The Faces of GSC’s Fall Festival

$30 Activity Fee Sought to Fund Student Center

By Jessi Stone
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On Oct. 28, the Student Government Association sponsored the Annual Fall Carnival for Kids in the GSC gym. SGA President Jay Davis entertains kindergarteners from Oakwood and White Sulphur Elementary schools Jason Mitz, Chris Hendrix, and Ezequiel Velasquez.

The Faces of GSC’s Fall Festival

GSC War Veterans Share Views on Iraq

Motives, Experiences Highlight Discussion

Jessi Stone
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Gainesville State College war veterans gave their firsthand account of the war in Iraq in a Nov. 7 presentation.

Students for a Progressive Society and the Politically Incorrect Club sponsored a Veteran’s Day panel of GSC students who have fought in the war against terrorism.

The panel included Joshua Motes, Michael Chambers, Sean Keane, Barry McCurdy, and Kevin Fisher.

All of the young men joined the military before the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and each had their own views and opinions about their time spent overseas. Chambers was assigned as an Airborne Ranger in 2000. “I didn’t have money for college and I wanted to earn it myself,” he said.

Keane on the other hand said he joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he ran into some trouble with the law. The veterans gave a brief account of their experiences in the Middle East and their encounters with Iraqi people.

Motes was base security on guard in 130 degree weather in July and McCurdy was sent to Afghanistan on snatch and grab missions and stated, “I don’t regret it at all.” Keane reminisced about playing soccer with the children.

He said, “We learned lessons, gained wisdom, but I still don’t know if it was the right thing to do.”

After the opening statements, Chambers presented a DVD that he filmed while overseas with footage of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraq Freedom.

For the remainder of the event, Douglas Young, GSC professor of political science and advisor of the Politically Incorrect Club, moderated questions from the audience.

When asked what the panel thought of reinforcing the draft, Miller stated that “the draft is unconstitutional; we have people...

Continued on page 2
Guest Speaker Offers Different View of Muslim Life

By Trina Manty
Staff Writer
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On Oct. 26, 2005 the Students for a Progressive Society presented "Perspectives of an American Living in a Muslim Society" in Room 147 of Academic II on the Gavinsville campus.

Speaker Angus Anderson has been living in the predominantly Muslim societies of Central Asia for the last seven and a half years. He has also traveled through Iran, Syria, and Lebanon. He explained how the Muslim view of America has been affected by post 9/11 military action.

He described the similarities in American and Muslim perspectives. The majorities of Muslims hold moderate views, desire a government that is secular, not religious, and share in the universal desire for a "transparent government that is free of corruption." He explained that there are about "the same number of radical Muslims as there are radical fundamental Christians," who are willing to resort to terrorist acts.

Anderson had found that previous to U.S. action in Iraq, the Muslim community in general held a fairly positive view of America. While at times viewed as arrogant or bullying, most Muslims seemed to feel that "most things America did was good for the world."

In the past years, Anderson has witnessed the "unbelievable feelings of compassion, pity, and support for Americans" immediately after 9/11 turn into confusion, resentment, anger, and fear over the seeming lack of justification of the war in Iraq. But, he explained, "That doesn't translate into negative feelings toward Americans, because they view government as a distinct and separate entity from the individual, not necessarily speaking for them or representing their views."

Anderson's unique career began by flying 103 combat missions over Vietnam. He went on to a career in the private sector, in administration of schools, government, and teaching. He then accepted a position in Peace Corps Kazakhstan, where he served for six years. His relation of employment experience framed his remarks in the view of a man who has resided both inside and far removed from the typical American experience.

Dr. John O'Sullivan, faculty advisor to SPS, feels that was important to hear the perspective of an American living in a Muslim society, "because the relationship between these cultures is such a topic of misunderstanding."

Angus Anderson gave a presentation entitled "Perspectives of an American Living in a Muslim Society" on Oct. 26 on the GSC campus. Anderson shared with his audience his experiences of living in the Middle East for the last 7 years.

GSC Celebrates GIS Day with Informative Projects

By Joseph McGinn
Contributing Writer
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On Wed. Nov. 5, Gavinsville State College hosted GIS Day celebrating GSC's first four-year degree program in Applied Environmental Spatial Analysis.

The event was held in the science building.

Doors opened at 9 a.m. and the event was over by 3 p.m.

There were presentations throughout the day introducing and explaining what GIS is.

Hands on introduction to GIS, GIS presentation, and Remote Sensing were some of the presentations given.

Students also showcased projects and posters depicting with GIS throughout the day.

GIS day was not only celebrated by GSC.

GIS day is a global event and vendors and schools around the world hosted a GIS Day event just like GSC did.

According to GIS's website, "GIS Day was an event that showcases real world applications of this important technology to schools, businesses, and the general public."

Also, "GIS Day is part of the National Geographic Society's exciting new initiative, Geographic Action."

This is a year-long initiative encompassing key educational achievements such as GIS day and Geography Awareness Week.

International Education Week Storms Campus

By Adam Simpson
 Clubs Editor
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Hordes of children waited patiently in line to sample a selection of croissants and jams, a cluster of students demonstrated the can-can in traditional dress and meanwhile, the soothing sounds of a Thai wind ensemble entertained the crowd.

That was the scene one could encounter in the Student Activities Center on Nov. 16, as the Office of Minority Affairs held an International Fair.

The event headlined International Education Week, which took place from Nov. 12 to Nov. 19.

According to International Services Coordinator and event sponsor Tashiana Checks the International Fair was organized to celebrate the cultural diversity represented on the GSC campus.

"We wanted to be able to give the students who are participating in Mathis building on Nov. 14. Here, students looking to further their education outside of the United States were able to pose questions to the faculty members on the Study Abroad panel.

International Education Week also encompassed GSC's Campus Study Abroad．

Smoke Out, which was held on Nov. 17 to encourage students to curb their smoking habits.

The week of events were sponsored by International Services, Study Abroad, GSC Education Club, and Future Educator's International.

Karen Peters, Maria Gutierrez, and Cesar Gutierrez enjoy foods from other countries during International Education Week held in the Student Activities Center on Nov. 16. The event was sponsored by International Services.
Inaugural Memorial Honors ‘Bubba’ Dunlap

By Hannah Fields
Contributing Writer
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On Nov. 2 faculty, staff, friends and trustees of Gainesville State College joined together to celebrate the life and legacy of the late James A. “Bubba” Dunlap. Approximately 150 people attended the celebration, held in the C.E. auditorium, for Dunlap who was a distinguished member of the Board of Regents.

Dunlap was born in 1920 and passed away this year after an extended illness.

Dunlap was described as a “warrior” by life-time friend and fellow board member, Sidney O. Smith Jr., who spoke at the event. Smith went on to say that “the best thing to say about a person is that they really did make a difference... and Bubba did.”

In 1960 Dunlap was appointed to the Board of Regents and became the chairman in 1962. His work as chairman during that time helped to establish Gainesville Community College in 1964.

