

HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT RESEARCH



Americus Mayor Lee Kinnamon delivers the keynote speech. Photo submitted by University Relations

Zac Monnier
Staff Writer

The third annual GSW Humanities Symposium, held on November 10, marked a significant milestone in the university's commitment to fostering academic discourse and research. Organized under the leadership of Associate Professor Susan Bragg, Ph.D., and receiving substantial support from the Department of History and Political Science, along with the faculty of the American Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies certificate programs, the event stood as a testament to the vibrancy of humanities education at GSW.

Student presentations covered many different topics, including American sports & leisure, politics, communication and social change, race & politics of the African diaspora, and social crises depicted by American pop culture.

The event's structure facilitated a rich exchange of ideas. A scheduled midday break provided attendees an opportunity to engage with a range of exhibits, further enhancing the educational experience. This interlude also included a panel discussion, allowing for deeper engagement with the subjects at hand. Notably,

the faculty from the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program conducted a profoundly moving and inclusive dialogue about the politics of girlhood in the 20th century. This session stood out as a highlight, shedding light on a topic that has often been overlooked in historical discourse.

The symposium's keynote speech, delivered by Americus Mayor Lee Kinnamon, underscored the enduring relevance of the humanities in all cultural contexts. His insights added a valuable dimension to the event, bridging the gap between academia and civic engagement.

The symposium was only possible due to the generous supports of individuals and groups like Dr. Mark Laughlin & GSW's College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Glenn Robins & the GSW History & Political Science Department, Mayor Lee Kinnamon, and dozens of other faculty, staff, and community volunteers. Their support was instrumental in bringing this academic event to fruition. The GSW Humanities Symposium not only highlighted the scholarly talents of its students but also reinforced the university's dedication to the humanities as a vital component of a well-rounded education.

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ACADEMICS

BULGARIAN WONDERS AWAIT GSW STUDENTS THIS SPRING

Colby Hernandez
Staff Writer

Over Spring Break 2024, GSW students will have the opportunity to go to Bulgaria. The trip is scheduled to take place from March 14-24. Dr. Nediaalka Lordanova and Dr. Benjamin Meador will be the professors on the trip.

“The trip to Bulgaria is part of the UNIV 4000 service-learning class which is a 3-credit hour class that allows the students to learn about Bulgaria and experience its culture and people,” Dr. Lordanova said. “The class

can be used as a general elective class. The trip will occur over Spring Break, and the students will visit several Bulgarian cities and towns, including a trip to the Serbian city Nish. The students can apply for a Study Abroad Grant (\$500) through the Office of Experiential Learning. To be eligible for the Study Abroad Grant, the student should have a minimum GPA of 2.50. Other GSW funds, as well as funds from the GSW Foundation, will also be used to help the students make the trip affordable. GSW students should apply for the opportunity to participate in the class and the trip to Bulgaria to have the opportunity to experience different cultures, learn about the life of people abroad and appreciate their own culture and lifestyle even more. On the trip, the students will also have the opportunity to participate in service-learning activities to help local people abroad in their everyday life and embrace their culture.”

The trip is \$1300 in total. The application should be filled out and turned in by November 30, with a non-refundable deposit of \$200. The remaining balance of \$1100 is due December 15. You must have a valid passport and proof of COVID vaccination.



The city of Nish; one of many cities students in UNIV 4000 will get to visit over Spring Break.

IMAGE SERIES

EDUCATORS RISING HOSTS INDUCTION/SENIOR CEREMONY



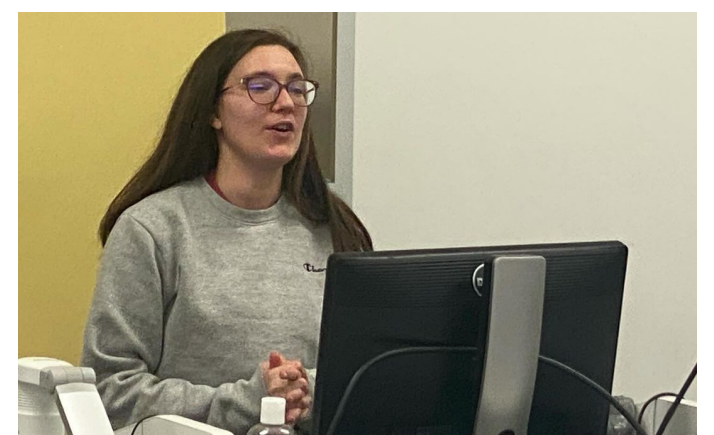
The new inductees of Educators Rising receive their certificates.

