Honor's Day at Gainesville College is always a memorable event for those receiving awards, as well as for the family and friends who are invited to share in this special time.

On Wednesday April 14 at noon, Gainesville College faculty and staff, students and family members gathered in the gym to celebrate the presentation of honors to the students and faculty of GC. Tom Walter, vice president of student development, Michael Stoy, vice president for academic affairs, President of GC Martha Nesbitt and dean of the faculty, and Marshall of the College Steve Blair were on hand to announce the many students who received honors and then present them with their awards.

Continued on Page 10

Traffic Expansion Threatens Gainesville College

By Blake Duncan
News Editor
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How would you like to spend an extra one hundred or more hours in traffic next year, just trying to get to Gainesville College's Oakwood campus? That is just one of the myriad possible outcomes if a zoning and development project proposed for the Mundy Mill Road/McEver Road intersection becomes a reality. The proposal would add over 2,500 residential buildings such as single family homes, townhouses and apartments, along with at least one grocery store and two or three “big box” retailers such as Home Depot, Target, or Lowe’s. Over one million square feet of office and retail space is included in the proposal, which would utilize over 600 acres of land.

The land-development program was proposed by REL Properties of Decatur, a firm led by former DeKalb County Commissioner Robert Lanier. REL Properties developed Friendship Farm, a medium sized subdivision on Friendship Road in southern Hall County. Rezoning and annexation requests have already been filed by the firm and are expected to be considered by the Gainesville City Council in June.

Students Enjoy Spring Fling

Kanesha Bailey (left) and Daniele Mays race to the end of the Bungee Run during GC's Annual Spring Fling on April 7.

Full Story on Page 7

Continued on Page 3
Tan, Harbert Top Speakers

By Michele Hester
Editor-in-Chief
ahes2131@gc.peachnet.edu

For those of you who believe that the Introduction to Human Communication class (COMM 1100) should not be a requirement in Gainesville College’s curriculum, Dathan Harbert and Victoria Tan could most likely present an effective argument proving that you are wrong.

Harbert and Tan were the first place winners of the 2004 Gainesville College Speech Contest held on April 2 in the Continuing Education auditorium.

The contest, sponsored by the GC Department of Communication and Sigma Chi Eta, GC’s Communication Club, allowed 16 COMM 1100 students to go head-to-head in verbal combat.

With topics ranging from Mars exploration, to the art of Tae kwon do and the rodeo, the contest judges, made up of four GC professors and two students, were in for a variety of well-rehearsed presentations.

Of the six winners, five were students from Ray-Lynn Snowden’s classes.

Each first-, second- and third-place winner received a cash prize donated by McGraw Hill publishers, and every participant received a “buy-one-get-one-free” coupon for The Oaks Miniature Golf on McEver Road.

Nearly 100 students and their families, as well as faculty and staff attended the contest. Everyone who attended placed their names in a bag for a drawing that was held prior to the winners being announced.

Outback Steakhouse in Gainesville donated five gift certificates for one free Bloomin’ Onion appetizer. GA Nails and Tan donated a $20 gift certificate. Allison Ainsworth contributed a Mary Kay gift basket, and Elegant Expressions, the cafe at GC, donated a $25 gift certificate.

The Compass needs writers, editors, photographers, artists and layout designers for fall. Contact Jack Howland at compass@gc.peachnet.edu. Scholarships are available.
Population Increase Will Affect GC

Continued from Page 1

The Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center must first review the proposal, based solely on the size and scope of the project.

The land in question is owned by the Bagwell family and has been in their possession since the early 1900s. Gainesville attorney W. A. Bagwell said that Lanier and REL made an offer that "just got our attention."

The Gainesville City Council approved the development and building of a 1,100-acre community on Old Cornelia Highway, but the project was never completed.

Augie Deaugustinis, president of the Hall County United Neighborhood's Advisory Council, writes that "Gainesville residents need to brace for the onslaught of a major influx of new residents." That same belief may be shared by Oakwood residents, who will feel the majority of the traffic impact.

The I-985 interchange in Oakwood is already a busy place. With the possibility of 2,500 new homes, and at least one or two cars per household, the number of vehicles using that particular stretch of road in the morning and evening rush hours will increase by 3,000 to 6,000 more cars.

Deaugustinis laments the addition of new traffic, saying that, while Hall County might be ready for the tax revenue generated by a 2,500-home community, the roads are not ready and such an increase in traffic will most likely adversely affect out way of life.

He questions Hall County's preparedness for such a community, citing the almost inevitable increase in air pollution and the probable need for road work and the installation of new facilities such as water, sewage and electricity, calling it another incursion of expense for local taxpayers.

Traffic, though, is not the only issue. Hall County has, in past years, used the estimate of 1.4 new students arriving with each new household.

With this proposal, the number of new students entering the Hall County and Gainesville City school systems would be somewhere around 3,500. To manage such inflation in the student population, Hall County would most likely have to build two to four new schools, a spending increase that would come from already regionally located taxpayers.

Since Gainesville College is an open-admissions school, the possibility exists for 1,000 or more new students to seek an education at the main campus. Classes and parking spaces are limited at the Oakwood campus and the addition of hundreds or thousands of new students would only increase the strain on an already taut scheduling system.

GC currently has a full student parking capacity of 1,543 spaces, with 31 administration parking spaces, 35 handicapped and visitor spaces and 216 faculty spaces for a total of 1,825 total parking spaces.

One thousand more cars would place a serious strain on parking and on arrival times for students with classes scheduled toward late morning and early afternoon.

Award-Winning Literary Magazine Is Now Available For All GC Students

By Jesse Turcotte
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The 2004 Chestatee Review, the award-winning literary and art magazine featuring exclusively Gainesville College authors and artists, was released on Thursday, April 22. The magazine, named Chestatee Review in 1997 (formerly Perceptions), contains two short stories and a number of poems, including the three poems and one short story that recently won awards in Gainesville College’s literary contest, and an interview with Ms. Dorothy Blais, an accomplished GC literature and creative writing professor.

The publication has won several awards since its conception in the late 1980s as Perceptions, including 2nd and 3rd places in the Southern Literary Festival and in the Community College Humanities Association’s Literary Magazine Competition.

