GSC OK'd for Two More Four-Year Degrees

College Also to Seek Ed Degree in Spring

New Advisors: GSC has expanded its staff of academic advisors. Shown above are (clockwise from upper left) Director Julie Noefke, Mark Nabors, Brenda Perry, Lara Knight and Michelle Gillstrap. Not pictured is Angie Murrell. Read the full story on page 3.

GSC Students voted and approved the building of a new Student Activities Center.

On Dec. 5 through the 6, students were able to vote on an additional $30 activities fee per semester for the next ten years in order to support the construction of a new Student Activities Center.

Students were prompted to vote for or against the proposal when logging onto any GSC computer during the designated time.

After the voting period was closed an announcement was made that the student body voted in favor of the addition.

Alicia Caudill, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, stated that approximately 990 students voted online and about 77.3 percent of the votes were in favor of the new student activities fee.

GSC students will begin paying the new activities fee in January of 2007. Students who pay the fee but will not be attending GSC after the completion of the student activities addition will be issued a card that will grant them access to the building for one year.

The new Student Activities Center will include a TV lounge, computer lab, new restrooms, new food court, new study rooms, larger game room, and more. The construction for the renovation is scheduled to begin in early 2007. Student traffic during construction will be redirected to the side entrances.

Referendum Approves Fee for Student Center Renovation

By Jessi Stone
Editor-in-Chief
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Artist's concept drawing of newly renovated Student Center.
New Advisors Arrive at GSC

By Hannah Fields
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Gainesville State College recently implemented a new academic advising program, bringing in a new director of advising and five professional advisors, serving both the Gainesville and Oconee campuses.

On Jan. 9, the permanent Director of Academic Advising, Julie Noelke, started work, along with advisors Michelle Gilstrap, Kate O'Sick, Lara Knight, Mark Nabor and Angie Murrell.

The new staff will work exclusively in advising, taking some load off faculty members who act as advisors aside from their regular teaching responsibilities.

An advising audit in the fall of 2004 by the National Academic Advising Association, NACADA, showed GSC needed a professional advising program, confirming what many faculty members had been thinking for years.

Carol Howard, chair of the department of learning support, who also served as interim director of advising, said the new program is "the fruition of a dream that many faculty members have had for Gainesville State College." According to Howard, the idea for the advising program was almost ten years in the making. Howard said that faculty started to understand the need for a professional advising team in 1996, when the college was only about half the size it is today.

So why did it take so long for GSC to employ the new advising staff? According to Howard, it was partly because the need only became obvious as the college grew larger, and partly because of space limitations.

The new staff is paid directly out of the college's staff budget, so space limitations were more problematic than money issues.

When asked what the ideal student to advisor ratio would be, both Howard and Noelke agreed on two things: first that the ideal would be about 30-to-1 and second that such a ratio exists only in an ideal world, and not at GSC.

Howard was very glad to see the new advising staff arrive and has high aspirations for their effectiveness working with faculty already in place. She hopes that the new advisors "can help with advising workshops, especially for new faculty who have yet to learn how GSC does things."

Noelke also stressed the importance of advising, saying that it is "integral to the academic mission of GSC." She hopes to help students mature both individually and academically through the mentoring of the program.

New advisor, Michelle Gilstrap, graduated from GSC with an associate degree in English and had her own career uncertainties.

"I didn't know what I was going to do with a degree in English," she said. Gilstrap felt that it would have been easier if she would have had more one-on-one time with an advisor.

After finishing her degree at UGA, Gilstrap wanted to take the advisor position at GSC for the "opportunity to help other students realize what they could get out of the GSC experience." She said that she wants students to know that they "have some place to come with any type of academic question."

Gilstrap assured that if the advising staff doesn't know the answer to a question, they will find someone who does.

Gilstrap explained that for the most part, the new staff "wants to be generalists and field questions from every area." The academic advising office, located in room 120 of the student center, will take walk-ins as they come and students will be directed to the most capable person to answer any questions they may have.

Local Author Makes Living off Lies

Allie Jackson
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Georgia author Jack Riggs spoke to GSC students on Jan. 25 about his career as an author.

Riggs described to students and faculty how he is able to make a living off of being a "liar." Not lying in the literal sense, but Riggs makes his living off of fictional writing.

His first novel "When the Finch Rises" won him the Georgia author of the year award and was labeled by the Atlanta Journal of Constitution as the "Best of 2003."

"When the Finch Rises" is based on two boys that are trying to survive life as adolescents growing up in the south. The characters are best friends and face challenges like abuse, abandonment and death.

"The story is about two boys who try to navigate the dysfunctions of an adult world," said Riggs. The boys find strength in their relationship with one another. "They wish that they were brothers."

Riggs read excerpts from "When the Finch Rises" and his present novel "Nathan's Doxology," to students and faculty to give them a feel for how the stories flow and how they are different from one another.

Riggs begins his writing with a character and then builds on them as if they are alive.

"I draw a character and then I know them," said Riggs. "They are as real to me as you and I sitting in this room." He is able to write about fiction because he believes in the character's existence, said Riggs.
approval to award the teaching certificate and NCAE accreditation for the new program. During these first two years, however, students will earn their degree from SC and receive their certification from NGCSU. Stoy also said that SC would have to hire two specialty education faculty members if the Elementary Education degree is approved.

The acceptance of the degrees is based on the state’s needs and the already existing programs that SC offers. The BOR agreed in an executive summary that Georgia has a “critical need for well-educated teachers working with children from birth to five.” With the success of the Associate of Science of Early Childhood Education degree at SC, the transition into the bachelor’s program will be easier. Stoy said that the college already has the resources needed to make the two new majors available to students.

The Technology Management degree will allow students for supervisory positions in different businesses and industries including retail, law offices, and tourism industries. SC will continue to cooperate with Lanier Technical College with the Associate’s of Applied Technology Management by allowing students to transfer to SC after completing the two-year program at Lanier Tech. Stoy said that about 25 percent of SC students are non-traditional and attend SC because of the convenience and location. He stated that students will benefit from being a four-year institution because SC will be able “to better serve our local community and region.”

The process of being able to acquire four-year programs was a long one according to Stoy. The initial process began in 2002 when the state began to assess two-year schools in order to recognize needed programs and patterns of growth. When it eventually became time to request changes in name and sector in 2005, only four institutions were considered ready for the change including Gainesville College.

**924 Numbers Replace SSNs as College IDs**

By Derek Wiley
Staff Writer
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On Jan. 1, Gainesville State College officially switched from social security numbers to a new randomly assigned identification number to identify students.

Each 924 number is nine digits and students must use their 924 ID number to check email, shared class files, logon to any computer on campus, Banner Web, and WebCT Vista.

The switch has not been easy for SC students. According to Linnea Haag of the ACT Technology Center, nine out of ten questions she was asked on the first day of classes were based on the new 924 ID number.

Once students get used to using their new ID number, access to SC will be simpler. “Students now only have one number to remember to access everything they need at SC,” Haag said.

Students still having quandaries with their ID number can find assistance through the new SC website, www.gsc.edu.

According to the SC website, “The 924 Number will be used across all systems, applications, and many business processes throughout the lifetime of a student’s association with the college. This change is in accordance with SC’s new ‘Social Security Number Policy’. This step is critical in the continuing efforts to reduce the risk of identity theft for the campus community.”

**Erskine Honors Dr. King by Keeping the Dream Alive**

By Tia Lynn Lecocick
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On Jan. 11, 2006, Dr. Noel Erskine visited the GC Campus to honor the memory and continue the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Erskine delivered a brief account of the Civil Rights Movement around sixty members of students and faculty.

Before Erskine paid tribute to King, he focused on the woman he called “the first lady of civil rights,” Rosa Parks. The ever-so-familiar story of Parks came to life as he read her own account of her infamous refusal to move to the back of the bus. He began with Rosa Parks because he accredits her with propelling the civil rights movement into motion.

“Rosa Parks sat down, so Martin Luther King could stand up!” he said.

As Erskine expounded on King’s work toward ending segregation and fighting for human rights, it became apparent that King’s faith played an enormous role in shaping his beliefs, agendas, and goals not only for his own race, but for the entire world. The belief in the existence of a moral order in the universe and in a God whose essence of character is goodness caused him to recognize each human being’s individual worth. He maintained that this worth could not be diminished, nor should it be overlooked by the powerful, corrupted leaders of the world.

According to Erskine, King waged a war for civil rights that still continues to rage on today. He did not fight this war with guns, bombs, or violence, but with something much more powerful, much more dangerous, and much more resilient: a dream, a dream that would not die in the minds and hearts of the oppressed. Long after the dust cleared from the bombs exploding in black churches, long after the noise of the fatal gun shot that took King’s life ceased, the dream still lives on, a vision of freedom and equality for all that will not, and should not perish.

Erskine read the account written by King just days before his assassination. Erskine described how King wrestled with doubt and fear, and he even considered giving up the fight for his notorious dream. He told the Lord that he was standing up for his convictions of justice, equality, and freedom. He cried out for God to bestow upon him the strength and courage he needed to see his mission through until the end. His prayer was akin to the Bible’s Sampson, who at the end of his life cried out for God’s strength so he could tear down the mighty temple pillars, even if it meant he would be killed in the process. Like Sampson, King would receive the strength for which he cried out. The pillars of segregation may have come crashing down upon him, but they came down nonetheless. Although his life was tragically crushed beneath the ruins, his dream is indeed, still alive.