Dunlap also served on the Governor’s Commission to Improve Education and is credited with helping the concept of a junior college system become successful.

James Mathis Sr., friend and board member, contributed Dunlap’s success with building the junior college system to his “fertile mind” and new ideas.

Mathis and Dunlap worked together extensively throughout their careers.

In 2002, the Dunlap/Mathis Building on the GSC campus was dedicated in their honor. The James A. Dunlap University Center, a clear-house for baccalaureate and graduate courses offered on the GSC campus by NGCSU, was also dedicated in 2002.

Sidney O. Smith spoke at the Dunlap Memorial Service held on Nov. 2 for faculty, staff, and students. Smith served as a member of the Board of Regents along with Dunlap and also served as a Chief Judge for six years.

Hugh Mills Jr., a friend of Dunlap and former Gainesville College President said that Dunlap “energized the Board of Regents” and helped “put a college in reach of every student who needed to go for a higher education.”

This statement was echoed by Mathis as he spoke about the “great contribution” Dunlap made not only to the school, but to the Hall County area. “He was always in charge and always knew what was taking place,” Mathis said.

Dunlap and his wife, Eleanor also established a scholarship for the Gainesville College Foundation in 1993.

GSC President, Martha Nesbitt said that although Dunlap passed away weeks before Gainesville College officially became a 4-year institution, he was aware that the school applied for 4-year status. Nesbitt, who also spoke at the event, assured that he “would have been so proud.”

“...but keeps getting turned down.

Due to the refusal, Stoy said, "there is no time limit on how long we will be over there. Keane said "we'll be there forever unless something drastic happens."

Other topics that were approached were whether America will invade Iran in the future and the U.S. relationship with Israel.

Chambers explained that most of the Middle East views Israel as a terrorist country and therefore don’t think highly of America because America supports Israel.

He also said that the U.S. "will not invade Iran because we have no resources."

Motes’ future plans are to finish his core classes at GSC and transfer to the University of Arkansas in order to obtain his commission and return to the Army as an officer.

Chambers wants to continue his government service and work for the F.B.I. and McCurry is currently a business major serving in the Army Reserves.

As for Fisher and Keane, the two are part of a punk rock band, Horrible Idea and recently performed on campus to raise money for the Hurricane Katrina victims.

Motes said he was not against the draft if the country needs to be defended but he thinks voluntary service is better.

In response to the length of time that the U.S. will continue to occupy Iraq, Motes said that there is no time limit on how long we will be over there.

Keane said "we’ll be there forever unless something drastic happens."

"We’ll be there forever unless something drastic happens."

Sean Keane
U.S. Marine Corps

“...said the U.S. "will not invade Iran because we have no resources."

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Interested in photography? Layout and Design? E-mail the Compass at compass@gc.peachnet.edu

Scholarships involved.

Mold Not Reason for Music Building Renovation

By Jessi Stone
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After reading an article in the Compass last issue, Dean of the Faculty, Michael Stoy, informed the Compass staff that mold was not the reasoning behind renovating the Gainesville State College music building.

Stoy said that after hearing complaints from students and faculty about air quality in the music building last fall he decided to have several tests run on the building. Durbin Environmental Consultants were hired to perform an indoor air quality investigation that included a fungal Spores Test, Pollen Count Test, and other Debris Test. The test results did not indicate total fungal spore contamination, as stated on the report by Durbin Environmental Consultants. A thorough data collection was also taken on Nov. 12, 2004 from the building to measure temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide and these results were within acceptable limits on the day of the investigation. The only problem observed during the visual inspection were stains left from water leaks on the ceiling and the carpet. Stoy said that the music building is one of the oldest on campus and it was originally designed to serve as the Plant Operations Building. He said that GSC has been trying to get on the building plan for a new building but keeps getting turned down. Due to the refusal, GSC has to "maximize the space we have."

According to Stoy, the original plan was to renovate the music building with three phases but since there was money left over in the budget at the end of the semester the renovation was able to be completed all at once. As for student complaints about acquiring health problems before the renovations, Stoy reminded that 2004 was a wet year which tends to cause allergy problems.

After the report was completed, Mark Demyanek, a Certified Safety Professional and Certified Industrial Hygienist, conducted a follow-up and review of the report and the building. Demyanek confirmed that the tests run by Durbin Environmental Consultants in the building were accurately performed and calculated. Concerning the water leaks, Demyanek stated "The roof preventive maintenance contract that the college maintains also helps to insure that no new leaks develop."

In conclusion, Demyanek said that Gainesville State College will be wise to conduct the tests and all of the results ensure that the music building is "acceptable for occupancy."

"The best thing to say about a person is that they really did make a difference...and Bubba did."

Sidney O. Smith Jr.
Friend and board member
Advisors, Faculty Aid Students in Career Options

By Lori Randall
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Groans and muttered curses could be heard through typically peaceful GSC hallways recently. After the often feverish advising and class registration rush that can evoke so much unhappiness, all students really need to ask is, “Will I have a job when I’m done with all this?”

“If you don’t like what you’re doing, life can be pretty unsatisfying,” said Dr. Melinda Hawley, coordinator of career and personal counseling for Ocone campus.

It’s tragic, but “many students are telling me that their friends are changing majors in order to be accepted at UGA and working in a career that they don’t want,” said Hawley.

One student desperately wanted to transfer into UGA’s Terry College of Business, but felt certain that the GPA requirement would be too high. Instead of opting for an alternate career, however, this student sought career counseling and decided to earn a degree in Consumer Economics. This option will still earn the credential that will get a job in business. “There’s more than one way to earn the degree/career that you want,” said Hawley.

Both GSC campuses offer career path “problem solvers,” featuring unique approaches to state of the art resources, such as the nationally acclaimed SDS Holland Self-Directed Search and the Career Exploration Inventory. Extensive, current online resources give actual salary ranges for prospective jobs, as well as the best majors to pursue to get there. Perhaps best of all, GSC is equipped with a database that forecasts career opportunities though the year 2012.

It’s exciting when the diagnostics all confirm what the student was considering and when the statistics point to students being able to earn the credentials to work in a career where they can earn a living and do what gives them satisfaction.

Multi-Talented Author Speaks to GSC on Good Writing

By Justin Bailey
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Philip Lee Williams told GSC students that good writing comes from perspiration, not inspiration.

Williams, the Colloquium Series speaker for November began his discussion at 10 a.m. At 10:30 a bus load of middle school students entered the auditorium, doubling the audience to push the number of attendees to about 100.

The gracious Williams paused while they sat down, and then once again began to talk about his busy life. “I get up at 4:15 every morning,” Williams said.

“I go up to my study and read a couple of newspapers. I’m usually done writing by the time my family gets up.”

Williams is an author, musician, composer, college professor, husband and father. Though he is most famous for his writing, Williams said his first love is music.

“I know music better than I know anything,” said Williams.

“Music is like breathing.”

In addition to playing the piano and trombone, Williams has composed 18 symphonies and an opera.

He has accomplished all of his goals through technology and organization.