The winners of the literary contest were chosen by off-campus published writers hired by the Literature and Film Club. The remainder of the literature featured in the publication, as well as all of the artwork, was chosen by the editorial staff of the Chestatee Review: students Jason Hanline and Claudia George, and GC professor of English and creative writing Tom Sauret.

Most of the published stories and poems are the products of assignments in creative writing classes at GC, just as most of the visual artwork submitted to the Chestatee Review was the result of students’ hard work in GC’s computer graphics classes.

"But," commented Jason Hanline, editor of the publication, "Anyone can submit." Hanline added about the artwork submissions this year, "We were hoping for more submissions from photography, painting, and 3D."

Those of us who are artists and author should keep these facts in mind. The deadline for short stories and literature for the 2005 Chestatee Review will be in January of that year, and the deadline for art will be in February. Also, a contest will be held for the artwork on the Review’s cover, with a first prize of $100 cash.

And what is the best thing of all about the Chestatee Review? It’s free to all GC students. Pick one up in Academic II room 130, Sauret’s office.
Firecrackers Cause Small Scare on GC Campus

By Mary Reddy
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The afternoon of March 19 sounded more like the Fourth of July to Marion Darracott, Head of Security at Gainesville College. Darracott is certain that he heard firecrackers on campus that spring day.

Students Juan Alvarez and Justin Freeman recall that they too heard what could have been firecrackers that day.

"I was on patrol and I heard what sounded like firecrackers popping. The noise came from the direction of the Music Building," Darracott said.

When he drove into the parking lot next to the Music Building, he did not see anyone who looked suspicious, but a male student approached and told Darracott that the person with the firecrackers was in a silver car.

Darracott then began to drive around near lot K, near the Music Building, and heard the firecrackers again. This time, Darracott said, "They were coming from lot K, near Academic II."

Upon pulling his security truck into lot K, Darracott spotted a male in a silver car eating a sandwich. Darracott did not "accuse the young man of anything."

Instead he simply said, "Promise me that I won't hear any more firecrackers." The young man agreed and Darracott left. "I am not in the business of accusing people without proof," said Darracott.

Interested in writing for The Compass?
Contact Jack Howland at
compass@gc.peachnet.edu.
GC Clubs Invite Local Children to Egg Hunt

On April 7, Gainesville College Ambassador Angel Osbourne helped local kindergartners find eggs at the Annual GC Easter Egg Hunt. Many clubs and organizations across campus donated candy-filled plastic eggs, as well as time to help host this fun event.

Students Awarded for Work on Literary Magazine

From left, Heather Daniels, Angelina Bellebuono, Jason Hanline, Melissa Turner, Claudia George, Professor Tom Sauret and Erin Armstrong each played an important part in the production of the Chestatee Review. The reception to present the literary magazine to GC was April 23 at 1 p.m.

Phi Theta Kappa Inducts 31 New Members

Phi Theta Kappa is a prestigious honors society recognizing excellence at two-year colleges. Membership is based primarily upon academic achievement. Members must have completed at least 25 hours of course work toward an associate degree program, have a grade point average of 3.6 and enjoy full right of citizenship. To remain a member in good standing, the student must maintain a GPA of 3.3.

On March 31, the Gainesville College Foundation honored the newest inductees with a reception in the Continuing Education building. Janice Nylander, Secretary of the Division of Humanities & Fine Arts was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Phi Theta Kappa for her continuing service to the honor society throughout many years. Christy Yeager and Ray Lynn Snowden made the presentation of the certificate to Nylander.

Below is a list of all Phi Theta Kappa inductees for Fall 2003 and Spring 2004.

Women Leaders Honored During Luncheon

By Michele Hester
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As a conclusion to Women's History Month at Gainesville College, the Office of Minority Affairs and Multi-Cultural Programs hosted a luncheon to celebrate outstanding women leaders in the community. The luncheon, which took place on April 2 in the Continuing Education building's foyer, was held in memory of Frances Meadows who served GC as assistant director of financial aid until 1999.

When Financial Aid Administrative Assistant Alissia Scott spoke of Meadows during the luncheon, she said, "She was a woman of many accomplishments."

In 1992, Meadows was elected as the first African-American to sit as a Hall County Commissioner. Of the 130 honored guests who attended this event, 23 outstanding GC students were invited and received awards for their contribution to their classroom and community. To be nominated, students had to have a 3.0 grade point average and be active in their community, as well as in their schools.

Keynote Speaker Tiffani Cochran, news anchor and reporter from WXIA-TV in Atlanta posed the question, "Isn't it great to wake up everyday and be a woman?" The guests were in agreement. Cochran went on to say, "Believe in yourself and believe in the impossible."

Prior to the luncheon, students could attend a panel discussion with prominent women community leaders and a seminar focusing on career opportunities "Outside the Box."

GC Professor of Religion Teresa Dove-Waters, who conducted the panel, said, "The only thing that limits you is yourself."

The following Gainesville College students were awarded for their commitment to themselves, their school and their community:

Thuy Thanh Nguyen
Yajing de Haan-Huang
Drew-Feng Cheng
Wing Yu Cheng
Janiece Baptiste
Amanda Teasley
Latoshia Long
Carla Bray
Pascha Lyles
Karen Torres
Liliana Lopez
Laura Balderas
Alondra Campa
Naseem Rita Kazemi
Linda Pelcastre
Erica Rush
Michele Hester
Katrina Worthington
Kristi McCook
Julie Renee Hill
Jennifer Ann Gravitt
Lexi Turner
Riddhi Patel

Qi Gong and Dream Exploration Seminars Offered at GC

By Jessica Bougher
Staff Writer
aboug9574@gc.peachnet.edu

Qi Gong and Understanding Your Dreams are not listed as required classes for any program of study at Gainesville College. In fact, they sound more like classes being offered by a more exotic institution of higher learning; perhaps the infamous Hogwarts Academy of the Harry Potter stories. While these classes are not a required part of any curriculum at Gainesville College, and offer no credits towards graduation they are available to students and faculty alike each semester.

Dr. Joy Evans of the Counseling and Testing Center offers these workshops every semester as part of the College Survival Series. Attending these workshops adds an extra dimension to your education and experience at Gainesville College without increasing your homework load. Held during the activity hour, there is little chance of conflict with class schedules. These workshops last about an hour and leave the attendees with tools and an experience that lasts a lifetime.

