GCMENIS

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

Alums turning PASSION into PURPOSE



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Turning **Passion** into **Purpose**

A Message from President Rosemary Allen

Another academic year is now complete, and Georgetown College has much to celebrate. We raised a record-breaking \$576,219 on Giving Day this year, thanks to the amazing support of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Our Sigma Tau Delta chapter, the English Honorary Society, celebrated its 100-year anniversary with students recognized at the national conference for their writing. Georgetown College was a founding chapter of Sigma Tau Delta and ours is one of only two chapters in the U.S. that are 100 years old.

We are launching three new sports in the fall—Women's Wrestling, Men's Wrestling, and a co-ed Esports team. In addition, a new Adult Online Program is under development to help working adults complete their bachelor's degree online with a flexible schedule. We will be launching with degree options in business administration, management, education, and integrated studies.

In this issue, we are celebrating seven alums turning their passion into purpose. Edward Wimmer '99 is the CEO and co-founder of ROAD iD, a company that makes wearable identification to help first responders quickly access personal information. Stefanie Hayner Justice '02 is reaching for the stars as an Avionics and Software Integration Manager for the Mars Ascent Vehicle at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. International human rights lawyer Knox Thames '96 is fighting for an end to persecution around the globe. Learn more about these and more GC alums inside.



You will also read about students who traveled abroad, like Outstanding Student Leader Award winner **Abir El Hirch '25**, who traveled to Oxford University through the Oxford Honors Program. In addition, a group of kinesiology students traveled to Costa Rica for a medical mission trip to provide free healthcare services to those in need.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Class of 2025 as they begin a new chapter. We have high expectations that they will go out there and make a positive difference in the world, just as so many of our outstanding alumni have before them. I will be following their journeys with loving pride!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosemary A. Allen

Board of Trustees Elects FIVE NEW MEMBERS & New Officers

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications











The Board of Trustees elected five new members who began their terms in 2025. New members are Alonzo Allen, Juan Dontrese Brown '96, Melodie Marquess Fuller '91, Dr. Shelley Bundy Stanko '97, and Glenn Williams. The Trustees also elected J. Guthrie True '81 as Board Chair and Tracey Clark '94 as Vice Chair.

"We are so fortunate to have the experienced leadership of Guthrie True and Tracey Clark to guide the Board of Trustees at this critical time for the College," says President Rosemary Allen. "And I couldn't be more pleased with the wealth of knowledge and experience brought to the Board by our new members. They are already engaged in doing important work on our behalf, and we appreciate them donating their time and expertise to the support of our mission."

Alonzo Allen received his bachelor's degree in industrial management from Berea College in 1984. He retired from Toyota Motor Manufacturing in 2013, where he worked in production management and project management. He is actively engaged in the community through board membership, mentoring, and volunteerism in Georgetown where he currently lives.

Juan Dontrese Brown '96 received his bachelor's degree in graphic design from Georgetown College, a master's degree in graphic design from Morehead State University, and a master of fine arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He is co-founder of BROWNBAYLOR™ marketing agency in Richmond, Virginia, an agency that promotes social change within local, regional, national, and global communities. Brown lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Melodie Marquess Fuller '91 received her bachelor's degree in English from Georgetown College and her master's in educational policy studies from the University of Kentucky. She is an educational consultant working with clients to improve company culture and employee engagement. She lives in Mount Sterling.

Dr. Shelley Bundy Stanko '97 received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown College and graduated from University of Kentucky College of Medicine in 2001. She is currently pursuing her master's in business administration. Since 2004, she has been a family physician in London where she currently lives. She is the Interim Senior Vice President / Market Chief Medical Officer for CHI Saint Joseph Health System.

Glenn Williams received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and the Juris Doctorate from Salmon P. Chase College of Law. He served as Scott County Attorney for over 10 years and taught business law at Georgetown College as an adjunct professor. Williams currently owns a private law practice. He lives in Georgetown.

BRAD COMPTON RETURNS

as Chief Financial Officer

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications



Brad Compton returns to GC as the new Vice President for Finance/Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Compton began his career as a staff accountant at Georgetown College and is a seasoned financial executive with over 25 years of experience in higher education. He returns to Georgetown after dedicating over two decades to Eastern Kentucky University, where he spent the last ten years as Controller and Associate Vice President of Finance. Compton earned his bachelor's degree from Morehead State University and a master of accountancy degree from Purdue University Global Campus.

Compton will also serve on the Board of Trustees and the President's Executive Cabinet alongside:

- Don Blakeman, Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services
- Bethany Hornback Langdon '93, Vice President for Advancement and Communications
- Chris Oliver, Vice President for Athletics / Athletics Director
- Dr. Curtis Sandberg, Vice President for Student Success / Dean of Students
- Dr. Jonathan Sands Wise, Provost / Executive Vice President
- · Leah Stubbs, Executive Assistant to the President
- Sally Wiatrowski, Vice President for Business Operations

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John Ward '88 – Burlington, KY

Dr. Meocha Williams '10 – Gaithersburg, MD

Glenn Williams – Georgetown, KY

Bob Yates '86 – Clarksville, TN

Guthrie Zaring '87 – Louisville, KY

Dr. Lydia Samples Mattison '90 – Louisville, KY

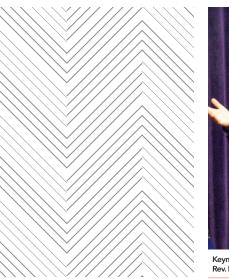
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Earl Goode '62 – Indianapolis, IN
David Knox '64 – Georgetown, KY

FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION

honoring 196 years of GC





Keynote Speaker Rev. Katie McKnown



Provost Jonathan Sands Wise presents the Curry Award for Faculty Excellence to Dr. Abraham Prades.

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications

President Rosemary Allen welcomed students, faculty, and staff to the Founders' Day Convocation on Tuesday, January 28 in the John L. Hill Chapel. This annual event celebrates the history of Georgetown College and provides a chance to reflect on our mission.

Each Founders' Day, Georgetown announces the Curry Award for Faculty Excellence. The award is named after **Dr. Ralph Curry** and **Dr. Gwen Curry '54**, dedicated professors who both served as Chairs of the English Department. The Curry Award recognizes a faculty member who shows dedication not only to educating students inside the classroom but truly making a difference in their community and the lives of young people. The 2025 Curry Award was awarded to **Dr. Abraham Prades**, Associate Professor of Spanish. He received his bachelor's degree from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He began his career at Georgetown College in 2019.

"Dr. Prades is an amazing mentor for students who always shows up for them, whether at events, in the Caf, or inviting international students over to eat meals with his family, " said Provost Jonathan Sands Wise. "He is all in on everything he does and is a gifted teacher and active researcher as well. Georgetown College and all of our students are incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Prades among our faculty."

The keynote speaker for this year's Founder's Day was **Rev. Katie McKown '03**. As Dr. Allen introduced her, she highlighted Rev. McKown's active involvement as a student on campus and her trailblazing career and life since graduating. She now serves as the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, Kentucky. Before her current role, McKown pastored Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville, Virginia, from 2006 to 2019, and served as the Director of Leland Seminary's School of Ministry in Arlington, Virginia.

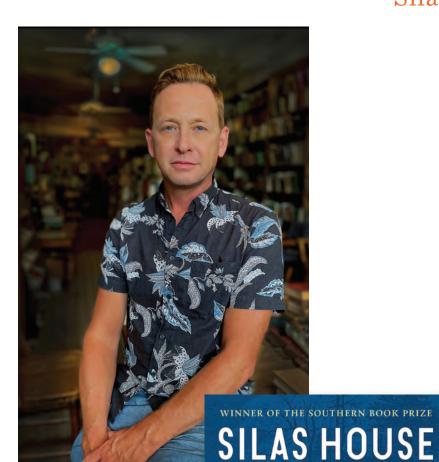
In her address, McKown spoke about the changing roles of women, noting several key achievements and milestones in the advancement of women's rights, both in our country and on our campus. She also discussed the role of women in the church, emphasizing that "women have, in fact, always been leaders, whether recognized or not." Reflecting on her own ordination and journey in the church, she shared that Georgetown College was the first place she saw women leading — both on campus and within the church. She encouraged current students, reminding them that, although the world may not always treat them as such, "Jesus empowers you to live as God has called you to." She concluded with an empowering statement: "If you can see it, you can be it."



Watch the Founders' Day celebration here

KENTUCKY POET LAUREATE

Silas House Visits GC



LARK

ASCENDING

Silas House

Bestselling author and Kentucky Poet Laureate Silas House visited GC to deliver this year's Danford Thomas/ Collier Lecture. He has published seven novels, including his most recent, *Lark Ascending*. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed listening to House talk about his childhood in Kentucky, his love of family, and the creative writing process. After the lecture, House stayed to chat with attendees and sign books.

His book *Lark Ascending* won the 2023 Southern Book Prize and the 2023 Nautilus Book Award. His writing has appeared in *The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Time, Garden & Gun, The New York Times, Oxford American,* and many more of the country's leading publications. He teaches at Berea College and at the Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Creative Writing.

The Danford Thomas Memorial Lecture Foundation was established in 1920 by Rhodes B. Thomas, GC trustee, in memory of his father, who was professor of Greek and Latin from 1839 to 1882 and was the College's first librarian. The purpose of the lecture series is to further the historical interests and ideals of the College.

The Collier Lecture is funded by the late James M. Collier, an instructor at Georgetown College. This lecture series brings individuals or groups to the College who would have a wide appeal to the Georgetown College community.



Honoring and Celebrating the Class of 2025

Commencement week at Georgetown College is a special time to honor the achievements of our graduates and celebrate new beginnings.

On Friday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m., our graduates attended the Baccalaureate ceremony in the John L. Hill Chapel for a final night of worship and reflection. **Rev. Dr. JC Campbell '11**, Senior Pastor of Greater Hope Christian Church in Evansville, Indiana, delivered an inspiring sermon directed at graduates.

"You are called for something greater. I cannot wait to read about the wonderful things you will accomplish," said Rev. Campbell. "The greatness started at Georgetown College, and it will spill over into the rest of your lives. Go out there and be great!"

International human rights lawyer **Knox Thames '96** spoke to graduates at Commencement on Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. on Giddings Lawn. Thames is a lawyer, advocate, and author who has dedicated his career to promoting religious freedom and fighting against persecution around the globe. Thames encouraged graduates to make a positive difference in the world.

"What you do with your life matters. You can make a difference, whether it's saving the world or saving those around you in your local community. When you walk across this stage, guided by the values instilled in you here at Georgetown, have an expansive vision of your life for a better world."

The Class of 2025 selected **Abir El Hirch '25** to give the Senior Address. She was also this year's recipient of the Outstanding Student Leader Award, serving as a class officer and former Panhellenic President and Recruitment Vice President. She is a double major in chemistry and political science and is from Rabat, Morocco.

Class officer and Mount Sterling native **Emiley Mattingly '25** presented the senior gift to the college in the amount of \$6,935.65, the largest gift ever from a group of graduates. She is a psychology major with a double minor in criminal justice and liberal arts. She plans to pursue her master's degree in applied behavior analysis in the fall.

Each year, a graduating senior is awarded the President's Award for academic distinction and exemplary servant leadership during their time at Georgetown. President Rosemary Allen presented this year's award to **Evan Spencer '25** from Georgetown, who is graduating with a double major in philosophy and English. Spencer served as president of the President's House Association, vice president of academic affairs for the Student Government Association, captain of the Mock Trial Team, and is a member of the Oxford Honors Program and GC's English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta. He will be attending law school at Belmont University in the fall.

Dr. Alan Akridge was presented with an honorary bachelor of science degree from Georgetown College. Akridge graduated from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry in 1967. He later opened a private practice, Akridge Orthodontics, where he worked for over 40 years until his retirement in 2010.

Dr. Meghan Knapp, professor of chemistry, was this year's recipient of the 2025 Cawthorne Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching at Georgetown College. Knapp was praised by students and recent alumni for her ability to make difficult content understandable to students from all walks of life. She was also praised for her willingness to adapt her teaching methods to ensure the success of all her students.

Continued on Page 10

Watch the Baccalaureate Service

Watch the Commencement Ceremony





View Photos on Flickr











Dr. Christa Roney '13 and Lt. Govenor Jacqueline Coleman



President Rosemary Allen, JC Campbell '11, and Bryan Langlands



Dr. Alan Akridge recieves honorary BS from President Rosemary Allen



Dr. Jonathan Sands Wise and Dr. Meghan Knapp



Evan Wells Spencer '25 and President Rosemary Allen

On Sunday, May 18 at 3:00 p.m. Dean of Education **Dr. Christa Roney '13** welcomed guests to the John L. Hill Chapel to award105 students with their master's degrees in education. Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman was the guest speaker at the ceremony. Lt. Gov. Coleman is a vocal and passionate advocate for public education and believes education is the key to providing Kentuckians opportunities for transformational change. She spoke about the important role that teachers play in building a strong future for Kentucky.

