed applications are due by October 28,

2024, and must be submitted through the OGSP. For more information, visit <https://libguides.gcsu.edu/oer>.

3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**

a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

i. **Graduate Admissions** (relocated to Parks Hall Room 108)

1. As of September 18, 2024, Graduate Admissions has received 107 graduate admissions applications for spring 2025.
2. The Graduate Admissions office is offering a workshop on Slate to graduate coordinators, program directors, and administrative assistants. The training is offered both in-person and virtually. So far, 30 registrations have been received from various departments.
3. The Graduate Admissions office will launch its fall application fee waiver campaign, October 17 – November 1, 2024. The fee waiver will be available for all graduate programs.
4. As of August 30, 2024, Graduate Admissions has terminated its contract with Anthology for Radius (CRM) and is now fully utilizing Slate for graduate admissions processing.

ii. **Graduate Student Research**

1. The Graduate School is accepting applications for the fall 2024 cycle of Graduate Research Travel Grants. The application can be found on the Graduate Opportunities web page. The deadline to submit an application is October 15, 2024.

iii. **Graduate Recruitment Opportunities**

1. The Graduate School will table and represent the School of Continuing & Professional Studies at the 2024 SHRM Georgia State Annual Conference & Exposition, September 25 – 27.
2. The Graduate School will table at the GCSU Fall 2024 Career & Graduate School Fair on October 2.

b. **HONORS COLLEGE AND NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

- i. **Nadya Gutierrez** ('22, Environmental Science), a graduate of the Honors College, has earned a [Quad Fellowship](#). Sponsored by the governments of the Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, the Quad Fellowship that is designed to build ties among young scientists. Previously, Nadya earned the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, which financed an internship with NOAA. At present, Nadya is pursuing her Ph.D. in Earth and Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Institute of Marine Sciences.
- ii. **Honors Convocation**, at which new Honors students are inducted into the Eta Sigma Alpha Honors student association, will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium. Faculty are invited to attend and to confirm in their regalia at the start of the ceremony and at its conclusion. [Please register via the embedded link.](#)
- iii. **The 2024-2025 Legends of Honors Series** – our Zoom-based programs for students, alumni, and friends of the Honors College – kicks off on Wed., Sept. 25 at 6:00 p.m., when Dr. Sunita Manian will present “I

thought I was the only boy who liked boys': Experiences of Queer Youth in India.” Please register via [the embedded link](#).

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

- i. **Academic Outreach** is collaborating with the GCSU Aquatic Sciences Center to provide Water Education Week October 16 – 19. Water Education Day is Saturday, October 19 from 12-3p.m. on campus. Activities will include movie night, stream cleanup, Georgia Adopt-a-Stream Trainings, stream monitoring, and more! Watch Frontpage for monthly reminders about volunteering for stream quality monitoring in three Milledgeville streams (GCSU Thirst for Knowledge Programs).
- ii. **Afterschool Achievement** 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 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. [Afterschool Achievement](#)
 1. **High Achievers Program** Coordinator, Kenneth Daniels, is soliciting support for guest speakers in the HAP speaker series beginning August and to provide supplemental activities for the High Achievers Program. [High Achievers Newsletter](#). To sign up as a guest speaker for the High Achievers Program, please email Program Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Daniels at kenneth.daniels@gcsu.edu or contact Mr. Daniels at 478.445.8509.
 2. **The YES Program** at LVA and the BOE partnered with the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at Georgia College to provide professional development to elementary teachers using the University of Florida Literacy Institute Curriculum for the purpose of improving the literacy rate for youth in Baldwin County. For more information about the YES program, please contact Sequena Stanton at 478.445.5613. [LVA newsletter](#), [OHMS newsletter](#).
- iii. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County** continues to offer teacher giveaway drawings each month at all of the schools. Bags of school supplies were packed by pre-education majors on GC Gives Day. CIS partnered with Alpha Gamma Delta to provide food bags for students who are food insecure at Midway Hills Primary and Midway Hills Academy.
 1. CIS has a steady influx of GC student volunteers (The GIVE center, GIVES Day, and Dr. Kaninjing classes) that have been placed in all of the schools.
 2. Tutoring services and activities have started at the Early Learning Center, Lakeview Academy, Midway Hills Academy, Oak Hill Middle School, Baldwin High School, and Georgia College Early College (High School Only).

