GSC celebrates commencement of summer & fall graduates

It’s all about you, grads!

The GSC faculty and staff celebrated our graduates on December 10 at their commencement. A total of 584 Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Applied Science, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science/Applied Science and Certificate candidates were eligible to participate in the ceremony. Students from both the Gainesville and Oconee Campuses participated in the ceremonies.

Dr. Martha T. Nesbitt, GSC President, Chris Stenander, Alumni President, and many excited family members and friends were there to root on the grads of 2011. The GSC Brass Ensemble and Chorale gave outstanding performances, and Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges, delivered a riveting speech. Wheelan’s career spans over 30 years and includes the roles of faculty member, chief student services officer, campus provost, college president, and secretary of education. In her current position as well as several of these roles, she was the first African American and/or woman to serve in those capacities. Wheelan attributes her success to hard work, endurance, tenacity, and being in the right place at the right time. It was an honor to have her speak at GSC’s graduation.

Graduation receptions were also held for our graduates on both the Gainesville and Oconee Campuses on November 28 and 29 and December 5. Over 150 students attended one of the three receptions that were available for them to receive their caps and gowns and graduation tickets, as well as their gift from the GSC Alumni Association. Graduates also had the chance to win raffle items such as Starbucks and iTunes gift cards and tickets to the Gwinnett Gladiators.

Dr. Nesbitt welcomed the grads, and Chris Stenander, Alumni President, shared a few words of wisdom. Mary Transue, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and CEO of the Gainesville State College Foundation, congratulated the grads and talked about how critical it is to stay connected and keep in touch with the Alumni Association. Representatives from the GSC Career Center, Liberty Mutual, and BB&T were there to talk with students about the services they provide to alums.

We congratulate the summer and fall graduates of 2011 and wish you a successful future!

Dr. Nesbitt welcomes guests to Academic IV Building dedication

The dedication and ribbon cutting for the new Gainesville State College (GSC) Academic IV Building was held on Friday, October 21, 2011 at 1 p.m. This state-of-the-art building is 135,000 square feet in size, cost $37.5 million, and took approximately two years to complete.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby, and USG Regent Philip Wilheit, who took part in the Dedication Ceremony.

Tours were held after the ceremony, and guests saw first-hand the 5-story building, which includes 24 general classrooms, 12 instructional labs, specialty labs for foreign languages and media production (including a soundstage), a 48-seat ACTT (Academic Computing Tutoring and Testing) Center, conference rooms, and a 260-seat multipurpose dividable room. The building has many sustainable and energy-saving features inside and outside.
Graduation is always the most exciting time for me! I want to extend my sincere congratulations to our graduates and encourage you to stay involved and connected. This is why we are here each day—for our Gainesville State students.

GSC prides itself on not only the highest caliber of education but also the best customer service and satisfaction. To you grads, I hope that you have found your experience at GSC to be top-notch.

Alumni Council President:
"I am passionate about this institution"

It was my pleasure to have attended and congratulated our new group of Alumni at the GSC graduation on December 10. I was so proud of our students and could see real promise in their eyes.

Having been down the road so many of you have, I appreciate GSC and the incredible faculty, staff, and fellow classmates I had. Even though I did move on to another college, my heart has stayed with GSC. I am passionate about this institution and want you to know that even if you are moving on, you can make a difference here! You can pave the way for the next generation and class behind you. Why not consider staying at GSC—with our bachelor offerings, you don’t have to leave!

Congratulations again to all of our graduates! I look forward to seeing you in the future.

GSC & NGCSU collaborate in new venture

Plans are well underway for construction of a new facility which will be known as "University Center | GA 400." This new instructional site on Pilgrim Mill Road off Georgia 400 will be another example of GSC’s longstanding collaboration with North Georgia College and State University (NGCSU) to offer excellent opportunities in the North Georgia area. This non-residential instructional site will be shared by both institutions, and the first classes are slated to be offered beginning in August of 2012.

GSC will be offering day classes beginning in the fall for the first two years of course work, including core curriculum and associate degrees in the areas of Business, Early Education, and Criminal Justice. NGCSU will be offering the second two years of course work in the evenings for several bachelor degrees, including Business and Criminal Justice as well as their Associate of Science degree in Nursing and the Masters in Business Administration.

GSC President Martha T. Nesbitt said, "We look forward to the opportunity to serve the students in a location that will be convenient and will allow us to build upon our 27-year partnership between GSC and NGCSU."

The anticipated date for the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the facility is Tuesday, January 17, 2012. For more information, visit www.gsc.edu.
We are pleased to announce that Jackie Wallace is the newest member of the GSC Alumni Council. She attended Gainesville Junior College from 1974 to 1975. Wallace returned to Gainesville College to complete her Associate degree in Business Administration in December 1989. She completed her college career at Brenau Professional College in 1991, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting.

