



## President's Corner

GSC plays a critical role in expanding access to higher education in Northeast Georgia. This was wonderfully demonstrated at the ground breaking ceremony for the new University Center | GA 400 on Tuesday. There was a great crowd to witness this ceremonial event, which had to be held indoors due to inclement weather.

Both GSC and North Georgia were represented, as well as community leaders, Regent Wilheit, the architects, and the construction company. Later that day, the two institutions signed a Memorandum Of Understanding, which spells out

*GSC plays a critical role in expanding access to higher education in Northeast Georgia.*

the structure and responsibilities of each. The position of Executive Director for the Center has been posted, and GSC has three members on the search committee.

The building is supposed to be completed by late July so that classes will begin fall semester. The Office of Academic Affairs is preparing a curriculum for this fall, focusing primarily on first-year requirements that will also include Learning Support. Thanks to all who have participated in the planning for the Center. It is yet another milestone in the evolution of higher education in Northeast Georgia.

*Mertha*

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## Construction begins on University Center | GA 400

North Georgia College & State University and Gainesville State College celebrated the beginning of construction on a new instructional facility in Cumming on Tuesday, January 17.

Slated to open in fall 2012, University Center | GA 400 is being constructed on property near GA 400 at Pilgrim Mill Road. The instructional center will offer a range of two- and four-year undergraduate programs, graduate programs and professional development opportunities. Additionally, North Georgia's MBA program, currently located in the Cumming City Hall building, will move to the new facility.

Due to inclement weather, the ground breaking ceremony was moved indoors to the Cumming Aquatic Center, which

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# University Center | GA 400 Construction

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is adjacent to the construction site. However, the rainy weather didn't dampen officials' outlook for the future of the University Center.

"North Georgia College & State University and Gainesville State College are each very strong, successful schools in helping students enter college and earn a degree. Jointly, through University Center | GA 400, we will expand students' pathways of opportunity and enhance the economic development and quality of life in this community," said Dr. Bonita Jacobs, president at North Georgia College & State University.

The University System of Georgia has identified the Cumming and Forsyth County area as an "underserved region" of the state for higher education, and Cumming officials have been seeking to expand higher education opportunities for the fast-growing community for years.

"We are looking forward to being part of the project to bring higher education to a permanent location in Cumming. As a partner with North Georgia College & State University, Gainesville State College, through its 'student focused, learning centered' environment, will play an important role in this location. I see this as just the beginning of an exceptional opportunity for the citizens in the region," said **Dr. Martha T. Nesbitt**, president of Gainesville State College.

The University Center | GA 400 site will not be residential and is expected to alleviate some of the capacity pressure at the existing campuses of North Georgia College & State University and Gainesville State College. With nearly 6,100 students, North Georgia is nearing capacity at its Dahlonega campus, and Gainesville State's capacity has exceeded 100 percent on

the Gainesville campus since 2000. In fall 2011, more than 1,500 students from Forsyth County were enrolled at both schools -- 782 at North Georgia and 806 at Gainesville State.

More information about University Center | GA 400 is available online at [www.universitycenterga400.org](http://www.universitycenterga400.org).



*Taking part in the Ground Breaking Ceremony for University Center | GA 400 were Regent Philip Wilheit, NGCSU President Dr. Bonita Jacobs, GSC President Dr. Martha T. Nesbitt, Cumming Mayor H. Ford Gravitt, and Mrs. Mary Helen McGruder.*

## Sezgin attends Jewish Studies Conference

**Dr. Pam Sezgin**, Associate Professor of History at the Oconee Campus, traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 43rd Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies from December 19-21, 2011.

Dr. Sezgin was invited to speak as part of the Sephardi/Mizrahi Pedagogy Roundtable. Dr. Sezgin discussed "Incorporating Music in History and General Studies Courses," in order to highlight the cultural and social integration of Sephardi/Mizrahi Jewish communities in the Eastern Mediterranean into their surrounding societies.

Using the *piyyutim* (a special type of Jewish sung religious poetry) and the

*USG Faculty  
Development Series:  
Mentoring Adjunct/  
Part-Time Faculty*

**Online Session  
February 8, 2012**

**Presenter: Amy Coleman,  
Georgia Perimeter College**

*Learn techniques and  
methods for mentoring,  
training, encouraging,  
and retaining adjuncts in  
order to increase student  
satisfaction and retention.*

**Registration is free. Go  
here—[http://www.  
zoomerang.com/Survey/  
WEB22CWTEBPLT4/](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CWTEBPLT4/)**

Ottoman Jewish composer Isak Fresko Romano (1745? - 1814), as a case study, she showed the distinctive external and internal influences of Ottoman Empire cultural forms on a non-Muslim, minority tradition. Lively discussion followed the presentation.

