Sharma Named 1999 Georgia Professor of the Year

By Jay Ray
Staff Writer

The Carnegie Foundation has selected J.B. Sharma, associate professor of physics at Gainesville College, 1999 Georgia Professor of the Year.

"My key contribution as a teacher has been sharing my love and passion for the subject of physics with my students, and helping them discover their own talent and fascination for it," said Sharma. "I am just a teacher here at Gainesville College."

Sharma’s students said it was no surprise to learn that he had been selected for the Carnegie Foundation honor. "He never reads from boring notes or stared at a book during class," said GC student Jeremy Elrod. "We learned together."

When asked where he got his love for physics, Sharma said, "I have always had it. It fills me with awe and wonder to study the creation around me."

In nominating Sharma for the award, GC President Martha Nesbit wrote, "I cannot think of a teacher who better exemplifies ‘extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching.’"

Lewis Rogers, chair of the GC Division of Natural Sciences and Technology, added, "J.B. was selected to participate in the National Science Foundation Seminar on Microcomputer Based Laboratories for Physics in 1990. This conference fueled a fire already burning in J.B."

Sharma developed a microcomputer-based laboratory at GC and took concepts he learned from other seminars and used them in his classroom.

One of these concepts is the shift in the teacher’s role from being a “sage of the stage” to a “guide on the side.”

Katherine M. Fuller, former GC vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, said Sharma is “always pushing himself to the next level; he is a catalyst for learning.”

The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) established the Professors of the Year program in 1981 and works in cooperation with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a policy center in California. The Council is devoted to strengthening America’s schools and colleges.
**Club Briefs**

**Political Club hosts Gainey, Vass**

The Gainesville College Democrats/Republicans Club hosted Al Gainey, Hall County Commission Chairman, on Oct. 13, and on Nov. 10 the club hosted Hall County Sheriff Bob Vass for a question-and-answer session.

**Students Seek to form Wesley Unit**

Several GC students would like to establish a Wesley Foundation group. If you are interested, contact Teresa Dove-Waters, Susan Daniell or Marsha Hopkins, all of whom are faculty/staff members interested in sponsoring this organization.

**Investment Club Wants Members**

The Piedmont Investment Club, Georgia, is an organization for students interested in investing in stocks, bonds and other securities. Members invest $50 per month into the club, and the money then goes towards purchases of securities. The club meets the second Friday of every month at 3 p.m.; the location rotates between Piedmont College and GC. If interested please contact Dr. Charles Karcher.

**Cross-Cultural Club Enjoys Meal**

The Cross-Cultural Club co-sponsored a salsa dance on Oct. 14 with the Latino Student Association. Then on Oct. 20, 21 students and advisors Chaudron Gille and Belinda Sauret visited a Mexican restaurant. The students were: Amanda Brothers, Azra Cesko, Ryan Terrell, Mike Song, Jia Wang, Rajatkin Touralack, Chris Crawford, Talieh Monajem, Anna Fishburger, Juan Becerra, Matt Banick, Mike Carroll, Dawn Carlan, Hieu Huynh, Yan Ku-Chan, Qingsong Zheng, Anna Kollie, Jose Marin, Marsha Stringer, Eli Viviant, and Rocío Quinones.

**Sharma Addresses Math Club**

On Oct. 13 Professor J.B. Sharma spoke to the Math Club on "Hyper-space in Physics and Art." On Oct. 20 the club held a practice session for the Math League Test, scheduled for Nov. 10. The test is pre-calculus based, and consists of short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

**BSU Attends Convention in Toccoa**

The BSU attended Fall Convention at the Georgia Baptist Assembly in Toccoa on Oct. 1-3. GC sent 12 students. The club also planned a day hike and picnic on Nov. 6. The BSU is also making preparations for its annual Christmas Banquet. It is scheduled for Dec. 16 from 7-10 p.m. at the Smith House in Dahlonega. Please see Tommy Johnson or Ken Jones for tickets.

**Clubs Sponsor Air Quality Seminar**

The GC Physics/Engineering Club and The Students for Environmental Awareness co-sponsored a seminar on "Air Quality in Georgia" on Oct. 19 in the CE Auditorium.

