The Gainesville State College graduation ceremony in May 2007 will be the last time GSC graduates are awarded their degrees at a venue off campus. Now, after 18 years, the ceremonies are returning to the campus once again.

According to Janice Hartsoe, GSC Registrar, the GSC graduation ceremonies were moved to the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville in 1989. But before that, they were held on campus in the gymnasium and in the Student Center.

Tom Walter, vice president for student development and enrollment management, said the reason the ceremonies were moved to the Georgia Mountains Center was because of growth.

"We outgrew the campus facilities," Walter said. "We still don't have a place for one ceremony, but if we did it twice, the gymnasium would be large enough."

The idea of the change in venue in conjunction with holding two graduations was broached during an off-campus retreat, and after extensive discussions and deliberations of the Executive Council and the Administrative Council, the decision was reached.

Starting December 2007 there will be two GSC graduation ceremonies per year, one in December and the other in May. Both events will be held on the Oakwood campus in the gymnasium.

GSC President Martha Nesbitt is happy about these changes.

GSC Annual Auction a Success

GSC student Amber Cannon displays a hand carved bowl donated by Delbert Greear, faculty member of the math and computer science department. The 40th annual Gainesville State College Foundation Auction took place on Jan. 26 and the yearly event is an opportunity to raise money for scholarships.

See full story on page 2

Remnants of Smoking a Cause for Concern at GSC

By Allie Jackson
Editor-In-Chief
924160278@gsc.edu

There has been a recent increase of cigarette butts found strewn on the grounds of the Gainesville State College campus creating a litter problem and causing potential health hazards to students.

GSC became a smoke free campus effective May 7, 2003 after President Nesbitt and the College's Executive Council deliberated on the issue for more than a year. The decision was not an easy one according to Nesbitt, but was a necessary one.

Soon to follow would be Governor Sonny Perdue's "Georgia Smoke Free Air Act" of 2005 prohibiting smoking inside of most public places in the state of Georgia.

According to http://dhr.georgia.gov the state laws were put in to place in order to raise awareness of chronic diseases associated with smoking and to promote healthy behavior for all Georgia citizens.

The GSC smoke free policy was initiated for similar reasons according to President Nesbitt. She made a statement on www.gsc.edu/tobacco referring to this issue.

"Ultimately it came down to the health concerns for the students, faculty and staff as well as the aesthetics of the campus," said Nesbitt.

GSC was one of the first schools to go smoke free in the University System and Nesbitt celebrates this achievement. The policy promotes health and it's helpful in keeping the campus clean.

"We are proud of the fact that we are a tobacco free campus," said Nesbitt; "and I am proud of the college community for adopting the smoke free policy."

The primary issue seems to be that there are a few students that don't understand the policy. There have been remnants of smoking found on campus many of which are near doors close to parking areas. An example would be the doors of Academic 3 leading out to the parking lot. This is thought to potentially be an issue regarding the evening students, however it is unknown for sure who the main culprits are and it is most likely a combination of day

See Smoking Page 2
By Tana Suggs

On Jan. 26, 2007 the 40th Annual Gainesville State College Foundation Meeting, Auction and Thank You Celebration was held at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Dark blue balloon bouquets accented with 40 large, silver balloons commemorating the 40th anniversary set the tone for the festive evening.

The annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the previous year and to honor people in the community who have been connected with Gainesville State College. This year, over 300 people from all over metro-Atlanta attended the event.

“It’s become a big social event and a great way for us to connect with the community,” Tricia Bunker, development officer of the Gainesville State College Foundation Office of Development said. “It’s also a time to recognize the outgoing board chair and the incoming trustees as well.”

While celebrating, guests took part in both a live and a silent auction. Items for the auctions were donated by individuals and local businesses, and Bumiller served as auctioneer for the live auction.

In total, the event raised over $40,000 for unrestricted scholarships.

“We were thrilled to hit $40,000,” Bunker said. “Last year we hit an all-time high of just over $30,000, this year over $40,000. In three years, we have raised from $15,000 to over $40,000.”

To jump start the festivities, attendees participated in a lucky choice raffle where a $50 ticket bought one lucky winner the opportunity to pick an auction item of their choice. This year, the lucky choice raffle winner opted for the one week stay at H. R. Otoro Bed and Breakfast in Spain, a prize donated by the family of faculty member Trey Wilson.

Companies and individuals also contributed funds by sponsoring tables at the dinner.

Speakers for the event included GSC Foundation CEO Pat Guthrie, GSC President Martha Nesbitt, and GSC students Ambar Cannon, Zech Pierce and Daniel Solid.

To top off the celebration, awards were presented. Recipients included Anne Wade for Outstanding Alumnus, and Paul Maney for Distinguished Service. Tom Calkins received the Honorary Life Trustee Award, and Margaret Ward Whalen was recognized as the Outgoing Board Chair.

This year’s event was planned and organized by the 2007 Auction Committee. Jeanne Hanlin, Foundation Trustee, served as chairwoman for the committee.

“The staff helps out with the event,” Bunker said. “It really is a joint effort.”

Next year, the annual event is planned for Jan. 31, 2008.

For a complete list of this year’s auction donors, visit the Foundation Office on the GSC Web site.

Annual GSC Auction a Huge Success

By Allie Jackson

Gainesville State College has taken many steps to incorporate avenues available to students to fulfill the Joshua’s Law requirements.

Joshua’s Law became effective in Georgia on Jan. 1, 2007 and is intended to give teenagers the experience necessary to become responsible drivers. The law requires that all persons 16 years old applying for a class D driver’s license complete a driver education course and complete at least 40 hours of supervised driving, six of which must be at night. The completion of this expectation must be verified by a legal guardian. Any person applying for a driver’s license 17 years old and above must still complete 40 hours of supervised driving but the driver’s education course is not necessary. They also must have written verification by a parent or legal guardian.

It is still required that a learner’s permit be held for at least one year to be eligible for a class D license.

GSC has traditionally offered a 30 hour class and six hour behind-the-wheel course available to students about every six weeks, however there have been many additional classes added this year giving students a variety of options to choose from.

There has been a 30 hour class incorporated that does not involve any outside driving. Students that choose this option reap the benefit of a less expensive class and can do their behind-the-wheel portion with their parents on their own time. They get the classroom environment and a variety of teaching methods versus a computer session. This class is offered every other month.

GSC also offers one-on-one driving instructions as a separate class for students that have already completed the classroom portion.

Another course available to students this year is called Atlanta Road Trip. This class is offered for drivers of any age that need additional experience or confidence to tackle driving in Atlanta.

The college has also included “Parents Reducing the Incidence of Driver Error” (P.R.I.D.E.) This is a free program that the school offers quarterly to parents interested in learning to teach their teens how to make safe driving decisions. GSC has partnered with UGA and the GA State Patrol to incorporate this class.

GSC has been approved to include the “National Safety Council’s Defensive Driving” course that aids in reducing insurance for students and reduction of points.

For more information on the driving courses available at GSC or elements of Joshua’s law contact the Division of Continuing Education at 678 717-3605 or visit the website at www.gsc.edu/ce/main.

GSC Active in Meeting Demands of Joshua’s Law

Smoking Continued from page 1

and evening GSC students. Although the policy states there should be no smoking on campus this does not include an individual’s car. A car is still considered private property. Nesbitt said students that must smoke should go their cars to do so, and they should leave their cigarette butts in their car.

