

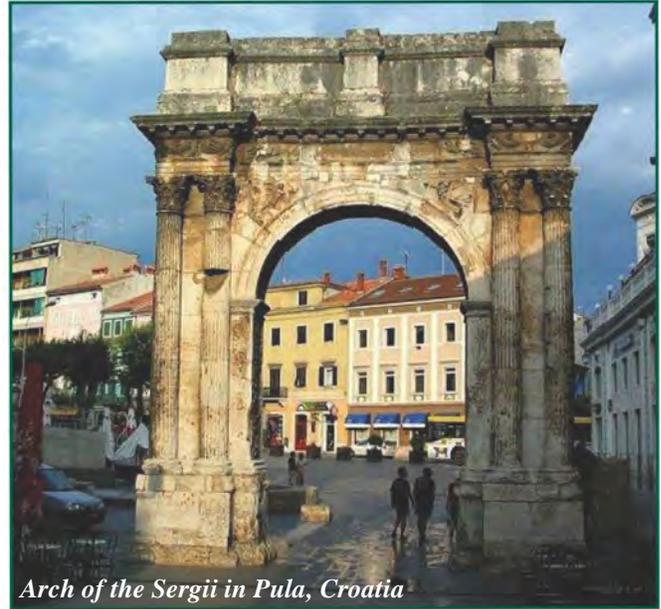
President's Corner

While this is my first official week as your interim president, I have been on the job unofficially for several weeks participating in meetings and getting up to speed on all that is happening at GSC.

On June 21 and 22, I took part in the facilities consolidation meetings that were held in conjunction with North Georgia College & State University and USG Vice Chancellor for Facilities Linda Daniels. We toured NGCSU's campus as well as GSC's Gainesville and Oconee Campuses and spent time reviewing each institution's Master Plan. We also discussed space utilization.

The System has informed us that they will be following through with projects that are currently in the design phase, but moving forward, they will only be considering small projects that fall within the \$1 to \$2 million range and show efficient use of space. Collectively, NGCSU and GSC have agreed to submit three small renovation projects for consideration in the FY 2014 budget. They include: a renovation of NGCSU's Memorial Hall; retrofitting three dry labs to wet labs in the Gainesville Campus Science Building; and renovation and addition to Building 500 on the Oconee Campus that will include an ACTT Center, faculty offices, and conference room. These three projects total just under \$5 million. We will know in early spring if the projects are approved. At that point, we would begin the design phase.

Congratulations to **Brandon Haag**, who will become the chief information officer for the University of North Georgia in January upon the consolidation of Gainesville State and North Georgia College & State University.



Arch of the Sergii in Pula, Croatia

Photograph courtesy of the Mediterranean Studies Association

Dr. Sezgin presents papers

Dr. Pam Sezgin (Department of History and Anthropology, Oconee Campus) has been busy giving five different conference papers since the end of the Spring Semester. On April 13, 2012, she was a featured speaker at "The First World War: A Centennial Appraisal of Origins and Legacies" for the opening session of the AHGSU (Atlanta Historians at Georgia State University) held at Georgia State University. Dr. Sezgin spoke about "The Ottoman Empire in World War I."

On May 3, 2012, Dr. Sezgin participated in the annual meeting of the American Association for Italian Studies (AAIS) in Charleston, South Carolina. She presented a paper, "Los Frankos: Italian Jews as Agents of Modernity in a late Ottoman Diaspora." The Edwin Mellen Press will publish an extended version of this paper as a monograph in 2013.

—See "Dr. Sezgin presents" on Page 4

Inside this Issue

Eleanor Crawford Nominations	2	Honors Student Publishes Poem	3
Financially Empowering Gen Y	3	Mark Your Calendar	4
Gainesville Heat	2	PTK Rho Mu Chapter	2
GISCorps Thanks Kraemer	4	Ringin' Our Bells	2
GTA Tickets on Sale	4	Spanish Speaking Debate	3

Gainesville Campus will be home to new American Basketball Association team

The American Basketball Association (ABA) has announced that it will add another team to its fast-growing Southeast Division with a team in Gainesville, Georgia. The Gainesville Heat will play its home games at the Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex Gymnasium on the GSC Gainesville Campus.