After a 15-year career in mortgage banking, Wallace joined the staff of United Way of Hall County in July 2000. She became president of the organization in July 2007.

Wallace was a member of the Leadership Hall County Class of 2002-2003 and has volunteered on committees and boards for various non-profits and Gainesville First United Methodist Church.

She currently serves on the board of directors of Northeast Georgia Medical Center and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank.

Wallace is an incredible advocate for GSC. Welcome, Jackie!

Music program forges exciting changes in 2011

—by Eric Skipper, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities & Fine Arts

This fall the GSC Music Program has undergone a flurry of changes, starting right at home in the Music Building. In order to free up much-needed space, Music Appreciation classes were ‘exported’ to the Dunlap/Mathis Building, and the new classroom was equipped with a new Yamaha upright piano. In addition, end-of-semester student recitals have been moved from the lobby of the Continuing Education/Performing Arts Building into the Ed Cabell Theatre. As part of continuing upgrades, installation of five Wenger Sound Isolation Practice Modules in the Music Building is planned for Spring/Summer semester.

Music students have enjoyed increased opportunities for performing on and off campus this fall. The GSC Brass Ensemble/Quintet, under the direction of Brass Instructor Don Strand, performed "The Star Spangled Banner" and played for the Alumni Council at College Night for the Gwinnett Braves in September. The Quintet played at the Ribbon Cutting and Dedication for the new Academic IV Building, at the Veterans Day Observance Ceremony on campus, and at the Women’s Holiday Luncheon hosted by the GSC Foundation. The Brass Ensemble has been invited to play for the District 9 Middle School Honor Band Clinic and is slated to perform at the Georgia Force Arena Football game on April 14.

For the first time in recent history, the Chorale and Brass Ensemble combined their talents for Graduation ceremonies, delivering rousing renditions of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "The Alma Mater." The GSC Chorale, directed by Bruce Sellers, sang at the lighting of the Christmas tree in Gainesville on December 4. On December 3, the North Georgia Chamber Symphony, directed and conducted by GSC instructor Mr. Laurin Smith, played a holiday concert in the atrium of the new Academic IV Building.

“The Program is thriving and growing,” says Music Program Coordinator Dr. Andrew Santander. “We have more performance opportunities available for students. We have wonderful, dedicated faculty willing to go above and beyond.”

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“The Program is such a valuable window piece for any college,” adds Interim Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts Dr. Eric Skipper. “It’s important that we continue to support our faculty, improve our facilities, recruit top-notch students, and seek exciting performance venues in the community and beyond.”

The Music Program will continue to offer its line-up of concerts throughout the remainder of the academic year, including a Winter Concert, Big Band Show, and Spring Concert.

http://www.gsc.edu/schools/hfa/music/Pages/default.aspx
Successful Alumni Golf Open raises $28,000

The annual GSC Alumni & Friends Golf Open was held October 14 at the Chattahoochee Golf Club. This was a great day of golf! We had over 90 players and raised $28,000 for GSC scholarships and student programming. Golfers enjoyed a breakfast provided by McDonald’s, an exciting raffle, a chance for a long-shot drive hosted by Pro Golfer and Alum Jason Chester, and an outstanding ending reception catered by A.C.E. Catering. Hayes generously sponsored our Hole-In-One with a Jeep Wrangler.

Our Honorary Chair, Doug Magnus, played a successful round of golf with his team, along with other teams from our Title Sponsor, Conditioned Air. Over 35 volunteers helped make the event run smoothly. Special thanks to the GSC Office of Institutional Advancement, GSC faculty and staff, Rodger Hogan and his staff at the Chattahoochee Golf Club, and all committee members who made this an incredible day.

Doug Magnus, Diane Magnus, Matt Magnus, and Matt Pruitt

Please remember to thank and patronize our generous sponsors of the 2011 Alumni & Friends Golf Open:

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David Simpson ('00) & Jody Spain ('93)
Both GSC alums, Dave Simpson and Jody Spain received awards from the Featherbone Community in Gainesville. The awards were given at the second annual “Entrepreneurs…Masters of Innovation” to nine successful small business people from Lumpkin, Hall, Banks and Fulton counties.

Dave Simpson is Owner of Simpson Custom Photography and has been an occupant of Lanier Technical College’s Manufacturing Development Center for more than three years. During this time, Dave has developed a full-service photography business doing everything from portraits to business publications and marketing pieces—always with a helpful attitude. He uses high resolution digital capture, professional lighting techniques, and Adobe Photoshop and his services include print-ready and Internet-ready images. Dave is a graduate of North Georgia Technical College and Gainesville State College, where he earned an Associate degree in commercial photography. He is also the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America 2000 national winner in the Commercial Photography Skills Contest, Post-Secondary Division.

