




**OFFICE OF
THE PROVOST**
GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

December 2024 Provost Notes


Happy
Holidays


**FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST**



**GEORGIA
COLLEGE
& STATE UNIVERSITY**

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS





Academic Affairs faculty & staff,

2024 has been an incredible year, filled with challenges, achievements, and moments of growth and adaptability. As we step into 2025, we're excited for even greater opportunities and successes that lie ahead, thanks to the remarkable energy and dedication you bring to your work. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to serving our students and our campus. Your efforts truly make a difference. I hope you are able to enjoy some rest and quality time with your friends and family during this season. Here's to making it another great year in Academic Affairs at Georgia College & State University!

Warm wishes,
Dr. Holley Roberts
Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

December Commencement will be held Saturday, December 14 in the Centennial Center. Faculty regalia required. **Please arrive no later than 12:15 p.m.** Faculty are encouraged to stay after the ceremony for the reception which will be outdoors under tents.



GCSU Professional Leave Program 2025-2026

The purpose of professional leave is to refresh and reinvigorate tenured faculty members; to improve, through appropriate activity, the academic qualifications and teaching competence of the faculty; to encourage productive scholarly research; and to stimulate contributions of high caliber in the future that will enhance the stature of both the individual and the University. The following faculty have been awarded a professional leave in FY26:

- **Rodica Cazacu:** College of Arts & Sciences, *Mathematics*, Fall 2025
- **Donovan Domingue:** College of Arts & Sciences, *Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy*, Fall 2025
- **Chris Greer:** College of Education, *Professional Learning & Innovation*, Fall 2025
- **Whitney Heppner:** College of Arts & Sciences, *Psychological Science*, Spring 2026
- **Youngmi Kim:** College of Arts & Sciences, *Music*, Spring 2026
- **Samuel Mutiti:** College of Arts & Sciences, *Biological and Environmental Sciences*, Spring 2026

Congratulations to these External Grant Recipients

Frank Baugh- Finance and Administration

Project Title: Roadside Enhancement & Beautification Council Grant

Sponsor: Georgia Department of Transportation

Funded Amount: **\$50,000**

Courtney Bentley- Continuing and Professional Studies

Project Title: CIS Model to Improve HS Graduation Rate - FY25

Sponsor: CIS GA by way of GA Dept of Education

Funded Amount: **\$67,000**

Courtney Bentley- Continuing and Professional Studies

Project Title: CIS Model in Baldwin County Schools FFY25

Sponsor: Baldwin County BOE via CIS/US Dept of Education.

Funded Amount: **\$75,000**

Courtney Bentley- Continuing and Professional Studies

Project Title: CIS - Community Resources Project - FY25

Sponsor: Communities in Schools of Milledgeville/Baldwin County, Inc.

Funded Amount: **\$105,000**

Nicholas Creel - College of Business & Technology

Project Title: Rural Business Accelerator

Sponsor: Georgia Power

Funded Amount: **\$25,000**

Kasey Karen with student Heather Vincent - College of Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Adenoviral Protein E4 11k's Role in the Inhibition of the DNA-PK-dependent DNA Damage Response

Sponsor: Beta Beta Beta Research Foundation

Funded Amount: **\$600**

Kasey Karen with student Sarah West - College of Arts & Sciences

Project Title: The Role of Adenovirus Protein E4 11k in P Body Protein Relocalization

Sponsor: Beta Beta Beta Research Foundation

Funded Amount: **\$500**

Kasey Karen with student Kun Yuan Chu- College of Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Genetic Suppressor Screen in Search of Novel Sec6 Interacting Proteins in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae

Sponsor: Beta Beta Beta Research Foundation

Funded Amount: **\$600**



Provost's Research and Development Seed Grant Recipients

Dr. Ernie Kaninjing- College of Health Sciences

Project Title: Grounded theory study of the social determinants of migrant health factors impacting prostate cancer care and survivorship among sub-Saharan African and Caribbean immigrant men diagnosed with prostate cancer

Funded Amount: \$45,812

Dr. Arnab Sengupta- College of Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Role of mRNA structure in translation control of human cancer-related mRNAs

Funded Amount: \$30,520



Provost Visiting Scholars

The Provost's Visiting Scholars Program is intended to enrich the learning experiences of faculty and students within the context of an academic department/school. Each Provost Visiting Scholar contributes to the life of the academic department and enrich the student experience. The expectation is for the scholar to contribute in a myriad of ways, such as lecturing in specific classes, attending departmental events, giving a talk on their area of expertise, meeting with students, etc. The visiting scholars for 2024-2025 are:

Department of Government and Sociology

Dr. Susan Kirkpatrick Smith is an associate professor of anthropology and anthropology program coordinator at Kennesaw State University.

Department of English

Dr. John Belk is an associate professor of English, writing program director, and former associate English department chair at Southern Utah University.

Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects wishes to announce the appointment of Interim Co-Directors, Ms. Chandra Cheatham and Ms. Donna Douglas.

Both Ms. Cheatham and Ms. Douglas bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the role. Their collaborative efforts and extensive institutional knowledge will be instrumental in maintaining continuity for campus stakeholders and driving the success and growth of the office while we conduct a search for a new director.

We are grateful for the continued leadership within the OGSP.

HERS Institute 2025

Congratulations to Georgia College's selected representative, Dr. Linda Bradley, College of Education, for the 2025 HERS Institute Program.

The HERS Leadership Institute is a transformational, leadership development program for higher education professionals, founded to fill leadership pipelines across the United States with dynamic leaders, each capable of ushering their respective institutions into a more inclusive and equitable future.



Office of the Provost

<https://www.gcsu.edu/provost>

Contact

Contact:

academic.affairs@gcsu.edu

(478) 445-4715

Campus Box 024

Milledgeville, GA 31061

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