The Gainesville State College Alumni & Friends Golf Open will be held at the Chattahoochee Golf Club! Last year, we raised over $28,000 for student programming and scholarships, and we anticipate another highly successful event!

We hope you’ll join us at the Chattahoochee Golf Club, located on the northern banks of Lake Sidney Lanier. Course Crafters and architect Kevin Hargrave teamed up to renovate this classic Robert Trent Jones Sr. layout. New tee complexes, Bent Grass Dominant Southern Greens, new carts, cart paths, and clubhouse improvements make this a top-notch course.

Shotgun start is at 10 AM, with a closing reception in the afternoon. All players will receive breakfast, snacks, goodie bag, and a golf shirt. Breakfast will be provided by McDonald's of Northeast Georgia, and the ending reception will be provided by A.C.E. Catering.

We are proud to announce our Honorary Chairs, Diane and Doug Magnus. Doug is an alum (1973) of our College, and both are strong supporters of our students and mission. In addition, Conditioned Air Systems, Inc. will be our $10,000 Title Sponsor! The company is a family-owned Air Conditioning/HVAC business with a proven reputation as North Georgia's most reliable HVAC source for over 25 years. They believe in investing in the community and are involved in numerous community organizations.

Continued sponsorship opportunities are also available: Eagle Sponsor ($5,000), Birdie Sponsor ($2,500), Par Sponsor ($1,250), Tee Sponsor ($500), Green Sponsor ($125), Team of Four ($500), and Individual Player ($125).

For benefit details and to register, visit www.gsc.edu/alumni or contact Jennifer Hendrickson, Director of Alumni Affairs, at 678-717-3648 or jhendrickson@gsc.edu.

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For benefit details and to register, visit www.gsc.edu/alumni or contact Jennifer Hendrickson, Director of Alumni Affairs, at 678-717-3648 or jhendrickson@gsc.edu.
A look back and a glimpse forward . . . .

—by Jennifer Hendrickson, GSC Director of Alumni Affairs

I want to share with you a few nuggets of information as we look forward to a new school year and reflect on a successful FY 2011-2012! I am particularly happy to announce our GSC Alumni & Friends Golf Open information and hope you will join us on Friday, October 12.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of our volunteers for helping make our alumni events so successful this year! We hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in late June that included a mix of alumni, community members, students, faculty, and staff. This year, we had 180 volunteers and a total of 632 hours of volunteer time. The events and activities included our Golf Open, Starlight Concert & Fireworks, Alumni Reunion, Graduation Receptions, Career Workshops, Alumni Council Meetings, Committee Meetings, and support for various GSC Foundation events.

I want to thank our generous sponsors for our events, with particular thanks to Conditioned Air Systems for its Title Sponsorship of the 2011 and 2012 GSC Alumni & Friends Golf Opens, and to dB Audio and Danley Sound Labs, our Presenting Sponsors of the 2012 Starlight Concert & Fireworks Show. We could not present these events without the support of our community and donors and friends like you. Our sponsors and volunteers are appreciated more than you know.

In this issue you will find a variety of stories on our recent Starlight event, building dedications, and the point of view article from our Interim President, Dr. Randy Pierce.

You’ll also find information on the history of GSC’s Alumni Association, upcoming Gainesville Theatre Alliance shows, and the exciting activities of our Office of Student Life. The Alumni Association partners with that office to support various events throughout the year. This time of year is especially exciting as we welcome our students to campus. The campus is buzzing with the anticipation of our returning and new students. I can’t wait for them to get to their first class and settle in to all that our incredible campus has to offer. They, too, will be proud alums just like you!

Alumni Council: building a strong foundation

—by Chris Stenander, GSC Alumni Association President

Foundation: 2) a basis (as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported <the foundations of geometry> <the rumor is without foundation in fact>. (www.merriam-webster.com)

A strong foundation is needed for any sustaining organization. Our Alumni Council provides the building blocks for our Alumni Association. In order to have a strong foundation, we need committed volunteers who evoke sustainability, advocacy for GSC, and new ideas for our alumni events and engagement.

