



# Provost Notes

July 2024

## Join the Cat Crew!

Cat Crew is a volunteer opportunity for faculty, staff, and community members who are motivated to help on-campus students move into residence halls and apartments.

Volunteers are needed to assist with checking paperwork, distributing water, providing directions, and most importantly, helping unload students' cars and getting their belongings into their new rooms.

University Housing opens on August 14<sup>th</sup> for West Campus residents, and August 15<sup>th</sup> for Central Campus residents. Students move in from 8:00 am-12:00 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup> and from 7:15-11:15 am on August 15<sup>th</sup>, in one-hour blocks. Volunteers are needed from 7:45 am- 12:00 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and from 7:15-11:00 am on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Participating in the Cat Crew is a great way to introduce your department, RSO, or organization to the newest residents of the Milledgeville and Georgia College communities.

Please [Register online](#).

For questions, contact Matthew Terry at [matthew.terry@gcsu.edu](mailto:matthew.terry@gcsu.edu)

## Congratulations!

**Dominic DeSantis, PhD, College of Arts and Sciences**, *Effects of Roadways on Seasonal Movement Strategies and Mate Location Success in an Imperiled Pit Viper (Crotalus horridus)*, The Rattlesnake Conservancy, \$5,000.

**Christine Mutiti, PhD, College of Arts and Sciences**, *Exploring the Ecological Impact of Chinese Privet (Ligustrum sinense) Shrub Invasion and its Management*, Georgia Botanical Society, \$1,000.

## Academic Affairs Leadership Retreat

The Office of the Provost is holding a working retreat for Deans and Department Chairs on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the gathering is to prepare for the academic year as we look to welcoming a robust first-year class that is academically prepared to join the university.

## Book Orders for Fall 2024

If you have not submitted your book adoptions for Fall 2024, please contact Barnes & Noble - Sophia Peterson at (478) 445-7305 for assistance.

## Faculty Contracts 2024-2025

Georgia College & State University is continuing to use the highly successful OneUSG electronic faculty contract distribution and e-signature system that was deployed last year. The e-contract eliminates delays with physical mail delivery systems and provides a convenient system for everyone involved in the contract process.

On June 28, an email message containing instructions was sent by Neil Jones (HR) to contract eligible recipients notifying them about the full-time faculty contract process. The electronic contract is available in the same system that houses your pay statements, W-2's, etc. The due date to respond to the contract is July 22, 2024. Please remember that during peak periods, the USG system's processing response times may be slow.

Limited term one-year faculty and part-time faculty are an important part of our university instructional team as well. Following Board of Regents – University System of Georgia policies, limited term one-year faculty and part-time faculty employment agreements are covered through the Offer/Acceptance letter and the Part-time Faculty Teaching Agreement (GC Signatures – DocuSign).

New faculty will not have access to the OneUSG System until August when their employment begins. New faculty employment agreements are also confirmed through the Offer/Acceptance letter process.

## Liberal Arts Skills for the Professions and Individual Well-being

The Center for Teaching & Learning continues to organize workshops as part of the “Liberal Arts Skills for the Professions and Individual Well-Being” initiative. Currently, five workshops are being developed that will focus on showcasing skills learned for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and teamwork. Faculty members can consider integrating this information in their teaching and share these approaches in their classrooms to help students better understand the importance of the liberal arts in the workplace and beyond. As part of the effort to develop an understanding of how liberal arts can be advanced in the classroom, the Office of the Provost supported three faculty members to attend a Lilly Conference during the summer. This is in addition to the Lilly Conference Fellowship (LCF) faculty program. This LCF award supports one faculty member to attend the Lilly Conference which, with its 40-year history, brings together participants from around the world to create a community focused on lifelong learning and the betterment of teaching in the learning environment. The Fall 2024 Lilly Conference Fellowship recipient is Dr. Natalie Toomey, Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology, Department of Professional Learning & Innovation. During the 2024-2025 academic year, Dr. Toomey will deliver insights on teaching and learning to the GCSU faculty and staff through programming sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning.

### August Faculty Events

**Faculty Contract Start Date:** Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
**New Faculty Orientation:** Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30am-3:30pm; Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30am-3:00pm; Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-3:00pm; Peabody Auditorium  
**Assessment Day:** Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>; 8:30-10:30am, Pat Peterson Museum Education Room  
**Faculty and Staff Fall Kickoff Event:** Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00am, Russell Auditorium  
**Governance Retreat:** Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am–2:00pm  
**Making Excellence Inclusive Day:** Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am–2:00pm  
**GC Reads:** Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00–4:00 pm  
**First Day of Class:** Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>:** First Year Convocation: 2:30pm; Meet Your Major: 4:00-5:30pm; WOW Block Party: 7:00-9:00pm

### Assessment Day: August 7, 2024

Assessment Day this year will be held in the Pat Peterson Museum Education Room from 8:30-10:30am. Please plan to attend for latest updates.

8:30-8:55am- Department chairs’ session (academic assessment overview/review, discussion of reports and due dates, Q&A).

9:00-9:25am- Program assessment coordinators’ session (Update from SACSCOC visit, discussion of 2024 and 2025 SMART reports).

9:30-10:15am- Core faculty session (discussion of fall 2024 core assessment, looking forward to spring 2025 assessment).

Please contact Dr. Cara Smith ([cara.smith@gcsu.edu](mailto:cara.smith@gcsu.edu) or extension 3530) if you have any questions.

### 2024 Convocation Activities

Please join us on Friday, August 23, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. in the Centennial Center as we celebrate this momentous occasion and uphold the long-standing tradition of welcoming our new students to GCSU. We are also delighted to announce that the 2024 Convocation keynote speaker will be Dr. Stephanie Jett.

Immediately following Convocation, each program will host a “Meet Your Major” session from 4:00-5:30p.m. This will provide an excellent opportunity for students to engage with faculty members and learn more about what to expect from their respective majors. To conclude the day, the university community is invited to our annual W.O.W. Block Party from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of fun, food, and festivities.