Qi Gong pronounced "che gong" translates to Qi = Energy + Gong = Movement. Qi Gong began as an ancient primitive form of animism or imitation of animal forms. The Chinese believed that the spirit of the divine was reflected in the movements of animals. The exercises were graceful imitations of the natural movements of the animals. Qi Gong later evolved into forms of Taoism and Confucianism becoming extremely philosophical having to do with balance in life and respecting the mind, body and spirit.

The exercises in Qi Gong are tailored towards the individual's need or ailment and can be completed in less than a minute. The simplicity of the Qi Gong and the fact that no equipment or extensive preparation is required makes Qi Gong an excellent stress relief tool for the individual any time and anywhere. Qi Gong is described as a large umbrella with Tai Chi being but an offshoot or rib in that umbrella. The difference is that Tai Chi is a series of 105 forms or movements done in a sequence that resembles a graceful dance.

As for the Understanding Your Dreams workshop, most everyone has had a dream or two that left them wondering what it meant. And a dream is never just a dream; as Dr. Evans explained, "dreams are] a part of a person's overall psyche and overall experience of life. Many messages on many levels can come through dreams." The workshops guide the individual towards interpreting the dreams for themselves rather than having someone else tell you what it means.

A person wanting to remember their dreams may consider keeping a pad and pen by their bed, or a tape recorder to make notes upon waking. By telling one's self before going to sleep that you will remember your dreams you increase the likelihood that you will in fact do so. All of the details may not be apparent when you first wake up, but may be remembered throughout the day.

For more information about these workshops or to make an appointment with Dr. Evans to discuss them individually, call or visit the Counseling and Testing Center located in the Student Activities Center at (770) 718-3660.
On April 7, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) threw the annual Spring Fling on the grassy area beside the volleyball court. Last year the Spring Fling was forced inside the Student Activities Building due to storms, but it turned out to be the perfect day to hold the event outside.

Kyle Davis, 21, a senior majoring in Early Childhood Education, said, "I have attended every Spring Fling for the past three years. This year's Spring Fling was off the hook. I mean, I had the best time enjoying the nice weather and activities provided by the Campus Activities Board."

The CAB has been planning the Spring Fling since the beginning of the school year, and the event was a success. Activities included a bungee run, free temporary tattoos and a moonwalk.

Donnell "Pops" Moorehead said they served about 325 lunches of hamburgers and chips. Many students who arrived late did not get any lemonade and had to drink water or buy drinks from a nearby vending machine.

Jason Kidder, from the Smith Agency which provided the Totally Tattoos, was busy the entire three hours giving tattoos. He also broke up a small fight between two students, and requested to come back next year.

Richard Kodak, 19, a freshman majoring in Criminal Justice, said, "I enjoyed helping to plan the Spring Fling."

Brenda Adams, CAB advisor, said, "It was very successful. We seemed to have good participation the entire time."

Jason Kidder, right, gives sophomore William Mellette a temporary airbrushed tattoo.

Photos by Kelly Hester
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LIVE it UP!
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GC Panel Debates Idea of Gay Marriage

By Heather Daniels
Arts & Entertainment Editor
hdan6161@gc.peachnet.edu

Marriage: (1) the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual or contractual relationship recognized by law; (2) the state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage.

Marriage and its definition was an important topic being discussed at the panel discussion on same sex marriages in March. A surprising amount of students and professors, about 150 people, made an appearance at the discussion and quite a few had things to say on the subject.

The panel consisted of Humanities and Fine Arts professor Andrew McAlister, Humanities and Fine Arts professor Anita Turlington, Social Sciences professor John Patton, Social Sciences professor Charles Burchfield and Social Sciences professor Kerry Stewart.

The discussion was opened up with each panel speaker telling their views on the subject. McAlister believes that nothing should be unquestionable and the decision on not allowing homosexual marriages would put marriage itself into the unquestionable. Turlington feels that marriage is a Christian right and homosexuality is an indirect disobedience to God. Patton says that divorce is a much bigger issue than same sex marriage and that “Those without sin cast the first stone.” Stewart believes the debate is about civil union, not a religious marriage.

After the panel speakers gave their thoughts on the issue, the floor was open to anyone in the audience to ask questions and make any comments. CJ Clayton, 19, an Architectural Engineering major said, “People talk about marriage being sanctified, but straight people can go to Vegas and be married in 20 minutes. How is that sanctified?”

Priscilla Dyer, 19, a Nursing major also felt very strongly about what marriage means, “Definitions are constantly changing. Who’s to say we won’t have a different definition of marriage in five years.”

Rumors circulated that the discussion would be picketed and extra security was called in just in case. Sadly, there was no picketing done, but the discussion was mentioned on 550 AM Radio.

GC Faculty panelist discuss their views on gay marriage during a marriage during a forum earlier this semester.
Candida Rae Elkins received the Clark-Theodore Outstanding Non-Traditional Award during GC's Honor's Day ceremony April 14. Elkins was nominated along with Grace Elizabeth Byrd, Seong-Bum Im and Katrina June Worthington.

Continued from Page 1

Hong Kong. Wong entered GC in 2002 as an English as a Second Language Student. He now has a 3.9 GPA. He also received an Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges certificate and is an inductee of Phi Theta Kappa, a prestigious honor society for students who achieve academic excellence.

The Most Outstanding Non-Traditional Student Award went to Candida Rae Elkins, who not only works full time but maintains a 3.95 GPA. She also was recognized as Outstanding Biology Student.

Heather Heyman was presented the Academic Recognition Day Award and was asked by Nesbitt to join the presenters on stage. Heyman also received the Outstanding Student in Geographical Information Science and Outstanding Geology Student awards.

President of the Student Government Association, Justin Freeman, presented the 2003-2004 Ann Matthews Purdy Outstanding Gainesville College Faculty Member Award to Douglas Young.

The Associate Professor of Political Science & History was very surprised at the announcement.

"Now I know why my parents are here," he said.

In a very emotional acceptance speech, Young said, "For probably the first time, my students are seeing Dr. Young speechless."
at Honors Day are ...

