

GORDON STATE
HIGHLANDERS



HERE COMES
GORDY

WELCOME TO
HIGHLANDER
NATION



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

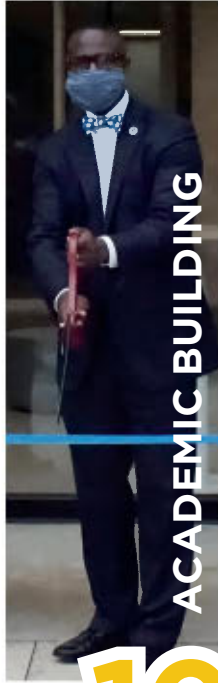
SPRING 2021, VOLUME 18

CONTENTS



COMMENCEMENT

5



ACADEMIC BUILDING

10



IN-KIND GIFT

14



CLUB FOOTBALL

16



HOMECOMING

18



HIGHLANDER EDGE AWARDS

22

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Spring 2021, Volume 18

PRESIDENT: Kirk A. Nooks, Ed.D.

PUBLISHER:
Montrese Adger Fuller,
Vice President
of Advancement,
External Relations
and Marketing and
Executive Director of
the GSC Foundation

EDITOR: Steve Argo

WRITERS: Steve Argo, Barbara
Obrentz, Kathyne A. Fields,
Jeremy Monroe and Dan Ascherman

DESIGN: Amber Tallent

PHOTOGRAPHY: Amber Tallent, Village
Photography, Frank Fortune and Staff

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Beth Pye
of Gordon State College's Hightower
Collaborative Learning Center and Library
provided research support. Candi Babcock
provided research and other essential
support in the Advancement Office.



2021's Homecoming Kickoff Bonfire event marked the introduction of "Gordy the Highlander," the new GSC mascot.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

GSC MISSION STATEMENT

TO BE A CATALYST FOR EXCEPTIONAL AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION THROUGH INNOVATIVE TEACHING, ENGAGED LEARNING, AND TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR STUDENTS, THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE, AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

Dear Friends,

We could not have predicted this past year and the events that occurred. Amidst the backdrop of a global pandemic, the college decided to follow our North Star – our Strategic Plan – during this year of “Modification.” This ambitious decision required dedication and commitment to staying the course and implementing all the ideas, objectives, and approaches we adopted in Year One. We accomplished many goals across the campus and in the community despite the shift of the world. I am proud of Highlander Nation. To persevere through uncertain times, truly required the Power of WE.

During Year Two, we have been ranked in the top 20 for three consecutive years among U.S. News and World Report’s Top Public

CORE VALUES

**STUDENT FOCUSED, LIFE-LONG LEARNING/
SCHOLARSHIP, EXCELLENCE, RESPECT, AND
COLLABORATION**

Schools in the Regional Colleges South Category, experienced a record Summer semester head count of a 13 percent increase from the previous year, redesigned our college spirit mark and mascot, gained USG Board of Regents’ approval for new degrees, successfully implemented the scheduling software Courseleaf to improve better sequencing of course offerings, and had our faculty, staff and students wage a war with the Coronavirus.

At a time when we needed to come together to move forward, that is exactly what Gordon State College did. Now, we are ready to look into the future with a Highlanders Forward mindset, we find ourselves approaching Year Three. This is the year we are going to call our Year of “Reset and Renewal.” During this year, it is our goal to trust the process of fulfilling additional goals and objectives within our Strategic Plan. At the



same time, we will leverage our college value of Life-Long Learning and make the necessary adjustments to reach our preferred destination. What can we do differently? What do we need to address in the present, so we can be a stronger institution in the future?

However, before we get to some of those answers, we need to pause and celebrate our accomplishments. In this issue, you will read about the State of the College Address, new capital projects, alumni, faculty, staff and student accomplishments.

Please enjoy this edition of the President’s Report as it will share an unforgettable journey of accomplishments and milestones made by the college. Together, with faculty, staff, students, and community partners, Gordon State College can continue to push forward and benefit from the Power of WE.

Highlanders Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk A. Nooks". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Kirk A. Nooks, Ed.D., President
Gordon State College



NOOKS DELIVERS SECOND ANNUAL STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

Gordon State College President Dr. Kirk A. Nooks delivered the institution's second annual State of the College address in January. The address included the introduction of GSC Scholarship recipient Elijah Clemmons and the introduction of President Nooks by Presidential Fellow Harrison Bishton, a Coweta County resident and U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command veteran. Appointed in June 2018, Nooks is the fourth president of the institution since it joined the University System of Georgia in 1972.

As part of Nooks' speech, he noted that GSC had been given the green light to begin the process of offering two new degrees; a Nexus Degree in Film Production and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice through the USG's eMajor. Gordon State hopes to start offering classes for the new degrees pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Nooks provided 2020 highlights and accomplishments in a virtual presentation featuring the college's progress toward achieving the goals of the five-year Strategic Plan: The Power of WE, initiated in 2019.



"We are seeing the benefits of our collaboration with partnerships within our region," said Nooks, as he shared the college ranking in the top 20 leading regional state

colleges in the nation for three consecutive years and seventh best nursing school in Georgia.

"We know our graduates leave Gordon equipped with The Highlander EDGE, [Engaged Innovators, Dedicated Scholars, Gifted Communicators and Ethical Leaders,] noted qualities that set Gordon graduates apart. These qualities give them a noted advantage in the workforce," Nooks said.

Nooks commended EDGE leaders Hannah Norwood, a junior history major, who was recently named the recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs highly competitive Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and the first student to receive this award. Nooks also commended biology major Amber Fraley, who plans on volunteering in local pharmacies and other health related organizations in order to gain experience for her future career as a pharmacist or biochemist.

Another leadership initiative, GSC's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) program, received full funding from the USG this year. The college also established the inaugural Presidential Fellows Program, allowing students to grow their leadership experiences and serve as ambassadors for the Office of the President and the college.

In Fall 2020, Gordon enrolled 3,200 students. It saw a 13 percent increase in student enrollment from the past summer, resulting in a record high enrollment of more than 1,000 students. GSC had the highest retention rate for first-time, full time freshmen, with more than 61 percent of students returning after their first year. One hundred percent of faculty received an online accreditation to teach courses virtually, as the college had to pivot to deliver classes remotely in March due to the pandemic.

In its virtual spring 2020 commencement ceremony, the college awarded 125 baccalaureate degrees and 144 associate degrees to graduating students, 81 percent coming from 13 of the 14 counties in the college's service region. Fifty-three percent of the graduating class earned their associate degree while the other 47 percent earned their baccalaureate degree.

The virtual commencement ceremony held in December 2020 added another 69 associate degree and 105 baccalaureate degree candidates who ranged in age from 17 to 65. Thirty-eight percent of graduates were adult learners, 46 were first generation college students and 13 percent of them graduated with honors.

As highlighted in the college's strategic plan, GSC will "Recruit, retain and transition professionals through a process that supports and emphasizes the institution's values." In doing so, the college created a Presidential Commission on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in keeping with the ongoing national discussion about racial discrimination; recognized faculty and staff excellence through its inaugural GSC faculty and staff awards; and the college acknowledged many others throughout the institution who received USG, state and national recognition.

Also mentioned in the strategic plan, GSC is focused on meeting the needs of its primary service region and the state of Georgia. As such, Gordon State College contributed nearly \$137 million to the regional economy and provided more than 1,100 jobs in fiscal year 2019, according to a report released by the USG. Of the college's total economic impact, spending by GSC students accounted for \$75 million of the \$130 million contributed to the regional economy.

In support of this strategic initiative, the college hosted its second annual Legislative Roundtable in December, welcoming senators and representatives while utilizing a virtual format. The conversation focused on legislative priorities and acknowledged the support of state representatives who supported the reopening of the 28,500 square-foot Academic building.

In part of giving back to the community, the college is thankful for the work of GSC First Lady Alison N. Nooks, who has made it her mission

since 2018 to read to children and encourage healthy character building.

In order to nurture relationships with other USG institutions, GSC has developed smooth transitions for students this year, adding Georgia Southwestern State University through a memorandum of understanding with GSC to allow students to complete a Bachelor of Science in Management and Administration at GSC to be accepted seamlessly into Georgia Southwestern's Master of Business Administration program.

In addition, the college has adopted a Career Management System called Handshake. The system connects students with open positions, mainly internships and entry level jobs and streamlines the process for employers, career counselors and student candidates. More than 600 jobs have been posted in the system for students to review since GSC launched the platform in October 2020.

"Another important initiative of the college focuses on its partnership with the Foundation Board," said Nooks, who recognized the importance of building philanthropic capacity linked to the college's strategic goals. The Foundation Board unanimously approved a one-time \$100,000 grant to the college as a strategic investment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant included support for scholarships, the performing arts and athletics, and a \$50,000 allocation to fully endow the Highlander GAP Scholarship Fund.

Nooks acknowledged the good work of Derrick Lewis, who recently told him how excited he was to be Gordon State College Foundation Board Chair. "It's an exciting time to be the Board Chair of the GSC Foundation and to work with the leadership to continue to move the institution forward for many years to come," Lewis said.

"We are proud of our Foundation Board," Nooks said "Over the past few years, an average of 90 percent of them have provided financial support to the college."

"We are proud to announce the largest donation in the history of the Foundation, a \$255,000 gift from Foundation board member Dan White," said Nooks. The gift will be designated toward a combination of eight endowed scholarships,

an endowed lecture series and an endowed Fine Arts & Performing Arts Series. In addition, White presented an in-kind contribution of a Franklin Delano Roosevelt maquette sculpture in recognition of FDR's monumental speech at the college in the 1930s, bringing electrification to rural Georgia.

In addition to partnering with the GSC Foundation to build philanthropic capacity, Nooks shared information about the partnership the college has with the GSC Alumni Board, whose goal it is to build collegiate affinity linked to the institution.

"I am proud to highlight the expansion of our Alumni Board," Nooks said. "Gordon State College has increased its board from six members to 13. Our board includes Highlanders from as far back as our military school days to our most recent graduates."

Anchoring his State of the College presentation to the Power of WE, Nooks highlighted many objectives including a strategy for launching and enhancing marketing and communications efforts reflective of the 2019-2024 vision for the college.

He touched on the significant growth in the college's social media engagement and the fact that Gordon has gained 3,548 followers among its four standard social media platforms. He proudly discussed the introduction of a new spirit mark and a new mascot, whose name was voted on by the college's students.

Sharing a quick history of the college, Dr. Nooks explained that a stag was symbolic of the badge worn by the Gordon Highlanders. They were a line infantry regiment of the British Army who existed for 113 years after two Scottish Regiments merged in 1881. A crest with a stag and motto, "Bydand- Stand and Fight" motto was featured as part of the badge.

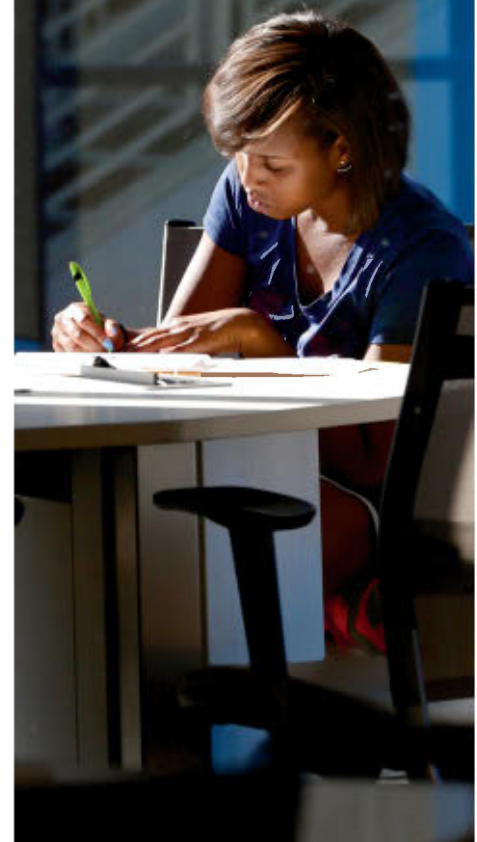
"Our new mascot is a stag named Gordy. Gender-neutral, it not only represents the history of the college, but also will stand proudly as a representation of the present and future of this wonderful institution. Gordy has been transformed into a spirit mark that represents all the pride that Highlander Nation has to offer. The mark and mascot will serve as the visual symbols of strength, pride and the Power of WE for the college for many years to come," Nooks said.



