Highlights from the 1997 Alumni Family Picnic

On a sunny and cool Sunday afternoon on May 4, more than 200 alumni, faculty, staff and their families attended the 1997 Alumni Family Picnic. Events for the day included a Moonwalk, Water Balloon Toss, Face Painting, and a Volleyball Tournament. In addition to hamburgers, hotdogs with the works, snow cones and cotton candy delighted the children and adults. Each person who attended was given a pair of GC alumni sunglasses. Coordinators of the event were Martha Montgomery and Kathy Hembree.

A reunion tent was provided by Pete Davenport of Little & Davenport Funeral Home to be used for GC classes of 1968, 1969, and 1970. Alumni who attended from those classes were presented with a commemorative mug.

A brief program was held for Alumni during the picnic, at which retiring Alumni Council Members were recognized and new Council members were introduced. A more detailed profile of new Alumni Council Members will be included in the Fall issue of Anchors Away.

The Alumni Family Picnic for next year will take place on Sunday, May 3, 1998. Make your plans now, and save that afternoon on your calendar to come back to GC for this free day of fun!

More photos on page 12
Alumni Corporate Receptions
Does Your Business/Company employ a notable number of GC Alumni?

If so, please contact Michelle B. Brown, Director of Alumni Affairs (770) 718-3648. Alumni Corporate Receptions are hosted entirely by the GC Alumni Office and are an opportunity to recognize your employees for their attendance at Gainesville College. Your company/business may be the next location we hold a reception!

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ANCHORS AWAY is published four times a year and is designed as a two-way vehicle of communication between Gainesville College and its alumni and friends. This publication is produced by the Alumni Office and funded through support from the Gainesville College Advancement Office and the Foundation.

Michelle B. Brown . . . . . . . Editor & Director of Alumni Affairs (770) 718-3648
e-mail: mbrown@hermes.gc.peachnet.edu

Sloan Jones . . . . . . . Contributing Editor & Director of Marketing & Public Relations FAX (770) 718-3618
HTTP://TROY.GC.PEACHNET.EDU/WWW/MBROWN/

Gainesville College is a Two-Year Unit of the University System of Georgia and an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment and Educational Opportunity Institution.

Alumni Association Officers
Dave Simpson .............................................. President
Linda Guest ................................................ Vice President
Terry Baker ................................................ Secretary/Treasurer
Lillian Welch ............................................. Past President
One of Gainesville College's distinguishing characteristics is its strong and active Alumni Association. I feel very fortunate to inherit such an outstanding organization and know that its success resulted from the hard work of many alumni. Anchor's Away Magazine was among the materials that the Presidential Search Committee sent to the candidates. I was very impressed with the quality of both the publication and the activities sponsored by the Alumni Association. You have every reason to be proud of your accomplishments! I am looking forward to being part of your success.

I am inheriting a heavy mantle from Foster Watkins, but one I am proud to wear. I look forward to meeting with the Alumni Council, supporting their efforts, and participating in strong and visible ways. The leadership of the Association is the key to its continued success as it has been to its past accomplishments. Alumni can be valuable and significant spokespersons for the College, and the history of GC's Alumni Association has clearly demonstrated that.

"Community" is my vision for the institution. This includes the broader community which encompasses the alumni and friends of the College. As we support each other individually and collectively, we promote a healthy college and community. Together we can turn challenges into opportunities and serve a growing and increasingly diverse population of students with quality programs.

Michelle Brown is a gem, and I look forward to working closely with her to continue the excellent program of the Association. I am committed to building on the goodwill of the community and of GC alumni so that the College can continue to serve its students and the community effectively. Those of you I have met reflect an enthusiasm and dedication which is contagious. With optimistic anticipation, I look forward to meeting all of you and moving together toward an even brighter future for both the College and the Alumni Association.