Honors Day
Award Winners


Billy Wong, right, accepts the Clark-Theodore Outstanding Traditional Student award from Dean Michael Stoy and Gainesville College Foundation Chairman Tom Calkins. Wong has a 3.9 GPA and can speak five languages. He is majoring in business administration and is a member of the Campus Activity Board, Phi Theta Kappa and is the former president of the GC Asian Student Association.

Heather Heyman received awards for Outstanding Student in Geographic Information Science and Outstanding Geology Student. She was also on the Dean’s List.

Douglas Young, a political science and history professor, was honored by Gainesville College as Outstanding Faculty Member.
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Spring Intramurals Have Come to an End

Well, once again the spring intramurals have come and gone. But not without fond memories for those who participated and enjoyed watching all of the competitors.

Of the six flag football teams that competed only one came out victorious: the Hairy Dawgs. The Hairy Dawgs had to play the Kings for the overall championship, which they won.

Of the four volleyball teams that participated this year, Green Grass, Brown Beef, Purple Puke, and Red Roses, Green Grass went on to win the title of champions for the Spring Intramural Volleyball Tournament.

Green Grass won a total of seven games with two losses, while Red Roses came in second at 6-3. Purple Puke in third with a 5-4 record, and Brown Beef at 0-9.

There were only four teams that played soccer this year for the intramural soccer tournament and the winner of the tournament is a team by the name of the Red Devils. They won three games and lost none.

The second place team, the Giants, won two games and lost one. The third place team, Incatzeca won only one game and lost two. And the last place team did not win any of the three games played.

The five-on-five basketball intramurals had a tie for first place this year. The two teams that tied each other were Where’s the Fire? and Steel Chevy with a 3-1 record for both of them. The team that placed second with a 2-2 record was Dunk-o-Rama. And the two teams tied for last place, both with records of 1-3, were Kill and G-unit Squad.

The track and field intramurals have yet to be completed. The final day of track and field is Monday April, 25 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

In badminton this year, the winner for the female tournament was Thuy Duong, who emerged victorious with three wins and no losses. The second-place title went to Stephanie Clements, who won one game and lost two.

The male badminton champion was Danny Lau, who won all three of his games.

Kam Ho Wong, who was 2-1 in the event, finished as the runner-up to Lau.

Gainesville College Offers Many Summer Camps

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<tr>
<th>Sports Camps</th>
<th>All Camps Include a T-shirt!</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strength &amp; Conditioning Camp (Ages 10-17)</td>
<td>June 7 - 11, Mon - Fri, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Directors: Glenn Preston &amp; Gary Preston, CSCS</td>
<td>$70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strength &amp; Conditioning Camp (Ages 10-17)</td>
<td>June 21 - 25, Mon - Fri, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Directors: Glenn Preston &amp; Gary Preston, CSCS</td>
<td>$70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baton/Dance Camp (Pre-K-12th Grade)</td>
<td>June 14 - 18, Mon- Fri, 1:00 - 5:00 pm</td>
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| Basketball Camp II (6th-8th Grades) | July 12 - 16, Mon - Thurs, 9:00 am - 2 pm, Fri, 9 am - 1 pm |
| Camp Director: Mike Adcock, FBHS, Coach | $85 |
| Basic Cheerleading Camp (1st-5th Grades) | July 12 - 15, Mon - Thurs, 1:00 - 5:00 pm |
| Camp Director: Elaine Bryan | $75 |
| Middle School Cheerleading Camp (6th-8th Grades) | July 19 - 22, Mon - Thur, 1:00 - 5:00 pm |

Sports Camps | All Camps Include a T-shirt! |
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<tr>
<td>Soccer Camp (Ages 7-13)</td>
<td>June 28 - July 1, Mon - Thurs, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Director: Glenn Garnett, GHS Coach</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Camp I (1st-5th Grades)</td>
<td>July 5 - 9, Mon - Thurs, 9:00 am - 2 pm, Fri, 9 am - 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Director: Mike Adcock, FBHS, Coach</td>
<td>$85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball Camp II (6th-8th Grades)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Director: Mike Adcock, FBHS, Coach</td>
<td>$85</td>
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Tennis Camp (Ages 7-17) | July 19 - 22, Mon - Thurs, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm |
| Camp Director: Tammy Green, JHS Coach | $75 |

Dance Lessons

Movement for Little Ones: Ballet (Ages 3-5) | July 12 - 16, Mon - Fri, 9:00 - 10:00 am | $60

Movement for Little Ones: Tap (Ages 3-5) | July 12 - 16, Mon - Fri, 10:15 - 11:15 am | $60
Anime Series Powerful

So I'm not normally the one to write anime reviews, but Anime Club president John Furst and I decided to switch off for the last issue and he's doing the book review.

"Rurouni Kenshin: the Wandering Samurai" is a powerful anime series that will make you laugh and cry at the same time.

It deals with past transgressions and how to cope with them in the present. The series is about a wandering samurai in the Meiji Era of Japan. Eleven years before he was an assassin for the Imperialists during the Japanese Revolution, but tragedy struck and he vowed never to kill again. He disappeared and wasn't seen for eleven years, then mistakenly accused of being the murderer of several people he was forced to clear his name and help capture the true killer. This is where the series begins.

Kenshin is known as "Hitokiri (murderer) Battousai" or "Battosai, the man slayer" from his days as the top assassin during the war. Throughout the series he faces many people who want the battousai dead and he is forced to fight over and over again, but still lives by his vow to never kill again.

Filled with great characters, Kenshin meets many people and becomes friends with a motley crew of characters. Kamiya Kaoru, the owner of the dojo Kenzhi stays at, and ultimately falls in love with. Myojin Yahiko, a boy Kaoru and Kenshin save from a gang and becomes a student at the dojo. Sagara Sanosuke is another fighter from the Revolution who challenges Kenshin to a duel. Kenshin ultimately beats Sanosuke, but they soon form a fast friendship. Kenshin inspires loyalty in all the people he meets throughout his journey and creates lasting relationships.

There are 97 episodes in the series and they can be split up into two different story lines. The first is where Kenshin meets his new friends and you basically learn about each character and fall in love with them. There are fights, but not many that correlate with the other. The second story line is where Kenshin must leave his friends and face his past. He has tough decisions to make and in the end may have to sacrifice his vow to never kill again.