Our new mascot is a stag named Gordy. Gordy has been transformed into a spirit mark that represents all the pride that Highlander Nation has to offer. The mark and mascot will serve as the visual symbols of strength, pride and the Power of WE for the college for many years to come.



**Dr. Kirk A. Nooks,
President**





GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

Gordon State College teamed up with community leaders across Lamar County to revive the Great Day of Service on March 20.

The Great Day of Service started in 2010 and became a Lamar County tradition until 2016 when it became too much for individual coordinators to handle. This year, the event was planned and carried out by a community-wide committee.

Peter Banks, Barnesville Mayor, spoke to the volunteers that morning before sending them off to over 20 different service locations.

“I am so grateful and delighted to see so many people with the heart to serve right here in Barnesville,” Banks said.

“The purpose of this day has always been to unite everyone in the community to serve those that need it the most,” said Jeremy Monroe, Day of Service Committee Chair.



LEGACY LECTURE SERIES

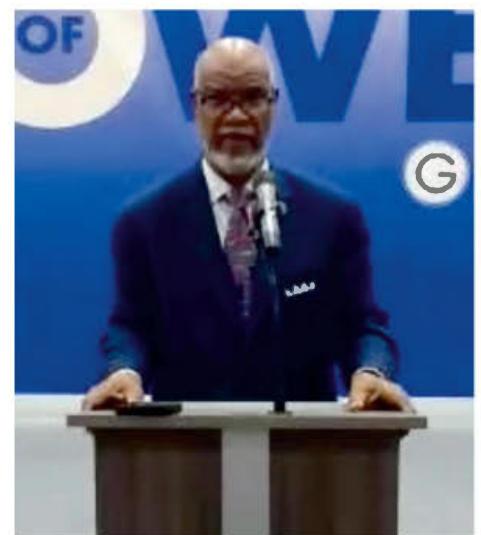
Gordon State College hosted its Legacy Lecture Series on February 21 as Rep. Calvin Smyre from the 135th District of Georgia’s House of Representatives spoke to Highlander students via Zoom and in the SARC.

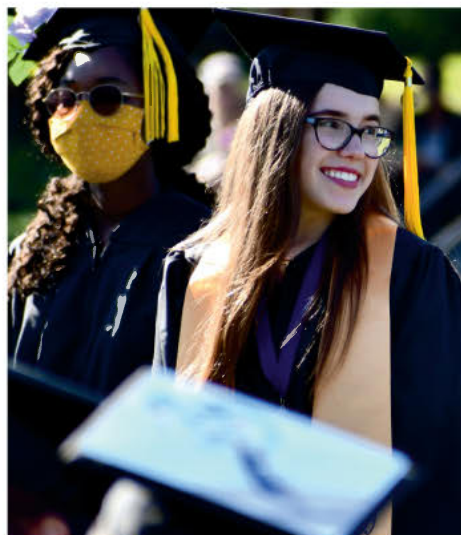
“The Legacy Lecture series was started to ensure students felt empowered to continue their journey and create a legacy that propels those coming after them” said Dr. Kirk A. Nooks, President.

Rep. Smyre shared many thoughts and ideas with the Highlander student body as well as numerous virtual guests.

“I want to be remembered as a person who gave of his time and energy in trying to make a better life for the people he represented,” said Rep. Smyre (D), who has served in the Georgia HR since 1975. “Today, I represented the young people in the audience and the viewers listening. I represented a legacy that was created to provide an opportunity for all those who want to see change.

“Today was important for me to share with students that when opportunity knocks, be ready to open the door. If I have the opportunity to leave something behind, it is the opportunity to share my legacy.”





SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Gordon State College hosted its in-person spring 2021 commencement ceremony on May 14 at Summers Field Park as more than 500 graduates from the summer and fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021 were recognized.

This socially-distanced event marked the first commencement for GSC at Summers Field Park and the first in-person ceremony for the College since December 2019.

“Throughout the past 14 months, Gordon has endured the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Dr. Kirk A. Nooks, President. “Today was a special time to recognize the achievements of these women and men of Highlander Nation.”

The morning ceremony highlighted graduates from the School of Business, Liberal Arts, and Social Sciences and the keynote speaker was Gordon State College Foundation Trustee Dan White.

The afternoon ceremony highlighted graduates from the School of Education, Mathematics, and Applied Sciences along with the School of Nursing, Health and Natural Sciences and the keynote speaker was GSC graduate Justin Gunnels, who is currently a teacher in Lamar County and is earning his doctorate in education.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

The following faculty members earned a micro-credential for completing Promoting Active Learning Online training offered through the Association of College and University Educators: **Dr. Kris Beck, Professor of Political Science; Dr. Samantha Bishop, Director of Nursing; Dr. Ric Calhoun, Assistant VP for Innovative Education and Strategic Initiatives; Valerie Calhoun, Student Success Advisor/Lecturer; Dr. Brent Johnson, Associate Professor of Education; Tony Pearson, Associate Professor of Theatre; Autumn Schaffer, Instructional Designer; and Dr. Jessica Traylor, Assistant Professor of Psychology.**



Dr. Cristina Fermin-Ennis, Professor of Chemistry; Melissa Harrison, Associate Professor of Nursing; Dr. Brent Johnson, Associate Professor of Education; and Dr. Scott Shubitz, Assistant Professor of History, were named to the Chancellors Learning Scholars (CLS). CLSs are representatives from each institution in the University System of Georgia (USG) who facilitate Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) on their campuses.

Candi Babcock, Advancement Coordinator, was named the recipient of the Georgia Education Advancement Council (GEAC) Overall Institutional Excellence in Advancement Award at the 2020 GEAC virtual conference kickoff in November. The award honors higher education professionals in Georgia who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields.

Dr. Samantha Bishop was named as the **Director of Nursing,** a position which she held on an interim basis for the academic year 2019-2020. Bishop earned a Doctorate of Education in Workforce Education from the University of Georgia in 2021.

Dr. Peter Boltz, Professor of Communication, served on nine distinct committees or special projects, including the Regents Advisory Committee for Communication.

Dr. Michele Perry-Stewart, Associate Professor of English, co-chaired the Presidential Commission on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity.

Dr. Erik Clabaugh, Instructor of Communication, earned a Ph.D. in Communications from Georgia State University.

Dr. Brenda Johnson, Professor of Business, served as Associate Editor of International Journal of Leadership Studies.

Lisa Ferguson, Assistant Professor of Theatre, served on nine distinct committees /special projects, including Bachelor of Arts in Creative Industry Arts proposal and directed two theatrical performances presented via distance technology.

Dr. Christy Flatt, Associate Professor of Sociology, served as director for USG Goes Global-Germany; Secretary/Treasurer for the Georgia Sociological Association.

Peter Higgins, Assistant Vice President of Academic Excellence, was recognized by The National Resource Center for First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the First-Year Experience Conference, 2021.



Bob Detamore, Lecturer of Art, created a new sign for the Lamar County Health Department.

President Kirk A. Nooks was appointed to serve as a board member by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) for their Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI). The MLI is a premier leadership development program that provides individuals traditionally underrepresented in the highest rank of higher education the opportunity to develop skills, gain a philosophical overview and build the network needed to advance to the presidency.

Dr. Erik McCarthy, Associate Professor of English, served as Book Review Editor for New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century.

Tony Pearson, Associate Professor of Theatre, authored "How to Jumpstart Your Inclusive Classroom," a chapter to be published in the University System of Georgia's upcoming collection Scaling Up Student Success.

Kent Rollins, Head Baseball Coach, represented the Highlanders baseball program during a virtual banquet hosted by the Atlanta 400 Baseball Fan Club and accepted a \$1,500 Phil Niekro Memorial Scholarship Award.

Dr. Tonya Moore, Director of Career Services, was selected for the 2020 University System of Georgia Executive Leadership Institute.

Autumn Schaffer Moore, Instructional Designer, developed Highlander Trails—Learning to Teach Online, a certification process for teachers of online courses. One-hundred percent of Gordon's faculty and instructors teaching Fall Semester 2020 completed this time-intensive experience, along with Quality Matters, a national training program.

Dr. Stephen Raynie, Professor of English, has been named President of the Georgia Organization for Student Success (GOSS) during its recent annual conference. GOSS, the state affiliate of the National Organization for Student Success, is comprised of teachers and administrators from all levels of education in the state. He also served as President of the Georgia Association for Developmental Education.

Dr. Richard Schmude, Professor of Chemistry, has recently completed a

study of afternoon clouds on Mars that is set to be published later this year in the journal of the British Astronomical Association.

Ally Hattermann, Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Head Softball Coach,

reached another milestone in her coaching career when the Highlanders won the second game of a doubleheader over Wesleyan College (Ga.), securing her 500th career win. Hattermann is in her 22nd year coaching the GSC softball team.



Dr. Doug Davis, Professor of English, served as a grants reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Ashley Travis, Innovative Education Specialist, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and Administration from Gordon State College.

2020-2021 Retirees: Scott Arceneaux, Dr. Richard Baskin, Dr. Henry Gore, Wanda Grant, Marc Gray, Diane Hayden, Peter Higgins, Dr. Satyajit Karmakar, Karen Stigura, and Dr. Wanda Stuckey.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS AND TENURE

TENURED

- Prof. Lisa Cesnik Ferguson
- Dr. Beth Pollock
- Dr. Joseph Jones

PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Prof. Lisa Cesnik Ferguson
- Dr. Beth Pollock
- Dr. Jacquelyn Key
- Prof. Christy Skinner

PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR

- Dr. Bernard Anderson
- Dr. Amanda Duffus
- Dr. Christy Flatt
- Dr. Joseph Jones
- Prof. Tony Pearson

DUFFUS, MATTHEWS RECEIVE INAUGURAL FOUNDATION AWARDS



Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Amanda Duffus received the inaugural GSC Foundation Faculty Award.

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Amanda Duffus received the inaugural GSC Foundation Faculty Award. A statement from a colleague's nomination of Duffus notes, "As a faculty fellow for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), Dr. Duffus has coordinated the highly successful Undergraduate Research Symposium, a large student-centered event requiring collaborative planning and interpersonal skills throughout her 10 years at Gordon State College. Dr. Duffus has mentored about 50 research students both at GSC and at other institutions, and has participated in over 100 different projects with her students."

In a statement from another colleague nomination for Duffus, "Dr. Duffus has guided and mentored several faculty members at GSC. There are several instances where she has gone well above the average 'call of duty' to help colleagues. Her dedication and loyalty to her colleagues, students and Gordon State College is undeniable, and she regularly proves this through her actions. Simply put, whether it is her research, her students, or her colleagues, Dr. Duffus exceeds expectations and is beyond deserving of the Foundation Award."

Finance and Administration Coordinator Joy Matthews was recognized for the inaugural GSC



Finance and Administration Coordinator Joy Matthews was recognized for the inaugural GSC Foundation Staff Award.

Foundation Staff Award. Matthews' nominee wrote, "On a professional level, Joy is everywhere. She always strives to learn more about her job and those around her in the best interests of the college and her professional development. She spent countless hours learning and working with the offices of the Bursar, Financial Aid, Admissions, and the Registrar to coordinate and manage the on-campus call center and more. Does a lot of things above and beyond her regular job duties. Joy was a student at Gordon and works at Gordon because she wants to be at Gordon."

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton congratulated the EDGE recipients along with the distinguished faculty and staff. "You are all an inspiration and passionate about learning," he said. "GSC is dedicated to providing you with a superior education and seeing you prosper."

HIGHLANDER HEROES

Gordon State's Nursing department partnered with District 4 Public Health to administer COVID-19 vaccines in Barnesville and on campus. GSC student nurses were asked to participate in the vaccination program due to the overwhelming need to administer the vaccine to people who qualified as quickly as possible.

"This is a great experience for the next generation of nurses to not only give

back to the community but truly save lives," said Dr. Elizabeth Nwabuebo, a full-time Nursing faculty member.

