News:
Drinking age story - page 3
GSC top feeder school to UGA and NGC&SU - page 5
Non-traditional students manage a tough balancing act - page 5

Features:
Soap and water or hand sanitizer? - page 14
A closer look at Ramadan - page 12
How to take unusual foreign languages - page 13

Sports:
Fierce fans - page 18
Bulldogs - page 18
The other side of college football - page 19

Would a lower drinking age be wise?
In this issue ...

News: pages 3 - 5
Campus Life: pages 6 - 8
Clubs: pages 9 - 11
Features (new!): pages 12 - 14
A & E: pages 15 - 17
Sports: pages 18 - 20
Opinions: pages 21 - 23
Comics: page 24
Eighteen-year-olds and alcohol
More than 100 college presidents sign on to debate the issue again

By Brian Revels
Staff writer
924177637@gsc.edu

If you're under 21, you may be familiar with the scene: You're at a party, someone yells, “Cops!” and pandemonium ensues.

What if you could drink legally at 18?

A group of college presidents started the Amethyst Initiative in August to try to get debate going on whether to lower the drinking age to 18.

The drinking age was set at 18 in the 1970s during the Vietnam War. But due to efforts by anti-drunk driving groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the age was raised again to 21 in 1984.

More than 100 college presidents have signed the Amethyst Initiative. Some of them say that a drinking age of 19 promotes binge drinking on campus.

GSC President Martha Nesbitt has not signed the initiative. She is against the idea of lowering the drinking age.

“I understand that the real issue for those who support lowering the drinking age is the problem that comes with underage drinking, which does not necessarily equate to alcohol abuse,” Nesbitt said.

But Nesbitt said she can’t support lowering the age until she knows for sure that doing so will decrease alcohol abuse.

Gainesville College doesn't face the issues that residential campuses like UGA do. Nesbitt said GSC takes seriously its responsibility to educate students about alcohol abuse.

Brooke Welch, a GSC music major, supports lowering the drinking age.

“People are going to do it anyway,” she said, “so you may as well lower it.”

Sociology major Jonathan Brown said it doesn’t make sense for the drinking age to be 21.

“People that are between ages of 18 and 20 are already old enough to be considered adults but they can’t buy alcohol,” he said.

The Amethyst Initiative's web site notes that, “Alcohol education that mandates abstinence as the only legal option has not resulted in significant constructive behavioral change among our students.”

Brown believes this is a valid point.

“I think that other countries and Europe have had a lot of success with lower drinking ages because they treat drinking with more respect,” he said. “It’s considered a norm to drink responsibly there.”

The Amethyst Initiative has gotten a lot of criticism from MADD and other groups. The head of MADD even suggested in a news article that parents avoid sending their kids to schools whose presidents support it.

It’s not clear whether the Amethyst Initiative will manage to convince enough people to get the law changed. Their web site notes that isn’t necessarily their goal. They simply want to start a discussion on the issue.

For more information on the Amethyst Initiative, see www.amethystinitiative.org.

Budget cuts equate to less travel for clubs

By Jarvis Johnson
News Editor
924186934@gsc.edu

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has mandated major cuts due to the state's declining tax revenue. Gainesville State College is significantly affected by this sudden change and will have to forfeit all school-funded traveling privileges.

“The reason behind the cut is because state revenue is down,” said Paul Glaser, vice president of GSC's business and finance division. Apparently, the state of Georgia did not acquire the expected amount of funds from tax payers. According to Glaser, all USG colleges are asked to reduce spending for the next two years by 5 percent.

“There is a ban on out-of-state travel,” said Tom Walter, vice president of Student Development and Enrollment Management.

Many students have been affected by the cuts already. Philip Griffith, National President of Sigma Chi Eta and the 2007 Student of the Year will most likely have to miss this year's National Communication Association Convention in San Diego, Calif.

“There was a lot of anticipation to go to San Diego, we had planned fundraising and even designed T-shirts,” Griffith said. "I am definitely disappointed."

The National Communication Association Convention is an annual large and prestigious event for communication majors.

“Philip missing the national convention is like any political chairman missing their parties national convention,” said Tom Preston, communication professor. “It is that important.”

The Black Student Association is another club affected by the cuts. Last year BSA journeyed to Jena, La., to participate in what is known as a modern-day civil rights protest.

BSA along with Students for a Progressive Society demonstrated their support for the Jena Six case by traveling to Louisiana.

“If I had not attended that trip with the school, I would have never been apart of history,” said Likeevia Cox, BSA officer. If the cuts had been made this time last year, BSA would not have been allowed to travel to Jena.

The decision to reduce spending by the Board of Regents affects GSC's staff as well.

“We did lose some positions for staff, counseling and recruiting,” Walter said.

Fortunately, GSC has not had to lay anyone off. “We haven’t had to lose any positions, which is a good thing,” Walter said.
Get help for stress, depression

By Jaime Munoz
Photo Editor
924151486@gsc.edu

The start of a new college semester at Gainesville State College is a stressful time for college students. The stress can lead into depression which in turn is the No. 1 cause for suicide.

“College is a more stressful time than high school and it's for obvious reasons,” said Joy Evans, GSC’s director of Counseling and Career Services and licensed psychologist.

Academic work here is much more difficult here than it is in high school, she said. And students are faced with an entirely new situation in terms of forming a new social network of friends and finding out who they are as adults.

Students may often feel anxious and lost as they progress through a college life, Evans said. Besides incoming freshman who will leave the nest of their parents’ home and network of friends from their high school social life behind them, depression also affects current college students who encounter daily conflicts in their relationships with their family, friends, co-workers, boyfriend or girlfriend.

According to a 2006 joint release report by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and American Psychiatric Association, suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students and the third leading cause of death among all youth 15 to 24 years of age. Furthermore, over 90 percent of young adults who commit suicide will have had at least one psychological illness which results from substance abuse or depression.

As students hit the peak of turning into a young legal adult at age 18 in this country, graduate high school, gain a strong sense of self independence and move on with their own lives, people feel they should solve problems on their own. That's why college students may feel reluctant to step into a college’s counseling center because of the stigma of seeking mental help from outside sources, Evans said.

“One thing we try to do here is we talk about the problem…and counseling centers are known today as having wonderful ways of working on problems instead of someone who just sits and listens,” Evans said. “I can also teach stress and testing anxiety reduction techniques that will help them effectively and will help them cope with their stress particularly when their in situations in high stress.”

Evans has a wellness center inside the counseling office which holds the majority of resources that can help pull a person through the most difficult of situations – which can be checked out by students if they make the commitment of stopping by the counseling center first.

Among the DVDs, VHS tapes, massage chairs, light box therapy equipment and dozens of books that cluster the shelves of the wellness center, the center also maintains a bio feedback machine used in measuring a persons bodily functions to help them concentrate and relax effectively.

“For some that are anxious we have a trampoline so that they can jump up and down and get out the anxiety,” Evans said.

Clubs and campus events planned by the Student Activities office are also there for a reason. They give students the opportunity to create a social network of friends through these types of activities.

If students are interested in seeking help in dealing with their depression they can contact Joy Evans (jevans@gsc.edu) on the GSC campus or Melinda Hawley (mhawley@gsc.edu) at the Oconee campus.

GSC awarding more four-year degrees

By Michelle Bittner
Staff Writer
924161161@gsc.edu

Most people would recognize Gainesville State College as a two-year school. However, since Oct. 2005, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved GSC to offer a select amount of baccalaureate degree programs.

The first four-year degree GSC offered was the bachelor of science in applied environmental spatial analysis.

Both the bachelor of science with a major in early childhood care and education (ages 0-5) and the bachelor of applied science with a major in technology management were granted permission in January 2006.

The most recent four-year degree offered at GSC is the bachelor of science in early childhood education (grades P-5) which was granted April 2006.

This fall the first group of early childhood care and education and technology management students will be graduating.

In spring 2008, six students graduated from GSC with baccalaureate degrees in applied environmental spatial analysis and 19 students have graduated in early childhood education.

Since many other institutions in the University System of Georgia offer four year degrees in English and history, it is doubtful that GSC will be offering them in the future.

If granted permission, students in the future may be able to look forward to getting a bachelor of science in gerontology or a bachelor of fine arts in design and technology for theatre.
Non-traditional students juggle life, work, school

By Lauren Blais  
Staff Writer  
924203752@gsc.edu

At the end of the day Diane Pinero and her 7-year-old daughter break out the books and begin their homework. “My daughter will try to do some homework with me,” she said.

Pinero, 37, is a non-traditional student at Gainesville State College. GSC defines a non-traditional student as one who has been out of high school for five years or more. Generally this is 23 years of age or older, according to Brenda Adams, coordinator of student life and non-traditional student services. A cosmetologist for many years, Pinero’s decision to return to school began three years ago when she filled-in for an absent teacher at her daughter’s preschool kindergarten school. Having discovered her new passion for teaching she decided to go back to college and seek a degree. She enrolled at GSC as a non-traditional student.

“I really want to be an elementary school teacher,” said Pinero. “This is the only way I can achieve that goal.”

Pinero is working part-time as a substitute teacher for area schools while pursuing her bachelor’s degree in early childhood education.

In 2007 the top majors for GSC’s non-traditional students were associate degrees in business administration, early childhood education and pre-nursing.

Like many traditional GSC students, Pinero started college right after graduating from high school. She left, however, during her second semester, electing to receive her cosmetology license instead. Eighteen years later, she’s back in the running for a degree.

“School hasn’t changed as much as I have changed,” said Pinero. “School is a priority now.”

Pinero began college this past summer. “[It’s] very awkward being a non-traditional student,” she said. “Although there are a lot more non-traditional students than I thought there would be.”

In 2006 non-traditional students made up 10 percent of total enrollment at GSC. This percentage jumped to 23 percent in 2007. According to Brenda Adams, an entire third of the students on the Gainesville main campus are non-traditional.

GSC has made it a priority to assist non-traditional students. The Second Wind Club, which Adams advises, exists to provide resources and give the students a way to connect with each other. Counseling and Career Services holds workshops throughout the year to help with test anxiety, time management, and other areas.

“Math seems to be the biggest anxiety that non-traditional students have,” Adams said. One of Pinero’s biggest challenges is her College Algebra class.

“I’m overwhelmed because I never struggled with math,” she said. “It’s been so long since I’ve taken a math class, I’m struggling because I’m not confident at all. I’m in the math lab almost every day.”

The math lab is a tutoring resource at GSC. Pinero seeks out her professors directly, saying that her math teacher has gone “above and beyond” to assist.

Today she has a different plan of attack: “I’m going to go home and look for my neighbor,” she said. It turns out Pinero’s neighbor is a middle school teacher and a great helping hand. Pinero is not afraid take advantage of any resource available to help her succeed. This determination is typical of the non-traditional student.

“Non-traditional students are more focused than regular students,” said Adams. “They’re more goal-oriented.”

They have to be. “The ride on the college road is not a quick run-around-the-block for these students, who took 8.2 credit hours a semester in 2007 compared to the 11.8 credit hours averaged by traditional students.”