There are four movies that coincide with the series, the most important is "Samurai X" which gives the background on Kenshin and how he became an assassin. I highly recommend this series to anime lovers.

Heather Daniels has been a student at Gainesville College longer than she cares to admit. She has been working with The Compass for the past two years and loves every minute of it. She is an English major and will be graduating in the summer. Her lifelong dream and goal is to be a famous author of fiction.

Horoscope Ad Libs:
Fill in the underlined blanks with your words and fulfill your own damn destiny!

ARIES: Relationships with Thor may (dissipate) but there will always be (Balder), the god of (innocence) and light. (Balder) is a handsome youth with (blue eyes) and golden-red (hair), "which radiates the beams of the (sun) and (warms) the hearts of men." And this (hunky) Norse god has an equally (hunky) twin brother (Hödur). Double your pleasure with double the gods.

TAURUS: When you (see) him do not let him leave your (sight). He is the (one). You can find (him) at the (mall), it's a guy. It may take you a while to get to the center of this (tootsie pop).

GEMINI: It is really hard to look at (myself) in the (mirror) and be happy. It is easier to look at other (people) and envy them for wearing such daring colors.

CANCER: A maternal (instinct) will flare within (you) this month. That is why you should take (Pepcid AC) now in a flavor you can (taste).

LEO: Make sure to order your (food) before you pay and always avert his (eyes).

VIRGO: One day soon a friend will (fulfill) a (promise) but there will be a great number of (empty promises) until then.

LIBRA: (Dinosaurs) have found a way back into your (heart). Make your (dinosaur) know what it means to you with something from (Jared Jeweler). Nothing says, "I'm sorry you became extinct by some form of major catastrophe", like a big fat rock.

SCORPIO: There is only one (thing) you can do this month to rid yourself of (pesky varmints) and I don't know what a (varmint) is to help you out there.

SAGITTARIUS: You will come up with an (idea) to find out what (arthritis) feels like so you gnaw at your (wrst) until your friends make you stop by giving you a (swatch).

CAPRICORN: By the power invested in (me) you have successfully changed your (name) to (Meatball Magic).

AQUARIUS: You will have a (breakthrough) this month! Your calling in (life) is to (propagate) and give life to (children) that you will train to (spell) (ridiculously) long words and you can live vicariously, V-I-C-A-R-I-O-U-S-L-Y, through them.

PISCES: You will keep yourself from (strangling) your highly (talented), just high, clairvoyant. I have this strange (feeling) that these (horoscopes) were written at the last minute because they will be written for the last time. So please don't strangle this (person) or the (Pegasus) gets it!

Brought to you by Madame Mariqilia, the goddess of horoscopes. She will sadly be leaving us after this year to go on to a higher calling.
A Heavy Cross to Bear

Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ” is a movie that affects each viewer in a different way. A source of controversy months before its Feb. 25 release date, e-mails were flying across the net weeks in advance. People were embroiled in heated debates over the possible anti-Semitic overtones of this movie. The movie’s producers worried about the reception this intensely controversial movie would receive. After the release, Christian radio shows were a flurry of debates concerning age-appropriate viewing and the like.

When I finally went to see the movie for myself, I tried to go with an open mind. Having several friends of Jewish descent, I admit to having had discussions about the possible anti-Semitic content. I had decided that I would try to be aware of such messages, open or subliminal, while I viewed. Instead of the hotly-debated anti-Semitism, I found a strong story of political manipulation. The Pharisees were extremely adept in getting what they wanted from the emperor, Pontius Pilate.

I was impressed with Pontius Pilate trying to duck the issue by passing the issue to King Herod, unfortunately that maneuver backfired when the King refused to rule on the matter. Hoping to appease the mob, Pilate ordered Jesus ordered to receive a flogging. Despite the severity of the flogging the Pharisees would not be placated. In a final effort to avoid crucifixion, the Pharisees were given the choice between having the viscous murder Barrabas released, or Jesus. Their choice is historical.

The movie adheres fairly close to the New Testament accounts of this event. The difference is that the movie gives a visual accounting to which book will never compare. Much to be done has been made about the violence punctuating the story. The blood, gore and sheer brutality of this beautiful story leaves one awestruck. The ability of Jesus to withstand the sadistic beatings by the Roman soldier’s causes no doubt as to the intensity of his love for mankind. I felt myself flinching with each and every blow he received.

The Pharisees were almost comical in their performance. Their dramatic actions bordered on over-acting. The refusal of the Pharisees to settle for nothing less than the death of Jesus by crucifixion was reminiscent of modern political shenanigans. Their fear that Jesus and his followers would sway the balance of power they had with the Romans lead them to take extreme action. Perhaps modern politicians could study the Pharisees as a model of what not to do.

I was on the edge of my seat for the entire two hours, and was moved to tears. I could not bring myself to move, or look away from the screen. When the ending credits rolled, the theater was quiet. Nobody made a dash for the door. As the lights came on, people all around were wiping their eyes. As a Christian, I felt the need to go home and reread my bible. My first thought about the whole experience was, If Jesus suffered that for me, how could I ever complain about anything in my life today.

Jessica Bougher is a journalism major at Gainesville College. She has been working with The Compass for one semester. She has written for several publications around North Georgia and has also authored a Web book.

Life According to Blake

Okay, I’ve been given a few hundred words to discuss my views on the world, so I’m going to take them and use them.

I’m a Libertarian, for the most part; I also share some views with the Republican Party, the Constitutional Party, the Green Party, and even the Democratic Party. I’m also anti-war, but not to the point where I’ll say that all war is bad. As my good friend Matt Lewis once said, there are times when war is a necessary evil. Everyone is anti-war, no good-natured human being would wish for war. I’m deeply saddened by the fact that our soldiers continue to die in Iraq, but the fact remains that the Iraqi Conflict has proven to be the most spectacular military effort ever displayed by any army. Already comparisons are being drawn to this war from Vietnam and World War II. We have to remember that for six years in the aftermath of World War II, German rebel groups continued to attack American soldiers stationed there. I believe that we did the right thing by going in there and toppling Saddam Hussein, but the execution of the military efforts since has been fairly poor.