### **STAFF OPENING:**

**Plant Operations  
Supervisor—Oconee Campus**

For full job description and application procedures, visit the HR website at <http://www.gsc.edu/employment>, then click on "Staff Positions."

# "Barbershop Punk" is next in Southern Circuit Tour

The Arts Council, Inc. and Gainesville State College are proud to present "Barbershop Punk," with Director/Producer/Writer Georgia Sugimura Archer as part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. The screening will be held at 7:30 PM in the Academic IV Building, Room 3110, on Thursday, February 9, 2012. Ticket price of \$7 for adults / \$5 for students and seniors includes the movie and a *Meet the Filmmaker* Q&A session following the film screening.

Is "The Man" controlling the vertical, the horizontal, and the channel you'll be on?

In a privatized American Internet, is big business "Big Brother" or does the free market protect and serve the needs of the average citizen with its invisible hand? With the simple act of swapping files, barbershop quartet baritone Robb Topolski finds himself at ground zero of a landmark case whose outcome will affect the rights of every American citizen.

Following one man's personal quest to defend what he believes to be his



Meet "Barbershop Punk" Filmmaker Georgia Sugimura Archer at the screening.

inalienable rights, BARBERSHOP PUNK examines the critical issues surrounding the future of the American Internet and what it takes to challenge the status quo.

Contemplating the future of the American Internet and the inalienable rights under review, the film features discussions with Ian MacKaye, Damian Kulash of OK Go, Henry Rollins, Janeane Garofalo, EFF's John Perry Barlow, U.S. Congressman Chip Pickering, Congressman Marsha

Blackburn, Free Form DJ Jim Ladd, Clinton White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, Michelle Combs of the Christian Coalition, Songwriters Guild President Rick Carnes, NARAL's Ted Miller, lobbyist Jack Burkman, and FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, among others.

Following a screening of her feature film, "Barbershop Punk," Georgia Sugimura Archer (Director, Producer, Writer) and the audience will engage in a discussion about the film and her work as a filmmaker.

Within a framework of personal experiences, Georgia draws upon her professional background in music, dance, narrative film, and still photography. Graduating from the American Film Institute, where she was awarded the Women In Film as well as the George and Barbara Bush Foundation scholarships, she has also received an MTV award for Best Hard Rock Video. This is her feature directorial debut.

## Welch explores *Fitness, Fun and Faith*

When Lillian Welch reads the Bible, she isn't doing so just for spiritual gratification. She's also gleaning guidance for maintaining her physical being.

Although she's no stranger to the Bible, Welch says she was surprised by how thorough the directives were once she started doing more intensive research for her book, *Fitness, Fun and Faith*.

"I didn't realize there were so many scriptures that apply to fitness, nutrition and health. I came up with 90 scriptures that applied to my book," said Welch, a Murrayville resident, who taught at Gainesville State College from 1977 to 2009.

Although Welch never aspired to be an author, she says she felt a calling from God to pen her book after reading *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren.

"Before I finished reading it, I felt like I was given a homework assignment from God to write about what I know," said Welch, a retired physical education and health instructor.

"I started the book eight years ago. It took me a long time, but that's OK. It took Noah a long time to build the ark, but he stuck with it until he finished."

As a self-professed fitness lover, Welch has no problem being active. The goal of her book is to inspire others to see the importance of activity and a proper diet.

**GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE**  
University System of Georgia

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**TOWER TALK** is the official communication vehicle for Gainesville State College faculty and staff members and is published bi-weekly by the Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Submissions for the next edition should be emailed to [dkrewson@gsc.edu](mailto:dkrewson@gsc.edu) or sent to Debbie Krewson, Public Relations & Marketing, to be received by noon, Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

## Gainesville Theatre Alliance:

# Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" to open at Brenau

After years of dog-eat-dog boom and then economic collapse, what credo can those who have survived still believe in? The Tony Award-winning adaptation of Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, follows the Joad family's epic journey to California in search of land, jobs and dignity. *The Grapes of Wrath* is a soaring and deeply moving affirmation of the essential strength and potential for good that resides in the heart of the "common man."