This month, Educators Rising held a ceremony to both welcome new members and honor graduating seniors. The inductees were introduced to the community, symbolizing a strong commitment to the field of education. Simultaneously, the ceremony celebrated the achievements and impending journeys of the seniors as they gear up to shape the educational landscape.

Pictures submitted by Educators Rising.



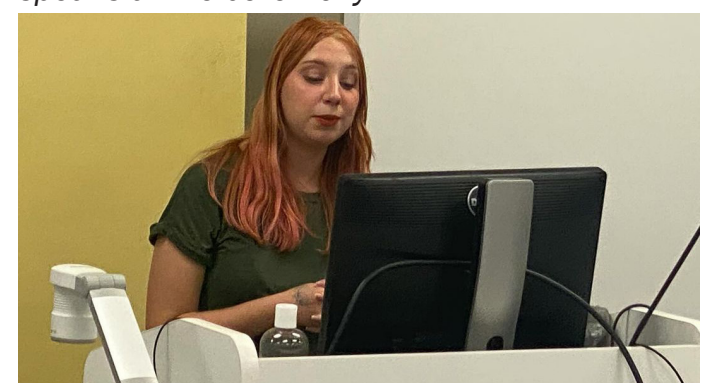
Graduating seniors Kayla Atcheson (left) and Katrina Holmes (right) with Dr. Michele Mckie (middle).



Educators Rising member Elizabeth Haire speaks at the ceremony.



Inductees at the Educators Rising Ceremony.



Educators Rising member Christy Whitaker speaks at the ceremony.

CAMPUS NEWS

THE DARK SIDE OF CELEBRATION: THE GROWING ISSUE OF CONFETTI IN GRADUATION PHOTOS

Dylan Tracy
Staff Writer

As the time-honored tradition of capturing graduation moments in December unfolds, a disquieting trend has taken root on campus—the pervasive and excessive use of confetti. While this addition creates a celebratory flair to the graduation photos, the aftermath of this has become a cause for concern amongst campus staff, including individuals like Dr.

Anh-Hue Tu and Physical Plant Director Jenn Smith. The once-innocuous act of tossing confetti has now evolved into a topic that draws the attention of those dedicated to maintaining the well-being and aesthetics of our campus.



Confetti used for a graduation celebration. Photo by Dylan Tracy.



Dr. Anh-Hue Tu, Professor of Biology.

EFFECTS OF LEAVING CONFETTI BEHIND ON CAMPUS

Leaving confetti strewn across the campus may seem innocent, but its consequences extend far beyond the momentary celebration. The discarded confetti has the potential to wreak havoc on the campus ecosystem. Not only does it create nuisances such as clogged storm drains, but it also becomes a hazard for wildlife. In an illuminating interview with Dr. Tu, she emphasized, “Small pieces of confetti, which are made of plastic or polyvinyl chloride, take up to thousands of years to break down. They can contaminate the environment such as the ocean and lakes. They are harmful to wildlife since the shiny confetti can attract and be eaten by marine animals. These microplastic pieces are harmful to animals and humans if these animals were consumed through the food chains.” As we revel in our accomplishments, it is imperative that we embrace environmentally conscious celebratory practices, ensuring that our moments of joy do not inadvertently contribute to the degradation of the very ecosystems we strive to protect.

IMPACT ON CLEANING STAFF

The responsibility of cleaning up the aftermath squarely rests on the capable shoulders of the campus maintenance staff. Often unsung heroes of our campus, these dedicated individuals are entrusted with the challenging responsibility of upholding the cleanliness and visual appeal of the institution. In the aftermath of celebratory confetti, they bear the weight of collecting innumerable paper and plastic fragments. This undertaking is not just time-consuming; it is a labor-intensive process that diverts valuable resources away from other critical tasks, consequently impacting the overall efficiency of campus upkeep. Shedding light on this issue, Physical Plant Director Jenn Smith emphasized in an interview, “Our janitorial staff have a pattern for cleaning up campus, and they know how much they can clean up during their time. Introducing elements like glitter and confetti disrupts this routine and can lead to complications.” The challenge posed by the debris underscores the need for a collective effort to celebrate responsibly, acknowledging and respecting the invaluable work carried out by the maintenance staff.