Joshua Randolph, a local Gainesville business owner who played varsity basketball for and graduated from Gainesville High School, will serve as GM/Head Coach for the team. Randolph has coached both at the AAU level and AAU level in the State of Georgia, and he is currently a pro hoops writer for the NBA.

"I am very thankful for this opportunity to do something exciting for the Gainesville community and the State of Georgia," said Randolph. "The ABA will not be disappointed in our service to the community and our commitment to professionalism. We are ready to roll."

Tryouts were held in June for the new

team, which starts its inaugural season in November. Randolph said he felt as if the Gainesville area would support a professional basketball team for a number of reasons, and he said there's talent in the area to support an ABA team. He added that players in the ABA are typically on the verge of making the next step to playing in the NBA or

playing professional basketball overseas. Most of them, said Randolph, are 19 or 20 years old, although he's known players as old as 30 to have successful careers in the ABA.

The Gainesville Heat will play in the ABA's Atlantic South Conference, which features other teams from Georgia, as well as teams from Nashville, TN, Birmingham, AL, and Jacksonville and Tampa Bay, FL. The Jacksonville team was the ABA champion last year.

Randolph said he's excited about the team's venue at GSC, pointing out that the gymnasium has been upgraded recently, making for a great place for the team to play its home games.



PTK Rho Mu Chapter receives commendation

Gainesville State College's Rho Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society received a special commendation during the Georgia Regional convention for fulfilling all requirements to be named a "Two Star Chapter." The chapter was also recognized at the Society's recent Annual Convention and is recognized on the Society website at ptk.org.

The Five Star Chapter Development Plan serves as a blueprint for developing a strong chapter, improves student engagement on campus, and recognizes progress in the attainment of goals set by the chapter. Using the Five Star Plan as a guide, chapters enhance their strategies to recognize eligible students, provide significant personal and professional development opportunities for members

through Honors in Action, and build a working relationship with the college administration by becoming active on campus and in the community. As chapters reach these milestones, they progress through each level of the Five Star Plan, ultimately reaching the pinnacle Five Star Level.

Dr. Rod A. Risley, Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa, commented, "We express appreciation for your efforts toward providing rewarding educational experience inside and outside the classroom."

Jennifer Feenstra Williford is the advisor for GSC's Rho Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, which recognizes academic excellence at two-year colleges.

Eleanor Crawford Nominations due

Get your nominations in for the 2012 Eleanor Crawford Award! The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, July 10, and the award will be presented at the annual faculty/staff luncheon on Monday, August 6.

The Eleanor Crawford Award, sponsored by the Gainesville State College Alumni Association, was established in 1990 to recognize an outstanding staff member on an annual basis. The staff member must exhibit extraordinary loyalty, dedication, and service to the College and its employees and students. The Award is named for the College's first employee hired by the Board of Regents in 1964, Eleanor Crawford (1915-2011). Since 2009, the Alumni Association has awarded the Eleanor Crawford Award to an individual from both the Gainesville and Oconee Campuses.

The nomination form can be downloaded from the alumni web site: <http://internet.gsc.edu/about/external/alumni/Pages/Awards.aspx>. Contact Alumni Director **Jennifer Hendrickson** (jhendrickson@gsc.edu) with any questions.

Ringling Our Bells

Sheri Hardee presented at the International Conference on Service-Learning in Teacher Education at Duke University on June 23, 2012. Her presentation on GSC's Near Peer Program was entitled "Educational Borderlands: Building Bridges Connecting Colleges and Local Schools."

Gloria Bennett was chosen to serve as president at the most recent Board meeting for the Georgia Writers Association. She has served on the Board for the past two years and looks forward to serving in this new role.