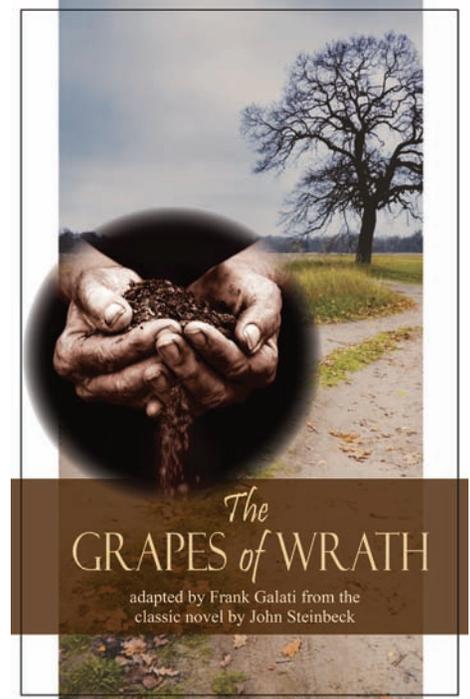
The Gainesville Theatre Alliance is celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> MainStage season with Frank Galati's adaptation of Steinbeck's novel. Galati's skillful stage adaptation, which ran for 188 performances on Broadway, received the 1990 Tony Award for Best Play.

*The Grapes of Wrath* opens at 7:30 PM, Feb. 14, at Brenau University's Hosch

Theatre, and patrons are invited to the free Opening Night Reception, catered by 2Dog, immediately after the performance. In addition to the play, GTA is sponsoring a Community Resource Fair, featuring various agencies working to ease the suffering of "Joads" in northeast Georgia NOW. Good News at Noon, My Sister's Place and Meals on Wheels are among the groups explaining their work.

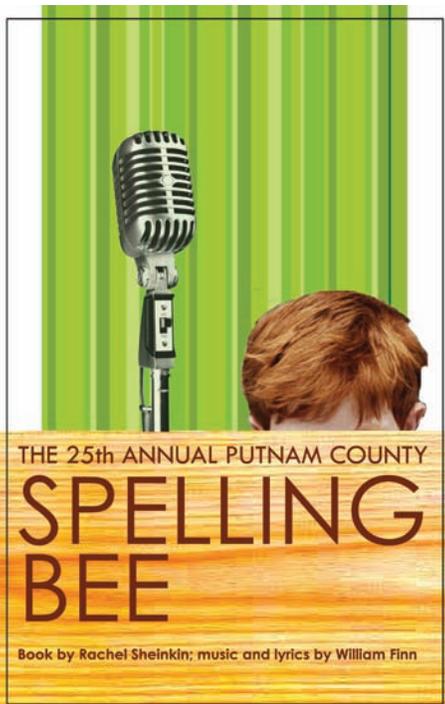
Tickets are \$16-18 for adults, \$14-16 for seniors, and \$10-12 for students. Free advance tickets for GSC and Brenau students, faculty, and staff will be available for performances on Feb. 15, 16, 21, and 22 with ID while supplies last. (Free tickets are available two weeks before Opening Night). Seats can be selected online at [www.gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org](http://www.gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org) or by calling the box office at 678-717-3624.

A free stage tour of the production will be held Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 PM.



## GTA MainStage Bonus:

# The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE



"Can you spell 'irresistible?' *Spelling Bee* is riotously funny and remarkably ingenious," says the New York Times. The Gainesville Theatre Alliance's hilarious musical celebrates six adolescent outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. The show runs February 17 through 25.

Atlanta actor/director Alan Kilpatrick will guest direct GTA's production of *Spelling Bee*. GTA audiences saw him most recently as the foppish Foigard in *The Beaux Stratagem* in 2010; Kilpatrick also directed last season's production of Steve Martin's adaptation of *The Underpants*.

*Spelling Bee* is based on a book by Rachel Sheinkin, with music and lyrics

by William Finn.

*Spelling Bee* will be performed in the intimate, 200-seat Ed Cabell Theatre on the Gainesville Campus. There will be a free opening night reception following the show, which has no intermission. The show is rated PG-13 for suggestive language.