iv. **Continuing & Professional Education**

1. **Summer Camp Season** was our most successful since pre-pandemic! With the help of MANY campus partners, we were able to bring over \$733,000 in revenue to campus and provided an enriching and fun experience to campers of all ages!
 - a. Increase in # of camps: 5%
 - b. Increase in # of campers: 8%
 - c. Increase in revenue to campus partners: 57%
 - d. Increase in net revenue to CPE: 31%
2. Upcoming CPE Events
 - a. [Mini Milly's](#) - Saturday's 9-9:30 am
 - b. [Yoga](#) - Tuesday's 6-7 pm
 - c. [Adult Beginner Ballet](#) - Wednesday's 6-7:15 pm
 - d. [Leadership & Management Academy](#) at Forsyth County 9/30-10/4
 - e. Coming soon: Swim lessons, Travel programs, Workshop/Conference Registration & Logistical Assistance, Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Fall Retreat - 9/27, International Dyslexia Association - GA Chapter conference - 9/28, USG Grantsmanship Workshop -10/24-10/25, Rome & the Amalfi Coast (Dec. 5 – Dec. 14, 2025)- [Registration is open](#)

v. **Historic Museums**

1. Tuesday, September 17 – *All Hail Music on the Trail* – The Department of Music will be hosting a concert and guest speaker at the Mansion to explore the intersections between music, democracy, and the election of 1840.

vi. **Evens** The School of Continuing & Professional Studies is hosting several events this fall that are open to the community. Come join us to network and advance your knowledge.

1. Lauren Easom will present *Connect with the Career Center* on Thursday, September 19 for the Chamber of Commerce Education series.
2. [Register for the fall lunch and learn](#) series that is focused on strategic communication and marketing strategies. The Lunch and Learn webinars are every Thursday at 12 p.m. via Zoom.
3. [R.S.V.P.](#) for *Eminem's "Lose Yourself" As Campaign Anthem* lecture given by Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30 in Arts & Sciences Auditorium
4. [R.S.V.P](#) for *Fact-Checking Workshop* by Dr. Jolene Cole on Wednesday, October 9 at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in Arts & Sciences 2-70.
5. [R.S.V.P](#) for Financial Planning with Brent Evans on Wednesday, October 9 at 12 p.m. in Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.

4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

- i. **The Office of Admissions** received over 8,200 applications from first-year students for the fall 2024 term. GCSU welcomed 1,800 freshmen this fall, the second largest and most academically prepared freshman class since our institution was designated as Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University in 1996.
 - 1. The fall 2025 freshmen application is open, and we plan to release early action decisions in mid-November.
- ii. **Midterm Grades for all Core IMPACTS** courses are due on Wednesday, October 9, by 9 a.m. The Registrar's Office will email grade entry instructions to all faculty prior to the deadline. Faculty are strongly encouraged to enter midterm grades for all courses, as this gives students, families, and academic advisors a more complete picture of student performance and the ability to plan focused interventions to improve student success.
- iii. **The GCSU Financial Aid Office** will assist the Secretary of State's Office to host a Money Talks Financial Literacy Program here at GCSU for our students. There will be a guest panel of 5 experienced professionals who will discuss topics such as budgeting, saving, investing and many more relatable topics. This event will be on Wednesday, October 9 in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Students will need to register to attend this event, and advertisements are readily accessible on the GCSU campus.
- iv. **The Council of Student Ambassadors** inducted 28 new members on September 9. The Enrollment Management Team is grateful to have this strong student group to support their recruitment efforts, particularly as they prepare for *Fallfest* on Saturday, September 21.
- v. **The Office of New Student Programs** recently welcomed two part-time interns, Hagan Vinson (Sophomore) and Sairsha Connor (Junior). Hagan will serve as the Intern for Event Management & Logistics and Sairsha as the Intern for Strategic Marketing & Communication.
- vi. **Fallfest**, GCSU's fall preview day for high school seniors, will be held on Saturday, September 21. This event will allow prospective students to engage with campus, learn about the admissions process, and explore academic opportunities. We are expecting record attendance numbers for *Fallfest* this year.
- vii. **The Office of Student Success and Career Development** will continue their Student Success and Retention Series with Student Success for Generation Z on September 26, 2024, at noon in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.
- viii. **The Career and Graduate School Fair** will be held on October 2, 2024, from 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the Centennial Center.
- b. **THE MONTESSORI ACADEMY**
 - i. Current student enrollment – 96
 - ii. Grandparents' Lunch September 20th
 - iii. Collaboration with Deal Center for September special reader, Mr. Eames (Retired Georgia Librarian)

- iv. Hosting 40 student Observers from the Department of Psychological Science. (Intro to Human Development). Hosting 10 Psychological science majors with Dr. Chiang's Empathy Study beginning this month. Hosting 2 music therapy majors this semester and Hosting GC nursing students.