"The future of Kentucky's economy is in your classrooms today," said Lt. Governor Coleman. "Our future is being built by the original job creators - teachers just like you. And please know, the highest elected teacher in Kentucky has your back."

Misty Akers '25, was awarded the Graduate Dean's Honor Award by Dean of Education Dr. Christa Roney in recognition of her exceptional dedication and achievement as a graduate student, educator, and community leader. Akers is a special education teacher at Lemon's Mill Elementary in Georgetown. She was recently recognized at the state level with the Outstanding Graduate Award in Teacher Education.

For the 2024-25 academic year, Georgetown College awarded **228 undergraduate degrees, 105 graduate degrees**, and one honorary bachelor's degree. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 - go out there and make us proud!











Sigma Tau Delta Celebrates 100-Year Anniversary



Members of GC's Eta Alpha chapter in the lobby of Pittsburgh's Wyndham Grand hotel, where Sigma Tau Delta held its 100th anniversary convention.

The arts and letters in America had a banner year in 1925. *The Great Gatsby* was published, *The New Yorker* magazine debuted, and Louis Armstrong made his first recordings. But maybe most important for GC, the Eta Alpha chapter of Sigma Tau Delta got its start that year as well.

Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, was founded in 1924 and Eta Alpha was one of the original seven chapters nationwide. Of those seven, only one other is still active. However, the organization itself is going strong, as there are currently 770 chapters in the U.S. and abroad. Around 7,500 new Sigma Tau Delta members are inducted annually, so Georgetown College was instrumental in creating an organization that has served hundreds of thousands of students who love literature and writing.

That achievement was recognized this year at the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Pittsburgh, when at a gathering of all attendees Eta Alpha was applauded as the oldest chapter at the convention.

Callie Cook '25, Cat Hastings '26, Karalyn Lockaby '25, Taylor Smith '25, and Evan Spencer '25 spent four days at the convention, accompanied by English professors Dr. Steve Carter and Dr. Carrie Cook. They heard speakers such as Pulitzer Prize-winning Mojave American poet Natalie Diaz and attended panels where fellow students read their creative work or presented papers on topics ranging from the novels of Jane Austen to the lyrics of Taylor Swift.

Two GC English majors, Taylor Smith and Evan Spencer, had poetry accepted for panels. Taylor read her work on a panel titled *Pink Ink* and then answered questions from the audience, and Evan did the same on one titled *Romantic at Heart*. A third GC English major, **Sonya Pavona '26**, also had poetry accepted, but couldn't attend because she was enrolled in a term at Oxford.

About his experience, Evan Spencer said, "Pittsburgh was an absolute blast. We got to share our work in panels right alongside PhDs and professors from every part of the country. The atmosphere and culture were so bright and exciting. Everyone should go."

As for these students' accomplishments, Dr. Carter said, "It's not easy to be the first to do something. And these three were the first, at least in my thirty-five years at the College, to submit work for the convention. The fact that they all won a spot on a panel in a nationwide competition tells you what top-notch students we have."

But the convention wasn't all academic activities. Eta Alpha took fourth place from among more than forty teams in a session of literary trivia. One afternoon everyone visited the nearby Andy Warhol museum.

This year the chapter also published an issue of Inscape, the magazine of student creative writing that has been published at GC for decades. Sonya Pavona designed the layout for the issue, and **Steve Gullette '94**, Sigma Tau Delta member and current English instructor, designed the cover. The issue was released at a

celebration of the chapter's 100th anniversary. Students, alums, faculty, and staff mingled for an hour, then listened to students read their fiction and poetry. Over fifty people attended, including President Rosemary Allen, who often manages to make time in her schedule to attend Sigma Tau Delta events. President Allen said, "Over the years, I have treasured how my Sigma Tau Delta membership allowed me to witness the creative powers of our students."

This year the chapter also sponsored a book reading group and a movie night, as well as a joint event with Maskrafters where students read their own poetry and performed dramatic monologues. Those last two activities were made possible by the help of Dr. Ed Smith '88, and that kind of collegiality and Georgetown spirit are what have kept groups like Sigma Tau Delta and Maskrafters going strong for 100 years.

That spirit is so alive that sometimes complete strangers notice it. At the Pittsburgh convention, Dr. Carter encountered a professor from another college who conducted the English department's last external review for accreditation, and they said to him, "I could just tell your college was a special place." And because of its people, GC truly is "a special place." As Taylor Smith said about Dr. Carter, "He has given me experiences I would have never had. Having a professor who invests in you and pushes you, it means so much."

Eta Alpha inducted 32 new student members this year, and although this might surprise some, many of them weren't English majors, and instead were studying accounting, art, communications, criminal justice, education, history, philosophy, psychology, religion, and theatre. But they were all the same kind of intellectually curious students Sigma Tau Delta has been serving for 100 years. And from all indications, "Sigma Tau" is well on track for 100 more.



Taylor Smith, Evan Spencer, Karalyn Lockaby and Cat Hastings at the Andy Warhol Museum with the art they created in the museum's makerspace



INSCAPE WRITERS:

Jordan Castle '26 Fiction **Madison Coomer '25** Fiction Katie Duffey '25 Fiction Savannah Good '26 Poetry & Fiction Jordan Grapperhaus '26 Fiction Michael Hernandez '26 Fiction Leon Johnson IV '26 Poetry Sonya Pavona '26 Poetry **Kelsey Sherrard '25** Fiction Taylor Smith '25 Poetry Evan Spencer '25 Poetry & Fiction **Hollis Summers** Poetry & Fiction



For a \$25 donation, get a copy of Inscape and a t-shirt that celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Eta Alpha Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. Scan below to get yours:



ANY HISTORY OF SIGMA TAU DELTA AT GEORGETOWN COLLEGE IN LIVING MEMORY HAS TO START WITH DR. GWEN CURRY '54 AND DR. RALPH CURRY, WHO WERE THE FACULTY ADVISORS TO THE GROUP FOR DECADES.

Dorothy McElrath '83 remembers her first Sigma Tau Delta meeting:

"It was held at the Currys' home, a little brick house on Hollyhock Lane. Most of what was shared was poetry, and the writer received appreciation as well as questions and comments. Dr. Steve May was often heard declaring, with a twinkle in his eye, 'There's a poem in there somewhere!' From that first night, I was completely enchanted. I think I floated back to the dorm afterward and stayed up late writing."

June Pugh '91 fondly recalls a meetings the Currys hosted:

"I loved listening to other students' fiction and poetry, and sharing ideas. Sharing my writing and being published in *Inscape* helped boost my confidence. I still have the *Inscape* issues from back then."

President Rosemary Allen participated in Sigma Tau Delta when the Currys were advising the group:

"One of my early Georgetown College memories is attending a Sigma Tau reading that Ralph and Gwen Curry hosted in their home, where students shared and discussed their work. It was my introduction to this welcoming educational community that challenges students to discover and share their talents."

Dr. Gwen Curry made Dr. Steve Carter her co-advisor and was "showing him the ropes" when Steve Gullette '94 joined the organization. He says:

"I have fond memories of being president of our chapter my senior year. From the beginning, I was attracted to a fellowship that formed around literature and creative writing. This holds true today, as I am an instructor in the English department."



Maskrafters Stage Two Comedies

for the Spring Play By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications

The Maskrafters brought two comedies by Christopher Durang to the Ruth Pearce Wilson Lab Theatre stage in April. While the director, Dr. Ed Smith '88, had performed and read many of Durang's plays in the 1980's and early 1990's, this production was his first attempt at directing the playwright. Business Lunch At The Russian Tea Room and The Actor's Nightmare showcase Mr. Durang's propensity for dark, absurdist comedy.

The plays illuminate two facets of Durang's playwriting prowess. Business Lunch At The Russian Tea Room brilliantly skewers Hollywood's search for compelling content as an up-and-coming script development executive (Katie Duffey) pitches struggling playwright (Donovan Smith) on some edgy but relatable ideas. To this odd couple, Durang adds in an agent (Izzie Lambros), a very New York waiter (Ethan Decker), a priest and rabbi (Ethan Decker and Keirsten Bernard), and then tops it off with blinis, beluga caviar, and disco dancing.

Whereas Durang's facility with satire carries the first play, The Actor's Nightmare features his other great strength of parody. Here Durang combines 'the dream of the

student' (during which you dream of showing up for a test in a class you've never attended or perhaps showing up in a theatre and being told you're going on without knowing any of the plays) with pitch perfect parody of classic plays. George, the hapless accountant (Leon Johnson) gamely struggles through twisted scenes from a handful of classic plays, all the while guided by a stage manager (Ally Stone). Audiences laughed as George struggled through scenes from Noel Coward's Private Lives (with Izzie Lambros and Katie Duffey), Hamlet (with Donovan Smith and Izzie Lambros), a mashup of Samuel Beckett's Endgame, Happy Days, and Waiting For Godot (led by Katie Duffey) and finally A Man For All Seasons (with Ethan Decker as Executioner).

That the plays were professionally delivered was due in no small part to the work of talented student actors and crew, especially a core group of dedicated seniors. Izzie Lambros, Donovan Smith, Harrison Barron, Katie Duffey, Ally Stone, Kiersten Bernard, and Grace Hommrich were part of the freshman class that brought back live theatre to Georgetown College after the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Ed Smith, director and producer, noted that "over the past four years I've had the great pleasure of watching them grow as actors and theatre artists. This group has tackled a wide range of projects, from experimental ensemble work, to film projects, to a world premiere of a 13th century Arthurian romance, to the classics of modern theatre. With each project, I was delighted to see them rise to the challenge."

Reflecting on four years that seem to have passed too quickly, Smith noted that while he'll miss working with them on productions, "I'll miss seeing them in classes, chatting during work days, and spending time with them in the green room. They're good company!"

CAST

Business Lunch at the Russian Tea Room

Donovan Smith '25 – Chris Izzie Lambros '25 – Margaret Ethan Decker '27 – Waiter/Priest Katie Duffey '25 – Melissa Stearn Kiersten Bernard '25 – Rabbi

The Actor's Nightmare

Leon Johnson IV '26 – George Spelvin Ally Stone '25 – Meg Izzie Lambros '25 – Sarah Siddons Katie Duffey '25 – Ellen Terry Donovan Smith '25 – Henry Irving Ethan Decker '27 – Executioner

CREW

Dr. Edward B. Smith '88 – Producer/Director/Costume Designer **Jadyn Gilreath '26** – Stage Manager, Sound Design,

Sound Board Operator, Program

Patrick Jump, Bluegrass Production Studio – Technical Director **Zac Hoogendyk,** Bluegrass Production Studio – Scenic Design

Betsy Smith '86 – Costume Design

 $\textbf{Sidney Smith '26} - George's \ Doublet \ in \ The \ Actor's \ Nightmare$

Zac Hoogendyk – Carpenters

Patrick Jump, Bluegrass Production Studio – Carpenters **Brittany Conder**, Bluegrass Production Studio – Scenic Artist

Patrick Jump – Lighting Design

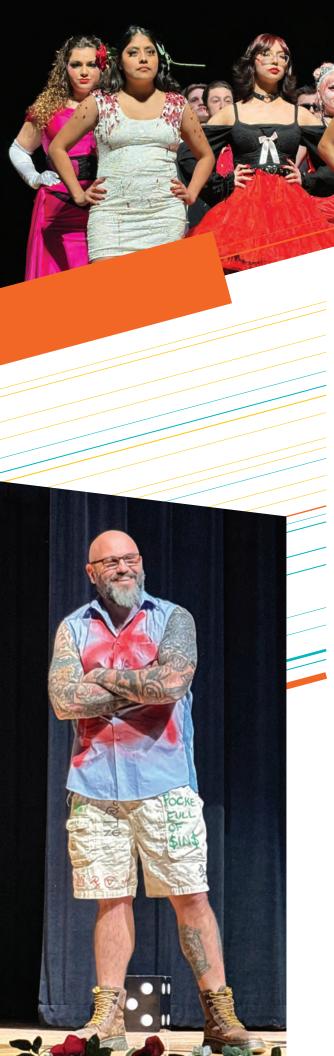
Sophia Gueye, Bluegrass Production Studio – Electrician

Harrison Barron '25 – Light Board Operator Leon Johnson, IV '26 – Theatre Technician

Kiersten Bernard '25 – Running Crew Grace Hommrich '25 – Running Crew

Ally Stone '25 – Running Crew

Savannah Good '26 – House Manager, Program Design, Social Media



Style Society Returns with Fashion Show: Rework the Runway

By Tamnjong "Eddy" Nfor '25, Communication and Media Studies Major

"Things can always be reborn, renewed, and reworked-like the runway," says junior **Jade Bivens '26**, organizer of the second annual Fashion Show: Rework the Runway. The 2025 theme was "House of Cards," which was reflected in the show's designs. The show debuted in 2024, and this year Bivens looked to expand her creative mind and wanted a show that had more "connectedness and unity."