GSC SIFE team is finalist in project partnership: "Financially Empowering Gen Y" Competition

TIAA-CREF (Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association - College Retirement Equities Fund) has announced the winners of the firm's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) "Financially Empowering Gen Y" project partnership. Through this program, 25 colleges and universities from across the U.S. competed to design and deliver financial literacy programs in their local communities, targeted at Gen Y. A number of innovative and impactful ideas—ranging from financial education mobile apps and web-based video series to peer-to-peer workshops and college seminars—were submitted.

Gainesville State's SIFE team was one of six finalists who were awarded \$1,000.

The University of Charleston SIFE team was awarded first place for their work in developing and teaching a financial literacy course to UC students and the community. The award includes a \$5,000 grant which will help ensure the course is funded for another year.

Second place, along with a \$4,000 grant, went to Oregon State University's SIFE team who developed a series of financial

education events in partnership with the Columbia County Women's Resource Center. The University of Arizona claimed third place and a \$3,000 grant for their work in designing a series of small workshops to address misconceptions and negative attitudes toward credit in an open, conversational format.

Betsy Palmer, senior vice president, TIAA-CREF Enterprise Communications, attended the SIFE National Exposition in Kansas City, Mo., to recognize the top teams.

"As a financial services organization with deep roots in education, we are committed to helping individuals gain a

better understanding of their finances at every life stage," said Palmer. "Our goal in partnering with SIFE over this past year was to address a critical education gap facing Gen Y and to arm them with tools and education they need to help put them on a path toward financial well-being."

Since 1975, SIFE has hosted a series of competitions among colleges and universities focused on promoting specific social causes. These initiatives touch industries including market economics, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, personal success skills, environmental sustainability, and business ethics.

GSC honor student publishes poem

Congratulations to GSC student Brittany Barron! Her poetry submission, "Bathtub," was accepted and will be published in the 2012 edition of *Sanctuary*, the literary arts journal of the Southern Regional Honors Council. Brittany is one of our Honors Program students who has also presented her literary essays at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council undergraduate research conference and at our GSC CIRCA: Conference for Innovation, Research, and the Creative Arts. Brittany is an exceptional creative and academic writer. Check out *Sanctuary's* website: <http://www.srhconline.org/index.php?page=Sanctuary>.



Brittany Barron

Spanish speaking debate planned for fall

Tom Preston, the sponsor of the Debate Forensics Interpretation Club and Professor of Communication, Media Studies, and Journalism; **Luis Santos-Rivas**, Hispanic Leadership Development Coordinator; **Amye Sukapdjo**, Interim Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages; and **Allison Ainsworth**, Chair of the Department of Communication, Media Studies, and Journalism, have won a grant of \$8,250 to hold a Spanish Speaking

debate tournament to be held in the Fall of 2012. The grant came from the Open Society Institute's initiative to support interscholastic and intercollegiate debate within the United States.

The money will go toward judge training, student training, and scholarship awards for the top students in the tournament. An awards banquet will be sponsored independently by the Debate Forensics Interpretation Club.

GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE
University System of Georgia

P.O. Box 1358
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
www.gsc.edu

TOWERTALK is the official communication vehicle for Gainesville State College faculty and staff members and is published biweekly by the Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Submissions for the next edition should be emailed to dkrewson@gsc.edu or sent to Debbie Krewson, Public Relations & Marketing, to be received by noon, Wednesday, July 18, 2012.

✓ Mark your calendar:

Wed., July 18	Summer Scholars Institute Commencement. 10 AM, Continuing Education/Performing Arts Center, GC.
Sat., July 21	SOAR. 7 AM - 4 PM, Auditorium, Continuing Education/Performing Arts Center, GC.
Mon., July 23	LifeSouth Bloodmobile. 9 AM - 4 PM, In front of Hosch Library, GC. Sponsored by Student Life.
Wed., Aug. 1	Martha T. Nesbitt Academic Building Dedication. 2 PM, Room 3110 (Multipurpose Room), Martha T. Nesbitt Academic Building, GC.

