

FALL 2010

THE MAGAZINE OF GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE

the chronicle



GPC ALPHARETTA
EXPANDED OPERATION INCREASES ACCESS
AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS





CULTIVATING STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Retention, graduation and transfer are more than academic buzzwords at Georgia Perimeter College. They are vehicles by which GPC students reach their educational goals. They are benchmarks in our mission of transforming the lives of students.

Georgia Perimeter College grants more associate degrees than any institution in the University System of Georgia. We annually send approximately 3,000 students to bachelor’s degree programs in the university system, more than one-fifth of all system transfers. As the transfer engine of the USG, Georgia Perimeter provides strategic support to keep students in school and on track.

Still, we want to do more. That’s why GPC is thrilled to have been chosen from among the best of the country’s 1,200 community colleges to participate in two national initiatives to improve the success of two-year college students.

In “Developing a Community College Student Roadmap,” GPC joins 11 of the nation’s top community colleges to create model programs for strengthening student success. GPC also is one of only nine colleges in the country selected to receive a “Project DEgree” grant to help underprepared students reach and succeed in transfer-level classes. In addition, we’ve been awarded two TRIO grants from the U.S. Department of Education to increase the retention, graduation and transfer of low-income, first-generation or disabled students. In total, these grants have brought more than a half million dollars to GPC this year.

This issue of The Chronicle shines a light on these accomplishments, along with other exciting GPC initiatives. You’ll read about the opening of our full center in Alpharetta, which expands access services for north metro students. At GPC’s Clarkston Campus, faculty and students are teaming up with DeKalb Technical College on “green technology” learning opportunities. GPC Online is reaching out to unprecedented numbers of students. And, Georgia Perimeter is building stronger relationships with our alumni around the country—and around the world.

We’ve also included an annual report of the Georgia Perimeter College Foundation, which develops external support that is critical, particularly in these times of economic pressures and budget reductions. Georgia Perimeter College is moving upward every day. With each step, we solidify a foundation that is cultivating greater student success than ever before.

Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli
President, Georgia Perimeter College

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On The Cover:
For 10 years, Georgia Perimeter College has shared a 50,000-square-foot building in Alpharetta with Georgia State University. This fall GPC took total ownership of the facility, increasing GPC’s enrollment capacity from 1,100 to 2,500 and allowing for expanded services. See story on page 2.

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THE HUNT IS ON
Georgia Perimeter College and DeKalb College have 350,000 alumni scattered across the country—and the world. A new Alumni Relations office is dedicated to finding them, one alumnus at a time, and bringing them “home.”



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DYNAMIC DUO
Faculty and students at GPC are collaborating with counterparts at DeKalb Tech to enhance learning opportunities in “green” technology. The project-based partnership will balance instruction in scientific theories with hands-on applications of classroom lessons.



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ONLINE ANYTIME
With more than 8,000 of its students opting for the convenience and flexibility of online courses, GPC offers the largest and fastest-growing online program in the University System of Georgia.



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GEORGIA PERIMETER DOUBLES SPACE, EXPANDS SERVICES IN ALPHARETTA

When Georgia Perimeter College’s Alpharetta Center opened its doors this fall, students found that GPC no longer occupies just a handful of rooms in the 50,000-square-foot building. GPC now owns the whole thing.

For 10 years, the classroom building at Alpharetta Center has been shared by Georgia State University and GPC. But this summer Georgia State completed construction of its new facility, located just across the parking lot, allowing GPC to take total ownership of the original facility.

This opens up a lot of possibilities for Georgia Perimeter in Alpharetta. For starters, GPC’s enrollment capacity at the center is jumping from 1,100 to up to 2,500 students with much improved services, says Frank Nash, Alpharetta Center director and dean of Student Services.



Georgia Perimeter now has its own building at its Alpharetta Center location.

“We’re opening up a whole new world for higher education in Alpharetta,” says Nash. “We are in a great situation here. Georgia State and GPC will continue to

work together. We are already offering a 2+2 program in Business Administration.”

The renovated building now includes an Office of Student Life, a bookstore, an open computer lab, Advising and Counseling services, a library and public safety offices.

“Our bookstore allows students to order books and then pick them up on site. Our library is an electronic library with a limited number of periodicals.”

The renovation of the building is following the “one-stop-shop design” of other GPC campuses by locating most student services offices conveniently near the main entrance.

Future plans include eventually adding four laboratories for the science curriculum, says Nash.

PROGRAMS ALLOW STUDENTS TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL

High school graduation must have inspired a feeling of déjà vu for Jennifer Milton and Brooke Shannon. After all, they’d already collected their associate degrees from Georgia Perimeter College two weeks before.

The two are among 11 graduates this past spring who earned both their GPC college degrees and their high school diplomas, courtesy of two different early college programs offered at Georgia Perimeter. Both graduates are continuing their studies as juniors at four-year universities this fall: Milton at Valdosta State University and Shannon at University of Georgia.

Milton is a member of the inaugural class of the DeKalb Early College Academy, a collaboration between GPC and the DeKalb County School System designed to increase high school graduation rates and

college attendance rates for at-risk students. Students have the opportunity to take college courses, which also count toward their high school degree, beginning in their junior year in high school. Milton and 10 classmates picked up their dual degrees at ceremonies in May.

Meanwhile, Shannon took full advantage of GPC’s Dual Enrollment program to finish her last two years of Social Circle High School on GPC’s Newton Campus. The college’s DE program annually enrolls approximately 900 students, most of whom—unlike Shannon—continue part time at their high schools while taking some classes at GPC.



DeKalb Early College Academy students are all smiles following their graduation from GPC.

However, a new Dual Enrollment program, Move On When Ready, is being implemented this fall specifically to encourage students to enter college full-time during what would have been their junior or senior year of high school.

GPC is the state’s leader in Dual Enrollment and Early College participation.



Regents’ Outstanding Scholar Roxanne Hambrick accepts award from GPC President Anthony Tricoli.

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE HONORS STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF

Georgia Perimeter College saluted its top faculty, staff and students at springtime Celebration of Excellence ceremonies.

Top awards included the college’s highest honor, the Cole Fellow, to geology professor Dr. Pamela Gore; and the inaugural Exemplary Professor Fellowship Award, to Maureen Burkart and Carole Creekmore. The exemplary professors are expected to mentor two promising faculty members each year for two years.

In all, faculty/staff awards were handed out in 13 categories. The other honorees were Tom Amygdalitsis, Michelle Arth, Anthony Bush, Deborah Dove, Dr. Michael Hall, Felicia Harbach, Eric Kendrick, Don McCormick, Lora Mirza, Janet Orr, Karen Truesdale, Robin Winston and the Human Resources Recruiting Team.

Student awards were given in 20 categories at the Celebration of Excellence Student Recognition ceremony held to recognize academic excellence and service to the college community.

Newton Campus student Roxanne Hambrick was named GPC’s Regents’ Outstanding Scholar. Every year the Board of Regents asks each member college to choose one outstanding student as its Regents Scholar. GPC chooses a winner from each campus and then selects a student from this group as the college’s Regents’ Outstanding Scholar. Other campus scholars were Hannah Carey, Clarkston; Eva Imbsweiler, Dunwoody; and Shawna Stephens, Decatur.

Student leaders from each campus were recognized with the President’s Award, which salutes outstanding students for service, leadership and academic excellence. The winners were Meghna Bharucha, Clarkston Campus; Andaika Jean-Noel, Newton Campus; Justin McPhatter, Dunwoody Campus; and De’Mon Nolan, Decatur Campus. Student academic awards also were given in 14 categories.

get to know JOAN PURDON



Chair of Georgia Perimeter College’s Nursing Program.

Educational and work background: Former director of the health ministry program at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Atlanta. Prior to that job, I served eight as chair of the nursing program at Raymond Walters College at the University of Cincinnati, where I was a faculty member for 15 years, teaching

adult health and nursing education. I earned my bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Cincinnati and my master’s in nursing from the University of Kentucky.

Professional goals: Developing a collegial tone in the GPC Nursing department by working in teams and as a peer leader.

Leisure activities: Working in my vegetable garden, walking and collecting antique dolls.

Family: Married 43 years to husband, Steven. Sons: Matthew, married to Liz, in New York; and Garrod, married to Helen in California, and their two children: Sarah Grace, 2, and Evi Mae, who was born in May.

One of my favorite memories: My aunt was an Army nurse who served in Europe during World War II and always encouraged me to get my bachelor’s degree in nursing. When I graduated from nursing school, she sent me a whole package of white shoelaces with the advice: don’t go to work with dirty shoelaces!