"I love having an outlet beyond the classroom," she says. "I'm from Louisville, where there's a lot of art. I wanted to showcase that here." When she was a young child, art was a way for her to communicate. Putting on a massive feat such as this show takes teamwork, and she knew she would have wonderful connections on campus to make her dream a reality.

Staff members Robbi Barber and Monique Woodson helped the students make outside connections and assisted with logistics to make the show a success. To both Barber and Woodson, coming back and being a part of this show again was an easy choice.

"This experience is so enjoyable because so many different groups are coming together to make it possible," said Woodson. The fashion show wasn't just an opportunity to connect closer with the student body, it was a chance to watch students grow in confidence and find their footing. "I loved seeing new faces, especially freshman. It gives them a reason to come back and helps them find their place."

Robbi Barber brought back alum William Perry to again help the students with perfecting the choreography and performance on the runway. Barber loved seeing the students' vision come together. "Helping students find themselves and give them support academically and emotionally – that is what drives me."

As Bivens and the rest of the Style Society look to the future, they hope to build a lasting legacy at the College.

"I want it to be a space to show appreciation for the arts, creativity, and a chance for my fellow students to express their own creativity," said Bivens. "Events like these could show people that things can be reworked. With an open mind, we can be models of humility, love, and openness."





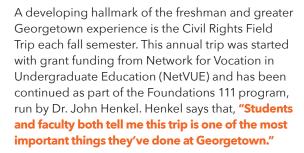






Lawson Zaring'28 Reflects on His Hometown's History Through the Civil Rights Field Trip

By Ysa Duenas '25, Chemistry and Spanish Double Major



Foundations 111 is a required course for GC freshmen, but students across all year levels are invited to attend the Civil Rights Field Trip. During the trip, students and select faculty and staff travel to Alabama and visit several sites run by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI). Their goal is a more immersive experience in understanding the Civil Rights history that forms the basis for academic discussions and studies.

Lawson Zaring is among the most recent attendees of the trip and has personal ties to EJI's Legacy Museum—a profound museum dedicated to highlighting the history of enslaved people and the legacy of slavery in today's sociopolitical structure.



Lawson Zaring

A ninth-generation Shelby County native, Zaring is an active student on campus. Interested in both Kentucky and general history and theology, Lawson is a member of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and intends to follow in his father's footsteps, **Alan Zaring '91,** by pursuing a legal career.

He embarked on this particular trip at the request of his grandmother, Libby Pollett, after his own predominantly white church, First Presbyterian of Shelbyville, and the predominantly Black church, New Mt. Zion Baptist, formed a coalition named the Shelbyville Community Remembrance Project Coalition in 2018. As part of this endeavor, the coalition worked with EJI to present a scholarship to high school students who submitted essays and media arts projects. Zaring submitted a song recognizing the lynchings from Shelby County and won the scholarship.

"I felt like I had done something to address the common problem of simply watching injustice, as opposed to taking action against what was obviously wrong. It is all too frequent to experience





acts of injustice, such as discrimination, and in even worse cases, acts of terrorism or lynching. Speaking out and winning the scholarship showed not only support for organizations such as the NAACP and EJI, but also revealed an avenue through which my faith could be used to do what is right."

The second goal of the coalition was to bring community historical markers to Shelby County. These markers indicate the names of Black men, women, and children lynched in each county, along with the date if that information can be found. In the case of Shelby County, the names of Reuben Dennis, Sam Pulliam, Clarence Garnett, Jimbo Fields, Wade Patterson, and Eugene Marshall can be read. White mobs lynched each of these men from 1878 to 1911. This was indeed a significant step towards progress and healing for Kentucky, as Shelby County is the first in the state to install commemorative markers. They can be visited outside the former jail.

As part of this project, the coalition also gathered soil from the locations of the lynchings to be displayed on the soil wall at The Legacy Museum as well as the Shelby County Historical Society.

However, Lawson Zaring's connection doesn't stop there. After the presentation of the soil to the Equal Justice Initiative, Zaring's grandmother went to see The Legacy Museum and urged her grandson to do the same. When presented with the opportunity as part of a field trip, he happily obliged.

When discussing the field trip, Lawson emphasized the importance he places on treating people fairly and immersing himself in the experiences of others to understand their thoughts and experiences. He reiterated that promoting empathy and walking in God's light remain core values for him. He knows that learning the painful, dark history of his hometown is a part of that. He recognized the vastly different theological perspectives pertaining to race and racism that dictated much of the discourse during the Civil Rights Movement and has a profound interest in understanding their implications in the progress and delay of achieving civil rights for Black Americans.

Lawson seemed awestruck when recalling his visit to Birmingham, especially 16th Street Baptist Church, where a Ku Klux Klan bombing killed Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair, all of whom were under the age of fifteen. The brutality of the Civil Rights Era and the treatment of Black Americans in modern society continue to empower him to stick up for outcasts and those pushed to the fringes of society. He hopes that future students will take advantage of this field trip in the years to come so that they can gain a better understanding of our past.



"I want to thank those who help support the College and support this learning opportunity and other experiences like this one. I appreciate all the donors who allow Georgetown to continue to have an impact on the future of Kentucky, as well as the future of our nation as a whole," said Zaring.



Outstanding Student Leader Award Presented to Abir El Hirch '25

Each year, Georgetown College bestows the prestigious Outstanding Student Leader Award upon seniors who have not only exhibited exceptional leadership skills but have also left an indelible mark on our campus. This year, Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Success Curtis Sandberg had the privilege of presenting the 2025 award to Abir El Hirch.

El Hirch is a double major in chemistry and political science and is from Rabat, Morocco. As former Panhellenic President and Recruitment Vice President, she led with vision, compassion, and a deep commitment to inclusion. She is a member of the Phi Mu Fraternity, Chemistry Honor Society, and the Oxford Honors program. As part of the Oxford Honors Program, she studied at Regent's Park College University of Oxford.

About Her Oxford Honors Experience:

What did I learn during my study abroad?

"I got to meet U.S. policy advisor Sung-Yoon Lee, learn about North Korean leadership, attend a conversation with Nancy Pelosi, and learn about the Civil Resistance in Ukraine. Oxford also taught me the power of curiosity, the value of perseverance, and the importance of nurturing one's intellectual growth."

What stood out about my Oxford experience?

"My experience at Oxford was nothing short of transformative - every conversation sparked intellectual curiosity. Discussions were not just about finding answers but about challenging perspectives and pushing boundaries. Engaging with the brilliant minds of both my peers and tutors expanded my perspective in ways I could have never imagined possible."

What would I say to someone considering studying abroad?

"Studying abroad has genuinely been one of the best decisions I have ever made. My experience filled me with overflowing joy, allowed me to grow in so many ways, and gave me memories and friendships I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

Students Travel to Costa Rica for Medical Mission Trip

By Rachel Ritchie '25, Communication and Media Studies Major



Chris Dowdy, Emma Frazier, Rachel Loganbill, Dayan, Rita Cerdeira, Karla Francioni, and Shelia Kustelski. Bottom: Rachel Loganbill works in a clinic.

This spring, a dedicated group of Georgetown College students and faculty embarked on a transformative journey to Costa Rica, combining their growing expertise in healthcare with a spirit of service that reached across borders. Led by Professor of Kinesiology and Health Studies **Dr. Karla Francioni** and Visiting Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Health Studies **Shelia Kustelski**, this was only the second time Georgetown College has organized such a trip, but the impact was unmistakable.

The mission was clear: to provide vital healthcare services to those who need it most. The team worked in a free medical clinic in Alajuelita, a community located in San José, Costa Rica's capital city. This clinic serves individuals and families without access to healthcare, including refugees and those living in poverty. Georgetown students pitched in across various aspects of clinic operations, from pharmacy work and patient intake to supporting mobile clinics that brought services directly to local schools.

"Our main objective was to deliver care to people who can't afford or access healthcare," explained Dr. Francioni. "But beyond that, it was about giving students hands-on experiences they simply can't get in a classroom."

The students on the trip were all studying biomedical sciences or allied health, and the immersive week offered them practical skills they'll carry forward in their careers. Each day presented something new: shadowing medical professionals, learning to translate and explain healthcare procedures in Spanish, and adapting to the unique differences of another country's healthcare system.

The trip also extended beyond medical service. The group provided programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities and women in the community, allowing for more personal and impactful interactions. "Getting to serve and connect with those groups one-on-one was definitely a favorite moment for me," said Kustelski. "And of course, everything about Costa Rica is beautiful - the people, the scenery, and the culture."

Staying in local homestays, students were fully immersed in Costa Rican life. They practiced their Spanish, shared meals with their host families, and gained a deeper understanding of the country's customs and warmth.

The mission trip was more than a week of volunteering for this group of Georgetown students. It was an unforgettable chapter of growth, service, and connection that will shape their paths in healthcare and beyond. **Chris Dowdy '26** says he enjoyed the clinical work, but the connections made a lasting impression.

"My time in Costa Rica was more than just weeks of clinical work; it was an opportunity to forge deep, lasting relationships that will stay with me for a lifetime. The connections I made, both professionally and personally, have become a part of who I am, reminding me that true growth comes not only from the skills we gain, but from the people we meet along the way."



Keith Hackett II '21 Named **Assistant Athletics Director**

By Jason Grefer, Sports Information Director

In January, Keith Hackett II was named the new Assistant Athletics Director. Hackett initially joined the staff in September 2024, serving in a part-time capacity as Athletic Operations and Game Manager, before being elevated to Assistant Athletics Director. He is a 2021 graduate of Georgetown College, earning his bachelor's degree in sports administration. In his current role, Hackett oversees athletics facilities and event

management, along with coordinating travel and accommodations for all Georgetown athletics programs. From 2021-2022, he served in the player development office within the University of Kentucky Football program before returning to Georgetown. Since April 2023, Hackett continues to serve as Campus Director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at GC.

He spoke about the opportunity to step into a leadership role within Georgetown Athletics. "It is beyond a blessing and an answered prayer being back at Georgetown College as the Assistant Athletic Director," Hackett said. "When I got to Georgetown in August 2017, I never thought I would be in this position in 2025. I had a feeling that when I graduated, I was not finished here at Georgetown, and now that has become a reality. I am beyond thankful to Georgetown College for allowing me to join and have a generational impact on every student-athlete that wears the orange and black."



John Perin PROMOTED to Head Football Coach

By Jason Grefer, Sports Information Director

Georgetown College Athletics announced the promotion of John Perin to Head Football Coach at the end of 2024. Perin took over for Chris Oliver, who remains at Georgetown in his current role of Vice President for Athletics/Athletics Director.

During Perin's time at Georgetown as Defensive Coordinator, the team had a record of 26-8, allowed just 16.3 points per game, and won back-to-back Mid-South Conference Championships in 2023 and 2024. Georgetown also reached the NAIA Football Championship Series Semifinals in 2023 and Quarterfinals in 2024. The Semifinals appearance for the program was the first since 2011.

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Perin came to Georgetown in 2022 from Birmingham-Southern College, where he served as Defensive Coordinator from 2017-2021. He also coached at Morehead State University, Eastern Michigan University, and Capital University. His coaching career began at his alma mater, Centre College. Perin graduated from Centre with a bachelor's degree in financial economics in 2008. He is married to wife Megan and together, they have one daughter.

Perin expressed gratitude and excitement about his new role as Head Football Coach of Georgetown. "My family and I are incredibly honored and grateful for the opportunity to lead the Georgetown College Football program. Working alongside our student-athletes and staff, we will build upon the strong foundation of this program and continue the tradition of excellence that defines Georgetown College Football," said Perin. "I am both humbled and excited to take on the role of Head Coach of the Tigers and pushing this program to even greater success."



Angela Vitiritti, Head Coach of Women's Wrestling



Frank James, Head Coach of Men's Wrestling



Alvssa Tinker, Head Coach of Esports



Set to Launch in the Fall

By Jason Grefer, Sports Information Director

Georgetown College is expanding its athletics program with the addition of three new sports teams: Women's Wrestling, Men's Wrestling and Esports. All three teams are set to compete in the 2025-26 school year. Georgetown College hired three new head coaches to lead these programs:

Angela Vitiritti, Head Coach of Women's Wrestling - Vitiritti brings a strong record of success, leading Taylor County High School to a KHSAA state championship and earning multiple coaching honors. A former Campbellsville University team captain and NAIA national finalist, she is eager to build Georgetown's program and shape the future of women's wrestling in Kentucky.

