**News Briefs**

**Governor Barnes and Others Discuss Lake Lanier**

On March 1, in the CE building, Governor Roy Barnes along with Colonel Keyser of the Army Corps of Engineers, Senator Nathan Deal, and many others addressed the issues concerning the state of Lake Lanier. The panel members spoke of the problems with erosion, sedimentation and water pollution.

**KSL Lake Lanier Islands Beach and Water Park Holds Job Fair**

KSL will be holding a job fair on Fri., March 22, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., and Sat., March 23, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Some of the areas that are open for employment are Beach and Water Park, Public Safety, Harbor Landing, Hotel, Front Gate, Islands Catering, and Retail. Employees receive various discounts throughout the park. For more information on working for KSL contact (770) 932-7242.

**Don’t Believe Everything on TV**

On Wed., Feb. 6, many GC students missed their early morning classes because of a bad weather report from Channel 32 in Toccoa. The report from this station stated that Gainesville College would be closed due to the amounts of ice on the roads. GC, unlike most schools in the area, remained open.

**Gateway is Looking for a Helping Hand**

Both Gateway House and the Gainesville Women's Organization are asking for help by means of donations and contributions. The Teen Program is asking for school supplies and snack foods. The Children’s Program is looking for socks, diapers, underwear, and snack foods. The Shelter itself could also use cleaners, paper towels, bathroom tissue, trash bags, craft utensils, and personal cassette players. Contact Ray-Lynn Snowden at ext. 3608.

**GC Gets ‘Thumbs Up’ from SACS**

*School is Assured of Accreditation*

By Chris Riddle  
*Club Editor*  
cri4970@gc.peachnet.edu

On Jan. 28 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools committee visited Gainesville College to re-accredit our school. GC received five commendations from the committee.

This accreditation from the SACS committee gives a college “credibility in higher education and guarantees transfer of courses and degrees to other regionally accredited colleges and universities,” according to Sloan Jones, director, public relations and marketing.

GC was given five commendations by the SACS committee in their exit report given by committee member Dr. Frank Thompson. They dealt with the college’s visionary leadership in bringing baccalaureate and graduate course opportunities to its campus and constituents; the quality and comprehensiveness of the self-study; the ACTT center for providing a nurturing, and user-friendly environment for the students and faculty; the student friendly and learning-centered atmosphere on campus; and the fundraising support provided by the GC Foundation, Inc. and the community.

“In my approximately 20 years of experience on SACS visiting teams, I have never participated on a team that has given more than two commendations,” noted Dr. Martha Nesbitt, president of GC.

Along with the commendations that GC received, the college also was given four recommendations, which are things that are required to be fixed, and 13 suggestions which are things that can be improved upon but are not required according to Gina Reed, associate professor of mathematics.

“The credit really goes to the faculty and staff,” said Dr. Nesbitt when asked to comment about the high scores GC received from the SACS committee.

The faculty and staff have been involved in a self-study of the college for the past two years. This study evaluated the school to make sure GC maintained the accreditation.

The faculty and staff did this by showing that GC met the criteria needed to be an accredited college as well as getting documents together that proved this. They also looked at other institutions to see how GC “measured up” in comparison to surrounding colleges according to Dr. Nesbitt.

The faculty and staff as well as the student body were thrilled upon the report that GC received. “It makes me happy because I think that community colleges don’t get the recognition they deserve,” says Kelly Uber, early-childhood education major.

**Wife of Senate Hopeful Speaks at GC**

*By Brandon Harris  
Staff Writer*  
bhar9679@gc.peachnet.edu

The Democrats-Republicans Club sponsored the visit of Republican US Senate candidate, Bob Irvin, to GC on Monday, February 25. Unfortunately, he, a current Georgia State House representative, was unable to attend due to official business. Luckily, his wife Lynn Irvin came in his stead.

Mrs. Irvin spoke to roughly 25 students, faculty, and staff in the Continuing Education building. She did not speak of her husband’s platform. Instead, her primary focus was US Senate candidate Bob Irvin’s legislative achievements at the Georgia State level.

Mr. Irvin helped institute welfare reform and tax cuts. His efforts resulted in tax cuts for the years 1995, 1996, 1998, and 2000, which totalled almost $1 billion annually. He also aided in protecting the rights of law-abiding firearms owners, while also making a strong effort to develop safer communities by only allowing paroles to be granted to felons who had served at least 85% of their sentences.

Bob Irvin also considers to his achievement stripes that have been made to improve health care and the quality of public education in Georgia. He created the coalition that wrote and passed the “Patients Bill of Rights” for Georgians citizens, which is believed to greatly empower patients. Additionally, he co-sponsored the bill creating Charter schools and was behind the push to end “social promotion” which was passed in 2001.

Mr. Irvin is a graduate of William & Mary, Emory School of Law, and received his MBA from Harvard. He grew up in Roswell, Georgia, the son of a country veterinarian. He has become an established businessman and a well-known politician.

Mr. Irvin is considered a more conservative member of his party. He is in favor of downsizing the government and cutting the taxes of the private sector. His campaign brochures indicate that as a member of the US Senate, he will fight for Georgia priorities. He adds that Georgia needs a workhorse in the US Senate, not a showhorse.

Mr. Irvin’s opposition in the Senate race, Democrat incumbent, Max Cleland, is anticipated to visit GC sometime before the upcoming election. The Democrats-Republican club will be sponsoring this event. Check the Compass for more information or drop by one of the club’s meetings. The Democrats-Republican club meets every Monday at noon in room 103 in Academic II.
Mysterious Odor in Academic II Solved

By Charlie Broadwell
Staff Writer
cbro2563@gc.peachnet.edu

Gainesville College Plant Operations Coordinator Jerry Spiceland believes there is an explanation for the unknown odor in Academic II that hospitalized one employee last month and has been the subject of complaint by others.

A factory representative for the manufacturer of the boiler in Academic II inspected the situation, and came to a new conclusion.

"I think (the factory representative) figured out what it was," explained Spiceland. "It appears to be exhaust fumes from the boiler."

On Feb. 13, custodian Janyce Cole was working her morning shift in Academic II when she began to feel nauseated, allegedly from a strange odor in the building.

"After awhile (after noticing the smell) my head started hurting," Cole said. "I tried to work some more but I got nauseous and disoriented. Then I had to sit outside to get some fresh air. I wasn’t getting much better so they called the EMTs."

Hall County fire units responded at approximately 6:30 a.m. and the building was closed to students while the fire department inspected the building for gas leaks.

No traces of gas were found, which led to the reopening of the building.

Cole was admitted to Northeast Georgia Regional Medical Center, but doctors found no medical problems and she was quickly released. She was back at work in Academic II the next day, but according to Cole, the medical bills have not been paid yet by GC.

Spiceland said, "We have not received anything from the doctor that says it is work-related."

Cole may have to cover the medical costs herself if the doctor doesn’t come through with evidence that the alleged boiler exhaust caused her symptoms.

