

## President's Corner

It was an honor to have Dr. Vincent Tinto share his expertise with our college community on Thursday. He certainly covered a lot of ground literally and figuratively. The themes of “persistence” and “faculty engagement” resonated through Dr. Tinto’s comments throughout the day.

Dr. Tinto’s “conditions for student success” are certainly worth repeating as we move forward and further integrate his theories into our work with students. They are: expectations; support, including academic (supplemental instruction, tutorials, learning communities) and social; assessment and feedback through monitoring progress, early warning systems and classroom assessment; and finally, engagement that is active as well as valued involvement and learning with others.

Thank you to everyone who had a role in making Dr. Tinto’s visit a complete success.



GSC and The Arts Council, Inc. present the independent feature film “OTIS UNDER SKY” with director and co-writer Anlo Sepulveda as part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers at the GSC Martha T. Nesbitt Academic Building on Thursday, October 18, 2012. Ticket price (\$7 adults; \$5 students/seniors) includes the movie and the “Meet the Filmmaker” Q&A session which follows.

In an increasingly isolated and Internet driven world, Otis (Anis Mojgani), a reclusive web artist, attempts to find meaning in his existence. When he meets Ursula (Roberta Colindrez), a heartsick kleptomaniac pining for the return of her traveling lover, the quirky pair becomes inseparable. Otis’s heartbreaking journey leads to his discovery of the value of human connection and, ultimately, to his greatest creation. This unscripted, experimental narrative film is full of beauty, surprises, and an uplifting hope for humanity.

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# ACTT Center explains testing policies for instructors

The ACTT Center provides a service to students and faculty by administering "make-up" tests. This does not include "retesting" or allowing a student to take a test they had previously taken in order to make a better grade.

The "make-up" tests are either sent through the campus mail or delivered by the instructor to the ACTT Center. Students or student workers may not deliver or pick-up the test. We hope to

have online submission of tests available in 2013.

## Test Referral Forms

Tests given in the ACTT Center must be accompanied by a test referral form that allows the instructors to dictate specific instructions for the administering of their tests. The student's name, instructor's name, and class name are generally indicated. Special instructions

might include the following: time limit; date or time for completion of the test; and special materials allowed, such as calculators, data tables, scratch paper, formulas, etc. Only 12 seats are available at any time in the test room. Therefore, the ACTT Center does not have the seating required to administer tests to entire classes. Completed tests can be returned via campus mail if requested, but generally, instructors pick them up.

The test referral form also states that the ACTT Center staff will verify the student's identity using driver's license, student ID, or other picture identification.

The "make-up" tests are located in file cabinets at the main desk in the ACTT Center. The tests are kept in alphabetical order by instructor name. These cabinets are locked when the ACTT Center is closed.

## Special Accommodations Testing

Students who require a reader, proofreader, or other assistance or specific accommodations during tests will need to schedule testing through Disability Services.

## GTA-Southern Stage debuts inaugural season

Beginning this month, Gainesville Theatre Alliance enhances its community impact by launching a new professional company in partnership with the city of Buford. The new venture is called GTA-Southern Stage, and its home is the Sylvia Beard Theatre in the city's new community center.

Jim Hammond, GTA Artistic and Managing Director, describes the new Buford Community Center and Theatre as "an extraordinary achievement creating the potential for outstanding work. From our first meeting, city leaders made it clear that they wanted productions of the highest quality, and that's exactly what GTA-Southern Stage has in store."



Brad Sherrill

The first performances will be Brad Sherrill's *the gospel of John* and *Red Letter Jesus* presented in repertory beginning on Thursday, October 18 at 7:30. Brad Sherrill, a member of Georgia Shakespeare's acting ensemble, has earned critical acclaim with more than 600 performances throughout the U.S. and Europe.

The two shows bring to life the four Gospels of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. *The gospel of John* is a one-man, two-act performance of the

complete Gospel of John, while *Red Letter Jesus* is taken directly from the words of Jesus Christ (often highlighted in red text in modern-day Bibles) throughout the remaining three Gospels.

*Red Letter Jesus* will be playing at 7:30 PM on October 18, with an October 21 matinee at 2:30 PM. *The gospel of John* will be playing at 7:30 PM on October 19 and 21. The Buford Community Center is located at 2200 Buford Highway.

Ticket prices vary depending on seats and range from \$16 to \$18 for adults, \$14 to \$16 for seniors, and \$10 to \$12 for students and children. Boxes are available for 2 or 4 VIP seats at \$40/ticket. **GSC faculty/staff/students may purchase tickets at 50% off regular price.** Patrons may select their own seats at [www.gainesvilletheatrealliance.org](http://www.gainesvilletheatrealliance.org) or by calling the box office at (678) 717-3624, Monday - Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The inaugural season will continue with *The 7-Shot Symphony* January 18-20 and *In Acting Shakespeare* February 22-24. The GTA Repertory Company will also perform at GTA-Southern Stage in March. In April, GTA's first locally-produced show at the new venue will be Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*.