“I am fanaticaly organized,” said Williams. “I had one of the earliest computers you could buy.”

Williams has enjoyed the majority of his financial success as an author.

His first novel, “All the Western Stars,” was a hit.

“It paid for my house,” said Williams. “I made a lot of money off that book.”

“You can’t write a novel without a firm grasp of grammar, syntax, and the novels that came before you. After you have read your entire local library, you’re ready to write a novel.”

Philip Lee Williams - 2004 Winner of Michael Shaara Award for Civil War Fiction

His most recent novel, “A Distant Flame,” won the 2004

Hoop Dancer Visits GSC’s Awareness Program

By Meredith Short
Assistant Layout Editor
Mshort1@gc.peachnet.edu

Students heard Native American chants echoing throughout the Student Activities Center and also caught their friends dancing to its rhythm.

The Cultural Awareness Program for the month of November brought National Hoop Dancer Eddie Swimmer. Swimmer, who is an accomplished dancer and storyteller, participated in a number of Native Apache spirit dances.

Swimmer learned to dance from his family and attended both Western Carolina University and Brigham Young University. Swimmer has toured with many dance and music groups.

He performed in the 1996 Olympic Games Opening Ceremonies, the 1994 World Cup Championships and the Macy’s Day Parade.

After being introduced, Swimmer explained to the audience about the hoop dance and its purpose. He said that the hoop represents the circle of life or the constant circle of life.

Swimmer began his demonstration with four student volunteers.

He told the volunteers and the audience that the creator gave everyone a rhythm.

After the volunteers were appropriately hoop dancing, Swimmer began his portion of the program, and he asked for the audience to look for specific animals he makes during his hoop dance.

Swimmer made representations of a bird, a butterfly and animated representations of a bear and bull.

During this he gave authentic percussion instruments to willing participants and they kept the rhythm.

Finally, Swimmer made a circle of many participants in the audience, they formed a circle and danced around the Student Center.

Swimmer’s dancing experience led him to choreograph hoop dances found in Broadway’s “Annie Get Your Gun.”

Swimmer’s picture can be found on the Native American series of the U.S. postage stamp.

Another GSC student worked for a family business but was contemplating the teaching profession.

All tests and databases indicated that he would, in fact, be a great teacher and be able to earn a living doing what he always wanted to do.

“It’s so exciting, because a compelling confirmation like that can give people the encouragement they need to stick with their decision,” said Hawley.

“I hope before students change their majors and take a job they don’t want, they’ll take career counseling, because there are options,” said Hawley.

Career counseling services are free to GSC students.

Michael Shaara Award for Civil War Fiction

“I’m not what people will call a Civil War buff,” Williams said.

“I approached the book from the standpoint that the South was wrong in their stance in the Civil War.”

The road to success has been a tough one for Williams.

His accomplishments are due to his perseverance.

“Writing a novel is extremely difficult. It beats you to death,” Williams said. “Getting published is very difficult.”

Williams offered advice for aspiring authors.

“You can’t write a novel without a firm grasp of grammar, syntax, and the novels that came before you,” he said. “After you have read your entire local library, you’re ready to write a novel.”
New Employee Hopes to Make Difference with Minority Affairs

By Allie Jackson
Campus life editor
kja8695@yahoo.com

Tashiana Cheeks was hired Oct. 5 to begin her work in the Office of Minority Affairs as international services coordinator.

Cheeks graduated from GSC and is currently tackling an organic chemistry class.

She also has a bachelor’s degree in international studies.

Cheeks previously taught English as a second language at Lanier Tech and also worked as a substitute teacher for middle school and high school.

Cheeks is drawn to working with students. “I always seem to end up teaching or working with students,” said Cheeks.

According to Cheeks, there are about 40 different countries represented on the GSC campus.

“There is a wealth of culture on this campus and we want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be exposed to it,” said Cheeks.

Cheeks hopes to accomplish a program that will help international students adjust to GSC.

“One of my visions is to have an international services department that will facilitate international students and meet their needs from orientation until graduation or transfer,” said Cheeks.

Cheeks hopes to support international students and help them adjust.

“From meeting the student’s basic needs to helping students obtain scholarships, giving the students college tours, helping the students to find a job and potentially forming an international/multi-cultural club,” said Cheeks.

Tashiana Cheeks

Spring Class to Focus on Local Issues

By Luke Riley
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Gainesville Theatre students will soon have the ability to make a change in their locale while having fun acting at the same time.

Francine Dibben, associate managing director of Gainesville Theatre Alliance, will be offering a class this spring called “Theatre for Social Change.”

The class, which will count for three credit hours in “Area F” for theatre majors, or “Area B” as an elective, is going to focus on local social issues.

Jim Hammond, GSC theatre director, along with Dibben, had the idea to propose this to the students.

They had expected about seven students to show up to the initial meeting, but there were about 20.

This opened the doors for a class to be possible.

Students will be given an opportunity to identify an issue that concerns their local area.

Over the course of a semester students will produce a play based on the issue.

Dibbens reports that previous ventures into this style of theatre have generally focused on racism, sexism, or oppression.

Students will investigate issues that face society, perform acting exercises and be responsible for some reading assignments.

Dibben said there will be two books for the class, “Games for Actors and Non-Actors,” by Augusto Boal, and “Theatre for Community, Conflict and Dialogue: The Hope is Vital Theatre training manual,” by Michael Rhod.

Both books are the foundations on which this class was created.

This form of theatre was concocted by Augusto Boal, who is in exile from Brazil, as a result of his controversial theatre work.

“I think students who take it are going to have a pretty good time,”

Francine Dibben
--Associate Managing Director of Gainesville Theatre Alliance

Shawna McKellar, a graduate student, and Robin Hale, an actor from Northeast Georgia, will be assisting Dibben with the class.

McKellar has studied under Boal’s Techniques; while Hale has been acting for about 25 years. About seven students have registered for this spring.

Dibben said that this class would be a great opportunity for non-theatre majors to get involved not only in theatre, but also in their community.

“I think students who take it are going to have a pretty good time,” she said.

There is space available but the class is presently limited to 20 seats. It is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the Continuing Education/Performing Arts building.
On November 4, Chris Semerjian, assistant professor of geography, and nine of his students ventured to South Georgia's Sapelo Island for a weekend of labs that were to be conducted in the field. Pictured above on the right is Sapelo Island, the fourth largest of Georgia's barrier islands, and are pictured here on a smaller island just east of Sapelo called Nannygoat Island.
BSA Raises $300 at Chili Cook-off

By Adam Simpson
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The Black Student Association held its fifth annual chili cook-off Nov. 9 in the Student Activities Center.

The event helped raise more than $300 for charity. Since its inauguration in October 2001, the popularity of the chili cook-off with both students and faculty has helped it become a mainstay on GSC’s calendar of events, but BSA advisor and event organizer Andre Cheek is still keen to boost participation numbers in 2006. "We hope that next year all our clubs and organizations will get involved," said Cheek.