Spiceland theorized that Cole’s blood pressure could have been elevated, since she takes medication for high blood pressure. Cole, however, said that her blood pressure was normal, and she checks it daily.

"At first we thought it was gas," said Cole about the odor. "They detected a small amount of it in the maintenance room, but they fixed that. (The smell) is something I can’t stay in. I know that!"

Everyone seems to agree that it doesn’t smell like gas. Some have their own theories.

"It smells like formaldehyde," said student Carlton Westbrook, who noticed a strange smell outside of Academic II.

According to Cole, professors, students and other faculty members have also complained of headache, nausea and sore throats because of the odor.

An unnamed faculty member mentioned that he has been hearing the smell since the beginning of February.

"I have smelled it inside and outside, but it is definitely stronger outside."

"The fumes were heavy outside the building," explained Spiceland. "And opening the doors caused the fumes to come inside."

Spiceland said that nobody had reported an odor since the day Cole was admitted to the hospital. But days after making that claim, maintenance was called out to the building again.

A faculty member who noticed the strong smell called GC maintenance on Feb. 22 to the site again to test the air, but there were still no results on the meter. This prompted officials to call the factory representative who made the determination that the odor was caused by boiler exhaust.

The faculty member, who requested to remain anonymous, claimed he heard stories of students coughing in class from the smell, and classes releasing early due to the strong smell.

"It’s a cause for concern," he said. "Maybe they’re not measuring for the right substance."

Spiceland has been encouraging faculty members to report strange smells coming from Academic II or other buildings through the faculty Message Board. He also assured faculty by saying, "All tests have shown the odor not to be a health or safety hazard."
Ector Expresses The Meaning of Black History

By Andrew Sherwood
Staff writer
asher901@gc.peachnet.edu

The celebration of Black History month at GC culminated with a presentation by Tuskegee Airman, Charles Ector, Wed., Feb 27.

Ector may have had a harder life than most, but he does not let it show like some people. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps at Tuskegee. At this time people did not believe blacks could physically fly a plane. "We were just trying to show people we were humans and we could do the same as whites," Mrs. Roosevelt visited the Tuskegee Institute and requested to ride with the colored airmen. "It never made much sense to me that they thought we couldn't fly, but they gave us the best plane," commented Ector.

In 1942 the black Tuskegee airmen were recognized as pilots. He went back for another tour of duty in the Army as a radio control operative. He was transferred to the 21st bomber command. When the war was over out of 28 people he and another were the only ones to survive.

When Ector returned home he was very proud of his uniform and the things he had done for America. He decided to go get a steak at a local restaurant and waited for service for twenty minutes. A waitress came over and grabbed his menu and said: "We don't serve niggers." Ector tried to wait until I got outside but I couldn't. I just started crying because this was the most inhumane thing anyone had ever done to me," said Ector.

Ector met Martin Luther King, Jr. and said to him I want to help you. King said, "I don't know if I can use you because you are the violent type. I'll send you to a campus to see if you can withstand the stuff." Ector said it was quite rough, they would yell, kick and spit on them.

"I think Dr. King was one of the best men that ever walked. I want ya'll to keep his dream alive... God made humans out of dirt so they would all be the same," said Ector. "Anybody has the right to America. No matter how you feel about it your ancestors may be African but you are an American." Ector says, "when I came into this world I was called: boy, Colored, black,... Why can't I be called American?"

He was later appointed to the Martin Luther King Jr. Georgia State Holiday Commission by Governors Joe Frank Harris, Zell Miller and Roy Barnes. Ector was the first African-American rural carrier in the United States and the first retired carrier from the U.S. Postal Service.

"I would like to see all people, all nations united, going to church together. Join hands and walk down the streets singing. Take responsibility if you want to be American. We better start acting like it. We got a wake up call in September. We need to get together. Back in World War II even the foxholes were segregated. We need to live together, may god bless America."

Ector made this statement to GC students: "The world is in turmoil. People laying down, the younger generation has a future. Share with me your future. We must have diversity. We have to become one nation."
Cast Your Vote For Your Voice

Thanks to Haag, GC Now Utilizes Electronic Voting

By Shana Stevers
Opinions Editor
SSTEL173 @ gc.peachnet.edu

Beginning March 27 a colorful assortment of posters and fliers will sprinkle the campus like confetti. This will be the first day of a week long campaign to elect new officers for GC’s Student Government Association. The election will take place on April 3rd and 4th. The election is being held on two days to ensure that all students have ample opportunity to cast their vote.

Voting for SGA officers is very important, especially for those students returning in the fall. Noah Anderson, who is the current SGA president, fears students will not take this election seriously. “I don’t think students realize the importance of SGA president.” The Officers and members of SGA are the voices of the students here on campus. Their job is to listen to what the students have to say and do their best to ensure that all wants and needs are met by faculty and staff members. However, their responsibilities are not confined to our campus alone. These students have the privilege of communicating our voices on a state level.

This year’s election will be a trial run of a new voting method. Votes will be cast electronically this year as opposed to the old method of checking the right box and placing your ballot in a box. This is a big step for SGA. Anderson says “Most schools ask for this privilege over and over and we earned the right with just one request.”

The voting procedure is quite simple. Each student that logs onto any computer on campus will see a box, similar to the notice board, containing the ballot and will have one chance to cast their vote. This luxury was made possible by Brandan Haag, who organized and constructed these ballot boxes.

So, watch for all the posters, fliers and smiling candidates that will be swarming the campus beginning March 27. Those elected into office will be the new voices of our student body. Take a minute to listen to what they have to say and think about who you want representing you in 2003.

Juwariya Yusuf, pictured on the left, and Wendy DeRoche, pictured on the right, are the candidates competing for the SGA presidency. Both are currently active in Student Government. Running for vice presidency is Cheryl Bowers. The winners of the election will accompany the current SGA officers to the next meeting of the Student Advisory Council, which serves all schools in the University System of Georgia. This will give the newly elected officers a chance to become acquainted with their positions.

Events Calendar

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<td>Air Balloon Ride, Helen</td>
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By Jeannie McElroy
Staff Writer
JMC3824@gc.peachnet.edu

Gainesville College is hosting a spring semester job fair for GC students on Thursday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center. The job fair can assist students in finding a job to fit their needs, whether it is a summer job or an internship in their chosen career.

Becky Smith from the Counseling and Testing Center said, “It would be a good idea just to walk through and take the opportunity to talk with Human Resource Managers about their companies and what they are looking for in employees.”

Gainesville College has decided to bring the job fair back in spring semester because of the overwhelming success of the job fair in the fall. Smith believes that the job fair is a good way to seek out many job opportunities at once.

“Last semester, there were 48 companies represented here at GC... where else can you go to have the opportunity to visit with this many hiring managers in one location?” said Smith.