We’ve got an app for that: GPC dental hygiene students, from left, Brittany Chapman, Brittany Mullins and Holly Litt work on the iPads they were issued as part of a student technology grant. Dental hygiene and nursing students were loaned iPads or iPod Touches loaded with special health sciences apps. Students also can download lectures and videos from their instructors.

NEW MEDIA LABS BRING COOL TOOLS TO GEORGIA PERIMETER CLASSROOMS

Even exams are going high tech these days.

Georgia Perimeter College Professor Mary Mattson challenged students in her class, Education 2120: Issues in Cultural Diversity and Education, to create three-to-six-minute documentaries as their final exam. The students worked in groups of four or five and focused on topics such as learning disabilities and gender issues in the classroom.

“I learned more creating the video rather than memorizing a semester’s worth of work for an exam,” said Stephanie Pierce, an Early Childhood Education major. “This was more hands-on, plus I learned so much about group dynamics.”

Tracey Adkins, assistant director of instructional technology, and Jonathan Harris, digital media coordinator, co-taught Mattson’s students on use of video



GPC students are using more media tools, such as video cameras, for class projects.

cameras and editing software.

The project is part of a larger plan to help students in all majors create cutting-edge videos and graphics right on campus. The Office of Information Technology, with the use of student technology funds, has created two student media labs at

Clarkston and Dunwoody campuses. The labs contain Mac Pro work stations for video editing, an iMac station for graphics editing, as well as a sound room with audio equipment such as USB turntables, MIDI keyboards and percussion pads.

As part of the services offered by the media labs, students will be able to check out lighting kits, microphones, video cameras and still cameras. Harris will offer training on software and equipment available through the lab.

The experience is another way Georgia Perimeter offers an education relevant to the times, Mattson said. “The project is especially vital to future teachers because it enables students who will be working with 21st century learners to use the most modern technology.”

COLLEGE PILOTING PROGRAM FOR LEARNING SUPPORT MATH STUDENTS

This fall, Georgia Perimeter College’s Mathematics Department is piloting a new computer software program to help Learning Support students. Dubbed “ALEKS,” for Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces, the software will be used by all Math 0097 (Beginning Algebra) students on the Decatur Campus. McGraw-Hill is providing the software for free.

The software can assess the students’ individual levels of knowledge and start them forward from the areas in which they have already shown mastery. Right now, students who fail Learning Support math must repeat the entire course, even if they have mastered some of the material.

According to the company website, ALEKS uses adapting questioning to

quickly determine exactly what a student knows and doesn’t know in a course.

As the student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that the topics learned are retained. The program avoids using multiple-choice questions. The ALEKS software is used in conjunction with classroom instruction.

“This software will cover 20 modules that we already cover in Math 0097,” says Dr. Margaret Ehrlich, dean of the GPC mathematics division. If at the end of the semester, they have only mastered nine of the modules, they will not have to repeat everything again; they can start where they left off.”

If successful, the program will be considered for campuswide implementation, Ehrlich says.



GPC Decatur math instructors train on new software that assesses students’ individual levels of knowledge.



Professor Bill Price works with GPC students Robert Joung, left and Samir Medina. Tuition climbed at USG institutions this fall, but GPC students fared better than most.

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE TUITION HIKE IS LOWEST IN USG

To offset the state-mandated budget cuts, the University System of Georgia raised tuition this fall at its 35 system institutions. While no one likes to pay more, Georgia Perimeter students and those at other state two-year colleges are getting the best deal: a tuition hike of only \$50 per semester. That compares favorably with \$500 hikes at research universities Georgia State, University of Georgia and Georgia Tech; \$300 at regional universities such as Kennesaw State; and \$200 at state universities including Clayton State.

USG Chancellor Erroll Davis says the two-year colleges had the smallest increase because “they are access institutions, and the system wants more students starting at those colleges.”

USG Chief Financial Officer Usha Ramachandran explained how the USG staff came up with the funding strategies: “The staff balanced the need to preserve access, protect the quality of academic programs and keep tuition competitive with other colleges across the state, region and nation.”

Belt-tightening is continuing at all state agencies, including at Georgia Perimeter, which will see larger class sizes and a reduction in overtime and part-time workers’ hours in Fiscal Year 2011, which began July 1.

“During this time when per-student funding is at its lowest level of the decade, we must face this fiscal situation together,” says GPC’s president, Dr. Anthony Tricoli. “Even during tough economic times, our highest priority continues to be the success of our students.”

they said



Brianna Jenkins on set of Food Network show

“When students tell me proudly that a patient thanked them for great care, I can see them beginning to realize what’s to come for them as nurses.” GPC Nursing Professor Sue Buchholz, in an interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

“Believe in yourself and know you are a rock star. If you have a true passion, don’t ever think you can’t do it. Never stop.” Brianna Jenkins, GPC alumna and finalist on “The Next Food Network Star” show. Jenkins made it to the sixth week of competition in the show.

“Your job for right now is to do everything you can to get you closer to your dream. You all have a tremendous ability to make this world a better place.” DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May, speaking to attendees at GPC’s Black Male Empowerment Conference.

“Your child has dreams and goals, and you just have to support them and know what they are. . . . Being in college is a big step. It’s a decision to be accountable for your future.” Aliyah Najm, mother of hip-hop performer T-Pain, speaking at GPC Decatur Campus’ Spring Fling event.

“I first got involved with the paper because I love people and I love to write, but I learned that this is not a top-down thing. This is teamwork.” Nathan Guest, outgoing editor of The Collegian, GPC’s student newspaper.



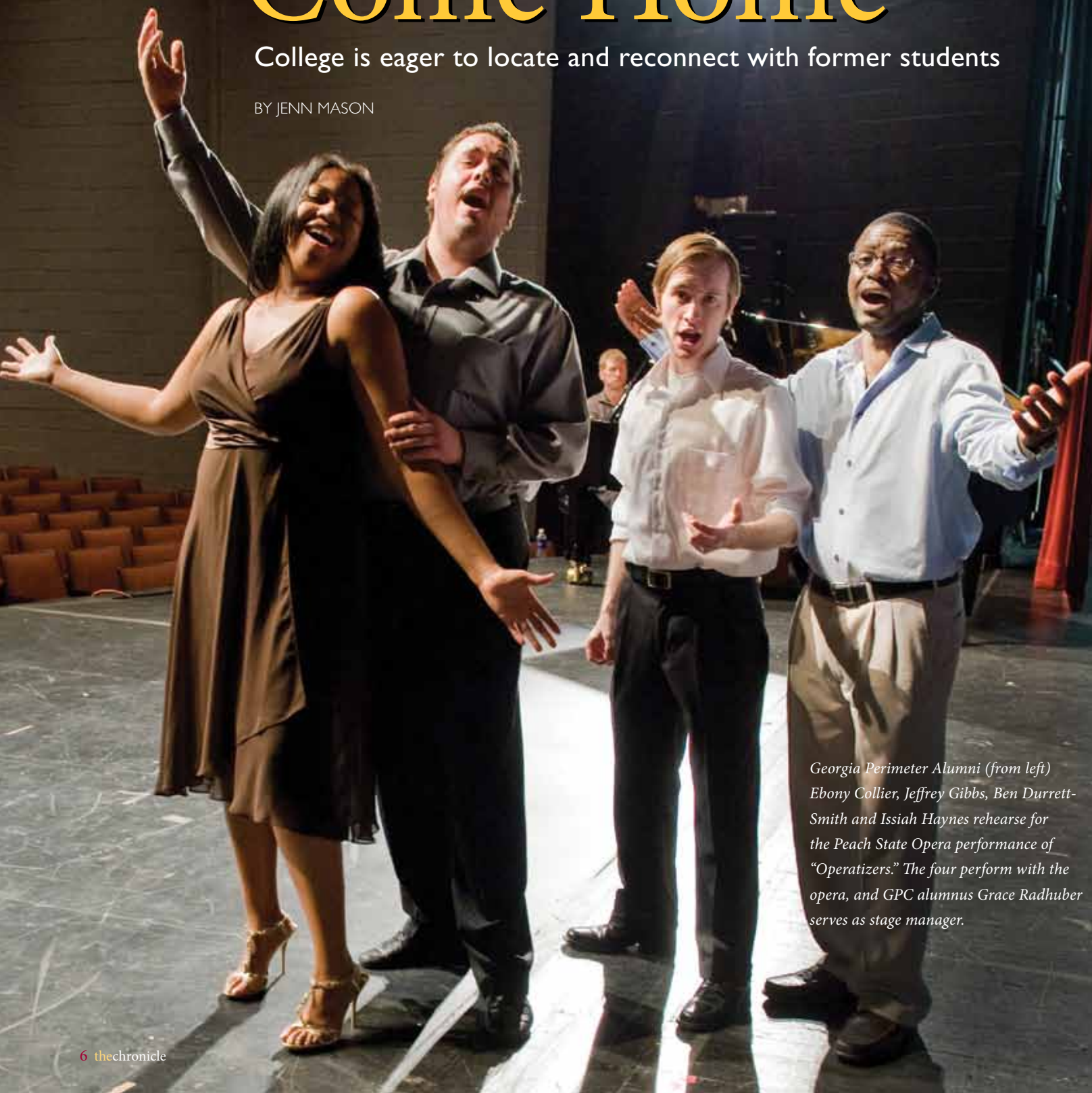
Photo by Stephanie Nice

New job for VP: Dr. Virginia Michelich, GPC vice president for Academic Affairs, left the college July 1 to accept the position of vice chancellor for student achievement at the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. She is pictured chatting with Doug Ruch at a farewell party held in her honor.