**District Chairman Speaks to SGAE**

On Sept. 29 Bob Holland, the district chairman for Georgia Association of Educators, spoke to members of the Student Georgia Association of Educators.

**SGA Raffles Off Parking Space**

The Student Government Association held a Baseball Blast on Oct. 6, paintball competition on Oct. 7, and Laser Tag on Oct. 12. SGA also sponsored Millenium Madness on Oct. 20, and a soccer tournament on Oct. 27. April Allison won the student parking space raffle.

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**Club Directory**

**Baptist Student Union**
Contact: Tommy Johnson (tjohn147@mercury)
Meetings: Tuesdays 11 a.m., Lanier A&B

**Campus Crusade for Christ**
Contact: Jessica Purvis (jpur4896@mercury)
Meetings: Fridays 11 a.m., Lanier A&B

**College Republicans**
Contact: Stephanie Kitchen (skitt3855@mercury)
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Stage in Student Center

**Cross-Cultural Connections**
Contact: Ryan Terrell (wter3790@mercury)

**Latino Students Association**
Contact: Claudia Monreal (cmoro6051@mercury)
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Prep Office in Student Center

**Film & Literature Club**
Contact: Jeff Bucchi (jbuc947@mercury)
Meetings: Thursdays 12 p.m., Tom Sauret's office, Room 171 ACAD II

**Math Club**
Contact: B.J. Cooley (bcoo2496@mercury)
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Room 138 ACAD III

**Multicultural Association**
Contact: Jamila Hunter (j hun0526@mercury)

**Democrats/Republicans Club**
Contact: Susan McFarland and Douglas Young
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Lanier A&B

**Psychology**
Contact: Daniel Henson (dh en7135@mercury)
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Room 158 ACAD II

**Second Wind Club**
Contact: Brenda Adams (718-3622)
Meeting: Dec. 3, noon, Lanier C

**Student Georgia Association of Educators**
Contact: Amber Jarrard (ajar3728@mercury)
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Lanier C

**Student Government Association**
Contact: Cody Guinn (aguin0956@mercury) and Jeff Haf (jhoI3492@mercury)

**Students for Environmental Awareness**
Contact: Caywood Chapman

**Students in Free Enterprise**
Contact: Katie Simmons
Meetings: Wednesdays 12 p.m., Room 186 ACAD III
**Trips Set for Ireland, Costa Rica**

By Nancy Golden  
Staff Writer

Trips to Costa Rica and Ireland are scheduled for Gainesville College students and faculty this spring.

The excursion to Costa Rica is set for Spring Break, March 25-April 1, and will include trips to Arenal Volcano and the nearby hot springs, a boat tour of the Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge, a visit to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, and a rainforest waterfall walk. The program costs $2,000, including airfare, ground transportation, lodging, meals, tour fees and insurance. Partial scholarships are available. Contact Dr. Chaudron Gille at (770) 718-3692 for applications and further information.

GC students also have an opportunity to visit Ireland. Professor Brian Kline and Dr. Kandi Steele will accompany the group, and Gille will help coordinate the trip. "Some kids have never even been out of Georgia," said Kline, "and we want to give them the opportunity to see another country."

The trip will leave Atlanta on May 11, and for the next six days, the group will travel around Ireland and see a variety of sites, including castles, theaters, the beautiful Cliffs of Moher, and a wide range of interesting shops.

If you are interested in joining the trip, or want to know more about it, contact Kline at (770) 718-3678, Steele at (770) 718-3801, or Gille, or e-mail Kline at bkline@hermes.gc.peachnet.edu.

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**News Briefs**

**Nesbitt, Fuller Win O'Banion Award**

Gainesville College President Martha Nesbitt and Dr. Katherine Fuller, vice president for academic affairs, were honored with the first Terry O'Banion Shared Journey Award for exemplary retention programs. Dr. Charlie Nutt of Coastal Georgia Community College joined Nesbitt and Fuller in receiving the award.

Nesbitt, Fuller and Nutt were recognized for their presentation, "An Extra Reach to Students: Best Practices in Retention." The presentation was given at the first annual National Conference of the National Council for Student Development in Kansas City, Missouri, on Sept. 28, 1999.

This award, named in honor of Dr. Terry O'Banion, nationally recognized scholar and leader in student development, will be given annually for the presentation of outstanding community college programs that put students first.