There will be a variety of fields represented at the GC job fair in April including full time and summer positions for Lake Lanier Islands and Chattoochee Country Club; legal positions at North East GA and Abraham medical centers, and other positions at Wachovia Bank, SunTrust Bank, Primerica, Federal Express, UPS, U.S. Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, and many more.

There will be door prizes offered to students who attain signatures from seven employers and complete the survey on the back of the door prize from. Any student can pick up an entry form at the door of the student center the day of the job fair.

Look for the job fair ad in this issue of The Compass. Complete the entry form and drop it in the box on stage the day of the job fair to be eligible for a special drawing. For more information, stop by the counseling and testing center or call 770-718-3660.

After the success of the Fall 2001 Job Fair, as shown above, the Counseling and Testing Center will host another in April.

Paralegal Program is 1 of Only 3 in Georgia

By Jamie LaNier
A&E Editor
JLAN4497@gc.peachnet.edu

For those students who have an interest in law, but neither the money nor time required to go to a prestigious law school such as Harvard or Yale, Gainesville College offers an alternative with its two-year degree in paralegal studies.

A paralegal, or legal assistant, is trained in legal document preparation. Though paralegals can’t actually do any legal work, they work under a lawyer who signs off on the legal documents they have prepared.

“Our program offers a little bit of training in several different areas or law,” said Dr. Marler, the program director. “They get a taste of what a paralegal in any particular field of the law at a bare minimum would need to know.”

Paralegals used to be considered solely as a lawyer’s “right hand man” and would only be found within the confines of a traditional law firm. Today that only covers about 60 percent of the market to paralegals, who now work in other fields such as banking and trust, medical, insurance, and large corporations with their own legal departments. In some cases these businesses hire paralegals instead of a full-fledged lawyers.

Gainesville College is hoping to develop a four-year degree either in conjunction with a four-year institution or possibly completely on its own.

“The future of paralegal education is to offer a four-year degree. Pretty soon the employers in the marketplace will not be hiring people with two-year degrees,” said Marler, who is treasurer for the American Association for Paralegal Education. “They want someone with a four-year bachelor’s degree.”

A APE has found that several states are in the beginning stages of a process to require licensing and certification examinations for paralegals within the next five years. They will also require a four-year degree from an American Bar Association, ABA, approved program.

A student graduating with a two-year degree today may expect to earn close to $40,000 a year. “It’s one of the best salaries for a two-year degree offered today,” said Marler.

The paralegal field offers a good, safe working environment with good benefits and job security. “The job market is fantastic right now,” Marler said.

Of the 50 or so students in the program, most are usually older mature students who don’t have a paralegal degree. ABA can’t find a decent job with a four-year degree in a different field. However, Marler said, “We’re getting more young students who see this as a good career goal.”

GC’s paralegal program is one of three approved by the ABA in the state of Georgia. Of the other two, one is a technical school, and the other is a relatively new and expensive private school. “To be one of three ABA approved programs in the whole state is quite an honor,” said Marler. “It’s a quality program, otherwise we wouldn’t have been approved.”

At this time there are no four-year degree programs in the state of Georgia.

In 1976, thanks to the foresight of Louise Holcomb, a former administrator at GC, the college began the process of offering a paralegal program. After surveys the community for its need to provide the job market with educated workers, a certificate was offered through GC’s continuing education department. Over the years it was converted into a full two-year degree and then approved by the ABA in 1999.

“It is difficult to maintain the high standards that the ABA requires of us,” said Marler. The ABA requires and regulates an advisory committee made up of practicing lawyers and paralegals in the community who help decide whether GC should offer new classes in an area depending on the changing needs of the community.

In the recent Southern Association of Colleges and Schools review, it was recommended that the paralegal program require additional writing classes. Any changes to the program would have to be approved by the ABA.

After Marler was hired because of her understanding of the ABA, it took GC three years to gain the expensive approval. Marler was a practicing attorney for 22 years in Florida, Louisiana and Georgia and had worked with a number of paralegals before.

At this time Marler is the only full time faculty member in the program. The majority of the classes are taught by adjunct teachers who are practicing attorneys and paralegals. “It’s great because the students can ask questions about ‘What is it you really do?’,” said Marler.

The program offers internship opportunities, which are designed for second-year students who have completed a number of courses and have legal research experience. Offered in the fall, students are placed in a field of interest, giving them experience in the work environment as well as perhaps a job offer after graduation. There is a scholarship offered, which is funded by the local bar association, of close to $600.

Marler is concerned about the recent closure of the Atlanta based National Center for Paralegal Training. The first to get approved by the ABA in Georgia, the private and three times as expensive NCPT had been around the longest. Those students were now looking for a new school and GC’s paralegal program may not be ready for such an influx of students. It is unclear how the closure will affect GC’s program.

Admission requirements are the same for paralegal studies as for any other program at GC. Most classes tend to be night classes, but all GC students have the opportunity to enroll.
Swim Meet Makes a Splash
By Stenia Martin
Sports Editor
SMA9816@gc.peachnet.edu

The waves in the Gainesville College pool were fierce with competition as the GC swimmers dove into action. The Gainesville College Intramural Swim Meet was a great success, with 25 swimmers registered between the ages of 18 and 80. The swimmers were allowed to swim four individual events and two relays. Events included 200 yd freestyle (8 laps), 25 yd (1 lap) backstroke, freestyle, butterfly, and breast stroke, 50 yd (2 laps) backstroke, freestyle, butterfly, and breast stroke, 100 individual medley (1 stroke of butterfly, backstroke, breast, and freestyle), and two 100 yd relays (4 person teams of one stroke each).

Awards were given to the top four places in each age group. T-shirts were also given to the first 24 people who signed up for the meet. The event was free to all students, faculty, and staff. Members of the faculty and staff who swam included Glenn Preston, Andrea Crawford, and Darryl Barnes. There were five untraditional college student swimmers participating in the event as well.

One swimmer making waves for Gainesville was Eddie McGrail. Eddie has been swimming competitively for 14 years. He made quite an impression on faculty and spectators alike. After talking with Eddie, a great history of competitive swimming was unearthed. Eddie swam for Collins Hill high school all four years he attended, and was captain his senior year. In his senior year he placed in the top 20 in the state of Georgia. He has coached the Chattahoochee High School White Caps for three years, and is a full time student in his second semester at Gainesville College.

Another swimmer who made an impression was Andrea Crawford. Andrea is a certified personal trainer who works in the fitness center for Gainesville College. When the Compass caught up with Andrea at the meet, she said she has been swimming competitively all her life. She also said she hadn’t prepared much for the meet, except for her usual daily workouts. Andrea’s favorite strokes include the breast stroke, back stroke, and freestyle. Andrea placed well in all the events she swam in and was pleased with her performance.

Elaine Bryant was thrilled with the participation of both swimmers and volunteers. A big thanks goes out to all who participated. The swim meet is a bi-annual event that takes place in both the fall and spring semester.
By Chris Riddle
Clubs Editor
crid4970@gc.peachnet.edu

The annual President’s Conference took place on Feb. 22 in the Lanier ABC room. The conference was led by Tony Bolden, president of Tony Bolden & Associates, who is a motivational speaker and author.