Jenn Smith, Physical Plant Director.



Confetti left on Hello Walk from a graduation celebration photo shoot. Photo submitted by University Relations.

SOLUTIONS AND ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES

To mitigate the negative effects of confetti on campus, it's crucial to explore eco-friendly alternatives. Biodegradable confetti made from materials like rice paper or dried leaves can provide the same celebratory effect without leaving a lasting environmental footprint. Additionally, utilizing photo-shop and editing in confetti or other unique effects can suffice, if not be even better. Dr. Tu stated in our interview, “Using biodegradable or natural confetti such as paper confetti, plant/flower confetti, leaf confetti, or rice confetti can help lessen the ecological impact. Since they are all made from natural materials, they are easily broken down and natural for the environment.” By embracing these eco-conscious alternatives, we can strike a balance between celebration and environmental responsibility, ensuring that we contribute positively to the health of our surroundings.

HOW STUDENTS CAN HELP

The responsibility of creating a sustainable celebration lies not only with the administration, but also with the student body. Students can play an active role in choosing eco-friendly alternatives for their graduation photos. Opting for digital confetti overlays or incorporating reusable props can add flair to photos without contributing to environmental degradation. Physical Plant Director Jenn Smith stated in our interview, "If students will make the effort to look for safe alternatives and understand that metallic confetti is not sustainable, that alone will make a huge difference. Being considerate of our janitorial staff and campus can mean a world of difference. A saying I like to say is, 'glitter is litter!'" By fostering an understanding of the ecological consequences, students can become very knowledgeable of sustainable practices, ensuring that their celebrations leave a positive impact on both memories and the environment.



Eco-friendly confetti fulfills the job of metallic confetti without disturbing the environment.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

While the utilization of confetti in graduation photos may initially appear as a minor concern, it serves as a poignant reminder of the imperative for collective responsibility. Campuses, envisioned as bastions of learning, growth, and sustainability, bear the responsibility of instilling values that extend beyond the academic realm. Encouraging students to commemorate their achievements with an environmentally conscious mindset aligns with the principles of responsible citizenship. The trend of incorporating confetti into graduation photos, though visually appealing, carries with it environmental ramifications that warrant our attention. By actively promoting awareness, embracing eco-friendly alternatives, and nurturing a heightened sense of responsibility within the student body, our campus can ensure that these celebrations not only contribute to personal memories but also stand as testament to the broader commitment to environmental well-being. In this way, each joyous occasion becomes a meaningful expression of harmony between personal accomplishments and the preservation of our shared environment.



CAMPUS FORECAST



WHEN DO YOU START CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS?

In our debut Campus Forecast question, we asked the GSW community when they start decking the halls, putting up their trees, and blasting Christmas music. A solid majority of respondents (68%) responded with beginning their Christmas season right after Thanksgiving. 19% responded with beginning earlier, right after Halloween, and only 13% of respondents wait until December to celebrate.

68%

After
Thanksgiving

19%

After
Halloween

13%

Not until
December

Follow us on Instagram and watch out for our next Campus Forecast question!

 @gsw_souwester

IMAGE SERIES

JOLLY TIMES AT HURRICANE HOLIDAY FEST

Jackson Carlstrom
Editor-In-Chief

As the winter chill sets in, the heart of our community remains warm with the annual Hurricane Holiday Fest. Last Friday, the campus transformed into a festive paradise, with lights, Santa, hot chocolate, holiday crafts, and some festive performances from students in our local schools.



MEMORIAL

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF ROSALYNN CARTER

Jackson Carlstrom
Editor-In-Chief

Remembering

Georgia Southwestern alumna, former First Lady, and humanitarian Rosalynn Carter passed away at the age of 96 in her beloved hometown of Plains, Georgia on November 19, 2023. This news comes two days after the announcement that she had joined her husband, former president Jimmy Carter, in hospice care. Born on August 18, 1927, in Plains, Rosalynn Smith Carter's journey from a rural Georgia town to the global stage as an advocate and First Lady has been a source of inspiration for many.