The GSC Alumni Council has a long history of having successful, committed alumni from across the region as members. They have supported our students, our mission, and the College’s growth. I want to thank each of you who have been involved on the Council since its inception in 1985. It is your vision and drive that has made us so successful! Special thanks for their service go to those members who have rolled off the council this fiscal year. They are: Kimberly Godfrey, Scott Grogan, Crystal Elrod Halligan, Kristen Latham, Kim Leverette, Alan & Stacy Louis, and Kerry & Barry Moose.

As we look to the future, the Gainesville State College Alumni Council and Association will continue to exist under the Foundation. I encourage you to continue to talk with other GSC alumni and friends and spread the word about our great events. The Alumni Association has something for everyone and will continue to provide programming and activities for GSC alums.
Celebrating Our Past, Anticipating Our Future

I will be serving as interim president of GSC until early January, and I have quickly gotten up to speed on all the great things that are happening here at Gainesville State. I have had the opportunity to meet several alumni and have been impressed by their enthusiasm for their alma mater. It is amazing how many similarities there are between my previous institution, Georgia Highlands College, and GSC. Both are multi-campus institutions with access missions, a strong focus on students, and a supportive alumni base.

I am excited to be able to come out of retirement and be part of this institution. It is a real point of pride for me to have this leadership opportunity during a time of great transformation. I must say I have become quite familiar with the term “consolidation.” As I am sure you are aware, GSC will consolidate with North Georgia College and State University in January of 2013 to become the University of North Georgia.

Former president gets surprise of a lifetime

Gainesville State College (GSC) President Martha T. Nesbitt retired as the College’s third president on June 30, 2012. The GSC Foundation recently hosted a Bon Voyage-themed event where friends, family, and supporters gathered to celebrate her legacy of leadership, citizenship, and public service to GSC and the surrounding community.

As a part of the program, two members of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents made remarks. Regent Jim Jolly spoke about Nesbitt’s impressive and distinguished career in higher education, which spans nearly 40 years.

Regent Philip Wilheit made the surprise presentation by saying, “Dr. Nesbitt, you have made higher education your life’s work, and it is evident in all that you do. Tonight is about honoring you and all you have meant to Gainesville State College, this community, and higher education in general. On behalf of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I am honored to announce that the Academic IV Building has been officially renamed the Martha T. Nesbitt Academic Building.” Just as Wilheit rolled out the announcement, a photo with the new name superimposed on the side of the building popped up on the big screen. Not only was Nesbitt surprised, but the guests at the event were, as well. A collective gasp was heard throughout the room and then everyone quickly erupted into applause and cheers.

Not normally at a loss for words, Nesbitt took the stage and expressed her excitement and pleasure about the announcement and said, “I don’t know what to say, this is so unexpected. I’m just blown away. This is one of the biggest surprises of my life, and I am truly honored.”

A formal naming ceremony for the Martha T. Nesbitt Academic Building was held at the College on Wednesday, August 1, 2012, with over 200 friends and colleagues in attendance.

Liberty Mutual is making a difference

In 2003, the Alumni Association was fortunate to enter into a partnership with Liberty Mutual. The insurance company offers discounts to our alums, faculty, and staff and also donates a percentage of its commission to the Alumni Association.

Vicki Davis, a Liberty Mutual Insurance agent and Alumni Association Past President, was instrumental in establishing this partnership to benefit scholarships and student programming. The overall amount raised to date is $80,000.

Davis has over 20 years of experience and can offer comprehensive coverage that is specifically designed to protect you, your home, and your automobile through Liberty Mutual.

If you are interested in more details on how you can receive the GSC discount and save money, call Vicki Davis at 770-534-2705 x57241 or visit http://www.libertymutual.com/vickidavis.
Alumni Association celebrates 27 years at Gainesville State

The history of the GSC Alumni Association began with a clear understanding of the value and importance of the College’s alumni. It began in 1985 with the College’s second president, Dr. Foster Watkins, and the Advancement Staff, including GSC Foundation Board of Trustees Chair-Elect, Pat Wehunt, working to establish a 17-member steering committee. The Alumni Association was established on May 18, 1985, under the umbrella of the Gainesville College Foundation.

