

Anchors Away

GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2011

GSC Alumni & Friends STARLIGHT CONCERT & FIREWORKS 2011



Don't miss Gainesville State College Alumni Association's Starlight Concert & Fireworks 2011, Friday, June 10! Gates will be open from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. An entry fee of \$10 for cars & \$20 for large vans/buses will benefit the

GSC Alumni Association. Presenting sponsors for the event are *The Times*, dB Audio & Video, and Danley Sound Labs.

Each year, thousands of Gainesville State College alumni, faculty, staff, students, community members, and their families come together for the annual Starlight Concert & Fireworks on the beautiful Gainesville campus. This year's Starlight will have a beach theme as we present **Starlight 2011—A Laker Luau!** Beginning at 6:30 p.m., Power Play Band will serenade the crowd with classics by Jimmy Buffet, The Beach Boys, Bob Marley and more. At dusk, Zambelli Fireworks will close out the evening.

Starlight is a community favorite and the signature event of the Gainesville State College Alumni Association.

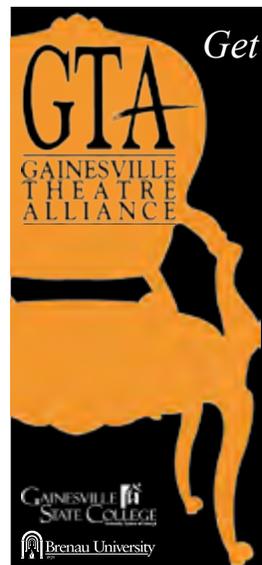
The event started as a small gathering on the lawn with committed GSC Alums. They took it to the next level with the push to build an amphitheatre. With much attention to detail and the kind generosity of the Bailey family, the G.W. Bailey Amphitheatre was built.

Starlight has grown into an important fundraiser for scholarships and student programming at GSC! We hope you continue to support this incredible event. There are many opportunities to support Starlight. Reserve your table of six for \$100 or purchase the Alumni Firecracker package. Package for one Alum at \$50 includes reserved parking, one parking pass, and one Alumni T-shirt; package

for two Alums is \$75 (includes the same package for one with the addition of one T-shirt).

We also have further corporate sponsorships available: Cherry Bomb at \$1,000; Bottle Rocket at \$2,500; and Roman Candle at \$5,000. Each package comes with generous benefits that range from exhibit table space, GTA tickets, reserved parking, an invitation to various foundation events, and your own seated table for six at Starlight! Further details can be found at www.gsc.edu/alumni or by contacting Jennifer Hendrickson, Director of Alumni Affairs, at 678-717-3648 or jhendrickson@gsc.edu.

We hope to see you there!



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Alumni: Connect with GSC for Fiftieth Anniversary

—by *Mary Transue, Vice President of Institutional Advancement & CEO of the Gainesville State College Foundation*



Mary Transue

It is difficult to believe the Foundation is in the initial phase of the planning process for the 50th anniversary celebration for Gainesville State College.

Granted, that won't occur until 2014, but there is a great deal of work to be done in preparation, and we could use your help.

We want to talk to you about the various decades and progress of GSC from

Gainesville Junior College with a little over 400 students—to Gainesville State College with two campuses and almost 9,000 students! What stories do you have; who was your favorite professor; what challenges did you face; what did you like most; did you receive a scholarship?

Scholarship funding has always been a major part of the GSC Foundation's annual budget, thanks to the generous donations of our Alumni and friends. Our investment in our students, the College, and the Northeast Georgia region has been significant over the past forty-seven years, and with your help, it will continue to be so in the future.

As you can imagine, requests for funding through the Foundation continues to increase as state budgets decrease. Perhaps there is a particular department or area of study you would like to help support. If assisting other students through

scholarship opportunities appeals to you, there are a number of scholarship funds that need your support as well.

Did you know there was a Gainesville (State) College Alumni Endowment fund established in 1989? While it has continued to grow through interest earned on its early contributions, your donation to this fund will help provide scholarship opportunities for dependents of GSC alumni. If you are interested in learning more about this particular endowment please feel free to contact me or Jennifer Hendrickson, Director of Alumni Affairs.

There are so many ways for alumni to connect with GSC. Take a look through this issue and see where you can get involved. We look forward to hearing from you and how GSC has been a part of your life.