All tickets for this event are \$12. Patrons can select their own seats on the website at [www.gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org](http://www.gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org) or purchase tickets through the GTA Box Office from 10 AM to 4 PM weekdays at 678-717-3624.

Discounted advance tickets are available for GSC and Brenau faculty, staff, and students with ID: \$5 tickets for all shows.



*Accepting the donation from the GSCWO Holiday Auction chair, Leora Myers, is Jen Wilson, a representative of the Gateway Domestic Violence Center*

## Successful GSCWO Auction supports scholarships, domestic violence centers

Jen Wilson, a representative from Gateway Domestic Violence Center in Gainesville, was on hand at the January meeting of the Gainesville State College Women's Organization (GSCWO) to accept a donation for the Center.

GSCWO's Annual Auction, Lunch, and Holiday Sing in December realized its third-highest net profit since its inception: nearly \$2,150. Half of that

profit, \$1,075, has been earmarked for student book scholarships.

After receiving a check for \$1,050 on behalf of Gateway, Ms. Wilson expressed her gratitude, explaining that the Center is operating at near capacity, and support from organizations such as GSCWO has been essential to its continued operation in helping victims of domestic violence and their families in the Hall County area.

A donation of \$25 was also sent to Project Safe, another domestic violence center, in Oconee.

## Counseling & Career Services Workshops

**Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions** *Mon., Jan. 23 Noon & 5:00 PM*

As we ring in the New Year with hopes and dreams for the upcoming year, we can often become disillusioned when our resolutions are quickly forgotten or our efforts simply aren't sustainable. Come learn how people most often succeed in their endeavors, and learn strategies to set yourself up for success instead of frustration.

**Study Skills** *Tues., Jan. 24 12:30 & 4:30 PM*

Do you study forever and still don't understand? Are you studying harder instead of smarter? Learn the study habits you should know for success in college and beyond.

**Focus on Careers** *Tues., Jan. 31-Wed., Feb. 1 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM*

Information on hundreds of careers will be available in the Student Center all day. Career Counselors will be available from 11 AM to 1 PM and 4 PM to 6 PM.

**Choosing a Major** *Tues., Feb. 7 12:30 & 4:30 PM*

Still trying to decide what major to pursue in college? This workshop explores interest values and abilities to help you make an informed decision about your career.

**Sexual Health & Responsibility** *Wed., Feb. 8 Noon & 5:00 PM*

You know you want it . . . . Everyone does . . . . More knowledge and information is something everybody wants, and this is your chance! At this workshop, we'll find out about sex myths and facts, what sexual responsibility means and how it begins with our personal value system. We'll also learn about sexual health and how to protect it.

**Relaxation & Improving Your Energy** *Thurs., Feb. 9 12:30 & 4:30 PM*

Do you have enough energy? Is your concentration less than you prefer? Is your immune system weak? Do you have sinus or tension headaches? This workshop will explore the energy around the body and how you can strengthen it to obtain the mental and physical health you want.

*All workshops and events are free of charge and open to currently enrolled students, faculty, and staff. If you cannot attend a program but are interested in the topic, we will be happy to meet with you individually. All workshops are about 45 minutes to one hour in length and will be presented in our office unless otherwise noted. Advance registration is preferred: call 678-717-3660 or email [dpierce@gsc.edu](mailto:dpierce@gsc.edu) to register.*

## ISA application deadline is in March

In Spring semester 2011, Gainesville State College began the Innovative Staff Award (ISA), a program funded by The Gainesville State College Foundation. Permanent full-time and part-time staff may submit an application to the Staff Council for a \$500 stipend for the development and implementation of an innovative idea. This award will be given twice a year to selected applicants whose proposals advance institutional excellence. An appropriate proposal, for example, may resolve problems with creative solutions that result in increased efficiency and productivity. The award may cultivate new approaches to service, fresh ways to share knowledge or information, imaginative methods for enhancing quality of life on our campuses, or other inspired work that supports the College's mission.

Applications for Spring 2012 are due March 19, 2012. For an application form and more information, go to <https://portal.gsc.edu/committees/staffcouncil/default.aspx> or contact **Connie Esford** ([cesford@gsc.edu](mailto:cesford@gsc.edu)) at 678-717-3930.

## Association for Gerontology in Higher Education:

# Pamela Elfenbein named 2011-12 national Fellow

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) announced its 2011-2012 AGHE Fellow in Gerontology and Geriatrics Education, GSC's **Dr. Pamela Elfenbein**.