**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 biweekly 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 Office, to be received by noon, **Wednesday, October 24, 2012**. Based on action by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and pending approval by the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges, Gainesville State College and North Georgia College & State University will consolidate in January 2013 to become the University of North Georgia. For details and updates, please visit [www.gscngcsu.org](http://www.gscngcsu.org).

# FOR THE HEALTH OF IT: A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOUR FAMILY

## TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND!

Thursday, October 25, 2012

Walters Auditorium at Northeast Georgia  
Medical Center

Refreshments: 5 p.m.

Program: 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Gainesville State College in the  
Continuing Education Building

Refreshments: 5 p.m.

Program: 5:30 - 7 p.m.

For more information please call Jackie Wallace at 678-989-5335

## JOIN US AS WE...

- ▶ See excerpts from the HBO documentary, *The Weight of the Nation*
- ▶ Hear from a panel that includes a pediatrician and registered dietitian
- ▶ Learn easy ways to incorporate exercise into your day
- ▶ Learn how to make good choices when grocery shopping

# BOTH SESSIONS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC!



To Register Please Call 678-989-5332



# Announcements



Jody Cooley, the Democratic Party candidate for our local ninth congressional seat, will speak on Monday, Oct. 22, at noon in the Nesbitt Building Room 4105. Everyone is welcome to attend this Politically Incorrect Club event. For further information, contact **Douglas Young** (dyoung@gsc.edu).



Effective Jan. 1, 2013 the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) contribution rates will be as follows:

Employer Contribution 9.24% (no change)

Employee Contribution 6.00% (up from 5%)

This change in employee contributions is determined by the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) Board of Trustees per current legislation.



Digital media and Archives have streamed older videos recorded on campus. Cam is working on these as he has time. We hope to be fully digital next year. Go to <https://portal.gsc.edu/depts/>

[it/media/sm/default.aspx](http://it/media/sm/default.aspx) to view the videos. You may choose to alphabetize the title list or reorder the list by recording date by clicking the blue menu bar above the row.



On Wednesday, Oct. 31, the Digital Media Group will be taking "head shot" photos of the faculty and staff to be used in the GSC directory. If you need a picture for the directory or would like to update your current one, please stop by the Media Center (room 180 in the Watkins Building) between noon and 2 PM. If you're not in a hurry, you can just drop in anytime during these hours. If you sign up in advance (email [jnash@gsc.edu](mailto:jnash@gsc.edu)), you can be in and out in five minutes.



There are a number of staff and faculty job openings listed on the GSC website. Visit the HR employment page to view the listings: <http://www.gsc.edu/about/employment/Pages/default.aspx>

## State travel policy changes in effect

Beginning October 1, changes became effective for all travel. Additional changes are also listed in the newly posted document on the Business Affairs webpage, under "Travel."

**For overnight trips, travelers will receive 75% of allowable per diem on day of departure and return.** For example, on his first day of travel, an employee has meals that consist of breakfast/lunch/dinner. The per diem allowance will then be \$21 (\$28 x 75%). Employees will no longer be reimbursed at a 100% per diem for the first and last day of travel.

**For non-overnight trips, travelers will receive 75% of the allowable per diem if travel is more than 50 miles from home and they are away for more than 12 hours.**

Air travel changes:

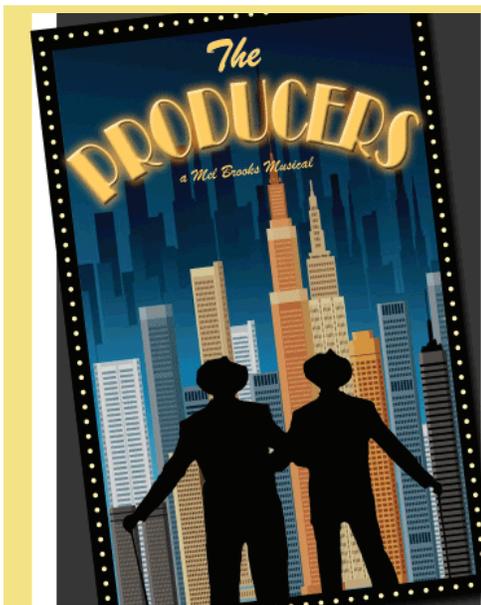
**In the event there is a charge for checking luggage, the State will reimburse for a maximum of one piece of checked luggage.** In the event additional bags are required, requests for reimbursement must include an associated explanation.

