

# Investiture

of

### David L. Schecter, Ph.D.

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE

Friday, October 13, 2023 | 11:00 am Luck Flanders Gambrell Building Auditorium

# The Investiture Ceremony

*Processional	
Musical Selection	Scholars in Sync
WELCOME	Harley Smith Vice President for Institutional Advancement
*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION	Antre' Drummer Associate Professor of Mathematics Coordinator of AAMI
Musical Selection	Sounds of Gabriel
RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS	Harley Smith
Musical Selection	Scholars in Sync
RECOGNITION OF FACULTY AND STAFF AND RECOGNITION OF 50 YEARS OF GRADUATES	Catherine Whelan, Ph.D. Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Musical Selection	Sounds of Gabriel
RECOGNITION OF DENNY KEY, EGSC FOUNDATION AND MILL CREEK FOUNDATION	Richard McNeely Chair, EGSC Foundation
	Wade Johnson EGSC Foundation Trustee

Chair, Mill Creek Foundation

# The Investiture Ceremony

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF	Harold Reynolds
REGENTS	Chair, Board of Regents/
	University System of Georgia
Musical Selection	Scholars in Sync
SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PAST	Jeremiah J. Ashcroft, Ph.D.
Presidents & "Transfer of Medallion"	President Emeritus, East Georgia
	State College
Musical Selection	Sounds of Gabriel
INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT/	Sonny Perdue
PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION	Chancellor, University System of Georgia
Investiture Address	David L. Schecter, Ph.D.
	President, East Georgia State College

\*RECESSIONAL

Please join us for a barbeque luncheon following the ceremony.

\*Audience please stand.

### David L. Schecter



Dr. David L. Schecter, a Florida native, holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida and both a master's degree in political science and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and history from Florida State University. He also holds an MBA from Fresno State.

Prior to joining East Georgia State College, Dr. Schecter served as provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, S.C. Dr. Schecter also served as associate vice president for faculty affairs and then vice provost at California State University, Bakersfield. He provided oversight for the university's Office of Research and Grants as well as the Kegley Institute of

Ethics. Before joining the administration at CSU Bakersfield, Dr. Schecter was chair of the Department of Political Science at California State University, Fresno where he was granted tenure as a full professor and earned the Provost's Award for Faculty Service. He also previously taught at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

When not working, Dr. Schecter enjoys seeing concerts by his favorite 80s bands, traveling, watching documentaries, and spending time at the beach with friends and family.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia named Dr. Schecter the sixth president of East Georgia State College on January 3, 2022.

#### Former EGSC Presidents

George W. Walker, 1973-1976 Willie D. Gunn, 1976-1993 Jeremiah J. Ashcroft, 1993-2002 J. Foster Watkins (Interim), 2002-2004 John B. Black, 2004-2011 Robert G. Boehmer, 2011-2020 Dawn H. Cartee (Interim), 2020-2021

### Brief History of East Georgia State College

As early as 1956, community leaders in Emanuel County and Swainsboro urged the state to establish a two-year college in the area. Committees were formed in 1956 and in 1965, and lobbying efforts at the state level were undertaken, but without immediate results. In December 1969, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized a study to determine the need for additional two-year colleges in the state. A year later, six possible sites, including the Swainsboro–Emanuel County area, were approved with the stipulation that the county of each prospective site provide the land or property for a campus site, as well as the funds for constructing and furnishing the initial physical plant.

In September 1971, the citizens of Emanuel County voted for a bond issue of \$2.1 million to underwrite the cost of a new college. The Emanuel County Board of Education, representing the citizens of the county and working with the local college committee, also provided a wooded site of 207 acres (190 acres of which were donated by Luck Flanders Gambrell) within the city limits of Swainsboro. In December 1971, the Board of Regents gave final approval for the campus site and named the new college Emanuel County Junior College.

In 1987 the University System of Georgia mandated that the term "junior" be deleted from the names of its two-year institutions, and in 1988 Emanuel County Junior College became East Georgia College. The \$2.1 million bond issue also was paid off in 1988.

