

ANCHORS AWAY

Gainesville State College Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2008

FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 41ST ANNIVERSARY

The GSC Foundation held its Annual Meeting at the Gainesville Civic Center with the attendance of over 300 alumni, foundation board members and community leaders.

The evening included both silent and live auctions that generated over \$37,000 for GSC scholarships. Two students spoke about the importance of their Foundation Scholarship and the impact it has had on their lives. **Butch Miller** served as the auctioneer for the live auction.

Special thanks to **Jeanne Hanlin** of Watkins Chiropractic who chaired the auction committee. The committee included: **Haydee Anderson, Beth Baldwin, Susan Barkley, Mitch Clark, Harry Chapman, Jane Fleming, Julya Rose Hodge, Shirley Hudgins, Rita Mandell, Harriett McNeal, Johnnie Mejia, Robin Myers, Holly Owens, Robin Smith, and Margaret Whalen.**



The Alumni Association awarded Vicki Davis the Distinguished Alumni Award. Vicki is a member of the GSC Alumni Council and began her term as president in January 2008. Left to right, Alumni Director Ms. Michelle Brown, Vicki, and husband, Jim Davis.



Bob Swoszowski was selected by the Alumni Association as the Distinguished Service Award Recipient. Pictured left to right, Bob, Dr. Martha Nesbitt, Ms. Pat Guthrie, and Alumni Director Ms. Michelle Brown.



SAVE THE DATE
*Starlight Concert
and Fireworks Show*
Friday, June 13, 2008

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A profile of students from the Ambassadors Club and Student Government



Roy Johnson

GC Alumni Class of 1996

I began my academic journey at Gainesville State College in 1994-95. I have many, many memories of Gainesville College. With appreciation to the faculty and staff, I feel strongly to this day that the experiences I had while attending Gainesville College, both academic and social, formed the foundation for me to achieve several academic and professional accomplishments.

I began GC as a non-traditional student at age 22 with a haunting high school academic history, which was apparent after entrance testing revealed that I would be taking ALL "remedial" courses my first year. I still remember to this day Ann Purdy walking into English 101 (remedial English) every morning singing the conjunctions to us requiring us to repeat them in cadence—"and or but nor for so yet... and or but nor for so yet." I will never forget the time she spent and the patience she had with us learning basic grammar skills.

I was fortunate to form strong bonds and friendships with many students, staff, and faculty members while attending GC. Dr. Foster Watkins and others come to mind as great leaders, motivators, educators, and friends that I admire. I'll never forget working with the entire faculty and staff while managing the transportation and parking for Olympic Rowing and Kayaking Event for 1996 Olympic Games at GC—what an event that we all will probably never forget!

I received my undergraduate degree (B.S.) from McPherson College (McPherson, KS). McPherson College is a small private college located in central Kansas where biological science programs stand out due to integrated practical experiences and undergraduate research requirements during junior and senior years. My undergraduate training was specifically in the area of microbiology with emphasis on molecular biology of infectious diseases. I was fortunate enough to graduate from McPherson College with academic and research honors in biological sciences in 1999.

I have been quite busy since attending Gainesville State College. I recently accepted a new position with Battelle, a government contractor, at the CDC in Atlanta as a Program Manager/Senior Public Health Scientist working on the Pandemic Flu Preparedness Program (a multi-agency task defined by the President, Congress, and U.S. Health and Human Services). I have been involved with the research, development, and regulatory process of molecular diagnostic testing since graduation from McPherson College in 1999. I have been involved with multiple FDA cleared molecular testing devices, patents, and manuscripts. In this new position, I will be managing a portion of a program working to develop rapid molecular diagnostic test for use in public health laboratories for detection of the highly pathogenic Influenza Virus H5N1 strain (Avian Flu).

Without the strong academic support programs, knowledgeable and personable educators, and the atmosphere that supported academic growth and achievement at GC, I would not be where I am today. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone at Gainesville State College—Thank You!

Jeremy Hinton

GC Alumni Class of 1995

What I have been doing since graduating from Gainesville College:

Soon after I graduated from GC, I married my lovely wife, Jennifer. One year later, we made some rather drastic life changes: we bought our first home, I took a management promotion, and I continued my education at Kennesaw State University. I had been working my way through school while at GC, and that continued while at KSU. I graduated in December of 1998, and switched careers from audio/video retail to the financial services industry. I spent a year as an investment advisor, before moving on to a benefits consulting firm.