**Employees should submit expense reports within 45 calendar days of completion of travel.**

**Employees must return any Travel Advance amount in excess of allowable substantiated expenses within 45 calendar days after the completion of the trip.**

Receipts are required for all expenses, other than mileage, which requires a map/driving directions and for meals, which are paid on a per-diem basis.

Mileage should be calculated to/from GSC, if you are traveling during the regular work week, unless your residence is closer to/from the destination. For weekends and holidays, you may use your residence, even if it is more miles.



*"... Uniformed soldiers goose-step in front of a light-up swastika while cannons fire ribbons of confetti. It's all very subtle, like the Blitzkrieg."*

The Des Moines Register

**Nov 6-17**

at Brenau University's Hosch Theatre in the John S. Burd Performing Arts Center

Stage Tour, 6 PM, October 23  
Opening Night Reception,  
November 6 (catered by Luna's)

SAVE THE DATE! Gainesville Theatre Alliance opens its MainStage season with the Mel Brooks comedy *The Producers*. A free behind-the-scenes tour will take place at 6 PM on Tuesday, October 23. Call the box office (ext. 3624) for details.



*Gainesville State College Team at Brenau Mediation Tournament. (Front row, l to r): Scott Fuller, Gina Schwartz, Amy Broome, Kat Stallcup, Penny Hollis, Amanda Seden; (Middle row): Advisor Tom Preston, Bethany Waites, Consepacion Rodriguez, Joshua Potters, Advisor/Coach Ray-Lynn Snowden; (Back row): Fernando Gonzalez, Ariana Melendez, Kiran Singh*

## Faculty Development Series continues

The University System of Georgia continues its monthly Faculty Development Series with "Using the iPad Academically and Beyond" on Friday, October 19. The session, which will take place from 10 AM to 4 PM, will be held at North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega. Presenters are Irene Kokkala of NGCSU and Mike Rogers from the Board of Regents.

On Wednesday, November 7, "More than a Talking Head—Innovative Use of Webconferencing" is the Series' online presentation. It will feature Jim Wolfgang of The Digital Innovation Group.

On November 16, "Accessibility Matters: Section 508 Compliance in Higher Education" will be held at the Information Technology Services offices in Athens. Presenter for this session will be Janet Sylvia of the University of Georgia.

Registration for the USG Faculty Development Series sessions is online at [http://www.usg.edu/faculty\\_affairs/workshops/C2029](http://www.usg.edu/faculty_affairs/workshops/C2029). For additional information, contact Dr. Michael Rogers, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Faculty Development: [mike.rogers@usg.edu](mailto:mike.rogers@usg.edu).

# Broome wins Peacemaker Award

Gainesville State's Amy Broome won the Elizabeth Baumgardner Peacemaker Award at the 10th Annual Brenau Regional Mock Mediation Tournament, October 5-6.

Broome, a business administration major, earned the Elizabeth Baumgardner Peacemaker Award for mediation and advocacy, demonstrating superior talent at all phases of the competition with the highest combined scores.

The prize was established by Vivian B. Lord, chair of Criminology and Criminal Justice Department, UNC-Charlotte, and the coach of its mediation team, in honor of her mother. Broome also earned the No. 3 individual competitor award among the 48 mediators who participated.

Gainesville State's team of Broome; Scott Fuller, a business administration major; and Gina Schwartz, a human services administration major, took second in team scoring in a field of 16 teams.

The GSC team of Amanda Seden, a theater major (design tech); Kat Stallcup, a criminal justice major; and Penny Hollis, a social work major, finished in fifth place.

The GSC team of Seden and Hollis placed fourth in the top advocate/client competition.

**Dr. Ray-Lynn Snowden**, GSC Associate Professor of Communication, Media Studies and Journalism, serves as team advisor and coach. **Dr. C. Thomas Preston, Jr.**, GSC Professor of Communication, Media Studies, and Journalism, serves as team advisor.

The tournament, a regional program hosted by Brenau University, has been regarded as a "limbering up" for teams that participate in the national competition each November. It featured representatives from colleges and universities in three states: Georgia (Gainesville State, Brenau, Clayton State

University, Georgia State University, and Middle Georgia College), Tennessee (Middle Tennessee State University), and North Carolina (University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Western Carolina University).

Kennesaw State University Professor Susan Raines, a well-known author on mediation and the editor-in-chief of *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, conducted the training for the students and mediators.

The 16 teams then paired off in the 3-round mediation performances. The judges for this tournament were mediators, legal professionals, and others trained in mediation who volunteered their time to evaluate the performances of the student participants as they mediated and advocated for their clients in the various role plays.