The Alumni Council was established, and in 1986 the GSC Alumni Association held its first Golf Tournament. The tournament, billed as the GSC Alumni & Friends Golf Open, benefits student programming and scholarships. The Distinguished Service and Alumnus Awards were also established in 1986 to recognize our successful alums.

Just like today, the College continued to evolve, and changes did occur rapidly. In 1987, the College’s name changed to Gainesville Junior College to Gainesville College, and in 1989, the Alumni Association celebrated the 25th anniversary of the College. It held several events that year in conjunction with the Foundation for alumni, faculty/staff, students and donors. The Council also buried a time capsule that is slated to be opened at the College’s 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated in the spring of 2014.

The Alumni Endowment Fund was established in 1989—another milestone. This endowment allowed the Alumni Association to grant scholarships to students with financial need and academic ability. A preference, of course, is given to children of our alumni. Since January 2000, $23,850 in scholarship funds have been awarded to 32 students. The average scholarship has been $750. The Alumni Endowment continues to fund scholarships each year to our deserving students.

In 1990, the Eleanor Crawford staff award was created in honor of Gainesville Junior College’s first staff member. In 1993, the Alumni Association established its first newsletter, Anchors Away, and secured funds for a full-time Director of Alumni Affairs.

In 1997, the Association raised funds to construct an Alumni Memorial Garden located next to the Student Center, in memory of the GSC alumni, faculty and staff that have passed on. That year, the second president of the College, J. Foster Watkins, retired, and Dr. Martha T. Nesbitt assumed her position as President.

As the Association continued to look for ways to expand its activities, the Alumni Family Picnic was redesigned in 1999 to what we now know as the Starlight Concert & Fireworks Show. Over 1,500 alumni and community members attended the first Starlight. Today, this event brings over 4,000 people to campus, and raises over $10,000 each year for student programming and scholarships. In 2003, a donation from the G.W. Bailey Fund was received to construct the G.W. Bailey Amphitheater.

In 2011, the Cap & Gown events were re-crafted into the Spring and Winter Graduation Receptions. Over 90 attend the receptions on the Gainesville Campus; a student appreciation piece is combined with the Oconee Campus receptions, and over 50 attend those events.

The inaugural Alumni Reunion was established in April of 2012. Over 60 people attended the reunion reception on April 13. Three new awards were presented, including the Martha T. Nesbitt Leadership Award, Young Alumni Achievement Award, and Volunteer of the Year Award. Alumni Reunion weekend festivities concluded on a Saturday evening at the Georgia Force Football game at Gwinnett Arena.

In 2012, the inaugural Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held on June 28. The purpose of this event is to thank our volunteers who give of their time throughout the year and show appreciation for their involvement. The volunteer core consists of alumni, students, community members, and faculty and staff.

As of Fall 2012, Gainesville State College has over 36,000 alumni. The Association considers anyone who has taken 30 credit hours or more to be an alumnus of GSC. Activities continue to progress, and outreach and advocacy continue to be our focus. The Association is committed to serving the College’s mission and assisting in the growth of student programming and scholarship funding. Special focus is placed on engaging our alumni population, advocating on behalf of the College, and fostering growth and participation levels with our young alumni and current students.
Cindy Wilson (’96) has joined the leadership team at Challenged Child and Friends as the new Development and Marketing Director. Her primary responsibilities include fund raising, marketing, public relations, special events, and community outreach. Cindy earned the Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration from GSC. She has lived in Gainesville/Hall County for 30 years, and has been an active community volunteer, serving numerous organizations such as the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, Vision 2030, the Edmondson Telford Center for Children, and several others.

Jodi Elizabeth Armand (’98) was named the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year for Flowery Branch Elementary School in Hall County. Jodi has been a first and second grade teacher at the school for the past 12 years. She loves teaching and watching her students grow throughout each school year. Jodi is a proud mom of her daughter, Ashlee. She is happily married to Johnny Armand, and they are huge Georgia Bulldog fans.