Start Here, Go Anywhere, Come Home

College is eager to locate and reconnect with former students

BY JENN MASON



Georgia Perimeter Alumni (from left) Ebony Collier, Jeffrey Gibbs, Ben Durrett-Smith and Issiah Haynes rehearse for the Peach State Opera performance of “Operatizers.” The four perform with the opera, and GPC alumnus Grace Radhuber serves as stage manager.

Photo by Louie Favorite

Rika Matsuura needed a copy of her transcript to give to her employer, Canon Camera. Trouble was, she was on the other side of the world. In Oita, Japan, to be exact. She checked out the Georgia Perimeter College website and decided to give the Office of Alumni Relations a call for help.

Erica Myers was a freelance broadcast producer, doing work for CNN and Georgia Public Broadcasting, when she came across the GPC Alumni Association on Facebook. Thanks to a lucky guess about the number of spots on GPC’s mascot, Jaggy, she won the Jaggy Spotted You Online contest and became a new Alumni Association member.

The Food Network discovered that a contestant on “The Next Food Network Star” was a GPC alum and gave the college a call. The Alumni Relations team rallied behind Atlanta caterer Brianna Jenkins in her bid for her very own show.

GPC and DeKalb College alumni have 350,000 stories like these, stories of success inside the classroom and in their chosen fields, across the United States and around the globe. And now, GPC has an office dedicated to finding and engaging these former students.

“This year has really been a process of discovery,” says Collins Foster, director of Alumni Relations. “Discovering who our alums are, where they are, what their needs are. And we’re doing that one alumnus at a time.”

Foster took the helm of Alumni Relations in 2008 and hired two assistant directors in late 2009: Liani Swingle, assistant director of alumni programs, and Jenn Mason, assistant director of alumni communications. Together, the team embarked on a mission to meaningfully connect former students to students today.

WHERE DID THEY GO?

One of the first challenges for the newly formed office was simply finding where alumni were.

“You have almost 50 years of alumni but very few alumni records,” Foster says. “To say that 10 percent of our alumni contact information was correct when we got started would be generous.”

That didn’t stop her team from moving forward. This year they launched an Alumni Association membership campaign, targeting more than 34,000 DeKalb and GPC grads. While the response was positive, they realized that communication with alumni needed to be dynamic and multifaceted in order to catch and hold the attention of so many alumni.

“We don’t want to simply tell alumni what we want them to know,” Foster says. “We want to have a conversation. We want to hear what alumni have to say so we can incorporate their opinions into what we do. They’re the ones in charge here. We also want to keep things fun.”

In the spirit of fun—and as a different way of reaching lost alumni—the Office of Alumni Relations started the ‘Jaggy on the Prowl’ program. Based on Flat Stanley, the popular grade-school activity, Jaggy on the Prowl started with 20 Flat Jaggies sent to various alumni. Alums who received a Flat Jaggy in the mail were asked to take a picture with him, e-mail that picture to the Alumni

Relations staff, then send Jaggy along to another alum.

“Jaggy is still on the prowl, so keep an eye on your mailbox,” Foster says.

Social media also is playing an increasing role in alumni communications. With outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, alumni are able to keep in touch with the college and each other. In the spring, the Georgia Perimeter College Alumni Association Facebook page started Retro Wednesdays to feature archive photos from the college’s past.

“It’s such a hoot to see these pictures from as far back as the ’60s,” says Alumni Association President Melinda Mock. “I hope it gives people a sense of history and tradition. People may even recognize themselves or their friends.”

BRINGING ALUMNI HOME

When Swingle plans alumni events, it’s more than just free food (though she doesn’t discount that as ways to pique interest).

“We’re looking to bring alumni together in ways that are fun, yes, but also meaningful,” Swingle says. “When we hear from alums about their GPC or DeKalb College experiences, they always mention the personal attention they received and the relationships they built. When we bring them back for events, we want to create that same feeling so it really does feel like coming home.”

The 2009-10 slate of events was the busiest in the history of the Alumni Association, with events targeting former baseball players, business majors looking to network, nurses, jazz lovers and new graduates. In February, the Office of Alumni Relations hosted GPC Night at Philips Arena.

“The Hawks event was so successful because we were able to bring members from across the GPC community—alumni, retirees, students, faculty and staff—for a night of fun away from campus,” Swingle says. “Opportunities like that reinforce the relationships within our community.”

While continuing to offer events for fellowship, Swingle is now turning her attention toward programs that leverage alumni expertise and resources, such as mentoring programs and an alumni speakers’ bureau.

Former Alumni Association Vice President Isaac Boring has developed a mentoring program called “Been There, Done That” through which GPC alums who have moved on to four-year institutions help current GPC students as they consider their options for four-year colleges and different majors and careers.

“My experience at Georgia State was very different from my experience at GPC,” Boring says. “I wish someone who had been at Georgia State before could have shown me the ropes, and now GPC alumni will be able to provide that service for our students.”

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

In July, the Alumni Association Board added six new members, and in December seven more will come on board.

“We’re excited to see new life in the board,” Mock says. “For the first time in several years we have board members spanning many



Dear GPC and
DeKalb College alumni,

As you read this issue of The Chronicle, I hope you are as excited as I am about the events and initiatives the Office of Alumni Relations and the Alumni Association have to offer. Now I want to hear from you!

What are your passions? How can we help you with your goals? How would you like to be involved at GPC?

You are at the heart of every event we plan, every program we implement and every publication we print. Please, help us get to know you better. You can do this in several ways:

- Join the Alumni Association! Annual dues are \$25. If you are a Nursing or Dental Hygiene alum, that \$25 covers your dues for both the general association and your respective affinity group. You can join online at www.gpc.edu/Alumni.
- If you've already joined, please return your member survey so we can note your preferences.
- Get in touch with me directly. You may reach me at Collins. Foster@gpc.edu or 678-891-2320.
- Engage in dialogue on the Georgia Perimeter College Alumni Association Facebook page or follow us on Twitter.
- Come to alumni events. See our schedule on www.gpc.edu/Alumni

Remember, you're part of the GPC alumni family, whether you completed an associate degree at DeKalb College or took a single class with GPC Online.

If you have ideas about what you would like to see the association offer, or if you're interested in serving on one of our alumni boards or committees, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We need your support to help our alumni program grow into one of the best in the nation.

See you soon!

Kallie Foster

Collins Foster
Director, Alumni Relations

Photo by Stephanie Nice



Jaggy welcomes GPC alumni, students, faculty and staff at the GPC Night at the Braves, sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations.

different graduation years, majors and campuses. I expect to see a lot of new initiatives from the association in the coming months.”

Alumni can look forward to a new online community that will allow them to reconnect with classmates as well as update their contact information, choose communication preferences and pay their dues with a click of a button.

“The new NetCommunity will be a huge step forward for our alumni,” Foster says. “With more and more people conducting business almost exclusively online, we recognize the need to make alumni services easily accessible any time, anywhere.”

A primary focus throughout the coming year will be the alumni affinity groups. While the Nursing Alumni Association is active and growing, the Dental Hygiene Alumni Association is going through a period of revitalization as a new board is formed. A group of interested alumni and faculty is working to form a Business Alumni Association, too.

Foster plans to develop a Student-Alumni Council that will allow current and former students more opportunities to engage with one other and develop programming beneficial to both groups.

“Everything we do is guided by two principles: meeting alumni needs and meeting student needs,” Foster says. “There’s so much we can do together, from expanding scholarship dollars and providing mentoring opportunities to helping alums network for jobs. Everyone wins with a solid alumni program.”