Volunteering for service-learning opportunities is not new to the student nurses at GSC. Bachelor of Science in Nursing students participate in service-learning experiences such as vaccine clinics and hearing, vision and scoliosis screenings at community public schools as well as public health fairs as part of their course of study.



NURSING PINNING

Gordon State's Class of December 2020 Associate of Science in Nursing students celebrated with a socially-distant Nursing Pinning Ceremony on November 18. The nurses, many who are currently employed or have offers pending, will immediately impact the region and aid in the demand for nurses in the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Gordon is proud to continue its great tradition of preparing highly qualified nurses for Central Georgia and beyond," said Dr. Victor Vilchiz, dean of the School of Nursing, Health and Natural Sciences. "We will continue

to do our part in fighting the current health environment."

Participants received their nursing pins, lit their nursing lamp and recited the international nurse's pledge.

"As faculty, the success of our students is our greatest accomplishment. We strive to help prepare them to become the best nurses they can be," said Melissa Harrison, associate professor of Nursing.

The 52 students were able to participate in the small, abbreviated ceremony held in the SARC, which allowed for safety protocol.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Students made the adjustment last fall to social distancing and wearing face coverings when they returned to campus, but that did not stop Highlander Nation from safely continuing to create opportunities for alumni and community engagement.

Fine and Performing Arts provided virtual outlets through performances, shows, and concerts throughout the academic year while GSC First Lady Alison Nooks continued with her First Lady Reads Tour at elementary schools in Gordon's 14-county service region.

GSC alumni sprung into action and organized a supply drive in partnership with the Alumni Board and the Highlander House to assist students.

Admissions offered sessions in-person and online as GSC showcased its beautiful campus, talented students plus exceptional faculty and staff.





Gordon State College President Kirk A. Nooks, center, led the ribbon cutting on the reopening of the Academic Building Monday with GSC Foundation Trustee George Hightower, from left, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Dr. John Head; Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton; District 140 State Representative and Foundation Trustee Robert Dickey; Barnesville Mayor Peter Banks; District 130 State Representative David Knight; Vice President of Advancement, External Relations and Marketing & Executive Director of the Foundation Montrese Adger Fuller; Vice President of Finance and Administration Megan Davidson; Foundation Trustee Jim Edwards; and Student Government Association President Ruben Raymond.

GORDON STATE CELEBRATES REOPENING OF ACADEMIC BUILDING

Gordon State College celebrated the reopening and ribbon cutting for the Academic Building in a brief dedication ceremony on August 31. The 28,500 square-foot Academic Building on the east side of the GSC campus is the home of the Department of Humanities.

Built in 1982, the renovated building features a complete interior modification of both floors and is located on College Drive. The project was designed by Houser Walker Architect. The 28,545 square feet of classroom space, study rooms and collaborative areas were modified by Striker Contracting.

President Dr. Kirk A. Nooks welcomed the socially-distant crowd of students, alumni, faculty, staff and other friends of the college

10 | President's Report

who were on hand including University System of Georgia Board of Regents member Cade Joiner. The \$1.6 million renovation for the Academic Building was a 14-month project funded through small capital project funds.

"This ribbon cutting ceremony demonstrates another example of progress for Gordon," Nooks said.

"We are grateful to the University System of Georgia, Georgia Legislature and community members who played a role in advancing the Academic Building renovation project. We are also grateful to our faculty, staff, and students for their flexibility and patience while we enhanced this central learning environment. This would not be possible without the wonderful work of Houser Walker



and Striker Contracting to bring this vision to scale. This is a beautiful example of the Power of WE."

GSC Student Government Association President Ruben Raymond greeted guests on behalf of the student body while Trustee Jim Edwards extended a welcome on behalf of the Gordon State College Foundation.

"This college means so much to this community, not only the Barnesville-Lamar County community, but so many of the surrounding communities and the students that it serves," Edwards said. "I think back to when I attended here many years ago and it is just phenomenal to see the amount of growth with new buildings going up and current buildings like this get renovated."



Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, expressed his gratitude that the building's reopening aligned with the ability to hold classes for Fall 2020.

"In the Academic Building, students take classes in some of the oldest disciplines in higher education, like language, communication, and philosophy," Knighton said.

"And soon they will be taking courses in one of the newest disciplines, designed to support the movie industry in Georgia, as we anticipate offering a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Industry Arts. Thanks to the support of the Board of Regents and the Georgia Legislature, Gordon students will be taking that wide variety of classes in a building designed for the 21st Century learner."

Small-group tours were available for faculty, staff, students and guests to view the transformation of the Academic Building, which included modernization updates to the classrooms, open-study labs, computer labs, faculty offices and study spaces along with new carpet, paint, fixtures and furniture.

Megan Davidson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, was pleased with the dedication the architect, construction crew and contractors committed to completing the deadlines and project. "We were fortunate to have an extraordinary team work with us to redesign and renovate the Academic Building," Davidson said. "Houser Walker Architect created an impressive vision that the contractor, Striker Contracting, was able to put into reality. The faculty, staff and, most importantly, the students will benefit from this renovation for many years to come."

Principal Architect Gregory Walker of Houser Walker Architect and Project Architect Megan McDonough shared their appreciation for the opportunity and the project's accomplishments.

"The Academic Building sits at a physical crossover point on the Gordon State College campus, nestled between the historic campus core and student life arena," Walker said. "A new learning commons space on the ground floor, a new entry, enhanced lighting and more collaborative furnishings help define a new gathering space for Gordon State's community.

"Enhanced technology and more ergonomic furniture in the newly renovated classrooms, as well as refreshed faculty support spaces all contribute to the Academic Building's ability to foster formal and informal learning," Walker said.

"We're excited to return a renewed building to Gordon State College and hope the faculty, students, and staff share our enthusiasm for the building."

District 130 State Representative David Knight and District 140 State Representative Robert Dickey, who also serves on the GSC Foundation, attended the ceremony and applauded the investment in education.

Knight stated Gordon's longstanding impact and reputation professionally and economically to the region is exemplary.

"On behalf of the General Assembly, we are here to keep investing in Georgia's future, our students," Knight said. "I am amazed at how this campus grows. As it grows, we need to continue to make sure that its facilities are renovated and updated to meet the needs of the students as we move forward. As a former student of Gordon, it has been my pleasure to continue to watch this campus prosper and thrive."

Dickey, whose father is an alumnus of the former Gordon High School, echoed Knight and stated the college's commitment to preparing students for successful careers is commendable.

"My father is 92 years old and said, 'Please keep supporting Gordon. He loves this school and has watched it grow,'" Dickey said. "It really is a collaborative effort with the University System of Georgia, President Nooks and the citizens of Georgia investing in education. You don't get anything done individually, it's a partnership.

"I appreciate the faculty, staff and everyone working together to continually improve the facilities and teaching at Gordon. We've got a great demand for workers in our state, and I'm thankful for the investment in higher education. Dr. Nooks, just keep it going."

Nooks stated Alumni Memorial Hall is the institution's next building slated for renovations.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

HANNAH NORWOOD

**GILMAN SCHOLAR
MAJOR: HISTORY
GRADUATING: 2022**



"I have always wanted to study abroad and Gordon made that possible. Despite the additional challenges COVID-19 brought, the faculty and staff worked hard to help make my dream a reality."



DEQUARIOUS LOPER

**TOASTMASTER PRESIDENT
MAJOR: HUMAN SERVICES
GRADUATING: 2023**

"Being a Gordon student has been very fascinating and eye-opening. Not only have I grown as a student, but I think I have grown even more so as a person. Through engaging in the clubs, organizations and events that Gordon has to offer, I have learned responsibility and how to be a leader and effective communicator."



GENEVIEVE CHAN

**PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR
MAJOR: MATH AND PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATING: 2021**

"Gordon State College has amazing faculty and staff. Without them, I would not have the necessary support to be where I am today. They make Gordon unique and so valuable."



JEFFREY T. CARDEN

**HONORS STUDENT
MAJOR: MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
GRADUATING: 2021**

"When I began my college journey, I never dreamed that I would make it this far. I would like to include a special thanks to many but specifically to name a few: Dr. Brenda Johnson, Dr. Alan Burstein and Phillip Bell. These educators and influencers have went above and beyond to help me succeed. They have all been great mentors to look to in times of adversity. I can truly say without them I would not be where I am today. Being a student at Gordon opened doors to opportunities that would have never been presented otherwise. Gordon State College is a wonderful school and I am proud to be a future alumni."



Presidential Fellows include: Jawuan Stephens, Harrison Bishton, Amber Fraley, Michael Zuniga and DaQuanis Robinson. The inaugural Presidential Fellows Program allows five students to grow in their leadership and serve as ambassadors for the president and the college.

GORDON ESTABLISHES PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

Gordon State College President Dr. Kirk A. Nooks established the inaugural Presidential Fellows Program that will allow five students to grow in their leadership and serve as ambassadors for the president and the college.

The Presidential Fellows Program offers exceptionally talented students the opportunity to develop their leadership potential through unique exposure to events hosted on campus, substantive work assignments and horizon-broadening education opportunities.

The Presidential Fellows Program aligns with the college's five-year strategic plan, Building the Power of WE, which emphasizes student leadership experiences to increase student engagement and development.

"We have always acknowledged that students are at the heart of everything we do," Nooks said. "As we continue to develop the Gordon experience, it is an honor to have five students who have committed to this leadership

opportunity. As Presidential Fellows they will have the opportunity to engage with local and civic leaders within the region. This is another demonstration of developing the Highlander EDGE."

The Highlander EDGE stands for the qualities that set Gordon State graduates apart: Engaged Innovators, Dedicated Scholars, Gifted Communicators, Ethical Leaders.

The five prestigious students were vetted through an application and interview process.

The Presidential Fellows include: Harrison Bishton, Senior Business Management and Administration major from Coweta County; Amber Fraley, Junior Biology major from Clayton County; DaQuanis Robinson, Senior Business Management and Administration major from Macon-Bibb County; Jawuan Stephens, Freshman Biology major from Decatur County and Michael Zuniga, Junior Business Administration major from Butts County.



Presidential Fellows attended the 2020 retreat held for members of the Forsyth-Monroe Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to plan and prepare for the next year.



Presidential Fellows Michael Zuniga and Amber Fraley speak with Georgia House of Representatives member Regina Lewis-Ward before the spring 2021 commencement ceremony.



Presidential Fellows Harrison Bishton and DaQuanis Robinson graduated with their bachelor's degree in business management and administration in the spring of 2021.



GSC Foundation Executive Director Montrese Adger-Fuller and President Dr. Kirk A. Nooks accept a Franklin D. Roosevelt replica statue, a valuable in-kind gift from donor Dan White and a permanent reminder of the connection between FDR and GSC.

LONGTIME GORDON STATE SUPPORTER PROVIDES A COMMEMORATIVE IN-KIND GIFT

Gordon State College Foundation trustee and loyal donor, Dan White, recently provided an in-kind gift to the college — a Franklin Delano Roosevelt maquette sculpture valued at \$12,000.

This maquette has the distinction of being the first of 15 scale-model sculptures created to fund a project whose intent was to create a life-sized monument of FDR.

The final monument was unveiled at Dowdell’s Knob, one of FDR’s favorite spots, on April 12, 2007, the 62nd anniversary of the former president’s death. The other 14 maquettes are owned by citizens and corporations throughout Georgia and the United States.

In 2011, White created the first Roosevelt Scholarship, commemorating an important speech FDR made at the college in 1938. According to an historical marker erected in Barnesville in 2009, as many as 50,000 people gathered in the stadium of Gordon Military College for an address by President

Roosevelt dedicating the Lamar Electric Cooperative, a project of the New Deal’s Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This speech launched rural electricity in Georgia through the REA and Lamar Electric Membership Corporation (EMC).

“I was looking for a way to permanently enshrine this historic event with the remembrance of what actually happened,” said White. “Lamar County was the first in Georgia to get electricity, one of the central accomplishments of FDR’s presidency.”