Eleanor Rosalynn Smith was born on August 18, 1927, in Plains, Georgia.

The GSW community was given one last chance to honor her on Monday, November 27, during a wreath-laying ceremony. The ceremony took place in the morning in front of Carter 1 of the Rosalynn Carter Health and Human Sciences Complex, where a bronze statue of the former First Lady is located. The event was a part of a wider series of memorial events to remember the former First Lady and esteemed alumna of the university.

The Carter family motorcade arrived at Phoebe Sumter Medical Center on Monday morning, where Mrs. Carter's remains were transferred over to a hearse. Former and current members of her U.S. Secret Service were present, paying their respects to the former First Lady. Departing from the medical center, the motorcade, with all four of Rosalynn's children, proceeded to GSW, where the wreath ceremony took place. Hundreds of students and members of the community were present outside of Carter 1 to show their respect for Mrs. Carter and her family.

During the wreath-laying service, GSW President Neal Weaver and CEO of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers Jennifer Olsen greeted the Carter family. They then placed two wreaths by Mrs. Carter's bronze statue, commemorating her significant contributions to the fields of health and human sciences, as well as her enduring impact on the campus, the community and the nation. Students and community members were able to sign a condolence book inside Carter 1 following the wreath ceremony, offering a personal way for individuals to share their respects and memories of Mrs. Carter.

The wreath-laying service at Georgia Southwestern State University was a fitting tribute to Rosalynn Carter, reflecting the deep respect and admiration she garnered throughout her life as a devoted public servant, advocate, and alumna of the university.



The Carter Family with Jennifer Olsen.



Students lining the streets.



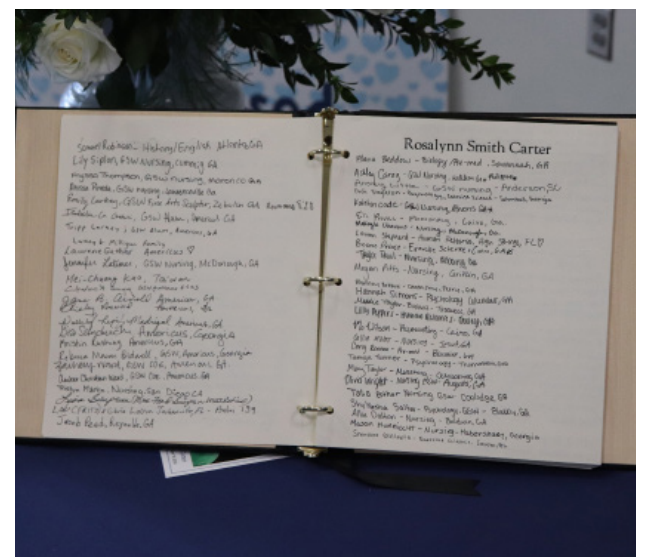
The two wreaths by Rosalynn's statue.



Reflecting on Rosalynn Carter.



Student signs condolence book.



Hundreds of signatures in condolence book. Photos by Jackson Carlstrom.



The Carter Family at the Wreath Ceremony.



Rep. Sanford Bishop signs Rosalynn Carter's condolence book.



Baby photo of Rosalynn Carter. Photos from The Carter Center.

Rosalynn's Story

Rosalynn Carter was born as Eleanor Rosalynn Smith on August 18, 1927, in Plains, Georgia. She was the daughter of Wilburn Edgar Smith and Allie Murray Smith, and was the first born of four children. The family experienced financial hardships all throughout Rosalynn's childhood, and her parents worked multiple jobs to support the family. Her father worked as an auto mechanic and a farmer, while her mother worked as a teacher, a dressmaker, and a postal worker.

The small town of Plains that Rosalynn grew up in was a very close-knit community, with a population hovering around 400 throughout her childhood. Growing up as a child, she was shaped by strong religious and family values, as she grew up with church playing a central role in her life. For fun, she would hang out and play with boys her age who lived on her street, since there weren't any girls her age who lived on the same street as her.



Rosalynn at 13 years old.

In 1940, Rosalynn's father died from leukemia, when Rosalynn was just 13 years old. This significantly impacted Rosalynn, as she was suddenly thrust into a role where she had to help her mother tend the house and care for her siblings. During this period of her life, she was committed to supporting her family during difficult times.