PERSONALITIES

HANNAH CAREY CONNECTING THROUGH AN ARTIST’S SPIRIT

by Jenn Mason

When Hannah Carey graduated from Georgia Perimeter College in May, she had two plans for the summer: cut off her hair and go to Europe. She accomplished both.

With her heart firmly planted in theater and a need for space, freedom and adventure tugging on her sleeve, Carey set out for the United Kingdom with an unlimited Britrail pass and a few guidebooks. No plans, no reservations, just the artist’s spirit that guided her through GPC’s Theatre program—and beyond.

“I spent a lot of time avoiding touristy things. I talked to the locals and shopped at corner stores,” Carey says, recounting the highlights of her trip.

Carey fell in love with theater at age 10, when her mother enrolled her in a summer drama camp at church. She went back to that camp year after year, eventually becoming a counselor. She also worked in community theater.

A home-schooled student, Carey finished her high school studies early

and enrolled at GPC at age 17. Her first theater class proved to be the point of no return. Working on sets as part of a class assignment, Carey bonded with like-minded actors and theater buffs. She never looked back.

Equally at home on stage or behind it, Carey describes herself as “half an actor and half a stage manager.” She’s done it all, from set construction for the GPC Theatre Arts Guild’s production of “Mikado” to playing the lead in the Guild production of “The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds.” While at GPC, she was involved in eight productions.

“I love connecting, and in theater, when you read the script, you connect with the playwright and with the characters,” Carey says. “When you’re on stage, you’re connecting with the audience and with the other actors. Even working back stage, you connect with the other people you work with.”

Carey’s talents extend beyond the stage, and so does her dedication.

“I am strongly impressed with Hannah’s strong desire for knowledge and perfection in everything she does, from acting a role, to understanding the International Phonetic Alphabet, to mastering the math problems in her

algebra class,” says GPC Theatre Program coordinator Sally Robertson.

“While at GPC, Hannah did community volunteer work, worked in our scene shop as a student assistant and was heavily involved with theater, both in classes and rehearsals for shows—from 8 o’clock in the morning to 11:30 at night,” Robertson says. “And still she graduated with a 4.0 GPA.”

Carey also took a sign language interpreting course at GPC and would like to become a certified interpreter. “I may be coming back to GPC for that,” she says. She currently is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre at Columbus State University. She’s interested in interpreting and in professional stage management as potential careers.

Those who missed seeing Carey on—or behind—stage, might recognize her from her stint as one of the Jaguar Cubs, the GPC students who accompany and assist the college mascot, Jaggy.

“That was not a difficult role to play, I let Jaggy do the goofy stuff,” Carey says. “It was easy for me!”

Photo by Bill Fox

GPC NURSING ALUMNI HONOR WARTIME NURSES AT ANNUAL DINNER

The 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon was overrun with wounded that night in 1969. Supplies were short, beds were full, and bleeding men were waiting in the hallways. When the radio crackled to life with an urgent request from an in-flight helicopter pilot, the head nurse should have said no, just like all the other military hospitals. But the civilian baby on board was the last survivor of her village, having been pried out of her dead mother's hands by rescuers. This was her only shot at survival. The nurse said, "Yes, go ahead and land."

Graduates of Georgia Perimeter College's Nursing program are familiar with the work required to heal bodies and save lives. They do it on a daily basis. And yet the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant was silent as attendees at this year's Nursing Alumni Association Annual Dinner listened to guest speaker Donna Rowe's tales from her time as an Army nurse in Vietnam.

"All of our nurses are heroes," says Laura Mitchell, Nursing Alumni Association president. "This year we felt it was important to honor a special set of those heroes—our veteran nurses."

Modern nursing exists thanks to Florence Nightingale and the wartime nurses who served alongside her in the Crimean War, and military nurses continue to make significant contributions to the health and welfare of our soldiers and our country.

Rosemary Robertson, associate professor of Nursing, also shared her photos and experiences as a Navy nurse caring for wounded soldiers in Washington during the Vietnam War. She even dressed the part, donning a re-creation of her uniform from the '60s. Nursing Alumni Scholarship recipient Stephanie Battiste wore a Navy nurse officer's uniform as well.

In addition to providing a time for nursing alumni to reconnect with each other and their former faculty members, the annual Nursing Alumni Association dinner raises funds for the Nursing Alumni Fund and Nursing Alumni Scholarship Fund. This year the association raised more than \$1,100 to support initiatives throughout the year.

Rowe's story of helping to save "Baby Kathleen" and being reunited with her in the United States years later is featured in the 2004 American film, "In the Shadow of the Blade."



(Above) Guest speaker Donna Rowe presented the program at the Nursing Alumni Association meeting, relating her experiences as an Army nurse in Vietnam. (Top) Rosemary Robertson, left, associate professor of nursing, and Stephanie Battiste, recipient of the Nursing Alumni Scholarship, wore vintage nursing uniforms as part of the program.



GPC Alumni Association President Melinda Mock presents James Williamson, a 1994 graduate of DeKalb College, with the 2010 Outstanding Alumnus award during commencement exercises in May.

FORMER STUDENTS, FACULTY HONORED

James Williamson, a 1994 graduate of DeKalb College, carried away more than a diploma when he left Georgia Perimeter College's forerunner institution. He carried an inspiration for his life's work and a model for how to perform it effectively.

Williamson, recently named Teacher of the Year at South Gwinnett High School, is this year's GPC Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumnus, and Tommy Barber, the retired associate professor who inspired Williamson to become a teacher, received the Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Member.

"I took Tommy Barber's history class, and within a week, I decided that's what I wanted to do," says Williamson, a mathematics teacher who credits his community college education for his personal approach to teaching. "I wanted to do for others what he did for me."

Williamson received his award during spring commencement. Barber, who taught history, political science and geography and also coached baseball and served as athletic director, was recognized at the Baseball Alumni Reunion in October.

"Teaching at GPC may be the best job anyone could ever have," he says.

At the GPC Nursing Alumni Association's annual dinner in May, a new Outstanding Nursing Alumnus Award was presented to Mary Ann Traina, a 1974 DeKalb College graduate who taught in the nursing lab until 1991, then served as Regents Test coordinator until 1995. Traina was a driving force in the founding of the Nursing Alumni Association and served as its first president.

"The Nursing department stays tight as a team because of the work we do," Traina says. "When you're dealing with people's lives, it adds another layer of commitment. Nursing is not just a science; it's an art."



GPC PUTS A LITTLE WILD WEST INTO ITS HUNT FOR ALUMNI

Don't be surprised if you see a few bandanas around campus. Faculty, staff and retirees have been asked to become "bounty hunters" for Georgia Perimeter College's lost alumni through the Alumni Bounty Hunter program. With thousands of alums out on the lam, the Office of Alumni Relations needs a few good deputies. Cowboy hats are optional.

Q: Why is the Office of Alumni Relations asking faculty, staff and retirees to help identify lost alumni?

A: The alumni staff is always working to develop close relationships with former students, but we recognize that some faculty, staff and retirees have been in touch with our alumni longer than our office has been in existence.

Q: How does the Alumni Bounty Hunter program work?

A: Faculty, staff and retirees may provide the Office of Alumni Relations with alumni names and two forms of contact information (e-mail address, phone number or mailing address). We define an alum as anyone who has completed at least one credit hour at GPC/DeKalb College. In December, the person who has turned in the most alumni contacts will receive a Flip camcorder. Other participants will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon gift card.

Q: What if an alum I turn in does not want to receive mail from the college?

A: Don't worry! Alumni will be notified that they have been Bounty Hunted and have the opportunity to opt in for further information.

Q: How can I contact the Office of Alumni Relations?

A: You may call 678-891-2320, e-mail alumni@gpc.edu or drop by our office on the first floor of the Decatur Campus A building.



Batter up for benefit: GPC alumnus Sean Pitman bats while Jaguar player Scott Sarratt catches in the alumni vs. current team scrimmage during the Baseball Alumni Reunion Oct. 17. The second annual reunion benefited the Baseball Scholarship Fund, raising more than \$2,500.

JAGGY TURNS 1!