In 2000, White and a group of Georgians had an idea to honor FDR for turning on the lights in west central Georgia. They brought the idea to the FDR Warm Springs Advisory Committee, which spearheaded a grass roots public campaign to fund the monument. Part of the fundraising effort was achieved through the sale of 1/16-scale bronze replicas of the statue. Atlanta sculptor Martin Dawe of Cherry Lion Studios was selected through a statewide competition to create the statue and the limited



Mr. White is always willing to provide counsel and guidance to the college. His gifts will have a huge impact in the lives of others, and he has continuously given of his time, talent and resources.



**Montrese Adger-Fuller,
Foundation Executive Director**

edition replicas. Additional funds were raised through donation boxes at all state parks in Georgia.

The historically accurate monument is a life size depiction of FDR in leg braces, seated on a car seat looking out over Pine Mountain Valley. FDR has never been depicted this way before.

“I am proud to have had a part in bringing the statue to life,” White said. “The maquette will be housed on the first floor of the GSC library and it is hoped by doing so, it will serve as a permanent reminder of the connection FDR had to Gordon State College.”

Now White will be honored by the University System of Georgia Foundation with the Board of Regents’ Hall of Fame Alumni and Friends Award at its Scholarship Gala on September 9 at the Atlanta History Center.

This event — which is the state’s largest event recognizing public higher education — recognizes the men and women who have made a difference in the lives of students at their institutions.



The Estate of Traci Lane Durham established two endowments to provide scholarships for Gordon State College nursing students facing financial hardships.

DURHAM ESTATE ESTABLISHES TWO NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

The Estate of Traci Lane Durham recently established two endowments totaling \$75,000 to provide scholarships for Gordon State College nursing students facing financial hardships.

The Traci Lane Durham Memorial Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) Scholarship was established to assist a student who has achieved final acceptance into the ASN program and the award may be renewable for an additional year, provided the recipient is in good academic standing.

The Traci Lane Durham Memorial Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Scholarship was established to assist a student who has achieved final acceptance into the BSN program and the award may be renewable for an additional year, provided the recipient is in good academic standing.

Durham, 53, died on March 6, 2020 after an auto accident in Williamson, Ga. She grew up in Pike County and was a 1984 graduate of Pike County High School. She attended Clayton

State University and then Georgia State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy. After several years, she attended Gordon State College, where she quickly bonded with her peers and graduated with her ASN degree in May of 2001.

At the time of her death, Durham was an intensive care nurse at WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital where she had worked for more than 10 years. Durham's friends and family described her as a compassionate and generous person.

Durham's patients were grateful for her dedication and kindness to them. She was known for entering the room with a smile on her face and for her sense of humor. Durham enjoyed her pets, stamp collecting and gardening. She also was known for spoiling other people's children, leaving ridiculously large tips and lighting up any room she entered.

The executor of Durham's estate and representative for the family said they wanted to support Gordon State

College in her memory as they felt the college strives for excellence in their graduates. Durham's nursing classmates formed a tight camaraderie that the family wants to continue through the estate's endowments.

"I appreciate the exceptional example of serving others through a tragedy that these scholarships represent. I am always encouraged when someone dedicates their life to a profession and their legacy lives on by supporting other young people pursuing their dreams," said Dr. Samantha Bishop, Director of GSC Nursing.

"Through the Estate Gift of Traci Lane Durham, the family carefully thought about how they could help the nursing students at GSC by providing ongoing support for years to come by establishing two scholarship endowments in memory of Traci Lane Durham," said Montrese Adger Fuller, Executive Director of the Gordon State College Foundation. "We are ever grateful for their dedication to advancing and improving the lives of our students."



I am always encouraged when someone dedicates their life to a profession and their legacy lives on by supporting other young people pursuing their dreams.



**Samantha Bishop,
Director of Nursing**

GORDON LAUNCHES CLUB FOOTBALL

Gordon State College's Club Football team completed its first season this spring after postponing from the fall due to COVID-19. The National Club Football Association (NCFA) announced in late January that it would not sanction official season play in spring of 2021, but would instead resume play in the fall of 2021.

Interim Head Coach, Calvin Adams, worked with other regional coaches to put together a five-game season for our Highlanders in which they went 2-3.

"We went into this season with the goal of establishing the team culture of excellence and hard work, and

we believe we have accomplished that goal," Adams said. "Our players worked hard and gave it their all on the field this season despite the obstacles that COVID-19 presented. I am excited for next season and the opportunity to continue to grow and build on the foundation that we set this year."

Highlander Nation is very excited to have football back after an over 40-year departure from the sport. The NCFA plans to resume regular season play in fall 2021 and that will mark the official start of the Highlander Club Football program in the conference.

Moving into the fall, Kevin Adkins will be stepping up from assistant coach to be the head coach of the Highlanders.

"Coach Adkins has demonstrated great leadership as an assistant coach," said Adams. "I believe he has a powerful and impactful vision for the team that challenges the players on and off the field. I can't wait to see what they do in the fall."



GORDON WELCOMES NEW SPIRIT MARK

As Gordon State College continues its story, a new ambassador and spirit mark were revealed during the college's Student Success Summit in August 2020.

The new logo includes a stag head with the Gordon State Highlanders wordmark and is symbolic of the institution's history, steadfast reputation for excellence, inclusion and commitment. The circle G logo will be used for the academic face of the college.

The incorporation of the stag head into the new spirit mark is symbolic of the badge worn by the Gordon Highlanders, who were a line infantry regiment of the British

Army that existed for 113 years after two Scottish Regiments merged in 1881. A crest with a stag and the motto "Bydand," which means "Stand and Fight," was also a featured part of the badge.

The new spirit mark and mascot represent Highlander Nation irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity or background.

Starting in May 2020, the college created a series of five videos to introduce the mascot, including a contest with each episode naming a winner for participant guesses. The overall contest winner was announced on August 12, the first day of classes for fall semester, and "Gordy" became the official name of GSC's mascot.

"Gordon State College's heritage continues to shine brightly as it maintains a strong connection to the past," said Dr. Kirk A Nooks, President of GSC. "Our new spirit mark and mascot will serve as a visual symbol of strength and pride for our college for many years to come."



HIGHLANDER ATHLETICS

BASEBALL

GSC's baseball team posted a 30-21 overall record, including a walk-off home win over No. 2 Chipola (Fla.), and finished second in the GCAA / NJCAA Region 17 regular season with a 19-11 mark. First-year head coach Kent Rollins took the Highlanders into the final four of the GCAA tournament as the No. 2 seed. Cole Phillips (Trion, Ga. / Trion High School) was selected to the GCAA All-Region First Team.



SOFTBALL

GSC's softball team compiled a 34-13 overall record and won the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association / NJCAA Region 17 regular season title for the first time in school history with a 21-3 record. Head coach Ally Hattermann, who was named GCAA Coach-of-the-Year, also guided the Highlanders to the GCAA tournament championship series. Faith Hager (Conyers, Ga. / Heritage High School) was named GCAA Pitcher-of-the-Year.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

GSC's men's basketball team finished the 2020-21 season with a 5-12 overall record, which placed the Highlanders sixth in the final regular season standings under head coach Bruce Capers. JahNile Hill (Manchester, Ga. / Manchester High School) was picked to the GCAA All-Region 17 First Team while Varun Danak (Snellville, Ga. / Brookwood High School) made the All-Freshman Team.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

GSC's women's soccer team won the GCAA / NJCAA Region 17 tournament championship - its third straight title under head coach Scott Henderson - with a 2-1 win over South Georgia State University. GSC finished the 2021 spring season with a 8-4-0 overall mark. Sophia Kotopka (Riverview, Fla. / East Bay High School) and Haley Reid (Griffin, Ga. / Spalding High School) earned GCAA All-Region 17 First Team honors.



HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2021 was an absolute blast. The lineup of campus events seemed endless.

On Monday, the campus hosted the Homecoming Kickoff Bonfire. At this event, students roasted s'mores and got to meet all the candidates running for Homecoming Court. This year's event marked the introduction of "Gordy the Highlander," the new GSC mascot. The Homecoming Kickoff Bonfire set itself apart as a true Highlander tradition.

Tuesday was a big day as well. Gordon State introduced the Homecoming Powder Puff football tournament. All-girl teams coached by Highlander Football players duked it out in fun, but competitive, flag football games. Tuesday night featured the SWAZI step team Probate performance.

The illustrious Highlander Choice Awards were held on Wednesday night. The show started with a live dance performance from the winners of the annual Lip-Sync Battle held earlier in the semester. Following the performance, students, faculty and staff were honored in a variety of students' choice categories from best dressed to funniest jokes. The highlight of the night was the dazzling Homecoming Court Coronation.

There were many more events, from the Homecoming Fair to the late night Glo-Cade and Signing of the Rock, that kept spirits high throughout the week. On Saturday, for the first time in over 40 years, GSC hosted a homecoming football game! There were nearly 800 in attendance as the Highlander Club Football Team defeated their rival — Middle Georgia State College — in a tough match at Lamar County's Trojan Field.

Along with myriad other student events across campus, GSC also hosted the Inaugural Day of Giving, the virtual Alumni Mixer and the virtual All-Class Reunion. The Alumni Mixer featured Gordon trivia that ventured deep into the history of the institution. The All-Class Reunion served as a medium for alumni to connect with long-lost comrades across the generations. Gordon Alumni had a great Homecoming 2021, and we look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

18 | President's Report





GRAD TOAST

The Office of Alumni Affairs hosted its first in-person Grad Toast on May 6, 2021. The event began in April of 2020, but due to the pandemic, the Grad Toast has been hosted virtually since its inception.

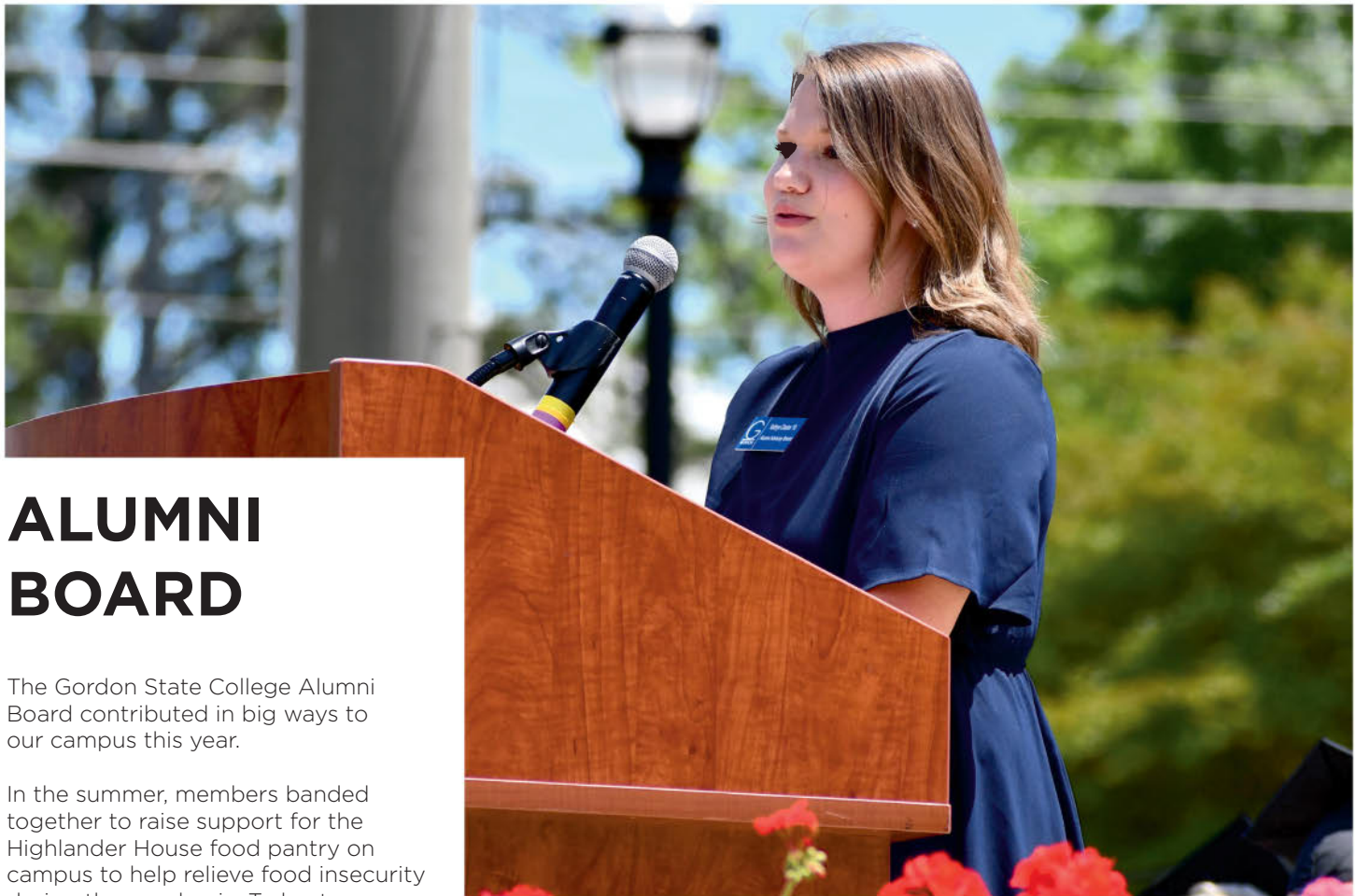
This event has become a tradition for our graduating seniors and serves as a final salutation to the students before they cross the stage and transition into the next part of their life's journey.