“That’s a big problem with non-traditional students,” said Adams. “They don’t have time.”

Adams speaks from experience: Starting as an employee at GSC, she soon became a student as well. After six years as a non-traditional student she obtained her associate degree in business administration.

“Besides all of the beautiful girls here at UGA, I love the fact that I go to the Harvard of the south,” he said. “I chose to go to GSC with the intentions of transferring to UGA and my dreams came true and I love it here!”

Surrounded by frenetic youth, non-traditional GSC student Roger Londry, 76, is studying for his Latin foreign language class. When asked about his major Londry replied, “Major? No major. I go to school just to go to school.”

Where will you transfer? UGA, NGCSU top picks

By Brigitte Autran  
Asst. Op Ed Editor  
924187226@gsc.edu

Gainesville State College is the top feeder for both the UGA and NGCSU. In 2007, there were 155 Gainesville State students entering UGA.

According to Mack Palmour, Admissions Director here at Gainesville State College, “There are several reasons GSC is the top feeder into UGA and NGCSU, such as the partnership between GSC and NGCSU and both schools belong to the University System.”

Students belonging to the University System will not have trouble transferring most of their classes to NGCSU and UGA that is the convenience.

“Rigorous programs such as nursing or education require time to get into those schools,” said Jonathan A. Cueva, admissions officer of NGCSU. “Students know that they can go to Gainesville College and apply these programs without wasting time and money since most of the classes they are taking. Sometimes people applying to these majors from other 2-year institutions are not able to be accepted since some classes are not transferenceable.”

Location is one of the key factors of why GSC is the No. 1 feeder to UGA and NGCSU.

Patrick Winter, senior associate director of the office of undergraduate admissions at UGA said his school is a natural progression for many GSC students. “Students attending GSC (particularly the Oconee Campus) enjoy living in the area and find the transition to UGA the most logical one,” he said.

There are still other reasons why students choose to transfer instead of going straight to UGA or NGCSU from high school.

“Sometimes good students are not good test takers,” Cueva said. “Unfortunately sometimes students are not accepted in NGCSU because SAT or ACT scores. However, Students can later apply as a transfer student, and Gainesville gives this excellent opportunity to them offering the same quality education and preparing them for any chosen major at NGCSU. The same as well applies when we do not have space in classroom or dorms, they can go to GSC and later transfer here.”

Jonathan Fausel, a transfer student from GSC now attending UGA, loves his new school. "Besides all of the beautiful girls here at UGA, I love the fact that I go to the Harvard of the south," he said. "I chose to go to GSC with the intentions of transferring to UGA and my dreams came true and I love it here!"
Students studying Geographic Information Science at Gainesville State College will soon have more facilities at their disposal.

That's because the Spatial Analysis Lab at GSC will receive a $360,000 grant over the course of the next four years.

The grant is due to the GIS department selection as one of four main collegiate programs to branch from the National GeoTech Center.

Professor Emeritus Lewis F. Rogers, director of The Lewis F. Rogers Institute of Environmental and Spatial Analysis, said, “Our main purpose at Gainesville State is to train faculty, and provide them with course materials, laboratory exercises and technical support so they can start GIS courses at their two-year colleges or assist them in providing or developing their own program.”

Along with nanotechnology and biotechnology, geospatial technology is booming. Geospatial careers earned a place as one of the top three fields in American jobs.

GIS is used to study data using geography such as maps or charts. Items such as global positioning systems and remote sensing, like that used in Google Earth, come directly from those in the GIS field.

The problem that GSC and other colleges are trying to solve is that GIS jobs are, more and more frequently, being outsourced.

Through hands-on training and working with high schools and technical colleges around the state, GSC hopes to help keep jobs in the United States.

Chris Semerjian, director of the Environmental and Spatial Analysis Laboratory, said that while the geospatial technology industry is growing, the demand of people in the field outweighs the supply, which leads companies to outsource the jobs.

Gainesville State College had the first GIS training program in the state and is still the only two-year college with one.

Currently, the only other post-high school institution in Georgia with GIS training is Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro. Part of the grant is expected to help other technical schools offer certificates.

After 18 hours of GIS courses, those in the program receive a certificate which can start their careers in the field, without having a bachelor's degree.

In January, the GIS department will further develop a curriculum that they have already begun teaching.

The plan is to invite people who use GIS in their fields to see if there is anything else they should add to the curriculum.

Finally, the college will invite teachers from across the state to help develop GIS teaching programs in high schools and recruit more students into the field.

The grant was awarded by the National Science Foundation.

For more information on the GIS program visit http://www.gsc.edu/iesa/gis/.

A geographic information system combines information, computer software and hardware to display and analyze different features of geographical information. Above is an example of what GIS is capable of, displaying customers on a geographical map that allows businesses to understand what type of people buy their products and services.

Political cartoons grace Great Liberal-Conservative Debate

From staff reports

More than 200 students gathered in the CE building for a bloodbath debate Monday, Sept. 22. Hot topics were immigration, abortion, health care and education. Put together by the Gainesville State College Debate club, the event was co-sponsored by Sigma Chi Eta, Students for a Progressive Society, Student Government Association, the Politically Incorrect Club, Office of Minority Affairs and the Black Student Association.

“Of all of the debates we have held since the Debate Club was revived in 2007, this was the most successful thus far,” said Tom Preston, adviser of the debate club.

“I was humbled by the great support of colleagues and students alike, and very much appreciated the efforts of the students whose talents were showcased in this timely discussion.”

Colorful political cartoons by Tanjina Islam, an art student at GSC, greeted students as they entered the auditorium.

Teacher Feature: Dr. Ben Wynne

Caitlin O’Dell
Editor-in-Chief
924170651@gsc.edu

Compass: What schools did you go to previously?
Wynne: I got my undergraduate degree from a little school in Jackson, Miss., called Millsaps College. I got my master’s in history from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., and I got my doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

Compass: Did you always want to be a history teacher when you were younger?
Wynne: No. Actually, I got a business degree first and I worked about 10 years in the private sector. But I was always interested in history and I always wanted to do this someday, so I made the jump.

Compass: At what other college have you taught?
Wynne: I made the rounds pretty good before I got the job here. I was at Florida State, Ole Miss, taught there for a couple years. A couple semesters at Valdosta State doing adjunct work, and Bainbridge College and ABAC down in Tifton.

Compass: What brought you to Georgia?
Wynne: I met my wife. My wife moved here and I was teaching at Florida State in Tallahassee, I met her and so I wanted to stay over here.

Compass: Do you like the Gainesville area so far?
Wynne: I think it’s wonderful. North Georgia is in general, wonderful. We live about 55 miles from Atlanta so we’re out of the hustle and bustle but if we need some hustle and bustle we can go there. And north Georgia is wonderful, one of the best places to live in my experience.

Compass: How often do you go to Atlanta?
Wynne: Not too often. Aside from taking people and picking them up from the airport, maybe once a month or so. We’ve been to the aquarium and the Atlanta History Center, saw a couple of concerts.

Compass: Where are you originally from?
Wynne: I’m Originally from Florence, Miss.

Compass: What things do you miss about Mississippi?
Wynne: I have a lot of friends over there, and family over there. I’d say I miss them the most.

Compass: Would you say the weather is pretty similar?
Wynne: The weather is pretty similar. It’s actually a little cooler out here, in the northern part, than where I lived ... it’s about five degrees cooler on average.

Compass: What kind of things do you like to do in your free time?
Wynne: We just had a baby so there’s not a lot of free time. But, my wife and I like to travel. We like the sports, all the usual things people like to do. Go to concerts and shows, things like that. Or just do nothing, that’s also one of my favorite pastimes.

Compass: Do you collect anything?
Wynne: I collect coins, I collect old postcards and I collect various inscriptions and knickknacks and things of that nature.

Compass: Where do you find old postcards?
Wynne: You can get them at these antique shops, or antique malls. Nowadays you can get them on eBay.

Compass: What are your favorite kinds of old postcards that you’ve found?
Wynne: Usually street scenes, cities and towns. Anywhere from the ’50s on back. That era of the 1900s to 1950. It’s kind of nerdy, but I enjoy it.

Compass: What kinds of sports do you enjoy?
Wynne: Football, basketball, mainly. Baseball, tennis. Those are the ones to watch. And I played basketball in high school.

Compass: Do you have any favorite teams?
Wynne: Yes. The pro football is Giants, the Colts and the Saints. In college I’m a long-suffering Ole Miss fan. And I watch the Braves in baseball.

Compass: In the classroom what is one of your biggest fears?
Wynne: Honestly, I don’t have any fears. If you go in prepared, you’re good. I can’t think of anything I’m really scared of. I don’t have any problem with public speaking or anything ... I guess mainly you could consider it a fear that I’m not getting across to students. But I don’t find that the case most of the time.

Compass: What’s your favorite vacation spot?
Wynne: We like New Orleans. We also go to Dahlonega ... which is about an hour north of here. You could say we like New Orleans. That’d be the one place I’d like to go this weekend ... even with the hurricanes. As long as the hurricane isn’t hitting while I’m there. I like New York, too.

Compass: What’s your favorite thing about New Orleans?
Wynne: All the different cultural stuff. It’s a big melting pot. I mean, it really is a big melting pot of all different kinds of cultures. There’s something interesting on every block. It’s the same thing in New York. There’s something new on every block.

Compass: You mentioned your wife is from Georgia and you lived in Mississippi, so how did you meet?
Wynne: We met in the old-fashioned way: We met in a restaurant. She was teaching in Bainbridge College and I was teaching at Florida State in Tallahassee, just south of there.

Compass: You said just had a new baby. How is that going?
Wynne: It’s going great. We don’t sleep nearly as much as we used to, and we do a lot more laundry, but other than that it’s going great. We’re really happy and we’re having a lot of fun. We feel blessed. She’s a girl named Lilly. She’s nine weeks old (on Sept 11).

Compass: I have to ask about this cowboy playing guitar you have in your window. What’s that from?
Wynne: That’s a post card from the Delta Blues Museum in Mississippi. Blues originated up there in Mississippi, so that’s a big deal over there. I enjoy that kind of music and I like to go mess around in the Delta ... see these different places where these blues men were born and where they got their start and so on and so forth. I like the Delta area.

Compass: Are you a musician yourself?
Wynne: No. I think I can play “Stairway to Heaven” on the guitar, the first three chords. I learned that when I was about 15 years old. That’s about all I can do.

GSC reaches record enrollment

Dakota Blair
Staff Writer
924176786@gsc.edu

Gainesville State College achieved record enrollment this year. There were 9,500 students enrolled for the fall 2008 semester.

Mac Palmour, GSC dean of admissions, said the large amount of students applying at GSC is due to the key location and Gainesville State’s good reputation for students transferring.

The influx of new students forces Gainesville State to make big plans for the future. A new building was already being considered, but the state budget did not allow enough money for the project.

With the new demand for space and more classes, a new building plan is under way. In the mean time, GSC has added more hours, added more classes and hired more staff.

“The amount of people arriving here in the morning is way more than just two years ago,” said third-year GSC student Jeff Whitlock. “I have to leave the house early just to find a parking spot.”