The lecture itself was captivating and done with much conviction. Erskine regretfully and correctly pointed out that many young people are unaware of contemporary history. The magnitude of the sixties and seventies is too often lost on our generation. For Dr. King’s noble dream to continue to become a reality, education and courage are musts. The celebration and retelling of such figures as King is essential for our generation to grasp the evil that is none too far behind us and not nearly yet defeated.

No matter how great the cost, our generation too needs to stand up for the divine rights and worth of our fellow human beings, and stand up against the injustices of today.
Adam Simpson
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As the new semester commenced, the Director of Student Activities Search Committee took another step towards making an appointment by whittling the number of candidates for the post down to three. The committee, which consists of a diverse body of faculty, staff, and students, reviewed a variety of applications provided by suitors from across the country before choosing Kaci Wilhite Jones, Sean Thomas, and Darrell Brewer as finalists for the position.

Jones is currently the Coordinator of Student Activities at Palm Beach Community College in Lake Worth, Florida. She holds a Master of Education degree in Education Administration, with an emphasis in Higher Education, from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Theatre Arts from Mercer University.

Thomas currently holds the position of assistant director of student activities at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia. He obtained a Master of Arts degree in Higher Education Administration and a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Studies from Ball State University and is in the process of earning a Masters degree in Public Administration at Georgia State University.

Brewer presently serves as the director of student activities at Athens Technical College. He has a Master of Education degree in Art Education and a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education, both of which he earned at North Georgia College and State University.

Mack Palmour, director of admissions and the committee chairperson, felt that Jones, Thomas, and Brewer had the most "pertinent experience" for the job, which will involve a hands-on role with both the Student Government Association and the college activities board. They will also help manage all the student activities programs currently on offer as well as initiate some new programs, while an immediate task will be to help coordinate next fall's SOAR (Student Orientation Advisement Registration) sessions.

Palmour added that the appointment of a new Director of Student Activities is of paramount importance as the college continues its expansion and he is looking forward to working with whoever is appointed.

"Having a Student Activities Director is integral if we [the college] are to help mould students' opportunities outside the classroom," Palmour said.

"The endeavors of a student inside the classroom are most important, but the endeavors of a student outside of the classroom are also a fundamental part of college education."

According to Palmour, a final decision will be made soon.

"We expect to make the appointment within a few weeks," he said. "They will then be with us as soon as they can be released from their current institutions."

English Instructor Remains a Student Himself

By Don Lovell
Contributing Writer
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Have you ever considered poetry and woodworking to be of the same muse? Well, Matthew Byars, a 37-year-old English instructor at Gainesville State College, does. Poet, academic, and wood-craftsman, Byars has been at GSC for three years. He is teaching three-English 1102 classes this semester.

After he received a master's degree in Medieval and Renaissance Drama from Texas Tech, Byars is now in the second year of working towards his Ph.D. at Georgia State University. His concentration is in creative writing and poetry, and he describes himself as being a poet at heart.

"People don't read poetry much anymore," he said. "One hundred, two hundred, three hundred years ago, everybody read poetry. It was something that had to do with their lives, something they could relate to," said Byars. He said that there's been a revival of 'accessible poetry,' the style he writes and enjoys reading.

"There's a difference between accessible and simple. A poem can be accessible and still be complex," he added.

Byars’ other passion, woodworking, requires as much creativity as writing poetry, said Byars. It started as two friends whittling. Then, having caught the fever, and after buying a shop full of equipment, he is now into the thick of it. He is producing tables, chairs, picture frames, and other assorted crafts. He said he has even picked up some extra money.

He has been rated 'hot' and scores a 5.0 on www.ratemyprofessors.com. But he demonstrated his modesty when questioned about his new-found status.

Byars said his teaching experience at GSC has been wonderful, in a large part because of the faculty.

"Everybody goes out of their way to help, which you don't find in a lot of places. There's a lot of dog-eat-dog stuff out there, but not around here," he said.

Byars said he has enjoyed every semester he has taught at GSC.

When asked what challenges he faces in teaching, Byars said he has trouble being tough enough on his students.

"I remember those teachers who pushed me. I'm learning to do that. Sometimes [students] just need a little push," he said.

When asked if this was because he teaches core curriculum rather than electives, he said "Now there's another challenge. You don't push harder; you push smarter."

He also said attention spans are shorter today. With computers, television, cell phones and other distractions, getting students to read for thirty minutes is an accomplishment in itself. To help get them more involved in class, he assigns short stories dealing with themes the students are likely to be dealing with. He also recommends reading short stories to rediscover the benefit, and to get back into the habit of reading.
GSC Life

Lorence Retires with Honors

By Trina Manty
Staff Writer
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GSC President Martha Nesbitt and James Lorence pose at his retirement reception. GSC's Social Science and Education Division held the reception for Lorence, professor of history, on Jan. 19 in room 103 of the Academic II building. Instructor of Communication Allison Ainsworth and Nesbitt both presented Lorence with a plaque and a tree was planted in his honor on the GSC campus. Lorence has held the title of Eminent Scholar since coming to the college. Lorence is currently working on an autobiography based on a local individual.

B&B Books Cuts Textbook Costs

By Allie Jackson
Assistant Editor-In-Chief
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A GSC English Professor has hit the bigtime in the Big Apple. The one-act play “Three-Cornered Love” opened Dec. 7 and ran for about one week. Assistant Professor of English, Dottie Blais, is the mastermind behind the script.

According to Blais this is her “Broadway baby.” Although the play did not show on Broadway, this is the first play Blais has submitted that has gone all the way to New York City. “The theatre that played and produced the play, The American Theatre of Actors, is a starting ground for up and coming playwrights,” said Blais.

The producer of her play and founder of ATA, James Jennings, gives new writers, actors and directors a chance to showcase their ability. Several Broadway productions got their recognition from ATA and actors Dennis Quaid, Kevin Spacey, and Bruce Willis, to name a few, have worked at ATA.

Blais submitted her script and received a call from Jennings stating that he liked the play and would like to produce it. The director then stayed in touch with Blais via e-mail and phone in regards to questions about the script “Three-Cornered Love” is about a love triangle. There are three actors: a husband, a wife and the wife’s best friend. The story begins with a conflict between the husband and wife over having children. The wife comes into the marriage with a promiscuous background which had led her to a previous abortion.

When asked if she felt the director portrayed her vision, Blais said the only differences were the setting and a few added words to create slang. Blais had imagined the young couple living in an area similar to Buckhead.

When attending opening night, Blais was a little surprised when the setting was in a more economically challenged area than she had imagined.

The setting, however, did not change the concept of the story. “These are conflicts that happen to all people, no matter what setting they are in”, said Blais.

This is not the first play Blais has written, and she has been busy working on her next submission.

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Sharma Advises Physics Club

By Richard Smith
Staff Writer
924142707@gsc.edu

The Physics Club is advised by Professor of Physics J.B. Sharma.
Sharma teaches Remote Sensing, which are courses involved in the GIS curriculum, and Physics. The Physics Club has been a part of GSC since about 1988. Despite what students might think, the club does not consist of large in-depth analysis of the blood curdling, multi-derivative calculus or any other mind-numbing mathematics.

In fact, math is generally not discussed. The key focus is to look at the overall interconnectedness of science, culture, reality, and ideas via fun applicable activities open to anyone with an interest in their world.
The club activities range from having on-campus speakers such as Instructor of Mathematics Delbert Greear, to having off-campus speakers like Nuclear Physicist Dr. Pryor. Some other activities include being part of the Science Olympiad, a local event which encourages science education in the community, or discussing String Theory. Students may even find themselves playing electric field hockey or listening to M.I.T. Nobel laureates speaking about their latest research in String-theory or the philosophy of physics via mitworld.mit.edu, a link directly from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition, The Physics club takes an annual trip to Six Flags for Physics day. On this day the entire Six Flags Park shuts down, only opening for high school and college physics students to explore, learn from, and just as importantly to have fun. The Physics Club also does several service projects with the community. One such project, which was slightly impaired by the brutally-cold weather this past Saturday, is the GSC Physics Club and North Georgia Astronomer annual meeting. In this annual meeting, alumna from the North Georgia Astronomers, Physics Club members, and any one from the community, meet in order to discuss and observe the night sky. Generally this amalgamation of laymen and avid star gazers at first has a telescope help session, a time in which different telescopes and their usages are discussed. Afterwards there is an observing session. In this observing session the group will talk about and look at Orion's nebula or sun spots.
The focus of this past meeting was to look at Saturn, which is the brightest it will be before the year 2029.

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Black History Month

Schedule of Events

“African American Historical Display”
Wed. Feb. 1 at noon in the Student Center

Film Festival “Slavery and the Making of America”
Tuesdays and Thursdays Feb. 7 through Feb. 14
All films to be presented in the Student Center Lanier A&B
From 12:30 to 2p.m.

Zambian Vocal Ministries “Making the Difference”
Wed. Feb.8 at noon in Student Center

Town hall Panel Dialogue/Discussion
“Merging of the Races: Have we arrived?”
Mon. Feb.13 in the C.E. Building Auditorium at noon.