Photo by Stephanie Nice

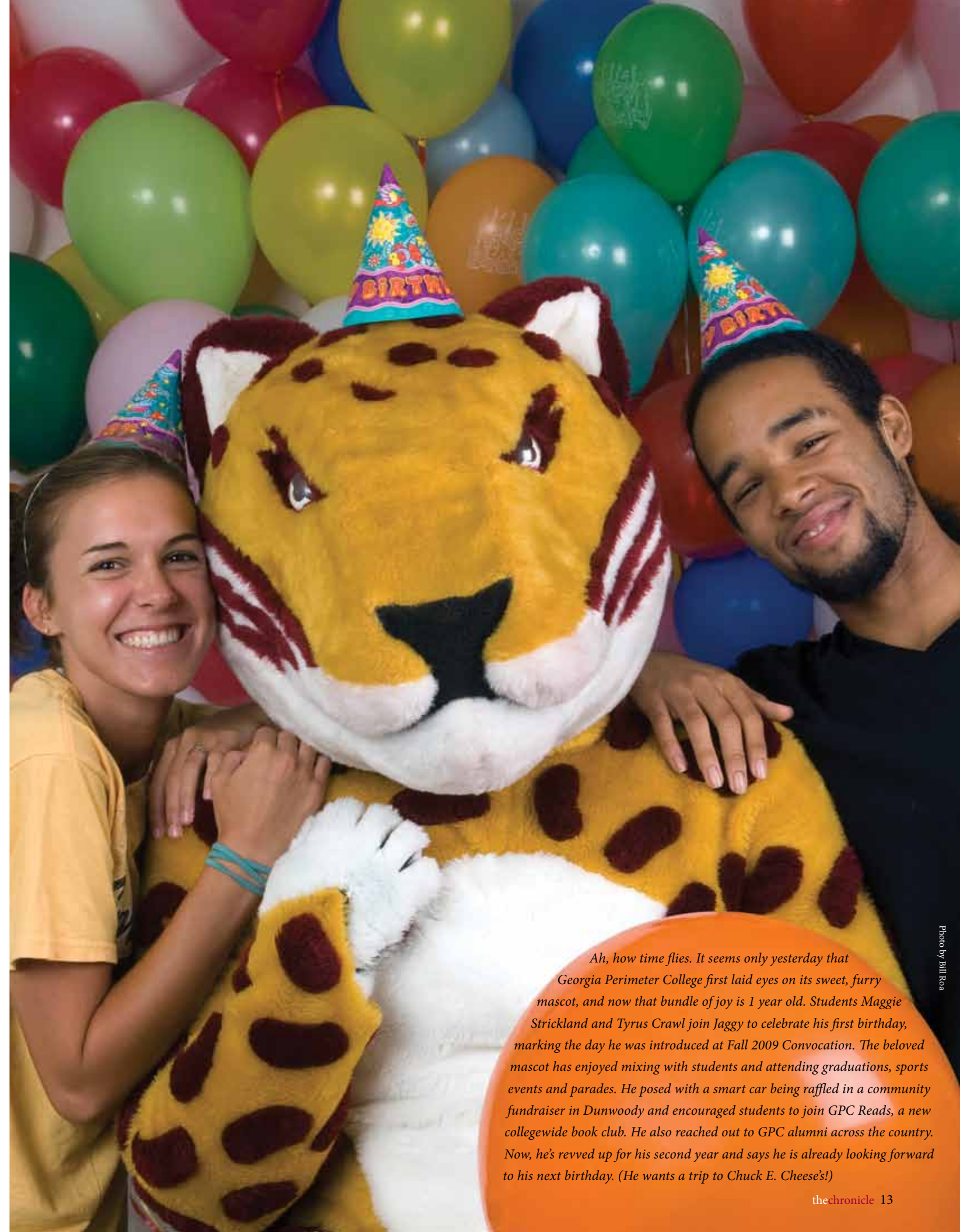


Photo by Bill Roa

Ah, how time flies. It seems only yesterday that Georgia Perimeter College first laid eyes on its sweet, furry mascot, and now that bundle of joy is 1 year old. Students Maggie Strickland and Tyrus Crawl join Jaggy to celebrate his first birthday, marking the day he was introduced at Fall 2009 Convocation. The beloved mascot has enjoyed mixing with students and attending graduations, sports events and parades. He posed with a smart car being raffled in a community fundraiser in Dunwoody and encouraged students to join GPC Reads, a new collegewide book club. He also reached out to GPC alumni across the country. Now, he's revved up for his second year and says he is already looking forward to his next birthday. (He wants a trip to Chuck E. Cheese's!)

STEM Partnership

GPC and DeKalb Tech form dynamic duo in 'green' technology

BY ROGER BARNES



GPC student Larkin Arnold examines a Building Automation System level controller as DeKalb Technical College student Naoufel Zouaoui explains how it works.

Photos by Bill Roa

At Georgia Perimeter College's Clarkston Campus, students in engineering and physics courses study thermodynamics, forces and torques, potential and kinetic energy and other scientific concepts. Next door, at DeKalb Technical College's Clarkston Campus, students in the Green Technology Academy learn how to install solar panels, implement building automation systems and detect and improve inefficient cooling, heating and refrigeration systems. Soon, in a collaboration that faculty and administrators at both campuses say is unprecedented, GPC and DeKalb Tech students will receive the best of both worlds.

Faculty from Georgia Perimeter College and from DeKalb Tech's Green Technology Academy are launching a project-based learning collaboration that will integrate areas of their "green" curricula, bringing students and professors together to work, learn and transfer skills and knowledge. From this collaboration, GPC students will gain an increased opportunity to put into practice what they have learned in theory, and DeKalb Tech students can gain increased exposure to the theories behind green technology. The partnership is expected to strengthen publication, presentation and interaction skills of students; increase student retention, graduation and transfer and boost student interest in pursuing critical STEM majors (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The collaboration began in a friendly conversation between GPC professor Martin Okafor and DeKalb Tech's Brian Lovell, who was once a GPC student and is now director of DeKalb Tech's Green Technology Academy. Lovell told Okafor about the academy and DeKalb Tech's plans to allow students to make environmental improvements to a building on campus.

Okafor examined the students' designs and was impressed by their hands-on skill. He and Lovell continued to meet and learn more about each institution's programs and realized that all students could benefit from sharing the individual strengths of each institution.

Green technologies include those related to energy and resource conservation. "This includes making buildings more energy-efficient and making sure that refrigeration doesn't contaminate the ozone," Okafor says. "It also includes working with solar, thermal and wind energy—practices that help to prevent depletion of resources and help us conserve what we already have."

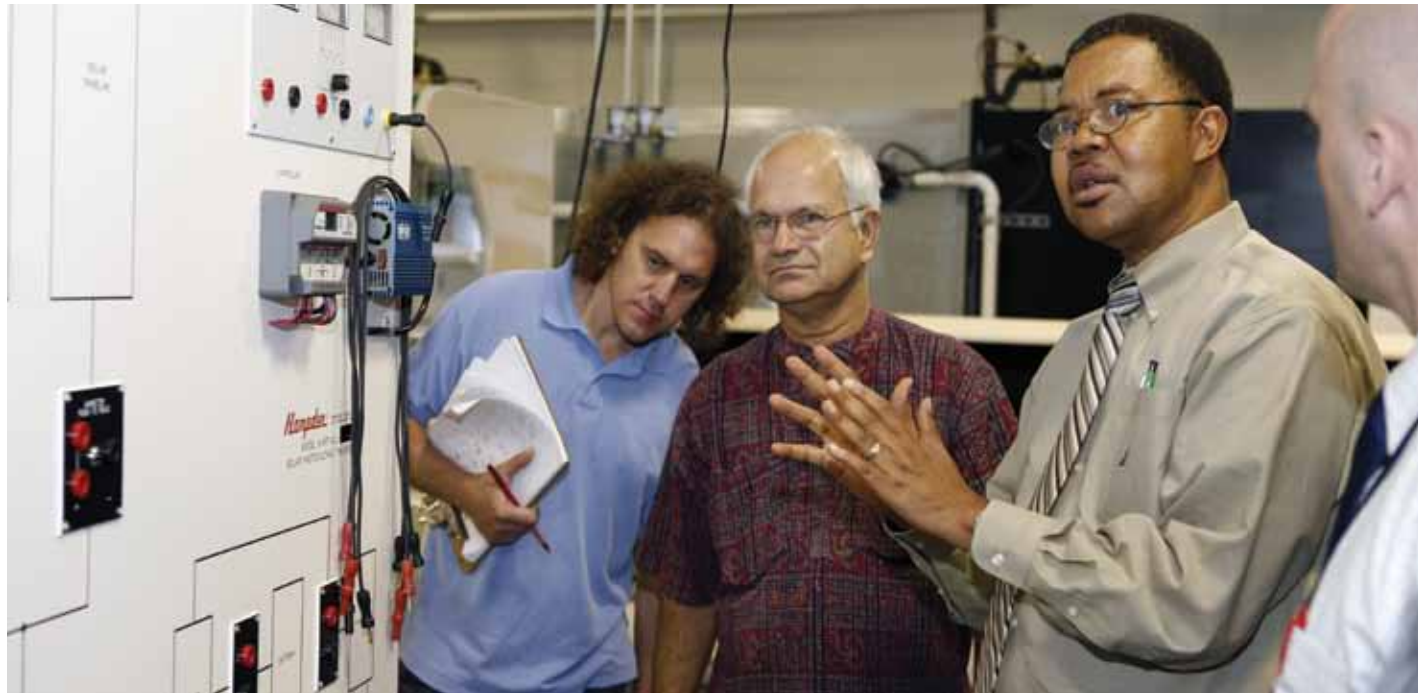
According to Lovell, DeKalb Tech created the Green Technology Academy because it recognized the potential job opportunities for students trained in green technologies.