Dr. Martha Tovell Nesbitt

PROFILE

EDUCATION:
B.A. and M.A.T.—Duke University
Ph.D. (History)—Georgia State University

MOST RECENT EXPERIENCE:
Special Assistant to the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, 1996-97
Interim President at DeKalb College, May 1, 1994 to May 15, 1995

CURRENTLY:
Gainesville College Third President effective August 1, 1997

PERSONAL:
Married to John P. (Pete) Nesbitt, two children, one grandson

HOBBIES:
Reading, tennis, swimming, snow skiing, golf, bridge
Alumni Intramural Reunion Memories

THANKS FOR COMING! These three people were the on-campus coordinators who made the event happen. Left to right: Michelle B. Brown, Jimmy Kirkland and Lillian Welch.

The Alumni Intramural Reunion took place on Saturday, April 26, 1997. The reunion was a combination of past intramural students of all ages.

Coach (Jimmy) Kirkland, commented: "Everyone enjoyed getting back together on the College campus and visiting with old friends."

Kirkland was presented with a crystal football from the GC Alumni Association. It was given in appreciation for his part in organizing the reunion, as well as his years of dedication in teaching GC students.

Food for the evening was catered by The Food Factory. Each person who attended was also given a gift to mark the evening.

Hey! Look at this one! Jimmy shares a memory with Joel Hancock and his fiance Dana Nichols who are both alumni.

Jamie Chosewood (left) visits with intramural buddies and newlyweds Heidi and Joey Ryder.

Billy Compton (left) and Eddie and Beth Suggs remember good times at GC while looking at photos of intramural events. Billy and Eddie were also key coordinators for the event and served on the planning committee.
The spring and summer months are very busy at the GC Alumni Office. In conjunction with our annual events such as the Alumni Family Picnic, the Golf Tournament, and Graduation, we also had several additional alumni events organized and hosted by the GC Alumni Association. The two that come to mind are the Alumni Intramural Reunion and the Alumni Memorial Garden Dedication.

Each of these events are covered in greater detail in this newsletter, but I wanted to give special thanks to those that always give extra time and attention to alumni events.

During the Intramural Reunion in April, Lillian Welch and Jimmy Kirkland gave much of their time and energy in preparing for this reunion. In the process of planning we realized there are literally hundreds of our alumni who have participated in intramural sports at GC.

If you read each issue of Anchors Away you have realized that during Lillian Welch’s 1996–97 Alumni Association Presidential year many things have been happening. The Alumni Memorial Garden is an example of how Lillian develops an idea and makes it happen.

A permanent and everlasting addition to our campus was constructed with the Alumni Memorial Garden. This brick structure is in memory of the GC students, faculty and staff who are no longer with us. I encourage you to visit the campus and see this beautiful garden located beside the Student Center.

The most exciting event on campus, no doubt, has been the naming of our new President, Dr. Martha Nesbitt. I’m sure as you visit campus and attend alumni events and meet Dr. Nesbitt, you will agree that Gainesville College is in good hands and will continue to shine in the University System.
Over 100 community volunteers gathered at the College on April 24 at 8 a.m. to give a half day of their time to raise approximately $20,000 for GC students through the GC Foundation. They enjoyed breakfast provided by Sally and Bill Wilson of Burger King and received instructions and encouragement before the fundraising blitz of Gainesville-Hall County.

GC Foundation Fund Drive Chairman Stacey Reece presided at the meeting. GC student and scholarship recipient Josh Bare enthusiastically thanked the volunteers for their hard work and dedication on behalf of all scholarship recipients. Honorary Fund Drive Chairman Rich White gave the volunteers a charge to have a successful day.

After making their assigned calls, most of the volunteers met at noon at Holiday Hall to report their calls and enjoy a delicious lunch, compliments of Holiday Hall/McKibbon Brothers. The GC Barber Shop Quartet performed several selections at the luncheon.

Give Now...And Not Be Called
$ $ Opportunity To Give $ $

We are about to begin our phonathon season and that means before long you will be hearing from the Alumni Office. We will be calling to update your address information as well as ask for our financial support. If you would like to give now and not be called this fall during the phonathons—here's your chance!