For many years GSC allowed smoking in designated areas but many students chose to smoke in the doorways and while walking across campus instead of following the rules. This lack of respect for the policy created many major problems like litter and associated fires.

There are “smoking sensation workshops” available to any students, faculty or staff that are interested. These workshops are intended to help break the addiction of tobacco and promote a healthful lifestyle that excludes it.

By Tana Suggs

News Editor
924160020@gsc.edu

On Jan. 26, 2007 the 40th Annual Gainesville State College Foundation Meeting, Auction and Thank You Celebration was held at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Dark blue balloon bouquets accented with 40 large, silver balloons commemorating the 40th anniversary set the tone for the festive evening.

The annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the previous year and to honor people in the community who have been connected with Gainesville State College. This year, over 300 people from all over metro-Atlanta attended the event.

“It’s become a big social event and a great way for us to connect with the community,” Tricia Bunker, development officer of the Gainesville State College Foundation Office of Development said. “It’s also a time to recognize the outgoing board chair and the incoming trustees as well.”

While celebrating, guests took part in both a live and a silent auction. Items for the auctions were donated by individuals and local businesses, and Bumiller served as auctioneer for the live auction.

In total, the event raised over $40,000 for unrestricted scholarships.

“We were thrilled to hit $40,000,” Bunker said. “Last year we hit an all-time high of just over $30,000, this year over $40,000. In three years, we have raised from $15,000 to over $40,000.”

To jump start the festivities, attendees participated in a lucky choice raffle where a $50 ticket bought one lucky winner the opportunity to pick an auction item of their choice. This year, the lucky choice raffle winner opted for the one week stay at H. R. Otoro Bed and Breakfast in Spain, a prize donated by the family of faculty member Trey Wilson.

Companies and individuals also contributed funds by sponsoring tables at the dinner.

Speakers for the event included GSC Foundation CEO Pat Guthrie, GSC President Martha Nesbitt, and GSC students Ambar Cannon, Zech Pierce and Daniel Solid.

To top off the celebration, awards were presented. Recipients included Anne Wade for Outstanding Alumnus, and Paul Maney for Distinguished Service. Tom Calkins received the Honorary Life Trustee Award, and Margaret Ward Whalen was recognized as the Outgoing Board Chair.

This year’s event was planned and organized by the 2007 Auction Committee. Jeanne Hanlin, Foundation Trustee, served as chairwoman for the committee.

“The staff helps out with the event,” Bunker said. “It really is a joint effort.”

Next year, the annual event is planned for Jan. 31, 2008.

For a complete list of this year’s auction donors, visit the Foundation Office on the GSC Web site.

Annual GSC Auction a Huge Success

By Allie Jackson

Gainesville State College has taken many steps to incorporate avenues available to students to fulfill the Joshua’s Law requirements.

Joshua’s Law became effective in Georgia on Jan. 1, 2007 and is intended to give teenagers the experience necessary to become responsible drivers. The law requires that all persons 16 years old applying for a class D driver’s license complete a driver education course and complete at least 40 hours of supervised driving, six of which must be at night. The completion of this expectation must be verified by a legal guardian. Any person applying for a driver’s license 17 years old and above must still complete 40 hours of supervised driving but the driver’s education course is not necessary. They also must have written verification by a parent or legal guardian.

It is still required that a learner’s permit be held for at least one year to be eligible for a class D license.

GSC has traditionally offered a 30 hour class and six hour behind-the-wheel course available to students about every six weeks, however there have been many additional classes added this year giving students a variety of options to choose from.

There has been a 30 hour class incorporated that does not involve any outside driving. Students that choose this option reap the benefit of a less expensive class and can do their behind-the-wheel portion with their parents on their own time. They get the classroom environment and a variety of teaching methods versus a computer session. This class is offered every other month.

GSC also offers one-on-one driving instructions as a separate class for students that have already completed the classroom portion.

Another course available to students this year is called Atlanta Road Trip. This class is offered for drivers of any age that need additional experience or confidence to tackle driving in Atlanta.

The college has also included “Parents Reducing the Incidence of Driver Error” (P.R.I.D.E.) This is a free program that the school offers quarterly to parents interested in learning to teach their teens how to make safe driving decisions. GSC has partnered with UGA and the GA State Patrol to incorporate this class.

GSC has been approved to include the “National Safety Council’s Defensive Driving” course that aids in reducing insurance for students and reduction of points.

For more information on the driving courses available at GSC or elements of Joshua’s law contact the Division of Continuing Education at 678 717-3605 or visit the website at www.gsc.edu/ce/main.
Regent’s Test is a Factor in Spring Break Dates

By Tana Suggs
News Editor
924160020@gsc.edu

While tragedy inflicts emotional wounds in the hearts of humans, it also uniquely deepens people’s ability and need to create meaningful art.

Judson Mitcham, psychology professor and published fiction and poetry writer, spoke on how to become a writer, specifically a poet, to GSC students on Jan. 31. Mitcham offered practical disciplines to further one’s art, but it was a personal tragedy that began his journey of writing.

When Mitcham was sixteen, just two weeks after obtaining his driver’s license, he wrecked his car, killing his best friend in the passenger seat. He has carried this wound, whether it be death, loss, breakups, or family estrangements.

“Time itself is wound,” he pointed out. “When Mitcham was sixteen, just two weeks after obtaining his driver’s license, he wrecked his car, killing his best friend in the passenger seat. He has carried this wound, whether it be death, loss, breakups, or family estrangements.

“Time itself is wound,” he pointed out. “While tragedy inflicts emotional wounds in the hearts of humans, it also uniquely deepens people’s ability and need to create meaningful art.

Judson Mitcham, psychology professor and published fiction and poetry writer, spoke on how to become a writer, specifically a poet, to GSC students on Jan. 31. Mitcham offered practical disciplines to further one’s art, but it was a personal tragedy that began his journey of writing.

When Mitcham was sixteen, just two weeks after obtaining his driver’s license, he wrecked his car, killing his best friend in the passenger seat. He has carried this terrible moment ever since.

“I was the instrument in the death of someone’s child. This is the engine that drives my writing,” shared Mitcham.

He shared that all writing comes from a wound, whether it be death, loss, breakups, or family estrangements.

“Time itself is wound,” he pointed out. Each writer draws from their own wounds when creating their work.

While tragedy can drive people to a place where writing produces art that is meaningful and beautiful out of loss and pain, every engine needs fine tuning.

The craft of writing, polishing the material that comes from a writer’s individual engine, was the main topic of Mitcham’s lecture.

“The way to become a writer is to read, read, read. Read everything you can and the words will inhabit you,” he stressed.

Mitcham advised that readers should read every- thing from the classics to magazines and newspapers, right down to the endless scroll of news that constantly runs across the television screen.

After absorbing the wisdom that comes from reading, Mitcham instructed that a writer should not wait around to be inspired to start writing. Instead a set amount of time should be put aside to follow a rigorous, disciplined schedule or writing.

“You have to make yourself available to write,” he said. Mitcham also warned against starting too big, with unreachable ideals and concepts that leave a writer with nowhere to go but down. He suggested starting with the simple, ordinary things of life that could possibly reveal the bigger things.

“Think small. If you have a large mind, it will show itself.” Mitcham described the appeal and purpose of writing and how beginning writers should aim their blossoming pieces.

“What we are looking for in fiction and poetry is the lie that tells the truth,” he explained.

Fiction is obviously untrue, but according to Mitcham, it should convey the truth of life that makes it real to readers.