Cheek decided upon the cook-off during her first year with BSA as a method of getting campus organizations involved collectively, but it was never intended to become a yearly proceeding. "It was a success in its first year," Cheek said, "and so we decided to make it an annual event."

The cook-off allows GSC’s clubs and organizations to conceive and cook an innovative chili recipe. They then pay a fee to enter it into the contest. Each person who tries the club’s chili is given a ticket and the team who sells the most wins the cook-off.

The 2005 contest ended a stalemate with the Politically Incorrect Club and the Math Club each giving away the same amount of tickets.

The recent success confirmed a second successive victory for the PI Club, which won the 2004 contest outright.

BSA did not just recognize those who gave away the most chili, it also acknowledged the Second Wind Club for the time and effort its members spent decorating its table.

Edwin Atem dishes out a sample of his club’s chili to Logan Walker at the fifth annual Chili Cook-Off held Nov. 9 in the Student Activities Center.

The Black Student Association also held a Thanksgiving lunch on Nov. 21 in Lanier A and B in the Student Activities Center. President Shentia Stephens addressed the attendees at the beginning of the luncheon and thanked the entire body of faculty and staff for supporting the club in all its endeavors.

Phi Theta Kappa inducts 57 New Members in Biannual Ceremony

By Derek Wiley
Contributing Writer
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GSC held its biannual Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony Nov. 10 to induct 57 new members and honor two inductees, as well as a previous advisor.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for two-year colleges.

Inductees into the GSC program must complete 25 hours and earn a 3.6 GPA.

As each student’s name was announced by Phi Theta Kappa advisor Ray Lynn Snowden, the inductees who attended the ceremony each walked to the front of the room to sign the official roll book.

The official roll book includes the names of all of the Phi Theta Kappa members since 1968.

Out of the 57 new members inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, two, Siddhi Patel and Gabriel Vega, were given the distinctive honor of being on the all-USA Academic Team.

Vega has only been in the United States for five years, so this honor was particularly special for him. “All my effort has paid off,” said Vega. The honor will also motivate Vega to “keep working hard and not let anyone down.”

Christy Yeager, associate professor of mathematics, was also honored during the ceremony as a past advisor of Phi Theta Kappa.

Yeager said that “meeting the families of the students and getting to talk to students outside of the classroom” were her favorite things about being Phi Theta Kappa advisor. The inductees, parents, friends, and faculty of GSC, as well as everyone else in attendance, enjoyed cake, punch and pictures once the ceremony ended.

According to a brochure that was available at the ceremony, the purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to “recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students.

To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.”

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E-mail your info. to us at the Compass at compass@gc.peachnet.edu
### Clubs Guide

**CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT GC**

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<td><strong>CCC- Campus Crusade For Christ</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Monday from noon to 1pm in room 141 (Academic III)</td>
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<td><strong>Jazz Combo</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:20pm in room 111 (Music Building)</td>
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<td><strong>Sigma Chi Eta</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Compass Student Newspaper</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Math Club</strong></td>
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<td><strong>BSU- Baptist Student Union</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Future Health Professionals Club</strong></td>
<td>Meeting Time and Place: First and third Friday of each month</td>
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<td><strong>GCA- GC Alliance</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Psychology Club</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Wednesday noon-1pm in room 103 (Academic II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GTA- Gainesville Theatre Alliance</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: weekly production meetings are held every Monday at 5:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEA- Students For Environmental Awareness</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: First and third Monday of the month at noon in room 136 (Science and Engineering building)</td>
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</table>

**Advisors:**
- Ambassadors Club: Dotty Blais and Anita Turlington
- CCC- Campus Crusade For Christ: Andrew Santander
- Jazz Combo: J.B. Sharma
- Sigma Chi Eta: Allison Ainsworth and Caitlin Wills-Toker
- Anime Club: David Tate
- Compass Student Newspaper: Dave Banister
- Math Club: Delbert Greear, Robert Guyton, and Nicole Krochak
- Art Club: Megan Smith
- Engineering Club: Joshua Draa
- Music Club: Kervin Santos
- BSU- Baptist Student Union: Megan Smith
- Future Health Professionals Club: Josh Lanier
- GCA- GC Alliance: Michelle McDaniel, Caitlin Wills-Toker, and Connie Ringer
- Psychology Club: Clayton Teem and Connie Ringer
- GTA- Gainesville Theatre Alliance: Tracy Mayfield
- SEA- Students For Environmental Awareness: Mary Mayhew
By Luis Sanchez
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Imagine yourself getting on a plane, waiting 11-15 minutes until you reach 14,000 feet in altitude. Your heart speeds up, your hands start to sweat, and the person behind you alerts you to be ready, seeing that the clouds are the only thing ahead of you; what would you do?

For some people all of this is part of their everyday life, for others it is an unforgettable experience, and for those who’ve never heard of it, it’s called skydiving.

As part of the “twelve-twelve program” a few weeks ago, the GSC student activities office organized the skydiving activity as part of the fall activities for students. This program, according to campus activities advisor Brenda Adams, consists of “taking twelve students at noon to activities that are doable for them.” Adams also mentioned that she has been organizing winter ice skating and horseback riding for spring as part of the twelve-twelve series.

Skydiving, which normally costs $160, was only $90 for those students who were brave enough to accomplish the breath-taking feat, mainly because “we had a large number of people,” Adams said, “we only have to pay $140.”

This awesome experience was carefully accomplished with the help of instructors who helped overcome the nervousness and anxiety of those who were either willingly or unwillingly going to jump from the plane.

Gary Shaffer, an instructor at Skydive Monroe, made sure that the equipment used was in perfect condition. However, “there are accidents in skydiving pretty much everywhere,” he added. “No matter how safe you are or how hard you try, people have accidents,” but this experience is certainly worth the risk.

Nothing can compare with the amazing sensation of freedom in the air. For those who like speed, the feeling of a 130 mile per hour freefall beats even the fastest rollercoaster, and for those fearful of heights, it is a good way to quickly overcome that fear as well. Yet, there are those who find this activity highly addictive.

For GSC computer education student Miguel Paramo, it has been an experience that made him feel “adrenaline, high speed, adventure, and excitement.” This was his second attempt and as he said, “I will do it more because I just loved it.”

Gainesville State College student Miguel Paramo attempts his second skydiving trip in Monroe, Georgia. The trip for students was part of a twelve-step series of activities for students this fall.

Headhunters Sweep Season with a 6-0 Record

By Jeremy Tuttle
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Steaming over the hurdles of poor participation and bad weather, the Headhunters concluded the intramural softball season in style, sweeping the competition in the playoffs to retain their undefeated record 6-0.

When commenting on their perfect season, most of the players agreed that “working well together” was the secret. “Not saying anything bad about the other teams,” second-base/ right-fielder Hannah Fields explained, “but in intramurals when random people sign up and you pile them altogether, it’s just not as good a team.”

“I just got lucky,” Fields continued, referring to her own placement onto the Headhunters’ team following her original team’s “fizzling out.” “Everyone was really friendly.”