Cultural Festival
The BSA will present entertainment and cultural foods
Wed. Feb.15 at noon in the Student Center.

Speaker Dr. Marvin Dulaney presents “The Ties that Bind.”
Wed. Feb.22 at noon in the Student Center

“L.A. Waters African American Male Recognition Banquet”
Speaker Ronald Lewis, former NFL player for the San Francisco 49ers
Tickets $25 per person
Sat. Feb.25 at noon in the Student Center.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUBS GUIDE</th>
<th>CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AT GC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ambassadors Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>CCC- Campus Crusade For Christ</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting time: First and third Monday of each month (Science and Engineering Building)</td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Monday from noon to 1pm in room 141 (Academic III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President: Tannor Goodson</td>
<td>President: Cheryl Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President: Abby Minor</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:924147107@gsc.edu">924147107@gsc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Secretary: Kelli Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Chairman: Carmen Edels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrapbook and Events Coordinator: Millie Hilliard</td>
<td><strong>Jazz Combo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor: Michelle Brown</td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:20pm in room 111 (Music Building)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mbrown@gsc.edu">mbrown@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Advisor: Andrew Santander</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anime Club</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Friday at noon in room 170 (Academic II)</td>
<td><strong>Latin Student Association (LSA)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>President: David Tate</td>
<td>Meeting place: Room 109 (Deulap-Mathis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:924150311@gsc.edu">924150311@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>President: Nancy Bautista</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor: Patsy Worrall</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:pworrall@gsc.edu">pworrall@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td><strong>Math Club</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Art Club</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place and place: Periodically in room 138 (Academic III)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Wednesday noon-1pm in room 133 (Deulap-Mathis Building)</td>
<td>President: Kris Manley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Academic II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>President: Megan Smith</td>
<td>Advisors: Delbert Greear, Robert Guyton, and Nicole Krochak</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BSU- Baptist Student Union</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phi-Theta-Kappa</strong></td>
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<td>Meeting time and place: every Wednesday at noon in Lanier A&amp;B (Student Activities building)</td>
<td>Advisors: Ray-Lynn Snowden and Gina Reed</td>
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<tr>
<td>President: Megan Dunahoo</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:greed@gsc.edu">greed@gsc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Advisor: Jason Ponders</td>
<td><strong>Politically Incorrect Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jponden@gsc.edu">jponden@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Monday at noon in room 147 (Academic II)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Future Health Professionals Club</strong></td>
<td>Advisor: Douglas Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting time and Place: First and third Friday of each month</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:dyoun@gsc.edu">dyoun@gsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President: Lindsey Harris</td>
<td><strong>Psychology Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:924139648@gsc.edu">924139648@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Wednesday noon-1pm in room 103 (Academic II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisors: Paula Nollbos and Tim Howell</td>
<td>Advisors: Clayton Tcoon and Connie Ringer</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cringer@gc.peachnet.edu">cringer@gc.peachnet.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GCA- GC Alliance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Physics Club</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: noon in room 134 (Academic III)</td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Wednesday at noon or every Tuesday at 11:30am in room 228 (Science and Engineering Building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President: Shania Stephens</td>
<td>Advisor: J.B. Sharma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor: Andre Cheek</td>
<td><strong>SIFE- Students In Free Enterprise</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:acheck@gsc.edu">acheck@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Tuesday at noon in room 116 (Continuing Education Building)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jazz Band</strong></td>
<td>Advisor: Tom Sauret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:15pm in room 111 (Music Building)</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tsasuret@gsc.edu">tsasuret@gsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisor: Andrew Santander</td>
<td><strong>SIFE- Students In Free Enterprise</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:asantander@gsc.edu">asantander@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td><strong>ROX- Recreational Outdoor Experiences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sigma Chi Eta</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Friday at noon in room 203 (Science and Engineering Building)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Wednesday at noon</td>
<td>President: Adrian Stowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President: Heather Morris</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:924154761@gsc.edu">924154761@gsc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:924154761@gsc.edu">924154761@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Advisors: Allison Ainsworth and Caitlin Wills-Toker</td>
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<td>Advisors: Allison Ainsworth and Caitlin Wills-Toker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:cwtoker@gsc.edu">cwtoker@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td><strong>SORBA- Gainesville College Mountain Biking Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Tuesday at noon in room 170 (Academic II)</td>
<td><strong>SIFE- Students In Free Enterprise</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>President: Daniel Elsey</td>
<td>Meeting time and place: every Tuesday at noon in room 116 (Continuing Education Building)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:924146016@gsc.edu">924146016@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Advisor: Katie Simmons</td>
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<td>Advisor: Tom Sauret</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tsasuret@gsc.edu">tsasuret@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td><strong>ROX- Recreational Outdoor Experiences</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GT- Gainesville Theatre Alliance</strong></td>
<td>Meeting time and place: weekly production meetings are held every Monday at 5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting time and place: weekly</td>
<td>Advisor: Jim Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>production meetings are held every Monday at 5:30pm</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jhammond@gsc.edu">jhammond@gsc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor: Jim Hammond</td>
<td><strong>SEA- Students For Environmental Awareness</strong></td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jhammond@gsc.edu">jhammond@gsc.edu</a></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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<tr>
<td>President: Tracy Mayfield</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tmay3738@gsc.edu">tmay3738@gsc.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tmay3738@gsc.edu">tmay3738@gsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Advisors: Mary Mayhew</td>
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Sports Briefs

March Intramurals
Flag Football
Volleyball
Sign-ups start Feb. 6
Sign-ups end Feb. 21
Games start Feb. 27

Swim Meet
Wednesday, Feb. 22
Meet starts at 12:15
Volunteers are needed for scoring and timing.

Want to Volunteer as an Official or Referee for Intramurals?
Go to the GSC intramurals page, at www.gsc.edu/pe/intramurals or contact Director Kayne Gibson at: Kgibson@gsc.edu

Schedules for February Intramurals now posted online!

Ultimate Frisbee Offered for April Intramurals

By Derek Wiley
Staff Writer
924147764@gsc.edu

In April GSC will introduce a new sport to intramurals. Ultimate Frisbee will take the place of the usual track and field. According to Director of Intramurals, Kayne Gibson, the change is due to “interest by students.”

GSC intramurals will kick off the spring semester Jan. 25 with soccer and 5-on-5 basketball.

Softball and badminton will also be offered in April.

Students interested in the Intramural Swim Meet can find sign-up forms in the main office of the PE building. The swim meet is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22.

The fall 2005 semester of intramurals saw student participation double from the previous year. Gibson is excited to see the increase in participation.

“I want students to think of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon as the time to go to the rec. field to play intramurals,” Gibson added.

Students can find further updates on the GSC intramurals website at www.gsc.edu/pe/intramurals.

Have any information about your club that you would like to see in the paper? E-mail your info. to us at the Compass at compass@gsc.edu

Hoops!

Tim Baker of the ‘Dream Team’ dunks the ball during a game at the Gainesville State College Fitness Center on Jan. 24. Students play every afternoon at 3 p.m.
Sensationalism Portrayed in GTAs ‘Front Page’

By Jenna Parker
Arts and Entertainment Editor
924155113@gsc.edu

Debuting on Feb. 14 and running through the 25, “The Front Page” is being produced at Brenau’s Hosch Theatre.

Also debuting as a first time director for GTA is Assistant Professor of Theatre, Brent Maddox.

Written by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur, “The Front Page” is a play that deals with issues with sensational journalism in the early nineteen hundreds. The plot centers around one “Hildy Johnson” a newspaper reporter about to retire the journalism business to get married. Things change quickly when Hildy runs across an escapee and harbors him in the newspaper office. A dangerous game ensues as the Sheriff and other sniffing reporters are hovering over the story.

Although the first production of the play was said to be “ground breaking and vulgar,” Jim Hammond, GTA’s Artistic and Managing Director, is quick to say that this adaptation has been turned into a 1940’s style piece that illuminates the under-belly of the media, focusing on the roles that women played in journalism at the time.

The original script had “Hildy Johnson” cast as a man, but in this adaptation, Hildy will be played by a woman. The reason for this change in gender, Maddox explains, is that, “looking at the season, we wanted an American, romantic comedy.” A romantic comedy is timely, since the opening night occurs on Valentine’s Day.

Musical theater major, Liz Brendel, who has been acting since her freshman year of high school, has been cast as Hildy. When asked how she felt about “The Front Page,” Brendel said, “I like it because it’s fun and fast paced while containing strong messages about the media and the issues of equal opportunity for women.”

Actress Tracy Moore who plays “Molly Malloy” thinks that “The Front Page” is a “good period piece [that] shows the style of journalism. It’s fast paced and fun.”

And style there will be. Maddox details that “The Front Page” will be similar to 1940’s classic movies, lined with a Chicago dialect, and embossed with costumes that accent the time of the piece such as sharp, crisp suits for the men, pencil line skirts for the women, and gloves and hats for both genders. “During that time, people were very formal,” comments Maddox, “We want to highlight that in the costumes and in the mannerisms.”

Assistant Lighting Designer, Jenn Trippe comments, “It’s a fast paced, mad-cap comedy,” and actor Will Bradley, who plays “Ben Singer” says, “It’s a very big challenge.”