Many people have claimed that we entered Iraq unprovoked, or even without good reason. I’m going to appeal to your open-mindedness and say that, putting aside the WMD claims, Hussein was a masochistic tyrant who killed his own people, and those around him. For America to be the great defenders of justice and the almighty compassionate that we claim to be, it seems illogical that no one could see freeing Iraq from the maniacal whim of this despot as a good thing. We claim to support human rights, yet no one wants us to go to Iraq, or Libya, or anywhere else where human rights are violated on a grand scale everyday. It is my firm belief that, no matter how President Bush handled the conflict, there are people who would say it could’ve been done better. Just be thankful that Al Gore wasn’t in charge of the country.

Okay, on to some random points.

Lately gay marriage has come up as an issue, so I’ll say my piece on it. From a moral/religious standpoint (of course, moral and religious do not have to equate, so don’t even jump on that high horse that non-religious people can have morals, I know they can), I disagree with gay marriage. From a political standpoint, so long as what a person does in the comfort of their own home does not harm anybody’s life, liberty, or property, I cannot oppose it.

Let’s repeal the income tax in favor of a national sales tax. Hopefully this will get rid of the IRS and will shrink down the size of the overly bloated federal government.

Give the states more power concerning education. The federal government already has too much power and it continues to gain more. Plus, the teacher’s union and the NEA are way too powerful as lobbyist groups.

The Atlanta Thrashers will win the Stanley Cup before the Atlanta Braves win another World Series.

Blake Duncan, a third-year sophomore at GC, is majoring in journalism. He hopes to graduate one day and attend NGCSU. With a ferocity unmatched, he hates writing about himself in third person.
The good, the bad and the ugly at GC in 2003-04

Gainesville College reached many goals, exceeded (enrollment) expectations and also weathered many storms during the 2003-2004 school year.

Now, at the end of yet another semester, The Compass would like to pay tribute to the members of our school for all of the fine work they have done and also express our concerns about changes we hope will be made in the future.

As an institution of learning we have accomplished much in the past year, Gainesville College has set the standard among two-year schools and proven itself as an academic powerhouse among the schools both in and outside of the University System.

First off, Gainesville College opened its new and much improved campus in Oconee, student enrollment increased at that campus and it gave students who live in that area a cheaper, more intimate option than The University of Georgia.

The new campus did arrive with problems and criticism, however, the campus was understaffed and over-enrolled. Parking was limited and students seemed dissatisfied with paying the same student activities fee as Oakwood students while receiving far fewer opportunities to participate in such activities.

A new amphitheater was built next to the lower pond and looked great; the college however was criticized by students and faculty for not making enough use of it.

An apartment complex opened up right down the road from our Oakwood campus, Campus Pointe was suppose to serve as a convenient housing location to better serve commuters.

Campus Pointe does serve its purpose and is very active on the GC campus, however its arrival was not a smooth one. Students were not allowed to move into the apartments on time and it is now under its third management.

For most students, the smoking ban began in fall semester. While we all are in agreement that smoking is bad for your health, there was some dissent around the campus about how personal freedoms were being taken away from us.

The decision to ban smoking from campus appeased some, angered other students and did not affect many on campus.

One thing that GC offered that no other surrounding school did was a reasonable price for tuition and fees. Somehow our school provided us with top-notch professors and a first-class education while keeping tuition under a grand.

We personally thank those who make the decision to keep tuition low and hope that the same can be said for future generations who wish to attend this school.

GC allows students to set a foundation for their future academic goals without becoming insanely in debt, the education we receive here is a gift and we should never undermine this facility, its professors or its ability to provide vision and inspiration for expanding minds.
If I Were King of the World...

By Blake Allen

As a registered voter and politically minded young adult I try and stay up to date on happenings around the country while constantly engaging in debate with people both young and old. I thought I would use my last opinion for The Compass to voice my concerns to all those who choose to read, I ask that you read this with an open mind and investigate the claims I am about to make. First and foremost I must say that I am opposed to almost all forms of censorship. The FCC and religious right have tried on many occasions to silence freedom of expression and speech. Somehow it is considered inappropriate for Howard Stern to broadcast a sexually related radio program and for Janet Jackson to expose a breast however one of the most violent films to date “The Passion of the Christ” a blood bath by anyone’s standards escapes an NC-17 rating while parents take young children to see it. Funny isn’t it? While I do not attend church or belong to a certain denomination I hold myself as a spiritual person. While I recognize the fact that there is a God and a need for faith and morality I believe we should focus most of our efforts on how we treat people rather than condemning those who hold different opinions about a deity.

I find it disturbing that for the most part republicans do not favor government interference in our daily lives however they do support a ban on gay marriage. I don’t want to dig into this issue too deep however I would like to point out a couple of times our constitution has been amended: The 13th amendment abolished slavery and the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote. The constitution was amended to free people from oppression, the current proposal to ban gay marriage is a way to separate us and make a group of people feel inferior. I do not support gay marriage, I do support equal rights and fair treatment to all and I am fully opposed to altering our country’s most sacred document when there is not a need to do so. Tax cuts aid in creating or losing jobs, that’s the truth bottom line. If you want more jobs do not cut taxes on the rich. The labor union recently reported the creation of 21,000 jobs last month which contradicts the claim that Bush’s tax plan on the richest 1% of our population would create 500,000 jobs per month.

Capital punishment in its current state is one of my main concerns (I am anti-death penalty). A prisoner is allowed a set number of very pricy appeals that cost us as tax payers more money than it would to house them their entire lives. I am not sympathetic to prisoners who have committed violent crimes. We spend incredible amounts of money to execute someone who ends up getting a shot and goes to sleep. If we are going to keep the death penalty as a punishment we need to make it a little scarier. Personally if I was convicted of a violent crime I would plead for the death penalty so I could be given a shot instead of sitting in a prison with many other violent people for the rest of my life. We should really consider not celebrating his holiday. Three young men in West Memphis Arkansas were convicted of 3 murders they did not commit, they are now sitting in prison (one on death row) because they were wore black clothing and practiced Wicca in a small southern town. Visit www.wm3.com for more details.