In 2012, after being granted state college status, the name was again changed to East Georgia State College to reflect a new mission of providing limited baccalaureate degrees.

Through the years, East Georgia State College has proudly maintained its original strategic purpose as an access institution with strong community ties and continues, today, to adhere to its original mission by providing accessibility to a wide range of credit and non-credit academic programs in an atmosphere contributing to the intellectual and cultural growth of our students.

Many in East Georgia State College's diverse student population are first generation and non-traditional college students who have been raised in economically depressed conditions within rural east-central Georgia. By tailoring our academic programs to meet the challenging developmental needs through learning support while also maintaining affordable tuition, East Georgia State College has been successful in increasing the educational levels of the communities it serves.

At the start of 2023, East Georgia State College began celebrating the 50th anniversary of the institution. The anniversary events kicked off with Homecoming Week as the college recognized the 10th anniversary of the 2013 GCAA State Championship Men's Basketball Team. Other events held throughout the year included an alumni art exhibition, a disk golf tournament, a panel discussion on the history of the college, the Miss EGSC Scholarship Pageant, and other community engagement events. The celebration will continue with a Fall Music Fest Saturday, October 14, downtown Swainsboro, Georgia. The Fall commencement ceremony in December will conclude the celebration of the 50th anniversary. Throughout the year, items have been collected for a time capsule that will be buried to commemorate the past 50 years. The time capsule is expected to be opened in 2073.

### The Presidential Medallion

The Medallion is an ornament worn with the president's academic regalia symbolizing the authority and responsibilities incumbent with the office. The medallion used today was created in 1993 by Professor Emeritus of Art and charter faculty member, Neil B. Kalmanson for the investiture of Jeremiah J. Ashcroft as 3rd president of East Georgia College.

The front of the medallion uses the imagery and symbolism of the College mace. Three spheres, representing each of the divisions, lead to a circular shape containing "East Georgia College" which surrounds the upper part of the mace, the sphere, representing the unity of the divisions, and the Cherokee Rose, the flowering of knowledge. On the back of the medallion is the College Seal inscribed with the founding date of 1973.

### The Academic Mace

A mace is a symbol used to communicate and designate authority. When the mace came into use is not known for certain, but the first recorded use was during the Middle Ages when maces, made wholly or partly of metal and often spiked, were used for breaking armor. Medieval bishops, who were forbidden to shed blood, carried maces instead of swords. Gradually, maces became ceremonial and were used as symbolic protection of the king. The use of maces extended into America by the middle of the 18th century, and they are now used primarily in colleges and universities as traditional symbols of authority.

The East Georgia State College Mace was designed and carved by Neil B. Kalmanson, Professor Emeritus of Art, who joined the faculty at the time the college opened in 1973.

Arising from the half-spherical foundation of the Mace are three columns representing the three academic schools: Humanities, Social Sciences and Mathematics and Natural Sciences. As the columns continue upward, they interweave, forming a unity, symbolized by the free-floating sphere contained by the arms of the schools This illustrates how learning gained in each field interrelates and is synthesized into a unified body of knowledge. The Mace is capped with the Georgia State Flower, the Cherokee Rose, symbolizing a sense of place and a flowering of knowledge.

The three School Batons also grow out of half-spherical foundations, and they, like the Mace, begin as columns then spiral, echoing the interweaving aspect of the Mace. Also, like the Mace, the School Batons are capped with smaller spheres, representing the unity within each school and relating to the large sphere of the Mace.

The Mace and three School Batons are arranged on the base so that all are visible when viewed from any side, symbolizing that no school is overshadowed by another and that the strength of all three is reflected in the unity of the whole. The Mace and Batons are carved from aged Brazilian Rosewood, chosen for its beauty, durability, and figurative association with Georgia's Cherokee Rose.