After reading several excerpts of his own poetry, Mitcham closed with one final instruction concerning poetry:

“Poems carry its own music. Make your poetry sing, if it does not have music. It is just as important as any other art form.”
Film Shows GSC Students the Violence in Darfur

By Tia Lynn Lecorchick
Campus Life Editor
924159271@gsc.edu

The nationally acclaimed documentary, “The Darfur Diaries,” was shown on the GSC campus on Feb. 26, followed by a panel discussion with Douglas Ealey, a professor of political science and religion, Amin Al-Midani, a Fulbright scholar and expert on Islamic Law, and Basmat Ahmed, a teenager from Darfur refugee. The Black Student Association and Students for a Progressive Society sponsored the event in honor or Black History Month.

The people of Darfur have been plagued by warfare, bombings, air raids, rape, torture and pillaging that have resulted in over 2 million refugees dispersed throughout the neighboring country of Chad, the annihilation of over 2 thousand villages and the genocide of over 400,000 Darfur citizens.

During the panel discussion, each guest expounded on the dire situation in Darfur and how Americans can be part of the solution.

“The problem with Americans is that we do not know what is going on beyond our borders. We become prejudice and uncaring out of our ignorance,” said Ealey. Ealey clearly expressed his view that America is indeed a great nation but also addressed the misconception that America gives the most foreign aid.

“While the U.S. considers itself a humanitarian-oriented nation, the U.S. gives more raw dollars than all countries, but gives the least percentage wise out of the wealthiest countries in the world,” explained Ealey. Al-Midani tackled the inconsistencies existing between the corrupt government professing the Islamic faith, who are wreaking havoc upon the people of Darfur, and the actual Islamic faith.

“There is a contradiction between the Sudanese government and the Arab tradition. The regimes are driven by political agendas, not Muslim or Arab philosophies,” explained Al-Midani.

An emotionally-moved Ahmed recalled her beloved homeland now consumed in the chaos of war and oppression.

“Darfur was a wonderful, beautiful, friendly place before the war. The people are overcome because they are weak, without education and weapons,” said Ahmed. Ahmed desperately wanted to arouse involvement from the 45 listening people in the CE auditorium.

“This is the first time for me to speak about my hope. I hope everyone here could connect with another people from another place. My hope is that different people will rise up in one voice to demand the end of this war and oppression. It’s not just about talk and movies, we need action,” she stressed.

The documentary itself chronicled the plight of Darfur civilians terrorized by the corrupt rebel group Janjawid, who are equipped with weapons and money by the Sudanese government.

The documentary showed interviews with surviving refugees, most separated from their families, steeped in extreme poverty and without any options to harvest food or incomes. They live out their days in a sort of limbo, waiting to live or die. Food is scarce, malnutrition and disease run rampant, and shelter is a little more than tents consisting of sheets and sticks. Bugs make their homes on the crevices of children’s faces. Vivid nightmares make nights sleepless for many survivors. Children draw pictures of war and murder, the images that haunt them at night.

“Darfur refugees are members of productive families, communities and tribes, Darfur refugees have been reduced to wandering nomads. Their only goal is avoiding exploitation and death in the constant crossfire of demented rebel groups and corrupt regimes.

After surviving the uprooting and dislocation, many refugee camps are determined to provide protection for the people. The Darfur Diaries follow members of the Sudan Liberation Army, a group assembled to combat the rebel group Janjawid and the Sudanese government.

“We are compelled to fight against the government for our survival,” explained one human rights leader in the Sudan Liberation Army.

An effort to revive education is also underway in many refugee camps. Classes are conducted within half-walls constructed from mud and water, often operating without textbooks or writing utensils.

However, the lack of supplies does not impugn their will.

“There is no life without education,” said one refugee.

Darfur Diaries has been shown on college campuses across the world, and it was created to provide a window into another place and culture that is crumbling under the reign of injustice.

To find out more information about this crisis and how to get involved in a solution go to: www.darfurdiaries.org.

New GSC Mascot Still Undecided by Committee

By Allie Jackson
Editor-In-Chief
924160278@gsc.edu

The GSC Mascot Committee is still in thoughtful deliberations in determining the fate of Gainesville’s newest mascot.

Every student who registered for Spring classes was sent a survey through their college e-mail address. The survey was conducted to allow students to voice their opinion on the different mascot nominees “Fighting Geeze,” and “The Lakers.”

According to Cara Skeet, director of student activities the role of the committee is to make recommendations.

“We won’t be making the final decision, it will no doubt have to be approved by the president and endorsed by SGA and other campus officials,” said Skeet.

The process has been a slow one but Skeet believes this is a good indication that many people will be able to express their opinion.

“The students opinion is very important to the committee.

“Student opinion is certainly of paramount importance and we want people to be excited about the final result,” said Skeet. “I certainly don’t want people to feel their mascot has been imposed upon them.”

Faculty, staff and alumni have also been included in the decision making process and according to Skeat have provided very interesting and valuable feedback.

There has been a time set for the “unveiling” of the new mascot but deliberations are in progress and Skeat is certain it will be a lot of fun when it occurs.
Improv Group Puts New Spin on Sex Education

By Tia Lynn Lecorchick
Campus Life Editor
924159271@gsc.edu

Did you ever think you would hear the word “coot-er” shouted several times at a GSC educational event? Well this was the case when the traveling improvisational show, Sex Signals, visited GSC on Feb. 21.

Sex Signals uses improvisational comedy, chalked full of explicit language, blatant sexual innuendoes and raunchy humor to engage college students in frank discussions about dating, relationships and even date rape. This was no outdated, corny after school special.

John Mallory and Fawzia Mirza, two actors for Sex Signals, performed several skits that illustrated gender misconceptions, stereotypical fantasies, dating approaches and each gender’s view of dating and sex. The quick-witted duo examined both sides of the gender coin to promote an understanding of each unique viewpoint. They flawlessly integrated the packed audience into their over the top routines.

Stop signs were distributed to the audience to hold up when they felt the fictional situations went too far.

Mirza acted out a satirical skit, parodying a stereotypical man’s fantasy about the perfect girlfriend. First, she stuffed her bra to enlarge her breasts, equal to Pamela Anderson’s size. Then she humped the floor and gyrated on a chair while begging her man to have sex and asked if they could pretty please watch ESPN afterwards.

Mallory and Mirza even tackled the current slang used for sex, such as “screw,” “nail” and “hammered.” “Are you planning on having sex at home depot?” quipped Mirza.

After acting out several scenarios about how men and women attempt to craft their first impressions, Mallory commented on the unfortunate outcome to such situations.

“Too often interaction between the opposite sexes is more about getting some than starting healthy relationships,” said Mallory.

The light-hearted skits took a serious turn when Mallory and Mirza acted out a scene with a man accused of date rape. The prior riotous laughter abruptly died away and an extremely realistic situation was examined.

The skit looked at the perspective of the male character accused of date rape. The character did not stalk or drug the victim, but what started as an innocent study date still turned to rape. The message clearly conveyed how easily a situation can spiral out of control if both parties are not fully sober, comfortable and communicate verbal consent to engaging in sexual activity.

“Communication can save the situation,” explained Mallory.

Sex Signals focuses primarily on date rape to promote education, communication and discussion of the topic. Beneath the satire and parodies lied helpful information and statistics.

“While most people think of rape occurring when a stranger in a black ski-mask stalks a women and attacks, in reality, 84 percent of the time rape occurs, it’s between people who know each other,” said Mallory.