Frank James, Head Coach of Men's Wrestling - A highly accomplished coach, James developed Campbellsville University's wrestling program into a national powerhouse, producing 70 All-Americans, four national champions, and a 2024 Olympian. He now looks forward to leading Georgetown's new program, with recruitment underway for the 2025-26 season.

Alyssa Tinker, Head Coach of Esports - Tinker previously led Midway University's Esports program to multiple championships and over 110 wins in the last two seasons, bringing extensive coaching experience across multiple game titles. She looks forward to building a competitive program and contributing to the winning tradition of Georgetown College Athletics.

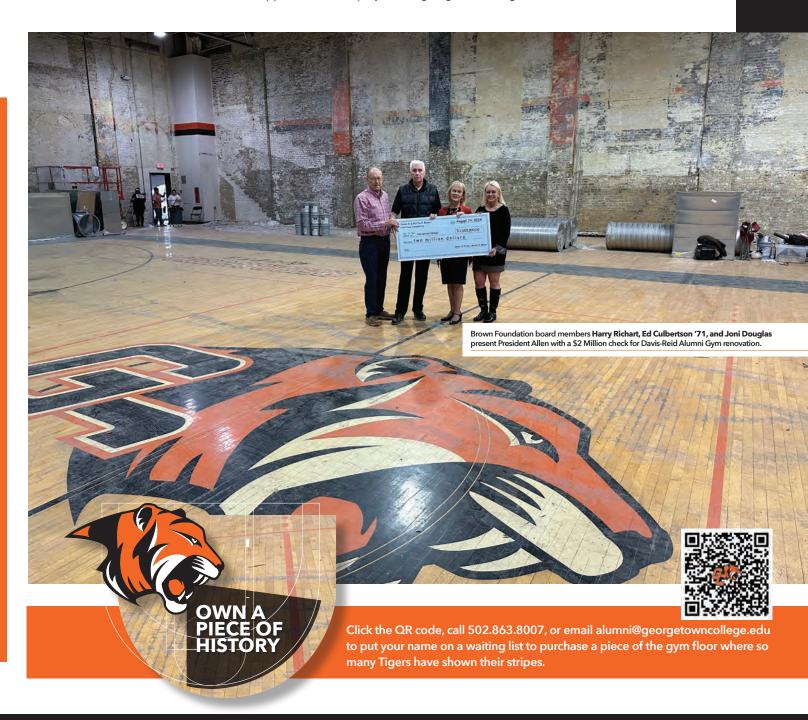
The new teams will begin competing in the fall of 2025, with recruitment and tryouts set to take place in the coming months. Georgetown College is dedicated to providing a well-rounded collegiate experience by combining academic achievement with athletic opportunities. The addition of these teams contributes to our mission of supporting student success both in the classroom and on the field.

Renovation Update for Historic Davis-Reid Alumni Gym

By Jason Grefer, Sports Information Director

The renovation of Davis-Reid Alumni Gym is underway! Crews of all types have been on campus working on the project with the completion date this fall. This is the oldest gym in Kentucky where collegiate athletics are contested. The current gym building was constructed in 1925, dedicated in 1926, and renovated in 1986. Over the years, Davis-Reid Alumni Gym has served as a chapel, classroom, and even student housing. In January 2012, the facility was renamed to honor longtime basketball coaches **Bob Davis and Jim Reid**. The Perfection Group is handling the renovation, with plans to modernize and honor this historic building.

We extend our thanks again to the **James A. and Martha R. Brown Foundation** for donating \$2 million and the **Knowlton Foundation** for donating \$1 million for the renovations. Another \$500,000 is being raised by friends and alumni of Georgetown College. If you want to support this historic project, visit georgetowncollege.edu or call 859.863.8089.





Cheerleading Continues Winning Tradition with Conference Championship

By Jason Grefer, Sports Information Director



Tiger Cheerleading put together a remarkably successful year on and off the mat. They started the season with their first-ever trip to UCA Nationals in Orlando, Florida, and came home with a 5th-place finish. The momentum continued into March, where the Tigers won the Taylor University Trojan Invitational with a score of 89.50.

The team kept the strong performances rolling with a dominating outing at the

Mid-South Conference Championships. Georgetown put up a combined score of 93.66 to capture the program's 4th conference title in the last 5 years. The final score was nearly five full points better than the rest of the field. To go with the team title, Georgetown claimed a number of individual awards. Ellie Price '26 was named the 2025 Mid-South Conference Cheerleader of the Year and First Team All-MSC. Abbey Hughes '28 and Halley Mills '28 also earned First Team honors. Kaylee Baker '28, Isaac Harder '27, Patty Little '27,

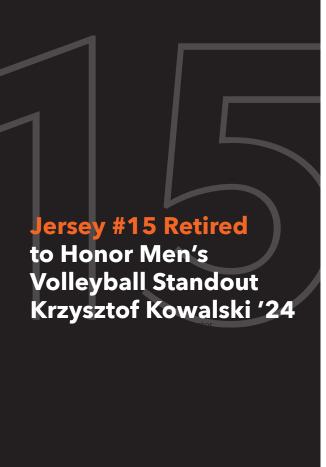
The conference championship punched Georgetown's automatic ticket back to the NAIA Nationals in Ypsilanti, MI. The Tigers finished the event in 10th place with a combined score of 86.67. Georgetown was also one of just ten teams with no deductions on their performance. At the end of the event, Ellie Price was named a NAIA Second Team All-American.

and Bella Toomey '27 were named to the Second Team. Georgetown led all

MSC schools with a combined seven honorees.

While the Tigers were focused on competition throughout the year, Georgetown Cheerleading gave back to the community by launching the Junior Tigers Cheer program. Youth from around the area were given opportunities to learn and receive coaching from Georgetown Cheerleaders throughout the school year. The Junior Tigers also performed during home football and basketball games during the season with Georgetown Cheerleaders.

"I am so proud of our team's continuous athletic success. This year, we achieved so much, taking the first ever team to UCA College Nationals and receiving many team honors and individual athlete accolades. However, I am most proud of what amazing people our student athletes are and their ability to share their love for their sport and team to all of those around them. Our team is full of special young people who shine on and off the mat and I am so very proud of how they represent our program and GC. It has been a wonderful season, and I am honored to lead our Tigers!" said Joanie Lake, Head Cheerleading Coach.



Georgetown Athletics and Men's Volleyball officially retired the number 15, in honor of the late Krzysztof Kowalski, who passed away unexpectedly on November 27, 2024.

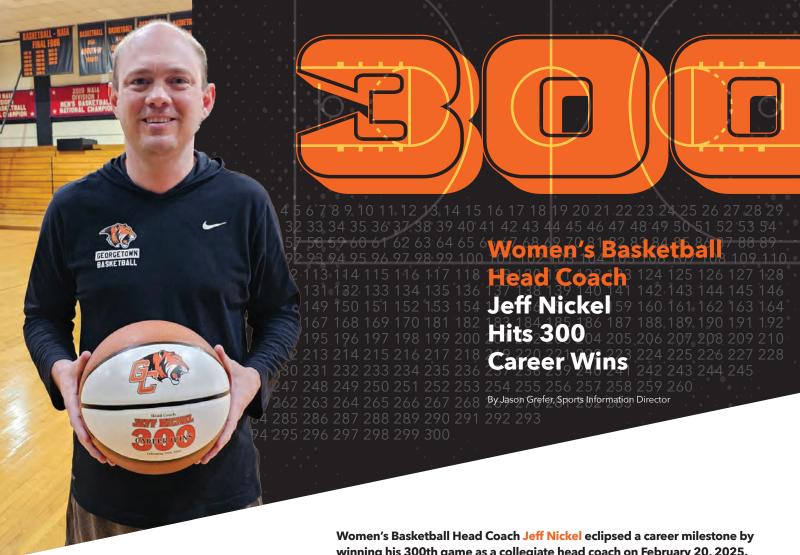
Kowalski epitomized the term "student-athlete" during his Georgetown career. He graduated from Georgetown in May 2024 Magna Cum Laude with a triple major in finance, business administration, and economics, and carried a minor in accounting. For his efforts in the classroom, Kowalski was a multi-time NAIA Scholar Athlete and Mid-South Conference All-Academic honoree. He was also named the 2024 Georgetown College Outstanding Senior in Business Administration.

On the court, Kowalski also made his mark. He was named to the Mid-South Conference First Team all four years, including Player of the Year in 2022. In that time, Georgetown won three Mid-South Conference Championships. He was also named an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American from 2022 to 2024. The crowning athletic achievement came in the spring of 2024 when Kowalski led Georgetown to the NAIA National Championship, where he was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He was also named the 2023-24 Mid-South Conference Male Student-Athlete of the Year.

Kowalski's jersey retirement banner will be a permanent fixture in Davis-Reid Alumni Gym upon the completion of the historic renovation and will forever serve as a reminder of everything Krzysztof Kowalski gave to Georgetown College.







winning his 300th game as a collegiate head coach on February 20, 2025.

Georgetown defeated Bethel (Tennessee) 65-56 to give Coach Nickel the magic win. Since coming to Georgetown ahead of the 2021-22 season, Nickel has a record of 88-42 and has led the Tigers to four straight NAIA Tournament appearances. The last time the Tigers reached straight tournament appearances was for six years from 2000 to 2006.

In this most recent season, Nickel led Georgetown to the Round of 16 for the first time since 2013 and to multiple tournament wins for the first time since the program reached the Fab Four in 2012. Playing the first two rounds in Caldwell, Idaho, the Tigers roared out of the gates by beating Jamestown, 93-62, in the first round. AJ Stevenson '25 led the Tigers with a game-high 29 points for the win. In round 2, Georgetown took on the host school, the College of Idaho. Teionni McDaniel '27 led the Tigers with 26 points. Trinity Klock '25 dominated inside with 15 points and 15 rebounds as Georgetown advanced to the Round of 16 with a 79-70 win. The Tigers' season came to an end in the Round of 16 against eventual national runner-up, Indiana Wesleyan.

Coach Nickel will enter his 5th season at Georgetown in the fall with 302 career wins and sits 12 shy of 100 wins as the Georgetown Head Coach.

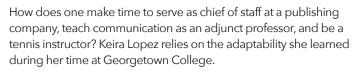
Alums turning PASSION into PUPPOSE



Keira Lopez '15

Relies on Adaptability to Juggle Careers in Publishing and Teaching

By Mindy Hamlin '91, Hamlin Communications



As a high school student in Louisville, Kentucky, Lopez toured many colleges and universities, but in the end, she chose Georgetown because she wanted to attend a mission-driven college with a "why" behind it. Lopez discovered connectedness and the value of serving others at Georgetown. The College also opened up opportunities that influence her career and job choices today. "It gave me opportunities I would have never had at a larger space."

Holding multiple jobs started as a necessity for her in high school and college, but in these positions, she learned that she enjoyed being busy and having variety.

"I always found traction in being busy," says Lopez. "At Georgetown, I learned that you can be a holistic person. You can do multiple things and be pretty good at a lot of them, and there is value there. There is value in being adaptable."

Lopez graduated with her bachelor's degree in communication and media studies from GC. During her years at Georgetown, she played on the tennis, lacrosse, and golf teams. She also attended the IMPACT Leadership Conference and formed relationships with professors who encouraged her to continue her communication and media studies in graduate school. She followed their advice and earned her master's degree in communication at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. She credits her experience at Georgetown for her ability to make meaningful connections.

"There is no way you are able to be on that campus and not grow a network of people who share your values," she says, adding that interconnectedness with others happens on day one. "My life has been built out of these crazy, wonderful opportunities. Kind of the story of my life."

In her current role as the chief of staff for Indigo River Publishing, Keira Lopez is involved in almost every aspect of the business, from identifying efficiencies to support the team's work to acting as a liaison between the authors and the Indigo team.

The Florida-based publisher works with authors across genres. Their writers include celebrities such as television personality and motivational speaker Amy Roloff, who wrote *A Little Me* about growing up with achondroplasia dwarfism, and athletes



like former NFL player Jonathan Ray Scott, who wrote *The Winning Playbook* with U. S. Marine Rob Welsh to present strategies for life on and off the field. Indigo also works with first-time authors like Catherine Altman Morgan, who wrote *This Isn't Working: Evolving the Way We Work to Decrease Stress, Anxiety, and Depression*, which reached #1 on Amazon. Lopez was drawn to the role at Indigo River because it taps into two of her interests: communication and efficiency.