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

- i. **Grant** Congratulations to all on the following grant: *Collaborative Research: EPIIC: Fostering Unity and Teamwork for Rural Excellence (FUTURE)*, National Science Foundation, \$399,904
Principal Investigator Hasitha Mahabaduge, PhD, Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy - College of Arts and Sciences, CoPrincipal Investigator Nicholas Creel, PhD, JD, Department of Accounting and Business Law – College of Business and Technology, Co-Principal Investigator Sayo Fakayode, PhD, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy - College of Arts and Sciences
- ii. **Research & Development Seed Grant** The Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs is pleased to unveil the Research & Development Seed Grant. This funding (university-wide up to \$150,000 per year) aims to enhance GCSU's research capacity and provide essential resources to leverage faculty pursuing larger grants. Deadlines and Submission
 1. Proposal Submission Deadline: [Continuous Submission]
 2. Review Process: [OGSP in conjunction with Department Chair and College Dean will make recommendation to the Office of Provost and Academic Affairs for award]
 3. Notification of Awards: [The Office of Provost and Academic Affairs will announce awarded proposals]

For any questions or additional information, please contact the Director of the Office of Grants and Sponsored Project, Grants@gcsu.edu; Phone: 478-445-2754.

d. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- i. **Dr. Kevin Bucholtz** presented the *GC Journeys* Program at the Louisiana Board of Regents, invited by Dr. Tristan Denley– *Work based Learning Experiences* Workshop at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- ii. **GC Journeys** Finalizing Assessment data with Institutional Research to identify 2024 Graduates who completed the *GC Journeys* Program.

e. **LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

- i. **TEDxGeorgiaCollege** will be hosted Friday, Oct. 18, in Russell Auditorium. TEDxGeorgiaCollege will feature nine distinguished speakers and performers who will deliver talks on the latest ideas and research. Each talk will be broadcast internationally and shared through TED's global network, showcasing for the international TED community the unique voices, stories and ideas that make Georgia College special. Learn more and purchase tickets at tedxgeorgiacollege.com.
- ii. **The GCSU Leadership Academy** enrolled its largest and most geographically diverse class yet, with some 255 first-year students. The

Georgia College Leadership Academy is an eight-month program for first-year students.

- iii. **Georgia Education Mentorship Program** In partnership with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, GCSU Leadership Programs has admitted the thirtieth class of the Georgia Education Mentorship Program (GEM). A one-of-a-kind partnership between GCSU and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the GEM Program prepares the next generation of Georgia's leaders for the public good. A mentorship and leadership program, GEM matches students with senior state leaders for a yearlong partnership that creates mutual benefit between Georgia College and its partners.

f. **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

i. **Study Abroad**

1. The annual Study Abroad Opportunities Fair will be held on Front Campus, Wednesday September 25th from 10:00 am until 2:00. In addition to promoting GCSU's great faculty-led programs, representatives from exchange partner institutions, plus specialized third-party and internships providers, will be in attendance.
2. The Study Abroad program already has in excess of 70 applications. Last year, 223 students studied abroad in 22 nations, so already 30% of the way there.

ii. **International Students**

1. Transitioning to a new digital marketing platform with a steep learning curve, GCSU welcomed nineteen new international students this Fall from twelve nations. Several deferred until another semester for visa processing or other reasons.
2. State Department has again sent students (Five), this time from Egypt, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, and Pakistan.
3. Word has just been received that State will be sending several more students in – unusually –the Spring.
4. Current Fall population is slightly down due to graduations and deferments, but again shows great diversity with twenty-four separate nations.

iii. **International Club**

1. The International Club has already met several times this year with good attendance at close to one hundred. The Club has sponsored several very popular and well-attended events such as bowling and roller-skating, and has an overnight trip to Savannah scheduled.

g. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS**

- i. **New Director** Starting August 1, Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang, assumed the role of MURACE director.
- ii. **Coordinator Search** Currently searching for a MURACE coordinator to help MURACE's operations particularly in student travel and Research Day.