When out on a date, it is imperative to be sensitive to the other person’s boundaries.

“Make sure that what you are engaging in is OK with the other person,” stressed Mirza.

Before returning to a few final light-hearted comedy sketches about dating, Mallory and Mirza offered a slue of information for anyone who might have been affected by date rape. They referred students to GSC Counselor Joy Evans and the hotline 1-800-656-HOPE.

Cathy Cox Keynote Speaker for GCA

From left to right Allison Renva, president of GCA, Cathy Cox, Ga secretary of state, and Paul Glaser, vice president for business and finance, share a meal at the annual GCA convention.

GSC Mourns the Death of Assistant Professor

By Tana Suggs
News Editor
924160020@gsc.edu

Alpha Sheriff, assistant professor of Sociology, was found dead in his apartment on March 13 by a relative.

At the time of publication, the cause of death was not known. Funeral arrangements for Sheriff, who was originally from Africa, are being made by relatives.

According to Charles Karcher, head of the GSC Social Science Department, Sheriff joined the GSC faculty in the fall of 2004.

Sheriff suffered a stroke in early summer of 2003, but after a year he returned to GSC faculty in the fall of 2004.

“Alpha was much beloved by GSC faculty members,” Karcher said. “He was a very gentle and caring person.”
Campus Activities Board (CAB)
Meeting time: No set schedule as of yet. Contact Advisor for more information.
President: Lauren Doague
Advisor: Heather Page
Email: lpgage@gsc.edu

Anime Club
Meeting time and place: every Friday at noon in room 170 (Academic II)
President: Megan Smith
Email: 924153456@gsc.edu
Advisor: Patsy Worrall
Email: pworrall@gsc.edu

Art Club
Meeting time and place: every other Wednesday noon-1p.m. in room 110 (Dunlap/Mathis Building) (Next meeting will be held Oct. 4).
President: Rachel Atwell
Email: 924166278@gsc.edu
Advisor: Dan Cabaniss
Email: dcabaniss@gsc.edu

Chorale
Meeting time and place: For more information contact advisor. 
Advisor: David Thomas
Email: dthomas@gsc.edu

Compass Student Newspaper
Meeting time and place: every Tuesday 12:30-1:15p.m. in room 220 (Library)
Senior Editor: Allie Jackson
Email: 924166278@gsc.edu
Advisor: Dan Cabaniss
Email: dcabaniss@gsc.edu

Computer Club
Meeting time and place: for more information contact advisor. 
Advisor: Tom Burns
Email: tburns@gsc.edu

E.A.C.E.
Freedom Advocacy Character Education
Meeting time and place: Every other Friday at noon in Acd 2 room 127
President: Cindy Herren
Advisors: Adreene Henley and Dee Bennett
Email: 924151456@gsc.edu or ahenley@gsc.edu or dbennett@gsc.edu

Engineering Club
Meeting time and place: For more information contact advisor. 
Advisor: Jeff Turk
Email: jfturk@gsc.edu

Film Club
Meeting time and place: first and third Mondays of the month in room 171 in Academic II. (Contact Advisor for information on additional meetings).
President: Jason Stachur
Advisor: Matthew Horton and Jeff Marker
Email: mhorton@gsc.edu and jmarker@gsc.edu

Future Health Professionals
Meeting time and place: first and third Friday of each month at noon in room 174 in the Science Building.
President: Theresa Colet
Advisors: Paula Nolobis and Tim Howell
Email: pmolobis@gsc.edu and thowell@gsc.edu

GSC Alliance
Meeting time and place: Every Wednesday at noon in room 147 in Academic II
Advisor: Michellene McDaniel
Email: mmcdaniel@gsc.edu

GSC on the Go
Meeting time and place: Contact advisor for specific dates and events.
Advisor: Chaudron Gilie
Email: cgilie@gsc.edu

GSC Writers Group
Meeting time and place: The second and fourth Wednesdays of the month (contact advisor for time and room).
President: Tana Suggs
Advisor: Anita Turlington & Dorothy Blais
Email: aturlington@gsc.edu & dbrais@gsc.edu

International Student Club
Meeting time and place: every Wednesday noon-1p.m. in room 228 in the Science Building
President: Michael Roth
Advisor: JF Sharma
Email: jsharma@gsc.edu

Jazz Band/ Ensemble
Meeting time and place: for more information contact advisor. 
Advisor: Al Leon Braxton
Email: alebraxton@gsc.edu

Law Student Association
Meeting time and place: Contact advisor for more information.
Advisor: Louis Negron
Email: lnegron@gsc.edu

Math Club
Meeting time and place: Contact advisor for more information.
Advisor: Delbert Greer
Email: dgreer@gsc.edu

Music Student Association
Meeting time and place: Contact advisor for more information.
Advisor: Brenda Adams
Email: badams@gsc.edu

Physics club
Meeting time and place: for more information contact advisor.
Advisor: JF Sharma
Email: jsharma@gsc.edu

Politically Incorrect Club
Meeting time and place: Every Monday at noon in room 147 in Academic II
Advisor: Douglass Young
Email: dyounig@gsc.edu

Psychology Club
Meeting time and place: every Wednesday noon-1p.m. in room 103 (Academic II)
Advisor: Clayton Teem and Connie Ringer
Email: cteem@gsc.edu and cringer@gsc.edu

Recreational Outdoor Experiences
Meeting time and place: for more information contact advisor. 
Advisor: Andrew Thomas
Email: athomas@gsc.edu

Second Wind
Meeting time and place: Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 29, and Dec. 6 at noon in Lanier C in the Student Activities Building.
President: Sue Corbin
Advisor: Brenda Adams
Email: badams@gsc.edu

SGA – Student Government Association
Meeting time and place: contact advisor for more information.
Advisor: Cara Skeat
Email: cskeat@gsc.edu

Symphonic Band
Meeting time and place: Contact advisor for more information.
Advisor: Merver Crook
Email: mrcrook@gsc.edu

Advertise your Club in the Compass
Email: Kerri Beebe
924157206@gsc.edu
New Team at GSC Debates

Listed from left to right Alejandro Ramirez, Jack Taylor, Philip Griffith, Nicholas Humphrey and President of the team; David Preston gather at the Georgia Intercollegiate Forensic Association State Championships on Feb. 17 at Southern Polytechnic Institute in Marietta. This was GSC’s first tournament since 1994 and the team brought back over five awards.

F.A.C.E. Presents Greg Sealey

By Allie Jackson
Editor-In-Chief
924160278@gsc.edu

One of Gainesville State College’s newest clubs, F.A.C.E., is hosting a must see event. GSC welcomes Greg Sealey, IT manager of The Home Depot Headquarters. Sealey has over nine years experience in resolving credit card issues. He has worked at The Home Depot headquarters that aids in student’s education. He is concentrating on his master’s degree in IT management at Capella University, which is accredited online school main- taining roughly 16,000 students.

Because of SMA Sealey is unable to hold or flip through the pages of a textbook so working from home gives him the benefit of using the computer mouse and other technologies like PDF versions of his textbooks.

Sealey will be sharing his story at GSC on March 30 from noon to 1 in Lanier A and B. The event is sponsored by F.A.C.E.

For more information on this or other F.A.C.E. activities contact Adrienne Henley at ahenley@gsc.edu or Dee Bennett at dbennett@gsc.edu. Cindy Hennon, president of F.A.C.E. can also be contacted at 92415146@gsc.edu.
Drift Racing: Coming to a City Near You

Allie Jackson

What is Drift racing is probably a question that came to mind after reading the headline.