As well they should’ve been, factoring in their domination of the entire season, demonstrated best through the proceedings of the championship game, in which the mercy-rule was implemented after only a few innings and the ejection of one passionate player.

“We went out there to have fun,” Headhunters’ third-baseman John Nesbitt said, “and we enjoyed ourselves,” which is no doubt why most of the team plans to return for spring.

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Fall Intramurals Come to a Close

By Jeremy Tuttle
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As fall semester comes to a close, so too ends another festive season of intramurals.

With participation at an all-time best, this semester’s program featured an action-packed schedule that included flag-football, basketball, soccer, tennis, indoor volleyball, softball and swimming.

In addition to these, “I’d like to add badminton and ultimate frisbee,” director of intramurals Kayne Gibson told regarding his spring plans.

Whatever the case, though, next round of intramurals is sure to serve up more of the same excitement so stay up to date with the new spring schedule via the GSC website.
"What the hell?" was all I had to say after reading what were probably the strangest, yet most insightful essays on Pop Culture. After reading about Luke Skywalker being the definitive Generation X'er, whining about John Cusack, arguing country music's importance, and why born-again Christians are cool, I have decided that Chuck Klosterman is weird as hell, but he eerily makes sense.

Basically, the book is a series of unrelated essays on the strangest topics possible.

What Klosterman does is take mundane or everyday things, namely in the media, and relate them to Pop Culture and social mentality. Somehow, he actually manages to make sense.

For example, in one essay, "Sulking with Lisa Loeb on Ice Planet Hoth," Klosterman compares Luke Skywalker to a typical "Gen-X" kid. Luke Skywalker was a whiny, nice, hardworking guy, but then he goes against his dad and doesn't join the family business, all along whining and weeping across the galaxy.

Sounds a lot like our present generation, huh? Skywalker goes with what's right rather than what makes the most money.

I find it ridiculous that Klosterman was even able to pull off such hare-brained ideas.

What's even more intriguing is that they work.

I found out about Mr. Klosterman by reading my favorite snooty magazine, "Esquire." Klosterman writes a column for them every month, and they are usually pretty amusing and similar to this book.

He is full of wit, and obviously some sort of strange knowledge or at least an ability to see things a completely different way than the rest of society does.

Nothing in the book really made me mad or "challenged my way of thinking," but I can see how it may for some people.

I think this is probably the funniest book I've read since "America," by Jon Stewart.

Klosterman is a genius somehow. I don't have any idea where he comes up with this stuff, but it is hilarious and insightful.

This style of writing is probably my favorite style of Journalism/writing, as it is heavily opinionated and completely off-the-wall, but obviously not attempting to be unbiased or scrupulous.

This book is more of a weird memoir or social analysis than anything. I would definitely recommend this book, especially if you've got a relatively low tolerance to reading long works.

The book itself is 253 pages long, featuring 18 essays. I paid around $14 at Borders, and it was worth it.

If for whatever reason you don't like it, I think it would still be a good book to pick up just for conversation's sake.

Fans were thrilled to see Coldplay at the Phillips Arena on Sept. 28, 2005.

It's been nearly two years since they made a comeback to Atlanta. Their new CD "X&Y" has made it on the top Billboards list selling over 700,000 CD's worldwide and selling over 400,000 albums in the UK in its first week of debut.

Rilo Kiley was the opening act performing some of their songs like, "Potions for Fones" and many other songs on their recent album "More Adventurous."

Fans were anxious to see Coldplay hit the stage as a screen was counting down to zero behind the stage for their appearance.

Coldplay cheered the crowd on by singing "Square One" from their "X&Y" track, but didn't work the crowd up so much when they sang their first U.S hit song "Yellow" in the beginning of the show.

It was a delightful surprise for the audience as they cheered when the song came on as yellow beach balls fell down from the ceiling and bright yellow lights shined all throughout the arena.

Chris Martin, lead singer of Coldplay, worked the audience up with one of the previous hit singles, "The Scientist" as he joked around if he was singing this song on American Idol, "I would be voted off" and continued on with the song.

Martin apologized to his audience for taking so long to come to Atlanta to play as he remembered the last time they played in Georgia was at the Tabernacle a few years back.

The audience cheered loudly when he announced he had a surprise for them.

It turned out the surprise was guest singer Michael Stipe. Michael Stipe, lead singer of R.E.M, appeared on stage with Coldplay singing "Nightswimming" with the audience appreciating and applauding Stipe for taking the stage as Martin accompanied him on the piano.

It was stunning for me to see how much the audience was getting into all of the songs by cheering, screaming, dancing, and singing along with them.

I was really lucky to be able to sit in the suite section enjoying the great view of Coldplay singing for two hours worth of their songs that included: "Speed of Sound," "Clocks," "In My Place," "Kingdom Come," "Trouble," and many others.

Coldplay really worked the audience on their last song, "Fix You" which is their latest hit from "X&Y."

The four band members then gladly bowed and thanked Atlanta for their time and support.

Fans were still cheering and waving their arms up in the air after the show had ended and the band had disappeared back stage.

It was a night to remember.
'Walk the Line' Accurate Lifetime Depiction of Singer Johnny Cash

By Meredith Short
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“Walk the Line” will not make you want to walk out. Directed by James Mangold and starring Joaquin Phoenix as the legendary Johnny Cash and Reese Witherspoon as June Carter Cash, “Walk the Line” illuminates the earlier years in Cash’s life.

The film begins with a flashback to Cash’s childhood and the story then builds up through Cash’s growing years. This film would not do Cash justice without all the extra details in his life like his first marriage to Vivian Cash, played by Ginnifer Goodwin, drug abuse and infidelity.

It shows an in depth look at his first beginnings as a singer/songwriter as well as the touring with other up-and-coming performers at that time such as Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and June Carter.

A pivotal scene in the film happens after Cash and his band are trying to get a record deal singing gospel music. Sam Phillips was the record producer that Cash and his band were auditioning for and he told the band that he could no longer sell Gospel records.

Phillips explained, “If you was hit by a truck, and you was lying out in that gutter dying, and you had time to sing one song; one song that would let God know what you felt about your time here on earth, one song that would sum you up, that’s the kind of song that truly saves people.”

Phillips coaxed Cash into playing a song he wrote while he was in the Air Force. The song Cash sang that day was “Folsom Prison Blues.”

And by playing that song, he and his band got to make a record for Phillips company.

As with all films, there are mixed reviews as to how well the main actors portray their characters.

Some have said that Phoenix did a decent job while others have ripped his performance.

Phoenix did learn and sing all of the Cash songs featured in the film. I only have two comments for his portrayal; I give Phoenix tremendous applause for even taking on the task of trying to imitate a legend. Phoenix’s voice will never compete with Cash’s, but I commend him for trying and being as authentic as he was.

However, I feel Phoenix was too clean cut or pretty for Cash’s rugged exterior.

Witherspoon was an energetic and caring June Carter. I enjoyed her performance probably because this was my first glimpse into her life.