Articles and information for the next issue of *Anchors Away* should be submitted to the Alumni Office by July 1, 2011. Photos may be submitted in high resolution jpg or pdf format.

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Alumni Association President: On making a difference

How can you make a difference TODAY? Reconnecting with the Gainesville State College Alumni Association this year is your ticket to giving back! You can start by volunteering for our events, becoming a member of the Alumni Council, or by making a financial contribution to help a student realize his or her dreams.



Vicki Davis

It's so very important to stay connected to the association. Don't forget that we can provide you with networking opportunities, career advice through our current alums and the campus career center, and avenues of recognition. We are committed to supporting you, and hope you will, in turn, think about giving back to the place that changed your life.

Lots of exciting things are happening this year. One in particular we want to announce is that we will hold two

graduations; one for the 2-year grads and one for the 4-year grads. Since adding the first bachelor degree in October 2005, we've outgrown our graduation space and now have enough students to warrant a 2/4 year separate graduation.

This is a welcomed change, and something that the association is looking forward to adding to its priority list. It gives us a new area to cultivate and opportunity to add different programming. When looking down the road at the next 10 years, we hope our Alumni base will more than double!

I do hope to see you at the upcoming Starlight Concert in June. Bring a cooler and a picnic basket, find a place to spread your blanket, and listen to the music while you visit with old friends. It always kicks off the summer for our family.

—*Vicki Davis, President
GSC Alumni Association*

BB&T has promoted **Jeff Barkley ('88)** to Assistant Vice President. Barkley, who joined the bank in 2008, is a financial center leader at BB&T's Oakwood Branch. The West Point, NY native earned his bachelor's degree in banking and finance from North Georgia College & State University. He is also a graduate of The Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. Jeff's wife, **Susan**, is also an alum. They met at GSC and have been together ever since! Congrats, Jeff!

Jessica Matthews ('99) is the International Children's Education Director for Helping Hands Foreign Missions and a former student worker in the Foundation office. She has just completed the opening of a new Christian Academy school in Bolivia. She describes the first day as being very exciting with lots of children, parents and teachers everywhere. It was a pleasant surprise for her to find out that the old lockers her team found and repainted were a big hit! Jessica stated, "The kids managed to find any excuse to go and put something in their lockers – they were all-the-rave!"

She said that she asked a 3rd grade student if she liked school. It filled Jessica's heart when she heard the reply "I LOVE it!" Jessica is proud of the team's accomplishments and the ways they were able to give students the opportunity to get an education through this new school. For further information, visit www.helpinghandsmissions.org. We are proud of you Jessica—thanks for making the world a better place!



Beth Swilley Rylee ('98) and **Jeremy Rylee ('00 and current student)**



welcomed their first children, twins Bentley Weston Rylee, 5 lbs. 11 oz. and 19.5 in., and Londyn Harper Rylee, 5 lb. 2 oz. and 18.5 in., on July 8, 2010. All are doing very well and are happy to announce this life-changing event.

Cristin Kelly Jovicic ('00) has recently married and moved to Sydney, Australia. As a theatre major and dramaturge, she is quickly learning the theatre scene in

Sydney and volunteering with the Sydney Fringe Festival. She is enjoying being a newlywed and using her creative energy to maintain a blog about her experiences. Cristin is finding out that in the Australian culture, Dramaturgy is not practiced very much. In the US, the practice is more common in theatres now than it was 20 years ago. She says, "I feel like a horseshoe maker who has landed in the middle of Detroit." She is hopeful that the attitudes will shift, much like they have in the US. We're excited to hear about her new endeavors, and wish Cristin much success "down under"!

Zechariah Pierce ('05) joined the ranks of hospital clowns around the globe under The Big Apple Circus in June 2010. Currently performing at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, he helps bring a little laughter to an otherwise stressful atmosphere. Pierce has a great team in Atlanta, which is now the first in 25 years to have a father/son duo. His father is the oldest clown working for the circus, and Zech is the youngest. Zech has also landed a contract with Disney's new film, "Joyful Noise," starring Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah. He has a small role in one of the choirs, but it certainly is a start for him. Watch for him on the big screen!