The budget committee approved a new parking deck. The new deck will help cut down on over-crowded parking lots and reduce the distance students will have to walk to class.

“As long as students meet the state acceptance criteria, we are required to accommodate the students,” said Palmour.

Palmour also made it clear that there are no plans to expand the Oconee branch at this time.

Colloquium Series Schedule

Larry Kahaner
“The Seven Money Secrets They Say You’re Too Young to Know: How to Prosper Now and Forever”
Sept. 23 Oconee
Sept. 24 Gainesville

Mary Lightfine
“Nurses Without Boundaries”
Oct. 11 Oconee
Oct. 12 Gainesville

Amber Madison
“Hooking Up”
March 2 Oconee
March 3 Gainesville
New deck may help ease the parking problem

By Paul Holley
Assistant Editor
924182578@gsc.edu

Several solutions are in the works to fix the parking problem at Gainesville State College.
Construction is set to begin on the new parking deck on October 15. The deck will be just below the J lot. It will be two stories and students will be able to drive directly from the J lot onto the top floor of the new deck.

“We know we have a problem,” said Paul Glaser, vice president of Business and Finance for GSC. “We hope that this new parking deck will help alleviate the pain a little bit.”

In reference to the parking problem, Glaser said, “When we aren’t crowded we should have one space for every three students. This semester, we have one for every four students, and therefore, we have a problem.”

While the new parking deck will help, other solutions are also available. Two new gravel lots have been laid next to the J lot as overflow parking. These lots will help on those rainy days when the grass overflow lot is inaccessible.

The new parking deck will cost about $4.5 million and it will give GSC 382 new parking spaces.

GSC students who have been using Lanier Tech’s lots will have to find somewhere else to park.

“Beginning October 1, Lanier Tech will not allow us to use their lots,” said Glaser.

“We’re not sure about the future,” said Glaser. “Next fall we might have to look at off-campus parking and shuttle students to GSC.”

“By 2011 we should have a new Academic building completed to eliminate classroom crowding,” said Glaser.

Survey finds students happy in Ga. colleges

By Sutton Shirley
Staff Writer
924173541@gsc.edu

A survey of public university students in Georgia found that most students are happy with their college experience.

In April, students from public campuses across the state of Georgia were surveyed concerning their college experiences. Nearly 85 percent of students polled rated their overall academic experience as satisfactory or excellent.

“This is my fifth semester at Gainesville, and I’ve enjoyed most of them,” said Zach McClain.

The survey was given to students in the University System of Georgia and asked questions involving academic quality, free speech in classrooms, and class discussions.

“I’ve taught at six schools in all and this is the best one I’ve ever taught at,” said English teacher Brad Strickland.

Many students feel that their beliefs and opinions are not respected by their peers, however. More than 50 percent of the students surveyed think that other students have no respect beliefs that differ from their own.

“When discussions start happening in class I’ve noticed that sometimes things can get a little confrontational,” McClain said. “But I don’t know if that’s because they don’t have respect or they just disagree.”

“Every once in a while one doesn’t respect others, but most of the time they do,” Strickland said, “Teachers try to direct discussion so all opinions get equal time.”

Part of the disagreement in beliefs could be because of the wide demographics represented.

Of students participating in the survey 25.6 percent were between the ages of 18 and 19, 25.4 percent were 20-21, 20.1 percent were 22-24 and 28.9 percent were at least 25 years old.

34.4 percent were Republicans, 34.1 percent were Democrats, 20.2 percent were Independent and 11.1 percent answered other.

New student center to help hunger

By John Nation
Staff Writer
924188900@gsc.edu

Students are gathering on every sidewalk, hallways are human traffic jams, and parking is a nightmare. Not to mention the grumbling tummies.

Sounds like a job for the newly renovated Student Activities Center! Everyone seems to be ready for the newly renovated Student Activities Center to be fully open. Matt Lyons, a first year student at Gainesville State College, said there is “nothing to do but sit in the library.”

Lyons is also disappointed by the lack of food on campus.

“I’m a growing boy. I need food,” he said. “Every time I go to get food, I lose my parking spot. It’s like shark-infested waters out there!”

He and his friends, like others, anxiously await the opening of the Student Activities Center so they can finally have a place to “curl up and chill out.”

Nick Korn brings his lunch to school. “Halfway to noon, it’s gone, and then I’m hungry all day,” he said as he displayed his empty lunch box.

Students will only have to wait a few more months to use the new cafeteria for that mid-day meal between classes.

Students who are new to campus will now find most of the offices they need under one roof, including the recently moved bookstore.

Many worry that the economy will affect the construction of Student Activities Center.

Linnea Haag, the administrative assistant for the Office of Student Resources, said that “much thought and consideration” have been put into the renovation and that the Student Activities Center will be completed by January 2009.

However, Haag said we can expect to see it finished as soon as late November.

“It’s happening,” she said, “We needed the space for the students, because that’s our motto, ‘for the students.’

The future location of the new parking deck at Gainesville State College is seen here. The new deck will give the college 382 parking spaces. Construction is set to begin on Oct 15.
Students encouraged to make their voices heard

By Emily Hogan
Staff Writer
924154922@gsc.edu

With the 2008 presidential election just around the corner, Gainesville State College has set a high goal for the Register to Vote drive. GSC wants to have 1,300 registered voters by October 6. So far, the effort has "registered approximately 550 people," said Andre Cheek, director of the Minority Affairs Office for GSC. And they are not stopping there.

The effort to register voters is not just campus-wide. The various clubs involved, like the Black Student Association, the International Student Association and the Students for a Progressive Society, are also reaching out to the community.

In 2006, the population of people ages 18 and up reached 124,562 in Hall County. "There are 80,524 registered voters," said Lynn Story, Hall County Board of Elections representative. This number is steadily increasing as the election approaches. Registration must be complete by October 6 to vote in the November election.

Cheek is very encouraging to her students. "If the head is active and encouraging, then the leaders will be encouraged to go out and have an active voice."

With the upcoming election, it is becoming more important that people get registered and go out to the polls. This drive is allowing GSC students to not only get involved themselves, but to get others involved as well. "We … try to register everyone we can," said Jon Brown, president of the Students for a Progressive Society. "The importance of voter registration cannot be understated."

For those unregistered, there are various ways to register to vote. On campus, there are booths for voter registration. Another option is stopping by the Minority Affairs Office to register.

The Board of Elections Office in downtown Gainesville is one of several off-campus ways of registering available. Another way is by registering online or printing out a form and mailing it.

Students get T-shirts, food, new acquaintances at Club Fair and Barbecue

By Dao Cao
Clubs Editor
924168841@gsc.edu

As the Fall semester began, many students were looking for ways to meet new people and become more involved around campus. This problem was easily solved by attending the annual Gainesville State College Weeks of Welcome Barbeque and Club Fair day.

The GSC Campus Activities Board sponsored the event on Sept. 10 at the quadrangle in front of the Student Activities building. There, students enjoyed the free cookout. They met new people and learned more about student clubs and organizations at GSC. Local vendors, excited about serving GSC students, were also among the visitors.

Students also got their official WOW T-shirts at this event. This year’s WOW BBQ theme was “The Adventure of GSC.”
SIFE provides opportunities for GSC students

By David Hulbert
Features Editor
924188363@gsc.edu

What do chicken biscuits, business suits, discount cards and community involvement all have in common? They are all just a small part of the on and off-campus activities for the Students in Free Enterprise club.

SIFE is “a global non-profit organization active in more than 40 countries” and “is funded by financial contributions from corporations, entrepreneurs, foundations, government agencies and individuals,” said the SIFE website.

Katie Simmons, acting chair for the division of business said SIFE is a “great opportunity to network.”

SIFE members get a chance to travel nationally and globally to compete against other states and countries for national and international awards and achievements.

During the spring 2009 semester, a large career fair will be held at the National Competition in Philadelphia. There, SIFE members will be able to meet top company representatives from corporations like Microsoft and American Express.

At these events, SIFE club members get “to network, to interview with companies you normally wouldn’t be able to interview with,” Simmons said.

“SIFE establishes student teams on university campuses,” said the SIFE website. “These teams are led by faculty advisors, and they are challenged to develop community outreach projects that reach SIFE’s five educational topics: Market Economics, Success Skills, Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy and Business Ethics.”

On Sept. 23 and 24, SIFE co-sponsored Larry Kahn, a corporate speaker on both the Oconee and Oakwood GSC campuses. Door prizes were disbursed for the students who attended.

SIFE sells Chik-fil-a chicken biscuits and 15-dollar discount cards to “help pave the way to Philly,” Simmons said.

SIFE team members can be trained as peer financial counselors and earn scholarships and grants for teaching workshops. For more information, contact Katie Simmons at ksimmons@gsc.edu.

Tolerance and social justice promoted by SPS

By Jonathan Brown
President of SPS
924174156@gsc.edu

As president of Students for a Progressive Society, I would like to welcome each new and returning student to our college this semester and invite each of you to get involved with our club this year.

SPS was formed in 2005 by a group of students and faculty eager to raise awareness about pressing social issues. We have since become the most active club on campus, winning numerous awards for our efforts and steadily increasing our membership.

Instead of becoming cloistered on the campus, we focus our activism with the community as a whole, donating our time and resources to causes that we feel help to make the world a better place.

When we say “progressive society,” what we are generally referring to is a society based on tolerance, nonviolent conflict resolution, critical thinking and social justice.

In America, we tend to think of “justice” as a concept that is restricted to the legal system. Our goal is to ensure that justice occurs in the very operation of society itself.

Social justice demands that we judge the value of our social institutions, our customs and our culture by their contribution to human well-being. We wish to apply the golden rule to all aspects of our society. Such a daunting task demands that we expand our circle of empathy to include all humanity, regardless of religion, sexual preference, gender or race.

Oppression and injustice are ingrained in our culture. Our everyday language and customs reflect the unequal distribution of power and resources in our society. Even our passive acceptance of harmful stereotypes implicitly accepts their validity.

Because social reality is created through our everyday interactions, we have the power to change our world if we are willing to undergo the difficult and often painful process of critical self-reflection.

This process allows us to see how our choice of diet contributes to environmental sustainability, how using the word “gay” to describe inanimate objects perpetuates homophobia or how shopping patterns reinforce poverty and worker abuse.

Once we stop and think about how our actions affect the lives of others, we will begin laying the foundation for a progressive society.

As a club, our activities this year will be correlated with the presidential election, and we hope to do our part to get Obama elected as President. Obama inspires the best America has to offer: our ability to unite and work together because of our common humanity, regardless of our individual differences.

SPS will be hosting debates, concerts and registering voters until Nov. 4. Even if you don’t agree with our politics, I encourage you to come to our events and contribute to that wonderful clash of ideas that brings about understanding and change. We meet every Monday in Academic III, room 181.

“We need a change in the government, change in the economy, and a change in the way people think about others;” SPS Secretary Tiffany Strickland said. “We need to try to teach tolerance and educate on different ways of thinking.”

Save the dates!