But, there is more to the challenge than just acting. “The Front Page” deals with yellow, or sensational, journalism.

Maddox describes “The Front Page” as a “satirical look into the world of journalism and the enormous power that it has on both society and the individual.” Maddox feels that this production is a timely piece for America today. “We rely heavily on journalism in the world and we assume naturally that it’s the truth,” comments Maddox somberly.

“Unofficial” Props Master, Nicole Williams says that this production is going to be technically complex with over two pages of props, candlestick phones that have been wired to ring on stage during the production, and several different levels on the set. This production has, “lots of bells and whistles,” says Williams. Maddox also explains that the set will also have working doors that will be slammed and a window that one of the characters is supposed to jump out of. “There’s a lot going on at once,” says Maddox.

When asked about the cast Maddox said, “It’s a great cast. We pulled [the cast] from a deep talent pool.” Maddox also commented that there are new actors to hit the main stage for this production which has made the piece even more energetic.

Tickets are on sale now and free nights are available for GSC students. Pictured above from left to right are Derrick Leadbetter, Zach Burke, Liz Brendel, Mayes Hopkins, and Amelia Hammond.
Comic Relief to Ease Pain of a Bad Breakup

I was so embarrassed while standing in line waiting to purchase a "breakup" book. I placed it face down on the counter under my Truman Capote book in hopes that the male clerk wouldn't notice it.

The cover stood out when I walked down the personal growth aisle. The cover has a hot pink pint of ice cream and is titled "It's Called a Break-up because it's Broken." Authors Greg and Amiira Behrendt, a married couple, compiled their own disastrous past relationships and wrote the "Smart Girl's Breakup Buddy." The Behrendts are also the authors of the New York Times bestseller "He's Just Not That into You" which helps girls realize when a relationship isn't going anywhere.

"It's Called a Breakup" is a survival guide after a bad breakup, no matter how good it might have been. While the Behrendts are sympathetic towards the reader's emotions, they also keep a sense of humor in order to keep the reader laughing. Even in my sad, pathetic condition I couldn't help but laugh when I read the all too familiar titles of the chapters. "There are no new Messages." "He's not Hiding at the Bottom of that Pint of Ice Cream," and "Stop Calling in Sick" were just a few that made me forget about why breaking up was such a bad thing.

I know it sounds ridiculous, but everything they said rang true for me. That's mostly due to the fact that every breakup is basically the same. The Behrendts explained that if the relationship was good it would have worked and once they get the reader to accept it then they offer 'suggestions' in part two which is entitled "The Breakover." Some of the commandments are don't see or talk to him for 60 days (it might as well be forever and of course I broke this rule), get a breakup buddy (a friend who is in charge of your phone, myspace, and any other form of communication), getting rid of all his things (this also includes the engagement ring), and get your [butt] in motion everyday (your bed will not protect you).

The authors also provide the reader with topics to write about in a journal to keep during the breakover process. These activities appear pointless but they do distract for a brief period of time and before you even realize it, ten minutes pass by without one stupid tear. Even though I broke all of the commands and eventually took him back, this doesn't mean the book wouldn't work for someone who was truly ready to put the messy situation behind them. Overall, "It's Called a Break-up because it's Broken" helps the reader to analyze why their relationship failed and how to make sure the reader gets what they want out of the next one because believe it or not, there will be another one.

Jessi Stone will be graduating from GSC this spring with an associate's degree in Journalism. She will be attending Georgia State University this fall to finish her education. Jessi enjoys writing, singing at karaoke bars, and spending long hours in the cold Compass office with Meredith and Alie.

Elevation an Uplifting Modern Rock Experience

The lights dim. The crowd's chatter morphs into silence and then a roar. Even though the curtain is drawn, a faint sound of quiet music finds its way around the room.

For someone who has never experienced this particular band's shows, this may not seem chill-bump worthy. For me, on the other hand, a smile creeps its way across my face, because I already know what is in store. Elevation, a favorite local band, is about to start their set! The curtain opens and the background silence turns into punchy modern rock as the song "Wallflower" begins. Nathan Smith, lead vocals and, for this song, keyboard, lures you in with lyrics like "you're the cure these days, for saline eyes." and melodic voice. The song ends and I turn to my friend, who is hearing them for the first time, to get her reaction. She tells me to shut up because the next song is starting and I'm distracting her! I'm guessing that's good.

Throughout the set, the band showcases their strong rhythm section, John Duke- Bass and Jacob Arnold- drums, with songs like "Perfect Chance", and "Run, Run, Run" no one in the audience is standing still.

Unbeknownst to some, most popular rock bands, on the touring circuit, only know about three chords. This allows pretty much anyone to be a rockstar, and also for fans to learn music faster. I hate this fact and have found that it makes most bands' songs all sound the same. This little fact definitely does not apply to Elevation. Andrew Averso, lead guitar, is able to exemplify his musical talent throughout each song, making his contribution to the band's distant sound and range. The vocals are not restricted to just Nathan. With "Facedown," "Fading Away," and "My Way," background vocals are contributed by everyone in the band, allowing everyone to get a taste of the microphone, and without disappointment to the listeners.

Elevation's producer, Dan Hannon, informed me that the band has not set a release date for the CD. You can however, listen to some demo songs, on the website or myspace profile. When asked what we can expect of Elevation in the near future, his response was this, "To date the band has entertained offers for recording and publishing deals, but until the right one is negotiated, none will be signed. The band is in no hurry to sign a deal. They are currently enjoying great independent success on the road and will continue to tour and gather fans in any market that will have them."

In conclusion, I urge anyone that is a fan of great music, to check them out the next time they are in town, and until then download a few of their songs at http://www.myspace.com/elevation. I can assure you it is a true investment.

Sarianne Parker is currently a full-time student, attending GSC with a future plan to transfer to Belmont in the fall of 2007 to finish her degree in music. In her spare time she enjoys watching Canadian television and discovering great music.
The Ultimate Viewers’ List of Top Chick-Flick Films

I have actually worn out my DVD of the movie “My Big Fat Greek Wedding.” I have watched the most treasured flick in my girly movie collection so much that it will no longer play. I have come to realize that I have viewed a sizable portion of the movies geared toward female viewers available at my local video store. During the last few months of late Friday nights, I’ve had a lot of interesting cinematic experiences, (sitting in my flannel pajamas, eating pizza and a Dove bar the size of Canada) while trying to find a new favorite chic flick. Here are some of the things that I learned, enjoyed, and/or unfortunately subjected myself to:

“In The Time of the Butterflies,” starring Salma Hayak and Edward James Olmos.

This is a very good movie. Based on a book by Julia Alvarez, it tells the story of a young woman growing up in the Dominican Republic, during the reign of the dictator General Rafael Trujillo (Olmos), a murderous butcher.

It’s a thoughtful portrait of what life is like for people who live in a land of fear and where basic rights are controlled by the whims of a madman.


Darlene (Case) is a single mother who returns to her family in the poverty-stricken Brazil after a failed relationship and attempts to city life. She is courted and wooed by a neighboring bachelor, Osias (Duarte). What came across in the subtitles was the moving and inspiring “I’m a man, I have a house, you need a husband.” It sounded a little better in Portuguese. And thus, her fortunes improve, and she is allowed to manage the entire household, bear another child and work all day in the sugar cane fields while her husband lies in the hammock. The plot thickens when Osias cousin, Zezinho (Garcia) moves in. He shows a little more attentiveness to Darlene, but still doesn’t have a whole lot going for him. This situation results in Darlene bearing another child by Zezinho.

The heroine remains spunky and upbeat, considering that she remains pregnant and on her feet working like a dog for most of the movie.

And the winner is.... “Elvis has Left the Building,” starring John Corbett and Kim Basinger. Harmony Jones, is a makeup saleswoman who is having a run of misfortune due to the fact that Elvis impersonators keep crossing her path and dying in front of her in bizarre ways. Directed by Joel Zwick, the director of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” this movie has realistic touches that deliver a certain sweetness and sincerity with out being goofy. The creative use of music and cameo appearances makes it a very funny film.

Trina Manty is a journalism major at GSC. Her hobbies include daydreaming, college, and making lattes. She is hoping to attend UGA with the ultimate goal of finding a job that pays the bills and doesn’t annoy her too much. She likes cheap rent, good rock concerts, decent martinis, and being left alone.

Bombay Cafe Serves Exotic Foods in Athens

Whether you’re looking for vegetarian, healthy or just something completely new and enjoyable, you will love the Bombay Cafe. Sitting inconspicuously between the Marble Slab and SunTrust Bank off of Broad Street directly in front of the main campus of U.G.A in Athens, this quite little Indian restaurant has been serving unique dishes for around five years and offers a large range of exotic foods. Don’t worry though; you won’t be wreaking havoc on your digestive system with peculiar smelling, partially moving curries, as is often the stereotype with approaching Indian cuisine.

The Bombay Cafe, which also serves lamb and chicken dishes, serves a large range of well prepared vegetable cuisines. During the days you can get an all-you-can-eat buffet and during the evenings on the menu you will have a plethora of appetizers, like the samosa, desserts like the khir and entrees to choose from.