In 2018, the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences united to form the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2021, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences united with the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences to form the current School of Liberal Arts, Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

### Academic Regalia

In its essential features, the academic regalia worn at American college exercises had its beginning in the Middle Ages. The oldest universities of Northern Europe grew out of church schools, and both faculty and students were regarded as a part of the clergy. Hence, as their regular costume, they wore clerical garb borrowed largely from the monastic dress of their day.

The academic gown and hood were first regularly adopted by Cambridge University in 1284 and by Oxford University a little later. The custom was transplanted to this country in colonial times by King's College in New York, now Columbia University.

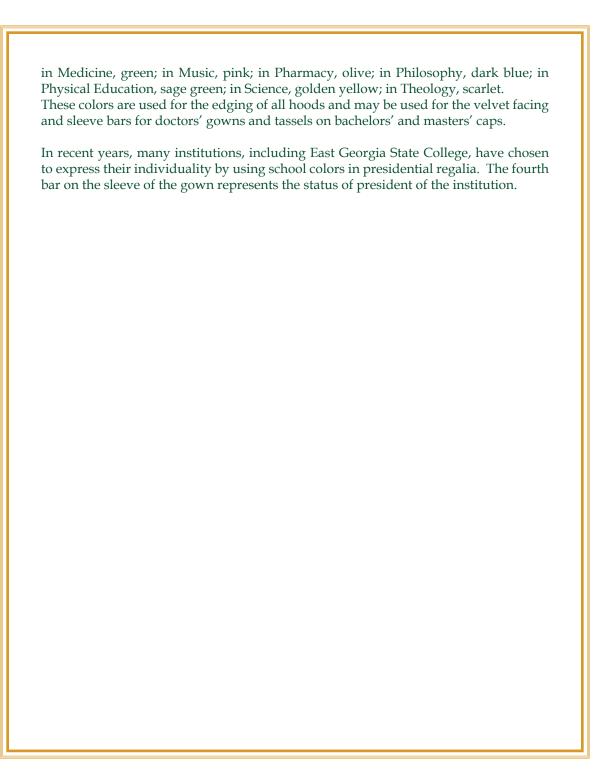
In 1895, American universities and colleges decided to standardize their academic styles and developed the intercollegiate code of academic costume. The style follows the Cambridge tradition. The distinctive caps, gowns, and hoods worn at present-day college and university functions denote the institution that granted the degree -bachelor, master or doctorate.

The gown is usually of black material (serge or worsted for bachelors, the same or silk for masters, and silk for doctors). Bachelors' gowns have pointed sleeves; masters' have long pouch-like sleeves which reputedly were once used to carry books, sandwiches, etc. Doctors' gowns are faced with panels of velvet down the front and three bars of velvet across each sleeve.

The square mortar-board of the cap is common in most American universities. British Canadian and some European universities use a round, soft, flat, and velvet cap. The cap commonly bears a tassel, which may be black or colored according to the scholarly field of the wearer. Only the doctors' cap may be of velvet.

The hood, worn around the neck so as to hang down the back, is the principal emblem of the nature and source of the degree held. The colors in the hood lining are the colors for the school conferring the degree. The color of the border indicates the scholarly field of the wearer. Hoods may be worn only after the degree has been granted.

The degree colors are appropriate to the category of the degree, rather than to the specific major subject. For example, the appropriate color for degrees in Arts and Letters, (B.A., M.A.) is white; in Commerce, drab; in Education, light blue; in Engineering, orange; in Fine Arts, brown; in Humanities, crimson; in Law, purple; in Library Science, lemon;



### **Participants**

#### Sounds of Gabriel

#### **EGSC Alumni**

Dante' Johnson- Founder & Director Malakia Brantley Latrail Sheffield Sara Young Roosevelt Young -- Guest member

#### **EGSC Students**

Jasmyne Robinson Tybee Ivey Shelby Garmon Jayal Hall

Sounds of Gabriel started as a gospel workshop choir that was intended to meet once a year. That idea changed quickly due to the invitations that were extended to them. Their range for music includes the genres of Gospel, inspirational, soul and jazz. "We love what we do because we get to share our craft with those who are passionate about music also,"-Dante'.