Fellow status is an honor conferred by AGHE which recognizes outstanding leadership in gerontology/geriatrics education by established scholars/educators. Fellowship status is open to individuals with well-established careers of achievement in gerontology/geriatrics education who are employed by an AGHE member institution.

Qualifications include outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarship and research on educational issues, influential research publications or theoretical contributions used in gerontology/geriatric education and training, or leadership in administration and funding of gerontology/geriatrics educational programs, including development of new programs.

Elfenbein certainly met the criteria for selection by demonstrating outstanding leadership in gerontology/geriatrics education. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of the College's Bachelor of Arts in Human Services Delivery and Administration (HSDA) degree, which was approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in May of 2010.

At that time, Elfenbein was serving as the Interim Dean of the School of Social Sciences, and she felt this degree positioned GSC as a leader in the state of Georgia in this area in terms of career training opportunities and workforce development in the Human Services arena. She saw this as a tremendous step forward for our College and our community.

Under Elfenbein's leadership, GSC's program was developed in concert

with the National Standards for Human Services Education and to also meet the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Program of Merit standards.

The HSDA program has gained popularity, and 107 students are currently majoring in the program. An HSDA Community Advisory Board was recently established to link the program to the community by involving key individuals from United Way, Area Agency on Aging, Gainesville-Hall County Community Service Center and Action Ministries from the College's service area. The Board is scheduled to meet on a regular basis to keep abreast of developments in the program and to serve as a sounding board, involved in strategic planning and about important decisions relative to the program.

Leonard W. Poon, University of Georgia Distinguished Research Professor, Professor Emeritus Developmental Psychology & Aging, Professor Emeritus, Health Policy & Management, and Former Chair, Faculty of Gerontology, is the only other individual from Georgia to have ever been named an AGHE Fellow.

Through conferences, publications, technical assistance, research studies, and consultation with policy makers, AGHE, the educational unit of The Gerontological Society of America, seeks to advance gerontology as a field of study at institutions of higher education. The Association's membership currently includes over 200 organizations and institutions of higher education. For more information about AGHE, visit [www.aghe.org](http://www.aghe.org).

## ODIIR salutes MLK, Jr. with film

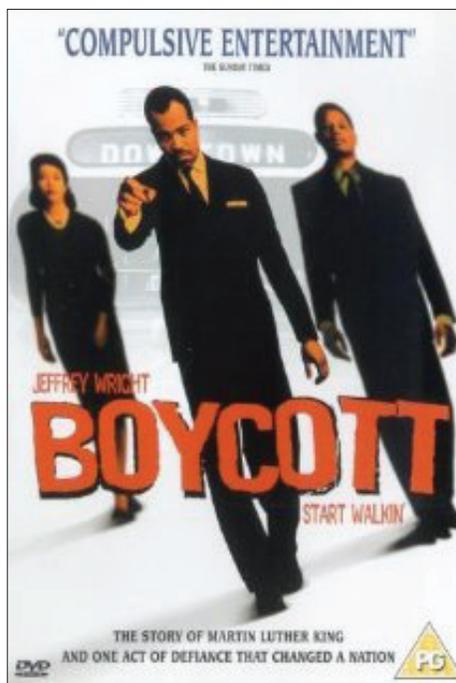
The Office for Diversity Initiatives & Intercultural Relations will present the movie *Boycott* to salute Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Wednesday, January 25 at noon in the Multipurpose

Room (3110) in Academic IV on the Gainesville Campus.

In 1955, an African-American woman named Rosa Parks dared to take an empty seat in the "Whites Only" section on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama and sparked one of the first major battles in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, thus bringing the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the attention of many Americans for the first time.

*Boycott* is a movie that dramatizes the events of the Montgomery bus boycott, weaving vintage newsreel footage with scenes depicting the public and private dramas involved in the protests. *Boycott* is not a mere "history lesson" but a moving portrait of a time and the role that a people played in improving their quality of life.

This HBO Film stars Jeffrey Wright as Dr. King.



## Our College Family

Congratulations to **Carol Marinelli** on the birth of her grandson, Grayson, on January 6, 2012 at 5:13 PM. He weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. and was 20 inches long.



## Ringling Our Bells

Brenda Perry, a professional Academic Advisor, received her Master of Science in Criminology on December 17, 2011. Perry's degree was awarded by Indiana State University.