There were approximately 60 people present at the conference and over 15 clubs represented.

Bolden came to speak to the presidents of all the clubs on the campus. “I’m going to be talking to the leaders [the presidents] about leadership,” said Bolden. “I really just want to share some of the things I’ve learned in my roles as a leader.”

“My biggest goal today is to inform everyone in this room how important they are and the work that they do here is so valuable and to not stop doing it. Don’t be discouraged by the disappointments that you experience,” said Bolden.

Bolden was introduced by Noah Anderson, president of SGA.

Bolden talked about the importance of leadership skills and how important our leaders are not only to the college but also to the community and society. He also mentioned what it meant to be an effective leader and how you could be one in your club.

He also gave tips from two of his own books, 3 Steps on the Road to Success and The 9 Signs of Effective Leadership.

Bolden achieved what he set out to do through a convincing speech that showed his own experiences and stories from his own life.

When asked about Bolden’s presentation Stacey Koffman, assistant professor of art, replied, “I thought he was very good, I think the students got a lot out of it. I liked some of the quotes...it was interesting and it kept our attention.”

Antonio Raphiec, a pre-med major, said “Actually I was pretty surprised. I didn’t know what to expect at first but then, he had some good points and it was enjoyable to listen to. I enjoyed it.”

ACS - Computer Club
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Contact: Tom Burns
tburns@gc.peachnet.edu

Ambassadors
Meet: Thu., 11 a.m.
Lanier AB in Student Center
Contact: Michelle B. Brown
mbrow@gc.peachnet.edu

Art Club
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Music/Art Building-120
Contact: Kelly Wagoner
kmwaggoner@hotmail.com

Band
Meet: Tue. & Thu., 1 p.m.
Music & Art Building
Contact: Andrew Santander
asantander@gc.peachnet.edu

Baptist Student Union
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Lanier ABC Student Center
Contact: Daniel Burbank
danielburbank@hotmail.com

Black Student Asso.
Meet: Mon., 12 p.m.
Lower Faculty Dining Room
Contact: Telly Jones
jones3197@gc.peachnet.edu

Campus Crusade for Christ
Meet: Mon. 12 p.m.
Lanier ABC Student Center
Contact: Sarah Booker
sbooker@gc.peachnet.edu

Chorus
Meet: Tue., Thu., 11 a.m.
Art and Music Building
Contact: Lynn Lathem
llathem@gc.peachnet.edu

Cross Cultural Connections
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
ACAD 3-185
Contact: Belinda Sauert
bsauert@gc.peachnet.edu

Politically Incorrect Club
Meet: Mon., 12 p.m.
ACAD 2-103
Contact: Douglas Young
dyoung@gc.peachnet.edu

Education Club
Meet: Tue., 12 p.m.
Lower Faculty Dining Room
Contact: Michelle S. Brown
mbsbrown@gc.peachnet.edu

Engineering Club
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Science Building-228
Contact: Jeff Turk
jturk@gc.peachnet.edu

Film & Literature
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Library-220
Contact: Jason Mosser
jmosser@gc.peachnet.edu

Future Health Professionals
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Science Building - 203
Contact: Jim Konzeman
jkonzelman@gc.peachnet.edu

Lating Student Association
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
RELP Office in Student Center
Contact: Lee Anzola
lanzola@gc.peachnet.edu

Math Club
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
ACAD 3-1361
Contact: Elie Vivian
Evivian@gc.peachnet.edu

Physics Club
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Science Building - 228
Contact: J.B. Sharma
jsharma@gc.peachnet.edu

President’s Council
Meet: TBA in Spring
Contact: Michelle S. Brown
mbsbrown@gc.peachnet.edu

Second Wind
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Lower Faculty Dining Room
Student Center
Contact: Brenda Adams
bdadams@gc.peachnet.edu

Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association
Meet: TBA in Spring
Contact: John Allgood
jall70@gc.peachnet.edu

Skin Divers Club
Meet: 1st and 3rd Wed. of every month -136
Contact: Ron Clay
rclay@gc.peachnet.edu

Students for Environmental Awareness
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
Science Building - 136
Contact: C. C. Chapman
cccchapman@gc.peachnet.edu

Students Government Association
Meet: Wed., 12 p.m.
SGA office - Student Center
Contact: Noah Anderson
noahanderson@hotmail.com

Students in Free Enterprise
Meet: Fri., 12 p.m.
ACAD 3 - 156
Contact: Katie Simmons
ksimmons@gc.peachnet.edu

Visual Arts Magazine
Meet: Mon., 11 a.m.
Art and Music Building
Contact: Anne Bessac
abessac@gc.peachnet.edu
The newest club to form at GC is growing rapidly and becoming very active on campus and off.

The GC Skin Divers, formerly known as the Scuba/Snorkeling Club, has already participated in one dive and is planning more for the upcoming semesters.

Over spring break, March 8-10, the club attended a dive at the Vortex Spring and the Cypress Spring, which is located about 30 miles above Destin. There were eight people who went. Two of the club’s members participated in an ocean dive on that Friday. The club members camped out at the Cypress Spring. Pictures of this dive will be up soon on the club’s website according to the club’s advisor Ron Clay, assistant professor of Biology.

“We had a great time, considering it was our first trip,” said Clay.

“It got us motivated to do more.”

The club is planning their next dive during Maymester.

The club is also arranging scuba certification classes for the members of the club with the North Georgia Dive Center. The classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-10 p.m. and are expected to start in the latter half of the spring term this year. The class will include open-water check-out dives in the Florida Keys around the second week of May according to Clay.

The cost of the taking this class will range from $300-$350, this cost includes everything you will need including your Sea Card Certification which will not expire. The club is hoping to get funds from student activities to cover the cost of lodging and boat rides to and from the dive site. Anyone who is interested in receiving a scuba certification needs to contact Clay (rclay@gc.peachnet.edu).

The club recently decided on its officials also. The President is Pauline Peters, the Vice-President is Matt Anthony, the Secretary is Jon Johnson and the Treasurer is Matthew Dye.

The club has grown to include approximately 30 members.
The dreaded "F-word." It's probably not what you are thinking, but it's what Professor Susan Macfarland, director of GC's Women's History Committee, calls feminism. March is Women's History Month, and Macfarland believes that many people have a negative attitude about the celebration because of the negative images associated with feminism. GC's Women's History Committee hopes to dispel some misconceptions about Women’s History with the campus events that they have planned in celebration of the month. Committee members include GC professors Macfarland, Diane Cook, Michallene McDaniel, Rachelle Wadsworth, and Caitlin Wills Toker. Wadsworth believes that "the committee has successfully put together a month filled with interactive sessions that will both enlighten, inform, and encourage further discussion."