Words of wisdom, encouragement and inspiration were handed down from the President, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs, the Deans, and members of the Alumni Board to help prepare graduates for the world that awaits them.

The event also featured a presentation by the Director of Career Services to ensure that all graduates were aware of the resources still available to them to help them build their budding careers.

It was a wonderful evening for Gordon State to come together and join in congratulating our graduates on all their hard work.





ALUMNI BOARD

The Gordon State College Alumni Board contributed in big ways to our campus this year.

In the summer, members banded together to raise support for the Highlander House food pantry on campus to help relieve food insecurity during the pandemic. To best serve our campus and alumni base, the Board welcomed four new members into its ranks from four different eras of institutional history.

In the spring of 2021, the Board championed the Inaugural Day of Giving and helped raise over \$54,000 to support Gordon State College and its students — surpassing the initial goal of \$15,000. The board also hosted a number of virtual events, including the Gordon Alumni Mixer and GSC All-Class Reunion.

Just before graduation, Alumni Board Chair, Kathryn Claxton Green, and Anthony McCalla provided words of wisdom and encouragement in-person to a group of 25 soon-to-be graduates at the 2021 Grad Toast. This marked the end of the on-campus alumni event drought that began in March 2020.

We are very proud of what the Alumni Board was able to do this year and we are excited to announce that we are accepting nominations to serve on the Board. If you feel called to serve, please email alumni@gordonstate.edu for more information.

GSC WELCOMES NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

Alumni Board Chair, Kathryn Claxton Green, spoke at the 2021 spring commencement and encouraged more than 500 new graduates to remain committed to Gordon State College.



MIKE MCCORMACK



RHONDA SULLIVAN



ANTHONY MCCALLA



TOMMY TORBERT



JESSICA HERNDON

2020-2021 ALUMNI BOARD

- Ta'Maiya Black
- Sue Dunbar
- Kathryn Claxton Green
- Jessica Herndon
- Gay Kennedy-Robinson
- Kent Kingsley
- Anthony McCalla
- Mike McCormack
- Butch McDaniel
- Kaylie Ramsey
- Rhonda Sullivan
- Tommy Torbert

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MYA WILKERSON

**GRADUATE STUDENT
MAJOR: COMMUNICATIONS
GRADUATED: 2018**



"I would tell a prospective student that Gordon State College is a great place to begin your collegiate career! The faculty are truly invested in providing a strong academic foundation for its students.

Whether you are obtaining an associate degree or your bachelor's degree, Gordon proves to mold their students for success. It is a close knit community that not only shapes one's academic success, but their character. Gordon truly molded me into the woman I am today. I am truly thankful for my experience!"

DORIAN LAMB

**CONSULTANT,
SOFTWARE ASSET
MANAGEMENT
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATED: 2015**



"Six years post-graduation, Gordon still has proven to be the greatest choice I have made. Beyond the studies and the navigation of succeeding in college; it was the invaluable mentorship and the association with other colleagues who were equally as driven to excel in life. If I had to return to do it all again, I would."

CARMAN DEAN

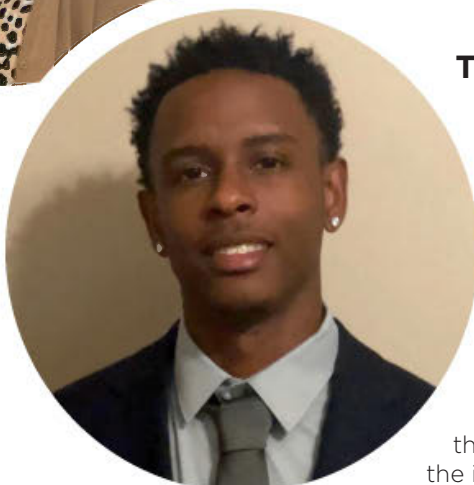
**CLINICAL PLACEMENT AND NURSE
RESIDENCY DIRECTOR
MAJOR: PRE PHARMACY, NURSING
GRADUATED: 1997, 2001**



"Gordon is such a special place where instructors genuinely care and want to see you succeed. Tuition is affordable and class sizes are ideal for learning. There are several bachelor's programs now available leading to strong career options after graduation. The campus is beautiful and the college is located in a small town that has one-of-a-kind places to eat and fun community events like Buggy Days."

TERRANCE WILLIAMS

**DIVERSITY RECRUITER
MAJOR: MATHEMATICS
GRADUATED: 2017**



"While at Gordon, I worked full-time at Dollar General and part-time as a tutor between classes. Between the rigor of my coursework and the demandingness of my jobs, time management, organization, and prioritization were a must. Gordon helped me develop these attributes very quickly. Gordon also helped improve my communication, analytical and problem solving skills. Attending Gordon is hands down one of the best decisions I have made! In my opinion, the affordability, the inclusiveness, and the wealth of knowledge Gordon State College offers is unmatched."

CLASS NOTES

We Want to Hear From You

Have you been honored, promoted, changed jobs, gotten married, moved or need to share the passing of a classmate? Share your news with Gordon's Alumni Relations Office and have it reported in the Class Notes section in next year's magazine. Send your news to the Alumni Relations Office, Gordon State College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA, 30204 or e-mail it to alumni@gordonstate.edu, or call **678-359-5739**.

Howard Scott (HS '69) and the crew of his yacht recently rescued members of capsized cargo ship in the Carriibbean. Scott, a retired attorney and novelist, resides in Athens, Ga.

Lori Beth Reeves (AS '98) was recently honored as Teacher of the Year at Pike County Primary School and District Co-Teacher of the Year.

Reeves teaches first grade at Pike County Primary School.

Sean Boland (AS '05) was selected to serve as Head Athletic Trainer for the Monroe County School System. After college, Boland worked as the UGA's baseball athletic trainer for several years.

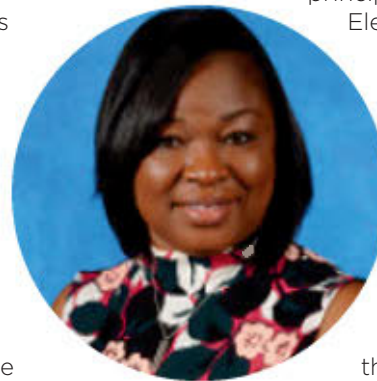
Dr. Tony Emetu (AS '07) recently achieved a peer-reviewed publication in the Journal of Negro Education. Emetu is an associate professor of Business Administration at the Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, N.C.

John Hewitt (HS '67) was selected as the 2021 STAR teacher at St. George's Episcopal School by student Ansley Potter.

Kathryn Lamb (BSN '20) wed Joshua Boswell on February 27, 2021. Mrs. Boswell currently works as a nurse at Fayette Hospital.

Dr. MeQuanta Jones McCord (AS '95) was selected to serve as principal

at Hubbard Elementary in Forsyth, Ga. McCord has served as assistant principal at Hubbard Elementary since 2012.



Brandy Sims (BS '10) was named the 2021 Teacher of the Year at Hubbard Elementary School in Forsyth, Ga.

Jessica Herndon (AA '15, BA '17) currently works in the career services department at Mercer

University School of Law and will complete her second bachelor's degree in organizational leadership this summer before starting her master's degree in higher education leadership at Mercer University next fall.

McKenzie Smith (BSED '20) started her first year of teaching instructing pre-kindergarteners for the Monroe County School System.

Amber Tallent (AA '19) joined the college staff as Marketing Specialist after interning with the Office of Advancement, External Relations and Marketing for a year.

Jordan Uebele (BS '20) joined the staff of Atlanta Scales, Inc. as the Service Coordinator.



HIGHLANDER EDGE AWARDS

Gordon State College presented its 2021 Highlander EDGE Awards on May 3 as the institution celebrated the accomplishments of students, faculty and staff.

The Highlander EDGE represents qualities that set GSC graduates apart.

"We are proud of the qualities in these women and men to earn the distinction of being an EDGE Award recipient and we look forward to watching them continuing to excel in the future," said Dr. Kirk A. Nooks, GSC President.

Students are selected by faculty and staff for the awards and, in return, the nominated students also selected a faculty or staff member who has most influenced, guided and demonstrated exceptional leadership to them.

STUDENTS EXCEL AT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Gordon State College recently conducted the 10th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, which was designed to provide students with the opportunity to express themselves through research projects.

There were 11 podium presentations and two poster presentations provided

GORDON STATE COLLEGE GETS THE GREEN LIGHT TO OFFER TWO NEW ACADEMIC DEGREES

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia gave Gordon State College the green light to begin the process of offering two new degrees; a Nexus Degree in Film Production and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice through the USG's eMajor. Gordon State hopes to start offering classes for the new degrees pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

The Nexus Degree is a relatively new academic credential and the first new degree program in the United States since the 1890s. Nexus degrees are college credentials that emphasize hands-on experiential learning, skilled knowledge and connections with industry in high-demand career fields.

Film production was the first area of study to offer Nexus Degrees in Georgia, an initiative that grew out of the College 2025 program system introduced in 2017 to better tailor course offerings to the state's 21st century workforce needs.

The Film Production Nexus Degree is a collaboration between Gordon State College and the Georgia Film Academy. The 60-credit-hour degree, consists of 42 credit hours of general education and 18 credit hours of coursework focusing on the skills and knowledge requirements in the film production industry.

Opportunities abound for Gordon graduates with this degree. They are most likely to be employed in the motion picture and video industries,

by 12 presenters at this year's URS. The presentations ranged from a new leadership approach, protest songs in cartoons and anime, literature, and Egyptology with a dash of biology. The posters featured Arabic literature and molecular biology.

"I am so proud of these students," said Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton. "They not only survived during the past year, but truly thrived. Their excellent research presentations show that they really have the Highlander EDGE."

radio and television broadcasting, employment services and spectator sports industry as the field grows," said Dr. Edward J. Whitelock, department head for Humanities and Programs in Fine and Performing Arts.

GSC also was granted approval to offer the Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice through the USG's eMajor, which is a partnership among USG public institutions to provide quality, affordable, high-demand post-secondary degrees and credentials that address the workplace needs of Georgia and beyond. They are ideal, not only for traditional students who wish to take advantage of online course delivery, but also for working professionals, military members, transfer students and others seeking alternative routes to degree completion.

The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Degree prepares students for employment within the criminal justice system by providing students with a foundation of the knowledge, principles, theories, and functions common to the American Criminal Justice system.

"As we at GSC determine which degrees opportunities we should provide to our students, it is imperative that we focus on the career opportunities in our local communities," said Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "The Board of Regents' approval to offer these two degrees will greatly benefit our 14-county service region."

Gordon State College will partner with Dalton State College, Georgia Highlands College and Georgia Southwestern State University for the collaborative delivery of the Criminal Justice degree.

IN MEMORIAM

The annual In Memoriam list includes the names of alumni and employees for whom a notice of passing was received between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021. In preparing this list every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. If a mistake or omission was made, we sincerely apologize. To report any omissions or corrections, please contact the Office of Advancement, External Relations, and Marketing at 678-359-5739 or advancement@gordonstate.edu. *Indicates notice was received after publication of previous year's edition.