## ✓ Mark your calendar:

- Mon., Jan. 23** **Magician Peter Boie.** Noon-1:00 PM, Student Center Stage, GC. Magician for non-believers. Sponsored by CAB.
- Wed., Jan. 25** **Boycott: A Salute to Martin Luther King, Jr.** Noon-2:30 PM, Multipurpose Room (3110), ACAD IV, GC.
- Tues., Jan. 31** **Stage Tour: *The Grapes of Wrath.*** 6:00 PM, Hosch Theatre, Brenau University. FREE.

## Announcements

Please send any comments and suggestions regarding the GSC website to [webadvisorycommittee@gsc.edu](mailto:webadvisorycommittee@gsc.edu). Feedback is taken seriously, and many improvements have been made to the website based on the ideas of faculty, staff, and students.



Georgia law requires that all public officials and state employees disclose all business transactions occurring during the previous calendar year which the public official or employee has transacted with the State of Georgia and any agency of the State of Georgia for himself or on behalf of any business, or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his/her family has a substantial interest. The 2011 State Business Transactions Disclosure Reports are due on January 31, 2012. If you need a form, please contact **Leora Myers**, X3610, or come by the president's office.



Your electronic W-2 is now available on the secure web site, <https://portal.adp.com>. Your W-2

will be available to you on this web site for three years.

If there are any problems, please contact your payroll administrator, **Karen Banks**, at X3821.



The transition faculty and staff are experiencing as the college is consolidated with North Georgia may be quite stressful. If Oconee Campus faculty and staff are interested, we offer the following:

- The wellness/personal counseling office can hold a brown-bag discussion/"ventilation"/workshop addressing effective stress-management techniques (including informal and formal meditation, if interest exists).
- Referrals can be provided for personal counseling for individuals who would like further support.

Please let Melinda "Doc" Hawley know if we can be helpful in either of these ways, or if you have other suggestions ([mhawley@gsc.edu](mailto:mhawley@gsc.edu)).



Please be aware that the University System has changed vendors for the Ethics Hotline. To access, go to GSC's home page, and locate the "USG Ethics Hotline" on the Quick Links pull down menu.



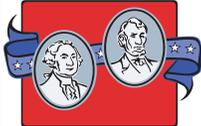
What's the purpose? In support of the USG's Ethics policy, this confidential hotline is available to allow individuals the opportunity to report perceived unethical conduct or practices.

As always, employees are encouraged to speak directly to their immediate supervisors as a first option when seeking answers or remedies in the event of perceived unethical practices. Reporting may also be made directly to other campus areas such as Public Safety or Human Resources.

If you feel there is not a satisfactory response locally, then the Hotline is available and accessible by telephone (1-877-516-3431) or through internet link.



# FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1 Dan Cabaniss—O	2 Nicole Dowd—G	3	4 Brian Tarr—G	
5 Glenn Eckhof—O Sheri Hardee—G Valerie Havill—G Kathy Martin—G Joseph Pruitt—G Amy Sherman—G	6 <b>Colloquium: Brian Turner (GC)</b>	7 <b>Colloquium: Brian Turner (OC)</b>	8 <b>Art Gallery Reception</b>  Pamela Eifenbein—G Rich Kellogg—G	9 Jeanelle Morgan—G Eleanor Schut—O	10 Yong Seung Han—O Kimberly Watkins—G	11	
12 Gloria Bennett—G	13	14  <b>GTA: "Grapes of Wrath" Opens</b> Tuwanda Wilson—G	15 Sadrac Philogene—G Sally Reynolds—G	16 Susan Smith—G	17 <b>GTA: "Spelling Bee" Opens</b>	18 Adan Diaz—O Genie Greavu-Comley—G	
19 Sabine Davis—G	20 <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>  Sara Zerkel—O	21 Douglas Ealey—G Mindy Henderson—G	22	23 Laura Bolling—G	24 Matt Foster—G Monique Kluczykowski—G Jason Ponders—G	25 John Breakfield—G Verlin Curry—G Rachel Snyder—G Lisa Thompson—G	
26 Deborah Hightower—G Suzanne Willis—G	27 Dennis Handy—O UndreCia Pedraza—G	28	29 <b>LEAP YEAR DAY</b> 	<b>Coming Event: 2012 Big Band Show March 1-3!</b>			