Sigma Chi Eta’s upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field trip to Cola-Cola</td>
<td>Meeting. Speaker: Dr. Lai – Communications Majors</td>
<td>Meeting. Speaker: Dr. Martha Nesbitt – GSC President</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latino Student Association upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct. 1</th>
<th>Taste of Latin America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Volleyball area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more events, check the calendar on the LSA website: http://itec.gc.peachnet.edu/minority_affairs/lsa/lsa.html
Test your chopsticks skills with the Japan Club

Elizabeth McKinnon
Asst. Clubs Editor
924167751@gsc.edu

Konnichiwa! Welcome to good food, friends and fun, the basis of the Japan Club.

The club is solely based on the cultures of modern and traditional Japan. They study everything from Asian food to film, and traditional tea ceremonies.

“We are hoping to be able to learn how to do a traditional tea ceremony this year,” said Jeanne White, adviser of the club since its beginning in 2006.

The club officials are Lauren Tuttle, president; Yumi Sanchez, vice president; Wendy Davis, secretary; John Anderson, treasurer.

Tuttle, in her first year as president, arranges events, leads meetings and assists White in off-campus duties.

“We want people to be aware of the Japanese culture and overall have fun with it and enjoy it,” Tuttle said.

White speaks highly of her club and its members. “Lauren planned almost all of the events last year, that’s why I chose her for this year.”

One of the benefits of being a part of the club is learning more about the international programs available for anyone to participate. White recommended the Japanese English Teaching program. Through the JET program, a Japanese sponsor brings in two people each year to teach English to Japanese students, children and adults.

“You stay for four to five weeks and teach English to those who want to learn it,” White said. “I was able to do it, and it was an amazing experience.”

Each year one English and one Japanese speaker are both selected for the program. Anyone can be chosen. For more information, visit www.hashi.com.

The first meeting was held on Sept. 8. It has grown from the five to 10 members in 2006 to almost 20 this semester.

To raise money this year for club trips, such as Japan Fest, they are selling T-shirts.

The club meets Monday from noon to 1 p.m. in Academic III, room 160.
GSC staff have seen changes in past 20 years

By Michelle Bennett
Asst. Features Editor
924189657@gsc.edu

The large tree just outside the library on the Gainesville State College campus has watched over four decades worth of students usher in and out of the stately brick building. Along with its large increase in students, decades worth of students usher in and out of the stately brick building. Along with its large increase in students, according to www.islam.com, the Gainesville State College campus has watched over four decades worth of students usher in and out of the stately brick building. Along with its large increase in students, this year the college’s existence will quietly remind its staff of an ever-evolving change.

John Hamilton, biology professor at GSC, says that students have changed a lot over the past 20 years he has been working here. Hamilton has an inspiring drive to see college students succeed. He says that the energy of college students “keeps you young” and refers to non-traditional students as “inspiring.”

With two children now in college, Hamilton says that as a teacher he has “a window to what students go through.”

Appearance is one of the most noticeable changes in GSC students, says Hamilton. “Some of the obvious differences have to do with clothing styles.”

Hamilton has also seen significant changes in the male to female ratio. “I see more females in my classes,” Hamilton says.

Not only has Hamilton seen a change in the number of women at the college, he’s also seen a change in the priorities of both men and women. “Girls and guys seem less interested in marriage today than I remember in the past,” he says.

Hamilton has also noticed that women seem to be “less tolerant of high maintenance guys.”

He’s seen men and women getting more serious about their careers and education and says that because most of them are working, they “don’t have time for serious relationships.”

He thinks the opportunities for women in particular are much greater than in the past. “The sky’s the limit. You can be president of a company … that’s the standard, the very, very top,” says Hamilton.

The difference in today versus 20 years ago: “They actually believe that these days.”

“It used to be that Gainesville was a small town,” says Jitendra B. Sharma, professor of physics at GSC for 21 years.

Sharma recollects that at one time Oakwood was devoid of construction. He says that the school has more of an “urban feeling” now than it did in the past.

Sharma also sees that class preference is different. “Students don’t necessarily want to come in every day,” says Sharma.

He says that during advisement he has noticed that a greater number of students want Tuesday and Thursday classes. He attributes this partly to the increase in gas prices.

A benefit of GSC years ago: “We didn’t have parking problems,” Sharma says. However, in light of the parking problems he praises the school’s growth in numbers.

As a physics instructor, Sharma has noticed the changes in the academic capability of students in more recent years. “High schools have tooled better in math and science,” says Sharma. “That means good things for our program.”

Student’s appearance, priorities, goals, and roles have all changed over the years. Gas prices have soared, construction is underway, and pre-college education has changed.

In all the years he’s been teaching there’s at least one thing that hasn’t changed. “Your education is your biggest investment,” says Sharma.
Studying abroad can help students realize dreams

By Caitlin O’Dell
Editor-in-Chief
924170651@gsc.edu

We students had the option of taking some very interesting classes. For example, I took a Media, Culture and Society class and we got to tour the Henan Province major TV station in the province where we were staying.

Paul Raptis, instructor of communication at GSC, also went on the USG program to China. This was his first time traveling to China, but not his first study abroad experience. While he was studying for his master’s degree at Akron University, Raptis traveled to London three times as a teacher’s assistant.

Raptis’s most defining moment happened on one of those trips. “I wanted to go to the theater,” he said. He remembered a new musical he wanted to see, but no one wanted to go with him, so he went by himself.

“There I was, this small town college student, walking around the streets of London with those double decker buses whizzing by. It was so cool,” Raptis said.

One of Raptis’s favorite moments of the China trip this summer was our first night on the ZhengZhou campus. The American students threw a party and invited the Chinese students. “We were really accepted then, like we could call ZhengZhou home.” We could say “I am part of ZhengZhou University.”

The trip affected students in many ways. Instead of relying on Chinese students and tour guides to translate for us, we began to say things like “nihao” (hello) and “xiexie” (thank you). We even learned to eat rice and noodles with chopsticks. “Assimilation to the culture was very obvious,” said Raptis.

The 47 students and teacher on the trip, after a month of being together, became more of a family than a group of college kids thrown together for a long trip.

“As one student put it, ‘When we started the trip, we looked at it from a me-I perspective,’” Raptis said. “But as we began to live and work together, it became a we-us perspective. I saw students doing that … looking out for each other.”

Take an unusual foreign language

By Paul Holley
Assistant Editor
924182578@gsc.edu

Have you ever wanted to take a language that might be considered “out of the ordinary” from the languages offered at Gainesville State College, such as Russian or Japanese? With the National Association of Self-Instructed Language Program, you can do just that.

Offered at GSC, NASILP is a program that “Offers classes that ordinarily wouldn’t make it,” said Joseph Lavalle, instructor of Spanish and NASILP Coordinator.

GSC offers Spanish, French and German as classes that meet just like a typical class. However, through NASILP, languages such as Russian and Japanese are offered as well with more language options to come.

“We will be offering Italian, Arabic and Chinese as new NASILP classes next semester,” Lavalle said.

With the foreign language classes that don’t have a large amount of students, NASILP brings in a driller, typically a native speaker, to instruct the class.

“You have the driller who teaches the class. You have an administrator to oversee the driller. And thirdly you have a tester who is a qualified person in that area who gives the grade,” said Lavalle. “I don’t want you going home and telling your parents you’re being taught by a student. You have just as much quality with a NASILP class as with a normal class, and sometimes more.”

“This course relies heavily on the student’s motivation and discipline,” the syllabus for an NASILP German class this summer said.

Out of 18 NASILP classes in the spring there were 88 students enrolled. Contact Joseph Lavalle for more information on the NASILP classes offered at GSC.

Here’s your chance to visit Ireland this summer

Tom Deitz
Asst. Professor of English
tdeitz@gsc.edu

Want to visit a foreign country and not have to worry about speaking the language?
Want to visit a country that was probably the homeland of at least some of your ancestors, especially if you’re from the South?
Want to visit a country that has one of the richest mythological traditions on earth? And one of the richest literary traditions? And one of the richest artistic traditions?

If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” then consider joining what’s bound to be a merry group of students, staff and faculty alike May 11-19 as the Gainesville State College Study Abroad Program explores the Emerald Isle: Ireland.

Ireland is indeed a land rich in mythology, from the tales of the Tuatha de Danaan, who “came out of the air and the high air to Ireland,” to the adventures of Cuchulain, the half-man, half-god who singlehandedly held off the forces of Connaught when they sought to invade the neighboring province of Ulster in search of a fabulous bull.

It is also a land rich in archaeological sites, some of them among the oldest on the planet. It is a land of artists, novelists, dramatists and poets, many of whom have sought to mine their native land’s rich mythological tradition.

Story continued on page 15
Beating Windows Vista into submission

By Wally Beck
Assistant Director of Academic Computing
wbbeck@gsc.edu

If you’ve purchased a new PC recently, chances are that you’re struggling to use Microsoft’s latest operating system, Windows Vista.

The good news is that you’re not alone. The new user interface is downright confusing proving that new does not always equal better. The start menu is missing the “run” command which makes running unlisted applications more adventurous.

The folks at Microsoft have configured Windows Vista to behave like a whiny child. Constantly being asked to allow an application to run is not more secure. Instead, it makes me long for the non-codependent days of Windows XP.

To change the overall appearance of the user interface so it looks more like Windows XP, right-click on the desktop and click “personalize.” The “personalize appearance and sounds” window appears. Click “theme.” In the “theme settings” dialog box, click the drop down arrow under “theme” and select “Windows Classic.” Click “OK.” Close the “personalize appearance and sounds” window. The user interface including the desktop and windows now look more like Windows XP.

To change the appearance of the start menu so it looks more like Windows XP, right-click on the desktop and click “personalize.” In the lower left corner of the “personalize appearance and sounds” window, click “taskbar and start menu.” The “taskbar and start menu properties” dialog box appears.

Click the “start menu” tab. Click “classic start menu.” Click “OK” to close the dialog box. Close the “personalize appearance and sounds” window.

You’ll notice that the computer icon (and several other icons) has appeared on your desktop. The start menu is usable once again and even includes the “run” command.

It’s time to put this whiny child to bed! To configure Windows Vista to stop asking you for permission to run applications, click “start” then “run.” In the “run” dialog box, type “msconfig” and click “OK.”

If you’ve purchased a new PC recently, chances are that you’re struggling to use Microsoft’s latest operating system, Windows Vista.

The good news is that you’re not alone. The new user interface is downright confusing proving that new does not always equal better. The start menu is missing the “run” command which makes running unlisted applications more adventurous.

The folks at Microsoft have configured Windows Vista to behave like a whiny child. Constantly being asked to allow an application to run is not more secure. Instead, it makes me long for the non-codependent days of Windows XP.

To change the overall appearance of the user interface so it looks more like Windows XP, right-click on the desktop and click “personalize.” The “personalize appearance and sounds” window appears. Click “theme.” In the “theme settings” dialog box, click the drop down arrow under “theme” and select “Windows Classic.” Click “OK.” Close the “personalize appearance and sounds” window. The user interface including the desktop and windows now look more like Windows XP.