It is your right to own a gun, it is also your responsibility to only use that weapon for hunting and self-defense. We are all capable of achieving great things, some of us just have to work harder than others. “Carpe Diem” is a phrase to live by, you should wake up everyday and try to figure out a way to somehow better yourself whether that be physically, mentally, spiritually etc. Idle hands are the devil’s playground and procrastination is the slayer of all dreams. Remember that it is not what you take with you when leave that is important, it’s the legacy you leave behind when you go. Gainesville College has served me well, as I come upon new horizons in life I will never forget the bonds that I have made and the knowledge I have acquired. I would like to thank all those who have supported me along the way. Hopefully this will not be the last time you hear from Blake Allen, goodbye and until next time Stay Gold.

The Ashton-Demi Relationship:  
Is it Socially Acceptable or a Sign of Decline in Our Society?

By Mauraina Bannister
Contributing Writer

WARNING: This subject, by title alone, will be immediately uncomfortable for some people. Some men will feel guilty or threatened by it, because they have been taught it is “wrong” or “bad” to lust for or be in love with an older woman.

Younger women may feel threatened by it, because they do not want more women competing in what they consider to be their field. Older women are often jealous. Some people in society will judge it negatively. Would it be so agitating if it were an older man with a younger woman? It is a simple question, but some people will take it personally.

I think it is important to state up front that I am not trying to convince anyone to be for or against this, or any type of relationship. I am simply presenting a topic which is of debatable interest to many.

It is the hazard of being the child of a scientific parent that you learn to take every subject with an open mind, compile multiple pieces of conflicting information, survey, discuss and/or debate, and to then assimilate and form an opinion or decision based on the overall view. Plus, I likely enjoy exploring and questioning boundaries a little. After all, someone believed the world was not flat. And there were others who knew that we could explore the worlds beyond our own. That’s how we made it to the moon! Thinking out of the box isn’t bad. It’s just unusual.

When racial integration occurred in the U.S.A., this was deviant societal behavior. Was it bad? What about interracial marriages? Not everyone wants one, but is it bad to love someone from another race? Sexuality is largely about the exterior. Love moves to the emotions, intellect—the interior. Aside from obvious destructive behaviors, can we be accurate in dictating when someone is right for someone else? Do any of us truly know another persons heart and soul? Do we even want to be empowered with that responsibility?

I have a problem with the topic question to begin with. The reason is this: Age is mathematical. Relationships are relational. I was raised to believe that I cannot judge a person on their mathematical age. Of course there are moral issues such as development stages and legality. It is personal maturity that is the true deciding factor in all relationships.

If you think about it logically, someone will always be older in every relationship. It’s hard to get around that. How much older is acceptable by the societal norm? A few months, a year, several years…how many years?

Some reasoning that supports this type of relationship:

1. Since the rising trend of this sort of union is obvious, social acceptance will increase. Aside from that, in the public world we basically choose our own society.
2. Maturity lends stability and a calming effect to younger people. When one partner is more mature, the unions have a better chance of survival.
3. Younger men’s sex drives are more compatible with older women’s. Did nature design it this way for a reason?
Start of a New Era

Oconee Campus’ groundbreaking year will soon come to a close. We, the Oconee Compass staff, have witnessed the ups and downs of Oconee Campus’ first year and feel it necessary to voice our opinions on what we see as needed changes.

Faculty and Facilities
The number of professors versus grad student teachers exceeds the typical 80-20 percent; it’s basically reversed at the Oconee Campus. These numbers cause a problem for the students; the student teachers are also in school and cannot dedicate their full attention to the Oconee campus, due to their own deadlines and class work. Many have little time for office hours and share offices with others.

The OC students also felt the side effects of advisement where only the full time teachers could participate causing a shorter advisement period. Many students were denied the proper advisement and instruction.

The lack of space and classes also cause problems here at the OC. With basically only the core classes offered many students must drive over an hour to the main campus to be able to finish their associate’s degree.

Students who attend the OC pay the same amount of student funds and yet do not have the same facilities as the main campus. Without a proper gym, many of the PHED classes are held at gyms’ off campus.

Student Activities
It’s the end of the year and I have only one question: WHERE IS ALL OUR MONEY GOING???

Every student enrolled at the Oconee Campus pays the same student activities fee as the Oakwood Campus. This said we should have thousands of dollars at our disposal to do things such as STUDENT ACTIVITIES. While we did have a few fun things happen this semester there is no way that we spent all our money.

We had a barbecue and a rock wall. That was fun, but why didn’t we have more? Students of the Oconee Campus this is your money, don’t you want to know what it’s being used for? The main campus has a nice student center with food and televisions.

They have an Olympic sized pool, a sauna, a gym, a work out facility, and I can guarantee a lot more student activities. Maybe they have our money! I propose, that we either find out where our money is or we all get together, drive to Gainesville, take half their stuff and bring it back here. They may out number us 2 to 1, but I think we can take them.

Student Involvement
The fact this school does not provide enough services for students are because of space availability; we all know that. The school does provide some activities though, which not many students participate in.

The students this year have proven themselves lazy by not joining clubs and by not attending the activities offered. I will admit, there is a small group of active students here but they are few and far between.

More students should take on leadership roles. It not only looks good on a resume, but it also makes you feel good, knowing you’ve done something to make this campus a little better. So students, get on the ball and actually do something, college isn’t just about going to class.

Food
Why is it that we pay the same amount in student fees as the main campus, but are deprived of all the most basic needs? One of the biggest problems is the lack of food on campus. Come on Administration, we need brain food, not crackers and M&M’s.

Many students do not have time between classes to run up the road and grab something so we rely on the existing machines to feed us. The rumors of sandwich vending machines or Chick-fil-a are not good enough. We need a local mobile unit; one that offers a wide variety of foods that accommodates the diverse student body-vegetarians included.

With all that said, we hope everyone has a great summer! See you next fall!

— Elizabeth, Britney, Justin and Louis

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Oconee Campus Needs a Student Gov’t Association

By Jerry Calbos
Staff Writer
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I believe that now is a good time to explain why SGA (Student Government Association) is vital to the Gainesville Oconee Campus.

For those of you who don’t know what the SGA is, the Gainesville College Catalog 2002-2004 provides a short description: “The Student Government Association (SGA) is the voice of the student body at Gainesville College. The organization’s mission is to future the welfare of the student body at Gainesville College. It provides advice to the administration on matters of individual and group student concerns.”