For around 8 dollars try the vegetable sizzler! This mouth watering dish, which consists of steamed carrots, tofu, and all the other things you always mistakenly thought tasted badly, is hearty, filling and thoroughly enjoyable.

Don’t worry however when the vegetable sizzler is brought to your table, you might think that something is actually on fire so be careful because this dish is literally steaming off the plate and will just as easily torch your taste buds. The vegetable sizzler is excellent with basmati rice (a slightly, lemoned flavored rice) and nan bread (a simple flavored bread which comes cut into four pieces delivered in a basket). Or you may want to try the dal makhni a somewhat sweet dish which comes in a bronze bowl, similar in fashion to a thick stew. Again, though this dish consist of peas, carrots and other various spices and vegetables you will find it thoroughly different and, perhaps to one’s surprise, extremely tasteful. Of course you have your basic range of drinks from sweet tea, a southern adage, to various other coke products and indian drinks.

And before you start to think that you might get annoyed with the exotic names of the these fine indian cuisines just simply ask your waiter or waitess what foods they recommend, you will never get bad service from the waiting staff, a benefit only local owned restaurants seem to enjoy! So the next time you’re in Athens, give one of the best restaurants in town, The Bombay Cafe, a try. You won’t be disappointed.

Richard Smith is a foreign language major at GSC. He enjoys writing, learning about various cultures and traveling. He plans on attending either the UGA or NGCSU in order to pursue a degree in Spanish. He is currently writing for The Compass in order to learn about newspaper formatting and writing.
The Voice of the Compass

Just a Number

Little did the student body know that in order to protect our identities, we would have to give them up and become a random nine-digit number. Beginning this spring, the transition from old emails and passwords has finally changed to protect our social security numbers. The Compass Staff understands the importance of resigning our social security numbers as email addresses and passwords, but don’t fully grasp the logic in a random, hard to remember, nine-digit number replacing our names. Since classes began this semester, the faculty here at GSC has been bombarded every day with questions and concerns about the 924 switch. It seems that if more thought had been put into this conversion that a more appropriate solution could have been reached. For example, Brenau University uses the student’s first and last name and Georgia State University uses the first letter of the first name, the last name, and a short number. At least with these forms of addresses the sender has some clue to whom they are sending a message. With the new GSC nine-digit code, if one number is wrong in the sequence the message might get sent to the wrong recipient. This may cause some communication issues on campus with students as well as professors. The student Id is the most important code that students on campus have because it is how we gain access to email, Banner Web, WebCT Vista, shared class files, wireless network, computer labs, and other on campus resources. As one student commented to our reporter, students come to GSC because of the small, close-knit community and the Compass Staff hopes that this focus is not being lost.

GSC Safety Advice

Safety, whether it’s your personal safety or the safety of your possessions, it’s something that is vitally important to us all. Crimes occur everyday, and although there is not one concrete solution that will ensure a crime will never happen to you, there are certain steps you can take to lower your chances of being victimized.

Most criminals keep their eye out for “easy targets.” They look for certain people in vulnerable positions that will make their crime less complicated, so they have a better shot of getting away with it. Here are a few tips on staying safe not only around Campus, but for anywhere you go. Be aware of your surroundings. When walking out of an establishment, have your keys in hand and make sure to notice who is around. If you are a woman walking to your car alone at night always check the backseat of your car before getting inside. Once inside, lock your doors immediately. Do not sit idly in your car. Try to walk in groups and in well lit areas, especially at night. Do not make your car an easy target. Obviously, keep your doors locked and windows rolled up. Do not leave CDs, books, or other valuables on the seats of your car or in plain view. When choosing a parking spot, try to park in the front of the establishment. Try to avoid parking on the sides of building with no windows. This makes it easy for a criminal to smash your window, take what they want, with little chance of ever being seen. Know who lives in your area. Take advantage of the sex offenders website for Georgia (www.ganet.org). You can access this site, type in your home town, the town of where you work, or where you go to school, and find out if there are any predators in close proximity to you and your family. I highly recommend this site for women or people with children. A phone number to program into your cell phone: GSC campus security: (770) 294-7227. In case of an emergency, it’s good to already have security’s number programmed in your phone. Taking these simple precautions can save you much money, trouble, and who knows, could even save your life.
Tipping Poll

125 Students were asked:
"How much do you usually tip?"
14.4% answered: "less than 10%"
48% answered: "between 10%-14%
28.8% answered: "between 15%-20"
8.8% answered: "over 20%"

Not So Desperate Housewife

By Allie Jackson
Assistant Editor-In-Chief
924160278@gsc.edu

The media seems to stereotype relationships in the 21st century as either a burden that entraps us or a fantasy that will never meet our expectation.

Look at the choices a girl has from the media's perception. She can be a single woman in the city, who lives her life longing for the perfect relationship. Her real love is for the genuine leather stilettos that just hit the market.

The other option is to be the perfectly sexy stay-at-home mom who longs to escape the responsibility of marriage and motherhood which has smothered her to the point of adultery, which by the way is also unrealistic. Most stay at home moms spend the day cleaning, changing diapers, and trying to work off that extra 20 pounds of baby fat from carrying a child in her womb for 9 months.

Where does this leave a girl? I guess with unrealistic expectations of the future. She will never find the perfect man because, well ladies, he just does not exist. We can’t expect perfection when we can’t deliver the equivalent. We can relate to the girl in the city who finds her worth through friendships and shoes, but we should never strive to be her. She is looking for a lost cause.

Then there’s the life of a burdened housewife that lives to find worth in the pool boy, or the next door neighbor’s husband. Marriage is no piece of cake but it’s not the end of your life either. I speak from experience. My seventh wedding anniversary is coming up in March and we have two boys that are both in school. I have just begun to dream about the future and I finally know what I want to be when I grow up, I am doing it right now and you are reading it. My life did not end when I took my vows or when I birthed my children. It just went on hold for a little while. I do not fantasize about a life of freedom because I am already free. My marriage does not define who I am; it is just a part of who I am. My children do not mold me into an image of embroidered sweaters and soccer mom stickers. I am a mom, not an image. It is part of me but not all of me.

I guess what I’m trying to say is go ahead and watch your shows for entertainment or relaxation. Escape for an hour or two and dream what it might be like to be one of these women. Do not allow these shows to create a false standard in your life, and do not expect your relationships to meet this false ideology. Don’t bank on perfection in your relationships and don’t anticipate misery in marriage. Only expect things from yourself, and when you improve yourself, everything else will fall into place.

Tipping Is Not Optional

By Tia Lynn Lecorchick
Opinions Editor
924159271@gsc.edu

"Who ordered the gratuity?!" I overheard this question as I dropped a check to a table of ten people. A rude, cheap, and as it turned out, not very bright woman was rigorously checking every item. When she arrived at the item entitled “gratuity,” she furiously questioned the rest of her party: “Who ordered the gratuity?! It’s expensive!”

Servers usually wait on tables consisting of two to six people, without imposed mandatory minimum tip included. Much too often customers do not understand the concept of what tipping is, or why tipping is in place, let alone the socially acceptable percentage. These are the facts: most restaurants only pay their servers between $2.00 and $2.15 per hour. The idea is when a person goes out to eat they are not only paying for their food, but also for someone to serve them, hence the term, server.

The price of the meal covers the cost of the food, not the service. The socially acceptable and expected amount for a tip is between 15 and 20 percent of the bill. When dining out, the food does not magically appear on the table. The moment a customer sits down and gives their order to a server the customer has employed them, and is obligated to pay them for their service. There are 2 million servers in America. They consist of single mothers, starving artists, and your fellow college students.

However, there is a bigger issue here: bad or non-tippers perpetuate the spread of stereotypes. I have worked in eight different restaurants in various states, and the same stereotypes are prevalent in all of them. In the dining area, servers are all smiles, behave politely, and kiss a lot of butt because they must, their jobs and incomes depend on it. Yet, once they disappear behind those kitchen doors, they enter a world of stereotypes. Unfortunately, a few bad apples can ruin the entire perception of a group of people in the minds of servers. Servers’ tips pay their rent, tuition, and puts food on the table. They depend upon customers to provide their wages.

When that dependence is threatened by customers who are ignorant of tipping policies or just plain cheap, stereotypes and prejudices of all forms are born. Workers in any customer service field quickly become cynical about human beings, especially when their pay is affected. Are there really certain ethnic, religious, or regional groups that are by nature or by culture cheap or ignorant?

My view is that a person’s tipping habits have nothing to do with the validity of stereotypes. I submit it is not an issue of race, religion, or region, but an issue of class. The ugly truth is that stereotypes do exist and warp people’s perspectives on various people groups. Are you helping to perpetuate stereotypes or proving them wrong? The bottom line is if you have enough money to go out to eat, then you have enough money to leave a decent tip. Nobody is too poor to afford a little class. So, “who ordered the gratuity?” You, the customer did, the moment you “hired” a fellow human being to serve you. So make sure you pay for it.

VALENTINE’S DAY POLL

WHAT WAS YOUR BEST OR WORST VALENTINE’S DAY MEMORY?