It was very successful and plans to be the biggest yet. This year there will be a drift racing competition.

There are Drifting teams that compete with one another and “The Right Coast Tuners” recently announced the addition of a new member to their team, Ryan Dunn, who is known for his appearances in JackAss 1 and 2 and the Viva La Bam series.

Drifting is quick becoming a popular sport regardless of the negative press it has received, produced by the wear and tear on cars and obviously tires.

GSC Swim Meet a Success

By Charlie Fischer
Staff writer
924174850@gsc.edu

Wednesday February 22 marked the date of the first intramural swim meet of this year. There are two events held every year, one in spring semester and one in the fall. This has remained a twice a year tradition since 1999.

This years event went just as smoothly as the previous ones have gone.

Each swimmer that enters may enter in up to 4 events. Those events are: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly.

These are the 4 main events in swimming. These are the 4 main events in swimming.

Thompson Brock- 25yd free; 50yd free; 25yd breast
Nicholas Humphrey- 100yd free; 200yd free; 25yd breast; 50yd back
David Preston- 25yd free; 50yd free; 50yd breast

List of all the Winners and Their Events

Valerie Kinney: 25yd free
Heidi Lesko: 50yd free; 100yd free; 50yd breast
Rachael Bishop- 200yd free; 50yd fly
Melinda Read- 25yd back; 50yd back; 25yd fly
Tiffany Braswell- 50yd free; 100yd free; 25yd breast; 50yd back
Dzifa Amoa-25yd free; 25yd breast
Chris Matthews- 25yd free; 50yd free; 25yd fly
Sam Mashburn-100yd free; 200yd free
Jacob Alford- 25yd back; 25yd breast; 50yd breast
Cale Westbrook- 50yd back
David Preston- 25yd free; 50yd free; 50yd breast
Nicholas Humphrey- 100yd free; 200yd free; 25yd breast
Thompson Brock- 25yd free; 50yd free; 100yd free
Heidi Lesko, Tiffany Braswell, Heather Lesko, Brenda Barsalio- Women’s 100yd Free Relay
Chris Matthews, Tyler Matthews, Sam Mashburn, Jacob Alford- Men’s 100yd Free Relay
Concerned about your college finances?

So are we.

Introducing the coolest account for students ever created...an account created for students...by students...the Campus Checking Account.

The Campus Checking Account is a FREE checking account with the added benefits of FREE Online Banking and BillPay plus a FREE CD full of bands local to Northeast Georgia. So, you can check out for free bands like The Taj Motel Trio, Last November, Taking Lottie Home, and a host of other groups. If you are looking for a bank that takes the cost out of banking for GSC students and has a branch just across the street...open a Campus Checking account today!

GB&T

The friendly face in banking.

770.532.1212 www.gbt.com

member FDIC
The Voice of the Compass

Is a Gymnasium Graduation Ideal for GSC?

The Compass Staff Questions Whether Students Will Embrace the Change

Gainesville State College has announced that this year’s graduation ceremony will be held in the gymnasium of the Hugh Mills Physical Education Center. In the past the ceremony has taken place at the Georgia Mountain Center in Gainesville. Graduates of both campuses will have to report to the gym at the Oakwood campus to receive their diploma.

The question the students from Oconee will be asking is: where is Oakwood? The college itself doesn’t even claim Oakwood, preferring to use the nearby city of Gainesville in its name. Unlike Oakwood, people tend to know where Gainesville is, which is a key benefit to having the ceremony at the previous location. Attendance by friends and family of the Oconee students is likely to be dismal.

Another negative aspect of using the gym for graduation is the quality and practicality of the facility itself. The Georgia Mountain Center is simply a much nicer, more spacious and comfortable venue.

Using the gym for a ceremony is reminiscent of high school. Junior colleges already have a certain unjustified stigma of being a slight step up from high school and the gym ceremony will do nothing to help with that.

One benefit of the change is the lower expense it will entail. But is having graduates gather on a basketball court to receive the diploma they have worked for two or more years to earn the grand send off that we really want?

Speeding a Problem on Gainesville Campus

GSC continues to grow at a very fast pace. One of the byproducts of this is that there is more traffic on campus during the day. This means that we all need to be extra careful drivers on school grounds.

With all of the road work that is constantly being done on 985 and beyond, it is not at all hard to be running a little late for your first class. In this situation many students anxious to not miss a second of class will speed down the GSC roadways as they circle around trying to find a parking place. Such speed driving has caused accidents in the past.

Your professors would rather have you be a minute or two late than drive in a way that endangers you and other students and faculty. Because of the high amount of pedestrian traffic, it is important to look carefully when approaching a cross walk, and stop at stop signs. Many drivers fail to do this. It is common to see vehicles drive through a cross walk with people half way across. Others speed through when there are people waiting at one end of the cross walk waiting to cross. This is not only extremely dangerous but against the law.

Some key steps towards safe on campus driving are, leave the house a little earlier to give yourself more time, don’t talk on your cell phone while driving, and observe speed limits and traffic signs. Following these steps makes the campus safer for everyone. Also, one never knows when you will come up on a flock of geese, and the geese don’t always use the cross walks.

Speeding has caused several accidents on the GSC campus. There are many factors that should be considered while driving on campus like construction, pedestrians and geese.
I was in the campus library the other day. I do on occasion go there despite the fact that the rumor is that the library is where smart people hang out, which I certainly do not qualify as.

I was using one of the computers, which are so kindly provided. I was doing so not only because a computer is so much easier to deal with than books, which are confusing due to the fact that they have so many words, but because I had to access the shared class files for an assignment. So there I was, quietly doing my homework even though I wasn’t at home, when suddenly I was drawn into this amazing and dramatic tale involving an angry girlfriend, a parole officer, a broken down vehicle and a boss that wouldn’t let someone off from work. Great material for a country song.

As I looked around, I saw that I was not the only one caught up in this epic story, and that pretty much everyone in the library was along for the ride.

The thing was that the story teller was sitting at a computer talking on a cell phone in a voice that shook the windows, and I really didn’t care about his life story. I barely care about my own.

I know that people talk louder when they’re on the phone and don’t realize how loud they are being. However, although I said computers were easier than books, they’re no walk in the park as they have a mind of their own.

They teach you in computer class that the cursor is the “I” shaped thing that moves around when you move the mouse, but in reality the cursor is me, whenever I use a computer. The point is, that when I’m working on a paper, it takes concentration, because papers are hard and I really don’t like doing them, and loud distractions make it difficult to concentrate.

But let me get back to the cell phone soap opera. As the story teller went on with his sad tale, people stared at him, but not that he noticed. Other people exchanged annoyed glances. The unwritten rule in this situation is that you treat it like a mugging on the subway. You don’t get involved.

Having never messed with the subway, a Jared fan I’m not, I did the unthinkable. I leaned over and gave what I thought was some very helpful advice, which was that he should borrow a car and go see his parole officer on time, and tell his girlfriend and employer that they could take him or leave him as he was.

I had done that before and in each case, the other party opted to leave me rather than take me, but I thought it might work better for him.

As it turned out, he was not impressed and said, “This is a private conversation, how dare you get all up in my business?”

If only it had been private, everything would have been okay. Eventually he left, and the noise level settled back down to near silence. I was relieved, thinking that I could now get back to work.