The events began Tuesday, March 12, with a showing of the video Killing Us Softly. The video shows how seemingly innocent advertising is full of sexist images of women. It was shown in the Continuing Education building's auditorium at 7 p.m. It will be shown for a second time on March 25 at noon in the CE auditorium. It lasts for 30 minutes, and there will be time for a discussion, led by McDaniel and Cook, following the video.

A forum on sexual violence was held Wednesday, March 13, at noon. Members of the Rape Response Team spoke about sexual violence. Cook says that Rape Response "is a nonprofit agency that provides services to rape victims and also educates students and the community about sexual violence." The goal of the forum was to provide an inviting environment in which students could learn about rape as well as ask questions and discuss the topic. This discussion took place in the CE auditorium.

On March 20, also at noon in the CE auditorium there will be a lecture on women in history. It will be comprised of two parts. The first will be conducted by Wadsworth, who will be speaking about women who were pioneers in their fields. The second, to be

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**Women of the 21st Century: Statistics**

- Over 84% of women 25 years and older have at least a high school diploma.
- Women receive 54% of bachelor's degrees in the U.S., 52% of master's degrees, and 40% of doctorates.
- Nine out of ten women will work for pay at some time in their lives.
- Women make up almost one half of paid workers.
- Women are the fastest growing segment of U.S. business owners—more than 38% own their own company.
- Georgia ranks 10th out the 50 states in the number of women-owned businesses.
- Women hold 12.4% of board seats in Fortune 500 companies.
- Women make up more than 14% of the armed forces.
- There are currently 60 women in the House of Representatives; 13 in the Senate.
- There are four women in George W. Bush's Cabinet.
- Women comprise more than 24% of U.S. lawyers.
- There are currently two female Supreme Court justices.

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**Women's History Month at a Glance**

By Heather Hodges
Staff Writer
hhod2171@gc.peachnet.edu

In Europe in 1911, the first International Women's Day was proclaimed. However, the United States did not celebrate women until much later in the twentieth century. In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in California celebrated Women's History Week. Just three years later, Congress passed a resolution to establish National Women's History Week, which coincided with International Women's Day. In 1987, Congress resolved to extend the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has issued a resolution for Women's History Month and the President issues a proclamation announcing the commencement of the celebration. This year's national theme is "Women Sustaining the American Spirit" in light of the September 11 tragedies.
International Women's Roundtable

Heather Hodges
Staff Writer
hhod2171@gc.peachnet.edu

Bojana Jonjie and Adel Diedericks are just two of the international students who will be speaking at the International Women’s Roundtable, which is to be held March 27 at noon in the CE building. Jonjie is from Bosnia-Herzegovina; Diedericks is from Johannesburg, South Africa. Each of these women is very happy to have the opportunity to speak to GC students and staff. After six months in the United States, Jonjie hopes that she can inform other students “of the life that Bosnian women have—there is no difference, they have all the opportunities as a male.” Diedericks has been in the United States for nearly two years. She says that “it is important to know that no matter what your sex, your color, or who you are where you are from, what your culture or religion, if you are a woman or a man you deserve the same rights.” She wanted to speak so that she could motivate others to “fight for your rights...and not to be discriminated against.” Both of the women plan on returning to their home countries after completing their educational careers.

Sandra Day O’Connor becomes the first female supreme court judge
1981

Janet Reno becomes the first female Attorney General
1993

Francis Perkins is sworn in as the 1st woman in the US Cabinet
1933

We Can Do It! Women’s divisions of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines are established
1942

Sex discrimination is outlawed by the Civil Rights Act
1964

National Organization for Women is organized
1966

Sally Ride becomes the first American woman to travel in space
1983

The 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth’s reign over Great Britian
2002

at Gainesville College

conducted by Wills Toker, will highlight some of the outstanding women speakers in history. The lecture is to be followed by a forum for questions.

The final celebration will take place in the CE auditorium at noon on March 27, where an International Women’s Roundtable will be held. International students will be present to speak about the state of women in their native countries. They will highlight the differences between women of the United States and women of each of the countries represented. A discussion will follow in which those in attendance can ask questions of the international women.

In addition to the events that will be held in March, there will also be an essay contest open to all students. The essay should highlight a female role model in history or of the present in one thousand words. Entries must be turned in by 5 p.m. on March 30. There will be a cash award of $100 to the winner, to be presented on honors day. For more information, contact Wills Toker at (770) 718-3712.

Everyone is invited to attend the events, which are each expected to last about one hour. MacFarland says that students should attend the events because, in many instances, "students are poorly educated about the women's movement." She hopes that those in attendance can gain a more positive attitude toward the movement and discard former ideas of feminism. Faculty and community members are encouraged to attend as well. And, because men and women must live together in the world, it is important for men to see what the month is all about.

March is a month to celebrate the accomplishments of women and, as McDaniel says, “to focus on topics that have been overlooked historically.” The Women’s History Committee plans to do just this. Wadsworth says, “I think long after Women’s History Month has passed, people will still continue to think of and discuss what they learned - which is the very goal for which we are striving.”

Celebrate the remarkable women of history and of the present; celebrate those who are close to you, as your mother or your sister, and those who you do not know, but who have made a difference in your life. You just might find that March isn’t just about the ‘F-word.”

STUDENT POLL

Is Women’s History Month Still Relevant or Should the Month Focus On More Current Women’s Issues?

"It really needs to focus on current issues, such as maternity leave...and the role of women in the work force and the home.”
Melissa Bryan

“Yes. [Women] have come a long way from... the past where the woman was looked upon as the home wife...Now, especially in Atlanta, we are starting to see women as CEOs.”
Abhishek Singh

“You should never forget the achievements of the past. They should be remembered. Women went through a lot to get the recognition that they deserve.”
Raymond Davis

“I think Women’s History Month is needed now more than ever because we are just now starting to make names for ourselves. I think we need a month to recognize important women of our time and past.”
Leanne Anzola
Bulldogs Give a Surprise

By Nick Brown
Athens Editor
MBRO3114@uga.peachnet.edu

Last year the University of Georgia Men's Basketball team was expected to be one of the SEC's best. With upsets at Florida and Tennessee the Bulldogs had a team that was destined to go places. The Bulldogs slid and only made the cut for the NCAA Tournament based on their RPI ranking. The RPI takes the teams standings, statistics and strength of schedule to give a team a national ranking similar to college football's BCS.

With a second round loss, and the graduation of many of Georgia's top basketball players, dreams of future success seemed lost in the shuffle of hopes for a bright future of the coming football season.

Enter the 2001-2002 Georgia Bulldogs. A team that prior to the current season contained "no-name" players, and was expected to be in the bottom-tier of the SEC. Currently it is on top.

When conference play started January 5, the Bulldogs faced Vanderbilt with only two losses to Hawaii at the Rainbow Classic Final, and Georgia State, who has for two straight years gone undefeated against its interstate rivals.