GISCorps thanks Kraemer for volunteering

The GISCorps Core Committee recently sent a letter to former president Martha T. Nesbitt commending GSC Geospatial Technology Research Associate **Carol Kraemer** for her volunteer work with the program.

GISCorps is a program of Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), and its main goal is to provide short-term GIS volunteer expertise to communities in need around the world. There are over 2,600 volunteers in 93 countries, and over 350 of them have been deployed to 99 missions. One of those missions is with the World Food Program (WFP) to develop an accurate land base information for the country of North Korea so that WFP can effectively reach some of the poorest and most malnourished people on earth.

So far, 67 volunteers have been deployed to this project, and four volunteers including Kraemer were chosen to manage the team. Shoreh Elhami of the GISCorps Core Committee commented, "Carol has been one of the most valuable team members, and the collaborative infrastructure that she has developed for this project is unparalleled, as is her selfless quest to help those that are in need. We are very fortunate to have known her, and working with her has been a pleasure."

Elhami continues by thanking Dr. Nesbitt "for your generosity; for not

only allowing Carol to assist in this project but also for providing your FTP facility and the support of your IT staff, as well as facilitating the provision of GIS software licenses to our volunteers. These services have been instrumental in moving this project forward."



The Gainesville Theatre Alliance (GTA) has announced a new theatrical season that begins this fall and provides both well-loved and new titles, classical and contemporary fare for theater-goers in North Georgia. Tickets went on sale July 1.

Coming this season: *The Frog Prince* (a WonderQuest: GTA for Young Audiences production)—opens September 28 at Brenau's Pearce Auditorium; *The Producers*—opens November 6 at Brenau's Hosch Theatre in the John S. Burd Center; *She Loves Me*—opens February 12 at Hosch Theatre; *A Raisin in the Sun*—opens February 15 at GSC's Ed Cabell Theatre; and *Twelfth Night*—opens April 9 at Ed Cabell Theatre.

Watch for details in the next issue of **TOWER TALK**, or visit www.gainesvilleTHEATREalliance.org.

Dr. Sezgin presents

—Continued from Page 1

From May 16 through 19, Dr. Sezgin participated in another World War I conference, "The Turkish Studies Project III: The Ottoman Empire in World War I" held in Sarajevo, Bosnia, sponsored by The University of Utah, The Turkish Historical Society (Ankara), The Turkish Coalition of America, and the Bosniak Institute (Sarajevo). Her paper was about "Greeks, Jews, and Armenians: A Comparative Analysis of Non-Muslim Minorities and Nascent Nationalisms in the Late Ottoman Empire during World War I."

From May 30 through June 2, Dr. Sezgin participated in the annual meeting of the Mediterranean Studies Association in Pula, Croatia. She chaired the ethnomusicology section and gave a paper on "Songs from the Greek-Turkish Population Exchanges (1912-1923): Using Music to Understand History." After the conference, Dr. Sezgin also traveled with members of the Association to Istria and Croatia's Dalmatian Coast, visiting the historic cities of Dubrovnik, Split, Trogir, and Zadar, as well as Neum (Bosnia) and Kotor (Montenegro).

Finally, Dr. Sezgin participated in The Green Lines Institute's Heritage 2012, a museum studies and historic preservation conference in Porto, Portugal from June 19 through 22. She chaired a panel on Economics and Cultural Heritage and also presented a paper, "Landscape and Memory: Reconstructing the Ethnobotany of Smith Plantation." Based on her research at Smith Plantation, an 1840s house in Roswell, Georgia, this paper was published in the conference proceedings. Dr. Sezgin serves on the Scientific Committees for three conferences sponsored by the Green Lines Institute: EcoMuseum, Heritage, and Sharing Cultures. She also is a member of the board providing oversight for their International Journal of Intangible Heritage and Sustainable Development.

In between conferences, Dr. Sezgin pursued research in Istanbul, Turkey, and Trieste, Italy.