"I love a good, small, intentional team," she says. "Indigo River has a duty to publish 'Words Worth Reading.' Every project we work on has a meticulous process that ensures what we put out, in collaboration with our authors, is truly the best version of what it is intended to be. We challenge our authors, provide them with multi-layer editing and design processes, and ensure they have an expert hand to hold every step of the way."

However, Lopez's "career" is not defined just by her position at Indigo River. At one time, Lopez felt that she may have fallen behind her peers because her working life did not reflect a traditional career path. But then she realized that she could choose how to define her career.

"I felt behind," she remembers. "I wondered if I should have a passion for one thing, but a path does not have to be paved. Duality is your friend."

Today, Lopez finds happiness in taking a holistic approach to her career. As a fractional chief of staff, Lopez is also able to lean into her love for communication as an adjunct instructor of communication for North Carolina-based Campbell University's Adult Online Education program. Before that, she taught communication and public speaking at Sandhills Community College, which is also in North Carolina. In addition, she is an adjunct instructor in tennis at the University of Texas, Dallas, and a pickleball lead at Life Time Fitness.

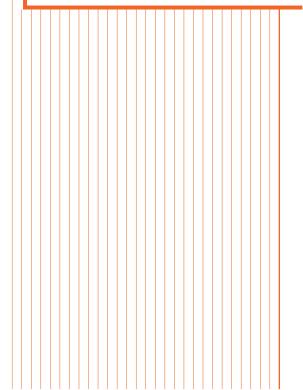
At the end of the day, however, Lopez describes herself as a communication professional.

"Everything is centered around communication," she explains. "It is pervasive. If you are a good communicator, you can accomplish anything."



Lifelong Educator Burney Jenkins '76 Changes Careers and Makes History as the First African-American Mayor of Georgetown

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications



As the first African-American mayor of Georgetown, Kentucky, Burney Jenkins is an inspiring example of a first-generation college student who was determined to make a better life for himself.

Jenkins was born in 1953 and raised in Clarksville, Tennessee. He grew up in a Section 8 housing project called Lincoln Homes with 10 siblings. His mother encouraged them to go out into the world and do good things that support others. As high school graduation grew near, Jenkins approached his guidance counselor about the possibility of going to college. She tried to dissuade him and encouraged him to think about getting a job. But in a moment of divine intervention, as Jenkins described it, he was called to look down as he left her office, only to see a Georgetown College brochure lying on a table. He liked what he read, applied to Georgetown, and was accepted.

After a 13-hour ride on a Greyhound bus to Georgetown, Kentucky, Jenkins felt like he was in a different world. He had not traveled much outside of nearby cities and was a first-generation student in a predominantly white community. And there was the common challenge that many college students face of being on their own for the first time.

"I can recall the late Dr. Bob Davis, Coach Jim Reid, and Andy Williams. Even people in the financial aid department who helped me find resources and guided me. All of these people took me under their wings and helped me navigate college life and being an adult."

Outside of the classroom, Jenkins kept himself busy with a variety of part-time jobs. He became the intramural sports director, worked security for the College, and worked in the school's post office for a while. He also started a part-time job officiating elementary basketball games to earn some extra money in college. This led to a 50-year journey in sports officiating, including a year in the National Football League, Division 1 basketball and football officiating, and his induction into the DAWAHARES/Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame as a sports official in 2013.

Jenkins completed his bachelor's degree in 1976 and got a job offer with Scott County Schools in Georgetown, Kentucky, to teach 7th-grade science and coach middle school football.



Mayor Jenkins at his swearing-in ceremony in 2022.

"I worked at Scott County schools for about 44 years in different capacities," said Jenkins. "I worked two years at Anderson Middle School, and about a year and a half in Louisville. All said and done, I have spent 46 years of my career in education in different capacities."

Just a few years after completing his bachelor's degree, Jenkins started the process of obtaining his master's degree in education from Georgetown to enhance his teaching and leadership skills. He earned his master's degree in education in August of 1981. Shortly after retiring from Scott County Schools in 2022, he was encouraged by close friends to run for mayor of Georgetown, the sixth largest city in Kentucky.

"I did a lot of praying about it. I have always been a people person and I've been a public servant all my life," said Jenkins. "I wanted to continue that public service and hopefully impact people's lives in a positive way." Jenkins was sworn in as mayor by fellow alum **Judge Jeremy Mattox '03** at the Ensor Learning Resource Center at Georgetown College.

Jenkins jumped in and started making improvements to financial policies for the city and started investing some of the surplus budget so that Georgetown could use the extra income to invest in other projects like the renovation of the City Hall and city cleanup projects. He also partnered with Scott County **Judge Executive Joe Pat Covington '91** to establish agreements that would benefit people across the county, not just in the city of Georgetown.

Jenkins is always trying to attract new businesses to Georgetown as well. Scott County is part of a nine-county Regional Competitiveness Plan organized by Commerce Lexington to attract and retain businesses in Kentucky. The plan includes Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott. and Woodford counties.

"The Regional Competitiveness Plan gives us a larger resource pool and marketing support to find the best fit for businesses outside of Kentucky looking to relocate or start a new business here. We can get the word out about what Georgetown and Scott County have to offer at a lower cost through this partnership."

Outside of being major for Georgetown, Jenkins volunteers and serves on local committees around Scott County. He is certain that his parents would be proud of his lifelong career of serving others. In terms of his legacy, he hopes to be remembered for putting people first.

"It is an honor that people recognize
the contributions I have made to the
community and that they have faith in
me," said Jenkins. "At the end of the
day, it's about the people in your life.
Being a public servant for so long, I am
truly grateful for the opportunity to
serve the people of Georgetown."

Stefanie Hayner
Justice '02 Takes an
Unexpected Journey
from English Major
to NASA Innovator

By Kelley Arnold '01, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund



When Stefanie Hayner Justice declared an English major at Georgetown College, she never imagined it would take her to Mars. But as the current Avionics and Software Integration Manager for the Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV) at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Justice's career is a testament to the power of a liberal arts education—and an open mind.



Justice grew up in Russell, Kentucky, and graduated from Russell High School, where she honed her academic strengths as part of the Academic and Science Olympiad teams. Encouraged by older classmates, she visited Georgetown College and immediately felt at home on the small liberal arts campus. Justice was named a James Graham Brown Scholar, majored in English, minored in chemistry and French, and immersed herself in campus lifeserving as a writer and editor for The Georgetonian, a member of Sigma Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Sigma Tau Delta, and a fierce competitor on the Georgetown College Academic Team. Justice was also named a Dean's Ambassador.

"I always enjoyed both liberal arts and the sciences," she recalls. "It was hard to narrow down what I wanted to do, so I tried to keep doors open."

After graduating magna cum laude from Georgetown, Justice pursued a master's degree in English Literature at the University of Alabama, specializing in Chaucer and Middle English. She moved to Madison, Alabama, and began working as a technical writer for defense contractors and eventually NASA. That job sparked a new passion: understanding the technology behind the documentation she was creating. Justice returned to school once more, earning a Master of Science in software engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Her career with NASA evolved rapidly from there. After joining the agency as a civil servant in 2017, she contributed to projects including the Space Launch System, the Iodine Satellite Project, and the Lunar CATALYST initiative. In 2023, she stepped into her current role with the MAV project, a crucial part of NASA's Mars Sample Return mission. In this role, she manages the integration of flight software and avionics hardware, coordinates between in-house and contractor teams, and oversees development labs and budgets.

"Simply stated, going to Mars is not easy," she says, "but breaking down big challenges and helping teams connect across disciplines is incredibly rewarding."

Though her career path might look unconventional, Justice sees her liberal arts foundation as her secret weapon. "My English degree gave me the communication, critical thinking, and research skills I still use every single day on the job," she says. "Being able to explain complex technical issues to a broad audience is vital in my job, and that's where my Georgetown education shines."

Justice's gratitude for her professors at Georgetown is clear. She credits **Dr. Barbara Burch**, her academic advisor and Academic Team coach, for pushing her to think critically and shoot for the stars. **Professors Rosemary Allen** and **Dr. Steve May** deepened her love of literature, while **Dr. Frank Wiseman** made the challenge of Organic Chemistry manageable—and meaningful. "GC taught me that I could conquer hard things by breaking them down one step at a time."

Last June, Stefanie was awarded a NASA Space Flight Awareness Silver Snoopy Award. The award is a sterling silver Snoopy lapel pin that has flown in space, plus a certificate of appreciation and a commendation letter for the employee. An astronaut always presents the Silver Snoopy because it is the astronauts' own award for outstanding performance, contributing to flight safety and mission success.

Employees must have significantly contributed to the human space flight program to ensure flight safety and mission success. The Silver Snoopy is meant to best symbolize the intent and spirit of Space Flight Awareness.

"I can't describe how honored I was to receive this award, which is given each year to less than one percent of the NASA workforce," said Justice. "I was honestly blown away when I found out. In my mind, I was just doing my best to make our mission successful. My Snoopy pin and certificate were presented by astronaut Kate Rubin and MSFC Deputy Center Director Larry Leopard. My Snoopy flew on NASA's SpaceX Cargo Resupply Mission 9. I was so grateful to have my family and friends supporting me on this day, and I know my Dad was watching down and probably prouder than anyone of this achievement."

Beyond her work at NASA, Justice remains active in her community through the National Charity League, a mother-daughter service and leadership organization she participates in with her daughter. Justice currently lives in Madison, Alabama, with her husband, two children, and an Aussiedoodle appropriately named Luna. She also enjoys taking part in STEM outreach efforts, hoping to inspire the next generation of space explorers.

"I like speaking at schools about my work when I can," she said, "or finding ways to support NASA outreach events. Due to work and family commitments, I don't get to speak nearly as much as I would like to, but it is important that I am able to connect with students of all ages about the importance of STEM-related skills when I can."

Dr. Lucy Gildea '94

Uses Leadership Skills and Scientific Foundation to **Thrive at Mary Kay**

By Mindy Hamlin '91, Hamlin Communications



Although Mary Kay Cosmetics may not invoke images of the biology department at Georgetown College, Lucy Wiley Gildea has never been afraid to venture outside the norm. She found that her leadership skills and a foundation in science helped make her the perfect candidate for her current role as Chief Brand and Scientific Officer at Mary Kay Cosmetics.

When Gildea began her college search, she sought a school that offered a challenging science program and a small, tight-knit community. Her search led her to Georgetown College, just a few miles away from where she grew up in Frankfort, Kentucky.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in biology, Gildea went on to earn her doctorate, which has fueled a successful career in beauty technology and beauty and skin care product development. Gildea credits her professors and time at Georgetown for providing her with the foundation she needed to succeed in her field.

"Georgetown provided me a critical foundation," says Gildea. "I developed a basic scientific understanding and gained a breadth of experience across multiple disciplines before I began my Ph.D. studies."

Gildea credits several professors for not only helping her hone her understanding of science but also for their support and guidance.

"I loved the small school experience," she explains. "In the biology department, every single teacher knew your name, so you felt you couldn't let them down. It made me work harder."

Outside of her science courses, one professor helped instill in her the confidence that she could find success in any field she chose.

"**Dr. Jim Heizer** was my history teacher, and, honestly, the one who instilled confidence in me and emphasized my potential for success no matter what path I took," she explains. "I was not a history major, yet he truly encouraged my growth and development."

When Gildea arrived at GC, she was planning on becoming a medical doctor, but after a summer internship in a laboratory setting at the University of Cincinnati, her interests turned toward research. She received her Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology with a focus on immunology and infectious disease.

After earning her Ph.D., Gildea began a 15-year career with Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble, where, as a post-doctoral fellow, she was part of a team developing alternative methods to animal testing for skin sensitization screening.

"Procter & Gamble was the perfect place for me to transition from education to applied science in a company," Gildea says. "Throughout my time there, I gained more depth in the area of science as I started to build my career in healthcare, beauty and oral care."

Over the next 14 years, she held a variety of senior roles, including leading development teams for upstream technology and measurement sciences across healthcare, beauty, and personal care industries. She also lived in Singapore, where she managed groups across Asia and in the U.S. and was part of a team that launched the company's new international research center.

"During my time at P&G, I received leadership and technical training--both at one company," she explains. Her knowledge in these two areas prepared her for her next position. In 2017, Mary Kay Cosmetics recruited her to become its next Chief Scientific Officer at its headquarters in Dallas, Texas. Although it is best known for its beauty products, the company is also known for its commitment to enriching the lives of women. They are committed to supporting the next generation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), as well as fostering products for women, by women.

"What better role at the right time of my life than to be with a company with a strong sense of purpose," Gildea says.

Her role as Chief Brand and Scientific Officer places the customer at the center of the product life cycle. In its announcement of Gildea as the leader of its new operating model, Mary Kay praised her expertise in science and beauty innovation, as well as her customer-centric approach.

"My role enables a more seamless approach to product development and how we show up as a brand," Gildea adds. "We are now able to see how development and brand fit together."