Why is SGA so vital? Those of us in the SGA are a liaison between campuses. We communicate to the main campus what the needs and concerns of the student body here are.

The main campus must approve some things, before we can make decisions.

Some activates on the other hand, don’t need to be approved, but would not happen without the leadership of the SGA Oconee Committee (our official name here at this campus). Take, for example, the SGA cookout. Hopefully we will have another one next fall.

Next fall, we will also try to bridge the gap between student concerns and the needs of the faculty and staff.

Anyone who is interested in joining, please feel free to email me at jcal7704@gc.peachnet.edu. I hope to see some new faces in the fall; remember, it’s our school, it’s our dreams, and it’s our goals and leadership that will help make things happen.

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Needed: Oconee students to write for The Compass
Contact Elizabeth
effie4340@gc.peachnet.edu.
Events are Everywhere in Athens this Spring

By Britney Compton
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In the midst of the arrival of spring, final exams, and graduation, Athens is having their season of organizational fundraising. Three of the annual events that take place in the Classic City are the Breastfest, Brewfest, and Boybutante Ball.

This year the Breastfest was able to reach and exceed their goal to raise $30,000. The profits go towards Athens Regional Breast Health Center and the Tyanna Barre O’Brien Breast Cancer Foundation.

The week is dedicated to increase the awareness of breast cancer through music and sport.

The events included a Kid’s Day, Wacky Pink 5k Run/Walk, various concerts, and more. Many people were made more aware by either volunteering at events or participating in them.

The event also occurs in Baltimore, Md., Clemson, S.C., and New York.

The ninth annual Brewfest was held at the Athens Classic Center on April 3. It hosted over 2400 participants and volunteers. With the unlimited samples of over 200 beers and tickets selling out, the event was able to raise over $50,000.

All of the proceeds are dedicated to a non-profit AIDS coalition, Relay for Life, Breastfest, and Athens Human Society.

The fifteen annual Boybutante Ball will start April 26 going through May 2. The theme of this year is Verti-Go-Go. In the midst of the flamboyant events and raw talent, the main mission of the ball is to raise money for the Boybutante AIDS foundation and to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

“No matter what your orientation, it’s a lot of fun and it’s for a good cause,” said Craig Smolenski, a grad student at the University of Georgia and returning participant. He and others will be participating in the competitions in hopes to win and perform the final night. All tips and entrance fees go towards the foundation.

All of these Athens’ events are in need of spectators and volunteers. To volunteer, visit their websites at www.breastfest.org, www.brewfest.net, and www.boybutante.org.

Languages Flow Fee and Easy at Inaugural Spring Fling on Oconee Campus

By Elizabeth Fields
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On March 25, Oconee Campus students had a chance to try pickled cactus at the first Foreign Language Spring Fling.

The head of the foreign language department, Dale Crandall, and Dr. Sixto Torres, head of the Arts and Humanities Division, inspired the event, which was coordinated by Vanessa Cunarro-Wikle, Tiffany Haymore and Joe Lavalle.

The spring fling “paid tribute to language appreciation” said Vanessa Cunarro-Wikle, a Spanish professor at the Oconee Campus. There was a “wonderful turnout” said Wikle, and the foreign language department would like to “have one every semester.”

The event started out with a blank passport each student received to fill out at the various tables. Each table covered a different language and offered cultural activities, including a wide variety of food and craft projects.

“With the help of student interest” says Wikle, the Foreign Language Department hopes to form a Spanish club and start offering more foreign languages.
Student Life Offers Students Discount to Go Skydiving

Advisement Week at Oconee is Successful

Behind the Scenes: Faculty Profile, Dede DeLaughter

Student Life sponsored a sky diving day on Saturday April 3 at Sky Dive Monroe. Students deposited $40 to hold the spot and Student Life paid the remaining $100. Taking two planes up to approximately 14,000 feet the 6 students jumped. The jumpers included Darik Wise, Emily Cook, Mary Coston, Shea Tighe, Ashley Whitley, Blair Tighe and Anna Schneider. Hoping for 20 participants and only receiving 6, the Student Life is planning on hosting another sky dive next semester.

Advising week was March 29-April 1 and went “very well” according to Michelle Brown, Director of Enrollment and Student Development. Over 300 students participated in advising week, which was held everyday from 12-2 and from 5-7 on Wednesday to help night students.

Advising week is totally separate from pre-registration. Advising week prepares students for pre-registration. During advising week students are counseled on what classes they need to take to complete their core curriculum, and what classes they need to take to transfer to a four-year college or university.

Unlike the main campus, we do not have enough full-time staff to supply every student with his or her own personal advisor. Instead, we must improvise and that is where advising week comes in.

The idea behind advising week, according to Brown is “to educate students so they can pre-register themselves.” Students may feel anxious when it comes to choosing what classes they need to take, but according to Haley Durham, a teaching major at the Oconee Campus “advising week took a lot of the guess work out of what classes I need to take in the fall.”

While advising week is very helpful for most students, there are some students who cannot pre-register themselves. Students who are not allowed to self-register are those in learning support classes, students with college prep deficiencies, and students who are at the hour mark for Regents holds. Students who fall in these categories will need to see an advisor. Everyday, during pre-registration there were advisors available in the atrium to assist in registering for classes.

Brown said the administration has “intentions to do this every semester.”

DeLaughter, who graduated from Emory with a double major in religion and psychology, “loves being apart of this pioneer experience” at Oconee. The student growth is “just exciting” and she enjoys being able to “offer our programs to more students.” It is this enthusiasm that seems to fuel DeLaughter. She “loves being apart of student lives” and “gets a charge out of just knowing (she’s) making a difference.”

“I’m a big believer in finding out what your passionate about and doing something about it, if you don’t feed your passion your soul will shrivel up and die.”

There are occasions when she works “fourteen to sixteen hour days”. The long hours don’t seem to faze her though, who always has a smile and a kind word. As busy as she is, DeLaughter still finds time to be outside, enjoying nature and eating at her favorite in town spots, Last Resort and The Grit.

One of DeLaughter’s favorite quotes from famed mathematician Pascal sums up her outlook quite eloquently, “We know the truth not only by reason, but also by the heart.”