I grew up listening to Johnny Cash from both of my grandfathers and my dad, but I rarely heard Carter.

Not only did the viewer get a look into Carter’s life, but also Cash’s first wife Vivian.

Goodwin, who took on the role of Vivian, had a strong presence in the film.

“Walk the Line” helps its viewer understand Cash’s life as a whole and the people who meant a great deal to him.

I have to admit that I was very excited that this movie was coming out and I was not disappointed. In any account, it educated me about Cash’s life and his music.

Any fan of Cash or any fan of the music that was produced in the same time frame will not be overwhelmed by this film.

I highly recommend it for its biographical content, character illustration, and overall insight to a legends life.

I also recommend the CD, “The Legend of Johnny Cash,” to hear all of the songs that were performed in the film by Cash.

Experience Biba’s Tasteful Menu

By Jenna Parker
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Located just off of McEver road on Dawsonville Highway, is the inviting BiBa’s Italian Restaurant.

Less than fifteen minutes from GSC, BiBa’s is an Italian experience that can be enjoyed in between classes or with a significant other after college hours.

Step inside and be greeted by a warm smile as you are lead by your host to a comfortable table with a delicate arrangement of wine and flowers.

Servers are friendly and professional as they take orders and set you up for an afternoon or evening of candlelit pleasure.

Service is professional and well organized.

Every need is taken care of by servers who make it a point to keep you content and without complaint at all points of your dining experience.

Do yourself a favor and order the classic lasagna or even a homemade pizza.

And don’t forget the fresh salad. It’s heaven on a plate; or near enough that it makes no difference.

Other choices include ravioli and a variety of pastas, salads, Italian subs, and calzones.

Not to mention manicotti, baked ziti, veal marsala, and other assortments of Italian delicacies.

The lunch menu is filled with all of these items and more; all of which are priced at $7.95 or under.

You can also order entire pizzas for groups ranging in size from 9 to sixteen inches with prices ranging from $5.25 to $18.50.

And don’t forget the fresh, hot bread right out of the oven.

Relatively inexpensive while still tasteful, BiBa’s is an experience that is available to anyone.

With a window into the kitchen, you can watch food being prepared right in front of you while you sit in a comfortable booth or table.

A bar is available, complete with many selections of wine and beer. Bud Light, Bass Ale, Amber Bock, and Red Brick Ale are all draft.

Bottled selections include: Bira Moretti, an Italian beer, Corona, Michelob, along with many others favorite choices.

Whether you are taking out a beautiful young lady on a first date or just interested in a tasteful, quick bite to eat, BiBa’s Italian Restaurant is the obvious choice.

Open at 11 a.m. and closing at ten in the evening, BiBa’s caters to everyone’s schedule.

Other locations include: Lawrenceville, Cumming, and Gwinnett.

For reservations or more information, you can call (678) 450-1661 or you can find them on the web at: www.bibasitalian.com.
Non-Profit Organization Raises Over $10,000 for Underdeveloped Countries

By Dale Brannon
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On Nov. 6, over $10,000 was raised, and more than 100 people attended “A Taste of Jazz,” a benefit for A Time To Build.

A Time To Build is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding capital improvements in underdeveloped countries. Jerry and Robin Willis are the founders of A Time To Build. “We started A Time To Build in November 2003. Since then, we have been able to complete five projects,” Robin Willis said.

A couple of completed projects are a girl’s home in Ferrier, Haiti, and a boy’s home in Bangalore, India. A Time To Build works in conjunction with local organizations to minister and meet the needs of the people living in their community.

The cost for the evening was $50 per person with all the proceeds going to A Time To Build. Church’s Chicken, Robin Willis’ employer, sponsored the event. Because of their generous gift, 76 percent of the proceeds from “A Taste of Jazz” will go to A Time To Build. Willis sold her “2005 Stories and Thoughts Christmas Book” for $5. This book has short stories, quotes and poems that are inspirational and uplifting. All proceeds go directly to A Time To Build. Jerry and Robin Willis believe that God has truly blessed them so much that they can give back to people who need their help.

There was a silent auction that had items ranging from a signed football by Dallas Cowboy Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach, to an Andre’ Agassi signed tennis bag. There was also a jersey signed by Lance Berkman of the Houston Astros. The auction was not just for sport junkies. They also had a Delonghi coffee maker, “A Day Off” spa basket and a pair of Rosewood Orix Rocket speakers.

Later in the evening, there was a live auction that included a couple of vacation retreats and three paintings. One of the paintings brought to the event was by Johnny Coyle of Gainesville. When asked why he came here tonight Coyle said, “This is a good cause.”

The entertainment for the evening was provided by the GSC Jazz Band led by Dr. Andrew Santander. Santander, associate professor of music at GSC, said, “The way I got involved with them was they were big fans of ours who came to one of our shows. I looked over their information and we got the ball rolling from there.”

The event was held at the Bona Allen Mansion in Buford, Georgia. The home was built in 1911 by Bona Allen Sr. and his family. The mansion is now owned by Douglas Thorne who rents it out for weddings, receptions, and corporate events. He even does some off-premise catering. The mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Future projects include a safe sanctuary compound in Accra, Ghana, a Christian school in Maroitiere, Haiti, and an orphanage in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

To get more information about A Time To Build, their website is www.atth.org

Life of Shakespeare Displayed in Chester’s Thesis Project

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Briston Chester’s Senior Thesis Project, “Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)” kept audiences laughing through 16 comedies, 10 histories, and 10 tragedies.

Chester will be graduating from Brenau University with a bachelor’s degree in Theatre this semester and has been working on the project since April.

All of the complex characters of Shakespeare were played by Chester, Mary Ruth “Marroo” Ralston, and Nelson Rodriguez.

The three GTA students were directed by Heather A. Ward, a senior technical theatre major at Brenau University.

This production was rated PG-13 for mild language and sexual innuendo.

The three talented actors had quite a few costume changes but their shoes remained the same; bright converse high tops.

Although Ralston was the only female in the production, Rodriguez played a majority of the female parts.

The cast breezed through 16 comedies in minutes and concentrated on Shakespeare’s “funnier” tragedies including “Romeo and Juliet” and “Hamlet.”

The tragedy about the prince of Denmark was performed three times and with each performance the cast members cut the length of the work in half.

The last interpretation was approximately five seconds.

The cast turned “Othello” into a rap song and made “Titus Andronicus” into a cooking show.

As for the sonnets, Ralston made up her own that she believed combined all of Shakespeare’s and passed it around the auditorium after the intermission.

Crowd participation was requested in order to complete the characterization of Ophelia in “Hamlet.”

Ralston’s mother was selected from the audience to play the part which included one loud shriek.

The whole audience participated in preparing Ophelia for her treacherous cry before she drowned.

The many costumes were put together by Tiffany Towns and Mary Elizabeth Williams and the props which included a giant teddy bear and many awful wigs, were thought up by Liz Brendel.