Gildea explains that all of the positions she has held have drawn on her leadership abilities and a keen eye for identifying and building efficiencies. An authentic leadership style, she has learned, is critical to managing a successful team.

"People historically have minimized leadership acumen and presence in technical roles," she says. "Being really good at science doesn't always make a person the best leader. So much in leading teams is about bringing out the best of others and bridging what the company needs with what the team can do to deliver on them."

Reflecting on her successful career, Gildea says her husband, **Jerry Gildea '95**, has played a significant role as her biggest supporter, moving around the world as her career grew. They are also parents to four boys. She hopes to inspire future generations to follow their dreams and take advantage of new opportunities.

"You have to be willing to squeeze as much experience as you can out of every opportunity," she says. "If you go in with the mindset that every experience is a growth experience, you will come out of it with something new."

Knox Thames '96

Uses His Voice to

Advocate for Religious Freedom Around the World

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications



The term "international human rights lawyer" is often used to introduce Knox Thames. However, the term falls short of describing his transformative contributions that led to a global dialogue on the importance of protecting religious freedom and ending persecution.

Thames grew up in Richmond, Kentucky, and was the son of two teachers. His father, Billy, was a professor in the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, and his mother, Nancy, directed EKU's AmeriCorps program. They instilled the concepts of public service and giving back to others. While Georgetown was not initially on his college list, Thames ended up at Georgetown after tagging along on a campus visit with two of his friends.

"Once I got to Georgetown, I just fell in love with it," Thames says. "I just had a fantastic four years that were so formative. Georgetown gave me a broad understanding of global issues through exposure to a wide range of disciplines, which helped me develop critical thinking skills that have served me well in my career."

Majoring in history and American studies, Thames discovered a love of learning at Georgetown. Faculty connected him with unique opportunities that fostered his interest in international affairs. For instance, one professor recommended he spend a summer session at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, where he studied European history, while another made him aware of a post-graduate job in Atlanta resettling refugees. From those experiences, he became fascinated with international politics and more aware of human rights violations inflicted on people around the world.

Because of these experiences, as Thames contemplated graduate school, he knew that international affairs was an area of interest. He chose American University in Washington, D.C., a top ten law school for international law. He also completed his master's degree in international affairs while pursuing his law degree. Thames graduated in 2001 from law school and landed his first job as counsel for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"I never planned to be in a traditional courtroom," Thames noted. "And coming from the experience of refugee resettlement, I knew my job would be humanitarian-focused."

In over two decades of public service, Thames served in key roles at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S. State Department, and the Helsinki Commission. In 2015, he was appointed to a special envoy role at the State Department as the first-ever Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South and Central Asia, being asked to serve during both the Obama and Trump administrations. Over his career, he has traveled to some of the world's most volatile regions, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Burma, and Pakistan, where extremist groups and repressive regimes often target religious minorities. Thames has worked tirelessly to elevate their stories, shape policy responses, and rally international support.

In 2018, Thames was pivotal in launching international summits that brought together over 100 countries and more than 1,000 people to discuss religious freedom. He also designed and launched the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance, a network of over 40 countries committed to advancing religious freedom for everyone everywhere. Member countries must commit to the idea that everyone has the right to believe or not believe, to change faith, and to meet alone for prayer or corporately for worship.

Despite all his work and recognition in human rights, Thames says he is motivated by the people he helps. "As a person of faith, I believe we are called to help the less fortunate."

One of those people was Asia Bibi, a Christian mother of five in Pakistan who was sentenced to death for blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammed in 2010. After she went through an eight-year ordeal, Pakistan's Supreme Court acquitted her of all charges, and she was released and reunited with her family in Canada. Thames was part of the effort fighting for Bibi's release, and his work helped convince the Pakistani government to release her. He got the chance to meet her a few years after her release.

"Hearing her talk about how encouraging it was for her when she was in solitary confinement, to know that people were praying for her and advocating for her... it's very meaningful to me. There are so many people suffering for their religious beliefs. I got to play a small part in helping her, which motivates me to help others."

Thames strongly believes that the U.S. is uniquely positioned to advocate for religious freedom around the world and influence other countries to be on the right side of history. He put his expertise into a road map for action thanks to a grant provided by the Templeton Religion Trust. His book Ending Persecution: Charting the Path to Global Religious Freedom was published in September by the University of Notre Dame Press. Thames poured over 20 years of federal experience into a framework for ending persecution.

In the book, Thames identifies different kinds of persecution and recommends ways the U.S. government can respond to encourage reform. He argues that the U.S. must revitalize its approach and recommit to ending oppression by leveraging American influence for the oppressed.

"Advocating for religious freedom reflects American values and interests. Nations that support religious freedom are more stable and prosperous, less likely to generate violent extremism," said Thames. "My book makes the case for why our country should recommit to this important human right, while providing concrete recommendations for what the United States and other like-minded countries can do. We are a long way from declaring victory, but over the years, we have built a coalition that can produce positive change."

Today, Thames serves as a senior fellow at Pepperdine University, directing the Program on Global Faith and Inclusive Societies from the Washington, DC, campus. He launched this program in 2023 to pioneer innovative solutions to contemporary persecution impacting people of all faiths and those with none. He continues to write, speak, and advise on international religious freedom while engaging with faith leaders and civil society groups across ideological divides. His message is always consistent: human rights are not partisan. They are universal.

"There is a pandemic of persecution impacting members of every faith community somewhere. People of all backgrounds face jail, torture, and even death for what they believe or don't believe. It's really important we protect the international work from partisan polarization because people's lives are hanging in the balance."

Looking ahead, Thames remains committed to nurturing a new generation of leaders who will carry forward the work of peace and human rights. As global challenges continue to escalate, he hopes that the next generation will see the value of fighting for the rights of others through advocacy.

"You don't have to go to an Ivy League school to make an impact," Thames says. "What matters most is a heart for service, a willingness to learn, and the courage to stand up for others."

Edward Wimmer '99 is Putting Purpose Over Profits with ROAD iD and DOG iD

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications



Growing up in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, Edward Wimmer started his first business at nine years old by selling bouncy balls at a markup to kids at the playground. His entrepreneurial spirit served him well when he launched ROAD iD, a company that makes wearable identification so medical professionals can quickly access vital personal data in case of an accident.

His ROAD iD journey began at Georgetown College after a casual stop with his parents after visiting another college. His mom encouraged a quick visit, and Wimmer agreed to just "run in and get a brochure." Before he knew it, someone had called the soccer coach, and he landed a partial soccer scholarship.

Wimmer loved the small class sizes and felt that everyone was genuinely invested in his educational journey, stating, "I met so many good people with whom I got to build lasting relationships. Those people inspired me to be a better person." One of those professors was **Dr. Rosemary Allen**.

"I spent a good chunk of my time in business classes, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention being in Dr. Rosemary Allen's class. She sparked an interest in literature and poetry that wasn't there before. It created a foundation for loving the written word, and I spend a decent amount of time writing now."

In his last year of soccer, Wimmer began wondering what was next from an athletic standpoint. A group of his Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity brothers were on the cross-country team and wanted to remain active. They decided to run a marathon, and Wimmer joined them and began running around Georgetown. He was clear that ROAD iD wouldn't exist if he had not started that marathon training.

"I started doing long runs on weekends out on rural roads in Georgetown," said Wimmer. "On a phone call with my dad, he expressed concern about the danger of running on these roads. 'How would I know if you have been involved in an accident?' I brushed this off as my dad just being overprotective."

However, Wimmer's father had every right to be concerned. Not long after their conversation, he was run off the road by a pickup truck on Lemons Mill Road outside Georgetown. Standing in the ditch with just the clothes on his back, Wimmer had two very scary realizations. He could have been hit and fighting for his life in a hospital. No one would have known who he was or whom to contact.

Shortly after graduating with his bachelor's degree in marketing and finance, Wimmer and his father began working on the concept of ROAD iD. Wimmer used two credit cards he had obtained during his time at Georgetown to cover some of the startup costs. They started small with just a small ad in the back of Runner's World magazine, and he reached out to an old GC professor for some business advice.

"I actually reached out to **Dr. Scott Takacs** when we were trying to figure out the pricing of our products. He was an unconventional teacher with this humorous, joy-filled way of teaching his classes. I loved being able to talk through some of that with him."

Fast forward, and now ROAD iD has hundreds of emails from people with stories of how the product has impacted their lives. One mother sent a note to thank them because she was able to see her son and tell him she loved him before he passed away at the hospital. Another father credited ROAD iD for saving his son's life.

"I got a phone call one day, and the guy on the other end told me that his son got hit by a car while training for his cross-country season. And because he was wearing a ROAD iD, his parents were able to be at the hospital and had enough time to make some critical care decisions. My jaw was on the ground. By the time I hung up that phone, I realized that our lives were different. This product impacts lives."

And while a lot has changed in the last 26 years, his passion and willingness to venture into the unknown have remained steadfast. "If you don't love what you're doing, if that passion doesn't exist, you won't make it through the tough times. My dad instilled in me the idea that fear doesn't exist. Curiosity exists. So I have always looked at the unknowns and challenges as things I just have to figure out."

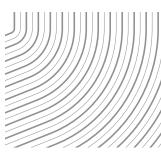
In 2013, the company expanded and launched DOG iD (originally "Scout ID" after his dog) to offer a pet collar and identification without the jingling noise associated with most ID tags. It was quietly launched until 2018, and then leadership wondered what a little promotion might do to boost sales. The DOG iD brand saw 30-fold growth in just three months and was launched as a separate brand.

ROAD iD and DOG iD have impacted 5.6 million lives and donated over \$2 million to charitable organizations, including 4 Paws for Abilities, an organization that trains service dogs. The company started by donating a percentage of every online order to charity. But after seeing a local grocer set up donation bags at the checkout for customers, Wimmer had the idea to make donations more intentional and empower customers to donate during checkout. He did not expect such a tremendous response.

"We are blown away constantly by how generous our customers are. A customer donated a thousand dollars when placing a \$30 order. And what I get most excited about is the ripple effect. I have no doubt that our actions inspire others to do something similar. I think it also makes our team feel proud about being connected to a company that's doing good in the world."

Wimmer firmly believes there will never be a more powerful marketing engine than word of mouth. He encourages young people to take chances, be passionate, and believe in what they're selling.

"Anyone interested in starting a business has to go into it with eyes wide open," advises Wimmer.
"Entrepreneurship is really hard. So you have to be sure that you really want it. You have to be passionate and be sure you are delivering a product, service, or journey that is so blindingly awesome that people can't help but share it."



Brad Stone '98 Models His Teaching Style After GC Role Models to Build Relationships with Students

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Not everyone decides on their future career in college, but Brad Stone knew early on that he wanted to be a college professor. He loved the idea of having intellectual conversations and mentoring students, similar to his experience at Georgetown College. In his current role as Associate Dean of Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles, California, Stone has been able to explore his intellectual pursuit and mentor students.

"I originally wanted to be a diplomat. However, I quickly learned I was better at philosophy than history," said Stone. "I took existentialism with Dr. Ruth Heizer, and she gave me some of her philosophy books when she retired to start building my library. My interest grew from there."

Stone graduated from Georgetown College in 1998, earning a double major in philosophy and modern language studies, the latter a major he designed. He was recognized as an outstanding student through the President's Award and a Fulbright Scholarship to study philosophy at the University of Salamanca in Spain. He then pursued graduate study at the University of Memphis, earning his master's and doctorate degrees in philosophy by 2003. He joined the faculty at LMU that same year.

Known for his dynamic teaching, Stone has taught everything from symbolic logic to logic, ethics, and African American research methods. When asked who influenced his teaching style, Stone did not hesitate to name some of his favorite GC faculty members.

"You will see a lot of **Dr. Barbara Burch** in my teaching. I loved my courses with 'Doc Burch.' She would not let me slack. She was the first person to critique my writing. She really pressed me, and I became a better writer because of her. And then there was **Charles Seabrook**. He was a retired Marine Corps Colonel and was quite a dynamo. He was

cantankerous, brilliant, and so generous. As a firstgeneration student, the type of personal mentorship I got from faculty and staff across campus was invaluable."

Over the last 20 years, Stone has become an authority on 20th-century French philosophy. His publications include several books, book chapters, and papers on philosophers like Martin Heidegger and Michel Foucault. He has also written extensively on contemporary thinkers like Richard Rorty, Xavier Zubiri, and Cornel West, exploring how their ideas illuminate issues of race, religion, and justice. Stone remembers how **Dr. Roger Ward** influenced him to learn more about Cornel West.