Please fill in the required information and return this form with your check made payable to the Gainesville College Foundation to: GAINESVILLE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, P. O. Box 1358, Gainesville, GA 30503.

Your donation of any amount will be appreciated.

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

Date __________________________ Signature __________________________

VISA/MasterCard __________________________

(Circle One)

Exp. Date

Amount Enclosed $ ____________

Give today and I won't ring!

Gifts may be tax-deductible as provided by IRS regulations.

Every gift is important!
The Alumni Memorial Garden was dedicated on Sunday, June 29, 1997. The beautiful weather attracted many alumni, family members, GC faculty and staff to the dedication ceremonies.

Two dedications took place, with the first beginning at 1:30 p.m. Nine plaques were purchased and established by the Circle K Club in 1968 in memory of students that passed away. The plaques were originally placed in the courtyard of the Academic I Building (formerly known as the Math/Science Building). Due to expansion of this courtyard for classroom space, the plaques had to be relocated and needed a new home on campus. The Alumni Association decided to take on this project and determine a permanent location for them. The Academic II Courtyard was selected, and the plaques were permanently placed on a brick wall in that courtyard. Many of the family members were present for the unveiling of the nine plaques.

The Alumni Memorial Garden Dedication was created in memory of the over 250 GC alumni, faculty and staff that are no longer with us. Please see Lillian Welch's Alumni Dedication Comments included in this article. The detail brick work involved in the structure was constructed by Wayne Albertson, a local brick mason in the Gainesville area.

At both dedications, comments were made by Dr. Kathy Fuller, Acting GC President and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr Hugh Mills, Founding GC President; Lillian Welch, 1996 Alumni Member. Comments From Alumni Memorial Dedication

by Lillian Welch

It is very gratifying for me to participate in the dedication of this structure which memorializes over 250 students, faculty and staff who are no longer with us. I loved some of them as fellow students when I was a student here at Gainesville College from '67-'69. I was a staff member when I was a swimming teacher in the community swim program for many years. I loved and appreciated those who were fellow staff members, and some that we memorialize today, I loved because they were my students or colleagues when I was a part-time teacher and eventually a full-time member of the Physical Education faculty. So I have had the unique experience of being a part of the student body, staff, and faculty at this fine institution and recall fond memories of many of these individuals who once traveled our halls and still warm our hearts.

An important part of the mission statement of Gainesville College gives focus to our intent to enrich students’ lives intellectually, socially, culturally, physically, and vocationally. It’s interesting to observe that these words can also be used to describe the way those who are absent from our midst today enriched our lives, and additionally they enhanced our lives emotionally and spiritually.

At our most recent graduation, Acting President Fuller spoke of the number of degrees conferred by Gainesville College during its relatively short existence. The tally indicates over 6,000 graduates and a head count of more than 39,000 students attending this college since the doors opened in the fall of '66. We now average nearly 2,600 students per quarter during the school year and presently employ a total of 250 faculty and staff. So many lives are impacted by Gainesville College! If you attended or are attending this College, or if you have been or are employed here, this new structure will honor your memory at some point in the future as it memorializes those whose departure we recognize today. By building this most visible and functional memorial, it is the hope of the Alumni Association that we will always remember them and it assures that we, too, will be remembered when we are no longer here physically.

I hope you’ve noticed the flowers and shrubs which enhance the landscape around the memorial. How appropriate that these perennial plantings return year after year and should remain with us as do our remembrances of those we memorialize this afternoon. A student group called S.E.A., Students for Environmental Awareness, recently provided and planted trees for beautifying our already magnificent campus. One is just behind the sloping memorial wall and how appropriate that the large tree selected for this memorial garden area is a golden rain tree, which has a weeping effect, and...
The 11th Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament was held on May 12, 1997. The proceeds for the tournament are donated to the Alumni Scholarship Trust.