Since January 5, the Bulldogs have roughed up their SEC opponents going 10-0-5 in February. The Bulldogs have had huge success against their SEC opponents this year with a road win over Florida, a complete sweep of Kentucky, a last second home win over Tennessee, and an overtime victory over South Carolina. The win at Kentucky was only the Bulldogs 3rd win in the series history at Kentucky, and a complete sweep in basketball for the first time since 1983. The win at then No. 2 Florida was Georgia's first victory ever over a team ranked that high, and was Florida's first home loss since they were defeated at home last year by the Georgia Bulldogs.

Bulldogs starters Ezra Williams, Jarvis Hayes, and Chris Daniels, now house hold names, have averaged 17, 18, and 12 points per game. Williams is also 2nd in the SEC for 3-pointers made per game, with an average of 3.1. One thing that cannot be measured is the amount of heart these players have.

At current the Georgia Bulldogs are 21-7 (10-5 conference) in the final week of regular season play. The Bulldogs are tied for first place in the SEC East. With a Florida loss in its final regular season game to Kentucky, and a Georgia win, the Bulldogs will win out the SEC East and get a 1 seed in the SEC Tournament, along with a first round bye.

The Bulldogs are predicted by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution to enter the Southeastern bracket of the NCAA Tournament as a 2 or 3 seed. The SEC Tournament begins March 7 in Atlanta, and the NCAA Tournament, whose Final Four will also be played at the Georgia Dome, begins March 14.

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Monopoly:
It's Not Just A Game Anymore

In recent years monopolies in business have become quite an issue to the common consumer. Consumers' product choices have decreased and often products and information are forced on the consumer without option. If there is no competition, market-value of products and services can be ignored and the consumer can be hurt with price gouging. Lately the problem of monopoly ownership has become such an issue that the government is now stepping in and taking several companies to court.

Under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890 "every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade" was declared illegal. The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was designed to keep companies from buying out their opposition in order to hit the public with over priced products and services. This can be seen in the recent litigation against Microsoft, which has forced their products on consumers by making it the standard software equipment found on almost all pre-built computers around the world.

The threats by the government to break up Microsoft have unfortunately not effected the mindset of other types of businesses that continue in their dishonest practices. This can be seen in the markets of media and communication. Independent media sources have decreased in number. The Federal Communications Center is currently deciding whether to lift a ban on newspaper-broadcast cross-ownership that would surely cause problems with the purity of media. A group of consumers and media advocacy organizations have recently filed a report with the FCC in rebuttal of their possible decision. The report shows that "lifting the ban will trigger a wave of mergers that would compound the economic pressures already weakening journalistic quality and antagonism in the media,... Hundreds of newspapers would quickly merge with TV stations and by the time the dust settled, the number of independent owners of major local media would be slashed by almost one-half."

Several questions have to be asked if the current FCC ban is lifted. Most importantly, what happens if large corporations owning newspaper and broadcast media sources happen to get in some type of trouble, legal or otherwise? Is the news of this properly reported by the media sources this large corporation owns? Or is the issue reported inaccurately or possibly overlooked entirely? Another question posed by many is that if there are media conglomerations, do all of the media sources, newspaper and broadcast, report the news in the same manner, or will variety remain throughout the media sources owned by the same company?

What if the company has political leanings? What happens if the company supports a Democratic candidate, will this cause all the media sources the company owns to report news from a Democratic perspective? Or will the other perspectives still be maintained as well? These are questions that need to be addressed before the ban is to be lifted. The rebuttal to the FCC points out these questions stating that cross-ownership could turn "newspapers from watchdogs into lapdogs, unable to report on or criticize affiliated TV media, particularly when the interests of the cross-owners are most affected. This reduces market incentives for cross-owned broadcast stations to sustain high-quality news and information reporting about the business interests of these companies. Traditional checks and balances disappear under the weight of unified economic interests, and this undermines the behavior and professionalism of reporters."

While media monopolies already need to be looked into independently, a lift of the current FCC ban will only worsen the situation in a drastic manner. The Center of Digital Democracy points out in a recent article that "The number of independently owned TV stations in daily newspapers in most markets, the [FCC rebuffal points out] is quite small. For example, fully two-thirds of the newspaper markets are monopolies, another quarter are duopolies, while the remainder are tight oligopolies. Among broadcast TV markets, one-seventh are monopolies, one-quarter are duopolies, one-half are tight oligopolies, and the rest are moderately concentrated. In the absence of the cross-ownership ban, these levels of media consolidation will only increase."

This issue is extremely important to the continuation of not only a fair and just society, but so that the public receives the truth from media sources, and not fixed or inaccurately reported news. The American public is encouraged to voice opinions, comments, and questions, and can do so at web sites like The Center of Digital Democracy (www.digitaldemocracy.org) and Media Channel (www.mediaclass.org). The situation can best summed up by a quote from the Supreme Court in 1945 explaining that the "widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the people."
ZOSO Shows Their Roots
Led Zeppelin With a Twist

By Nick Brown
Athens Editor
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Most of us reading this article unfortunately missed out on rock 'n' roll. That is, we missed out on the true generation of Rock music. But if you are a fan of what we now refer to as Classic Rock, and more specifically the legendary group Led Zeppelin, then you can now relive the experience that many of us missed.

The band ZOSO, The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience, brings what critics have called “the best tribute act in California (Rock City News, L.A.)” to regions all over the U.S. and Canada. ZOSO was formed in 1995 to bring an accurate portrayal of Led Zeppelin to all of the many fans of the band that were not around during their 12-year span. The four members of ZOSO were selected not only for their music abilities, but for their look and their ability to accurately represent the original members of Led Zeppelin on the stage with their sound and look.

On January 10 ZOSO pulled into Athens, Georgia Theatre to share The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience with the students and locals of the Athens area. The concert was set to go at 10:30, but after speaking with Jimmy Page he told us, “We will probably go on at 11:30 or so.” After begging our newfound friend Jimmy to play Zeppelin’s famous song “Tangerine”, he simply said, “We’ll see,” with a smile and we went our separate ways.

Sometime close to midnight Georgia Theatre was packed and so the lights grew dim. ZOSO hit the stage with immediate energy that sent shock waves into the crowd. I looked around only to see jaws hanging open everywhere I turned. The actions, attitudes and everything about what was happening on stage was a perfect match, and a perfect representation of Led Zeppelin. It was as if they put in a Zeppelin CD in the background. I was filled with awe as I thought to myself that if this was the closest I was ever going to get to seeing Zeppelin, then I was not going away disappointed.

ZOSO is known for the great performances and accurate representation, but they are also well known for always carrying the same incredible intensity into every show, and never skipping tour dates. On top of this, they almost always play a set over 2 hours.

On January 10 we didn’t get to hear “Tangerine”, but that is all right because ZOSO will be returning to the Georgia Theatre on March 13 and April 19 and 20. If you have never seen ZOSO, or missed out on your opportunity to see Led Zeppelin, then don’t let this show slip by you.
Jazz Band & Chorale Strike Up Familiar Notes

By April Landry
Staff Writer
ALAN1524@gc.peachnet.edu

GC hosted its 13th annual Big Band Show on March 1 and 2 in the Ed Cabell theatre. The show was entitled "Just Jazz" and combined the Gainesville College Jazz Band with the Gainesville Chorale.

