

## REPORTS FROM PRESIDENT COX AND PROVOST ROBERTS 28 MARCH 2025 MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### 1. CAMPUS UPDATES

- a. **Searches Underway** We have many critical searches that are underway or will be underway soon – VP of Finance & Administration, Chief Human Resources Officer, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Dean of the College of Business & Technology.
  - b. **Modified Summer Schedule Reminder** Beginning Monday, May 12, we will begin our campus-wide modified summer schedule. This schedule will remain in place through Friday, August 8, 2025. This modified schedule will be in effect for all faculty and staff members during this summer period.
2. **PROMOTION AND TENURE** The Provost has shared with me the list of 17 Promotion and Tenure files. Nine Faculty have submitted applications for tenure, and as in years past, I will be meeting with all those who are recommended for tenure, as this is such an important stage in the career of a faculty member and in the life of the university. Next week, I have meetings scheduled with most of those who are eligible for tenure, and I am looking forward to these conversations!

#### 3. SAVE THE DATES

- a. ***GCSU Research Day***  
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
- b. ***Celebration of Excellence***  
Friday, April 18, 2025  
9:00 a.m. – Russell Auditorium
- c. ***Midnight Breakfast***  
Monday, May 5, 2025  
9:45 p.m. - The MAX
- d. ***Spring Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies***  
Centennial Center  
May 9 & 10, 2025

College of Health Sciences	Friday, May 9, 2025 at 2:00 PM
College of Education	Friday, May 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM
College of Business & Technology	Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM
College of Arts & Sciences	Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 3:00 PM

### PROVOST'S REPORT

#### 1. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **FRESHMAN CLASS OF 2025 UPDATES** – As of March 28, 2025 we have received a record number of applications at 8,345 which is the first time we have received over 8,300 applications! We currently have 6,240 completed applications, 4,611 admits, 1,526 student deposits, and 1,408 potential freshman who have paid their housing deposit.
- b. **NEW FACULTY POSITIONS AND STAFF POSITION** In collaboration with Budget and Finance, the Provost's office has approved 12 new faculty positions and 1 staff member to support student needs in the COAS, COBT, COHS, and COE for fall 2025.

- c. **USG RACC UPDATES**
    - i. USG Unified ERP Implementation of Workday is slated to happen in early 2026 in order to have a single, modern Software as a Service Enterprise Resource Planning platform across the entire USG.
    - ii. New ADA Title II Rule regarding accessibility for all web based and mobile content. Guidance will be forthcoming and must be implemented by April 24, 2026.
    - iii. The Regents are reviewing guidance for USG institutions regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). More information will be forthcoming.
    - iv. A USG proposal has been shared with Provosts, deans, and nursing administrators to address Nursing Capacity, easing the ability of qualified denied students to transfer to other USG nursing programs who are not at capacity. Dr. Shawn Little has requested feedback on the proposed process.
  - d. **LOW AWARD PROGRAMS** The Provost's office met with USG staff on March 14, 2025 to discuss low award programs. The recommendations from the meeting included the following: review curriculum efficiency; review the number of upper-level course offerings and the alignment to careers in which students are being prepared; highlight and advance the advantage of the liberal arts essential skills in programs; and review outdated catalog courses. Program and university efforts should continue in order to evaluate and analyze strategic and intentional approaches to address the low award programs, those newly under the threshold, and those who are identified as "At Risk."
  - e. **HERTY RENOVATION** plans continue to evolve. The committee is working hard to identify remaining office spaces for those who will be displaced by the renovation.
2. **COLLEGES AND LIBRARY**
- a. **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
    - i. **Department of English** The Rural Studies Institute is hosting Katie Simon (Department of English) who will give a virtual lecture: "An Exploration of Food Society and the Environment by Engaging the Liberal Arts". 12pm on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. **The Department of Government & Sociology** is hosting a Provost Visiting Scholar lecture by Susan Kilpatrick (KSU): "Death in the Mediterranean". April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 4pm, Peabody Auditorium.
    - iii. **The Department of Music** is hosting Jazz Jam Session at Amicis on April 15<sup>th</sup>, featuring students, faculty and community members.
    - iv. **The Department of Theatre & Dance** is presenting "Dragons Love Tacos", directed by Amy Pinney. April 3-6.
    - v. **Atlanta Science Festival** On Saturday, March 22, science students and faculty from the **Science Education Center, Aquatic Sciences Center, Department of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Department of Chemistry, Department of Physics & Astronomy, and Academic Outreach**, participated in the Atlanta Science Festival, providing outreach opportunities for young scientists and their families. Supported by Associate Provost of Student Engagement & Academic Excellence and

School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

- vi. **100th Birthday of Flannery O'Connor** There were numerous events celebrating the 100th birthday of Flannery O'Connor held this week on campus.