Lina Alvarez (’04) started in English as a Second Language (ESL) and was one of our first batch of students at the Athens Center on Milledge Ave. She went on to UGA and is now living in the LA area, teaching and creating pottery. Lina graduated from GSC with an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies. For more information, go to: http://bitterrootpottery.com/kids.html or https://www.facebook.com/#!/Linaspottery.

Jaclyn Smith Brown (’07) received her Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration. While she attended GSC, she was very involved in Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), despite working, being a mom to two children, singing in her church choir, and attending classes. She transferred to UGA and has just completed a Master’s degree and has been offered a teaching job at Houston Central High School teaching Business Education.

Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Allen Horton of Athens, Georgia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Joy Marie Horton (’08), to Jason Edward People, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Edward People of Phoenix City, Alabama. A September wedding is planned. Joy received her Bachelor of Science degree in Technology Management at GSC. She is currently an MRI assistant with Athens Orthopedic Clinic in Athens, Georgia. Jason graduated from Troy University and is employed as a programmer.

Chad Paris began as one of our Learning Support students in reading and lived in the Athens area. He attended the GSC Oconee campus as recently as 2009. Chad is now a successful business owner in Florida, running the company Paris Leaf Printing & Design. The company was recently recognized as Gainesville (FL) Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year (2011). His company offers a green revolution in brand and design development. For more information, visit: www.parisleaf.com or chad@parisleaf.com.

Wayne Winsett of Maxeys and Debbie Winsett of Crawford are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Kimberly Lynne Winsett (’11), to Matthew Derek Nelms, son of Mark and Tami Floyd of Lexington. Kimberly received the Associate of Science degree from GSC and is currently working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. The wedding took place June 23, 2012 at Crawford Baptist Church in Crawford.

An interest in travel and a degree in international affairs have taken Jess Grogan (’04) thousands of miles away from the Forsyth County chicken farm where he was raised. His experiences have taken him to 26 countries. After earning an associate's degree in psychology at GSC, Grogan transferred to North Georgia College & State University to major in political science and international affairs.

In 2005, he was one of 110 Freeman-Asia Scholars from across the United States chosen to study abroad in Osaka, Japan, through the International Student Exchange Program. Grogan met his wife, Manuela Proni, while studying in Japan. He learned Japanese and Spanish at Gainesville State, which helped him learn Italian during his subsequent travels. He earned a master's degree from University of Bologna (Italy) in 2011 and returned to the United States as an intern for the United Nations' ECOSOC Support and Coordination Office at the UN Headquarters in New York, NY.

Correction to the Spring 2012 issue of Anchors Away, “We Heard That”: Gina Sartain Neill (’08) was named the 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year for White Sulphur Elementary in Hall County (not for Hall County, as we reported).

To find the full list of Hall County Schools 2012-2013 Teachers of the Year, visit: http://halco.org/boe/dmdocuments/2013TOTY%20by%20School.pdf
GSC Honors J. Foster Watkins & Loyd Strickland

On June 26, Gainesville State College's Academic II & III buildings were dedicated to two very special leaders of our College, Dr. J. Foster Watkins and Loyd Strickland. Over 125 people attended the event, which took place in the Student Center Atrium.

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the naming of the Loyd Strickland Academic Building and the J. Foster Watkins Academic Building at its April 2012 Board Meeting.

The Loyd Strickland Academic Building, formerly known as Academic II, is home to the School of Social Sciences Social Sciences Division. It includes the highly innovative Academic, Computing, Tutoring and Testing (ACTT) Center. The Center was recognized as one of the "Very Best Retention Programs" of the University System of Georgia in 1995 and has since received additional Regents and national awards as an outstanding facility.

Dr. J. Foster Watkins was Gainesville State's second president, and the former Academic III Building now bears his name. He thanked guests who attended the dedication ceremony.

GSC/NGCSU consolidation update

On May 8, 2012, the consolidation process of Gainesville State College (GSC) and North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) took another step forward with the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents' actions on the mission statement and name of the institution formed through the consolidation. The board approved the name University of North Georgia for the new institution.