"When Dr. Ward arrived on the scene at Georgetown, he introduced me to pragmatism in a way that I found very compelling. I started asking more questions about Cornel West, and now I teach courses on Cornel West, who believes that questions of truth cannot be separated from questions of the justifiable ends of action. West believes in the capacity of ordinary people to make a difference in their worlds."

For Stone, prophetic pragmatism is a theme that flows through his philosophical work. Prophetic pragmatism is a philosophical framework that helps us examine the intellectual and political work done by those who seek to overcome despair, dogmatism, and oppression. In his research, Stone often examines prophetic practices that Black people employed throughout history to assert their dignity against oppression.

"Cultures do things, and this is how we can make sense of the world," says Stone. "I am more interested in the cultural practices versus the texts that have been written. I have done a lot of work on that. And it has helped to be at a university with a diverse student body."





In the late 1990s, Stone was one of about ten Black students on GC's campus, and he remembers the early days of the Union of Black Student Leaders under President Bill Crouch. He credits Crouch with the beginning of diversification at Georgetown College.

"We brought concerns to President Crouch, and he listened to us. He helped forge some impressive Black leaders like **Dr. Alicestyne Turley-Adams '94**, the first Black student to win the President's Award. She made me realize that a Black student could win that award. And I won it in 1998."

Over the course of his college career at GC, Stone served as President of Collier Hall for three years and met his wife, **Margaret Tuggle Stone '98**, who was President of Flowers Hall. They sang in the GC Chorale together and served on the Independent Hall Council. He credits his leadership trajectory to his experience in Collier Hall.

"I was part of the portrait dedication of Lula J. Collier. I gave a speech during that event to receive the portrait on behalf of Collier Hall residents. It was a great experience, and it gave me confidence. It also put me on President Crouch's radar, and I became a President's Ambassador. He influenced my administrative style and helped me realize the importance of listening to others, learning about their needs, and helping them reach their goals."

Beyond the classroom, Stone has taken on multiple leadership roles at LMU. As Director of LMU's University Honors Program from 2009 to 2013, he oversaw major curriculum revisions, expanded student enrollment, and helped raise \$1 million to support student research and travel. He later chaired LMU's Department of African American Studies, where he spearheaded curriculum expansion, led DEI initiatives, and strengthened ties with the university's Office of Black Student Services. Currently serving as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Graduate Education, and Shared Governance in LMU's liberal arts college, Stone now plays a key role in shaping faculty development, graduate programming, and institutional planning.

Although Stone values his leadership and scholarly pursuits, his passion continues to be building meaningful relationships with his students. He was recently nominated for Advisor and Mentor of the Year at LMU, highlighting the strengths of his teaching style.

"I love bringing students into my world of thinking and encouraging them to think for themselves and develop their own ideas. That's what happened to me at Georgetown. I was always encouraged to share in the learning. I hope that current students take full advantage of what Georgetown College has to offer because it is the best liberal arts education in Kentucky."



Paul Jasper, Marissa Taylor, Braden Kalla, Lexi Estes, Macie Riffe, Emiley Mattingly, Leon Johnson, and Joana Colorado.

75th Anniversary **Celebration for Belle of the Blue** and Beaus Too



The 75th annual Belle of the Blue & Beaus Too Scholarship Pageant was held on February 22 in John L. Chapel. The event celebrated some of the most talented students on Georgetown College's campus, featuring musical and creative performances on stage, academic excellence, and the spirit of Georgetown from all eight participants. President Rosemary Allen was in attendance to crown the winners.

Senior Lexi Estes, Phi Mu member, wowed the judges with her grace, poise and comedy performance to be crowned the 2025 Belle of the Blue. Freshman Braden Kalla, President's House Association member, was crowned the 2025 Beau of the Blue after an amazing trumpet performance that left the crowd dancing along.

Marissa Taylor was crowned Miss Congeniality for her uplifting personality and infectious spirit. Paul Jasper was crowned Mister Congeniality for his kindness and camaraderie. These awards were voted on among the contestants.

Former Belles and Beaus were invited to attend the 75th Anniversary pageant. Belles in attendance included host and first African American Belle Jerryn Jones '20, Maggie Donaldson Mills '69, Jan Costigan Lester '73, Sharon Caldwell Hancock '73 and Jodee Berger Seibert '84. Beau Colton Sosbe '23 was also in attendance.

"Georgetown has found its diamonds," said Jerryn Jones. "Congratulations to this year's winners, and special thanks to all who participated and supported this event."

Contestants for Belle of the Blue included: Emiley Mattingly '25, Macie Riffe 25, Joana Colorado Gomez '26, Marissa Taylor '28, and winner Lexi Estes '25.

Contestants for Beau of the Blue included: Leon Johnson '26, Paul Jasper '28, and winner Braden Kalla '28.

Winner Braden Kalla, President Rosemary Allen, and Winner Lexi Estes.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS CELEBRATED at Academics Honors Day

By Emily McCarthy, Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications



Students, faculty, staff, and special guests gathered in John L. Hill Chapel on Tuesday, April 29, to honor the outstanding achievements of our students for the Academic Honors Day ceremony.

"This is truly one of my favorite days of the year," said Provost Jonathan Sands Wise. "Today, we celebrate the hard work of our students and faculty throughout the academic year. and recognize the achievements of our students." In addition to departmental awards and scholarships presented by faculty, the prestigious Dean's Honor Award was presented by Provost Jonathan Sands Wise to two outstanding seniors.

The 2025 Dean's Honor Award recipients were Diana Alvarado '25 from Georgetown, Kentucky, and Jadon Haller '25 from Delaware, Ohio. Alvarado is a double major in Spanish and sociology with a concentration in Social and criminal justice. She is a member of the Christian Scholars and Oxford Honors program and completed a term at Regent's Park College at Oxford University. Haller is a History major with a double minor in English and Classics. He is a member of both the Christian Scholars and Oxford Honors program, and completed two terms at Regent's Park College.

The complete list of winners is available on our website at georgetowncollege.edu.

Scan here to watch the 2025 Academic Honors Day ceremony!





Launching New Program for Adults to Earn Degrees Remotely

This coming fall, Georgetown College will enroll its first class of adult online program completers, pending SACSCOC approval. It has long been a goal of Georgetown College to better serve students who find it difficult to complete a traditional residential program, and is part of the strategic plan that President Allen and the Trustees passed in 2023. The new adult online program will begin with four majors including business administration, management, elementary education, and integrated studies.

Many of the students in this program will be former GC students who did not finish their degree and need a way to complete one now in a way that works with their current life. Others may be students who have earned an Associate's Degree and are now looking for an affordable way to get an excellent bachelor's degree from an institution like Georgetown College. Recognizing that many adult learners have full-time jobs and family responsibilities, the Adult Online Program has been designed to provide maximum flexibility and affordability for adult completers, allowing them to take classes part-time or full-time during the fall, spring, or summer terms.

Georgetown's Provost, Dr. Jonathan Sands Wise, is excited about the possibilities for this new program to serve a new group of students. "The Adult Online Program is an excellent opportunity for GC to find new ways to complete its fundamental mission of providing students a service-oriented, liberal arts education at any stage of life."

TIGERS TOGETHER CELEBRATING ALUMNI MOMENTS

Stay in touch! We want to know about your weddings, vacations, promotions, and more! Scan the QR code to quickly share your update or submit a class note. You can also email alumni@georgetowncollege.edu.





Dudley Webb '65, Mike Calhoun '72, Al Blevins '80 and Mike Shelton '87 were recently inducted into the Kappa Alpha Court of Honor. The purpose of the Court of Honor is to recognize and honor alumni for their continuing interest, support, and participation in Kappa Alpha.



Maggie (Donaldson) Mills '69, Sharon (Caldwell) Hancock '73, Jan (Castigan)
Lester '73 and Jodee (Berger) Siebert '84, returned to campus this past February to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Belle of the Blue and Beaus Too Scholarship Pageant. Each was crowned Belle of the Blue during their time as students at GC.



Barbara Kamenuk Schirmer '70 was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame at their 2024 annual meeting in Boise, ID. Ms Schirmer was the Associate Director for the Extension Education Program at Cornell University where she led the New York State 4-H Youth Development Program. She retired in 2010 after a 35-year career at Cornell.



Lambda Chi Alpha brothers, Joe Bishop '82, Phil Campbell '82, Mike Nelms 82, Troy Polly '82, Dave Straus '82, John Reynolds '82, and Bobby Warring '83, recently reunited to spend the day catching up and watching the Kentucky High School Basketball Tournament in Lexington.



Jon Ledford '92 was elected to the Mt. Sterling City Council. He began his term on January 1, 2025. Jon is a lifelong resident of Mt. Sterling.



Rob Ruddick '94 recently joined Independence Bank in Lexington as their Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer. He will also be celebrating his 10-year anniversary with wife Polly. Rob's family lives in Lexington with son Teddy and dog Hobbes.



Rollins College named Brooke Barnett '93, as its 16th president, with the Board of Trustees announcing her appointment Wednesday; she will assume the role on July 1, 2025. Previously, she has served as Provost and Executive Vice President at Butler University. Barnett is also a published scholar and former journalist. "I was immediately drawn to Rollins' mission of educating students for global citizenship and responsible leadership," Barnett said. "I'm eager to join the Rollins community and work with faculty and staff to help students flourish. Supporting student learning and well-being has always been central to my career in higher education.



Melissa Zeneri Shanks '95 has become sole owner of her family travel agency of 24 years, Cruise Planners - Zeneri Team Travel. She's thrilled to continue a legacy cultivating extraordinary adventures for fellow alumni, friends, and family.



Rebecca Woolums '98 is celebrating thirty years with the U.S. Department of Justice. She currently serves as a Paralegal Specialist at U.S. Attorney's Office.

Lindsey Kiser '00 was selected to participate in Kentucky Crafted, a program of the Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, which is supported by state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



Dane Damron '94 was named the new head football coach at Paris High School in Paris, Kentucky. Dane previously served as an assistant coach at Eastern Kentucky University.





Georgetown College Head Tennis Coach, Michael Cunningham '02, was inducted into the U.S. Tennis Association Kentucky Hall of Fame. Michael played for Georgetown College 1998-2002 and is still holds the title of Winningest Player at GC.



Jason Ladd '94 was announced as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Lexington Clinic in October 2024. Ladd was previously the CFO for Orlando Health. "I am excited to be back in the Bluegrass joining Lexington Clinic and contributing to its mission of providing high-quality patient care," said Jason. "I look forward to working with the team to further strengthen the organization's financial position and support its strategic initiatives."



Becky Keith '02 has been appointed the new CEO of IntelliBoard. Becky, who served as the Chief Product Officer, has been a key part of IntelliBoard's growth. Under her leadership, they have launched innovative solutions, strengthened their sales and adoption strategy, and enhanced client engagement.



Angela B. Taylor '03 was honored at the 2025 Greater Louisville Alumnae Panhellenic Scholarship Brunch with the Outstanding Alumna Award. Angela is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Theta Upsilon Chapter.



Mo McReynolds '09 was recently named the Director of the Office of Sustainability for the City of Indianapolis. She has served at the city for 7 years, previously in the mayor's office. Her office manages Thrive Indianapolis, the city's sustainability and resilience plan.



Courtney (Jernigan) Ati '10 and her husband Ivan welcomed the birth of their third daughter, Miss Georgia Grace Ati on January 7, 2025. Her sisters Ava (7) and Kyla (3) have been excited over her arrival.

Jacob Pankey '11 was named a 2024
National Achiever in his role as a Private
Client Banker in Danville, KY. National
Achievers are Chase's top-performing
branch employees who are recognized
for their outstanding success in business
results, teamwork, leadership and culture.



Rebecca Thompson-Stewart '11 In her 15th year of Montessori education, Rebecca was hired as Director of Lexington Friends Preschool in July. This is Rebecca's first administrative role after teaching students four months to sixth grade in Montessori programs since starting out as an assistant teacher for Psychology capstone during her Senior year at GC.

Tyler Doolittle '13 completed his MBA from Northern Kentucky University and welcomed a daughter with his wife Wendy.

Bethany Beal '16 has been named Senior Associate at Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs. She is a member of the firm's Corporate & Securities Service Team and concentrates her practice in mergers, acquisitions and dispositions.



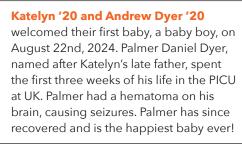
Tyler '16 and Kaitlyn (Fahey) Phillips '16 welcomed their first child, Madeleine Faith Phillips, on February 16, 2025.

Patrick Zazzaro '16 has been named the new Director of Event Operations at F&M Bank Arena. F&M Bank Arena is a state-ofthe-art multi-purpose event center located in Clarksville, Tennessee. It is home to Austin Peay Men's and Women's Basketball teams as well as the Ford Ice Center.