Jody Spain is CEO of Cotton Eyed Joe’s. He is a graduate of Gainesville State College and began his career teaching economics in the local high school system. He started his custom apparel business in 1998 and has expanded his business beyond screen printing tee shirts into a variety of markets, including team uniforms, digital printing, and promotional products. Jody is also very active in supporting the local school systems.

April D. Reed, MPA ('93)
The Rotary Club of Habersham County recently awarded April Reed of Cleveland the Club’s David D. Stovall Rotarian of the Year award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedication to the Ideals of Rotary. Reed has been a member of the Habersham Rotary Club for the past ten years and served as the 2007-2008 club president. She also was honored with the Habersham Rotary Club’s 2010 W. Lee Arrendale Award for Vocational Excellence.

She is employed as the vice president of development and public relations and director of volunteer services for Habersham Medical Center in Demorest and was the former host of The Gospel Grapevine on Windstream Communications Channel 4. She also serves on the Habersham Chamber of Commerce board of directors and was its chairman in 2008.

Wayne A. Tuck ('91)
Wayne A. Tuck, CPA/Partner at Walker & Associates CPAs, P.C. of Gainesville has been awarded the Certified Fraud Examiner credential from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

To become a Certified Fraud Examiner, Tuck met a stringent set of criteria and passed a rigorous exam administered by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He successfully met the association’s character, experience and education requirements.

Tuck adds this credential to more than 11 years of combined experience in corporate and public accounting. He has extensive experience in employee benefits, budgeting, contract negotiation, and audits of governmental and non-profit entities.

Tuck holds an Associate of Arts in business administration from Gainesville State College and a Bachelor’s of Business Administration in accounting from the University of Georgia. He is a member of the AICPA, the Georgia’s Society of CPAs, and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. He is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Georgia.

Belinda Sauret
Dr. Belinda Sauret has been named the Hall County School District Teacher of the Year for 2013. Our congratulations go out to this former GSC faculty member and wife of retired faculty member Tom Sauret.

Dr. Greg Williams remarked, “Our faculty, staff, and students are very excited and happy to hear the announcement that Dr. Sauret is our Hall County Teacher of the Year. Dr. Sauret is a brilliant educator and a lifelong learner.

“She inspires her students and colleagues with her constant pursuit of excellence as well as her unique ability to share her knowledge. We are fortunate to have educators like Dr. Sauret in our Hall County system and state.

“All of us at West Hall High School congratulate Dr. Sauret and wish her the best as she is being considered for the State Teacher of the Year Award.”

Dr. Sauret, who has 26 years of experience in education, teaches classes in Advanced Placement Spanish and International Baccalaureate Spanish at West Hall High. She obtained her doctorate in languages from the University of Georgia in 2004.

André Cheek
Former staff member and Director of Minority Affairs, André Cheek, is going to have a little more say in how education is run in Georgia. Cheek, along with 29 other parents from around the state, was named to State School Superintendent John Barge’s 2012 Parent Advisory Council. The council meets with Barge three times a year to discuss education issues. Parents are nominated by their school system at the beginning of each school year and are chosen by Department of Education representatives.

Cheek wrote and produced the play "Do You Remember When" that chronicled the history of Hall County's African-Americans since 1930. She is on the board and fundraising committee for the Edmonson-Telford Center for Children, which works with victimized children. Cheek's accolades include the 2007 Diversity Champion Award from the Women Putting their Stamp on Atlanta luncheon honoring the late Coretta Scott King and recognition from the National Association of Professional Women. She is now working on a program with Gainesville Middle and Gainesville High schools called Men of Distinction.
The GSC Foundation hosted a retirement reception for four dedicated faculty and staff members on Wednesday, November 2 in the lobby of the Continuing Education/Performing Arts Building on the Gainesville Campus.

Honored were: Glenn Canada, Police Officer; Charles Fowler, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science; Paul Glaser, Vice President of Business and Finance; and Pat Guthrie, Director of Donor Relations. The Foundation presented them with special goose prints, and their supervisors thanked them and described the impact they had on this institution. The Gainesville State College Women’s Organization also gave a mantel clock to each honoree in appreciation for their years of service.

The reception was catered by GSC’s own A.C.E. Catering Service.

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GSC SIFE Faculty Advisors Katie Simmons, Associate Professor of Business Administration and Chair, Division of Business and Director of SIFE; Garfield Anderson, Assistant Professor of Information Systems; Dr. Kelly Manley, Associate Professor of Economics and Chair, School of Business, Education, Health & Wellness, Oconee Campus; and Penelope Lyman, Assistant Professor of Accounting, also attended the event, along with Business Advisory Board Members Ron Simmons, UGA SBDC, and David Spencer, GSC SIFE Alumnus.