"This is different from what we usually do because we dance in this show, and the music is much different than what we would sing at a church or concert," said Paula Pattens, a chorus member.

The Chorus pieces ranged from ragtime jazz and showtune vaudeville, to Latin samba. Some audience members might have recognized the tune "People Will Say We're in Love" from the popular musical Oklahoma! Others may have been more familiar with "In My Life" by the Beatles.

"Putting on a show like this is very stressful," said Lynn Latham, chorus director. "I think I lost my sense of humor while trying to get so many things done, but it really pays off in the end."

If Chorus wasn't really your fancy, maybe you preferred the smooth sounds of the Jazz Band, churning out the swinging theme song to Austin Powers, or maybe the theme song to Shaft. If funk really isn't what you were looking for, than maybe you were wowed by Dr. Andrew Santander's exquisite playing ability on the piano to "The Nightmare Fantasy Rag."

"This is the one time out of a year that we get to really cut loose and be crazy," Matt McClure added. "It's fun."

Just A Click Away

By Jennifer Kent

Tired of all those annoying pop-ups? You're crusing, you're searching, and you have work for your English class... this means that you have to do research but how can you find information is all the bottom of the page. The show was entitled "Just Jazz" and combined the Gainesville College Jazz Band with the Gainesville Chorale.

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Five Top Web Sites of the Month:
Something New:
http://www.cc.collegeclub.com/

For Fun:
http://www.thehumorsource.com/

Downloads/Shareware:
http://www.galttech.com/

Study Site of the Month:
http://www.math.com/

Personal Web Site of the Month:
http://hometown.aol.com/volyballsetter8/index.html

We'd like to hear about your personal website. Please contact JKEN7130@gc.peachnet.edu
Mayer Brings Tears to Georgia Theatre
Fans Participate in an Emotional Music Video

By JJ Matthews
Staff Writer
jmat160@gc.peachnet.edu

John Mayer, an outstanding musician and songwriter inching on fame, recorded his first music video at his concert at the Georgia Theatre on February 7, 2002. The concert was unsurprisingly extravagant and he never ceases to amaze. John’s set consisted of everything off of his new album “Room for Squares” and some insightful words in between.

John Mayer formed his unique “Jazzy” style by living in the Atlanta area. Many of his songs revolve around “those Georgia blues,” as some critical listeners in the crowd would comment to their friends who would hear him for the first time.

Writing outstanding jazz and blues riffs, John and his band make the crowd feel their words and notes as they play flawless love songs. With love, laughter, and a sense of freedom grazing through the crowd, there is no question that John knows how to entertain. He lets his expression tell what the song is symbolizing, showing how much he means what he is playing. The songs that John writes are not just for entertainment, they are a reflection of how extremely beautiful, and at the same time cruel, life can be. John’s songs also share with each and every one of his listeners an understanding and superb depiction of how college life and love are hard to deal with.

It is hard to imagine that John’s concerts are all acoustic singer/songwriter style (with some stratocasters thrown in here and there), but yet the crowd treats it like it’s a huge rock and roll concert. With their tears, deafening screams, dancing, alcohol, and other unmentionable aspects.

Unsurprisingly, the deafening cries and screams of the fans brought John back to the stage twice after he said goodnight. The video cameras and producers’ instructions to go crazy during the shooting of the music video were not relevant at all considering the affect he has on the crowd at every concert.

The concert ended with a beautiful acoustic love song that left everyone in the crowd with an open mouth and a feeling of content. With every eye filled with tears and satisfaction, and some with a better understanding of life and love, the fulfilled crowd parted in the street outside of the theatre, boasting about how much fun they had, for hours afterward, trying to relive the experience of the unforgettable concert.

Before the concerts John Mayer brought tears to Georgia Theatre fans participating in an emotional music video.

John Mayer solemnly plays his guitar making audience members emotional, while filming a music video at the Georgia Theatre.

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1. Before the storm
2. "Sh'll be there ___ 3 p.m."
3. Seven-year __
4. Lassie
5. Opposite of "Yes"
6. There are seven
7. Begun! (Imperative verb)
8. Mentally exhausted
9. State next to California
10. Without people
11. A ballerina dances here
12. Madman
13. Willy
14. Long ago times
15. Hair color
16. Rose
17. The highest point
18. Spain and Portugal
19. To nest
20. The conscience
21. Carmen, e.g.
22. Bathe
23. Obliquely
24. Tibetan priest
25. Unwoolly
26. "In the same book"
27. A clam
28. Overly showy
29. A tide
30. Present indicative of he
31. Prow
32. A major star
33. Hair style
34. Eye ailment

35. A people of Northern Thailand
36. Sicker
37. Island in the New Indies
38. A 360° slice
39. A traditional saying
40. A dot
41. Singing brothers
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Editorial

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

Some of the students that are considering attending Gainesville College often have a bad opinion of our campus and fail to realize what a beneficial learning environment this institution really is. Students in this community often look at GC as the school they go to because they didn't get accepted into their dream college or as any easy way to get a degree.

The reputation GC has gained in recent years is more than enough to disprove all these misconceptions. The GC campus may be a small, non-residential one, but it provides students with all the elements one needs to achieve a two year degree. Recent efforts have also been made to allow students to obtain a Bachelors degree from North Georgia College without even leaving our humble campus. What other two year college in Georgia can offer an opportunity such as this?

The faculty and staff here are also more than capable of providing an education that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Many myths float around about GC being any easy college and some like to refer to it as “13th grade.” However, once enrolled, many students quickly change their minds. The only educational difference between our college and any other in the state is the ratio of students to teachers. The small (but ever growing) number of students enrolled provides a closer relationship between the students and the faculty and staff. Unlike students at UGA or Georgia State, we have names and are not identified solely by our social security number. Studies have shown that students in a small, nurturing institution excel academically and socially at the same, if not higher level than those who attend classes in auditoriums.

Aside from the academic aspect, GC provides students with great extracurricular activities. The clubs and organizations on campus offer students a chance to explore their interests and express their opinions. Intramural sports are offered on campus and are taken quite seriously by those who participate. Our school may not play their games in front of large crowds and in front of cameras, but does that make it any less gratifying?

The fine arts programs here at GC are also rated highly on a state wide level. The Gainesville Theater Alliance, which is fueled mainly by GC students, holds a high reputation among many other theater programs in Georgia. Students who participated in GTA or any other fine arts program here excelled in other colleges and prospered in their career endeavors.

One of the other highlights of attending this tiny campus is knowing that there is always someone around that you know and new friendships are made everyday. It’s a little like Cheer’s, everybody knows your name. Finding a friend on campus here is easy, unlike a larger campus where meeting up with a friend for lunch is like playing “Where’s Waldo?”. This close knit campus environment may not be the best choice for everyone, but it beats being “the kid that sits in the fourteenth row of my sociology class.”