Griffin Gillis '17 was promoted to Deputy Director of the Kentucky Justice Association (KJA). Previously, Griffin had served as KJA's director of public affairs.



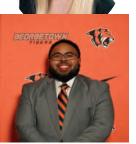
Emily Metcalfe '17 married Josh Hess on Sept. 28, 2024. The beautiful, outdoor ceremony was held in Frankfort, KY.





Kelsi Dunham Johnston '20 was named the executive director of the United Way of Henderson County. Prior to be named to the position, Kelsi served as Community Impact Manager.

Lauren Smart '20 accepted a position at senior accountant at the Kentucky Blood Center. Prior to this, Lauren was an audit supervisor at Dean Dorton.



Keith Hackett '21 has been named the new Georgetown College Assistant Athletics Director. Keith has served in the athletics department since September 2024 as the Athletic Operations & Game Manager. Prior to his time at Georgetown, Keith served as the Assistant Director of

Player Development for the University of Kentucky Football program. He also serves as GC's Director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.



T.J. Hensley '23 has been sworn in as the Student Bar Association President at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law for the 2025-2026 term. He's very excited to work with our wonderful Assembly, and the whole community here at Brandeis to maintain a positive and welcoming community for everyone, and to continue Justice Brandeis' legacy of service.



Quentin Barclay '24 has accepted an internship at Northwestern Mutual. Quentin is currently earning his MBA at Baylor University.

Mallory Steverson '25 has accepted a position teaching English at Shelby County East Middle School.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI 1940'S

Evelyn (Lake) Sinclair '46

Apr-30-2022 | Lexington, KY

Eldon Jones '49

Nov-01-2024 | Hiawatha, KS

Harry Wainscott '49

Mar-15-2025 | Saint Johns, FL

ALUMNI 1950'S

Patsy (Greynolds) Gibson '51

Mar-05-2025 | Lexington, KY

Betty (Vaughn) Jeffs '53

Jan-15-2022 | Nineveh, IN

Ferrell (Gallimore) Burns '53

Dec-12-2024 | Dallas, TX

Lois (Monahon) Jones '55

Feb-23-2025 | Nashville, TN

Delores (Adams) Kazee '55

Apr-09-2025 | Oneida, TN

Mary Alice (Lewis) Deen '56

Nov-28-2024 | Dallas, TX

Betty (Barberick) May '57

Feb-26-2025 | Georgetown, KY

Linda (McMillen) Glass '57

Apr-06-2018 | Georgetown, KY

George Hall '58

Apr-14-2025 | La Grange, KY

Elizabeth (Pope) Bogolin '58

Oct-28-2015 | Newman, GA

Mick Wilhoit '59

Mar-20-2025 | Tallahassee, FL

Tom Conley '59

Feb-15-2025 | Indianapolis, IN

Harold Barnes '56

Jun-16-2024 | Louisville, KY

Bobby True '55

Apr-29-2025 | Bedford, KY

ALUMNI 1960'S

Lucy (Redding) Curl '60

Feb-05-2025 | Orlando, FL

Robert Ogden '61

Nov-16-2024 | Cynthiana, KY

Linda (Moon) Bridges '62

Nov-16-2024 | Atlanta, GA

Evans Baird '63

Mar-11-2025 | Manchester, TN

Suzanne (Hill) Allen '63

Jan-29-2025 | Lexington, KY

Carolou (Smith) Skeans '64

Feb-27-2025 | Centerville, OH

Douglas Sharples '64

Nov-07-2024 | Mystic, CT

Sharron (Griggs) Welch '64

Sep-09-2024 | Clyde Hill, WA

Ava (Parks) Harris '65

Nov-21-2024 | Flower Mound, TX

Franklin Ensor '65

Feb-08-2025 | Simpsonville, KY

Nancy (Herndon) McMahan '66

Apr-23-2025 | Berea, KY

Chung Park '66

Sep-29-2023 | Laguna Woods, CA

Ginny (Griggs) Snyder '66

Dec-18-2024 | Sellersville, PA

Douglas Bishop '67

Mar-15-2025 | Frankfort, KY

Nancy (Schoene) Devins '68

Jan-30-2025 | Aurora, OH

Ann (Stopher) Dalzell '69

Apr-05-2025 | Nicholasville, KY

ALUMNI 1970'S

Larry Gilmore '70

Mar-01-2025 | Gallatin, TN

John Longenecker '70

May-21-2020 | Clovis, CA

Patricia (Shewmaker) Hendricks '71

Feb-23-2025 | Louisville, KY

Robert Howard '73

Mar-13-2025 | Fernandina Beach, FL

Stuart Luginbuhl '77

Jan-05-2025 | Louisville, KY

Donna (Greene) Long '77

Jan-06-2025 | Greenfield, OH

ALUMNI 1980'S

David Carroll '85

Feb-10-2025 | Radcliff, KY

ALUMNI 1990'S

Odessa (Lee) Martin '90

Dec-31-2024 | Woodburn, KY

Mary (Merrill, Harp) Adams '90

Jan-25-2025 | Hazard, KY

Stewart Kris Bratcher '90

May-05-2025 | Hazard, KY

Jenny McKinney '94

Mar-24-2025 | Georgetown, KY

ALUMNI 2000'S

Chris Brown '00

Jan-04-2025 | Lexington, KY

Sandra Hagans '04

Dec-27-2024 | Hazard, KY

Krzysztof Kowalski '24

Nov-27-2024 | Ostroleka, Mazovia Poland

ALUMNI OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

Leah Boardman

Feb-17-2024 | Paris, KY

Julia (Robbins) Jury

Feb-15-2025 | Louisville, KY

Frances Osborne

Mar-05-2025 | Lexington, KY

FORMER STUDENTS

Lida (Hamilton) Smith '47

Oct-31-2024 | Anderson, SC

Norma (Brightman) Chapman '54

Apr-22-2025 | Cadiz, KY

Ann (Gillock) Brooks '55

Oct-22-2024 | Frankfort, KY

Faye (Parker) Marshall '56

Feb-21-2025 | Georgetown, KY

Meda (Banks) Mason '57

Nov-13-2024 | Columbus, OH

Marlene (Tichenor) Holtzclaw '57

Feb-28-2025 | Greenfield, IN

Cynthia (Gardner) Taylor '76

Mar-28-2025 | Mason, OH

Mary (Robinson, Middleton) Griffey '84

Nov-13-2024 | Alexandria, KY

David Wascome '01

Mar-02-2025 | Baton Rouge, LA

Tayron Washington '19

Apr-15-2025 | Columbus, OH

Lucas Ratcliff

Dec-14-2024 | Georgetown, KY

FORMER TRUSTEES, FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS

Thomas Seay

Nov-02-2024 | Georgetown, KY

Randy Loschert

Mar-27-2025 | Georgetown, KY

Junior Bridgeman

Mar-11-2025 | Louisville, KY

Ricky PowerDec-09-2024 | Georgetown, KY

Earl Daugherty

Aug-26-2024 | White Plains, KY

Danny Allen May-21-2023 | Cecilia, KY

WELCOME to our Newest Alumni the Class of 2025!





333 GRADUATES



228 BACHELOR'S DEGREES 105 MASTER'S DEGREES

10 COUNTRIES

18 STATES

71 COUNTIES IN KENTUCKY



Isaac Morris proposed to Ragan Welch. Welch is a double major in psychology and religion, while Morris double majored in religion and web design. Both are Honors Program Graduates. Congratulations!



NEW Alumni Mentorship Program Launching in the Fall

By Kelley Arnold '01, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund



This fall, Georgetown College is adding a new program that will foster student success with the official launch of the **TIGER-TO-TIGER** Mentorship Program. Designed to build meaningful connections between Tigers both past and present, the program will serve as a way for alumni to reconnect with campus while also preparing students to make a positive difference in the world.

At its core, Tiger-to-Tiger is more than just a mentorship program. It will bring together students pursuing direction and connection with alumni who are eager to give back, offering everyone involved the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally. Because our mentors come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, the program also embodies our mission of providing a welcoming and challenging educational community for all students.

"While talent and discipline are the building blocks of most success stories, the deciding factor I've seen in lives that really take off is knowing what steps to take and when. A great mentor provides that guidance at just the right time, while injecting a measure of confidence that can only come from hard-won experience. That's what I want to see Tigers do for Tigers!"

Colonel Eric Chumbley '90

Chief of Aerospace Medicine, US Air Force Special Operations Command

BECOME A TIGER-TO-TIGER MENTOR

The inaugural program is open to all students who will be entering their junior or senior year in the fall of 2025. Interested students can learn more about applying for the program by contacting the Graves Center for Career and Calling.

Alumni interested in becoming mentors should contact Kelley Arnold, Director of Alumni Relations, by emailing alumni@georgetowncollege.edu or calling 502.863.8007.

All gradutes of Georgetown College can be a mentor. Our mentors do not need to live close to campus to partiipate; mentoring can take place using phone, text, email, or video conferencing. A great mentor will be in regular contanct with their mentee for at least one full school year.

With the launch of **TIGER-TO-TIGER**, Georgetown College is taking a significant step toward cultivating passion and igniting purpose for students. This program isn't just about preparing students for the future, it's about honoring the legacy of those who came before, while also paving the way for future Tigers. It's a powerful reminder that **once a Tiger, always a Tiger!**

\$576,219 2025 GIVING DAY

NEW! Trustee Challenge 1,111 Gifts - One Gift for Every Student. WE DID IT! 1,484 total gifts equaled \$111,000 for GC.

\$82,383 17 Athletic Challenges

NEW! The Early Bird \$27,840 & Night Owl Challenges

\$63,172 TigerMates Challenge

\$53,557 **Cover the Map Gifts from 48 States**

\$12,615 **Passion & Purpose**

> **NEW President's Club Members** Giving \$1,000 annually to GC!



Watch Karaoke



New this year, students joined the fun alongside faculty and staff to sing before a packed Caf crowd. **Dr. Todd Hamilton** started the show with Drift Away, Ethan Freeland '27 sang Hide Away, Head Football Coach John Perin performed Wagon Wheel, Alex Bear '27 nailed Neon Moon, Paul Jasper '28 aced Signs, and President Rosemary Allen closed the show the classic anthem Eye of the Tiger! Many students make their first GC donation by casting a \$1 vote to hear campus favorites perform on Giving Day. Students raised over \$400.

BECAUSE OF YOU...

GC Students Ignite their Purpose!



Brandon Flores '25

Hometown: Versailles, Kentucky **GC Involvement:** Georgetown College Men's Soccer

Plans after GC: I have been accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Kentucky!



Rachel Ritchie '25

Hometown: Vine Grove, KY

GC Involvement: Phi Mu Fraternity, Delight Ministries, Student Health Advisory Council, Peer Educator, GC Marketing Intern, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, Christian Scholars Program

Plans after GC: I will be attending the University of Kentucky in the fall to pursue a master's in marketing, with hopes of working in marketing or at a nonprofit.



Mallory Steverson '25

Hometown: Shelbyville, KY

GC Involvement: Sigma Kappa Sorority, Sigma Tau Delta Honors Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, Aspiring Educators, and Senior Class Officer.

Plans after GC: I will be starting my career as a middle school English teacher at Shelby County East Middle School.

Every Gift to The Georgetown Fund supports student scholarships.

Every dollar helps GC meet our

\$21VI
goal by June 30.

MAIL

Send your check to Georgetown College Office of Advancement 400 East College Street Georgetown, KY 40324

PHONE

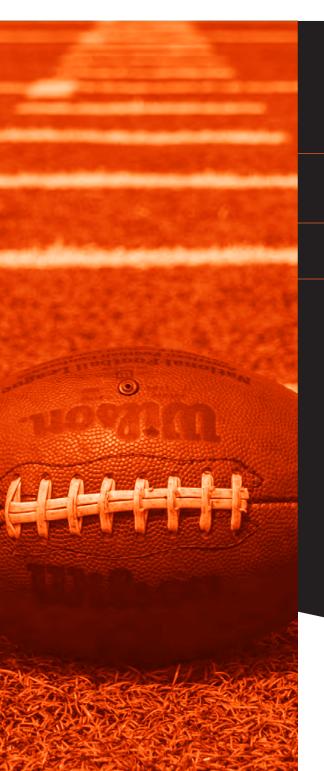
Make a gift by calling **502.863.8089**

ONLINE

Scan to give a gift today







SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING October 17-19, 2025

2025 Highlights Include:

Hall of Fame Dinner

Golden Tigers Celebrating the Class of 1975

Campus Brunches

Tiger Cubs Kids Zone

Stadium Tailgating

The BIG GAME!

Georgetown vs. Cumberland, TN



Scan to QR to see the latest schedule, hotels and more:

ONCE A TIGER, ALWAYS A TIGER!