The mission, as approved by the Board of Regents, reads: The University of North Georgia, a regional multi-campus institution and premier senior military college, provides a culture of academic excellence in a student-focused environment that includes quality education, service, inquiry and creativity. This is accomplished through broad access to comprehensive academic and co-curricular programs that develop students into leaders for a diverse and global society. The University of North Georgia is a University System of Georgia leadership institution and is The Military College of Georgia.

For further updates on the consolidation, visit www.usg.edu or www.gscngcsu.org.

Over 4,000 "Rocked through the Decades"

Starlight 2012—"Rockin’ Through the Decades" was a huge success! Over 4,000 people came to campus on June 8 to see the fun performances of "The Pak" and "Back in Time"! Bay Fireworks lit up the night sky with a beautiful and exciting fireworks display.

Thanks to all our volunteers and to everyone who shared this special night with us to support the GSC Alumni Association! We hope to see you next year. Mark your calendars for next year's event on Friday, June 7, 2013!

Please help us thank our generous sponsors:

- America's Home Place
- BB&T - Oakwood Branch
- Dairy Queen
- Danley Sound Labs
- dB Audio & Video
- Highland Mountain Beverage Service
- Peach State Bank & Trust
- Primerica
- Standard Press

Dr. J. Foster Watkins was Gainesville State's second president, and the former Academic III Building now bears his name. He thanked guests who attended the dedication ceremony.
Weeks of Welcome 2012: Students invited to "Explore the Possibilities!"

This year’s Weeks of Welcome (WOW) events start August 13 and conclude two weeks later on August 24. This year’s WOW theme is “Explore the Possibilities!” All of our events have been designed to help students discover all the chances there are to craft their own experiences at GSC! Coordinated by the Office of Student Life on each campus, all WOW events are free, and there are always door prizes to encourage as many students as possible to participate.

Events on the Gainesville Campus include our traditional Welcome Tents staffed by faculty and staff, Donuts with the Deans, Pizza with the President (and Alumni!), a ticket giveaway for an upcoming G-Braves game, the Multicultural Extravaganza, Open Houses in our Adult Learner Resource Center and our Military Resource Center, and a multitude of workshops for adult learners, veterans, those in need of academic advising, and the general student population.

Events on the Oconee campus include traditional Welcome Tents with faculty and staff, Sundaes with Student Services, Multicultural Student Reception, Student Government Association Open House, Welcome Back Cookout, Taste of Watkinsville, Volunteer Fair, and more. To see what’s going on, visit http://www.gsc.edu/campuslife/studentlife and click on the WOW icon.
Economic impact exceeds $206 million

A newly released report states that the economic impact of Gainesville State College exceeded $206 million and is part of the combined economic impact of the University System of Georgia’s 35 institutions on their host communities, which reached $13.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2011. This is 5 percent higher than the $12.6 billion reported for FY 2010. The counties of Hall, Gwinnett, Jackson, White, Habersham, Lumpkin, Banks and Forsyth were considered part of GSC’s study area.

The FY 2011 study found that GSC generated 2,250 jobs of the nearly 132,000 jobs generated within Georgia’s public University System, or more than 3 percent of all the non-farm jobs that exist in Georgia. The bottom line is that one job out of every 29 in the State of Georgia is due to the University System.

One striking finding is that university- or college-related spending creates far more jobs off the campus than it does on the campus. On average, for each job that exists on campus, two off-campus jobs exist because of spending related to the institution.

Most of GSC’s $206 million economic impact consists of initial spending by the College for salaries and fringe benefits, operating supplies and expenses, and other budgeted expenditures, as well as spending by the students who attended the institutions. Initial spending by GSC and its students equaled $153 million, or 74 percent of the total output impact.

The remaining $53 million (26 percent) of the output impact was created by re-spending—the multiplier effect of the dollars that are spent again in the region. For every dollar of initial spending by a University System institution, research found that, on average, an additional 39 cents was generated for the local economy. Gainesville State College’s FY 2011 impact was the second largest among state colleges—$206 million.

The full study with data for all 35 USG institutions is available at: http://www.usg.edu/economic_development/documents/PS-USGImpact2011.pdf

For more information, email: alumni@gsc.edu