Linda J. Key Millsaps (C '80) Feb. 7, '20*
 Douglas Barron Mitchell (Trustee) Feb. 28, '20*
 Traci Lane Durham (C '86, '01) Mar. 6, '20*
 Lon Sullivan Bush (HS '53, C '55) May 16, '20
 William Lanny McAlister (Faculty) May 28, '20
 Sandra Neuner Carter (HS '65, C '67) June 2, '20
 Nancy L. Wilder Echols (C '77) June 13, '20
 Edwin Dorsey Foshee, Jr. (HS '63) June 13, '20
 Mary Melton Aist (HS '49) June 18, '20
 Frank Vernon Jones, Sr. (HS '56, C '58) July 13, '20
 Sara A. Garrett (HS '40) July 21, '20
 Forrest A. Watson, III (C '10) Aug. 3, '20
 James Edsel Cole, Jr. (HS '68, C '73) Aug. 16, '20
 Don Neal Parks (HS '66) Aug. 23, '20
 Emily Shiver Johnson (HS '50) Sept. 1, '20
 Joan Lee Huffstetler (C '09) Sept. 11, '20
 Dwight Winburn, Sr. (HS '60, C '62) Sept. 13, '20
 Anne Darden Cherry Haisten (HS '48) Oct. 5, '20
 Melba Rita Collins Medler (HS '59) Oct. 12, '20
 Judith Hahn Young (HS '64, C '66) Nov. 10, '20
 J. Walter "Jay" Griffin (HS '56) Nov. 30, '20
 John Arnold Blanton, Jr. (HS '57) Dec. 4, '20
 William W. "Billy" Osborne (HS '68) Dec. 24, '20
 Alan Richard Giles (HS '60) Jan. 4, '21
 Kenneth Bryant Williams (C '89) Jan. 9, '21
 Coach Tony Ingle (Faculty) Jan. 18, '21
 Peggy J. Sealock Marable (HS '58) Jan. 24, '21
 Sandra Diane Fuller Bryan (HS '67) Jan. 24, '21
 Morgan Markham, Jr. (HS '68) Jan. 25, '21
 Hillery Thomas McBroom (HS '68, C '70) Jan. 31, '21
 Frank M. Ogletree (HS '47) Feb. 1, '21
 William Stanley "Stan" Greene (C '76) Feb. 1, '21
 John D. Jett (C '77) Feb. 4, '21
 Harvey W. "Bud" Tillery, Jr. (HS '57) Feb. 4, '21
 Ronny H. Blackstock (C '17) Feb. 18, '21
 Bobby Lee Cook (HS '43) Feb. 19, '21
 Joseph Glover (C '68) Feb. 19, '21
 Pamela Jeanine Collins (HS '69) Mar. 4, '21
 Karen Ann King (Usher) Martin (HS '55, C '57) (Faculty) Mar. 5, '21
 Nancy Torbert Broadway (HS '64) Mar. 13, '21
 Ronald Paul Kilpatrick (HS '57, C'59) Mar. 17, '21
 Jimmie Claire Bartlett Tenney (HS '46) Mar. 27, '21
 John R. Carlisle (Trustee) Mar. 30, '21
 Jeanelle Goggans Miller (HS '59) Mar. 31, '21
 Robert "Jep" Morgan (HS '60) Mar. 31, '21
 Robert L. "Bob" Wines (HS '60, C '62) Apr. 7, '21
 Henry M. "Hank" Huckaby (Former Gordon Employee, Chancellor 2011-2016) Apr. 14, '21
 Roger Robert Newton (HS '65, C '67) Apr. 15, '21

Spring 2021, Volume 18 | 23

FOUNDATION



of a college education had the support to make this possible.

Next, we turned our focus to Gap Funding and making sure that all students that needed some additional funding to stay in school had the opportunity to do just that. The Foundation provided a short term solution for immediate needs this spring and also provided a \$50,000 one-time allocation to jump start a permanent solution to Gap Funding for the foreseeable future.

Lastly, we wanted to make sure that Athletics and Fine Arts had the support they needed, so we allocated funds to make sure these great programs could continue to run without a disruption. Lest I not forget the Inaugural Day of Giving that raised an astonishing \$54,000 and surpassed our goal by almost 200 percent.

I want to thank each and every trustee that supported the college during this time of need and selflessly gave of their time and resources. The Board of Trustees had another strong year as 93 percent of trustees made their annual contribution. We did all of these great things in the face of adversity.

I am honored and humbled to be able to serve my alma mater in one of most difficult times of its rich history. What an opportunity!

Derrick Lewis,
GSC Foundation Chair

Where do I start? The old adage is “adversity creates opportunity,” and this year created opportunities like we’ve never seen before. I never thought as I walked the beautiful campus of Gordon State College back in the fall of 1998 as a student, that two decades later I would be leading the institution through the biggest health pandemic in history to date.

My first challenge was to make sure all individuals that wanted an education had the opportunity to continue that goal, even though their lives may have been impacted by COVID-19. I immediately implemented the Student Emergency Assistance Fund to make sure all who desired to continue chasing the American dream

2020-21 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Reshann Adams**
Driver & Adams CPA
- Phillip Bell**
State Farm Insurance
- Scott Blackstock**
Tidal Wave Car Wash
- Dr. Aaron Buice**
Barnesville Urgent Care & Family Practice
- Andy Bush**
Bush Farms
- Kenny Coggins**
Coggins Funeral Home
- Alan Connell**
Connell & Wheeler Attorneys at Law
- Lucinda Dallas**
CFS Wealth Management
- Jim Edwards, Jr.**
United Bank
- John Edwards, Jr.**
United Bank
- Lindy Farmer**
Henry County Water Authority
- Dr. Joel D. Fuller, DMD**
General Dentistry
- Jim Granum**
Norfolk Southern (Retired)
- Robert Harris**
Haygood, Lynch, Harris, Melton & Watson Attorneys at Law
- George Hightower, Jr.**
Community Enterprises, Inc.
- Chase Idol**
Idol & Associates CPAs
- Tamara Ison**
Wellstar Spalding Regional Hospital
- Curtis Jenkins**
Ham & Jenkins Attorneys at Law
- Terry Killingsworth**
Snider-Killingsworth Insurance
- Dr. Waive Kong**
Zoe Center for Pediatrics & Adolescent Health
- Derrick Lewis**
Raymond James Investments
- Charles McDaniel**
McDaniel & Associates
- Dr. Kevin Napier**
Internal Medicine of Griffin
- Don Neuner**
Synergy Solutions Group
- Dr. Kirk A. Nooks**
Gordon State College
- Kike Seda**
A-1 Postage Meters
- Dr. Bert Wall**
Upson Medical Associates
- Dan White**
Passive Solar Design



FACULTY AND STAFF GIVING



NEW DONORS OVERALL



GSC'S INAUGURAL DAY OF GIVING

Gordon State College's Inaugural Day of Giving on March 30 surpassed its original goal of \$15,000 by generating over \$54,000 in gifts to benefit the mission of the College.

On this single-day giving campaign, members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Trustee emeriti members, advisory board members, community members, faculty, staff, students, alumni and local businesses supported the fundraising effort.

Barnesville Mayor Peter Banks signed a proclamation designating March 30 as Gordon State College Day of Giving and presented a gift on behalf of the Class of 1956.



REGINA LEWIS-WARD SCHOLARSHIP

The Gordon State College Foundation is pleased to announce the Regina Lewis-Ward Empowerment Scholarship, which has been established by Georgia House of Representatives member Regina Lewis-Ward.

Serving Georgia's District 109, which covers parts of the GSC's 14-county primary service region, Ms. Lewis-Ward's generosity has led to this scholarship being created for the students at GSC. This ongoing \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded each fall semester to a deserving student.



Mr. Alan Giles was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1942 and graduated from Gordon Military College. Mr. Giles also attended Reinhardt (College) University, served in the United States Army and retired from the United States Postal Service after 37 years in Management/Marketing.

Mr. Giles was grateful for the education and the significant friendships he made while at Gordon Military College. He was a boarding school cadet and he was a member of the Alumni Class of 1960. Gordon State College lost a dear friend when Mr. Giles passed away on January 4, 2021.

Mr. Giles and his wife Angela have been loyal donors to Gordon for many years. They had plans in place to provide the College with a bequest gift while completing their estate planning. This gift was recently provided to the College to leave a long lasting legacy in Mr. Giles' name. A large stag statue will be built in the name of Mr. Alan Giles in front of the Student Activity and Recreation Center, and the College is very appreciative of the Giles' generosity and commitment.



EVANS INCREASES ENDOWMENT SUPPORT

Mr. Joe Evans grew up on a dairy farm in Smarr, Ga. The farm has been in the family since 1821. There was one break in ownership of the farm. It was originally a land grant to an ancestor on his grandmother's side of the family — she was a McKenney. They lost the farm during the Great Depression to foreclosure. His grandfather, Joe Evans, Sr., then bought the farm back from the bank a few years later.

Evans graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in industrial management in 1971, finishing first in his class. Over five decades, Evans has emerged as a noted banker in his own right. In 2018, Evans was recognized as the American Banker's lifetime achievement award winner.

Evans's mother, Rosemary King Evans, was a lifelong learner. At different points in her life, she was a teacher and a long-time librarian at Gordon.

Evans established an endowed scholarship in his mother's name years ago that is known as the Rosemary K. Evans Scholarship Endowment, and he most recently provided a generous gift to increase the level of the endowment.

It is the desire of the Evans family to assist students who are residents of Monroe County, Ga.; with a minimum of a 2.5 GPA; and who demonstrate involvement in the community, school, and work activities.

DONORS

The Annual Donor Roll includes the names of those whose gifts were received between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. In preparing this list, every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. If a mistake was made in the way a donor is identified or if a donor's name was omitted, we sincerely apologize. To make a donation or report any corrections, please contact the Office of Advancement at **678-359-5739** or **advancement@gordonstate.edu**. Thank you.

Benefactor (\$50,000+)

Estate of Traci Lane Durham
University System of
Georgia Foundation
Daniel C. White

President's Club (\$6,000-\$49,999)

Edward Colston
Foundation, I
Community Enterprises, Inc.
Joe and Pat Edwards
Foundation, Inc.
Kenneth S. Hurt
Frances Wood Wilson
Foundation, Inc.
Rhonda Toon

Founders Club (\$1,000-\$5,000)

40 & 8 Voiture Locale 1635
Reshann Adams
Montrese Adger Fuller
Argus Event Staffing
Bruce J. Barrett
Pamela T. Bell
H. Phillip Bell, IV
Scott S. Blackstock
Amanda & Aaron Buice
Alan N. Burstein
Bush Farms, LLC
Charities Aid Foundation
Commit Ministries
International
Community Foundation
of Central Georgia
Lucinda Dallas
Jim and Laura Edwards
John W. Edwards, Jr.
James E. Ethridge, Sr.
Judge Bill Fears and
Joyce Fears
Joel D. Fuller
James L. Granum
Robert L. Harris
Hays Service, LLC
George H. Hightower, Jr.
Idol & Associates, LLC
Tamara D. Ison
J. M. Clayton Company
Curtis S. Jenkins, Sr.
Ben Kiker
Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton
Dr. B. Wayne Kong
Derrick R. Lewis
Charles W. McDaniel
Donald F. Neuner
Kirk and Alison Nooks
George and Linda Olivier
Janet A. Pharo

Raymond James and
Associates, Inc.
Kike Seda
Snider Killingsworth
Insurance Agency
Southern Rivers Energy
State Farm Companies
Foundation
Earle A. Taylor
West Central Georgia
Bank
Jill Wike
Wine & Spirits
Wholesalers of Georgia
Foundation
Steven R. Wisebram
Jennie Woodlee

Gordon Club (\$500-\$999)

Tonya Coleman
Myra M. Daniel
Megan Davidson
Brooke Dominey
Kathryn Claxton Green
John D. Head
Homebuilders
Stephen Hooper
Suzette Mullins
Corinna O'Saben
Beth Pye
Renee Rollins
Alicia Ross
Rotary Club of Griffin
Benjamin R. Shankle
Arfa Syed
Lucian & Jennifer Tatum, III
Daniel Toon
Ryran R. Traylor
Victor Vilchiz
Ken Wash
Samuel Wright