“My boyfriend gave me 31 roses: 9 pink and 22 red.”
-Anna Bellamy
Education/ Business

“Let’s just say I ended up eating at Red Lobster with my roommate….who is not a girl.”
-Chris Stephens
Education

“The only time I had a girl friend on V-day, she had bronchitis and coughed all night. With no sleep, I took her out at dawn. How romantic.”
-Logan Pratt
Undecided
Hurricane Katrina’s Forgotten City

By Sarianne Parker
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This Thanksgiving was my first time home, coming back to a little coastal town next to Biloxi, MS, formally known as Ocean Springs.

I have lived through numerous hurricanes, and even “rode one out” my senior year of high school when an oak tree fell through our roof and introduced my family to mother nature up close and personal. Since that experience, we have evacuated for every hurricane over a Category two. Not being with my family during Katrina was probably one of the most traumatic events that ever happened to me.

Not knowing for nine days whether your parents are alive or dead is something one doesn’t just forget. Arriving in my town was something I was nowhere near prepared for. Not knowing where to turn because there are no more landmarks, street signs, or even houses where I lived for over 20 years is so surreal I can’t even think of how to describe it.

The day after I arrived, my step-dad and I had clearance to go down Beach Blvd. This is known to most as Casino Row. After passing through numerous National Guard blockades, I drove past a great big area of nothing. People were living in tents on the foundations of their nonexistent homes. My high school, the restaurant I had landed my first job at, and my friends and families houses were gone. If you have ever gone to a foreign country or even a city you’ve never been to, you know what it’s like when you first arrive.

Your eyes dart from place to place, just trying to take it all in. With FEMA trailers outnumbering houses, casino barges completely relocated by the storm itself, and even the church I used to sing at hollowed out, I felt like a tourist in my home town. After getting back to Atlanta on New Years, I learned that almost all of the government funding had been cut from the Gulf Coast. They are simply leaving it in the condition that it is in.

However, it seems like every time I turn the T.V. on there is something about New Orleans relief. I am not saying that New Orleans is not dear to my heart. It’s just hard to see them have New Year’s up and running, while people I know and love are homeless and spending their holidays in a tent.

My point is simply this; before you start planning your road trip for Mardi gras, stop and think about the people who, because it’s not as glamorous as The Big Easy, are still trying to figure out where their life went. No one wants to see reality when it doesn’t have an easy, happy ending.

If you want to help the many places affected by Hurricane Katrina please email me.

Choose Unity in GSCs Diverse Culture

By Don Lovell
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Humanitarian and scholar Michael Novak said, “Unity in diversity is the highest possible attainment of a civilization...” It may well be the paradigm shift humans need for survival.

The word university has been defined by some as “unity in diversity.” Though we may not attend a fully funded research facility offering post-graduate degrees and fellowships, we do have before us at GSC a very diverse student body. Have you noticed? Of course you have. Have we looked beyond the stereotypes?

Do we see the richness and wisdom offered by another culture or ideology or do we only see the differences which label us?

Do we know why Muslims dress so modestly? What do we know about Asian society? Have we made an effort to understand both sides of the abortion issue, without prejudice toward one? Do we understand the on-going challenges facing the African-American community? Do we see ‘Bubba’ as a caricature of the south, or a product of ingrained tradition?

What goes through my mind when someone passes by in a wheelchair? Do we offer a genuine smile or quickly look the other way? When we realize the girl sitting next to us in history has a speech impediment, do we have a good laugh at her expense? Can we see through blindness? Can we hear the silence of deafness?

I’ve seen pain in the eyes of the oppressed. I’ve watched passively as hate was vented. We sometimes hate what we fear. Nobel Laureate Bertrand Russell once said, “Fear is the parent of violence.” If indeed, violence is the result of fear, what causes fear? I believe, as do many others, fear is caused by ignorance. A viable cure for ignorance is in the opening of one’s heart to compassion.

I feel it’s my responsibility to accept another’s uniqueness without passing judgment on them. I also believe it’s my responsibility to hear and understand another’s voice of reason. I keep an open mind.

With a willingness to embrace people and cultures sometimes vastly different from our own, we create the impetus needed for change. It takes a focused effort on our part to understand another’s station in life. It takes that same effort to lay aside our prejudices. But in doing so, we discover the underlying unity in our diversity. As this discovery transcends the borders of nations, the dogmas of religion, the castes of society, and the color of our skin, human civilization as we know it will exponentially expand to its next meme. It will foster an environment whereby all of us may live with excellence. It’s our choice whether or not we will participate in change. I choose to.
The Voice of the Compass
What is this ... High School?

Have you found yourself, at some point, questioning why we have an attendance policy here at Gainesville State College? Well, you are one of many. After reviewing multiple faculty members’ syllabi on the shared class files, most had the same attendance policy: class attendance is mandatory! However, there are a few faculty members who choose to follow the policy of that it is the responsibility of the student to come to class, and consequently would result in lower grade for the students who do not attend classes regularly.

The more we have thought about this, the more the attendance policy at Gainesville just does not make sense. Obviously the students who want to come to class to learn will attend class. But why set a mandatory attendance policy for a student who does not want to come to class and as a result causes disruption for the students who want to learn. While sitting in class, it is easy to pick out those who are there to learn and have full attention towards their instructor. The ones who seem to not be so interested in attending classes seem to cause more disruptions either by talking, sleeping, or texting. So why punish those who are here to learn and pay thousands of dollars in tuition or books so they can earn a higher education.

In high school, most of us received a free education through taxpayers’ money; now (depending on HOPE eligibility) we pay for our classes as well as our books. So basically, we are required to attend the classes we pay for with our own money or we suffer with a lower grade. Many students at Gainesville are now living without financial support form parents and that, in itself, requires responsibilities of the individual. By using the mandatory attendance policy, it defeats the whole purpose of responsibility of students in preparing for the “real world.” Furthermore, many students at the Oconee Campus tend to transfer into the University of Georgia where most classes, if any, have no such attendance policy. Again, why do we still have an attendance policy?

We have all encountered teachers who reward students with incentives at the end of each semester depending on attendance. Incentives are a wonderful way to encourage attendance for students, especially those who are present in class on a consistent basis. However, taking attendance just for the fact of the student receiving the reward rather than a mandatory policy is much more practical for both faculty and students in fostering accountability.

The bottom line is, students at Gainesville College are not in high school anymore. We are already freaked out by the stress that college classes put onto us. Why make it worse with an attendance policy that puts even more stress onto us. Most students at Gainesville State College are adults and should be treated as such.

Cut Them Some Slack ... OK?

The athletic fields at Gainesville State College have been put on hold...again. Why is it that things take so long to be completed here? We still don’t have food on campus, the athletic fields have been talked about since the beginning of the fall semester, we’ve yet to see any progress in constructing a new building and the 441 school entrance seems to be going nowhere fast.

Many students are frustrated by the lack of growth this campus has and wish that they could see some sort of work being done. When students at a small school get word that there are going to be some additions or some changes to the school, they get excited.

Then, when all is said and done and five months have gone by and the only progress that has been made is the flattening of dirt by mini bulldozers, students get discouraged. There are so many things that are talked about amongst faculty and...
GET OFF THE ROAD!

By Nick Holbert
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Athens has somehow accumulated what would seemingly be some of the world’s worst drivers. I arrived in Athens around a year and a half ago from sunny California which is also a place associated with bad driving, though, as far as I have seen, there can be no comparison with Athens.

Only in Athens can you be passed up in the center turning lane—you know, the one usually in the middle of the road reserved for those turning into shops, restaurants, etc. on the opposite side from which they are driving. Yes, it is true, even if you are waiting your turn for the opening just before traffic lights that allows automobiles into the left turning lane, and then proceed to turn left when traffic and law allows.

However, if traffic is moving a tad too slow for some, it is apparently an o.k. practice to get into the middle turning lane and ride a half a mile up to the intersection. What a wonderful idea. The only problem lies in the fact that a select few are actually waiting for their opening, and when “SUV supreme” comes looming at law breaking speeds up the center turn lane, there is the chance of collision. I know what you’re thinking—“that’s why you look first” right? O.K., beware of the people breaking the law and you’ll just fine in Athens.

Another possible teensy problem is the left on red concept. Right now, on the streets of Athens, there are educated people with driver’s license who are under the impression that turning left on red—only but only when it is clear of course—is perfectly reasonable, not to mention legal. These people are among us, believe me. They smile and act perfectly normal with powerful decision making minds, and make sure they yield to oncoming traffic when turning left on red.

Pedestrians. Who are these people? What do they want? Well for starters, not to die at the hands of someone whose concepts of driving turn to jelly when their snazzy cellular phones chant out their favorite ditties: these are the people we’re dealing with and out of traffic, and sometimes making great progress, completely unaware because they are trying to change CDs. But I’ll try to save myself from hypocrisy here and admit something—I speed up when I see j-walkers... because I find it to be my personal duty to discourage people from putting themselves at risk by reinforcing the fear of dying from collision with people who turn to jelly while driving. I know, it’s not quite right; sorry.

Last, but not least, let’s examine the tailgater: they are just good honest people trying not to pollute the planet by drafting the car in front of them and, therefore, burning less fuel. Well, if that is true, I’d say we had a new breed of human. More than likely they aren’t sure what is going on either. Perhaps they never will. I’m sure it has something to do with the comfort of being close to another object. Maybe it is some kind of survival skill for the weak—stay close to other beings, and after they are done eating their kill, you can scavenge what is left. Nonetheless, when I look into my rearview mirror and it appears that two people are sitting in my nonexistent back seat, having a conversation I cannot hear, I get worried. It makes me want to slam on the brakes and pull over quickly to assess the situation—this usually results in more problems than had I just allowed them to carry on their conversation and acted like they did not exist.