The winning teams (first place low net and low gross and second place) are pictured below. Not pictured are the third place team that includes Dave Simpson, Winston Dean, and Barney Williams. Also pictured are several of the other teams that participated and enjoyed the tournament.

**LOW NET—FIRST PLACE**
(Left to right) A. G. Etheridge, Joey Etheridge, Chris Hixson, Mike Brown.

**LOW GROSS—FIRST PLACE**
(Left to right) Chris Maddox, Charles Maddox, Randy Sims, Darrell Dietrich.

**SECOND PLACE**
(Left to right) Stan Deitert, Maggie Odom, Ben Cash, Robert Odom.

More Photos On Page 9
More 1997 Golf Tournament Photos
A farewell reception was held in honor of Pat McArthy, former Director of Advancement at GC, on Thursday, July 10, 1997. The reception was hosted by the GC Foundation Board of Trustees at the Hunt Tower in Gainesville.

Many community members as well as current and past trustees of the GC Foundation attended the reception. Foundation Chairman Lee Chapman served as coordinator for the event in conjunction with the Advancement Office.

Pat McArthy was employed at Gainesville College for seventeen years, and held various positions while at the College. The concentration of her time at GC was in the area of Advancement. With the help of the Alumni Steering Committee, she started the Alumni Association and developed many of the alumni events that still take place on an annual basis. In addition, she has worked extensively with the GC Foundation Board of Trustees to build a strong Foundation that is admired not only by other two-year colleges, but also by many of the four-year institutions as well.

While she is greatly missed by the GC family, we wish her well in her new position. She is now employed by Regions Bank as Vice President of Business Development. She has promised to be one of our "best volunteers" with her wealth of experience. We plan to make sure she keeps her word!

Pat visits with the many guests that attended the farewell reception held in her honor on July 10, 1997.

June Commencement an Exciting Day for GC Graduates

The 31st Commencement was held on Friday the 13th of June, 1997, at the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville. The ceremony took place without event—even with the Friday the 13th superstition. Many students joked that the spring quarter began on a strange day, "April Fools Day," and ended with another on the 13th.

Top honor students were recognized at the Commencement at which more than 350 associate degrees were awarded to GC graduates.

The top honorees and the degrees they received were:

Continued on page 15

Honor graduates Marsha L. Shumate and Nancy L. Jones pose with Dr. Kathy Fuller, Acting President and Vice President for Academic Affairs, following the commencement.
The Memorial Garden Committee poses with Dr. Mills and Dr. Fuller who assisted with the program for the dedication. Pictured left to right: Lillian Welch—Committee Chair, Dave Simpson, Ed Jones, Dr. Hugh Mills, Dr. Kathy Fuller, Linda Guest, and Michelle Brown.

Association President and Memorial Garden Committee Chair; Dr. J. Foster Watkins, former GC President; and Michelle B. Brown, Director of Alumni Affairs.

Special music was performed by GC Alumni Council Member Tammy Baker. Those that attended were given a commemorative fan from the Alumni Association. Lemonade and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

A side view of the perennial flowers and shrubs that surround the Alumni Memorial Garden. Ed Jones designed and selected the variety of plants for the garden.

produces bark that, as the tree grows, appears rough at the bottom of the trunk and smoother toward the tree’s top. This reminds me of the influence the College and our educational journeys had upon my life and, I imagine, on those of many other students as we came here a little “rough around the edges” and hopefully became a little “smoother” and more polished as we pressed on toward our educational goals.

Those we memorialize today had a variety of goals, I expect, and many dreams, some unfulfilled. Some whose lives we honor today were your children. Some were your parents. Some were your siblings. Some were our mentors. Some were husbands and some were wives. Some didn’t live long enough to marry or have children. Some had children but didn’t live long enough to see them grown. Some died fighting on foreign soil to maintain our freedom, and some survived war to return to Gainesville College to continue educational pursuits only to leave us before that goal was realized. Some were here to impart knowledge and some were here to gain knowledge. Some were here to make their dreams come true, and for some, an opportunity to come to college was a dream come true. All of them left us before we were ready, and although they made significant contributions to our lives, we lost them before they had made all the contributions that we wanted them to be able to make. I’m sure we all feel they died too soon.