For more information about the student competition, see: http://www.usg.edu/social_business_microcredit/competition/

Foundations hosts reception for recent retirees

Gainesville State College’s (GSC) Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team placed sixth in University System of Georgia (USG) competition to solve social issues. The statewide contest called on student skills to create business solutions.

GSC students were among those from colleges and universities around the state who took the chance to put their knowledge to work through a recent statewide competition focused on finding business solutions to some pressing community issues such as domestic violence, adult illiteracy, unemployment, and housing.

The competition was held by the USG as part of a unique “Social Business and Microcredit” economic development conference held October 17 in Atlanta at Georgia Tech’s Ferst Center and hosted by the USG. Nobel Prize recipient Dr. Muhammad Yunus, who spoke to the event. The student competition was approximately 1,200 students attending the event. The student competition was based upon a Yunus concept, that social solutions to some pressing community issues such as domestic violence, adult illiteracy, unemployment, and housing.

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Education Club seeks to enrich the education experience

—by Matthew Yeary, GSC Education Club Co-President

The Education Club is a Student Government Organization managed by the Education Department. Most of the attendees are those pursuing Associate and Bachelor degrees in education, but members are not limited to those areas of study. Many members are from nursing, business, and even the science areas.

The club has three main goals: giving back to the community, informing members of current trends or issues in education, and collaborating with schools and child care facilities in our area. The purpose of the club is to actively seek and provide the best quality service to GSC students and community members by developing educational programs and sponsored events. The club also works to promote diverse membership, to enrich the education experience, and to provide excellent learning opportunities for everyone.

Over the summer, the Education Club participated in the Starlight event, painting over 200 faces. All donations received for the face painting were given directly back to the Alumni Association for scholarships to assist future students financially. Recently, the Education Club participated in “Make a Difference Day” with the annual Read-a-Thon event at the Hall County Book Exchange. This event is hosted by the Hall County Alliance for Literacy. The club brought over 65 readers to read for an hour, which allowed us to donate $20 per reader, totaling $1,300. Club members also painted faces in October at the annual Mule Camp in Gainesville. The money donated for face painting was given to Challenged Child and Friends, Inc. and totaled $400. Through the club’s annual Scholastic Book Fair held in the Student Center, $600 in books (over 120 brand-new books) were donated to Challenged Child and Friends, Inc.

The club has several upcoming events. One in particular is the “Eggstravaganza” in the spring, at which students from a Hall County School will come and play educational games at booths that include many clubs and organizations across the GSC campus. Alums are encouraged to come and participate in these upcoming events. Because many students who have earned Associate degrees stay at GSC to seek a Bachelor degree, there are many alumni that are both members and officers of this club.

For more information, please visit http://itec.gc.peachnet.edu/clubs/education/ or “LIKE” us on Facebook: GSC Education Club.

Members of GSC’s Education Club donated $600 in books to Challenged Child and Friends, Inc.
Parents: Help us keep GSC graduates well informed! Forward Anchors Away to your son or daughter, but first send the corrected mailing address label for your GSC graduate to the Alumni Office, Gainesville State College, P.O. Box 1358, Gainesville, GA 30503.

Upcoming Events in 2012!

January 11 – February 8: The Roy C. Moore Art Gallery will exhibit “Alpine Butterfly Bend: Recent Works by Sara DiDanto.” A closing reception will be held on February 8 at noon in the lobby of the GSC Continuing Education Building. For more information, contact 678-717-3438 or gallery@gsc.edu.

January 17: Ground breaking ceremony for the University Center/GA 400, scheduled to open fall 2012. This partnership between North Georgia College & State University and Gainesville State College will serve the region’s growing need for higher education services.

February 14-19: Gainesville Theatre Alliance’s performances of “The Grapes of Wrath”—visit www.gta.gsc.edu or call 678-717-3624 to get your tickets!

March 1-3: Come to the Musical Event of the year! It’s three nights of outstanding music! The 2012 Big Band Show features the GSC Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, and Chorale. Directed by Dr. Andrew Santander and Bruce Sellers and accompanied by Dr. Joanna Kim Doyle. For more information, contact Connie Esford at cesford@gsc.edu.

March 17: Spring Open House. The Admissions Office will be hosting prospective students and families on the Gainesville Campus. Students and families will have the opportunity to tour the campus as well as meet with faculty and staff from all academic and student service departments. For more information, contact Heather Page at 706-310-6309 or hpage@gsc.edu.

April 13-15: Our First Annual Alumni Reunion will kick off with an awards luncheon with a guest speaker and updates on the College. We will offer breakout sessions and tours of the campus (including the new Academic Building) and end Friday evening with a reception. Saturday morning will begin with an Education Reception for Bachelor Degree grads, and all alums will have an opportunity to attend a reception before the Georgia Force game at the Gwinnett Center. Sunday afternoon will wrap up our weekend with the Gainesville Theatre Alliance performance of “The Importance of Being Earnest.”