Rosalynn was an extremely diligent student in her academic life. She graduated as valedictorian from Plains High School in 1944. After graduating, she began studying at Georgia Southwestern College, fulfilling her



Rosalynn with her fellow GSW Campus Marshels.



Rosalynn's class yearbook photo.



Rosalynn's childhood home.

father's dream for her to pursue a higher education. At this time, Georgia Southwestern College was a two-year institution, and Rosalynn chose to attend it after high school due to its close proximity from Plains. She was a "day student," meaning she traveled back and forth from Plains to Americus every day for her classes. Despite commuting, Rosalynn was extremely active on campus. She served as the Vice President of her class, a Campus Marshal, and she was a founding member of the Young Democrats Club. She also participated in the Tumbling Club.

Her social circle included Ruth Carter, Jimmy Carter's younger sister, with whom she became close friends after the Carters moved to a farm outside of town. It was Ruth who played matchmaker, fostering the connection between Rosalynn and her brother. Rosalynn first fell in love with Jimmy's picture of him in his Annapolis uniform, not knowing then how significant that photograph would become.

During the summer of 1945, after her first year at college, Rosalynn's first encounter with Jimmy, back from the Naval Academy, led to their first date and kiss. This meeting sparked a romance that culminated in their marriage on July 7, 1946, at Plains Methodist Church, shortly after Rosalynn graduated with a Junior College degree in the spring of 1946.



Rosalynn and Jimmy after their wedding.

The young couple began life together living in Norfolk, Virginia, where Jimmy was stationed. The Navy kept the couple on the move, never living in the same places for too long. While Jimmy was in the navy, the family grew, with the birth of their three sons: Jack, James, and Donnel (Amy, the couple's 4th child and only daughter, wouldn't be born until after Jimmy left the Navy).

The family found themselves returning to Plains in 1953, following the death of Jimmy's father. After his death, Jimmy left the Navy service, and he took on the responsibility of running the family peanut business, while Rosalynn worked full-time with bookkeeping and accounting for the business. Her responsibilities only began to increase when Jimmy entered the world of politics. Jimmy's political career began in 1962, when he decided to run for a seat in the Georgia Senate. Rosalynn was initially resistant towards this at first, but she very soon became deeply involved in her husband's campaign. She took charge of the campaign's financial management,

and she participated in door-to-door campaigning. Jimmy went on to win the election, and Rosalynn went on to be a major part of Jimmy's campaigns ever since.

In 1970, Jimmy ran for governor of Georgia, and once again, Rosalynn campaigned for her husband. This time, she gained the confidence to campaign on her own and give speeches, an idea that terrified her originally. While campaigning for her husband during his run for governor, she got to talk to and interact with several Georgians all across the state. Prompted by the many conversations she had during this time, she took a strong interest in mental health issues.



Rosalynn and Jimmy celebrate after Jimmy becomes Governor-elect of Georgia.



Rosalynn with the Georgia Special Olympics.

Jimmy went on to win the governorship, and Rosalynn became the First Lady of Georgia. Rosalynn participated in all of the traditional responsibilities of First Ladies, like hosting events. But she also handled the financial accounting of the Governor's Mansion and its landscaping. During this time, Rosalynn continued to focus her attention in the field of mental health. She was appointed to the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped, a commission that she had encouraged her husband to establish, and during her time on that commission, many of the commission's recommendations were approved and written into law. Rosalynn also went on a statewide tour through different mental health facilities across Georgia in August 1971. Rosalynn also served as an honorary chairperson of the Georgia Special Olympics and as a volunteer at an Atlanta hospital.

Jimmy's gubernatorial term ended in January 1975, and the family returned to Plains. By this time, Jimmy had already announced his run for president of the United States, and once again, Rosalynn played a significant and influential role in his presidential campaign. At this time, Jimmy Carter was a relatively unknown figure outside the state of Georgia, so Rosalynn sought to build up some awareness for her husband and his campaign. Rosalynn campaigned for her husband in 41 different states, visiting places that Jimmy was unable to reach. Her style of campaigning was personal and relatable; she engaged in one-on-one conversations with voters, listening to their concerns and discussing her husband's policies. She was also able to utilize the media effectively, giving interviews and appearing in televised events, bringing Jimmy Carter's campaign to a wider audience.