Then suddenly, the silence was shattered by a loud cry. It did not take long to locate the violator of the peace. No, it was not someone being mugged. If it had been, I would have known to look away and pretend it wasn’t happening, but I had no idea how to deal with what I was seeing.

It was someone wearing large headphones, watching WWE videos on Youtube. They were reacting loudly to every move, and clearly had no idea how extremely loud they were being. The thing I didn’t understand was why they would get so excited. Surely they knew it was fake.

These experiences and many more like them, has led me to conclude that there is a lack of common courtesy among a small group of students and that the quiet in the library rule is not enforced.

I don’t like heavy handed supervision of places like libraries, and I think our library staff does a fine job, but an occasional, small reminder to keep the volume to a moderate level would be beneficial.

Is Stress Inhibiting Your Academics?

In the midst of a storm I have learned to find pleasure in the little things. A hot cup of french vanilla coffee first thing in the morning, listening to a favorite CD, a moment of rare quietness, laughing at a joke; these are the things that make life worth the while.

No, I’m not going through a traumatic experience. Nobody close to me has died or been injured. I am just currently experiencing what I imagine every college student has endured at some point in their academic career, I am stressed out.

There are more needs to be fulfilled than I have time for in a day. Twenty four hours just no longer seems to cut it. Between school work, house work, my job, sick season, the dog, a husband, the newspaper and two kids I am stretched beyond a limit I never even dreamed of touching. I think I have bitten off more than I can chew, which is sad considering I need to find a part-time job to help supplement our income.

I imagine everybody has felt this way at one point or another in their lives and I find relief in the fact that I am not alone. I also feel confident that this too shall pass. I guess the question is: how can I get through it, how can I avoid it occurring again and how can I help others that face the same problem? I don’t have all the answers but here are a few things that are helping me cope with the every day stresses I face as a college student.

First, I look for things to laugh at. The need for humor is abundant in a stressful life and if we fill all of our time with responsibility what do we have left in the end?

Small things like listening to a favorite comedian or watching a funny movie will automatically help relieve stress.

Spending time with my husband or a night out with a friend, how dare you get all up in my business?”

If only it had been private, everything would have been okay. Eventually he left, and the noise level settled back down to near silence. I was relieved, thinking that I could now get back to work.

Then suddenly, the silence was shattered by a loud cry. It did not take long to locate the violator of the peace. No, it was not someone being mugged. If it had been, I would have known to look away and pretend it wasn’t happening, but I had no idea how to deal with what I was seeing.

It was someone wearing large headphones, watching WWE videos on Youtube. They were reacting loudly to every move, and clearly had no idea how extremely loud they were being. The thing I didn’t understand was why they would get so excited. Surely they knew it was fake.

These experiences and many more like them, has led me to conclude that there is a lack of common courtesy among a small group of students and that the quiet in the library rule is not enforced.

I don’t like heavy handed supervision of places like libraries, and I think our library staff does a fine job, but an occasional, small reminder to keep the volume to a moderate level would be beneficial.

Is Stress Inhibiting Your Academics?

In the midst of a storm I have learned to find pleasure in the little things. A hot cup of french vanilla coffee first thing in the morning, listening to a favorite CD, a moment of rare quietness, laughing at a joke; these are the things that make life worth the while.

No, I’m not going through a traumatic experience. Nobody close to me has died or been injured. I am just currently experiencing what I imagine every college student has endured at some point in their academic career, I am stressed out.

There are more needs to be fulfilled than I have time for in a day. Twenty four hours just no longer seems to cut it. Between school work, house work, my job, sick season, the dog, a husband, the newspaper and two kids I am stretched beyond a limit I never even dreamed of touching. I think I have bitten off more than I can chew, which is sad considering I need to find a part-time job to help supplement our income.

I imagine everybody has felt this way at one point or another in their lives and I find relief in the fact that I am not alone. I also feel confident that this too shall pass. I guess the question is: how can I get through it, how can I avoid it occurring again and how can I help others that face the same problem? I don’t have all the answers but here are a few things that are helping me cope with the every day stresses I face as a college student.

First, I look for things to laugh at. The need for humor is abundant in a stressful life and if we fill all of our time with responsibility what do we have left in the end?

Small things like listening to a favorite comedian or watching a funny movie will automatically help relieve stress.

Spending time with my husband or a night out with a friend, how dare you get all up in my business?”

If only it had been private, everything would have been okay. Eventually he left, and the noise level settled back down to near silence. I was relieved, thinking that I could now get back to work.

Then suddenly, the silence was shattered by a loud cry. It did not take long to locate the violator of the peace. No, it was not someone being mugged. If it had been, I would have known to look away and pretend it wasn’t happening, but I had no idea how to deal with what I was seeing.

It was someone wearing large headphones, watching WWE videos on Youtube. They were reacting loudly to every move, and clearly had no idea how extremely loud they were being. The thing I didn’t understand was why they would get so excited. Surely they knew it was fake.

These experiences and many more like them, has led me to conclude that there is a lack of common courtesy among a small group of students and that the quiet in the library rule is not enforced.

I don’t like heavy handed supervision of places like libraries, and I think our library staff does a fine job, but an occasional, small reminder to keep the volume to a moderate level would be beneficial.
Opinions

Is GSC Doing its Part in Helping to Save the Environment?

This is the second of which I hope will be a series of articles published in the Compass to make student s and faculty on the Gainesville State College campus more aware of the importance of our institution becoming more environmentally conscious. The first was penned by Jon Hoekstra in the previous edition.

We here at GSC have an opportunity to become a model when it comes to the environment for the region if we choose to take on the challenge to do so. We have the opportunity to qualify for grant money from organizations which encourage environmental education through projects that promote environmental education and practical application of environmental tools i.e. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Education Grant Program.

What we need to do is show a dedication to environmental issues and to protecting the environment for the today and for the future.

The State of Georgia has a history of environmental problems. The following are a few examples: In mid-2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated 23 Georgia counties out of compliance, or in non-attainment, with EPA’s new 8-hour health standard for ozone.

Thirteen of these counties were also in violation of the less-stringent 1-hour ozone standard. At the end of 2004, 25 counties in the state were designated out of compliance for EPAs new fine particle standard (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy).

“The American Lung Association ranked Atlanta seventh in the nation for year-round fine particle pollution exposure. Georgia ranks 10th in the nation for the highest levels of CO2 pollution from power plants, with more than 81 million tons emitted annually.”

Georgia Power plants Bowen and Scherer rank 1st and 2nd in the top 50 power plants in the country for most CO2 pollution respectively (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy). This is significant for the counties surrounding the City of Atlanta and counties north like Hall and Forsyth.

The primary reason is the extensive amount of almost unrestricted growth that is occurring in Atlanta; but, in these two counties in particular. Just look around at the massive construction projects here in Hall County and in Forsyth as well. Developers are clear cutting stands of timber instead of interacting with the natural surroundings and with very little environment concern from the local government, this all for the sake of increasing the counties tax base.

There are efforts by many Georgia companies such as Green Power EMC, a partnership of electric membership cooperatives in Georgia, to offer customers a green power choice. Georgia Power and Savannah Electric Company are developing a green power program for their customers as well.

None of the Georgia utilities have earned the nationally acclaimed Green-e accreditation at this time. Some have secured energy products that enable them to apply for Green-e accreditation if they want to (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy). This isn’t even to mention the nuclear plants in and around Georgia that created a significant amount of nuclear waste material which contribute to environmental hazards as well.