Century Club (\$100-\$499)

Kim Adair
Thomas A. Aiello
Michael Alicea
Miguel Alicea
Monique Alicea
Chameka Amerson
Anonymous
Maryam Archer
Stephen P. Argo
James Awbrey
Candice R. Babcock
Alonzo Bacon
Audra Bacon
Benjamin Baker
Shalanna V. Banks
Jessie Bannister
Barnesville Motel

Harry Barnett
Richard Baskin
Chance Baxley
Billy Bell
Nancy Bell
Connally Bennison
Teresa A. Betkowski
Samantha H. Bishop
Ta'Maiya L. Black
Tom Black
Brenda Blackstock
Marsha Blythe
Richard and Fran Boggs
Peter Boltz
Frank H. Bone
Charlette Brannon
Dale Brinkman
Adesi Brown
Madelyn Brown
TyRone Brown
Wes Brunson
BSN Sports
Bubba's Automotive
Arthur Buffington
Derrick Bullock
Dr. Jarrett Burch
Kenny Burth
Aubrey M. Bush
Wendy Byrd
Ric Calhoun
Valerie Calhoun
Scott K. Campbell
Candace Carroll
Kelly D. Carter
Kevin and Mary Carter
David Cherry
Kimberly Clark
Geoff F. Clement
Justin Clemons
Randy Clevenger
Kurt Coffield
Melvin Coleman
Rusty Collins
Connell & Wheeler,
Attorneys at Law
Sharon Copeland
Mike Corley
William S. Culpepper
Evelyn Curet
Kal Daniels
Angiah Davis
Terry Davis
Greg and Dianne Dawkins
Jody G. DeFore
Don DeLong
Judy and Paul DeLong
Tamara Dobson
Alicia Dorton
Amanda Duffus
Sanders East
Susan G. Ellzey
Robinson Enterprises
Susan Ethridge
Meghan Fail

Green, Smith and Bacon
Families
Kuch Family
Pertile Family
Chip Farmer
Jeri Farmer
Cristina Fermin-Ennis
Katheryne A. Fields
Susan Figueroa
Christy H. Flatt
FlipGive, Inc.
Ellis Foster
Michael Fugate
Jay Fulgham
Jerry G. Gardner
Dr. Alexis Rae Giddens
Marlin D. Gilbert
J. Gill
Linda Gill
Michelle Gill
Sue Gilpin
Franklin O. Goforth
Thomas Gorman
Alec Graham
Judy Graham
Jane M. Gray
Michele Green
Michael Greene
Karla Greer
Chuck & Sharon Harrelson
Melinda D. Hawley
Kristi M. Hayes
Phillip Hayes
Gloria & Harold Henderson
Stephanie Awtrey Hendrix
Andrew Patrick Henry
Larry and Beverly Hensley
Tamra Hensley
Peter Higgins
Anna Higgins-Harrell
Sandra High
David W. Hinely
Dianne Holman
Angie Hooper
Jane Hooper
Valerie Howard
Harold Hubbard
Michael Huff
Christy Iampaglia
Daniel J. Jackson, Jr.
Mathew & Veronica Jackson
Cynthia Jacobs
William Jester
Brenda E. Johnson
Brent E. Johnson
John W. Johnston
Ameche R. Jones
Joseph R. Jones
Ryan Jones
Sareva Justice
Lisa & Lorren Kelsey
Robert A. King
Dee Bankston Kitchings
Ronnie Knight
Trevor Knowles
Richard Kosmala
William Kosmala
Tammy LaPread
Cathy Q. Lee
Wayne and Teena Lee
Britt Lifsey
Orville M. Lindstrom
Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Lomacchio
Michael Mahan
Jennifer Major
Derek Marchman
Tammy Marion
Bobby Marks

Wendy L. Martin
April D. Mason
Jeffrey R. Mason
H. E. Miller, Jr.
Shannon Mitchell
Gordon Mohler
Jeremy Monroe
Amanda Moore
Eddie Moore
Frizell R. Moore
Tonya Y. Moore
Alison Napier
Jordan Nathaniel
Nesaranjana Navaratnam
Creche Navarro
Christopher Nelson
Night Doc, LLC
Northrop Grumman
Foundation
Elizabeth Nwabuebo
Betsy Olson
Stephanie O'Neal
Wanda F. O'Neal
Andrew S. Osborne
Idwal Hugh Owen
Jim and Kayleigh Parran
Linda Pasley
Tedra Perez
Anita Peterson
Thomas J. Petty
Stephanie Phillips
Sarah Pilgrim
Joseph Pinson
Elizabeth A. Pollock
Penny Powell
Stephen R. Powers
Devon Price
Carole Wilder Proctor
Tamara Wursley
Steve Raynie
Carson Rents
Sonya Ricketts
Anita Riley
William Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Rogers
Michael Rollins
Larry Ross
Lynn L. Rumpfelt
Marilyn Russell
Brenda J. Rutherford
Debbie Salese
Rick Salese
Cheryl Sanders
Richard W. Schmude
Jack Schulze
Myles Sedgwick
Bob and Florence Sharp
Hugh Shepard
Sherry Sherrill
Frank S. Shier
Tim & Becky Shipley
Matthew Silverman
Michael Sims
Russell and Denise Sinco
Claudia Sliwinski
Broadus Lee Smith
James D. Smith
Jean S. Smith
Sherri Smith
Ken Spears, Sr.
Beau Spears
John Spears
Vickie Stallings
Theresa R. Stanley
Kam Steele
Todd Steele
Mary Stephenson
Kyle Sterwerf
Wanda Stuckey

Jennifer Stutsman
Sunrise Flooring, Inc.
Joan E. Thomas
Patrice Worthy-Thompson,
Dorothy Vaughn-Worthy,
Tony L. Worthy, and Paige
O'Neal Sims
Melissa Thornton
Ben Tidwell
Angela Timmerman
Thomas E. Torbert
Jessica Traylor
Troutman Sanders LLP
Park and Vivian Turner
Charles H. Van Rysselberge
Kevin Van Houten
Michelle Vaughn
Richard & Felicia Vereen
Amanda Voyles
John P. Walker
Taylor Walker
Dr. John Waller
Amy Watkiss
Clayton Weaver
Jeff White
Edward J. Whitelock
Deborah Whitlock
Floyd Wildes
Arthur Williams
David Williamson
Wesley O. Williamson
Sean Wilson
Tanya Womack
Earnest Wright
Yielding Agency State Farm
Kyle & Kara York

Honor Roll (\$1-\$99)

Emma Adair
Maimarie Adair
Archie Adams
Calvin S. Adams
Cassie Addison
Austin Aldridge
Shelby Alexander
Jennifer Alford
Elaine Allen
Randy & Sandee Alsobrooks
Amy Anderson
Bernard A. Anderson
Anonymous
Ruth Arnold
Tony Arnold
Mallery Bailey
Melissa Baker
Deanna Ballew
Gratasha R. Banks
Cathy Bankston
Jenny Barnes
Emilio Barrer
Jill Barrett
L. Barrett
Savannah Barrett
Quay Battle
Dr. Jerome V. Begal
Katy Bell
Drake Benefield
Goebel D. Berry
Donna Berryhill
Kami Blake
Mary Bodnar
Kaydee Boswell
Dale Bowman
Tyler Bowman
Cherie Boyd
Pat Brasiel
Deborah Braswell

Kim Breeden
Richard Bridgeman
Mark Brinkman
Darlene Brinson
Octavia Brown
Patsy H. Brown
Tracy Brown
Hazel Bryant
Tia Shakel' Buckle
Sharhonda Buie
Keya Bundrage
Jeannie Bunn
Amber Burnett
Kristen Busby
Dawn Byous
Sheri Byrd
Mary Cagle
Drayton Calhoun
Mary Ann Calhoun
Daisy Cameron
Karen Canale
Todd Canale
Henry Capers
Michelle Capers
Alberta Carden
Fredrick Carlisle
Milton Carpenter
Brent Carper
April Carter
Ashley Carter
Elaine Carter
Ellie Casseen
Dana Caypliss
Jerel Chavis
Lori Childers
Raechelle Chisolm
Deborah Christian
Ryan Christopher
Erik Clabaugh
Chris Clay
Susan Clemons
Deborah Coil
Kelly Coil
Gaynor Collier
Joann Collinsworth
Lori Colville
Erika Cook
Chris Covington
Laura Craig
Christine Crawford
Kemp Crawford
Dyna Cross
Patrice Cunningham
Carla Daniel
Annette Darrington
Ashely M. Davis
Doug Davis
Susie Davis
Tyrena and Don Davis
Helen Dawkins
Noah Dawkins
Matthew DeLoach
Sanford Dennis
Robert C. Detamore
Thao Dinh
Michael Douglas
Michael Dowell
Brandon Drake
Kenneth Drake
Otelia Drake
Nikki DuBois
Gloria Easler
DeCarlo Easterling
Stacey Edwards
Kierra Ellerby
Amy Elrod
Leighann Elrod
Stacey English
Beverly M. Eskridge

\$23,555

TOTAL GAP FUNDS RAISED

\$660,601

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$15.4 MILLION

Total Assets

2020 GIVING REPORT

Kinsley Eubanks
Frank Ewing
Lee Ann Farmer
Bill Felt
Cheryl L. Felt
Lisa Ferguson
Jahmari Flecha
Jon Ford
Stacy Fordham
Patsy Carter Fountain
Nora Fowler
James and Elberta Fox
Terry Franco
Sherlana Fryer
Sandra Fulghum
Allen G. Fuller
Nataleigh Gadell
Shay Gadson
Cee Gee Gailor
David Galloway
John C. George
Ashley Gilbert
Lawrence Gilkey
MaryLee Gilkey
Victoria Gilkey
Annette Glenn
Jaye Goddard
Nancy M. Goodloe
Tracy Gordon
Abby Gray
Chloe Gray
Misty Gray
Karen A. Guffey
Ksren Haines
Francis Hall
Joy Hall
Lyric Ham
Raheem Hampton
Randy Hanson
Ann Harden
James Hardy
Melissa A. Harrison
Angela Hartwick
Larry Harvey, Jr.
Brandon Hattermann
Doug, Ally and Marlee
Hattermann
Janine Hayes

Laura A. Hayes
Tamara Hayes
Spade Haynes
Art Hays
Charles E. Head
Carrie Heard
Lydia R. Herndon
Rori Herriage
Sherri Hess
Edward Hibbler
Raymond Hieber
Haley High
Nichole Hill
Alan W. Hittepole
Jomorrow Holder
Corby R. Holmes
Joseph L. Holmes
Sarah Hopwood
Bennie Horton, Jr.
Allyn Hosley
Kylee Housman
Renee Howard
Melinda Howell
Beverly Hughes
Jamarco Hughes
Kimberly Hughes
Christy Hunt
Quateshia Hunt
Amanda Hurlley
Ashley D. Hursey
Anna Hussey
Linda L. Hyde
Henri Etta Hyder
Sarah Isabel
Alexis Jackson
Alvin Jackson
Annette J. Jackson
Terra Jackson
David Janssen
Felicia Jester
Kim Jester
Luke Jester
Phill and Kay Jester
Rex, Charley & Will Jester
Jeannie Jihnsen
John H. Welborn & Company
Mike Johnson
Zack M. Johnson

Jeffery Jones
Paul Jones
Jada Jordan
Jeff Jordan
Tika Jordan
K. W. Keller
Ayandra Kelly
Zane Kendrick
Barry Kicklighter
Sarah E. Kimbrel
Mary King
Tyrone King
Dina King-Wylie
Taylor Kite
Thomas A Kite
Tracy & Tim Kite
Holli Knight
Wendy Krieg
Bethany Lambert
Shelly Landry
Ali LaPread
Philip Larkin
Skip Layton
Dwerl Lee
Tasha Lemon
Angela Lintz
Micheal Lovett
Jed W. Lyles
Heather L. Maddox
Erica C. Madoni
Deanna Mahaley
Rosemary Maloney and
Stephanie Maloney
Shannon & Tammy Marion
Kelly Martin
Lisa Martin
Aaron Mason
Kimberly R. Mathews
Destiney Mathis
Justin J. Mathis
Shay Shay Mathis
Josh & Megan Matthews
Ralph Matthews
Bryan Maxwell
Wanda Maxwell
Joseph A. Mayo
Crystal McAbee
Renea McCall