Rosalynn talks to voters in Nashville while campaigning for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.



Rosalynn's official portrait as First Lady.



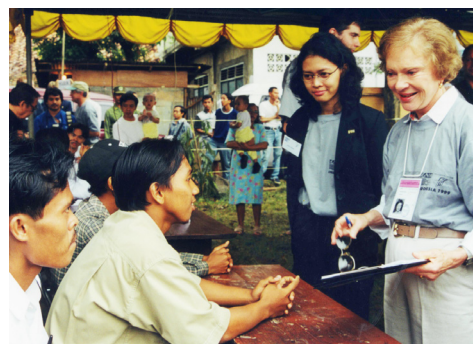
Rosalynn and Jimmy at the Inaugural Ball.



Rosalynn with the President's Commission on Mental Health.

Enough name recognition and good will was built up for Jimmy to win the democratic nomination for president, and ultimately the presidency. Rosalynn Carter, serving as First Lady from 1977 to 1981, significantly expanded the role's scope through her dedication to mental health advocacy, political involvement, and diplomatic efforts. Notably, she was an active honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, advocating for legislation that resulted in the Mental Health Systems Bill. Pioneering in her approach, she regularly attended Cabinet meetings, a first for a First Lady, to stay informed on governmental affairs. Her international diplomacy included a substantial trip to Latin America in 1977, focusing on defense and trade issues. Rosalynn's practicality was evident in her modest approach to White House hosting and decor, prioritizing economic considerations over extravagance. Rosalynn remained a committed advocate for her causes and an integral partner in her husband's presidency, showcasing a blend of traditional duties with groundbreaking policy and advocacy efforts.

After Jimmy's defeat in the 1980 presidential election, the family returned to Plains. Despite returning to small town life, Rosalynn's life was anything but quiet. She and Jimmy co-founded The Carter Center, a nonprofit focused on peacekeeping, safeguarding democracy, and enhancing global health, in 1982. To this day, The Carter Center has made tremendous impacts in over 65 countries. The Carter Center has led campaigns to eradicate diseases, monitored elections in new democracies, promoted human rights, and helped resolve conflicts. Through The Carter Center, Rosalynn played an advisory role in high-profile peace negotiations in countries like Bosnia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and North



Rosalynn observes an Indonesian polling station with The Carter Center for their first democratic elections in 1999.



Rosalynn opens the annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy in 2000.

Korea. She also oversaw The Carter Center's mental health program, where she helped to combat the stigma against mental illness and promoted improved mental health care.

In 1987, Rosalynn founded The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI), headquartered at Georgia Southwestern State University. The RCI stemmed from her personal experiences with caregiving during her childhood, when she had to help care for her sick father and her siblings after he died. RCI's mission is to "to promote the health, strength, and resilience of caregivers at every stage of their journey." The RCI goes about their mission by operating with empathy, emphasizing equity and collaboration, and focusing on community support and knowledge. Today, the RCI leads efforts to support caregivers, acknowledging the mental health challenges they face, such as isolation and stress. The RCI has also participated in several different campaigns, most notably the "Every Child by Two" campaign for early childhood immunization and the "Last Acts: Care and Caring at the End of Life" campaign for compassionate end-of-life care.

Outside of The Carter Center and the RCI, Rosalynn contributed to building houses for the poor with Habitat for Humanity alongside her husband. She has authored several books, including her autobiography entitled "First Lady from Plains" and other works that focused on caregiving and mental health. She also served as a church deacon at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains and was a distinguished fellow at the Emory University Department of Women's Studies. In recognition of all of her efforts, Rosalynn was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2001, becoming the third first lady to receive this honor.

Rosalynn has also received several honors from Georgia Southwestern State University since graduating. In 1975, she was recognized as the first recipient of GSW's Aeolian Award recognizing distinguished alumni in their respective fields. She was nominated by GSW in 1987 for the Distinguished Alumna Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, an award that she went on to win. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 2001 by GSW, and she earned the Regents Hall of Fame Alumni Award in 2011 from the University System of Georgia after her nomination by GSW.

During her final years, she enjoyed spending time with family, including 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She spent her final two days in hospice care at her home in Plains with her husband.