In the end, the experience in Athens has been wonderf at the world. I have learned many things, and made many contacts. I am now writing the Department of Transportation in Atlanta with a sincere request to allow Athens to be the training grounds for defensive driving courses, police officers, and Hollywood stunt men.

See you behind, or in some of those rare cases in front of, the wheel.

Thanks

What do you think about your current teachers’ attendance policy? Why?

“I don’t think it should be a strict policy; it is not the teacher’s job to make the student come to class, it is the student’s choice.”

—I don’t really think there should be an attendance policy seeing as how pay for the class.”

—Lauren Porth

“None of them really have one which I think is fine, because we’re paying to go to school; no one should try to force you to come to school.”

—Melissa Buhl

“No, it was a wonderful experience, it was a perfect way to start the year.”

—Anna Claire Davis

Torture at its finest?

By Beca Tucker
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What is it about the murder, mayhem, and suspense of horror films that intrigue us? The answer mayhem, and suspense of horror is simple. Horror is the supreme “comes up to the front”

None of them really have one which I think is fine, because we’re paying to go to school, no one should try to force you to come to school.

—Melissa Buhl

“Students should be able to choose on their own whether or not to come to class, and know if they don’t come it will affect them and no one else.”

—Anna Claire Davis

Werewolves and Vampires Highlight ‘Underworld: Evolution’

By Beca Tucker
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Fans of the original Underworld will be delighted at the continuation of the Vampire-Werewolf war story, complete with new twists. The cinematography is beautifully done, and considering that most of the movie takes place at night, this is impressive. Beginning in the days after its sequel, Underworld: Evolution sees the return of Kate Beckinsale as the vampir Lee컨, Selene and Scott Speedman, the hybrid vampire—werewolf, Michael Corvin. Evolution concerns itself with telling how the Vampire and Lycan blood lines evolved from the brothers Marcus, bites by bat, and William, bitten by wolf.

When Marcus is awakened and sets out to free his brother, William, from the Vampire’s imprisonment, it is Selene and Michael who must stop him. To fail would mean a world over run by vicious werewolves, incapable of being stopped. But to stop him, they will need the help of someone no one expected to find in the present day: the forefather of both clans, Alexander Corvinus.

Although much of the plot is very similar to the original Underworld’s story, Evolution brings more action, well shot fight sequences, and even a soft core, yet enticing, moment of romance. Secrets from Selene’s past, and about the death of her family, come to light, dredging up a centuries old vendetta in the clans. Underworld: Evolution is a great follow up to Underworld and is should be seen by all who loved the first one.
Showdown in Motown: Seahawks vs. Steelers

By Matt Leigh
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Don't throw in the terrible towel just yet; the Pittsburgh Steelers have one more game to play, Super Bowl XL. Their opponent, coming off a 34-14 victory over the Carolina Panthers in the NFC Championship game, will be the Seattle Seahawks.

The Seahawks are on their way to their very first Super Bowl appearance and have a very talented team capable of bringing home a win as well. With their MVP Shaun Alexander back from a concussion suffered during the Seahawks win over Washington; Seattle made it look easy in last weekends win over Carolina. Their star running back rushed for 200-yards and two touchdowns. The quarterback has blossomed in these past few playoff games after going 6-2 in previous playoff appearances as a starter. He was 20-of-28 for 219 yards and two touchdowns last Sunday. During the week before, when Alexander was lost with a concussion in the first quarter, Hasselbeck led the Seahawks past Washington.

With Seattle's win against Carolina, head coach Mike Holmgren has finally earned the reputation of a championship-winning quarterback. He is hopeful for when he arrived in 1999. It is the coach's third trip to the Super Bowl, where he was 1-1 as head coach of the Packers in the 1990s. Holmgren became only the fifth coach to lead two teams to a Super Bowl. The winner of Super Bowl XL will come down to which team plays the most physical. Both teams have played undernearly well to earn their reputation as the two best football teams in the country. Seattle's defense has looked better the past few games than it has all season. Although the Seahawks defense does not contain any stars, it plays as a team.

The Steelers traditionally strong defense has been wreaking havoc all season long, especially on Denver's Jake Plummer last Sunday. Their 3-4 defense is one of the most effective in the NFL. The Seahawks, who finished second in NFL yards per game, will get a taste of that in the coming week. Seattle only faced one 3-4 defense all season which was against Dallas. The Cowboys held the Seahawks to only 289 yards from their average of 370 yards per game.

The showdown on February 5 is loaded with irony. This year Super Bowl contains a top-seeded team versus a last-seeded team, which the top seeded team is the underdog. However the 3 in half odds toward Pittsburgh won't matter much after kick off. This game is going to be one to remember.

GSC and YWCO Team up for Intramural Basketball

By Brian Salzer
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GSC's Ocone campus and YWCO are joining up for another semester of intramural programs. February 5th will start the beginning of GSC; spring semester's five on five basketball. Fall semester of 2005 was the star of GSC and YWCO partnering up for intramural after school activities, in which flag football was played. This semester's basketball games will be played Sundays, while times and schedules will be decided before the start of the season. If for some reason students can not assemble enough teams, the students that what to play will have to play in a community means league, at the YWCO, starting in March. Currently, there are five teams signed up and ready for the beginning of the season. Anyone who hasn't signed up that wants, please stop by Heather Posey's office, room 508. GSC AND YWCO had an great partnership in 2005 and with the help of students and staff, this could be another great semester.

Blue Devils Number One Basketball Program in NCAA

By Brian Salzer
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After an upsetting 2004-2005 NCAA season, Duke enters the start of the '05 season ranked number one by the Associated Press. The reason Duke is ranked number one and undefeated 17-0 for the first time since 1992, is because of their aggressive defense, their ability to score from the perimeter, the post, and the foul line. Duke's talent and coaching staff are two indisputable reasons why Duke entered the 2005 season ranked first, which should not be a surprise to anyone.

This 2005-2006 NCAA men's basketball season will mark Mike Krzyzewski's, Duke's head basketball coach, twenty sixth season in charge of the blue devils.

In those twenty six seasons, Krzyzewski was named National Coach of the Year eleven times, has averaged more than 25 wins a season and 30 wins 30 win seasons, the most by any coach in college basketball history. Duke has appeared in the final four an impressive nine times, the third most appearances by an institution ever. Duke has won three national titles, accumulated 56 NCAA tournament victories (second of all time), six ACC championships and nine ACC regular season championships.

Coach K's passion, knowledge and love for the game are a piece of the puzzle that drives the blue devils to achieve their level of greatness. Coach K, already a Hall of Fame coach, has been credited as one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time, but success can't be singled out and credited towards the coaching staff alone. The players are the engine that propels the high powered Duke car, while the fans are the fuel for success.

During Coach K's 26 year tenure, 29 Duke Basketball stars have gone on to the NBA draft and successfully established themselves as playmakers and dominate defenders. Out of those 29 draft picks, 14 outstanding players went in the first round. After three consecutive disappointing meetings with the Maryland Terrapins, Duke was determined to put an end to a two-game losing streak to establish themselves as the dominant force on their home court, Cameron Indoor Stadium. In Duke's performance against Maryland, Senior center, Sheldon Williams, and Senior guard, JJ. Redick, had captivating performances that helped lift the team's morale and proved that Maryland can be beaten. During the final practice before the match-up, Coach Krzyzewski sent players and coaches to the logo, at midcourt, where they were asked to sign their names. This gesture was to mentally motivate Duke players and staff while intimidating the Terrapins, who had discovered a successful approach to outperforming Duke in their last three visits.

The signing of the midcourt logo inspired Duke to play its best game of the season. Sheldon Williams, an all American center, had 19 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high 10 blocks achieving his first triple double of his college career! JJ. Redick, Duke's star shooting guard and arguably the best shooter to ever step foot onto a college court, overcame a mid-game slump and ended the game with 27 points, including four three-point buckets and the first dunk of his college career. Redick and Williams displayed two playmaking reasons why Duke will once again be present and fighting for a championship in March. If this continues to be Redick and Williams' year, these two faces will be seen go in the first round of the 2006 NCAA draft.

In college basketball, to give a single team or institution the title of "dynasty" would be absurd, but if any team is worthy of that title Duke is. Their resume clearly speaks for itself and with March Madness just around the corner, Duke, the number one team in the country, still looks like the team to beat.
Faculty Profile: Helene Hendon

Q: What do you teach?
A: I teach mathematics, so I pretty much teach some of everything. I teach college algebra, pre-calculus, calculus and I have taught the math 99 class, so, intermediate algebra.

Q: How long have you taught here?
A: Since Fall 2003.

Q: Is this the first school you have taught at?
A: I taught high school math for six years at South Gwinnett High School in Snellville, and then at Apalachee High School in Barrow county.

Q: Where are you from, and where have you been?
A: I grew up in Sarasota, Florida, then I went to Davidson College in North Carolina then I lived in Germany, finally I came to Georgia because UGA had a good program for the kind of degree I was trying to pick up.