What can we do? How can we affect change as well as affect conditions which are being created in our region of the state. We can start by becoming environmental conscious as a campus and work outwards.

We can support efforts that are being made to make our campus an example not only to Hall County but to our neighbors in all directions. Please if you have any suggestions on how we can accomplish this task contact Dr. Kerry R. Stewart (kstewart@gsc.edu) in the Social Science Division or Dr. Jon Hoekstra (jhoekstra@gsc.edu) in the Science Division.

Student Poll

1. How do you feel about graduation ceremonies being moved from the Georgia Mountain Center to the gym?

“Who wouldn’t want to get their diploma then play some b-ball!”

“I feel great about the timing of graduation, but not about the timing of every class giving exams at once before the break.”

Kenneth Lyon, Biochemistry

2. How do you feel about the timing of Spring break?

“It is not a bad idea if it is a practical move. Let’s face it, everything involved with higher education is very expensive, so cutting a seemingly unnecessary cost is good.”

“Spring break seems to be just a tad early, and might I add, short.”

Brandon Bentsen, Political Science

“I don’t intend to participate, but if I did, I think I would prefer to have the ceremony here at GSC.”

“It feels a little too early, but the schedule does put it at about the right spot. I say keep it.”

Clint Barefoot, Political Science

“I think it is horrible! Students didn’t work hard these past two or more years just to settle for a gym ceremony. They deserve a place that is representative of their hard work.”

“I would have liked for spring break to have been later in the Semester.”

Kelly Williamson, Political Science
Dennis Harper Intrigues the Minds of Artists

By Jennifer Messer
A&E Editor 92416686@gsc.edu

The Roy C. Moore Art Gallery will be showing pieces from artist Dennis Harper until March 13. Mr. Harper is the Curator of Exhibitions at the Georgia Museum of Art. He paints in pen and ink and his pieces can be found everywhere from New York to Tokyo. Be sure to come and take a look at his unique style of work.

Student Exhibition Is Sure To Inspire

Facing Inspiration, the graduating student exhibition will appear at the Roy C. Moore Art Gallery from March 21 to April 26. This is the last exhibit of the academic year, and will showcase pieces from the graduating class. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to see the work of our future professional artists.

‘Smokey Joe’s Café’ Will Have You Dancing in Your Seat

By Jennifer Messer
A&E Editor 92416686@gsc.edu

Mystical, intriguing and tranquil, the idea of creating the perfect setting for the Greek mythology-based play ‘Metamorphoses’ can make anyone’s mind wander. Based on nine different stories, this performance will immerse the audience into a world that is completely unique and take them on a journey that they will not soon forget.

Behind the Complex and Mysterious Design of ‘Metamorphoses’

By Jennifer Messer
A&E Editor 92416686@gsc.edu

The ‘Films for Tolerance’ Series presents “The Beauty Academy of Kabul” at Brenau University’s Thurmond McRae Lecture Hall on Wednesday, March 14 at 6 p.m.

A&E Briefs

Music Students Take It Away in ‘Big Band Show’

By Jennifer Messer
A&E Editor 92416686@gsc.edu

This show is something that many students in the music department look forward to, and every student seems to enjoy it for many different reasons. Second-year music major, Jonathan Etienne’s favorite part of the show was, “the diverse music selection from different categories of jazz.” His favorite song was Duke Ellington’s ‘In A Sentimental Mood.’ “It’s a beautiful song that really takes the performer and listener to a completely different dimension in jazz music,” he stated.

It really says something about a show when the people performing in it love it. If they make a big enough commitment to it, that’s when the audience will fall in love with it as well.

Before the show, third-year computer science major, Cheryl Hall claimed, “the students will enjoy the show because of the different songs being performed by the jazz band and chorus.” Hall went on to say that, “there will be several soloists as well. I believe students will enjoy watching their peers do what they love.”

With its prestigious legacy, the ‘Big Band Show’ has captured a highly unique following. “We have a very diverse audience from elderly patrons right down to small children,” stated Dr. Santander. “As far as the jazz band is concerned, I believe many of my selections will be instantly recognizable to fans of classic big band jazz (Jumpin’ at the Woodside, Caravan, and In A Sentimental Mood).”

Each group making up the ‘Big Band Show’ brings something of their own to it. They all have different practice times, which can unfortunately make things complicated when they’re trying to piec everything together.

“IT is extremely difficult to schedule extra rehearsals outside of these times due to work/ family schedules; therefore, we must use each rehearsal very efficiently and count on student practice outside of class and during free times,” explained Dr. Santander. “Rehearsals are extremely important in order for an encore performance. If a group can’t prepare properly, who can they expect to play well?”

For Dr. Santander, rehearsals are a time when the group dynamic is formed. He believes that, “every group is absolutely unique down to the last player. Change one person … change the group.”

Outside of practice, music students are individuals, but people don’t see behind the scenes is that by being involved in the music department, these students have been able to come together and as some say, like family.

It is this type of a bond that can make the difference between an adequate and an ex-core performance.

Arts & Entertainment

Music Students Take it Away in ‘Big Band Show’

Behind the Complex and Mysterious Design of ‘Metamorphoses’

With the aid of a computer program called VectorWorks, Stuart Beaman is able to create a life-like model of what the stage will appear like to the audience and cast members.
Glancing at the stage in Brenau University’s Burd Center Hosch Theatre, the audience is greeted with elegant scenery that can be compared to what must have made up Oscar Wilde’s England in 1895. Before the performance begins Jim Hammond, director of the Georgia Theatre Alliance, livens up the audience. He jokes about how “if the character's were alive in 2007, they would all be checking into rehab tomorrow morning.” The audience laughs at his jokes and then the lights go off, flash back on, and the performance, which is directed by Gay H. Hammond, begins.

The audience is suddenly looking at the glamorous dresses of the 1800’s that could be compared to what actresses wear to the Golden Globe’s today. The men all look polished in handsome suits. A party is currently in motion at Sir Robert Chiltern’s [Zechariah Pierce] home. Chiltern is a prominent person in society with connections with the government. His wife, Lady Chiltern [Sarah Smith] is an admired woman.

Lady Chiltern is surprised when a woman that she used to go to school with is introduced to her at the party. Mrs. Cheveley [Claire Guy] is also an admired woman in society, but Lady Chiltern can see right through her. Mrs. Chiltern knows right off the bat that Mrs. Cheveley’s visit isn’t on good terms.

When Mrs. Cheveley finds the opportunity to speak with Sir Robert, she reveals the fact that she knows his wealth is due to a scheme that he took part in years ago. She then attempts to con him into siding on a scheme of her own, and she threatens to spill Sir Robert’s secret if he doesn’t agree. Sir Robert is immediately stunned. The last thing he wants is for his wife to lose the perfect image that she’s had of him for so many years. He knows that if she finds out about his secret, her love for him will fade away.

Pierce’s dialect as Sir Robert is exquisite. His acting is strong and enthused. He brings emotion to the character and changes his emotion expertly as his character changes his feelings in every scene.

Smith is just as stunning as anyone would picture Lady Chiltern to be. She is able to capture the graceful and gentle side of the character as well as the fiery, disgusted side that she shows toward Mrs. Cheveley.

Their acting is strong and precise; it shows that the pair are both equally excellent actors.