To change the appearance of the start menu so it looks more like Windows XP, right-click on the desktop and click “personalize.” In the lower left corner of the “personalize appearance and sounds” window, click “taskbar and start menu.” The “taskbar and start menu properties” dialog box appears.

Click the “start menu” tab. Click “classic start menu.” Click “OK” to close the dialog box. Close the “personalize appearance and sounds” window.

You’ll notice that the computer icon (and several other icons) has appeared on your desktop. The start menu is usable once again and even includes the “run” command.

It’s time to put this whiny child to bed! To configure Windows Vista to stop asking you for permission to run applications, click “start” then “run.” In the “run” dialog box, type “msconfig” and click “OK.”

The “user account control” dialog box appears, click “continue.” The “system configuration” window appears. The system configuration utility is a built-in tool that helps users tweak running programs and other settings. Click the “tools” tab. Scroll down and click “disable UAC.” UAC stands for “user account control” and is responsible for your blood pressure increase. Click “launch.”

A new window appears and states “The operation completed successfully.” Reboot your computer to complete this modification. The next time you run a program, you won’t be annoyed silly. I bet you can feel the increased productivity already.

In academia, we’re often encouraged to do more with less. With Windows Vista, we may actually be doing less with more: as in more bloatware packaged inside an unfriendly user interface.

Your friendly IT folks at Gainesville State College have looked over Windows Vista and are happy to report that it will not be deployed anytime soon. Instead, we’re going to stay with Windows XP and will most likely wait to review Microsoft’s next operating system in 2010.

Protect yourself this flu season with clean hands

By Caitlin O’Dell
924170651@gsc.edu
Editor-in-Chief

With flu season coming up, it is even easier to see that we are in an environment full of bacteria and other, well, gross things.

One good way of protecting ourselves from infection is by practicing good hand hygiene. There are many different ways of cleaning hands, the most popular two being traditional soap and water and the newer waterless hand sanitizers.

The best way to use hand sanitizers is to “plain soap and water as long as you can,” said Amy Simonne of the University of Florida.

The goal of cleaning hands is to “reduce” the number of bad microbes to a level low enough for the body to reasonably fight them off with its existing immune system,” wrote Simonne.

The human body is host to many resident microbes that are supposed to be there. Some are meant to be on your hands and other exposed areas of the body. Others, called fecal microorganisms, come from the intestinal tracts of humans and animals. Our hands can become contaminated with these microorganisms every day from using the bathroom.

“These must be removed by the mechanical friction of washing with soap and water,” wrote Simonne.

Howarth worked for 30 years in the hospital environment. For two of those years, she worked in the critical care area of the Ronnie Green Heart Center. Often, she found herself rushing from patient to patient in several different rooms.

Rushing from room to room with little time in between almost no time to thoroughly wash hands.

In 2002, the Center for Disease Control introduced guidelines for dealing with situations like Howarth’s. The guidelines say that alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a good alternative if there is no time to wash with soap and water, only if the hands are not visibly soiled.

The best way to use hand sanitizers is to use a “dime-sized drop” and to rub vigorously for at least 30 seconds over your entire hands, between your fingers and under your fingernails, Howarth said.

However, hand sanitizers were not made for the general public. Hand sanitizers were made for the “health care professional only,” not food service, not for the general public,” Howarth said. “There are different microorganisms in the hospital, food service and general public.”

The types of proteins and fatty acids that get on the hands actually inactivates the alcohol in hand sanitizers. It is that alcohol which kills germs off. She advises rubbing the hands together to create friction for at least 15 to 30 seconds to effectively clean hands.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers were made for the medical profession, but everyone else started using them. “The general public just needs to go back to plain old scrubbing with soap and water,” Howarth said.

“Your friendly IT folks at Gainesville State College have looked over Windows Vista and are happy to report that it will not be deployed anytime soon. Instead, we’re going to stay with Windows XP and will most likely wait to review Microsoft’s next operating system in 2010. The world’s a busy place, but not so busy that we don’t have time to wash our hands,” she said. We can do little things to prevent the spread of something big.
China’s imperial city comes to Atlanta

By Leah Perdue
Campus Life/Op Ed Editor
924161398@gsc.edu

Gold light illuminates the stage as a woman wraps herself in the red silks suspended from the catwalks. She throws her arms wide and smiles at the audience below. Then she falls, spinning quickly, stopping short with the stage only four scant feet beneath her.

This was the scene at the fabulous Fox Theatre in Atlanta when “Jungua,” a celebration of ancient Chinese culture and modern spectacle, took the stage on Sept. 4.

“Jungua” is a Cirque du Soleil-style production that highlights the talents of the Shaolin monks and the Royal Chinese Acrobats.

The performance given by the athletes is surprising and dynamic. Shaolin Monks, the historical originators of kung-fu, demonstrated both physical and mental endurance with smartly produced mock fights and trials designed to use qi – universal energy – to transcend the body’s physical limits.

The monks demonstrated their martial skill with slickly choreographed battles that featured tumbling whose grace and precision elicited gasps and “ooohs” from the audience.

However, the Acrobats were clearly the draw of the evening. The women in the corps of contortionists, gymnasts, and tumblers performed feats of athleticism and delicacy.

One of the performer’s acts was foot juggling a parasol. The intricacy and precision of the performance was stunning. Others showed their skill while hand balancing, performing aerial acrobatics, and contorting while balancing lit candles on their hands and feet.

The program did fall in interest as the monks’ performances became repetitive in the second act.

Additionally, the use of contemporary Western music was a poor choice and detracted from the cultural integrity of the program.

Overall, the experience was compelling and offered a different perspective on athleticism and traditional American entertainments.

“Jungua” is a must-see for anyone interested in Chinese Imperial entertainments. Although the hiccupps of the program are slightly distracting, the show overall is enchanting.

For more information and future show dates, visit www.jungua.com.

Cool Beans is pretty cool for GSC students awaiting new student center

By Jarvis Johnson
News Editor
9241889344@gsc.edu

While the Gainesville State College student activity center remains under construction, Cool Beans Coffee Café is conveniently located for student dining.

Cool Bean’s menu includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner as well as a variety of coffees and soups. “We have a great lunch … our sandwiches are outstanding,” said Joan Smith, owner.

“All the food is fresh and organic,” said Nick Korn, Cool Beans employee. Korn has the privilege of working at Cool Beans while attending GSC. Both Korn and Smith made it clear that Cool Beans does not only serve GSC students, but hires them as well.

“The coolest thing about this place is that any club can rent out the dining area and have meetings,” said Korn. Cool Beans plans to have an open mic night for GSC students later this fall.

Since its debut on Labor Day, Cool Beans has received a food inspection score of 100 percent.

Cool Beans is located in the Food Lion shopping mall on 3650 Mundy Mill Road. Its business hours are 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily except Sunday, when it opens at 8:30 a.m.

“It’s great that we have a place to eat close by while the student center is still being built,” said Stephanie White, sociology major.

Ireland, continued from page 13

Those of us planning this trip hope that students, staff and faculty alike will join us in exploring this tradition. We hope also to encourage the study of history, anthropology, archaeology, religion and biology (the Burren section of western Ireland is one of the world’s unique ecosystems).

With this in mind, we will be putting together a study program that will be educational, informative, and entertaining. Students who sign up for the trip will also be registering for three hours credit in International Perspectives – Special Topics: a most pleasant way to acquire college credit (Area B) as well as enhance the GSC experience.

For additional information, contact professors Tom Deitz, tdeitz@gsc.edu; Patricia Worrall, p worrall@gsc.edu; Anita Turlington, aturlington@gsc.edu or consult the website at https://web.gsc.edu/studyabroad/ireland.
Mirrors

By Ian Bowling
Assistant A&E editor
924205782@gsc.edu

Have you seen a truly scary, jump out of your seat, make you want to close your eyes kind of scary movie lately? Mirrors represent a good scary movie that is worth seeing. Ben Carson (Kiefer Sutherland) is not doing very well. He got suspended from his NYPD job for shooting another undercover officer. Even though this was an accident it triggers anger and hostility from him to his family and is causing him to lose them.

In an attempt to get his life back on track he gets a job as a night watchman at the burned-out ruins of the Mayflower department store. As he trails through the burned and destroyed ruins of the building he starts to see horrors that have hijacked his reflection, tormenting him with convulsions, spontaneous bleeding and near suffocation. This is a good explanation from a lack of what Carson is portraying in the film. Carson’s sister who he has been living with thinks that he is suffering guilt from his accident and does not seem to believe him. His wife thinks he has erratic behavior and wants to keep their children away from him.

It is worse than what Carson believes is behind the mirrors that reflect his everyday life. What is haunting him and his family turns out to be deadlier than he expects. He starts to discover that the disappearance of the Mayflower security night watchman has a connection with his visions in the mirrors. He realizes that there is a much stronger force trying to ruin him and his family.

If Carson has any hope to his normal life again, he must discover what is behind the mirrors and why this evil force is haunting him. He will have to deal with the most horrific thing anyone could ever face.

Breaking Dawn

By Elizabeth McKinnon
Asst. Clubs Editor
924167751@gsc.edu

“Breaking Dawn,” by Stephenie Meyer, is the newest book in the series that has become known as the Twilight Series. The series, aimed at mid- to late-teenage females, has become extremely popular among its target audience. The tale starts off with the wedding of the century, as Bella Swan acts on her willingness to take the final plunge into forever with her vampire love Edward.

Edward has waited a century for a love that he can call his own, and he has finally found that love in Bella. They are married, and as a wedding present Bella is given her “best man,” Jacob. The couple dances and then Edward and Bella drive away for their honeymoon. The couple’s happiness will not last, though, as events soon take place that drive them both closer and closer to the edge.

This novel, like every other in the series, has been eagerly anticipated by readers. Meyer’s books become more and more engrossing as the reader delves further into their world. It is no different with “Breaking Dawn,” as the audience is left craving knowledge of what happens next. Will Edward and Bella end up with each other, or does Jacob get his way? Does the couple get their happily ever after, or will the Volturi intervene?

Perhaps due to this, Meyer’s next book, “Midnight Sun,” will be released Aug. 2. It has reached number one on the Billboard Top 200, which is something that the band has approached before, but never reached – that is, until now.

All Hope is Gone

Music Review: Slipknot

By Brigitte Autran
Asst. Op/Ed editor
924187226@gsc.edu

Asst. Clubs Editor

Have you seen a truly scary, jump out of your seat, make you want to close your eyes kind of scary movie lately? Mirrors represent a good scary movie that is worth seeing. Ben Carson (Kiefer Sutherland) is not doing very well. He got suspended from his NYPD job for shooting another undercover officer. Even though this was an accident it triggers anger and hostility from him to his family and is causing him to lose them.

In an attempt to get his life back on track he gets a job as a night watchman at the burned-out ruins of the Mayflower department store. As he trails through the burned and destroyed ruins of the building he starts to see horrors that have hijacked his reflection, tormenting him with convulsions, spontaneous bleeding and near suffocation. This is a good explanation from a lack of what Carson is portraying in the film. Carson’s sister who he has been living with thinks that he is suffering guilt from his accident and does not seem to believe him. His wife thinks he has erratic behavior and wants to keep their children away from him.