- 1. A *New York Times* article highlighted the O'Connor's Art Exhibition, and included an interview with **English** Major, Charlotte Aexel '25.

- vii. **Georgia Academy of Science**

- 1. Two dozen GCSU students showcased their research at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science at Young Harris College on March 7-8, 2025. Several **STEM** students earned top honors in their respective fields.
  - 2. Several GCSU faculty members from **Psychological Sciences** and **Biological & Environmental Sciences** were elected to leadership roles within the Georgia Academy of Science, including Dr. Al Mead elected as President.

- viii. **Math Jeopardy** Georgia College's **Mathematics** students won the 2025 Math Jeopardy tournament, at the annual Southeastern Section Meeting of the Mathematics Association of America (MAA), at High Point University. 24 teams competed from colleges throughout Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.

b. **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

- i. **Deal Center Mini-Grants:** The second round of mini-grants resulted in the funding of \$10,153.12 for four mini-grants awarded to JHL CoE faculty.
  - ii. **Documentary Film Series** will feature Dr. Chris Greer and his show, *View Finders* on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. **LEARN AI Team:** CoE has formed a team to investigate, evaluate, and implement professional development opportunities for faculty, staff and teacher candidates regarding artificial intelligence literacy and its use to enhance teaching and learning. The team is comprised of faculty and staff from the CoE and other GCSU units.

c. **COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

- i. **Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance**

- 1. The School of Health and Human Performance faculty are collaborating on a three-part editorial series for the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance discussing the new High School Strength Coach Certification (HSSCC) created by the National High School Strength Coaches Association (NHSSCA).
    - 2. The joint effort is collaboration between Dr. Kevin Hunt, Dr. Mike Martino, Dr. Brittney Hardin, Dr. Austin Parks, and Dr. Joanne Spalding. Our outstanding faculty continue to disseminate educational materials and content for teachers and coaches across the globe.

- ii. **Undergraduate Research Resource**

- 1. Dr. Kelly Massey, chair of the Health Sciences Division of the

Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), is writing a handbook on how to conduct undergraduate research within the Health Sciences.

2. The handbook will be offered through CUR and available to anyone in the health sciences interested in learning steps and strategies on conducting research with undergraduate students.

d. **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY**

- i. **The Annual Atkinson Honors Banquet** is Thursday, April 3.
- ii. **The CoBT Leadership Board Spring Meeting** is March 28.
- iii. **Executive Forum Speaker** March 3 was the 2nd and final Executive Forum speaker for this semester. Mike Ciabattoni spoke on the development of an entertainment facility on 7th Street in Macon. Our next Executive Forum speaker will be the Deputy State Auditor, Kristina Turner (a GC alum), on Oct. 6.
- iv. **Grant Recipients** Congratulations to the following individuals who were selected to receive CoBT grants this summer.
  1. Whitney Ginder – Teaching Grant - Development of Domestic and International Fashion, Retailing, and Innovation Study Away Trips
  2. Heather Patterson – Research Grant – “Understanding Financially Constrained Consumers”
  3. Mary Rickard – Teaching Grant - AI Enabled Sales Role Play Training in Professional Selling
  4. Ania Rynarzewska – Research Grant – “Deepfakes: Is it good, bad or ugly? Investigation into consumer impact on well-being and decision-making post-exposure to artificial intelligence and machine learning-based marketing content”

e. **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

i. **New & Upcoming Exhibits**

1. Flannery O'Connor at 100 - Several new opportunities to investigate Flannery O'Connor are currently available at the library.
2. O'Connor: Grotesque, Grace, Redemption, & Landscape is now available in the Flannery O'Connor Gallery of Southern Literary Work, located in the Special Collection Galleries in Heritage Hall. The exhibit examines how O'Connor's grotesque realism, spiritual reckonings, and vivid settings intertwine to create stories of redemption, judgment, and the search for meaning.
3. Two of Flannery O'Connor's rarely seen paintings are on display outside of the Special Collections Research Room and Rare Book Room through April 2, 2025.