Many of the participants will be returning to Gainesville on Nov. 1-3, 2012, when Brenau hosts the 13th Annual National Intercollegiate Mock Mediation Tournament, the first time the tournament has ever been held outside of the Midwestern United States.

The national tournament will feature 30 to 40 teams from colleges and universities across the country. During the tournament, participants will have further training in mediation and advocacy skills and compete in a tournament evaluated by mediation and legal professionals, including Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Carol Hunstein, Georgia Appeals Court Judge J.D. Smith, and noted mediation authors Richard Calkins and Fred Lane.

Teams making the finals will be invited to attend the International Law School Mediation Tournament in London or Dubai in March 2013.



*Amy Broome*

## ✓ Mark your calendar:

- Fri., Oct. 12** **GSC Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament.** Chattahoochee Golf Club, Gainesville.
- Thurs., Oct. 18** **Otis Under Sky.** 7 PM, Room 3110, Martha T. Nesbitt Building, GC. Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers.
- Mon., Oct. 22** **Jody Cooley Speech.** Noon, Room 4105, Nesbitt Building, GC. Democratic Party candidate for Georgia's ninth congressional seat. Sponsored by Politically Incorrect Club.
- Tues., Oct. 23** **Stage Tour: *The Producers*.** 6 PM, Hosch Theatre, Brenau University. Free.
- Fri., Oct. 26** **Halloween Charity Drag Show.** 7 PM, Room 3110, Nesbitt Building, GC. Sponsored by GSC Alliance. \$5 admission fee.
- Sat., Oct. 27** **Gainesville Campus Open House.** 9 AM - Noon, Robinson Ballroom.



## Ringling Our Bells



**Dr. Minsu Kim** presented "Enhancing Learning in Mathematics for College Students through Preview Lectures using Camtasia Studio, Smart Board, and Power-Point Technologies" at Columbus State University's Distance Learning: Teaching for Tomorrow conference on Sept. 28.

**Dr. Michael E. Bush**, Assistant Professor, Education, presented at the Embracing Exceptionalities—2012 Southeastern Disability Conference and Expo on September 25, 2012 in Duluth, Georgia. His topic was "Effective Instructional Practices for Exceptional Students."

The presentation provided opportunities for teachers to learn and understand how to teach and modify environments and experiences to maximize the learning of students with disabilities, developmental delays, and special abilities and to collaborate with other educators, parents, and community resources.

**Susan Anton** and **Maryellen Cosgrove** (Education) presented a research study titled "Bridging the Gap: Head Start to Kindergarten" at the Georgia Association on Young Children (GAYC) annual

conference at the Gwinnett Center. Yen-Chun Lin represented GSC at the GAYC College Fair, too.

Two recent education graduates received the **Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant**, which is a highly competitive program. They received \$1,000 each to purchase classroom supplies. The recipients are Joseph Diaz (Gwinnett County School System) and Heather Smith (Hall County School System).

**Katie Simmons** and SIFE team members Sandra Torres, Juan Pardo, Kristin Xiong, Anthony and Jade Harden, Terri Zeigler, Tuwanda Wilson, and Matthew Chavez volunteered at the Celebrate Service Music Festival on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at Suwanee Town Center Park. Sandra and Juan ran in the 5K race and Terri Zeigler entered the Cup Cake Challenge winning the People's Choice Award! SIFE Team members also assisted with the Family Bike Ride event. The Celebrate Service Music Festival raises money annually to support Amigos for Christ and their work in bringing clean water to rural Nicaraguans.



## Our College Family

**Cara Ray** gave birth to Alexander Peter Ray at 6:15 AM Sunday, Sept. 23. Baby Alexander weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great! Congratulations to the Ray family!



Congratulations, too, to Mark and **Nicole Dowd**! Their son, Jonathan Asher Dowd, was born Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 8:40 AM. He weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces.

Sincere condolences to **Gabriel Reyes** and his family on the death of his sister, Blanca Maribel Reyes, on Monday, Sept. 24, after a long battle with breast cancer. Funeral services were held in Gainesville.

Our deepest sympathy to **Delbert Greear** and his family on the death of his father on Tuesday, Sept. 25. Memorial services for Philip French-Carson Greear were scheduled for 11 AM, Friday, Oct. 12. The family requests that memorial donations be made to The Ossabaw Island Foundation, 305 Fahm St., Savannah, GA 31401 ([www.ossabawisland.net](http://www.ossabawisland.net)).

Heartfelt condolences go out to Gail Barksdale and her family on the death of her father at the end of September.

Our deepest condolences to the family of Janice Nylander, GSC retiree, who died Saturday, Oct. 6. Janice was the Administrative Assistant in Humanities & Fine Arts for many years and retired about six years ago. She was 71.