**Phi Theta Kappa Initiates Members**

The Gainesville College Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society initiated 38 new members in a ceremony Nov. 4.

During the ceremony held in Lanier ABC, the Phi Theta Kappa president read a script about the organization and its ideals. The initiated repeated a short pledge, signed a member book and received a certificate of membership.

In order to be eligible for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, an international honors organization for two-year colleges, a student must have completed 25 semester hours and have a 3.6 GPA. The club holds an initiation ceremony for eligible students every semester.

GC students who become members are recognized on honors day. On graduation day, members wear a golden scarf-like stole with the Greek letters Phi Theta Kappa stitched in blue.

Students who were initiated included: Teresa Brown, Debra Brownlee, Emily Carter, Phillip Coley, Michael Doss, Melissa Earley, James Ford, Meredith Foote, Eileen Crosswhite, Jan Grizzle, Brenda Hall, Arnold Harden, Christine Gross, LaRese Heidingsfelder, Diane Hill, Kristine Hunter, Nancy Johns, Lisa Kennedy, Steven Lathen, Cynthia Latty, Joshua Logan, Talieh Monajjem, Mindy More, Kasey Murphy, Janell Myers, Samuel Owens, Sharon Payne, Emily Phillips, Todd Potter, Peggy Saxton, Bryan Schultz, Kimberly Slayton, Cindy Stephens, Mary Storey-McGee, Hieu Tran, DaJuan Tuck, Donna Whiting, and Tanya Barrett.
Jimm Tiller Band Moving Up Fast

By Kerrie Mathews
Staff Writer

Rock 'n' roll is back, and the fast-rising Jimm Tiller Band is here to prove it. The Jimm Tiller Band is a local group made up of five laid-back guys, combining all of their talents and abilities into one small but noticeable Southern rock-n-roll band. Each member brings parts of his background into the group, making their music distinctive and unique to any and all music lovers. One of their latest gigs was at the Mellow Mushroom in Gainesville on Oct. 2. Just by coincidence, I happened to see the poster on the wall the night before. As soon as I walked into the local pizza place, I could feel the atmosphere vibrating around me. I glanced to my left, and I saw a giant American flag hanging behind the lead guitarist, who was wearing a red bandana around his head and tapping his bare foot to the music pouring out of his guitar. From that moment on, the Jimm Tiller Band had my attention.

Lead vocalist Nick "Styles" Law, a former Gainesville College student, blew the crowd away at the Mellow Mushroom that night with his Southern accent and lurid voice. When asked about the different types of music they enjoyed, their only comment was, "We're all so different." Each member listens to a different style of music.

The Jimm Tiller Band began in the summer of 1997 in the parking lot of Lake Lanier Islands in the back of a pickup truck. Soon, their music began to draw crowds. The two members at that time, Nick Law and D.J. Garrish, knew that forming a band was inevitable. The two guys knew others who played instruments, and they crudely formed what we know today as The Jimm Tiller Band.

"WE'RE JUST OUT TO HAVE FUN": Members of the Jimm Tiller Band are (from left) Jerome McCubbins, D.J. Garrish, Nick Law, John Greenlee, and Blake Cannon. (Photo by Kerrie Mathews)

American Beauty

If you like realistic movies with a twist, you'll love "American Beauty." This popular but realistic view of American suburbia, written and co-produced by Atlanta native Alan Ball, brings to the audience's attention how precious and valuable life is throughout all its stages, from youth through adulthood. Lester, played by Oscar-winning Kevin Spacey, is a man who is inspired by his daughter's friend, Angela—a typical "American beauty"—to change his life. He begins to view life as it really is and changes from a bored, unhappy "Joe" into a man with passion. He goes through a rebirth and experiences life as he did when he was young. The main idea of this beautiful and realistic depiction of the typical American family is that you might find beauty where you least expect it. This film is deep, using many themes to express the thoughts and feelings of the characters. "American Beauty" is highly recommended.