3. **SCHOOLS AND HONORS COLLEGE**

a. **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

- i. **Annual Spring Reception** The Graduate School's Annual Spring Reception is Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room.

- ii. **Application Fee Waiver** The Graduate Admissions office is offering an application fee waiver for all graduate programs for summer 2025 and fall 2025 enrollment from March 18 – April 1, 2025.
- iii. **Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week** The Graduate School will celebrate Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week April 14 – 18, 2025.
- iv. **The Graduate Research Travel Grants Committee** awarded \$2,000 to eight graduate students from the Biology, English, and Health and Human Performance programs to present their scholarly work at professional conferences.
- v. **Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award** The Graduate School is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award.
- vi. **Research Day 2025** There are a total of 38 graduate student submissions.
- b. **HONORS COLLEGE & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
  - i. **Critical Language Scholarship Program Competition** Two GCSU students have advanced in the Critical Language Scholarship program competition. Ama Kpoyizoun, Junior, Nursing, was selected as a recipient for the Chinese language program, pending funding, while Matthew Malena, Sophomore, Political Science, was selected as an alternate, also for Chinese.
  - ii. **Research Day Kickoff Keynote** GCSU alumnus Kevin Morris ('17, History and Economics)—who now serves as Program Associate at the Carter Center—will deliver the keynote address at the Research Day Kickoff Keynote event (a collaboration with MURACE) on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:00 PM in Magnolia Ballroom. Please register via <https://forms.office.com/r/ZaVLip2ti0?origin=lprLink>.
  - iii. **Southern Regional Honors Council** With the support of from the office of Student Engagement and Academic Excellence, the Honors College is taking 18 students to present their scholarship and creative work at the Southern Regional Honors Council in Chattanooga, TN (March 26-29).
- c. **SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**
  - i. **Academic Outreach**
    - 1. Ruth Eilers and the GCSU Academic Outreach team visited the High Achievers and facilitated a S.T.E.A.M. activity. The participants learned how to create an electric current with pennies, aluminum foil, paper clips, and a lemon.
  - ii. **Adult Learner Services**
    - 1. Information Session for working paraprofessionals seeking a B.S. in Special Education, Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p.m. via ZOOM. [Register Now](#).
  - iii. **Afterschool Achievement**
    - 1. The YES Programs at Lakeview Academy and Oak Hill Middle School provided youth development services to over 200 youth

during the month of February. The YES Program at LVA is partnering with the College of Education to support GCSU's EDUC 2120 students who are required to complete 10 observation hours with schools in the Baldwin County School District.

2. The High Achievers Program provided youth development services to 48 high school youth during the month of February.

iv. **Communities in Schools Milledgeville Baldwin County**

1. Influencer and former NFL player, Mack Brown, participated in Read Across America in Baldwin County. Through a partnership with the Georgia Power Foundation, Brown, now a children's book author, joined CISMBC in the Read Across America event by reading to the children at Lakeview Academy.

v. **Continuing & Professional Education**

1. Summer camp [registration is live!](#) CPE has multiple specialty camps and, new this year, we have programs for middle school age youth.

vi. **Historic Museums**

1. Andalusia Interpretive Center received the 2025 Travelblazer award from the Georgia Association of the Convention & Visitors Bureaus during the GACVB Annual Conference. The award celebrates tourism attractions that foster innovative partnerships and collaborations while boosting economic development in the state.
2. GCSU welcomed the state museum professionals to campus for the annual Georgia Association of Museums conference.
3. Flannery O'Connor is turning **100** years old! Visit [Flannery at 100](#) to commemorate Flannery O'Connor's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

vii. **School of Continuing & Professional Studies**

1. Dr. Kristina Dandy led the members of the Milledgeville Chamber of Commerce on how to apply operant learning principles in the workplace.
2. Dr. Harold Mock recently presented workforce trends to the member of the Milledgeville Chamber of Commerce.
3. Spring Documentary Film Series
  - a. Wildcat: Join us for a screening of the film *Wildcat*. Meet Producers, Mary Rogers & Joe Goodman, Friday, March 28, 8:00 p.m. Russell Auditorium. *This event is part of the Flannery at 100 celebrations.*
  - b. **View Finders:** Showcasing beautiful locations, photography, and outdoor adventure. Meet filmmaker, Dr. Chris Greer. Wednesday, April 16, 6 – 7 p.m., A&S Auditorium.