- iii. **The new MURACE web page** is launched. MURACE D2L Course with three certificates launched to help guide student researchers and faculty mentors for Student Travel Application – with data analytics expected.
 - iv. **Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC)** November 8-9 at Emory Oxford. Abstracts are due September 29th. MURACE will be covering 100% of the travel.
 - v. **National Conference on Undergraduate Research.** April 7-9 Pittsburgh, PA. Abstracts are due December 6, 2024. COPLAC Southeast Regional Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity Conference April 11-12 University of Virginia's College at Wise.
 - vi. **Research Day 2025** is April 16, 2025.
5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
- a. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
 - i. **2024 Annual Governor's Summit**
 - 1. The Deal Center hosted the 2024 Governor's Summit with the theme of the "Brain-Building Network."
 - 2. 5 multi-disciplinary keynote presentations, 8 breakout presentations, a panel discussion, several lightning talks, a strategy session, and a traveling tail trail experience.
 - 3. The summit boasted 168 daytime attendees and 126 gala attendees with \$22,000 in donations and sponsorships were obtained to support our work.
 - ii. **Governing Board** President Cox appointed Dr. Joanne Previts, Interim Dean of Education, to the Deal Center's Governing Board.
 - iii. **Literacy Council** On August 26, 2024 the Deal Center hosted the quarterly meeting of the Georgia Council on Literacy at GCSU.
 - iv. **Georgia Early Literacy Act** Reporting from state agencies regarding progress toward implementation of the Georgia Early Literacy Act.
 - v. **Georgia Universal Literacy Screener Selection**
 - 1. Senate bill 464 was signed into law by Governor Kemp earlier this year. The bill requires that the State Board of Education approve a list of no more than five universal reading screeners, with one made available free of charge, for schools to administer per the requirements of HB 538.
 - 2. The Deal Center was selected to lead the screener review and recommendation process and has curated a highly qualified group of educators, clinicians, and other advocates to conduct the review and provide recommendations to the SBOE and the Georgia Council on Literacy by December 2024.
 - vi. **Volunteer Reader Training** At the request of the Literacy Alliance, a nonprofit working to improve family literacy across Muscogee County, the Deal Center provided a Volunteer READER Training in September to individuals to serve as "reading buddies" in local preschool programs.
 - vii. **Publication** Along with colleagues from Emory University, Dr. Morgan published 'Attitudes About Inclusive Preschool Education Among Parents of Children Without Disability: Generalized Social Justice Orientation and

Specific Inclusive Concerns” in *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*.

- b. **Center for Teaching and Learning**
 - i. **Peer Feedback on Teaching (PFoT)** For Fall 2024, PFoTs are offered from September 9 through October 4 and again from October 21 through November 15 for in-person and synchronous online courses. If interested in scheduling a PFoT, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning.
 - ii. **Liberal Arts in the Profession and Individual Wellbeing** We continue to provide workshops as part of our series Liberal Arts in the Profession and Individual Wellbeing. You can register for each of the workshops by visiting our [Registration Link](#).
 - 1. Teamwork – Collaborative Excellence: Enhancing Teamwork through Liberal Arts - September 18, 2024 @1:00p.m.
 - 2. Critical Thinking – Navigating the Liberal Arts Landscape - October 3 @ 1 p.m.
 - 3. Liberal Arts at the Intersection: A Roadmap for Creative Problem-Solving - October 16 @ 2:00 p.m.
 - 4. Communication - Charting Your Course - October 31, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.
 - 5. Roadmap Wrap-Up – November 11, 2024 @ 1:00 p.m.
- c. **FLANNERY O’CONNOR INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES**
 - i. **New Name** Formerly the Andalusia Institute, we are now the Flannery O’Connor Institute for the Humanities. This name change signals a broadening of our mission and allows us to connect literary studies to interdisciplinary inquiry on the GCSU campus.
 - ii. **Laidlaw Fellow** In July, we brought the first Laidlaw Fellow to campus, Alex Taylor, to use the archives in Special Collections.
 - iii. **Southern Gothic Lecture Series** In March of 2025 we will host our inaugural Southern Gothic Lecture series, with two lectures focused on the Eco-Gothic.
 - iv. **Flannery O’Connor’s Second Century: Looking Forward, Looking Back** September 12-15, with the help of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we hosted a major scholarly and creative writing conference entitled “Flannery O’Connor’s Second Century: Looking Forward, Looking Back.” Over 200 attendees.
 - v. **National Endowment for the Humanities Oral History Grant** The FOIH is excited about the National Endowment for the Humanities Oral History Grant that is in process under the direction of historian Stephanie Opperman.
 - vi. **Writing for Success** A panel on Writing for Success shared the results of our U.S. Department of Education Grant for working with school children on literature, which is now wrapping up. We created pedagogy packets for teachers, and conducted podcast training for students, and will finalize this grant with a ceremony and donations of podcasting equipment to our community partners this fall.

- vii. **Lecture Series and Book Club** We continue to host a monthly Zoom lecture series and a monthly book club, both on-line and at the Georgia Writers Museum in Eatonton, GA. Stay tuned for a November 5 Zoom talk.
- d. **THE LEARNING CENTER**
 - i. **Visits** up 45% compared to Fall '23, Students up 20%, over 1300 visits thus far; 55 SI leaders serving over 3,300 students enrolled in those courses/sections.
 - ii. **Math Preparedness** Math lab visits up 62% (over 1500 visits in FOUR weeks) and students up 48%, Excel Bootcamps have already served 516 students, Algebra Skills workshops have had 191 student participants.
 - iii. **Recertification** The Learning Center is up for CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) Master Level 3 Recertification due late October.
 - iv. **USG STEM Grant** We submitted an RFP for USG STEM grant and are awaiting decision.