Stephanie Ferguson ('06) is a graduate of the GSC theatre program and is currently production director for Emmanuel College's spring musical, "Little Women." She is also planning to be married in June of 2011 to Kyle Garrett and is looking forward to the big day! Congratulations, Stephanie!

GSC Alum and current student at the University of Georgia, **Arthur King ('10)**, heads up Cookin' for College. King has been Cookin' for College since February of 2010, when he started the online show via his website and YouTube. He started out by cooking in his college apartment and has been most recently featured on Paula Deen's show *Paula's Best Dishes*, Fox News and Friends morning show and newspapers around the nation. He is a native of Savannah, and has been seen on Savannah's *WTOC News*, Savannah Home Builders Trade Show, and *The Wendell Show*—Athens' interactive student talk show. He makes inexpensive meals that have an upscale taste! To see these creative meals and shows, visit www.cookinforcollege.com or www.youtube.com. We hope to see more of Arthur as he continues to educate students to make home-cooked food on a college budget.

GSC student **Dut Goodman** made his way to the Southeast Regional Barista Championship in February. Dut was representing Athens-based Company, 1000 Faces Coffee. Each competitor is allotted 15 minutes to grind the coffee beans, brew and serve each course while interacting with the judges. There are three courses and there are four sensory judges, so 12 drinks in total. This was intense for only a 15 minute time slot. Alongside the four sensory judges are two technical judges, who evaluate competitors on procedures, consistency, cleanliness and other technical details. Way to go, Dut! Further information can be found at www.usbaristachampionship.org.

We heard that...

Director of Alumni Affairs: Association aims to form stronger links



Jennifer Hendrickson

It has been an exciting last few months at the GSC Alumni Association! As we gear up for the beloved Starlight Concert & Fireworks event, we are also beginning to plan the Golf Open, Graduation Reception, further Alumni Council Meetings, and new events for alumni. We are also upgrading our social media presence. I'm happy to announce that you can now follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/GSCAlumniAssoc), and you can find videos on our YouTube channel (GSCAlumniAssoc). If you haven't "liked" us on Facebook yet, please do so today! You can find us as *Gainesville State College Alumni & Friends*. It's a great way to stay connected and to find out what's going on around campus.

Speaking of what's going on around campus, spring is here and it's a very busy time at the College. There are many GSC events that are open and free to the public. Visiting the GSC website (www.gsc.edu) is a great way to find out about things like GTA and music department performances, art openings and receptions, workshops, career fairs, and much more. We are also in the process of revising our website content, so please stay tuned to the Alumni Affairs page (www.gsc.edu/alumni).

Our group has embarked upon many new ideas and initiatives. One of our goals is to make stronger links to alums like you! We want to recognize your accomplishments, actively involve our alumni leaders, and make sure we are including you in all we do. There are many ways you can get involved. We have openings on the Alumni Council, volunteer opportunities for Starlight, Golf, and other events, along with several committees, including Marketing & Communications, Special Events, Development, and Alumni Awareness & Career Network. If you are

interested in any of these things, contact me at jhendrickson@gsc.edu or 678-717-3648. I'd be more than happy to talk with you and find out where your skills would best fit.

Another area of focus is to build new affinity programs. If you have an idea for us, a need, or work for a company that is willing to forge a new partnership, we'd love to hear from you! Businesses can increase their customer base and give back to GSC—it's a win-win.

I can't say often enough that the success and further growth of the Alumni Association depends on you. I encourage you to send an update on your status, email a success story, join a committee, or support us through a gift to the Association. All of

our fundraising efforts benefit student programming and scholarships.

I look forward to seeing you at Starlight and continuing the momentum we've begun for our Association!

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If you know anyone who is a GSC alum and we do not have his current address, please ask him to update his record by emailing jhendrickson@gsc.edu.

Suggs serves on Marketing Committee



Tana Suggs

Gainesville State College Alumni Council's newest member, Tana Suggs, is serving on the Marketing and Communications Committee. She received an Associate degree in journalism from Gainesville State College in 2007.

While at GSC, Tana was a member of Sigma Chi Eta, the communications honor society for community colleges, a member of SPIRE, the national honor society for nontraditional students, and the GSC Writer's Group. Originally from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Tana graduated from the University of Alabama in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences.