The very adaptable set was designed by Lainey Welsh.
**The Voice of the Compass**

**Holidays Offer Time to Reflect**

Giant, robotic snowmen dressed in holiday style wave to drivers outside super sized retail establishments. “Ding dong merrily on high” blares tinnily through loudspeakers at a gas station.

Yes, the holiday season is here again. There has probably always been a tension between holiday commercialism and the genuine holiday magic that really is goodwill towards mankind.

Some years it is easier than others to rise above the tasteless flood of tacky and to savor the genuine sentiment one feels.

Whether one celebrates Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or the Winter Solstice or just New Years Day, the holiday season itself offers a blissful time for reflection and reuniting with friends and family.

It’s an annual opportunity to take the time to review the direction of the past year and to consider what worked and what didn’t work so well.

**Imperfect GPA Not Reason to Quit Major**

A tragic waste occurs every time a GSC student abandons their dream career because they don’t have a 3.9 GPA.

Many students have abandoned their chosen direction because they have such a narrow perspective of what their options are, said Dr. Melinda Hawley, coordinator of career and personal counseling for Oconee campus.

People may tell them that the ONLY way to get a good job in business is to have a sky high GPA and transfer into UGA’s Terry school of business.

If, for whatever reason, a student’s GPA is good, but less than stellar, there are still loads of opportunities to earn the academic credentials that will get them into the door for a satisfying job in their chosen professional area.

After all the hard work and financial investment, students deserve to earn credentials for something they actually enjoy, rather than changing majors into some area where they can achieve the grades, but hate what they are going to be doing.

This can apply to relationships, school and future career plans.

Shopping, eating and going to the movies are wondrous indeed, but perhaps the greatest treasure of the holiday season can be the incomparable opportunity to show people genuine appreciation.

A little more expressed warmth towards our friends and loved ones during the holidays can’t hurt anything.

It’s one of the beauties of being human. We can show appreciation in any number of different ways and no one method is correct.

Just allow kindness to happen if the impulse arises.

“No man is an island, entire of itself...I am involved in mankind.”

*John Donne*

Life is too short and the options are too plentiful to settle for an uninspired career path, based on disappointment and fear of failure. GSC students can do better.

GSC offers free, expert career counseling to all students and even holds job and transfer fairs.

It’s up to students to explore their realistic options and to decide what career will offer them the most satisfaction.

Few people have the time or money to meander through college without direction.

The opportunities GSC offers for individualized attention to students is a rare and valuable opportunity.

Don’t let it pass you by.

It could make all the difference in the world.

Students who wish to transfer to another college after GSC owe it to themselves to take advantage of this opportunity so that they can get the most done, in the most satisfactory way, in the least time and for the least amount of money.

**Interested in writing for the Compass?**

**Photography? Layout?**

E-mail the Compass at compass@gc.peachnet.edu
Opinions

Veterans Panel Discussion Informs Students About the Iraqi War

Jesse Stone
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On November 7, I was surprised when I found out that these young guys that I've had class with or seen around campus have actually served our country during the war. My first thought was “how did they end up at GCSU!” but by the end of the panel discussion I realized that those were my peers who are just trying to get an education like the rest of us.

Kevin Miller and Sean Keane were at a New Year’s Eve party when they got a call telling them that they were being shipped out to Iraq in two weeks.

During the panel the two said they were in shock and didn’t even fully understand why they were going to Iraq. Miller said that the whole experience made him notice what was going on in the world. I would hope in situations like that the men who were fighting for our country would know what they were fighting for but how many 18-year-olds do? We know this is obligatory, but what about politics?

Not many, but these veterans know more now and passed it on to the GSC audience.

These men should inspire us all to pay more attention to what is going on in the world and not just what is on our favorite ‘reality’ TV program.

Keane said that 70 percent of his platoon questioned whether they were doing the right thing, however 60 percent of them didn’t know anything about what was going on.

On November 7, Thomas Chambers stated that approximately 90 percent of the soldiers he encountered were proud of their missions. I don’t know much about military training and perhaps it would have been a good question during the panel discussion, but in addition to physical training I hope the military trains soldiers to understand the impact of their actions and what they are fighting against.

The Days of Fruitcakes Are Upon Us

By Luke Riley
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In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I have heard some pretty egotistical comments from the blockade political analysts at Gainesville State College.

From quite a few different sources, I have heard some of the most heartless, self-centered and close-minded things ever.

“They deserved it.” “They could’ve left.”

“They knew it was coming.”

Hmmm…

Saying things like these sure is easy from a comfortable cozy middle-class home in northeast, Georgia.

The main problem here is not the fact that the denizens of New Orleans “leech” off the community, but that fellow Americans have no compassion for those who have less than them.

Now obviously, there has been a great outpouring of money and time spent in rebuilding efforts in New Orleans, but at the same time, I have heard many suburbanites whining “Why should we help? They could have moved!”

People DIED in this hurricane. If this were just an issue of material loss, it would be one thing, but that was not the case.

I don’t think anyone really has the “poor” mentality going. Poor people obviously have less access to news and resources, but also they tend to have less education, and therefore, less common sense, thus impeding their exodus from their homes.

These people are the heart and soul of New Orleans.

Yes, they may be the drags of society, but these people and their ancestors built the New Orleans that we know today.

Creole IS NOT bourgeois white.

New Orleans IS NOT Girls Gone Wild.

New Orleans is the poor.

New Orleans is a mixture of French, African, Caribbean, Catholic.

Without these people, New Orleans is about as cultural as Popeye’s.

Now this is me being some overzealous-save-everybody whiny Liberal.

I am a pro-life Catholic, but I’m also humanistic.

Caring for our poor and injured (to say the least) is the duty of America.

Our job as Americans is to take care of these people.

No, not bankrupt them a new townhouse, Cadillac and big screen; but to provide relief and aid in rebuilding.

America is supposed to be the open arms to the world.

Emma Lazaras and the Statue of Liberty put it well-

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refusals of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

Yes, America may be the greatest country in the world, but with our freedom comes a great responsibility.

A responsibility not only to other countries, but a responsibility to our own citizens in need.

I’m not asking for or even expecting a massive drive to help out, but I think it is necessary and a sign of maturity for people to listen to and end the cold heartlessness coming out of their mouths.

Caring for the poor is our blessing and our burden. America’s government was built by the rich, but the infrastructure was built by the poor.

These people are the backbone of America, whether we like it or not.
Poverty, Hunger Instill Sense of Appreciation for Life in Peru

By Jenna Parker
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Going to another country has changed my outlook on life. Granted, eight years of my childhood was spent living the life of an impoverished, malnourished, ugly kid in Atlanta, but my life has been blessed compared to a great number of people who live in Peru and other countries around the world.

I’ve met many poverty-stricken Peruvians in my three trips. They live in houses made of scrap metal and cardboard, some live in parks with trees for roofs. Others live on the mountainous sand dunes outside of Lima along with half a million other “unfortunates.”

In all of my travels, it’s been hard to find truly discontent people. It’s not that they are happy with their “less-than” life. In fact, they are in constant struggle to find a job to put food on the table each night. No, it is the fact that the poverty makes them realize that life is precious and family is more than just family reunions and blood bonds.