#### Scholars in Sync

Jacob Yarborough Samantha Glover Micah Bonn Dr. Alan Brasher

Scholars in Sync is a quartet of EGSC musicians organized for the Investiture. Jacob Yarborough graduated from East Georgia State College (EGSC) in 2013. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and is currently Quality Control Manager for Nordson Corporation. Samantha Glover completed her B.S. in Biology at EGSC in spring 2023 and is pursuing a career in pharmaceutical sales. She intends to further her education through a master's program or specialist training. Micah Bonn graduated from EGSC in the summer of 2023 with an associate degree in Natural Sciences and plans to attend nursing school at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Alan Brasher is in his twenty-seventh year as an English professor at EGSC. In his first semester, he initiated Music Makers Anonymous, an unofficial music club which makes groups like this possible.

### Institutional Delegates

1785	The University of Georgia Kevin Dean Abernethy, J.D. Vice President for Government Relations
1852	Gordon State College Joanne Ardovini, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
1884	Middle Georgia State University Kevin Cantwell Special Assistant to the President and Dean of Graduate Studies
1889	Georgia College & State University Cathy Cox, J.D. President
1889	Savannah State University Cynthia Robinson Alexander, J.D. President
1895	Fort Valley State University Olufunke A. Fontenot, Ed.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
1906	Georgia Southern University Kyle Marrero, DMA President
1906	Valdosta State University Richard Carvajal, Ph.D. President
1906	University of West Georgia Clint Alan Samples, M.F.A. Professor of Art and Associate Dean

### Institutional Delegates

1906 South Georgia State College Gregory Tanner, Ph.D.

Interim President

1908 Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Tracy Brundage, Ph.D.

President

1958 Columbus State University

Rick Sears, M.B.A.

Vice President for Business and

Finance

1961

College of Coastal Georgia Michelle R. Johnston, Ph.D.

President

1961

Augusta Technical College Jermaine Whirl, Ph.D.

President

1967

Dalton State College John M. Fuchko, III, Ed.D.

Interim President

1970

Georgia Highlands College

Mike Hobbs, Ph.D.

President

1974

Atlanta Metropolitan State College Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.

President

2006

Georgia Gwinnett College George S. Low, Ph.D.

Sr. Vice President for Academic and

Student Affairs/Provost

### **Greetings**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Georgia Southwestern State University Georgia State University Kennesaw State University University of Georgia Valdosta State University

### 2023-2024 SGA Officers

Mary Grace Winfrey President

**Jalen Gallman**Vice President, Swainsboro

**Naija Calvert** Vice President, Statesboro

**Hannah Phillips** Vice President, Augusta

**Kayla Stone** Secretary Treasurer, Swainsboro

### President's Cabinet

Dr. Catherine Whelan

Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Cliff Gay

Vice President for Business Affairs

Mike Rountree

Vice President for Information Technology

**Harley Smith** 

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

**Courtney Patterson** 

Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel

Nick Kelch

Associate Vice President for External Campuses and Director of East Georgia State College Augusta

Dr. Da'Mon Andrews

Associate Vice President for Grants and Data Analytics

Tifani Pool

Director of East Georgia State College Statesboro

David Gribbin

Director of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research

**Lester Drawdy** 

Chief of Police/ Director of Public Safety

Theo Howard

Director of Athletics

### University System of Georgia Board of Regents

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### Investiture Committee

#### Harley Smith, Chair

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

#### Diana Cochran

Executive Assistant to the Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Vice President of Institutional Advancement

#### Johnna Eaton

Associate Professor of Physical Education

#### **Casey Fountain**

Director of Institutional Advancement

#### Susan Gray

EGSC Retiree and EGSC Foundation Trustee

#### **Katelyn Moore**

IT and Creative Services Specialist

#### Mike Rountree

Vice President for Information Technology

#### **Ruth Underwood**

Director of Auxiliary Services

#### Dr. Catherine Whelan

Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

#### Dana Wright

Executive Assistant to the President

### Thank You

Davis Marketing Company Mill Creek Foundation

A special thank you to our guests for spending your time with us celebrating the bright future and continued growth of East Georgia State College.