So, be proud to be a GC student. Attending this college should not feel like a punishment or a last resort. Enjoy your days here because pretty soon you’ll be out in the real world. Your name will become a number and your job will turn you into “the guy in the office beside me”.

The Student Newspaper of Gainesville College

Adverting Information
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Writers Wanted...
The Compass welcomes articles and letters from faculty, staff and students. All submissions will be printed on a timely and space-available basis. Submissions should be in Word format and delivered to the Compass office or emailed to JSTA2223@ge.peachnet.edu. Any piece not meeting these criteria are not considered by the Editorial Board of the Compass to be valid and will not be printed.

Questions/Comments?
If you would like to respond to or voice your opinion on any of the articles that appear in The Compass, please send an email to Jessica Stanifer at JSTA2223@ge.peachnet.edu or pass by.
Have You Hugged Your Custodian Today?

If you are like me, your email inbox is inevitably filled with all these messages with this strange acronym in front of it, FWD. The development of email will have a significant place in the history books. I’m sure it will be right up there with the pony express.

However, one major drawback to this great invention of the twentieth century is forwarding “junk” onward to everyone that has ever been in your address book. However, just like you get that occasional love letter in your snail-mail mixed-in with all the credit card applications and promotional fliers occasionally one of those FWD messages provide inspiration and encouragement, one with a moral lesson. I received one such email last week. Here’s the reader’s digest version. An instructor walks into his class one day and announced a pop quiz.

The question was “What is the name of the lady who cleans this building?” Everyone in the class failed the quiz. Now, why is that significant? To me, it is a reminder to think about how many “overlooked” people there are that help me to be a success. Think about it.

Let’s evaluate your experience to this point at Gainesville College. Before you took your first step into a classroom you had to be admitted to the College, you may have even had to take placement tests.

Then, you were advised, registered, you had to get the all important parking permit and college ID. You get to class and have that first assignment due. You have to go to the library, use a computer, maybe you even went to see one of the math or writing tutors. Oh, and let’s not forget the person who cleaned all those buildings you do those things in.

The faculty member that encouraged or mentored you or was a big cutup in the classroom will probably be who you think about first in reflecting back on your time spent here at GC. However, take a moment to give a word of appreciation to the “behind the scenes” folks who make it possible. GC has had a phenomenal growth in students over the past few years. This increase has caused many growing pains. There has not been the funding to increase staffing positions and many of our staff have been stretched to the limit. Take a moment today to say thanks to the “lady that cleans the building.”

Money Ain’t a Thang

We devote every day to furthering our education so that we can provide another pointless office job to the world. What does this accomplish? If money is so unimportant, then why don’t we do something worthwhile? People seem so stressed out and angry with the homework and studying they have to perform in order to maintain the good grades they aspire for. Why? If I were to die tomorrow this is not the place I would want to be.

Our society is so selfish and thirsty for more and more technology that could ultimately take us over and cause complete mayhem. The motive for this does not make any sense to me. People strive for happiness all of their lives, but they seem think that happiness is reflected by how much money they can obtain and spend on other selfish things like cars and apartments. It almost seems that money is the only thing that matters, and that is amazingly sad considering we could do so much more for the world by not devoting our lives to a pointless green piece of paper.

It’s very funny that we say money is not important, but we make it our number one priority. Mostly because we are afraid of what might happen if people knew we were poor. This is a very ironic statement because most of the people that have graduated and moved on are still trying to figure out why they still aren’t fulfilled even though they have a lot of money.

I really do not know why I am here. I guess it’s just to make other people happy. I wonder what I will reflect on when I am older. For example, will I be proud of myself for sitting at a desk writing countless articles about things I don’t really care about in the first place, and sucking up to a higher power so that I just might get promoted to the person that gets to order people around and bathe in their greed? The whole concept of wanting to be better than someone else so that I can make more money and then spend the rest of my life figuring out why I’m still not happy sounds pretty ridiculous. This could be the case for anyone, and I’m almost positive that this is the case for more than half of the people that go to college. Even though it might seem that we are accomplishing something, we are really just wandering around pointlessly creating a false sense of happiness that really doesn’t fulfill us in the first place.

The Compass Wants You . . .

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Send your comments to: sste1373@gc.peachnet.edu
The Master Plan: GC's Future

What Will The Benefits of a New and Improved Campus Be?

By Sean Couch
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A congested Student Center is a major gripe of GC students. "All of the chairs are usually taken," sophomore Mandy Nichols said. "It is absolutely impossible to study there." Vice President of Student Development and Alumni Affairs Tom Walter is at the forefront of the project that will extend the Student Center back into the parking lot and renovate the building's interior. The only problem lies in getting the project approved by the Board of Regents.

"The project request must be submitted to the Board of Regents and approved before any action can be taken," Walter said.

Renovations to the center fall under the category of a "minor" project (any project under $5 million). GC's request would go onto a waiting list with other institutions' minor projects before approval. The process could take anywhere from two to three years to complete. There is a "fast-track" list for project requests that can help the project move along rapidly. "It is possible for the project to be approved faster, but only if the necessity is there," Booth said.

The Master Plan's crowning jewel is a proposed academic building that would sit on land that is now occupied by Landrum Education Drive, which is going to be removed to make way for an I-985 access road.

"The new academic building proposal is a major (above $5 million) project, so the waiting list process usually takes between four and five years," GC President Martha Nesbitt said.

The projected price tag for the approximately 100,000 square-foot building is $12-14 million. Over 30 classrooms would be housed in the new structure, which should be the home of the business and humanities divisions.

"Since we hope to make the building a signature structure on campus, the building will be three stories tall, which would be a first for GC," Booth said. "It will definitely be unlike anything on campus."

Proposed features include a computer lab, a screening room for film classes, a 100-plus seat auditorium for speech classes and numerous gathering areas for students.

"The new facilities will be both high-tech and high-touch," Walter said.

With many projects expected to be finished in five to seven years, planners are forced to devise immediate solutions to problems until the Master Plan can be realized.

Despite the Board of Regents' negative attitude towards portable classrooms, Nesbitt believes it may be a necessity if enrollment continues to rise. "I think I could persuade the Board to approve a portable classroom if I have to," Nesbitt said.

A plan proposing that gravel be placed in the dirt parking lot adjacent to the Continuing Education building will be submitted in the fall to address student concerns over parking conditions.

New heating and air-conditioning units are being evaluated for ACAD I, and the Fitness Center will soon be air-conditioned as well. "Providing air-conditioning in the Fitness Center will lay to rest some health concerns and allow the facility to stay open after 1 p.m. during the summer," Nesbitt said.

Growing pains are to be expected, but two facts are guaranteed when looking to the future. Fall semester will bring with it new students and a new era for GC.

Time is not going to stand still, and neither is Gainesville College.