4. **OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

a. **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

i. **The GCSU Financial Aid Office** will begin notifying students who have been selected by Scholarship Committees to receive institutional scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year. These notifications will be sent to the student's bobcat email addresses starting the week of March 24, 2025.

ii. **Office of Admissions**

1. As of March 24, 2025, the Office of Admissions has received 8,225 applications for the Fall 2025 semester, reflecting a 4% increase compared to the previous year. The deadline for Freshman Applications is April 1.
2. Junior Day will be held on April 5, offering high school juniors the opportunity to learn about the admissions process, engage with various departments and faculty members, and explore the GCSU campus.

iii. **The Office of Graduate Admissions** is hosting Graduate Orientation on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for Education, Nursing, and Athletic Training.

iv. **The Office of Student Success and Career Development**

1. In collaboration with the Student Government Association, the Office of Student Success and Career Development will host a student-centered edition of the Student Success and Retention Series. This program will feature interactive roundtable discussions designed to engage students in meaningful dialogue and collect feedback on campus services. The event will take place on April 23, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the MSU Donahoo Lounge.
2. The Office of Student Success and Career Development, in collaboration with the Department of Government and Sociology and the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department, will host the Statewide Law Enforcement Fair on April 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Magnolia Ballroom.
3. The Office of Student Success and Career Development will host a virtual GRE Strategy Session with the Princeton Review on April 9, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Students may register for the event at <https://bit.ly/gcsugre>

b. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

i. **USG HIPS Challenge** Two grants were submitted to the USG HIPS Challenge to support and strengthen HIPS on campus.

1. Writing as a High-Impact Practice: Building Faculty Capacity for Student Success
  - a. Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, Dr. Joy Bracewell, Dr. Roberto Leon, Dr. Emily Pucker and Dr. Cara Smith

2. Development of Robust Departmental Assessment of Undergraduate Research and Community-based Engage Learning.
  - a. Dr. Kevin Bucholtz, Dr. Tsu Ming Chiang, Dr. Cara Smith, Dr. Chris Ferland and Ms. Natalie Clark.
- c. **MENTORED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS (MURACE)**
  - i. **GCSU's 3rd Annual Research Day is set for April 16th, 2025!**
    1. This campus-wide event will kick off with poster presentations, followed by concurrent oral presentation sessions throughout the day. It will conclude with a screening of the ViewFinders documentary at 6:00 PM at the Arts & Science Auditorium.
    2. This year, Research Day will feature close to 260 student projects presented by both undergraduate and graduate students, a 41% increase from 2024. Students will also have the chance to participate in the First-Year Writers' Showcase, the 3-in-3 Competition, Digital Humanities presentations, and the Writing Center Poster Competition.
    3. The complete Research Day schedule will be released soon! All are welcome to join us for the student success showcase.
    4. For questions regarding Research Day, please reach out to [Dr. Tsu-Ming Chiang](#) or [Natalie Clark](#).
5. **CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**
  - a. **SANDRA DUNAGAN DEAL CENTER FOR EARLY LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**
    - i. Dr. Morgan spoke alongside Former Governor Nathan Deal, Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones, and Speaker of the House of Representatives Jon Burns to honor Mrs. Deal, highlight literacy, and call on legislators to continue Sandra's legacy at the capitol February 27.
    - ii. Dr. Morgan attended the 61st annual Washington Policy Seminar in DC as part of the Education Policy Fellowship Program by the Institute for Educational Leadership.
    - iii. The Deal Center kicked off the Literacy Coach Network in March, a partnership with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). The network is intended to empower the state's literacy coaches through education and community.
    - iv. This February marked the seventh successful, consecutive launch of the Deal Center's Community Coalition Grant Initiative, which closed applications March 21 with a total of 48 applications, an increase of 71% from last year.