"In establishing the academy, we wanted to help define what is 'green' for tech education," Lovell says. "We asked the question, 'What do employers need from us—not 10 years down the road, but today?'"

To give students practical experience, DeKalb Tech is allowing the academy to convert its Building C into a living laboratory; students will apply improvements such as solar energy and integrated building automation technology to turn the 47-year-old, almost 30,000-square-foot building into a "real world laboratory of what the students learn," Lovell says.

Faculty members from GPC and DeKalb Tech met during summer to tour DeKalb Tech's facilities and determine what shared projects might be the best fits for the two institutions. They decided that each college would send instructors to serve as guest lecturers at the neighboring college. Then, by spring semester 2011, students will begin working on joint projects.

Faculty members from each campus have different expectations of what their student learning outcomes should be from this joint project, based on their respective course objectives. Each student's work will be graded by the home



college's professor or instructor.

"This is an excellent idea," says Dr. Natoshia Anderson, DeKalb Tech computer graphics and design instructor. Anderson said such a collaboration has been discussed previously, but not acted upon until now.

"We, at each college, teach learning components that complement each other. So, we asked, 'why can't we help each other for the benefit of all our students?'" Anderson says.

GPC engineering instructor Jarrett Terry says the collaboration is timely and fits well into plans already in motion in Georgia Perimeter's engineering program. He says the ability to include a hands-on component is something accreditation advisors encourage.

"Knowing how to do something is at least as important as knowing why," Terry says. "With this collaborative project, our students will understand why they are learning what they are learning." The scope of the venture started small. Okafor, who is spearheading GPC's involvement, serves on DeKalb Tech's Green Technology Academy Advisory Committee. "Originally, the thought was that it would be me working with a few instructors at DeKalb Tech," Okafor says. But both sides saw the greater potential. Early in the process, Dr. Robin Hoffman, president of DeKalb Tech, and Dr. Anthony Tricoli, president of GPC, met to discuss the potential collaboration and agreed that such a partnership would yield strong learning opportunities.

"We were on the same page right from the start," Tricoli says.

"We had a very positive meeting," Hoffman says. "We all saw the benefits. Our students haven't had this type of collaboration in years."

Hoffman is referring to earlier days of Georgia Perimeter when it was known as DeKalb College. From 1972 to 1986, DeKalb Technical College operated as a division and campus of DeKalb College, and students at DeKalb Tech were able to enroll dually in vocational and collegiate programs. Even after the two institutions became separate, there were programs in which DeKalb Tech students would take a course or two at Georgia Perimeter and transfer the credit toward their degree.

"The new collaboration does not affect credits from either institution but allows students to maximize each college's strengths," Hoffman says.

"GPC students will gain a hands-on experience with this collaboration," Lovell says. "DeKalb Tech students will come to understand the theoretical aspects behind the technology. We know this will enhance the experiences of students at both institutions."

"STEM fields are particularly important to us at Georgia Perimeter," Tricoli says. "This endeavor opens a world of opportunity for students to gain both a theoretical understanding and real-life experience in the rapidly growing fields of green technology. By working together on sustainable projects like these, all students will receive the best of both worlds—moving education from theory to practice." 🍷



(Top) GPC faculty, from left, Fred Buls, Dr. Anant Honkan and Martin Okafor discuss the operation of an inverter at DeKalb Technical College with Brian Lovell, director of Green Technology Academy at DeKalb Tech. (Above) Okafor asks questions of Lovell, center, and Jeryll McWhorter, executive director of the Green Technology Academy, during a tour of DeKalb Tech's facilities.

PERSONALITIES

SHYAM SRIRAM TURNING COMMITMENT INTO CIVIC ACTION

by Rebecca Rakoczy

It's Saturday morning, and a band of Shyam Sriram's American Government students are busy at the Al-Farooq Masjid's (mosque's) parking garage in downtown Atlanta. The work of their sandwich-making assembly line—featuring bread, lettuce, tomato and meat—is peppered with laughter that echoes off the garage walls. After bagging the meals, the students will go to Woodruff Park to distribute them to homeless men, women and children.

The students' work is voluntary and indicative of Sriram's commitment—and passion—to extend his classroom into the community. He's invited his students to walk in another person's shoes for the day.

"On reflecting on their experience with the homeless, students have told me they are very grateful to have food and shelter ... and it showed them not to take what they have for granted," he says.

Those lessons of service and civic commitment are what the Georgia Perimeter College political science

instructor puts into action daily—in his classroom and in his life.

"I believe in making politics come alive for my students," says Sriram, who joined GPC in 2008. "Students don't think they have a voice in politics, but when they become involved, they realize that politicians do care what they have to say."

Born in Illinois, Sriram spent his teen years in his family's native city of Chennai, India, moving back to the United States after his high school graduation. A graduate of Purdue University in Indiana, he came to Atlanta in 2003. He knew no one in the community until he started volunteering as a tutor for immigrant and refugee children in Clarkston. It was that role that energized him and led him to other volunteer roles. "I've never looked back," he says.

Since then, he has expanded his volunteerism and worked to stop domestic violence in the Muslim community. Sriram was raised as a Hindu but converted to Islam at the age of 26.

He is a volunteer for Raksha, an Atlanta advocacy agency for battered South Asian women and children, and for the program Men Stopping Violence, which seeks to break the cycle of domestic abuse through counseling and special programs. Sriram has received accolades for his service in both programs.

"My inspiration for doing this work is

from Sister Hadayi Majeed, who started this movement in Georgia to help Muslim women," Sriram says. Majeed is co-founder of the Baitul Salaam Network, a shelter and advocacy group for Muslim women who have experienced domestic violence.

"Shyam is literally an answer to a prayer," Majeed says. "We wanted a male component to our work and tried hard to recruit men for four years ... He has a natural ease in working with women and a skill set to work with men to get them to respect what we are saying about advocating for safety in our homes and community."

As an advisor to the Muslim Student Association at GPC, Sriram conducted a domestic violence awareness seminar for GPC students; the event attracted more than 200 students. He also started the Atlanta group, "Muslim Men Against Domestic Violence," to reach out across the cultural gender barriers in his faith.

Sriram is taking his interest one step further now: he is part of the inaugural criminal justice doctoral program at Georgia State University this fall as one of nine students accepted into the program.

"I want to be able to counsel others in the public safety and justice system about cultural barriers that may prevent them from seeing the true picture of domestic violence," he says. 🍷

GRADUATION, TRANSFER AND RETENTION ARE FOCUS OF THE NATIONAL INITIATIVES.

Georgia Perimeter College has been chosen to participate in two national projects that promote community college student retention, transfer and graduation. In both projects, GPC and other participating institutions are expected to create best practices and models that can be replicated at colleges across the nation.

In the first project, Georgia Perimeter is one of 12 community colleges chosen by the Association of American Colleges and Universities to lead the new initiative, “Developing a Community College Student Roadmap: From Entrance to Engagement in Educational Achievement and Success,” which is funded by MetLife Foundation. The colleges work to create proactive programs that help students navigate support programs and become active partners in their educational success. “We look forward to national models emerging from this project that can

be widely adapted at institutions of all sorts,” says AAC&U Vice President Susan Albertine. In the second project, GPC is one of only nine colleges nationwide to receive a Project DEgree grant from Gateway to College National Network. The grant of \$187,500 over two years helps underprepared students accelerate through developmental education and succeed in transfer-level classes.