This brick structure should last long after we are gone and its circular design is never ending—as is our love and appreciation for those whose memories we honor. I’d like for us to consider what we can do, in addition to celebrating their lives through this physical, durable, and long-lasting structure, to be assured that their memories will continue to inspire us. One clergyman suggested that we should identify something that our departed loved one did very well, and make attempts to see that contribution to mankind continued in some way. I offer the suggestion that we promote within ourselves, for the time we have remaining, a commitment to accomplishing meaningful goals like doing more for others that will last long after we are gone.

In the first chapter of First Peter, the Apostle spoke about grief we suffer in all kinds of trials, and then mentioned hope through an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. That’s how I visualize the inheritance we have from those whose memories of these special departed students, faculty, and staff can never perish, spoil, or fade! By their absence we are diminished, but by their presence we were enriched!

I’m thankful that you chose to spend your time with us this afternoon. I’m thankful that your loved one chose to spend time here and that each of them was impacted by Gainesville College. But most of all, I’m thankful for the impact that they had upon me, the Gainesville College Alumni Association, and this fine institution.

June 29, 1997
Some of the New Alumni Council Members beginning their three-year term on the Council are pictured above. Left to right: Sandy Harkins, Jeff and Susan Barkley, Lesley Day, Lance Compton, April and Scott Reed, and Jeff Cantrell. The fifteen new Alumni Council Members will be profiled in the fall newsletter.

Left to right: Karen, Haley, Lee, and Hayden Chapman.

Alumni Council Member Debbie Roper performs her artwork of face painting on Bethany Haug as she and a friend enjoy a snow cone.

The winners from the balloon toss (left to right) Jeff and Susan Barkley and their daughter McKenna, Jeff Cantrell and Kevin Brown, Stephanie Prichard and Bethany Haug.
Gainesville College and the Arts Council co-hosted the Second Annual "Jazz at the Depot at Twilight" which took place on Friday, July 11, 1997 at the Arts Council location in downtown Gainesville.

The concert was a combination of performances by GC students and alumni. The two-hour show included many instrumental and vocal numbers. Everyone who attended brought a picnic dinner and dined on the back lawn of the Arts Council Depot.

The College had three tables that were filled with GC alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, and guests. The evening also included a table decoration competition with a "train theme" in which Gainesville College won first place in the Southern Railroad Division.

The Jazz at the Depot was a community event and open to all. If you and your family were unable to attend this year, you will want to put it on your calendar for next summer.

Alumni Council Member Becky Kesler performs at the Jazz Concert. Becky was involved in the music program when she was a student, and continues to give back to the College and community at events such as this.

Enjoying dinner provided by the GC Foundation are: (left to right) Caywood and Janet Chapman, Linda Guest, Lillian and Jack Welch.

Smiling for the camera during the show are: (left to right) Steve and Rebecca Gurr, Kim Waters, and Kathy Fuller.
We Heard That...

David Irvin is the owner of North Georgia Foods, Inc.—a franchisee of Burger King located in Clarkesville.

James C. Swain, Cleveland, is employed by Fieldale Farms as their MIS Manager.

Dairell Davis is employed by Gwinnett County Police Department as the Precinct Commander. He has recently completed his Masters Degree in Criminal Justice at Georgia State. He and his wife Robin live in Dacula.

Willette Sailers Bennett and husband Steve announce the birth of Rebekah Joy, born April 8, 1997. She joins siblings Trey, Ian, Elizabeth, Chase and Anna. Willette is currently a full-time mom in their hometown of Braselton.

Cynthia Garner Millwood and husband Greg welcome a new daughter to their family. Grace Evangelyn, born February 21, 1997, joins brothers Caleb, Clif, Mark and Bryson and little sister Elise.