— Kerrie Mathews

Fight Club

"Fight Club" is an outrageously weird film starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. This bold new flick has an unpredictable storyline packed full of odd little twists. Norton plays a 9-to-5 guy who happens to be an insomniac addicted to self-help classes. He soon meets Pitt, also an insomniac, who manufactures soap using human body fat. The two meet on a plane and become companions. They start living together in an old, abandoned dwelling far away from any normal civilization. They soon start an underground fighting club, which turns into an army specializing in vandalism. Surprisingly, the fight clubs become a trend in every major city and are linked to many strange rumors. This movie is a must-see for all those interested in danger and trouble. This new flick brings a whole new meaning to LUNATIC! Caution! Don't try this at home!

— Sarah Grzesiak

The Blair Witch Project

If you like creepy horror movies, then "The Blair Witch Project" is the movie for you. The movie is about three college students who go into the woods near Burkittsville, Maryland, to shoot a documentary about a 17th-century witch. A year later their footage is found, but there is no sign of the students. The production cost for the movie was $40,000 ... and its shows. The filmmakers are trying for a home-video effect, but this was a drawback for the movie; it lacked the cinematic effects that make movies great. If you think that the movie is real, it will most likely scare you. On the other hand, if you think that it is just a work of fiction, it will seem pretty creepy. On overall content I'd say the movie deserves a B-. It wasn't a totally bad movie, but it wasn't the best, either.

— Nicky Willis

College and get their associates degree and then continue on here at the college and take coursework and eventually get a bachelors degree," Stoy said. "We've been doing it all along. We're just trying to get to the point where we can organize it.

Along with the Resident Center, the GC library will be enhanced so that it is appropriate for the junior and senior classes that four-year colleges will offer at GC. "The library has been enhanced this year," said Stoy. GC will use existing facilities to house the Resident Center. When the new science building is finished and the transition of classes is completed, Academic I will be renovated to house the program. The Resident Center may be completed within Academic I "hopefully" by next fall, Stoy said. However, the time-frame is not certain, and a formal administrative agreement must be agreed upon before deciding who will run the center and control its resources. "I think it is a great opportunity," said Stoy.

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Art as Architecture
Sculture Exhibit Opens in GC Gallery

By Nicole Lowman
Special to The Compass

The Gainesville College Art
Gallery is now showing
Larry Millard’s exhibit, “Recent Sculpture.”

The artist spoke to a large
gathering of students and faculty
during the opening reception on
Nov. 11 in the gallery. He
discussed what influenced and
inspired him to create such
interesting three-dimensional sculptures.

Architectural forms are
symbolized throughout Millard’s work. A feeling of industrial structure pervades this artwork. Millard said that his "sculpture of the last fifteen years has had some overt or subliminal reference to the nature of human architecture. Art is wonderful because it is everywhere, even in the environments where we live."

Millard has an interesting perspective on those who choose to purchase art. He said, "Art is something that other people feel stifled about and cannot do. One of the reasons people purchase art is that they are buying a little piece of the freedom that they did not choose to go into."

One of his works, "Arch of Vitrivius," composed mostly of steel with bronze powder layered between glass, could be used as an actual leveling device. To make it a functioning level, the trough is filled with water each day. The artist uses various industrial materials including glass, lead, bronze and steel in the construction of his pieces.

Millard’s work is influenced by how the world functions through science and machines. In his words, "Science is an interesting driving force in inspiring the sculpture."

When he was 10 years old, Millard helped his father make guitars and mandolins. The experience inspired the sculpture "Edge." The curvature of the piece is reminiscent of the curves of a musical instrument.

Luna’s a Fine-Dining Experience
Right in the Heart of Gainesville

By Michelle Rice
Staff Writer

Luna’s is a delightful dining experience. The ambiance was a feeling of elegance coziness, with mural scenes from a blue-curtained balcony overlooking lush, green mountains in the Greek Islands. The scent of fresh flowers and the glow of candlelight surround each table.

The service was impeccable, with owners Juan and Frankie Luna personally greeting each diner, and servers providing generous portions of bread and constantly refilling water glasses. And the food was fabulous: seafood, steaks, pasta, lamb chops, pork loin and Luna’s signature dish, paella.