# East Georgia State College Alma Mater -Abbreviated-

Written by Andrew Darley, Class of 2008

In the heart of Eastern Georgia, 'Neath the pines of green, Proudly stands our Alma Mater--Noble and serene.

May thy triumphs, dear East Georgia, Ever be proclaimed. May thy loyal sons and daughters Magnify thy name.

Through the years of time's swift passing,
We shall ever be
One with thee, our Alma Mater-One with EGSC.

#### Chorus:

Lift the chorus to East Georgia--Let her grace be told. Glory to our Alma Mater! Hail to green and gold!

# East Georgia State College mourns loss of former President Willie D. Gunn

March 26, 1926 - April 5, 2023



Dr. Willie David Gunn, 97, passed away peacefully the morning of April 5, 2023, at Wesley Woods of Newnan. He was born in LaGrange, Georgia, on March 26, 1926, to the late Joseph Putnam Gunn and Nora Staley Gunn. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Martha Claire Meeks Gunn (Marty) as well as all five of his sisters and brothers-in-law. Dr. Gunn served as the second president of Emanuel County Junior College and then East Georgia College until his retirement in 1993.

Dr. Gunn led an exemplary life, serving our country in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Naval Reserve, teaching at Newnan High School, teaching at the University of West Georgia, and serving as the Dean and later as the President of East Georgia College.

Dr. Gunn grew up as the Great Depression ended. Having a disabled father, he quickly learned the value of hard work and began working when he was 8 years old. He delivered papers and groceries, and worked in the mills in LaGrange as soon as he could, to help support his family.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Dr. Gunn knew he wanted to join the military. His parents refused to sign the papers when he turned 17, but he finally convinced them to let him go after he completed high school. As a teenager he joined the Navy and was assigned to LST 534 (Landing Ship Tank), which was on its way to Okinawa in 1945.

In the Battle of Okinawa, LST 534 was struck by a kamikaze. Gunn's ship partially sank, and he and his fellow crew members fought a fire on the ship for over 24 hours. After the ship was raised, two typhoons hit near Okinawa, with the second one beaching his ship in October 1945. In the aftermath, Dr. Gunn tried to help starving Okinawans by giving them food from the ship's galley, many times without permission. He returned to the states in 1946 but did not leave the Navy for long. In 1956, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve, from which he retired in 1986 with a total of over 32 years of service.

When Gunn came home, he attended Mercer University. On the first day of a Spanish class, he noticed a lovely young woman sitting in the front. He misbehaved, hoping she would turn around to see him. The professor promptly moved him to the front of the class, and by chance had him sit beside the young woman he admired. By the time he walked her home, he had his first date set with Martha Claire Meeks, whom he called Marty and married.

Gunn received his degree in Biology, and Marty received her degree in English. After college they moved to Newnan where he taught Biology at Newnan High School, and Marty taught at Atkinson Elementary School until they had their three children. He taught at NHS for 17 years. During summers, he earned a Master of Arts degree from Peabody College. He then attended the University of Georgia, earning his Ph.D. in Botany.

In 1966, he began his career as an Assistant Professor at West Georgia College, now the University of West Georgia. He taught there for 7 years before moving to Swainsboro, Georgia. Along with the first president, Dr. George Walker, Dr. Willie Gunn helped build Emanuel County Junior College (later named East Georgia State College) from the ground up. When Dr. Walker retired 3 years later, Dr. Gunn became president and served the college for 17 years. During this time, Marty taught elementary school in the local public school system.

In the years that followed his becoming president, Dr. Gunn was in numerous service organizations that benefitted his community, state, and country, including the Exchange Club, Agri-Business Council, Chamber of Commerce, 4-H, Sons of the American Revolution, Emanuel County Sportsmen's Club, Georgia Association of Colleges, the United States LST Association, and many more. He and Marty were long-time members of the First Baptist Church of Swainsboro.