Q: Did any interesting or unusual things come out of your stay in Germany?
A: I played intramural volleyball and the coach for our team was chosen by Simon from American Idol for a quarter of tenors called Il Divo. They have been singing on T.V. and have just started touring. I was reading about them somewhere and was like, that's the guy that coached my volleyball team!

Q: What do you like to do?
A: I enjoy hiking. My husband and I do day hikes in North Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. We have done a lot of hiking in the south east, but we have also been out west; we did a week long trip in Colorado; we hiked a lot in Wyoming; we did a great camping trip in Hawaii. So we do outdoors things. My husband and I also like to juggle.

Q: Are you in the juggling club?
A: I'm in the juggling club advisor. It's fun. That's actually how I met my husband. It was in a juggling club at UGA.

The club here is growing. We have several people who have come up recently for the first time. We teach people, so you don't have to already know how to juggle. When I am teaching in the classroom, it's more me teaching students, but in juggling I can be taught by a student.

Q: What are some of the things one can expect at the meetings?
A: Either learn to juggle or learn new tricks. There is usually food, and usually it is homemade. Some people are learning to juggle the clubs, the things that look like bowling pins. Some are working with balls for throwing up in the air.

New Year, New You: Nutrition and Exercise Seminars

By Emily Schumacher
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GSC is ready to help faculty, staff, and students this New Year to work on a new you! Beginning on January 23rd Robin Grandstein, R.D., L.D. will be offering two, four-week nutrition sessions on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in room 312. This course is to help prepare students to make more educated and healthy choices about their diet and exercise regimen. The sessions will cover topics such as: introduction to nutrition and exercise, dining out and eating on the run, and portion distortion. The course will also include a special grocery store tour to the Watkinsville Publix to learn how to choose the right kinds of foods on your own. The individual classes will last approximately one hour, and Robin will plan to be available afterwards to speak with participants one-on-one or answer any questions that the group may have. Robin is a registered and licensed dietitian, certified pediatric and adolescent weight management specialist, and a certified personal trainer. After previously working at an athletic club, a medical fitness center public health department and a wellness center, she is extremely qualified to help people achieve their goals. Her specialized dietary programs are designed for many things including weight loss/gain to improving athletic performance. Benefits of this wonderful program include greater self-esteem, self-confidence, and a great-looking, healthier body! So if you want to get healthy, exercise better, and eat right, see Heather Posey in room 508 to sign up!

If you would like to contact Robin directly, you can email her at: RobStau@aol.com.

Hi-Tech Entertainment with a Price

By Brad Wilson
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Atrium additions are underway. The newest addition to Oconeoe Campus’ atrium is the large television sitting on a cart with sofas and chairs surrounding it. Students who were, at one time, forced to sit long hours doing nothing between classes can now spend that time sitting around and watch some good television.

However, this is just the beginning for T.V. revolution at GC. Heather Posey, Student Life Coordinator, is searching for students willing to be on a budget committee. The purpose of this committee is to approve or disapprove motions to spend student activity funds on various student programs and services. The committee will assemble with two faculty members and will vote on budget request that are submitted by clubs and students. When this committee is formed, Heather will present, among other proposals, a proposal to purchase two state-of-the-art plasma television sets to hang from the atrium wall. This proposal, being a huge step above the current T.V. situation, would not only provide entertainment during their down time, but it would provide high quality viewing and sound. Once the committee is formed they will meet every few weeks to vote on new proposals from clubs or for new additions to the school. Clubs may come before the committee and present a request to increase their budget, create a budget, or pitch an idea to the committee that could help improve the lives of students a Gainesville College. This committee could quite possibly change a lot of things at GSC. With students and faculty voting on the issues and propositions that will come thier way, GSC’s future is looking good. Students should be on the lookout for new appliances, more club activities and most importantly, MORE FOOD.
New Club at GSC offers Political View

By Aimee Russo
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Attention all GSC Conservatives, finally, a club especially for you. The GSC Oconee Chapter of College Republicans (GSCR) is now in session.

Beginning in November of 2005, this new club offers an escape for GSC conservatives to express views and to interact with fellow political enthusiasts.

After founders, Chairman, Jay Hanley, and Vice-chairman, Nathan Packer, took note that GSC was populated from some of Georgia’s most conservative counties, such as, Gwinnett, Forsyth, Hall, Oconee, Walton and Columbia, they found the need for a chapter of College Republicans necessary at GSC. Once Steve Smith, an Economics teacher here on the Oconee campus agreed to be the club’s faculty advisor, the club was well on its way.

Elections took place on November 29, 2005 where Secretary Hillary Baldwin and Treasurer Jessica Profitt were elected. Furthermore, the Chairman and Vice-chairman appointed Matt Leigh as the Executive Assistant to the Chairman, Jonathan Jones as Technology Director/Webmaster, Samantha Sizemore as Social Chair, and Josh White as Membership Director. But fear not GSC Oconee students, there are still positions available. GSCR still needs an Executive Assistant to the Vice Chairman and a Fundraising Director.

A few of the goals for the GSCR include receiving the "Chapter of the Year" award by the Georgia Association of College Republicans (GACR) in which the club is representing at most if not all of the meetings. Also, because the state recognized this newly formed chapter, they requested that GSCR attempt to attract 20 new voter registrations. Some of the upcoming plans for 2006 include a Cookout outside to attract new members, a Silent Auction to attract new members and raise money for the newly founded club, and Semi-formal dinner that will hopefully be at no cost if fundraising goes well. With t-shirts on the way and a table at club day, the chapter is determined to become one of the states premiere chapters.

If students are interested, meetings are set to be once or twice a month at 5:00 p.m. in room 512. Students can also Jonathon Jones, the clubs Technology Director/Webmaster, has created an immaculate website with all the information students need to become aware and join GSCR at www.gscr.org.
New Fields Delayed

By Brian Salzer
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Due to unplanned weather conditions, construction on the new walking trail and volleyball court has slowed considerably and is not expected to be finished until the end of the 2006 spring semester.

The original plan required only thirty days to finish the entire project, however, the sporadic and unpredictable Georgia weather has forced the administration and construction workers to adapt a new timetable for completion.

By adding such amenities, Gainesville State College’s Oconee campus hopes to bring to its property an aesthetic value that has been absent since pre-GSC.

Besides plans to build a regulation sand volleyball court and a walking/jogging trail that circles the retention pond, construction on an open-air pavilion is scheduled to start no later than the beginning of February. By building this covered, open-air pavilion, Gainesville State College hopes to allow more physical education classes to stay on campus instead of branching out to other parks and facilities as it did in previous semesters.

“I think there is land over there, that we own, and we can put some good use to it,” says Matt Alexander, the Director of Business Services. “The goal is not for this to be a short-term project. We have plans for this institution and once it starts, there is no telling what will happen.”

Future plans for the project include bleachers for the volleyball court and exercise stations placed at different locations throughout the walking trail. Furthermore, the pavilion will eventually be used not only for physical education activities but also for academic purposes and social activities, such as cookouts.

“I’m certainly looking forward to the additional space to hold events of all kinds,” Heather Posey Student Life Coordinator said, “I really want more for our students here and each little step we take makes a big difference.”

New E-mail Log-ins Offer Students Higher Security

By: Roxanne Hendrikse
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There have been some changes for Gainesville State College in the past couple of months. Some of these changes include a new name and a whole new system for recognizing students. Even though some might think that changing the student’s log-in numbers was a simple and quick process, more than a year of planning and work has been put into the switch to the new system.

Brian Wesnofske, Coordinator of Information Technology at the Oconee Campus, was directly involved in the process from the beginning. Wesnofske explains that it “started off on a committee”, with the entire “University System of Georgia”. This situation is not just an issue with GSC but with almost every school in Georgia.

Wesnofske also states that this “spans more than just in the education system”, “with social security fraud”, it was a “necessary step” to make the students social security numbers less accessible. He goes on to say that it is a “benefit to the students in the end”.

It should be easy to see why the decision was made to change the system but many students have concerns about their email user name. GSC is planning on creating an email alias for each student which would be an email that each student chooses which would make it feel more personal and easier to remember. The only problem is that there is “nothing on the table right now”, and we are looking at “at least a year plus” says Wesnofske, before email alias’ would be a possibility. Even with this being the downside, students now have less numbers to remember because there is one set user name and password instead of three like GSC has had in the past.

At this point, the students have different opinions about what they think of the change. Nikki Gibbs, a freshmen at GSC, thinks that “it’s kind of annoying” because the numbers “don’t relate to us” and it’s “hard to remember”.

An anonymous student feels that “it’s a good idea that they got rid of the social security numbers”, “but why numbers for email accounts?”

On the flip side of the coin Brent Bird, a Student at GSC, says, “I think it’s better because it’s better privacy”.

Even though it has been a hard process for returning students to get use to, Gainesville State College has the student’s best interest in mind. Many hours of work and effort has been put into this process to make these first couple of months as smooth as possible. The schools main concern was that students were informed about the change and that it was easy to access their numbers until they had them memorized. Now that the students have had some time to get use to the changes, the future looks good for Gainesville State College. Students should also look for more changes coming up in the near future.