It is worse than what Carson believes is behind the mirrors that reflect his everyday life. What is haunting him and his family turns out to be deadlier than he expects. He starts to discover that the disappearance of the Mayflower security night watchman has a connection with his visions in the mirrors. He realizes that there is a much stronger force trying to ruin him and his family.

If Carson has any hope to his normal life again, he must discover what is behind the mirrors and why this evil force is haunting him. He will have to deal with the most horrific thing anyone could ever face.

This novel, like every other in the series, has been eagerly anticipated by readers. Meyer’s books become more and more engrossing as the reader delves further into their world. It is no different with “Breaking Dawn,” as the audience is left craving knowledge of what happens next. Will Edward and Bella end up with each other, or does Jacob get his way? Does the couple get their happily ever after, or will the Volturi intervene?

Perhaps due to this, Meyer’s next book, “Midnight Sun,” will be released Aug. 2. It has reached number one on the Billboard Top 200, which is something that the band has approached before, but never reached – that is, until now.

All Hope is Gone

Music Review: Slipknot

By Ian Bowling
Assistant A&E editor
924205782@gsc.edu

Any fans who thought Slipknot was going soft based upon what they heard in 2004’s “Vol. 3: (The Subliminal Verses)” need to take fresh look at the band. Slipknot’s fourth major record label release, “All Hope is Gone,” showcases the constant progression that Slipknot has always displayed.

Catchy choruses and solos that chime to the guitar gods in the style of thrash metal forefathers Kerry King and Jeff Hanneman allow this album to attract more than just the average angry teen hanging out at the mall.

While certain songs bring back a sound familiar from 2001’s “Iowa,” others take from 2004’s “Vol. 3: (The Subliminal Verses)” and go just a bit further by combining the signature sound of Slipknot with a more expansive, experimental style. Not only has the music evolved; Corey Taylor, who has usually written lyrics about his life, has instead chosen to write about life around him.

A certain comfort can be felt between the nine band members in the transitions between verses, choruses, bridges, and solos on all the songs. This comfort is also felt in the music: the drums feed off the guitars, and the samples and DJ effects feed off the drums, in a way that comes only when band members have grown to be veterans together. This cohesion is particularly noticeable on the tracks “Wherein Lies Continue,” “Snuff,” “Dead Mem- ories,” and “Vendetta.”

Since the album was released Aug. 26 it has reached number one on the Billboard Top 200, which is something that the band has approached before, but never reached – that is, until now.

“All Hope is Gone” is available in two versions: its standard edition or a special edition that contains three bonus tracks and a 35-minute documentary DVD, directed by percussionist Shawn Crahan, “Nine: The Making of ‘All Hope Is Gone.’”

Book Review: Breaking Dawn

By Elizabeth McKinnon
Asst. Clubs Editor
924167751@gsc.edu

“Breaking Dawn,” by Stephenie Meyer, is the newest book in the series that has become known as the Twilight Series. The series, aimed at mid- to late-teenage females, has become extremely popular among its target audience. The tale starts off with the wedding of the century, as Bella Swan acts on her willingness to take the final plunge into forever with her vampire love Edward.

Edward has waited a century for a love that he can call his own, and he has finally found that love in Bella. They are married, and as a wedding present Bella is given her “best man,” Jacob. The couple dances and then Edward and Bella drive away for their honeymoon. The couple’s happiness will not last, though, as events soon take place that drive them both closer and closer to the edge.

This novel, like every other in the series, has been eagerly anticipated by readers. Meyer’s books become more and more engrossing as the reader delves further into their world. It is no different with “Breaking Dawn,” as the audience is left craving knowledge of what happens next. Will Edward and Bella end up with each other, or does Jacob get his way? Does the couple get their happily ever after, or will the Volturi intervene?

Perhaps due to this, Meyer’s next book, “Midnight Sun,” will be released Aug. 2. It has reached number one on the Billboard Top 200, which is something that the band has approached before, but never reached – that is, until now.

The book, all in all, is amazing, and is highly recommended to anyone who enjoys fantasy and love.

A warning, though: Stephenie Meyer’s Twilight Series is highly addictive. Some good advice to follow would be to read this book only when all classes are finished and there is nothing more to do.

“Breaking Dawn” and the rest of the series are as almost as seductive as the vampires they contain, and to read them is to risk briefly losing touch with normal life.
Strickland’s new novel just in time for Halloween

By Landon Johnson
Staff Writer
924182231@gsc.edu

Dr. Brad Strickland, Gainesville State English professor is due to come out with his latest novel, The Sign of the Sinister Sorcerer, just prior to Halloween of this year. “It tells of a small-town boy (Lewis) whose uncle is a wizard, and who has to deal with a sudden threat that emerges when one of his uncle’s old enemies comes to town and launches a dreadful magical attack,” Strickland said in a brief description of the upcoming mystical suspense story.

Dial Books is the publisher of Strickland’s latest work, which is part of a juvenile series started by John Bellairs known as the Bellairs Mysteries. The Sign of the Sinister Sorcerer will be along the same lines as the other books in the series, following a fictional, supernatural plot line and featuring mystical characters.

This book, like the rest of the Bellair Mysteries, will target readers from ages 10-14 and an audience similar to the infamous Harry Potter novels.

The exact release date of the publication is still to be determined, but is sure to be sometime in late Oct. - perfectly aligning with the spooky story with the spooky holiday. Hammont also said that one in three graduates pursue further training at universities such as Yale School of Drama, University of Georgia, and Brooklyn College.

And the list is growing every year.

Hammont believes that programs will help students in their professional careers and their personal life as well. They can prepare them to be happy, fulfilled, and useful people, he said.

GSC Professor of English Brad Strickland will be releasing his new fiction book A John Bellairs Mystery: The Sign of the Sinister Sorcerer on October 16. It will be the twelfth book in series following the magical tale of teenager and orphan Lewis Barnavelt. John Bellairs began the series in 1973 with the first being The House with the Clock in its Walls – he continued writing numerous books for the series until his untimely death in 1991. Strickland was commissioned after Bellairs’ death to continue on with the series.

passion for what he does,” said Nikki Deal, current junior at GSC. Strickland has written or co-written over sixty novels since his debut publication in 1985. He has received several awards and much recognition for different literary projects.

He has also been teaching English and literature classes at Gainesville State for more than two decades.

The Gainesville Theater Alliance began in 1979 when Gainesville College joined forces with Brenau University to create one dynamic program.

“The knowledge and training these students gained with The Gainesville Theatre Alliance as well in the summer stock programs helped prepare them for careers in their field, he said. Graduates from GSC are employed all across the country, the popular Blue Man group in Las Vegas and the Manhattan Theatre Club located in New York City to name a few.

“Summer Stock, in my opinion is vitally important to the college age actors and technicians because it provides some ‘real world’ experience for us while still in school,” he said.

Hammond believes that programs will help students in their professional careers and their personal life as well. They can prepare them to be happy, fulfilled, and useful people, he said.

Arts & Entertainment

‘What do you want to do tonight?’
Upcoming concerts and events around town

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Artist(s)</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>Alpharetta, Georgia</td>
<td>Monaroon 5</td>
<td>Counting Crows</td>
<td>$39.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With special guest Augustana</td>
<td>Lakewood Amphitheatre</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25 Lawn</td>
<td>$39.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$62-$82 Res. $150 Gold circle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Chastain Park Amphitheatre</td>
<td>The Allman Brothers Band</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$36.50 general admission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>The Tabernacle</td>
<td>Alanis Morissette with Alexi</td>
<td>Murdock</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Cobb energy表演艺术</td>
<td>$44 - $69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Masquerade</td>
<td>The Allman Brothers Band</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chastain Park Amphitheatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$36.50 general admission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>The Tabernacle</td>
<td>Alanis Morissette with Alexi</td>
<td>Murdock</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Cobb energy表演艺术</td>
<td>$44 - $69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>The Tabernacle</td>
<td>Alanis Morissette with Alexi</td>
<td>Murdock</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Cobb energy表演艺术</td>
<td>$44 - $69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>The Tabernacle</td>
<td>Alanis Morissette with Alexi</td>
<td>Murdock</td>
<td>$38.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Cobb energy表演艺术</td>
<td>$44 - $69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
<td>Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dolly Parton, Chastain Park Amphitheatre, Atlanta, Georgia
6:00 PM                               $25 advance, $28 door

Madonna, Phillips Arena, Atlanta, Georgia
6:30 PM                               $57-$592 reserved seating

Jason Mraz, Lisa Hannigan, The Tabernacle, Atlanta, Georgia
6:30 PM                               $32.50 advance, $38 door
Rough road for Bulldogs to SEC title

Ed Hooper
924181973@gsc.edu
Sportswriter

The University of Georgia football team is trying to ignore the pressures that came with being ranked No. 1 overall in both the Coaches and AP preseason polls. UGA isn’t currently No. 1, but you can’t win a national championship in September.

Senior Fullback Brannan Southander knows this and continues to remind his teammates, especially the young ones, to look at what is in front of you.

“Take it one game at a time. You can’t win the national championship by looking ahead,” he said. “Keep focused Monday through Saturday, take Sunday off then focus at the next game and that’s it.”

Taking it one game at a time is essential for the Bulldogs considering they are in an extremely tough SEC.

Georgia will have to encounter Alabama, LSU, Florida, and Auburn before they can even think about an SEC championship.

Georgia isn’t the only team looking to be a national champion.

Eight teams are battling for two spots in Miami for the National Championship. USC, Oklahoma, Missouri, Ohio State, Georgia, Texas, Florida and LSU all hope to contend.

The Georgia Bulldogs will face a tough slate of opponents in October on their quest for a No. 1 ranking.

Fierce fans at GSC

Tyler Hernandez
924204329@gsc.edu
Sportswriter

What does it take to be a fierce fan?

It takes a student who leaves their American government class 10 minutes early to make it home in time for Monday Night Football.

To some, there are only two seasons, football season and the rest of the year. Fierce fans are what drive sports and drive individuals to accomplish the unthinkable. Sports sometimes go from being a form of entertainment to something greater, something that inspires you and makes life more enjoyable.

Everyone at GSC really seems to be excited that football is back. The fiercest of fans seem like their lives are miserable without football.

Many students frequently wear their colors to support their teams. A broad range of sports paraphernalia has been seen around campus ranging from Georgia fans, and even one student with a visor supporting the Southern Cal Trojans.

“The pure undying love for Tennessee football is what makes fall so special,” said first-year student Tyler Browning. “Nothing makes me happier than seeing the checkerboard Rocky Top playing in the air.”

Not only are students happy that football is back, but teachers are as well.

“If Georgia isn’t playing I won’t sit down and watch football all day Saturday, but I have a unity to the school and watching Georgia football is a passion of mine,” said professor Lynn Breedlove.

It is easy to see that Gainesville State College has some of the most passionate sports fans in the state, thanks to the perennially great SEC teams.