Dr. Gunn received numerous honors during his professional career and during his military career. In 1986, he was awarded the United States Navy Meritorious Service Medal, in the name of the president, for outstanding meritorious service while serving the in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Command Senior Chief Petty officer. This is the highest award bestowed for Naval Reserve duty.

Dr. and Mrs. Gunn have three children-Dr. Joseph Gunn (Jo), Vivian Dunn (John), Timothy Gunn (Karen). They have 6 beloved grandchildren-John Michael Dunn (Anna), Elizabeth D. Luke (Mike), Allison G. Napier (Billy), Jennifer G. Littlejohn (Will), Maxwell Gunn (Madison), and Benjamin Gunn (Christa). They have 9 beloved great-grandchildren. Between both of their families Marty and Willie have numerous nieces and nephews.

When a parent passes, children are frequently fortunate to find out special and generous things a parent has done. Willie Gunn's children learned that he helped two students at East Georgia College procure large enough scholarships to finish their education at two other schools. He never told them he did this, and they found out much later.

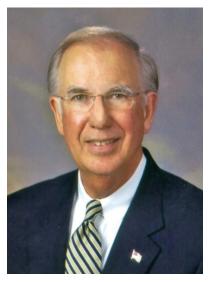
If anyone desires, remembrances of Dr. Gunns's life can be made to:

East Georgia State College Foundation (Please make checks payable to EGSC Foundation) Re: Dr. Willie Gunn Scholarship Fund 131 College Circle Swainsboro, Ga 30401

For information about the Dr. Willie Gunn Scholarship Fund, please contact Harley Smith at hdsmith@ega.edu.

# East Georgia State College mourns loss of former President John B. Black

*April 11, 1939 – August 22, 2023* 



East Georgia State College is mourning the loss of former President John Bryant Black who passed away at the age of 84. Dr. John Black served as the fourth president of East Georgia College for seven years.

Under Dr. Black's leadership, East Georgia College experienced monumental growth, including student enrollment, the addition of athletics, expanded facilities on the main campus in Swainsboro, a permanent facility in Statesboro, and its first oncampus apartment facility. Additionally, East Georgia College was approved by the Board of Regents to become a state college.

Prior to his position as president, Dr. Black served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at both East Georgia College and Dalton State College, and

as Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at the University System of Georgia before assuming the position as president of East Georgia College in August 2004. Following retirement from EGSC, Dr. Black served as Interim President of Middle Georgia State College for two years.

Dr. Black earned his Ph.D. from the Medical College of Georgia in Endocrinology. He was a licensed Clinical Laboratory Director and consulted with in vitro fertilization laboratories both in this country and abroad.

Dr. Black was a charter member of the American Andrology Society, a founding partner of the Xytex Corporation and served on the Medical College of Georgia Research Institute Board for 12 years. He was a past President and Fellow of the Georgia Academy of Science and a recipient of the Louis K. Bell Alumni Research Award, the Town and Gown Award, the Outstanding Faculty Member Award, the Sally Simpkins Outstanding Professor Award from Augusta State University, and he served as a Georgia Presidential Ambassador for Phi Theta Kappa Honorary Society.

If anyone desires, remembrances of Dr. Black's life can be made to:

East Georgia State College Foundation (Please make checks payable to EGSC Foundation) Re: Bryant, Dorothy, and John Black Scholarship 131 College Circle Swainsboro, Ga 30401

For information about the Black Scholarship fund, please contact Harley Smith at hdsmith@ega.edu

A THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING EGSC FOR 50 YEARS
PRESENTED BY EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE
AND THE MILL CREEK FOUNDATION
HOSTED BY SWAINSBORD DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH



12PM - UNTIL AT THE BONEYARD FOOD TRUCKS - ARTS & CRAFTS LIVE MUSIC BEGINNING AT 5PM