About three years later, my wife and I decided to move to the Savannah area. We were ready for a change from the hustle-bustle of the Atlanta area, so we moved south. With this change, I took the opportunity to go back to school. Going to school full-time, I was able to earn an MBA from Georgia Southern University in 17 months.

I had always wanted to teach, so I began networking while still attending GSU. One semester after graduating from GSU, I stepped back into GSU's College of Business Administration as an Instructor of Quantitative Analysis. That experience lasted for a year, and I gained an amazing insight into the business of higher education.

During my short tenure at GSU, my wife and I began the process of adopting our daughter from Russia. That process entailed a time frame of 22 months and two trips to Siberia. In the end, we brought home the most precious gift that God can provide, a beautiful child. We experienced a different culture, met wonderful people, and learned that the word "love" has a deeper, more profound definition than we had ever known.

As I have grown and matured, I have realized there is more to life than chasing dollars. After graduate school, I felt the need to work for a not-for-profit, where the work that I did would be for the benefit of others. That opportunity became available to me at CORE Credit Union in Statesboro, GA. Currently, I am the Senior Manager of Financial Services and I thoroughly enjoy supporting the credit union movement and contributing to the growth at CORE.

Gainesville College gave me an excellent entry point for my career and further education. Some of my fondest college memories are of that campus and the activities there. From serving as a Gainesville College Ambassador, to my introduction to the academic side of the business world, the experiences gained on that campus have endured, and helped me flourish in both my career and personal life. I am encouraged to see how much GC has grown over the years. With this tremendous growth, there are even more opportunities ahead to its many graduates.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dr. Martha Nesbitt

As the New Year, 2008, begins, the College looks forward to another year of "Leading the Way." Our enrollment continues to significantly increase. Our students tell us how much they appreciate the personal attention they receive. They continue to graduate and transfer and do well academically, and we continue to reach out to the community of Northeast Georgia.

At the same time, we are facing challenges of construction on roads around the Gainesville Campus, the expansion and renovation of our Student Center, and are looking forward to the building of a parking deck in the spring or summer. We hope to soon begin construction of a Service Building on the Oconee Campus.

In the University System of Georgia Strategic Capital Plan submitted to the Governor and Legislature, GSC is scheduled for a new classroom building on the Gainesville Campus in FY 2010. This is a much needed facility as we are in a space crisis for both classrooms and faculty offices. Please encourage your political representatives to approve this plan.

We held our first mid-year graduation on the Gainesville Campus on December 15. It was a festive occasion with Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. featured as keynote speaker.

The GSC Foundation had a very successful year as we continue to provide needed assistance to hundreds of students as they pursue their dreams of a college education.

The support of our alumni and community gives the College a tremendous edge in providing quality higher education to Northeast Georgia. Thank you!

GTA NEWS

A Flea In Her Ear

by Georges Feydeau
February 12-23, 2008
Brenau's Hosch Theatre

Barbary Allen

by Gay H. Hammond
April 15-26, 2008
Gainesville State's Ed Cabell Theatre

Call 678-717-3624 for Tickets

MUSIC NEWS

The Big Band Show

February 28-29, 2008 and
March 1, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Gainesville State's Ed Cabell Theatre
Ticket information 678-717-3624

The Spring Concert

Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Brenau's Pearce Auditorium
Featuring the Symphonic Band,
Brass Ensemble, and Chorale

What if every alum donated to the Alumni Scholarship Fund?

Your support makes a difference in the life of a student.

Gifts may also be made online at our secure website:

Go to <http://www.gsc.edu> and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

Mail contributions to:
Gainesville State College
Alumni Office
P.O. Box 1358
Gainesville, GA 30503

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____

WE HEARD THAT...

1967 Robert L. Payne, Jr. is employed with Baldor Reliance Dodge in Flowery Branch. He continued his education at Southern Illinois University and Community College of the Air Force. He has two children, Erin Payne Manning and James Payne.

1989 Chris L. Mundy is married with one son, Davis, who is 6 years old. Chris completed his MBA in finance from Georgia State in 2005. He is employed as a Product Manager for AIG Agency Auto.

1990 Michelle and Kevin Brown welcomed baby boy number three to their family on June 2, 2006. Carson joins older brothers Hudson and Harrison Brown.