Project DEgree is for students ages 18 to 26 who have earned a high school diploma or GED, but who require further education to be ready for college-level coursework. It provides students with intensive, individualized academic and social supports, offers an engaging project-based curriculum within a learning community and helps students structure their lives to build and maintain the momentum needed to complete a college degree. “Georgia Perimeter has always been



Louise Favorite

GPC is working with other institutions to create models and best practices for use at colleges across the nation. The goals: graduation, transfer and retention of students.

a great place to start,” says Alan Jackson, interim vice president of Academic Affairs at GPC. “This grant reinforces our efforts to help students all the way to graduation and transfer via support systems that are engaging and efficient.”

AAMI GRANT PROVIDES FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE FOR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Participants in the Georgia Perimeter College Leadership Academy, a program for students underrepresented in higher education, are receiving extra tools to make their first year a smooth one. The University System of Georgia’s African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) African-American Male Cultural and Career Enrichment Program awarded GPC \$23,005 for a first year Experience seminar for 25 students during fall semester. The students also will participate in the Our Future Has a Past workshop series in spring 2011. The 15-week first year experience helps students strengthen their community awareness and academic development, says

Coletta Carter, assistant vice president of student development and special programs. Students will learn strategies such as how to choose classes, how to get the most out of meetings with advisors and how to navigate college resources, she says. “Research shows that first-year experience seminars are beneficial to long-term success,” she says. The Our Future Has a Past series offers workshops to heighten African-American cultural, community and historical awareness and explore careers. “For example, students will visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Center and speak to management about running a nonprofit; they’ll learn about revitalization and its



GPC engineering student Kambui John, left, and GPC graduate Duntavius Morrow are two of the students who have excelled in the Leadership Academy program.

importance to the African-American community,” Carter says. “Students will learn the value of their roles in the community through this project.”



The ICAPP grant allows GPC to revive its LPN transition program in Conyers.

PROGRAM WILL BRIDGE LPNs TO RNs, HELP INSTRUCTORS ADVANCE DEGREES

Licensed practical nurses can become registered nurses in one year, and nurses with bachelor’s degrees can earn their master’s degrees while teaching at Georgia Perimeter College, thanks to a grant awarded to GPC.

The ICAPP Health Professionals Initiative Grant, funded by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, gives GPC \$256,000 over a two-year period that began in July. The funds will be used to hire five nurses to teach part time in clinical settings, says Dr. Diane White, GPC’s dean of Health Sciences. While teaching, these nurses also will pursue master’s degrees at USG institutions.

The grant pays full tuition and salary for the instructors. After they earn their master’s degrees, the instructors must teach at a USG institution for two years.

“We will target part-time faculty who are psychiatric, pediatric and OB-GYN nurses, because they are high-need professionals who are tough to get as faculty,” White says.

The grant allows GPC to revive its LPN-to-RN bridge program, which will be at the Rockdale Career Academy in Conyers. The program will enroll 15 students starting in January.

“There has been a large request from the Rockdale and Newton area for nursing,” White says. “We are working hard to have sustainability with this program because we want it to grow in this area.”

DeKalb Technical College moved its Licensed Practical Nurse program from Clarkston to Covington four years ago. Students are asking about the bridge program, says Elaine Williams, department chair of health and professional services at DeKalb Tech.

For Conyers resident Simone McCray, the bridge program is a godsend. “It will be so convenient to be able to transition from the LPN program at DeKalb Tech into Georgia Perimeter’s RN program, which is right in the area,” she said.

q & a



Captioning is one service offered to GPC students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

FUNDS ENSURE ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Georgia Perimeter College’s Office of Disability Services has been awarded a federal grant that expands its role of making college more accessible to people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Bonnie Martin, director of Disability Services at GPC, discusses the project.

What is the grant, and how does it work?

A: The PepNet South Outreach Project, part of the national PepNet advocacy organization, has awarded Georgia Perimeter \$154,800 over one year to expand and enhance postsecondary opportunities for the deaf and hard of hearing in Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. The grant covers the personnel and expenses for the project.

Is this the first year GPC has received this grant?

A: Yes, but GPC has been a part of PepNet’s Southeast regional center based at the University of Tennessee for at least 20 years, and our role has grown. What began as grant monies used for interpreters, new technology and a variety of services for deaf and hard of hearing students at GPC is now technical assistance for outreach services at all postsecondary institutions.

How will the money be used?

A: The grant will cover the hiring of an outreach coordinator, who will provide information and training for postsecondary institutions in Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. The coordinator will offer the institutions knowledge of best practices in how to serve students.

GPC’s role is an administrative but prestigious one that aligns with our tradition of public service and supporting access. Our goal through the PepNet grant is to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing students gain access, which includes up-to-date accommodations such as the appropriate type of interpreters, captionists and technology. This grant enhances best practices for students who might otherwise have limited access to a postsecondary education. It opens doors to students and is invaluable.

Online, Anytime

GPC leads University System in
serving students who choose
computer over classroom

BY REBECCA RAKOCZY

GPC's online team seeks to provide comprehensive support for online students. From left, Rufus Burnett, formerly of the Student Success Team; Catherine Binuya, director of online Student Services; Dr. Mundia Kahiga, chair of online Business and Physical Education faculty; Amy Coleman, online English faculty.

Call it an inspirational impact. Jupiter was about to get hit by a giant comet, and Dr. Pamela Gore was watching, fascinated, as the event was streamed on her computer.

"It was 1994, and NASA was showing satellite footage of the Shoemaker-Levy comet colliding with Jupiter," she recalls. "I thought 'this is cool. How can I use this in the classroom?'"

That celestial collision energized the Georgia Perimeter College professor into thinking about computer-driven "distance learning," and its applications—not only for her classes, but for all course instruction. In 1994, however, there was just one Internet connection in the Clarkston Campus science building.

GPC LEADS STATE IN ONLINE LEARNING

Through the work of Gore and others, that has changed dramatically at GPC. Today, online education at the college has blasted off, reaching new heights as more students seek the flexibility of online courses or return to college to update their careers. More than 8,000 GPC students take at least one online course. The college offers 500 courses and nine degree programs online. And that one Internet connection in the science building? Today the entire college is wireless.

Already the largest and fastest growing online program in the University System of Georgia, GPC Online is heading toward the 10,000-student enrollment mark within the next two years, says Evelyn Ting, executive director of GPC's online program. She estimated that about 3,000 students take all their classes online.

GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli sees the online growth as the best way to increase student access to the college. "As our physical campuses reach enrollment capacity, our online programs have become one of the best ways to offer our students a quality education on their own time," he says.

The flexibility of online courses is the incentive for Nursing student Candace Stacy, who works as a project accountant for a local architect, taking her Nursing prerequisite classes online in the evening. It also was the impetus for sisters Cindy and Lauren Romero to take Tina Steinau's online environmental science course while juggling their home business.

Flexible does not mean easy, however.

"Online courses are harder and require more dedication," said Lauren Romero.

Online growth is not isolated to GPC. A Babson Survey Research paper, "Learning on Demand, Online Education in the United States, 2009," states that more than 4.6 million college students in this country were taking at least one online course during fall 2008. But GPC's online growth has outpaced national growth over the past two years, growing more than 33 percent—almost double the national

average of 17 percent.

Students opting for online courses come from all quarters, including "typical" high school graduates and mature students who squeeze studies around full-time jobs. GPC draws the majority of its online student population from the Southeast, although every term there are online students who log in from overseas, says Ting. The college also offers online courses to military personnel stationed in Georgia. Because students are required to physically come to campus to take the Regents' Test, however, most GPC students live within driving distance.

Full-time faculty who teach online carry a full load of classes like their on-campus counterparts, teaching nine courses an academic year. GPC's online program currently has 50 full-time tenure or tenure-track professors and 140 part-time instructors. With online enrollment at a historic high, additional faculty are required to keep up with the demand, says Ting.

The tenure-track program is unique in the distance learning environment, she says, and sets GPC apart from other institutions that offer online learning. "Very few distance learning programs run as large a program as we do with tenured faculty who report to a dean," she says. The online-only, tenure-track program develops a core group of professors who are experts not only in their discipline, but also in teaching in the online medium.

While online faculty and students do not take up physical space in a building, the demands of the course load and the academic integrity of the course is no different than in a "real classroom," says Dr. Joel McMahon, who teaches U.S. History online at GPC. "I try to make the virtual setting as much like face-to-face as possible," he says.

That also is the case for Bettie LaDuke, who teaches macroeconomics. Her dog, Dusty, makes appearances during her webcast lectures. LaDuke, who works from her home office, enjoys the flexibility of teaching online, but adds, "you have to get used to the fact that you're on call all the time, since your students are working and logging in at different times." She finds herself checking the computer at all hours.