Tana is currently a freelance writer and editor contributing to local newspapers and community magazines in northeast Georgia. She is excited to be giving back to her alma mater in a way that is meaningful to her. Tana brings an

enthusiasm for the College, passion for marketing and communications, and great writing skills. Welcome to the Council, Tana!

GSC Alumni Council

<p>Vicki Davis <i>President, Alumni Association</i></p> <p>Jennifer Hendrickson <i>Director of Alumni Affairs</i></p> <p>Brenda Adams Tonya Black Marie Braswell Haley Carter Lesley Congdon Kimberly Godfrey Melissa Gooch Scott Grogan Crystal Elrod Halligan Heather Howington Kellie Jackson Jennifer Jacobs</p>	<p>Kristen Lathem Jamila Hunter Leavell Kim Leverette Michelle Lindsey Alan Louis Stacy Louis Chris McCormick Kerry Moose Barry Moose Sherri Parker Michele Piucci Sandi Simpson Jody Spain Chris Stenander Tana Suggs Scott Webb Tracie Webb Craig West Patti West</p>
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Foundation Gala takes many back to the Rat Pack days!



Vicki and Jim Davis, Chris Stenander, and Jane Fleming enjoyed the festivities at the "Fly Me to the Moon" Foundation Gala.



Andy & Michele Piucci were among the guests at the GSC Foundation Annual Gala.

Over 125 people attended the Gainesville State College Foundation's Annual Gala, "Fly Me to the Moon," on February 11 at Chattahoochee Country Club. Everyone enjoyed the evening and danced the night away to the sounds of *Noe & Russo* and *The Swing Daddies!* The décor reflected the heyday of the Rat Pack, including old photos, video clips, and life-sized cutouts of Marilyn, Dean and Frank. Thanks to our silent and live auction donors, guests had fun bidding on some great items.

It was an exceptional evening that helped raise over \$63,000 for student programming and scholarships. Save the date for next year's event to be held at the Chattahoochee Country Club on Friday, February 10, 2012!

The GSC Foundation thanks the generous Corporate Sponsors for their support!

Presenting Sponsor



Mary Transue (left) and Martha T. Nesbitt (right) are pictured with Bob Pennington of Willis Investment Counsel, the Presenting Sponsor of the GSC Foundation Gala 2011.

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Scouts, State honor Dr. Nesbitt for accomplishments

Two Hall County non-profits declared the week of March 14 Dr. Martha T. Nesbitt week. Northeast Georgia's Girl Scouts honored the Gainesville State College President as the *2011 Gainesville Woman of Distinction* at a luncheon Tuesday, March 15 at Gainesville First United Methodist Church.

The award is given each year in honor of a woman who serves as a role model in the community. Dr. Nesbitt is Gainesville's 13th Woman of Distinction, joining the ranks of community leaders Lessie Smithgall, Frances Meadows, Myrtle Figueras, and LeTrell Simpson, among others.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Nesbitt stated, "Truly, words cannot express how I feel, but the tables should be turned, and this should be named the community of distinction. I've become a part of the fabric of this community, and I couldn't be more pleased to have my name on this list."

On March 18, Nesbitt was honored by the Northeast Georgia Boy Scouts of America at the American Values Dinner. The event took place at the Chattahoochee Country Club and included a motivating keynote address by Senator Johnny Isakson. Dr. Nesbitt was thrilled to receive the *Ralph Cleveland Distinguished Citizen Award* alongside Pete Martin and John Melvin.

Dr. Nesbitt was also honored with State Resolution 197 in late February in recognition of the accomplishments and awards of the Gainesville State College president. She is one of several local people to be recognized during the 2011 legislative session, including Gainesville Judge Sidney Smith and the North Georgia College & State University softball team. For Dr. Nesbitt, it was a complete surprise. She stated, "I was recognized by local resolutions when I first became president in 1997, but never by state representatives. This caught me off guard." Nesbitt plans to frame her

own resolution, which is the first in her tenure as the first female GSC president.

We congratulate and salute Dr. Nesbitt for her incredible accomplishments—she is a great value to this community!