GSC students use their cars for more than transportation

Caitlin O’Dell, The Compass

Gainesville State College student Brady Bragg races his car around a slalom course at the Chicopee Agricultural Center Sept. 14 as part of the North Georgia Jaguar Club’s semi annual slalom timed racing event. Pictured with Bragg is Sheaffer Sorrells, a North Georgia College and State University student. Not pictured is Caitlin O’Dell, a sophomore at GSC who also raced her car around the track.
Sports blogs give fans a chance to cheer, jeer

By Mike Williams
Contributing Writer

Just type in “sports blogs” on Google, and you get 197 million hits.

Why are sports blogs so popular? According to Jason Jones, an avid blog reader and sports bar owner in Athens, it's because, “it's a fun way for fans to debate the hot sports topics with other fans.”

We are a society that is constantly focused on celebrities and superstars, and sports figures are arguably the most famous people in the world. Just Google search the names of actor Brad Pitt or retired basketball star Michael Jordan, and you will get nearly 38,000,000 hits.

There is not a single sports fan in the world that doesn't have an opinion on his or her favorite team or sport. According to Jones, the most heated debates at his bar deal with sports and politics.

There are probably no more passionate fans than those of college football teams.

Jones adds, “The most heated debates revolve around college football.”

As a diehard Georgia Bulldog fan, Jones says he most enjoys reading the blogs done by rival Florida Gator fans. He recently read one blog that predicted the Gators to win the SEC Championship.

Arnold also commented on the blog by saying, “Let's see where the Gators stand after November 15 when they have to go to South Carolina.”

Sports blogs have become so popular that even famous athletes have started them. Three time World Series Champion Curt Schilling has started a blog, as has NBA All-Star Gilbert Arenas.

Many people believe that the popularity of sports blogs could cause the end of the newspaper. Some bloggers have even been allowed in locker rooms to do interviews and have also been given press passes to events such as the Super Bowl. Yahoo! Sports and ESPN have even started posting articles from bloggers on their websites. It is the ever-evolving way news is changing due to the internet and a constant thirst for knowledge and news.

Everyone today has an opinion and blogs provide the best access to get an opinion out into the public. It also provides a way for fans to express their feelings and opinions by reading and commenting on the blogs. For avid sports fans, it's just a fun thing to do.

Getting involved: Intramural edition

By Nic Smith
924184027@gsc.edu
Staff Writer

Intramurals provide new and returning students the opportunity to gain long-lasting friendships and a healthier life style.

Some of the new intramurals at Gainesville State College are inner tube, water polo, power lifting events, dodgeball, a swim meet, and bowling. Some of the new club sports are golf, disc golf, badminton, and rugby. Also, Wii Wednesdays, which would involve students playing the Nintendo Wii, might be possible in the student center.

However, scheduling the intramurals will not be as easy as it has been in past years. Ken Harrison the facilities coordinator and fitness center director for GSC said, “We as a college are growing in the number of students and with more students enrolling that means more classes will be scheduled. The noon to 1 p.m. time frame of when classes are being held is the most occupied.”

Referring to his daily work with intramurals, Harrison said, “Probably the hardest part is organization. Knowing which teams play when, how many games can be held at a certain time, and how many participants are on a team, especially when they (students) rush in at the very last moment, can become very difficult tasks.”

When asked how intramurals can benefit a student academically, Harrison said, “They get co-curricular credit, which gets put on their transcripts,” adding, “I’ve seen that when people are busy or involved they become more alert and actually do better in their classes.”

Students can find out more about intramurals at GSC by going online to studentlife.gsc.edu.

Looking for a challenge? Check out the list of intramurals below.

CLASSES/CLINICS

Attention GSC students: It’s not too late to sign up for intramurals! Sign up now! You may register for any of the following intramurals online, at http://ezleagues.ezfacility.com/sign_up.aspx?facility_id=429. The following sports are available:

LEAGUES

Inner Tube Water Polo- Monday, February 16, 2009
Dodgeball- Monday, October 13, 2008

TOURNAMENTS

Men’s Tennis Singles- Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Women’s Tennis Singles- Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Fall Basketball Tournament- Monday, November 3, 2008
Powerlifting- Monday, November 17, 2008

PICK UP GAMES

Basketball- Tuesday 3:00-5:00
Indoor Soccer- Thursday 3:00-5:00

CLASSES/CLINICS

Trail Hiking- October 24, 2008

Tops sports blogs

Bad Jocks
www.badjocks.com

Get the dish on the jocks at this site

Fanblogs
www.fanblogs.com

Dedicated to college football

Dawgsports
www.dawgsports.com

The site for all the news about them

Dawgs

Georgia Sports
georgiasports.blogspot.com

Dawgrant
www.dawgrant.com

The titles say it all
Joe Patrick
Assistant Sports Editor
924202892@gsc.edu

The 2007 Atlanta Falcons season was defined not only through a miserable four win season, but by courteous sketches, midnight runaways, and empty seats in the Georgia Dome.

If there is an epitome of the Falcons, it is "nowhere to go but up", that couldn't be more fitting than for the 2008 Atlanta Falcons. For starters, keeping all the players out of courtrooms would be nice.

In all honesty, there have been serious changes up and down the Falcons' organization after the pitfalls of last year. From new Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff (former Director of Scouting for the highly touted New England Patriots) to the color of the seats in the Georgia Dome, and everything in between, changes in the organization are obvious.

On the field, the Falcons will be led by their new head coach Mike Smith, a strong motivator and heady leader for a young team that was acquired from the Jacksonville Jaguars. As the defensive coordinator in Jacksonville, Smith led his defenses to be some of the most formidable in the NFL over the last five seasons. This year, Smith and Dimitroff will have the task of helping rebuild the team on the field, and rebuilding its image off of it. Let's take a look at what he has available to him this year:

Quarterbacks: This group is highlighted by the highly touted first round pick from Boston College in Matt Ryan. Ryan has won the starting job over more experienced, but less talented players in Chris Redman and D.J. Shockley.

Key Additions: Matt Ryan
Key Losses: Michael Vick, Joey Harrington

Running Backs: The Falcons made a splash in Free Agency this off-season by acquiring backup RB Michael Turner. Turner has spent his first four years in the league backing up LaDainian Tomlinson, and should have fresher legs than many backs would had they been starting up to this point in their careers. The Falcons also hope to give more touches to emerging RB Jerious Norwood.

Key Additions: Michael Turner
Key Losses: Warrick Dunn

Wide Receivers/ Tight Ends: The Wide Receivers remain much the same as last year's team, with the addition of WR Harry Douglas from the University of Louisville in the third round of the 2007 NFL Draft. The Falcons will also get WR Brian Finneran back from a season ending injury last year, but lose TE Alge Crumpler, but signed TE Ben Hartsock to help fill that void.

Key Additions: Harry Douglas, Ben Hartsock
Key Losses: Alge Crumpler, Joe Horn

Offensive Line: This is area of the team is the most unproven, but at the same time has the most potential. After a stellar college career, LT Sam Baker was selected by the Falcons in the first round of this past year's NFL Draft. The 3-time First Team All-American will help protect Matt Ryan's blindside, and OGs Justin Blalock and Tyson Clabo are young players primed for breakout seasons.

Key Additions: Sam Baker
Key Losses: Wayne Gandy, Ryan Forney

Defensive Line: This may be the weakest part of this year's team. There was much debate in the NFL Draft about whether the Falcons should select a quarterback or defensive lineman with their first pick, but they would be left with a void at one of the positions either way. A healthy John Abraham and an improved Jamaal Anderson will be needed for the Falcons to have success up front or rookie Kroy Biermann.

Key Additions: Grady Jackson (played for team in 2007), Kroy Biermann
Key Losses: Rod Coleman

Linebackers: Thankfully for the Falcons defense, this is the strongest part of the team, led by OLBs Keith Brookington and Michael Booley. The Falcons' third draft pick was spent solidifying the middle linebacker spot with Curtis Lofton from Oklahoma. This position will anchor the defense all year.

Key Additions: Curtis Lofton
Key Losses: DeMorrio Williams

Defensive Backs: The emergence of second-year DB Brent Grimes will ease the pain of losing talented but hot-headed CB DeAngelo Hall. This defensive backfield is loaded with potential and youth, and will be lead by 13-year veteran SS Lawyer Milloy.

Key Additions: Chevis Jackson
Key Losses: DeAngelo Hall

Special Teams: Michael Koenen returns to punt for the Falcons, and veteran kicker Jason Elam was signed in the off-season to rebuild a woeful special teams.

Key Additions: Jason Elam
Key Losses: Morten Andersen
The Compass’ view on it

Feel free to speak your mind; most college students do.

That is what a Board of Regents survey discovered. The survey was sent out across the Georgia University system in order to determine how comfortable students in the state schools are with expressing their political and religious beliefs in the classroom.

At GSC the survey showed most of the students feel comfortable expressing their beliefs and opinions in the classroom.

The statistics are not broken down by individual schools, but based on the experiences of students here at GSC, this finding is true.

This is not to say that the professors are completely objective. That would be impossible, but it does mean that the professors are willing to look outside their boxes.

Knowing this does create a comfort zone in the classrooms. The students feel free to speak up, ask questions and participate more in the class.

Even students who are normally quiet are comfortable enough to express their opinions. Most feel that it’s fun to listen to and be involved in a heated, passionate, and at times intellectual face-off.

The downside of this is that it may get out of hand. There will always be kids who try to catch professors making a mistake, or twist their words to make them sound like a hypocrite or an idiot.

It’s different if the professor’s a pretentious know-it-all who likes the sound of his or her own voice (not many of those on the GSC campus), but if the professor is just trying to teach the class and get the point across, then please keep quiet! This hasn’t been much of a problem, but when it happens, lots of students become frustrated.

Then there are the times when the students and professor get so into a subject they go off topic. It may not be the optimal way of learning something, but we would say these occurrences are far from a bad thing.

For the most part people take their freedoms for granted. But it can’t be forgotten that just because students are allowed to speak freely, they may not always feel comfortable doing so.

When an individual makes one feel uncomfortable about speaking out, that person’s right to self expression is compromised, regardless of how much the individual reassures the person.

Bearing in mind the freedom of expression here on campus, the faculty and students are willing to listen and respect others’ opinions. That makes GSC a great place to get an education.

Tipsy teens pose serious threat

By Leah Perdue
Campus Life/Op Ed Editor
924161398@gsc.edu

Underage drinking is rampant on college campuses throughout the nation, but University officials have a plan to combat binge drinking and alcohol abuse in underage students.

Lower the drinking age from 21 to 18. That’s what nearly 100 college presidents want lawmakers to do.

The Amethyst Initiative, an organization made up of college administrators throughout the U.S., says that binge drinking has an underground allure. If Congress lowered the drinking age, then the binge drinkers will be driven out into the open, where the schools will be able to regulate and restrict excessive drinking.

The argument is obviously faulty. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institutes of Health and The Surgeon General have all stressed the importance of reducing underage drinking. In all of the literature produced by these expert institutions, not once is there mention of lowering the drinking age. In fact, they present evidence that doing so would be very detrimental.