We had four people in our party for dinner, which gave us a chance to try a variety of the dishes on the menu. We started with appetizers, which averaged $7.95 each. We had an artichoke stuffed with crab meat, parmesan cream sauce and fresh herbs—a real crowd-pleaser—a shrimp cocktail with a hint of fresh horseradish in the red sauce, escargot sauteed in light garlic butter, and the chef’s special, a fish special, $18.50 each. The daily specials were ribeye and mahi-mahi. The steak was satisfying, it was served with steamed vegetables, potatoes and navy beans. The mahi-mahi special was delicious: the fish was grilled, and served with a light, delicate sauce made of crab meat, butter and capers; it also came with steamed vegetables.

The yellowfin tuna was fabulous: it came grilled to perfection and accompanied by a delightful marinated of olive oil, cibantro and lemon-lime that was zesty and well-balanced in flavor. The real crowd-pleaser, though, was Luna’s signature dish, paella. The presentation was excellent: a stainless-steel skiller filled with the trim with lobster, shrimp, chicken, Andouille sausage, clams, mussels and pork.

Luna’s a gem of a dining experience. It is also open for lunch, with prices averaging $5–8.

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Quiet in the Library

This semester the enrollment at GC topped 3,000. It is wonderful that GC is a college that many area students are choosing. GC offers a variety of courses, and its academic standards are respected. As students we are fortunate to have a low student-to-teacher ratio because this fosters classroom participation and learning. The environment here is filled with students eager to get a quality education. In short, for all students, traditional and non-traditional, GC is a terrific place to prepare for the future.

However, two problems concerning noise have come to our attention. As more students have enrolled at GC, the library has become more crowded. Unfortunately, this has also led to more socializing among students. The GC library maintains the same rules as any other library: simply put, you need to be quiet and respectful of others in the library. For many students, the library is the only place to study in peace because when they leave campus they go to jobs or home to a family. It is also the only place where students can access the wide variety of resources and reference materials available at the College.

The ACTT Center is a more laid-back facility, but we still must maintain it as a study environment. The ACTT Center is a good place for groups to work on projects, and for individuals to study or use the computers. Yet it, too, has moved too far away from the study mode. An important part of college life is making and maintaining friends, but there are right times and places to do so. The Student Center, for instance, is a good location to talk. When you are in one of the facilities designed for studying, however, be mindful that, while you may not be in the mood to study, others around you are.

Opinion
November 18, 1999

Are You Ready for Merit-Based World?

Maybe someday we humans will quit dividing ourselves up into groups and giving preferential treatment to some groups based on factors like pigment or hormones. We aren't there yet. At the end of the 1990s, we still live in a world full of preferential treatment.

It used to be worse. It used to be that humans with lower levels of pigmentation and lower levels of testosterone got the best opportunities in life. Merit didn't matter much if you were a female or person of color. Then we had those civil rights movements and women's movements in an effort to get closer to our lofty Constitutional goal of freedom and justice for all.

Affirmative Action was part of our effort to create a merit-based society. Involved was a government mandate requiring that universities and employers seek out qualified minorities and women. It became more difficult to deny qualified people an education, a job, or admission to a profession because they weren't male or white.

That all started around 30 years ago. The hope was that Affirmative Action would be a temporary policy that would create, as we said then, a level playing field for all Americans. No one considered Affirmative Action a wonderful way to solve the problem, but no one could come up with a better idea.

Some of our politicians are suggesting it's time to end Affirmative Action. Predictably, not all politicians agree. What do you think?

Our presidential candidates differ on this issue, as do members of Congress. Some of whom will be running for re-election against challengers. Does this issue matter enough to you to influence your vote next year? What are the pros and cons of Affirmative Action? What might happen if we end it?

Another question: how successful has Affirmative Action been in resolving some of the unfortunately repercussions of centuries of discrimination? Pretty darn successful, even more so for women than for minorities, but minorities have benefited, too.

It used to be that women and minorities were expected to do work that required little or no education or pay. You know, insignificant jobs like raising children and maintaining homes and communities. This was fine for some, but others believed education and employment decisions should be based on each person's qualifications and personal preferences.

In the 1990s, we've moved closer to fairness. America's job market is much more integrated and so are our institutions of higher education. This is true here at Gainesville College. Look around. What group of humans dominates (numerically speaking) our student body? White women. What do you think about that? Not only that, it's a trend that is likely to continue. Does something need to be done about this fascinating trend? What are some likely repercussions if it's allowed to continue unchecked?