Save the Date Alumni & Friends Golf Open Returns in October

Friday, October 14, 2011



The Dorks College Textbooks team at the 2010 Alumni Golf Open

Our annual Alumni & Friends Golf Open will once again be held at the Chattahoochee Golf Club! Last year we raised over \$28,000 for student programming and scholarships and had 92 players. We anticipate another highly successful event, and we hope you'll join us! All players will receive breakfast, snacks, goodie bag and a golf shirt. Shotgun time is 9:00 a.m. and there will be a closing reception beginning at 2:00 p.m. Jason Chester will also be back to host the long-shot drive!

The Chattahoochee Golf Course is located on the northern banks of Lake Sidney Lanier, and the oldest golf course in North Georgia is now the newest. The multi-million dollar renovation puts Chattahoochee in a class by itself when it comes to municipal courses. Course Crafters and architect Kevin Hargrave teamed up to renovate this classic Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed layout. New tee complexes, Bent Grass Dominant



Laker T. Goose & Haley Carter

Southern Greens, new carts, concrete cart paths and clubhouse improvements make this a top-notch course.

You won't want to miss this golf outing. Be one of the first five teams to sign up by June 1st, and you'll receive two complimentary parking passes to Starlight! For details or to register, visit www.gsc.edu/alumni or call Jennifer at 678-717-3648.

Please remember to thank and patronize our generous sponsors of the 2010 Golf Open:

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GSC boasts another New Century Scholar

For an extraordinary three years in a row, a Gainesville State College student has been named a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar. David V. Spencer, a dual computer science and communications major with a 4.0 GPA, was selected based on the score he earned in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition.

Spencer was the top-scoring student in the State of Georgia, for which more than 1,600 applications were received this year. The program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and the Coca-Cola Foundation and administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



David Spencer, GSC's third New Century Scholar, is pictured with Mark Davis, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

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Andy Haskell

(ahaskell@georgiaforce.com)
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Alum to attend Duke

Anna Garrison attended GSC as a joint enrollment student in high school, graduating as Valedictorian of Banks County High School in May 2006. She enrolled as a Pre-Engineering student that fall, transferring to Georgia Tech in fall 2008 through the Regional Engineering Transfer Program.

While at GSC, Garrison received the Clark Theodore Outstanding Traditional Student Award and was named by GSC to the 2008 All Georgia Academic Team. She graduated with honors from Georgia Tech with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in December 2010. While attending Georgia Tech, she completed two internships with The John Deere Co. Garrison is currently interning with the Clorox Company as a Packaging Engineer and working primarily in their Burt's Bees Manufacturing Plant (Morrisville, NC). She will begin her M.S. in Managerial Studies at Duke University in July 2011. Congratulations, Anna – we wish you much success!

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Vicki Davis

at

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Anchors Away

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Volunteer for Starlight!

Friday, June 10

**G.W. Bailey Amphitheatre
GSC Gainesville Campus**

Starlight is truly a community favorite, and volunteers make this event a success! We need over 50 volunteers, so please consider helping the GSC Alumni Association!

Starlight Volunteers Receive:

- Invitation to our Pre-event Volunteer Meeting
- Starlight T-Shirt
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Volunteer shifts are from 5:00-7:00 p.m. or 7:00-9:00 p.m. Sign up through the online secure site via Volunteer Spot. To review the volunteer packet and to sign up for a Starlight volunteer shift, visit

www.gsc.edu/alumni

We appreciate your consideration!

Dr. Womack-Wynne earns GOLD

The Valdosta State University Alumni Association named GSC Education Department Chair and Assistant Professor Dr. Carlise Womack-Wynne the 2011 Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD). The prestigious award is given each year to a graduate who has demonstrated professional achievements and community service within 10 years of graduation.

Womack-Wynne has dedicated her life to education.

She organizes routine campus visits to promote early college awareness among area youth and administers a grant of more than \$100,000 to advance diversity within the student population. Womack-Wynne serves as a voluntary consultant

for the Ministry of Education in Belize, and in her "spare time," she volunteers in area classrooms and organizes study abroad opportunities for undergraduates to experience international educational settings.



Dr. Carlise Womack-Wynne in Belize, where she volunteers her time to advance teacher education in the Central American Nation

She states, "the most rewarding parts of my job are those that deal directly with my students. I love to work with student teachers during their final clinical placements, which is when you create a bond and really help them refine their teaching styles."

Dr. Womack-Wynne is one of many treasured faculty members at GSC, and we congratulate her on her many accomplishments.