The CDC states in its “Quick Facts on Underage Drinking” that people who start drinking as teenagers are five times more likely to struggle with alcohol dependence than those who begin at age 21.

The Surgeon General notes in “Call to Action: Educator’s Guide” that adults aged 18 to 20 years have the highest rate of alcohol dependency.

Lowering the drinking age would just exacerbate these problems. If 18 to 20-year-olds gain legal access to alcohol, the many strides made in reducing alcohol-related risks to young people will be undone.

In fact, The National Institutes of Health reported that “number of alcohol-related traffic deaths among 16 to 20-year-olds in the U.S. decreased from 5,244 in 1982 to 2,115 in 2004, in large measure because of the legal drinking age of 21.”

Taxpayer-funded organizations that monitor and protect our nation’s health agree that lowering the drinking age would have disastrous consequences on America’s young adults. The Amethyst Initiative is not a group of doctors or scientists, it is a group of educators and administrators. Their job is to provide an education, not to change laws.

They may be jeopardizing the educational futures of young adults as well as their future health. Many high school seniors face enormous pressure about college and the future. If alcohol were legally available to the students, the consequences might weigh heavily on their futures.

Young adults who drink are “more likely to experience school problems, such as higher absence rate and poor or failing grades,” said the CDC. A student with high test scores could soon become a student with a poor grade-point average that no school will admit. At a crucial juncture in their education, The Amethyst Initiative wants to allow young people to legally purchase and consume alcohol.

Aside from the considerable health and safety risks associated with lowering the drinking age, consider that, developmentally, 18-year-olds are at a crux, a crossroads that will decide their future. Do they need to make those decisions under the influence of alcohol?

Parking not so bad

By Ian Bowling
Assistant A&E editor
924205782@gsc.edu

Every student has experienced the trials of parking here at Gainesville State College.

Many students have jumped at the first parking spot to be found – despite the pouring rain – and arrived to class looking like they had just stepped out of the shower. That is enough to ruin anyone’s day.

Since the semester started, everyone (both faculty and students) complains about how the large increase in the student population has affected the parking situation here at Gainesville State. Yes, it has taken a toll on everyone and it does suck, but there is worse out there.

Consider the parking situation at larger colleges, like UGA or Georgia State. Arriving just in time at GSC translates to about 20 minutes late, but at a larger residential school, getting to the parking lot late means good-bye class.

Imagine arriving late at Georgia Southern, parking in the free zone, sprinting to catch a bus that would deposit it one in the general area of destination or running across the campus at full speed, only to arrive 20 -25 minutes late. This is a typical scenario for a late arrival at GSU. Not to mention having to drive past great parking spots for fear of ticketing by the “parking Nazis”.

Recently, here at GSC security has been telling students to park in one of Lanier Tech’s parking lots rather than the overflow grass lot and this actually puts students a little closer to campus and reduces the walk time to class. Parking in the grass is awful on rainy days, so the Lanier Tech lot is much preferable.

While GSC students wait with bated breath for the new parking deck and its promises of convenient hassle-free parking, the situation now is much better than elsewhere.
Opinions

Noon classes no threat to club devotees

By Michelle Bennett
924186957@gsc.edu
Assistant Features Editor

As most of our stomachs have made us aware, Fall 2008 is the first semester that noon classes have been executed.

The intention behind having noon classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays is not to leave students’ stomachs growing or their lives without social enrichment; the purpose of noon classes is to fill up GSC’s classrooms to show the need for a new building in the future.

There are several possible factors to consider before deciding whether to applaud or condemn the new idea.

Possibly one of the most obvious outcomes of noon classes is the impending growing in students’ stomachs.

Scholars who have noon classes are watching the clock a good deal more than they would in regular classes.

Hunger is a legitimate complaint. Students who have noon classes are having difficulty finding time to eat and are facing distraction in class.

Not only is food necessary for concentration, so is a mental break. Those who have a full class load in the morning, without a break for lunch, are in even more danger of fizzling mentally.

Aside from growing stomachs and no brain down-time, there are good sides to noon classes.

Before noon classes were implemented, many feared that they would greatly interfere in club and organization participation.

The general feedback from club leaders is that many clubs are still meeting at lunch time, while a significant amount of others have chosen to meet at times later in the day.

Most advisors say that they have not seen a great drop in club participants.

Although lunch-time meetings did make club involvement convenient, that convenience may have encouraged half-hearted loyalty in some.

For the clubs that are being forced to meet later in the afternoon, students (aside from ones who had no choice but to take a noon class) are required to go out of their way to meet.

This could be good for clubs because some people who really want to be in groups are, and the under-committed aren’t.

Overall, the idea is a good one. Because noon classes don’t appear to be having a huge influence on participants, it seems that the dedicated club members that the new classes create, as well as the new building, ultimately, outweigh our hunger or lack of concentration.

The Bell is back

By Dao Cao
Clubs Editor
924168841@gsc.edu

As lunch time rolls around, Gainesville State College students are in search of a good, fast, cheap place to eat.

Although there are many fast food restaurants in Oakwood, one of the cheapest is Taco Bell.

Previously located right across the street from the college, Taco Bell offered an exotic and cheap meal.

Most college students can’t afford to pay top dollar for lunch. With Taco Bell’s affordable and delicious menu choices, the change in the floorboard of the car pays for lunch.

This wonderful site, however, was torn down a couple years ago.

But not to worry, there is hope! A new Taco Bell has opened, about a mile from the campus, just in time for Fall semester.

Having the Taco Bell back is exciting. With its variety of choices and low prices, Taco Bell is a favorite of many students here at GSC.

Although this new location takes a little longer to get to because of lunch and construction traffic, it is worth the drive.

Many people were complaining about how they wanted Taco Bell back so, they certainly would not mind making the drive.

Plus, carpooling can save money on both your food and gas. The new Taco Bell has been slammed since the first day it opened in August. GSC students are glad to have their favorite option for fast, cheap food back.

Wait on four-day week plan

By Caitlin O’Dell
Editor-in-Chief
924170651@gsc.edu

Many businesses and colleges are switching to four-day schedules in the hopes of cutting costs and saving energy.

Institutions have recently implemented this new schedule, with great results. They saved money, raised rates of tuition and even had more applicants to work.

The idea of a shorter week is attractive to commuter colleges, where few students live on campus.

Cutting back on hours needed to have power on in the buildings saved the college money.

Reducing the time students had to drive to and from school saved the students lots of money.

This trend of reducing gas consumption could help bring down high gas prices due to lower demand. Not to mention people – flush with money not spent on gas – going out Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights rather than just the latter two. People spending more money on longer weekends could help the economy.

The foreseeable problems of cutting Fridays out of the schedule for Gainesville State College are mainly problems of convenience.

Fridays are meeting days for many clubs. The ACTT Center and library stay open several hours after classes are over to facilitate students who want to get their homework done before a hectic weekend starts.

To cut Friday off the schedule for the ACTT Center and library would be to make much more hectic Sunday nights.

Another possible problem is that some students do not have access to a computer at home. Or, they may have computer access, but no internet access. Due to those constraints, it would be difficult for those students to succeed in web-based classes or those that require internet access.

Some students do not have a place like the ACTT Center or library at home where they can study and do homework. Closing the campus an extra day would be a disadvantage to those students.

So far, we do not know the effects of a four-day week. While we don’t know how much it could save us and the community of Gainesville State College, we do know the potential costs and can look to other universities to lead the way.
By David R Hulbert II  
Feature Editor  
924188363@gsc.edu

What do you want to be when you grow up? Hundreds of new students at Gainesville State College are striving to answer this question. The registration here at GSC has jumped to record heights and the college is loosening its belt to accommodate the influx of new students and even more returning non-traditional students.

Concerns like parking and club time are high on most students’ minds. With added classes most clubs are struggling to find time to meet.

Jeff Marker assistant professor of Media Studies reveals how he finds time for both teaching and being available for his students.

"Like all faculty members, I squeeze in time for students because that’s my favorite part of the job," Marker said, “That’s why we’re here, and if we start sacrificing time with students, we might as well quit and change careers."

The blame for the increased registration lies on the changes in our economy, living expenses and markets. For many people, sifting possible jobs through a new filter is mandatory to their career selection process. If they want to pay the rent they will have to push aside dream jobs, and look for a job doing something that is easy to get into, that will pay the bills, and keep our cars full of gas.

Competition for these jobs is going to be intense. It is even harder to get into a career these days without some type of degree.

“Experience equivalent” – using market experience in place of a degree in the field – is showing up less and less on job postings because it is the easiest way potential employers can filter the amount of applications they receive.

The job market competition drives many people back to school. GSC is reacting to the growth by the expansion of the parking lots, adding more classes and rebuilding the student activities center.

For the most part, as long as parking doesn’t come up, the morale on campus is high. GSC has done a good job making the new and continuing students comfortable.

"The professors are doing a great job at jumping through the new hoops and being available."

"I like the students at GSC, and the entire faculty and staff do our best to help each other," Marker said, "The support among faculty here is unmatched at other schools."

High enrollment causes few problems at GSC
THEY’LL DO IT EVERY TIME

UNSOLVED
HOUSEHOLD
MYSTERIES
NO.1053—
EVEN
SHERLOCK
HOLMES
CAN’T
SOLVE
THE
CASE OF
THE ONE
MISSING
STOCKING
AFTER A
MACHINE
WASH---

HMM... ARE YOU SURE
THERE WERE
TWO STOCKINGS?

WELL, YES...
STOCKINGS USUALLY
COME IN TWO'S---

THAX TO ‘DEE-DEE’ CALO.
ROCKVILLE, MD.

MR. LARD-BUFF,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING ABOUT
YOUR WEIGHT?

I APP TO IT
REGULARLY, DOG,
HAR-HAR...

THAX TO V. HONDLER.
LITTLE NECK, N.Y.

OH! HOW NICE-
BREAKFAST IN
BED. I WON'T HAVE
TO MAKE IT...

YEAH—ENJOY—
I WANTED TO SAVE
YOU SOME WORK-
BYE! Gotta catch
THE 8:15...

THAX TO ARNIE HAGUE,
EDMONDS, WA.

BIG MEN
AT HOME GIVING
WIFEY A
HELPING
HAND OR
THANKS
FOR
NOTHING
DEPT...

KATZENJAMMER KIDS

VOT'S
IN DER
BOTTLE?

HAIR RESTORER... "CHUST RUB INTO
DER SCALP UND SEE DER RESULTS."

VOT IF YA DON'T LIKE DER
RESULTS?

VOT EFFER IT
DUZ ISS BETTER
DEN BALD?

VOT DER...

LEN'A...BE A GOOD
LIDDLE SQUAB UND
TAKE A "BFORE
PITCHER?"

OKAY.
CAPTAIN,
SAY CHEESE

LEN'A...

NO.
CAPTAIN... I HAD NO
IDEA?

GOOD
HEAVENS...
"LOOK AT WHAT THAT
MAN HAS DONE TO
HIS HEAD?"

HE T'INKS
DOT LOOKS MORE
BETTER DEN
BALD!

THE "CHUST RUB INTO
DER SCALP UND SEE DER RESULTS."