1993 Nicki "Griffith" Rionda and José Rionda were married on May 12, 2007 in Bernardsville, New Jersey. Nicki is employed with AlphaStaff, Inc. as their HR Regional Manager for Client Services.



1998 Penny Samples Raper is a teacher at White Sulphur Elementary School.

1999 James R. Payne is employed by Sheeler Electric in Gwinnett County. He and his wife Susan (GC class of 2000) are the parents of Lillian and Caleb. Susan is employed with the Hall County School System at Oakwood Elementary.

2001 Shannon Miles is engaged to Clint Aaron and is planning an April, 2008 wedding in Las Vegas. Shannon is working for Georgia FCCLA located in Athens. FCCLA is a student organization in middle and high schools.



2005 Abby Cox Massaro and husband Anthony welcomed a baby girl, Addison Nicole, to their family on September 1, 2007.

STEVE BLAIR— AN AMAZING TEACHER



Students today love him like our alums have over the past 35 years!

It's hard to believe that Steve Blair has been at Gainesville State College for over 30 years! In September of 2008, Mr. Blair will celebrate his 35th year of teaching at GSC. Students and co-workers alike love his teaching style and caring attitude that he shows for all that he comes in contact with.

Current GSC student Blair Prentice enjoyed his Accounting classes with Mr. Blair so much that he decided it was time to honor him with an endowed scholarship in his name. Mr. Prentice approached GSC Foundation officials about establishing the Steve Blair Endowment and made its first donation.

If you would like to help build this Endowment named for Mr. Steve Blair, please use the donation form in this newsletter (bottom of page 3) or give on-line at www.gsc.edu/development/foundation/ and click on the on-line giving box.

GRADUATION ON CAMPUS FIRST TIME IN ALMOST 20 YEARS

The College held the first bi-annual commencement in the Hugh M. Mills Physical Education Complex on the Gainesville Campus, December, 2007.

Students from both the Gainesville and Oconee Campuses participated in the ceremony and a total of 277 Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science degrees and Certificates were awarded.

The College was honored to have Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. as the Commencement Speaker for this special event. Also in attendance were Regents Jim Jolly and Felton Jenkins as well as Mr. Rob Watts who serves as the University System of Georgia's Chief Operating Officer.



Students from the Oconee Campus.

FIRST LIVE WEB CAM INSTALLED ON GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS

A live web cam has been installed on the Gainesville State College Gainesville Campus which is focused on the Student Center Renovation work site. Now viewers can see the progress in real-time.

The web cam was installed by the GSC Student Technology Help Desk employees under the supervision of the GSC Information Technology Department. While the images are not recorded through the web cam, daily photos are being made and plans are to produce a time-lapse video upon project completion.



From the Live Web Cam.

The anticipated completion date for the renovation is October of 2008. To view the live web cam, visit <http://studentlife.gsc.edu/>

MARY TRANSUE JOINS GSC FOUNDATION OFFICE



Mary Transue

Mary joins the Development-Foundation Office team with the goal of increasing the donor base in Hall and surrounding counties. She has extensive experience in non-profit management and fundraising. She was very impressed by the growth of Gainesville State College as well as the impact on the community.

"It is exciting to see an organization that has such a significant, life-changing effect not only on the students, but their families and future generations. Education changes the dynamics of these families, their own expectations, and enhances the community as a whole."

Mary has a background that includes corporate healthcare, accounting, and non-profit management. Her hobbies include photography, painting, and writing, and believes in the importance of life-long learning.

Mary is looking forward to meeting and working with alumni and other supporters of the College. You can contact Mary at mtransue@gsc.edu or 678-717-3410.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have You:

- Changed jobs?
- Continued college?
- Married?
- Moved?
- Added to your family?
- Done something else that's noteworthy?

Membership is open to all former students, not just graduates. There is no membership fee.

Information for the next issue of *Anchors Away* should be sent to the Alumni Office by April 1, 2008.

Photos may be submitted in jpg or pdf format.

GSC Alumni Office
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Fax: 678-717-3618 • Email: mbrown@gsc.edu
www.gsc.edu

TELL US ABOUT IT!

Name _____
First Middle Maiden Last

Date of Birth _____

I attended GSC (Years) _____

Address _____

City State Zip

Home Phone _____

Employer _____

Position Held _____

Office Phone _____

Email Address _____

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ANCHORS AWAY
A publication for Alumni and Friends of Gainesville State College
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Gainesville, Georgia 30503

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 38
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