Mary McClendon
Michelle McClendon
Rick McClendon
Beverly McConnell
Dawn McCurdy
Brienne McDaniel
Savannah McDowell
Tonia McGhee
Brenda McGregor
Jane-Marie McKinney
Michael McLendon
Bethani McNelly
Christie Medlock
Shirley A. Meeks
Ginger Merritt
Melanie Mertz
Darlene Milhouse
Tia Milhouse
Diana Miller
Laura Miller
Lisa Millican
Neely Mitchell
Tracy Mitchell
Dana Moore
Dante Moore
June Moore
Ollie Moore
Sada Moore
Carol Morgan
Natalie Morgan
Dre'Yon Morris
Donna Nance
Myles Napier
Anissa Neill
Heartly Nepveux
Network for Good
Taylor Newsome
Lisette Nobles
Holly Norris
Dorothy Northcut
Masoud Nourizadeh
Tina Nunez
Darlene O'Baner
Lynn Odom
Neysa Odom
Teresa Odom
Dr. George A. Oliviver
Melinda Olmstead
Jake O'Neal
Olivia Parker
Tarra Parker
Brody Parkerson
Debbie Parran
Annie Pasley
Lori Patel
Nayan Patel
Deanna Patnode
Casey Paul
Anthony M. Pearson
Bernadette Perry
Beverly Perry
Michele D. Perry-Stewart
Jason Peters
Susanne Piel
Sabrina Pilkinton
Carlous Plummer
Lisa Poole
Shaun Pope
Amy Powell
Audrey Powell
Cheryl Prather
Savannah G. Pressly
Lauren Purvis
Alan Rainwater
Derek Adrian Ranew, RN
Derak Rawlings
21st Century Real Estate
Jodi Reddock
Missy Renz

Brandon Richardson
Jerry Ricketts
MK Riddell
Eureeka Roberts
Ontario Roberts
Jacqueline Robinson
Rodney Robinson
Tomika Robinson
Matthew K. Robison
Elizabeth B. Rogers
Jeffery J. Rogers
Mandy Rogers
Roxanna Rogers
Sharon E. Rogers
William Rogers
Matthew Ross
Kiara Rowland
Sebastian Russell
Anne Sanders
LaSha Sanders
Nicole Sanders
Tina Sanders
Jeff & Teresa Sanderson
Sandra Sansbury
Joseph Saville
Patty Schildt
Nancy Schmucker
Bill Schneider
Heather Scott
Morgan Sembach
Tanesha Sharp
Belinda C. Shaw
Rhonda Shehee
Charlotte Sheider
Teressa Sheider
Sierra Shipley
Steve and San Short
Scott Shubitz
Carmen Simmons
Robert Simmons
Braxton Simpson
William Sims, Jr.
Sharon Singletary
Audrey Smith
Davis Smith
Farrie Smith
Tabitha Smith
Craig E. Soaries
Leo J. Solomon
Angellisa Spears
Madelyn Spurlock
Tara Stanford
Cheryl Stark
Lorrie Sterwerf
Karen Stigura
Jenny Stubbs
Kelsey Summers
Patricia G. Swift
Katherine Sylvestre
Alyssa Takatori
Calvin & Sandra Tanner
Elizabeth Tasker
James Taylor
Kyle Taylor
Misty Taylor
Bradley Thomas
Brian Thomas
Daymon Thomas
D. Thompson
Ricky Thompson
William Thompson
Joanna Thoreson
Adam Thornton
Jenna Thrasher-Sneathen
Jon Thrower
Julie Tidwell
Julie Tillman
Christian Torres
Ashley E. Travis

Latifah Tucker
Desmond Turner
Jerry Vaughn
Linda Vaughn
Sabrina Walden
Tenika Walker
Rasheed Wallace
Jalaine Ward
Nicole Ward
Samuel L. Ward
Charles Ware
Tatiana Warren
Jasmine Washington
Tandua Washington
Brittany Waters
Mi Waters
Woody Waters
Clint Watkins
The Watkins
Alex Watkiss
Chary Way
Lisa Webb
Boone Webster
Freddie & Valerie Webster
Erica Weiler
Robert Wellbaum
Kennedy Werner
Robert Westerfield
Katherine Wester-Neal
Annette White
Dennis White
Jessica Wilkerson
Dink Wilkes
Mulanta Wilkins
Heidi Williams
Mary B. Williams
Paige Williams
Paula Williams
Ron Williams
Willie D. Williams
Kelly G. Wilson
Yvette Wilson
James Woodruff
Laurie Woodruff
Monica Woods
NaTasha Woody
Arch Douglas Worsham
Jessica Yarbrough
Kayla Yunker
Marwan Zabdawi

Gifts were made to continue the support of these funds and scholarships:

40 & 8 Voiture Locale #1635 Nursing Scholarship
Alumni Association General Fund
Art Department Fund
Athletic Program Fund
Barnesville Rotary Club Scholarship
George and Ernestine Barrett Scholarship
Baseball Team Fund
Basketball Team Fund
Dewaine T. Bell Music/Education Scholarship
Dr. Pamela T. Bell Scholarship
Ray and Margie Brinkley Education Scholarship
Pat Brown Practice Lab
Lora and Max Burns Presidential Scholars Support Endowment
Campus Food Pantry Fund
Constance H. Chinery Fine

and Performing Arts Fund
Class of 1957 Scholarship
Club Football Team Fund
Charles & Carolyn Connell Nursing Scholarship
Betty Smith Crawford Education Scholarship
Lindsey Daniel Memorial Scholarship
Charles and Nelwyn Dodgen Nursing Scholarship
Traci Lane Durham ASN Nursing Scholarship
Traci Lane Durham BSN Nursing Scholarship
Brad Edwards Memorial Scholarship
J. Joel Edwards Scholarship
Faculty and Staff Award
Fine & Performing Arts Department Fund
Gap Assistance Fund
Sara Garrett Scholarship
Gordon Alumni Scholarship
Griffin Rotary Club Scholarship
Reginald Darnell Hamm Memorial Scholarship
Oscar & Ruth Hardage Scholarship
Highlander Gap Scholarship
Hightower Family Scholarship
George H. Hightower, Sr. Adult Simulation Lab Endowment
Human Services Alumni Scholarship
Lillian Abbott Hurt Scholarship
Jones-Story Student Assistance Endowment Fund
Jennifer Kressaty Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Lambdin on the Green Event 2019
Jeanette S. Lewis Memorial Scholarship
W. Pierce May Memorial Scholarship
Military Memorial Plaza
H. Prentice Miller Book Fund
Music Department Fund
Natural Sciences Department Research Fund
Cyrus Neuner Faculty/Staff Enrichment Fund
Nursing and Health Sciences Department Fund
Dr. James Pharo & Mr. Joseph Pharo Scholarship
Jesse E. Rogers, Sr. West Central Georgia Bank Scholarship
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Lecture Series Endowment
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Scholarship
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Scholarship 2
School of Education Fund
Service Learning Projects Fund
Chafin Smith Study Abroad Scholarship
Soccer Team Fund

Softball Team Fund
Student Emergency Assistance Fund
Study Abroad Program Fund
Theatre Department Fund
University System of Georgia Foundation Scholarship
University System of Georgia Capacity Building Grant Fund
Larry and Glenna White Scholarship
Bill and Doris White Scholarship 2
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation Scholarship
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia Foundation Scholarship
Wisebram Family Nursing Scholarship

Gifts were given in honor of:

Alexis R. Giddens
Carol Haines
Tom Haines
Dr. Anna Higgins-Harrell
Elizabeth B. Rogers

Gifts were given in memory of:

Hilda Andrews
Basil J. "Monk" Antonio
Grashunda E. Banks
Ernestine Barrett
George Barrett
Ray W. Brinkley
Bobby C. Bush
Harold Grady Carter
Jacqueline Carter
Sandra Neuner Carter
Marion K. Coleman
Traci L. Durham
Nancy L. Echols
Brad Edwards
John L. Ethridge
Sara A. Garrett
Reginald Darnell Hamm
Col. C.T.B. Harris
William G. Higgins
Ora Lee Howard
Celine Jackson
Joseph Johnson
Theresa J. Kressaty
Zedene H. Long
Clint McAbee
Laura J. McSwain
Dr. Alan P. Peterson
Louise J. Poppen
Winifred Schmude
Dr. Mary Jean Simmons
David Sutter
Richard Sutter
Frank Varner
James C. "Buddy" Waller, Jr.
Larry D. Waller
Forrest A. Watson
Clarke M. Wegner
Betsy White
Grover C. Worsham
Gordon Military High School Class of 1966

3,231

2020 FALL ENROLLMENT

27

DEGREES OFFERED

100+

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

20:1

STUDENT TO PROFESSOR RATIO

1,182

CUMULATIVE JOBS GENERATED

\$137M

ECONOMIC IMPACT FISCAL YEAR 2019

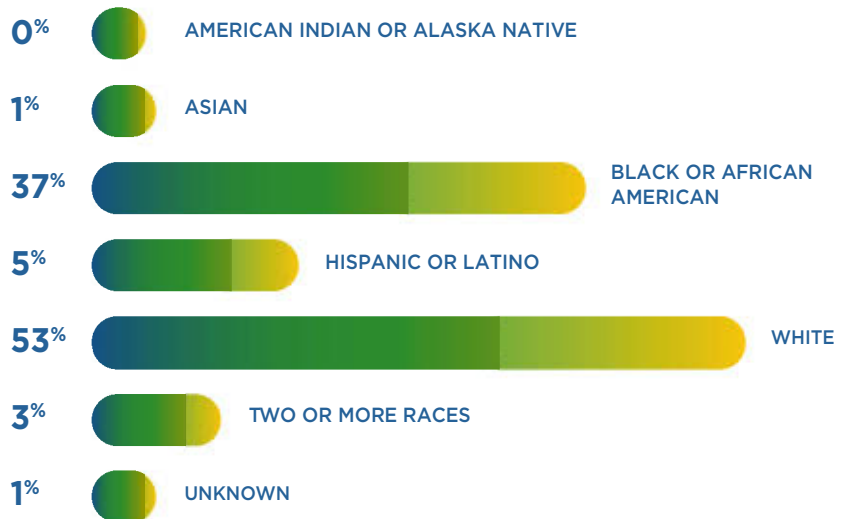


GSC softball claimed its first GCAA regular season title in school history, becoming 2021's champion.



STUDENT DIVERSITY

GSC'S STUDENTS REFLECT THE RICH DIVERSITY OF THE INSTITUTION'S 14-COUNTY SERVICE REGION AND MORE





GORDON STATE
HIGHLANDERS

419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204
678-359-5555

CLUB FOOTBALL 2021 SEASON SCHEDULE

9/11

AWAY | RAMAH JUCO ACADEMY

9/18

AWAY | OHIO STATE

9/25

HOME | CHAMPION PREP

10/2

AWAY | HOCKING COLLEGE

10/9

HOME | COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY

10/16

HOME | SOUTH CAROLINA FAITH A&M

10/23

AWAY | MIDDLE GA STATE UNIVERSITY

10/30

HOME | FLORIDA CENTRAL TECH

11/6

AWAY | UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA GREENSBORO

GORDONSTATE.EDU

FOLLOW OUR SUCESS:

#GSCHighlandersForward



FACEBOOK
Gordon State College



YOUTUBE
Gordon State College



INSTAGRAM
Gordon_State



LINKEDIN
Gordon State College
(Official)



TWITTER
@GordonState

© 2021, Gordon State College. Gordon State College is part of the University System of Georgia. The President's Report is produced by the Office of Advancement, External Relations and Marketing, Vice President Montrese Adger Fuller, Gordon State College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, Georgia 30204; 678-359-5739; fax 678-359-5738; www.gordonstate.edu.