How do you explain this development? Why are we seeing more women than men in colleges and universities these days? Beats me, but I think we should all be pondering Affirmative Action, talking about it, getting more information, finding out what positions our political parties and representatives and leaders and office seekers hold on the issue.

Some politicians think race is no longer an important issue in America. Others think it is still one of the most important issues. Some think neither race nor gender should be considered when people apply for jobs or schools. What do you think? Are we ready for a merit-based world? Are you?

Halloween a Fun Tradition, Not a Threat

By Kerrie Mathews
Staff Writer

Remember when you were little, and as soon as the local stores began to line their shelves with candy you knew that it was time to pick out your Halloween costume for the year?

I work at McDonald's, and about a week before Halloween we began to use little pumpkin pails as the Happy Meal toy. They were absolutely adorable. As long as I can remember McDonald’s has been passing out those toys for years; I remember having one when I was a child.

I was waiting on a customer through the drive-through and handed her the pumpkin Happy Meal through the window. The customer's jaw dropped, and she began to yell at me, pushed the meal back at me and told me she didn't want it. I asked her if there was something wrong with her order. She then replied that she didn't celebrate or glorify any holidays in which evil was the main theme.

It just looked at her funny and put her meal in a bag.

After she drove off I was completely in awe. How could someone view Halloween in that light? I sat near my door on Halloween, waiting for the hordes of trick-or-treaters that usually come to my door every year. To my surprise, I only had four. I was very disappointed.

What has happened to the holiday that I grew up with? Why have all the parents who participated in this American tradition all of a sudden decided that Halloween is evil? I feel that I am a Christian, and I do believe in the word of God, but I do not believe that Halloween is evil. I feel that Halloween is something that all children should participate in. Is dressing up as your favorite action hero or favorite cartoon character evil?

I was disappointed this year, but the few children who came to my door were very excited, very happy and very harmless. I know that I saw no evil on Halloween, and I know that someday when I have children, they are going to celebrate Halloween ... even if they are the only ones.
Student Opinion Poll: Are you happy with your class schedule, and is it what you had originally wanted?

- Yes
- Yes, it gives me time before and between classes to prepare.
- Yes, I designed it.
- No, not at all. Now they’re all scattered.
- Yes and yes.
- Yes, I got exactly what I asked for.

Letters to the Editor

SGA Working on Campus, Statewide Student Issues

To the Editor:

Recently, the Gainesville College Student Government Association attended the Student Advisory Council Conference (SAC) at Floyd College in Rome, Georgia. SAC is an organization that serves as a direct link to the board of Regents and is composed of the 34 institutions in the University System of Georgia. GC played an important role in composing and passing several statewide resolutions that will affect over 200,000 Georgia college students. GC sent five delegates; Danielle Jones, Stephanie Kitchens, Dallas Bond, Jeff Holt, and Cody Guined. All worked hard to help improve the standards for GA colleges.

Some of the resolutions passed were:
1. Common course numbering system
2. Interest on Student Activities funds
3. Deferred payment
4. Diploma receipt
5. Student-run book exchanges
6. Student Bill of Rights

On the local level, GC SGA has been meeting with the Dean and President on a regular basis. Some of the issues being discussed are:
1. Classes being held during activity hour
2. Summer schedule being offered before Spring registration
3. On-line syllabi
4. Parking concerns (regarding Lanier Tech parking in Student Center Lot)
5. Evening lighting concerns on GC campus
6. Addition of smoking pavilions
7. Tarps (roll-downs for smoking pavilions)
8. IDs as debit cards (campus use only)
9. Sign language classes
10. Steam room being broken

If you have any questions about any of the resolutions, issues, or would like to bring something to our attention, e-mail me at MGU19561.

Sincerely,
Cody Guined
SGA President

Alligators, Banana Spiders Highlight Trip to Ossabaw

By Kerry Banks
Staff Writer

On Sept. 30 the Gainesville College Environmental Club went on a three-day journey to Ossabaw Island. Ossabaw is a small island off the coast of Savannah. Ossabaw is the property of the state, although a single woman who literally spent her fortune formerly owned it. She still lives there today in her family mansion. Ossabaw is a natural reserve and is protected by the government from activities such as hunting.