We Americans are very sure of ourselves. We know that when we come home, there will be food on the table and electricity.

And that makes us poor, I think. We fail to realize that life is not about the next episode of “Lost”. We fail to realize that the new shirt we’ve been dying for is worthless in the long run. This makes us ignorant. It makes us cold and calculated.

Life ceases to be meaningful when we have no idea how hard it is for most people in the world to make it one more day. But in that struggle, life is more than just making it that one more day. It is making the most of that day.

But not everyone has the time to see the world anymore (for we have our own lives to take care of), so I would suggest you visit the cities in the U.S. Anywhere will do, really. Take a ride and instead of chatting with friends on your cell, take time to look around you.

“There is more to life than money.” Citibank says on their commercials often enough. I’m not sure that we understand that as well as we’d like to think we do. We say we want to live richly, but do we really?

When we are worried about who is going to marry who on a TV show, I would hazard to say that our definition of “richly” is a bit skewed.

When we spend more time staring at the tube than we do conversing with our family, I would say that our rich life is diseased and destroying us from the outside, in.

Money doesn’t make you happy.

I’ve discovered that firsthand as my poverty-stricken, Peruvian friends invite me to dinner and feed me everything they’ve got in their possession. I discovered it when the children followed me, not for money, but for a game of soccer. Life is about being who you are for whatever it is worth. And worth is not measured by how much money you have.

Rather, it is about what you can give to those around you.

Some of the richest people in the world are the people who live in houses made with cardboard. We should all look to them for inspiration for they are the only ones who know what life is really all about.

Cell Phone Use Becoming Problem with Students, Staff Across Campus

By Don Lovell
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The unsettling situation of inappropriate cell phone use on our campus is reaching critical mass.

A directive from school administration to ban them from certain areas has been implemented, signs have been posted around campus to announce the ban, our professors have alluded to their unwelcome presence, and yet we blatantly disregard rules, authority, and, more often than not, common courtesy.

Where, pray tell, is our respect for others?

Recently, while walking through the Housing Library, I noticed a fellow student wandering through the stacks, talking on her cell phone.

That same morning, while sitting in one of the library’s study rooms, studying (go figure...), in the next room a student is describing, obnoxiously and with profanities not worthy of print, his escapades from the weekend, all while using his Nextel with its incredibly efficient walkie-talkie feature.

Even during Dr. Helen Caldicott’s recent lecture, a staff member takes a call while seated in the auditorium.

Considering the casual tone of his conversation, I’d dare say the call is not urgent.

Impolite to those seated near him, disrespectful to our guest speaker, and exemplifying patently selfish behavior, this member of our esteemed faculty is setting a poor example for all, as well.

Aldous Huxley said, “I wanted to change the world. But I have found that the only thing one can be sure of changing is oneself.”

One way to change ourselves is to show our fellow students and staff the respect they deserve.

Keep cell phones on silent while on campus.

Whether it’s walking to class to drill through quadratic formulas, or on the way to be gently guided through the style, tone, and irony of a Faulkner short story, I set my phone to silent.

Additionally, I never talk on my little Nokia in designated quiet areas, like... the library.

I use my cell phone for business, community service, family connections, and even an occasional booty call.

But when I choose to use mine, I try to be considerate of others. I don’t want to see a campus-wide ban of cell phones.

I suspect there aren’t many students who would like to see an outright ban, either.

But if we don’t change our actions, someone will change the rules.

I’ll continue to do my part to reduce the cell phone noise pollution around campus. Will you?

STUDENT OPINION POLL

What are your plans for this holiday season?

“Mostly hanging out with family. It’s too expensive to travel.”
Doug Loggins
Music Major
Gainesville, Ga

“Visit my parents.”
David Newey
Social Work
Cornelia, Ga

“Hanging out with friends and family.”
Abby Bowen
Education Major
Buford, Ga

“Eating, eating and eating some more!”
Shane McClellan
Business Major
Cornelia, Ga
The Voice of the Compass

Now is the Time for Giving

Just like the folks at Angel Tree and the many other charitable organizations, we at the Compass encourage everyone to get involved in the Holiday Spirit.

As we all have heard over the years, the holidays are not about the individual, they are about others.

It is a time for fellowship, kindness, charity, and most of all fun.

This is, as the song says, “the most wonderful time of the year.”

As the season draws near, many services and companies will embark on campaigns of feeding the homeless, giving gifts to underprivileged children, and so many other wonderful works.

This season, instead of buying that really expensive gift for your best friend or significant other, spread the cheer by purchasing gifts for many, or just donating some time and effort to a good cause.

There are so many ways to brighten someone’s holiday and the question you have to ask yourself is “what have you got to lose.”

How could you not donate something to a charitable organization?

How could you not buy a gift for a stranger?

You never know what a person is going through and you coming up to them and saying something like “I don’t know who you are, but Happy Holidays” or either give them a gift, shake their hand, or hug their neck, something as simple as that could bring joy to someone’s heart.

So many times we find ourselves thinking of what we want and what we can get.

Especially as children, we all made a list of things we wanted.

How about this year we make a list of what others want and what we can do to make someone’s holiday season brighter.

We at the Compass encourage everyone out there to do something nice for the less fortunate this holiday season. You just might discover it to be the greatest gift you have ever received.

Fall Semester Wrap-Up

Whew. Fall semester is on its home stretch and we have seen a great deal of changes for the Oconee campus. Amongst these changes are food, traffic, and sports. Anyone who has been keeping up with this fall semester’s paper should be well aware of at least two of these.

The food issue has not yet seen a secure solution, however, in an opinion poll it was made clear what students want: substance – the kind of food that gives your body what it needs, not trickery that makes you feel full because it was specially made to do that, and only that, in a beaker by a laboratory in an unknown location.

As for the rumored solution for our food crave, it looks as though we are going to receive more vending machines with greater options.

For you sports fans out there it was probably a joyous moment to open up the paper and read about Athens YWCO working in conjunction with GSC Oconee for flag football.

This was another reoccurring fall story, and the collaboration between the Athens YWCO and GSC Oconee received rave reviews from both students and faculty. Student Life Coordinator Heather Posey states, “Athens YWCO is an established recreational sports program and they have the staff and facilities to accommodate our student body’s needs,” so we saw not only increased participation in flag football, but also better organization, which is a welcomed addition to a growing activity.

This fall plans for an alternative entrance to GSC Oconee have also been formed. Factors leading up to the decision to create a new entrance were the horrific traffic and the dangerous automobile accidents that were occurring at an all too rapid pace.

The new entrance is going to connect Bishop Farms Pkwy to 441 at the point where BFP stops and a left turn can be made in order to get into the back parking lot.

So we see that GSC Oconee is an ever changing school with ever changing demands. We want to play sports – they provide us with the necessary tools and accommodations to do that with. Finally, when we are playing bumper cars at the traffic light on Bishop Farms Parkway, they provide us with a safer and faster travel route.