RCI Staff and Board of Directors in 2005.



Rosalynn and Jimmy constructing houses with Habitat for Humanity.



Rosalynn and Jimmy celebrate 75 years of marriage in 2021.

Interviews

Jennifer Olsen
CEO of Rosalynn Carter
Institute for Caregivers



"I worked and I continue to work at the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers here on campus. And Mrs. Carter was also my neighbor. I live in Plains, about eight houses down from the Carters. And so I've had the pleasure of spending a lot of time with her.

She was my boss. But I always say that I was both working with her and for her, because our conversations would be such that she would gently give us guidance as to where the institute should go, but she was never overly direct. And so I think that was one of her best skills. When you read about her time in the White House with President Carter, she was able to nudge without being forceful. And I think that's how she was as a leader and as a boss for the institute.

For those who never got to know her personally, I can tell you that she was warm and always made you feel like you mattered. Often caregivers feel invisible, like they're just the wife or the daughter or the sister of someone. And Mrs. Carter was really great at showing gratitude and appreciation for the unique role that that person held. And so, sitting next to her, you felt like you were sitting next to a friend."

Ashley Carag
Member of President Jimmy
Carter Leadership Program



"I'm in the third cohort of the President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program, and I'm also a nursing major. I met Mrs. Rosalynn Carter twice, once in my freshman year and again in my sophomore year. The first time was in Plains at a food distribution. Initially, it was mandatory for us to go, but that changed after I met her. Meeting her instilled a sense of service in me. We were serving a hundred families, and it was cold on that Saturday morning. I just wanted to go home. But after meeting her, my perspective changed. You wouldn't expect someone of her stature to be there, serving in just a simple T-shirt and jeans. There were so many people there, and I didn't realize it, but they were Secret Service agents there because Rosalynn Carter was there! She was helping us serve these families.

Her involvement really inspired us in the program. It showed that no matter your age or situation, you can serve others. She embodied the leadership we're trying to implement in our lives, to improve the world in small ways. Meeting her has inspired us to be better and more compassionate leaders."

ASK THE CANES: SENIOR EDITION

As this semester comes to an end, we are excited to uphold the tradition of highlighting some of the many graduating seniors of GSW who are completing their studies in Fall 2023. As they prepare to leave campus and embark on their career journeys, we want to explore what these graduates cherished during their time at GSW and what lessons and experiences they will carry forward from their college life.



Roxana Perez

What I've done at GSW:

I have joined Latinos United and have served as a treasurer, and I help with its events. I was nominated, along with others, as a COBAC Leadership student, and I made onto the Dean's list. I have gone to several GSW events, such as Waffle with the Weavers, TWINSICK, and sport events like basketball and soccer.

What I liked most:

Having the opportunity to get a degree in business management from a school close to home with a friendly environment that allows for good relationships with both professors and students.

What I'm taking into the future:

An ability to create community wherever I go next.

My extra thoughts:

You can start off smart by starting small until you grow into the person you want to become. Your path is unique; follow your heart to overcome all obstacles.

McKinzie McTyeire

What I've done at GSW:

I transferred here to GSW in 2021 with the aim of completing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. During my first semester in the program, I attended the 2022 National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. After this, I became GSW's Association of Nursing Students (GSWANS) President and have served in this position since May of 2022. I have also served on the state level with GSWANS as the South District Director for the same amount of time. Throughout the program, I have encouraged other nursing students to find new opportunities and to accomplish their own personal goals. I have also been inducted into the NSNA Leadership University Honor Society and the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society for my achievements. I've had a great experience getting the nursing students more involved not only in our community, but nationally as well. I am proud to say GSWANS brought home to GSW our first national award this year! I have met some wonderful friends along the way, and I can't wait to pass the torch to such bright, compassionate students.

What I liked most:

There are so many things, but I liked the GSW community most of all. One of the main reasons why I chose to transfer to GSW was because of the friendly and homely atmosphere. The faculty at GSW treat you like family, and I always feel welcome at events around campus, like Waffles with the Weavers and other events year-round.