What you’re probably wanting to know is why we went to Ossabaw. Well, as an environmental club we chose Ossabaw because of the diverse amount of life that springs forth there. As science majors living in an urban area it is rare for us to be able to see an undisturbed natural environment of a tropical nature. Few places like Ossabaw Island exist today. For an environmental lover Ossabaw is the place to be because of the abundance of life.

Life is very different on Ossabaw. There you see things like the American alligator, wild boar, and banana spiders. With its tropical climate and low-lying marshes, it’s hard not to imagine primates in the giant oak trees.

At base camp we all camped in low-lying shelters next to a tidal inlet. Fresh catches from the ocean were prepared nightly, as well as food items from the mainland. It’s about a 10-mile ride that takes an hour from dock to campsite. There was an area designated for camping marked by a pavilion like the ones you see in public parks here. Ossabaw Island gives us a taste of what life is going to be like as science majors in the field. There are scientists who are members of the Ossabaw Foundation whom we were able to talk to and learn from.

If you are interested further in Ossabaw Island, the Students for Environmental Awareness meet every Wednesday at 12 noon in the clubroom in the Student Activities building. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of those who made the trip possible and magic.

MEMBERS of the Students for Environmental Awareness club explore the back roads of Ossabaw Island. (Photo courtesy of Ron Clay)
Welch Has Message for her GC Students
PhysEd Prof Has Long Association with GC

By Nicky Willis
Staff Writer

Lillian Welch has a challenge for everyone at Gainesville College. “Do something every day to make your body a better body,” she says.

Welch, an Associate Professor of Physical Education at GC, comes from West Prospect, West Virginia. She was a member of the swim team, and credits her mother, Mattie Still, to swim. She gaves her mother much of her interest in physical fitness naturally: her mother, Mattie Still, remains an active competitor in the Golden Olympics at the age of 82, and has also competed in four U.S. National Senior Olympics. Welch said she gives her mother much of the credit for her own successes.

Welch has a long history of association with Gainesville College. Following her graduation from East Hall High School, where she was a member of the cheerleading squad, majorette corps, and 4-H club, she attended GC, where she elected the first swimmer to win eight of nine events in the state.

The Gainesville College intramural program held its first ever swim meet on Oct. 27. A field of thirteen swimmers participated in ten events that included 25 yards (one pool length) and 50 yards (two pool lengths) of each of the competitive strokes (butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle).

The women’s events were dominated by Kasey Murphy and Heidi Wangermann, who combined to win eight of nine events in the women’s division. Winners for the women’s meet were Murphy, 25- and 50-yard butterfly; Murphy, 25-yard back; Wangemann, 200-yard free, 50-yard back, 25-yard breast, 25-yard fly, 100-yard individual medley, and Emily Edmonds, 50-yard breast.

The men’s field was wide open, with a different winner in each event. Winners were Dustin Payne, 25-yard free; Luke Miller, 50-yard free, 25-yard back; and ASA Anderson, for the men’s 18 relay.

LILLIAN WELCH talks with GC students Seth Thompson and Mary Cox during a recent CPR class. (Photo by Pamela Duez)

13 Swim in First Intramural Meet

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Races


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LILLIAN WELCH talks with GC students Seth Thompson and Mary Cox during a recent CPR class. (Photo by Pamela Duez)

GC Teams Defeated in Tourney

By Nicky Willis
Staff Writer

Two men's and two women's flag football teams from Gainesville College attended the state flag football tournament at the University of Georgia Nov. 4-6. "Even though they did not win, they had a lot of fun," said Coach Jim Kirkland. A GC flag football tournament is now being played.

Other events in November and December include a faculty/staff tennis tournament Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. and a basketball tournament Nov. 29-Dec. 3.

There will be an intramural bowling tournament Dec. 7 from 2-5 p.m. at the Gainesville Bowling Center, and the Gainesville College Run/walk will be held Dec. 8 at 12:15. A powerlifting meet will also be held Dec. 10 at 1 p.m.

PAUL ANDERSON gets a little help from Jack Burnett of Wildwood Outfitters in Helen prior to attempting the climbing wall during last month’s Tumbling Creek Mountain Bike Rumble. Paul's mother, Melinda Anderson, looks on with interest. (Photo by Pamela Duez)