Gayle Seagraves Berryman received her Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education at Brenau University in May 1997. Gayle is employed by the Jackson County Board of Education as a second grade teacher.


Scotty Ball has recently joined the law firm of Stewart, Melvin and House. Ball specializes in residential and commercial real estate and transactional law.

Tina Sutton Davis and husband Daron are the proud parents of Alexa Zena, born April 5, 1997. Tina is a fourth grade teacher at Robinson Elementary School in Dawson County. Daron is employed at Attachmate Corporation in Alpharetta as a software test engineer.

Edmund Tarver is employed at ETC “Electronic Tele Communications” as a meterologist.

Donna Sherrer-Gantt will receive her M.Ed. from UGA in August 1997. She is married to Dexter Gantt and they have one daughter, Krystian Monique, age five.


Teresa Biffle Duncan is the Director of Fundraising at the Hall County Humane Society. Prior to her employment, Teresa served as one of the Humane Society’s volunteers. She is married to Eddie Duncan.

Cynthia Maloch Hill welcomes a new baby girl to her family. Havan Ann Hill was born on April 22, 1997. She joins a brother, Granson Douglas Hill, and a sister, Mariah Maloch. Cynthia is employed by Jackson County Elementary School.

Angela Orrio Poole completed the requirements for her Masters Degree in Education in December 1995 at North Georgia College. She is currently teaching at White Sulphur Elementary School.

Timothy James MacMaster and wife Pamela would like to announce the birth of their first child. Jordan Michelle was born on January 17, 1997. Timothy is currently the Lead Electrician and Special Projects Coordinator at Mitsubishi Consumer Electronics in Braselton.

Blake Hamilton Martin and his wife Becky are expecting their first child in October. Blake has recently started his own business, Seasonal Reflections.

Tami Riley VonEssen graduated from Brenau University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education.

Rita King Mincey is a substitute teacher for the Hall County Board of Education.

Darla Louise Cook has been attending Mercer University’s Engineering School since Fall 1996. While at Mercer she has been on the Dean’s List and President’s List.
Jennie McDonald graduated with her BA degree in English Literature and a minor in Psychology from Georgia State University in June of 1997. She has continued her graduate work at GSU this summer.

Dana Nichols graduated from Mercer University at Macon on June 15, 1997, with a BA degree in Spanish and English. Dana is currently employed at Gainesville College in the Department of Continuing Education.

'96 LeAnne Grizzle Hardin married Phillip Allen Hardin on April 26, 1996. They reside in Dawsonville. She has been a Vet. Tech. for one year.

GTA THEATRE ALLIANCE

Schedule for 1997–1998
GTA Performances

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<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PLAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Mountains Center</td>
<td>NOISES OFF</td>
<td>Nov. 11–23, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenau's Pearce Auditorium</td>
<td>OUR TOWN</td>
<td>Feb. 17–22, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gainesville College</td>
<td>WEST SIDE STORY</td>
<td>April 14–26, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts Theatre</td>
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for details call
770-718-3624
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you:
- changed jobs?
- continued college?
- married? moved?
- added to your family?
- done something else that's noteworthy?

Would you like to receive an Alumni Association membership card?—Benefits include:
- Check Out Books
- Discount on GTA Performances and Century Plus Membership

Membership is open to all former students, not just graduates. There is no membership fee.

Tell us about it!

Name ________________________________
First Middle Maiden Last
Social Security Number _____________________
I attended GC from ___19_______–19_____
Address ________________________________________________________________
City _________________________ State ______ Zip ___________
Home Phone ________________________
Employer ________________________________________________________________
Position Held _____________________________________________________________
Office Phone _________________________

Information for the next issue of ANCHORS AWAY should be sent to the Alumni Office by October 1, 1997. Photos may be submitted.

GC Alumni Office
P.O. Box 1358 • Gainesville, Georgia 30503
Fax 770-718-3618
e-mail: mbrown@hermes.gc.peachnet.edu

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