What I'm taking into the future:

During my time in college, I found a passion for geriatrics and caregiving. I am excited to build on these passions in my nursing career, beginning as a neuromedical progressive care nurse in February, where the majority of my patients will be older adults. Even though I'll be leaving the area, I'll always take pride in my roots and thank GSW for preparing me with what true teamwork looks like so I can provide my future patients with the best care.

My extra thoughts:

If I had any advice, it would be to take time for yourself. Spend time with your family while they are still around. Make time to make friends here at GSW. Go out and do fun things! That degree is waiting for you around the corner, so don't worry about things you can't change.



Joseph Cabrere Santos

What I've done at GSW:

I have done quite a few things at GSW. I worked for the Admissions Team for about 2 years, I was a Storm Spotter, a Tutor, a GSW Marshall, and a member of Chi Phi.

What I liked most:

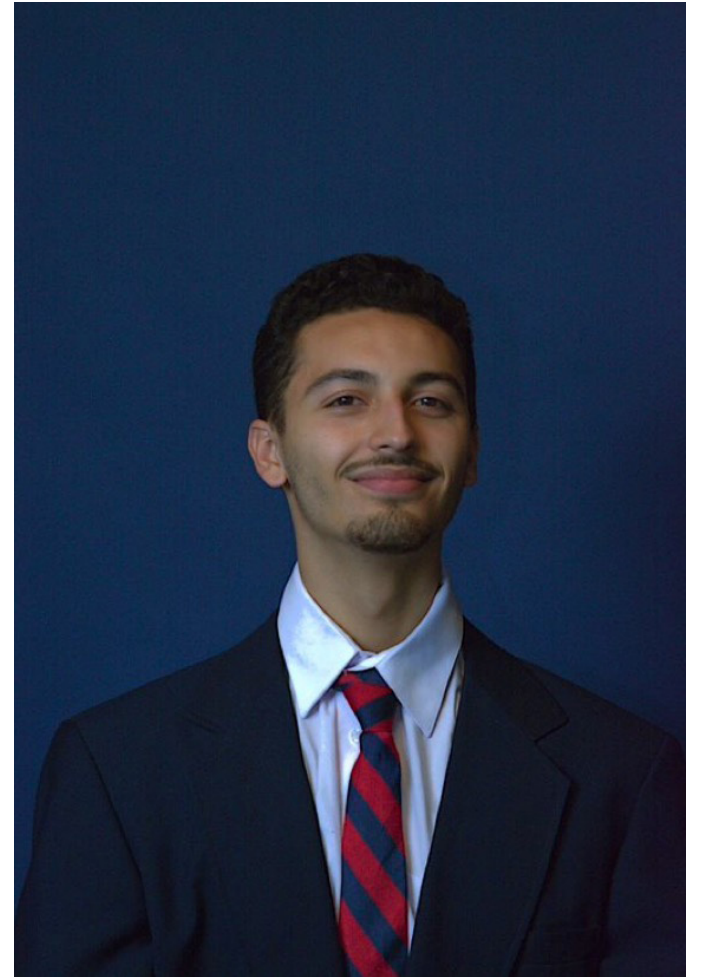
I have honestly enjoyed everything I have done at GSW. Working Admissions was really fun, and being a psychology student is also fun, but if I had to say what my favorite thing was, I would say all the friends I have met at Chi Phi.

What I'm taking into the future:

In the future, I am taking all the experiences I have learned from GSW and applying them into my graduate program for marriage and family counseling.

My extra thoughts:

One other thing I would like you to add is that I have met the love of my life here, and I can't wait to spend my entire life with her!



Natasha Jones

What I've done at GSW:

My organizations and roles include the following: President Jimmy Carter Leadership Program, President of the Psych and Sociology Club, Thunder Camp Counselor and Cloud, SGA Communications Director, and Diversity and Inclusions Director.

What I liked most:

I liked the sense of community that GSW has between the faculty, students, and staff. These people are willing to help you and see you grow, and that has been one of the best parts of being here.

What I'm taking into the future:

What I'm going to take into the future is the skills I gained, including independence and learning to count on others rather than myself. I'm aiming to get my master's in psychology, and hopefully one day in the future, I aim to get my Ph.D.

My extra thoughts:

I will leave a word of advice for our GSW students. Please enjoy every moment that you can here at college. The good, the bad, and the ugly. Be a part of the campus and become one with the Americus community so that we can make GSW brighter.



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