The climax between Pierce and Smith when the secret is revealed is one of the best moments of the performance. Miss Mabel Chiltern [Allie Payton], Sir Robert Chiltern’s little sister, fights back at her opposite character, Lord Goring [Derrick Ledbetter]. She’s jealous when Goring speaks of other girls (especially Mrs. Cheveley), yet she still plays hard-to-get. Payton captures the appeal of the little bratty sister who is constantly going back and forth between emotions of happy, sad and mad. Although her character is full of mood swings and pouting, she is able to grab the audience and pull them on her side.

Lord Goring is a lazy bachelor who gets wrapped up in all of the lies and deceiving that occurs in the play. He is a good friend of Sir Robert who wants nothing more than for his friend and wife to be happy regardless of any secrets from Robert’s past. Of course, the fact that Lord Goring proposed to Mrs. Cheveley once upon a time makes Sir Robert question his friendship, especially when he finds Mrs. Cheveley in Goring’s house.

Ledbetter brings just the right amount of charm and sarcasm to the stage and Guy captures Mrs. Cheveley’s sweet yet suspicious side brilliantly.

Humor is a major aspect in the show. From jokes about men to jokes about women, the audience is constantly laughing. The father and son sequence between Lord Goring and his father was a hit, but there were two other humorous parts that made the audience laugh the most. The first was when Lord Goring screeched out “Mrs. Cheveley?” when he realized that it was her that was in his house instead of Lady Chiltern. His high-pitched voice was a hit with the audience. The second most humorouos moment was when Lord Goring asks Sir Robert for permission to marry Mable. The audience immediately knows that Sir Robert wants nothing more than for Mable not to marry Lord Goring by his expression. It too, caused an uproar of laughter.

‘An Ideal Husband’ reminds me of your modern day he said, she said dilemma that could be related to television dramas such as ‘One Tree Hill.’ The ending shows that true love can rise above anything, and a lack of trust can leave everyone in a tangled web. It reminds the audience to trust those you love and love them for their imperfections.
Food for Thought...

Restaurant Review
by Marlon Perez

‘Taco Mac’ Could Start an Addiction in Your Life

Are you looking for a favorite spot to watch your hometown sport team and share an evening of food, family and friends? How about a place which provides a comfortable atmosphere and welcomes everyone? Well, ‘Taco Mac’ is the place for you if you want to enjoy good eating and great tasting “Buffalo-style chicken wings”, Taco Mac’s specialty.

Taco Mac started in 1979 when a couple of guys from Buffalo, New York were making a trip to Florida, and they decided to make a stop in Atlanta. After touring the city and enjoying the great weather down South they decided to stay. They didn’t have a large amount of money, but they did have a great idea, which they hoped would grow. They wanted to start and bring a popular northern cuisine down to the South.

The guys first started off in a tiny taco shack in the corner of Virginia and Highland Avenues also known as “The Virginia Highlands”. Even though it was in a quiet, tucked away, well kept secret place, they felt like this was going to be the spot. They wanted this at first to be a place just for the neighborhood to enjoy great tasting food. This Mexican-Irish family business named this place, “Taco Mac”.

Then, Buffalo natives came down South to help Taco Mac introduce to Atlanta their very own Buffalo-style chicken wings. Word spread fast about these delicious northern favorites. Soon customers were coming from all around the world to this small shack just to try them. Same as the reason why my friends Charlie Fischer and Brittany Walker and I came for. The menu includes many other great dishes but it was the spicy “wings” that had us, and the entire city of Atlanta, talking about and coming back to Taco Mac.

As the popularity of Taco Mac’s “Buffalo Wings” increased, sports and wings seemed like natural partners. People from all over the world enjoy Taco Mac’s buffalo wings, while also enjoying their hometown sports team at Taco Mac. Taco Mac has become a favorite spot for customers like us to share an evening of food, family and friends and for tasty meals. The wings were delicious and their food selection was unparalleled, but their selection was amazing and we were hooked, and you will be as well!

Taco Mac is affordable and it is a place for a “formal date” or a place to spend your time for “the big game”. Taco Mac includes a wide selection of appetizers, soups and salads, mouth-watering burgers, wings, sandwiches, Southwest meals, specialties, desserts and a kids menu all under a great price for you and that “special date.”

The family business grew and new stores became larger and more locations continue to grow in new communities. Taco Mac still continues to provide a comfortable atmosphere welcoming each and every one of us.

Today, Taco Mac is growing and more customers continue to return, but they still agree some things do not change. The “Virginia-Highlands” store still reminds their start to a humble beginning and they remain committed to be as loyal to all of their customers. Taco Mac is still famous for its “Buffalo Wings,” but most of all, they’re well-known for their friendly and inviting atmosphere. They thank us for making them a part of our neighborhood and for giving them the opportunity of serving us.

To find the nearest Taco Mac location, go to the one located on 3250 Woodward Crossing Blvd in Buford right in front of the Mall of Georgia and across the street of Best Buys. There are restaurants all around Atlanta, so don’t miss out on trying what might turn out to be your new favorite place to eat.

Marlon Perez was born in Miami, Fla., and moved to Gainesville in 1999. He is Pre-Med and plans to study to be a Radiologist. He currently works at Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

A Night at the Movies...

Movie Review
by Charlie Fischer

‘Ghost Rider’ Takes Audiences on a Wild Ride

Over the past few years, comic book companies have been making a push to bring back the popularity of comic books by making movies. Some have been successful, but some have just flopped. From the ‘Spiderman’ series, to the ‘Fantastic Four’ debacle, it is now Ghost Rider’s turn to see if he can make his comic book company proud.

The first thing that I did like about the movie was the previews. When you see all the action on television, you think that that’s as good as it gets, like some movies. But there are plenty more action-packed ‘Ghost Rider’ missions in the movie than what you see in the previews. The movie starts off pretty quick, throwing you right into the action. The overall point of the movie is to emphasize that some people will do anything for love, as you have probably noticed from the previews.

You look at Spiderman, Batman and all the other popular comic book guys and you see that they have obvious flaws and weaknesses that their enemies can use against them. In ‘Ghost Rider’, this isn’t present. Now take into consideration that he is not necessarily human when he hits Ghost Rider mode. He still seems to be invincible to me. He has about three fights in the movie, excluding the last one, where he just humiliates the opponent in under 20 seconds. Talk about lack of drama and suspense.

Another flaw that I saw in the movie was the acting of Nicholas Cage. Don’t get me wrong, I am a fan of his, but this movie wasn’t one of his best films. He just doesn’t seem to put as much heart and effort into this one like he put in some of his earlier works. I believe that they should have gone a different road with the main actor in this one. I believe a good choice would have been Ashton Kutcher. He is a great actor and would have fit the part of Ghost Rider perfectly.

The supporting actors did a descent job. Eva Mendes is absolutely gorgeous and a good actress as well. I most certainly enjoyed staring at her for two hours. Wes Bentley, Sam Elliot, Peter Fonda and Donal Logue, all the other main actors, did a descent job with this movie. They weren’t spectacular, but they did a good enough job to make the movie bearable. But Eva Mendes is what really sold the movie for me.

So all and all ‘Ghost Rider’ was a pretty good comic book based movie. It supplies action, love and a few jumpy moments throughout the movie. It isn’t nearly as good as the ‘Spiderman’ series, but it is above fantastic four, just about an average comic book based film. If you are interested in comic books and their movies, this wouldn’t be a bad one to see. In the end it seems like they might be heading towards a sequel, but it is a good movie and you are recommended by me to go out and see it.

Charlie Fischer is a freshman who is in his second semester at GSC. He plans on majors in education and becoming a P.E. teacher.