INTERACTIVE PARTICIPATION REQUIRED

Each professor has different expectations for his or her courses, but all online students have syllabi and physical textbooks. They are required to log into their virtual classroom a certain number of times, participate in classroom discussions on different topics—and turn in papers and take tests. Visits to campus are required for some labs or proctored exams.

All GPC online courses are "asynchronous," meaning professors upload their lectures to GPC's iCollege site on a particular day, and students log in when they can, day or night, to listen or read. Professors are expected to log

Photo by Bill Rea



(Top, left) Online students, sisters Cindy and Loren Romero (second and third from left), attend a class field trip at Dunwoody Nature Center. (Top, right) Dusty keeps online instructor Bettie LaDuke company as she works. (Above) GPC student William Chang performs a laboratory exercise. Some courses require on-campus study.

in regularly during the week to spark discussion about topics, or answer questions.

“For online learning, we try not to just record class-length lectures or ‘talking heads’ – either via audio or video,” says Ting. “It is better course design to break up the material and have more interactivity.”

“I find my online students are more engaged than in a physical classroom—perhaps it’s because they have a little time to really think about their answers before replying,” says McMahon.

Some instructors expect more than just computer time. Laurie Goodling, who teaches English 1101 online, requires students to do service-learning projects, such as tutoring, outside the home. In Tina Steinau’s environmental science course, Lauren and Cindy Romero were required to go on a field trip with Steinau’s “face-to-face” class to do phosphate testing and chemical analysis of a creek in Dunwoody.

While the convenience of online education is a given, the social aspects of “traditional” college are often lost for online students, who may not step foot on a GPC campus other than to take a test. As director of online student services, Catherine Binuya is there to make sure online students get that aspect of college life—if they want it.



“We know students who are engaged are more apt to do better academically,” says Binuya. She helps coordinate student “affinity groups” in which students gather in an online community to discuss similar career interests, such as health or business. Binuya is part of a support group, which includes student success coordinators and instructor support staff who help faculty members with workshops and technical assistance.

Technology offers advantages, but also caveats, says Ting. Online students need to be organized and manage their time carefully, and a reliable Internet connection is important. However, the benefits of taking an online course are immeasurable for students such as Catherine Autry, who took 12 credit hours this past summer online.

“With four courses during this short summer session, it has been very busy; there are a few weekends when I did homework, research or writing for the entire weekend,” she says. That kind of course load would have been impossible for her to juggle with her job and family had she been required to attend classes on campus, she says. “Online classes are the best choice for us, because even when I’m ‘at school,’ we’re still together at home.” 🐶

A week in the life of...

AN ONLINE PROFESSOR



Dr. Joel McMahon teaches U.S. History online.

Monday

- Record audio lectures and post weekly discussion questions. First question: “Last week, I discussed ‘the wedge,’ which is what I used to describe England’s position between New France and New Spain. What was the wedge, and what was created as a result?”
- Upload lecture and administrative “radio address” to give students an idea of what’s due this week. Take laptop to Starbucks to catch up on e-mail as students check in. I’ve worked at cafes across the city, country and in other countries. I always have my computer, and I’m always teaching.
- Check the discussion board—glad some “shy” students are weighing in. Return student phone calls. With 130 students, there are a lot of calls.
- Reply to student posts while researching and writing my next lessons.

Tuesday

- Work out, then hit Starbucks to monitor and respond to student e-mails and discussion posts while also doing other work. Students in my four U.S. history sections are required to post at least seven to 10 times a week and answer questions for each section.

Wednesday

- Answer student e-mails and post another question. Check for answers to the latest post.
- 11:59 p.m. is when exams are due. I make one last pass before I head to bed so I can put out fires or see if students are burning the midnight oil. I’m able to see who is online at any given moment, so I’ll send a student who is up a message to let them know their late-night efforts were noticed.

Thursday

- Return phone calls from students, send e-mails and post another discussion question. Research and prepare notes for another class.

Friday

- At my north Georgia cabin, a.k.a. The Bunker. Post new discussion questions. Check for last-minute posts, papers and quizzes.

Saturday

- Grade papers all morning. Break for a hike in the woods with my wife and dog. Write and answer e-mails. Begin preparing next week’s lessons.

Sunday

- Write lecture script and discussion questions for the week. Send e-mail to class to inform them when weekly content will be available. Then, drive home to Atlanta.

AN ONLINE STUDENT



Catherine Autry of Alpharetta is pursuing a degree in Business Administration.

Monday

- Drive to work. I’m a loan processor for a national nonprofit agency. We make loans to churches for startup or expansion.
- At lunch, take my laptop to the break room and download an audio lecture from Dr. McMahon’s U.S. History course. Sometimes I spend lunch listening to a lecture or taking a quiz.
- After work, talk to my husband, eat dinner, play with my dogs. Then turn to homework.
- After receiving Dr. McMahon’s topic of the week, I print out the discussion questions and handouts to make notes while listening to the audio lecture. Dr. McMahon posted 13 discussion questions last week. We are required to respond to at least seven posts a week. Work on homework till 11 p.m.

Tuesday

- Before work, I post something on the discussion blog and see what other students are saying.
- At lunch, check the discussion blogs; no time to do anything else.
- At 7 p.m., start homework, post answers to questions and take a quiz.

Wednesday

- After work, do homework and review posts from instructors and students. We are asked to respond not only to the instructor, but to other students’ posts. I am enrolled in four classes and usually check in to all of them whenever logged in. Finish writing a paper that’s due and send it in.

Thursday

- Work is hectic. No time to log in.
- After dinner, log into the discussion posts of my classes. Read the Wall Street Journal and other periodicals for my online macroeconomics class. Answer questions posted by Dr. McMahon and other instructors.

Friday

- At lunch, take my laptop to the break room, check on the discussion blogs and do homework.
- After work, go out to dinner with my husband before hitting online again.

Saturday

- Study all day for quizzes and tests. I’m taking 12 credits during the short summer session, so I have at least two quizzes due each Sunday; sometimes there are two quizzes, three exams and a paper due at the same time.

Sunday

- Check discussion blogs, finish and turn in class work, quizzes and papers.

PRIVATE COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS FELT LONG AFTER STUDENTS GRADUATE

In her role as Georgia Perimeter College scholarship coordinator, Felicia Lewis reviews hundreds of scholarship applications. Students who apply may be young adults who work two jobs and take care of families or recent high school graduates who see GPC as the best and most affordable way to earn a college degree.

Lewis wants to help them all. But in 2009, just 20 percent of about 500 students who applied for Georgia Perimeter College Foundation scholarships received one.

That’s not because they were not good candidates, says Vicki Carew Johnson, director of Institutional Advancement and the GPC Foundation. “We just don’t have enough funding.”

It is estimated that more than 70 percent of all GPC students receive some form of financial aid, including Georgia’s HOPE scholarship, federal Pell Grants, college loans or other sources.

The current economic downturn has led many students back to the classroom to

retool their education. But the economy also has squeezed state and other funding. That makes private community support more important than ever, Carew Johnson says.

“Students come to GPC because they see they can get a high quality and affordable education here,” says Carew Johnson. “For the majority of our students, there would be no other options. Without external financial support, we would have to raise tuition, and fewer students would be able to afford college.”

Supporting students is not a one-way street. Communities benefit from the accomplishments of GPC’s graduates. One example is in health care, where GPC students fill critical nursing, dental hygiene and other needs. Communities also benefit when students from traditionally underserved populations earn college degrees.

Helping the business community understand GPC’s value in producing health science professionals and increasing



Joe O’Farrell and Tracey Knight are building understanding of the value of GPC’s programs.

the visibility of the college’s programs for underserved populations are the jobs of GPC’s Institutional Advancement team. Joe O’Farrell and Tracey Knight are the newest members of the team, which seeks to strengthen community support for GPC and its students.

Such help should not be underestimated. The impact of community financial support is felt long after students graduate. “We know from feedback from alumni that scholarship support while at GPC made a huge impact on their future,” Carew Johnson says.

AWC SCHOLARSHIP OPENS DOOR FOR GEORGIA PERIMETER STUDENT

Lydia Kamau couldn’t wait to start her internship with the Writers Institute at Georgia Perimeter College this fall. “I am grateful for winning the scholarship and excited about the internship with the Writers Institute and the Atlanta Writers Club. I know this opportunity will open the door to my dream of becoming a writer and help it become a reality,” says the Decatur Campus sophomore.

Kamau, the first recipient of the Writers Institute/Atlanta Writers Club Scholarship, was awarded \$1,000 last spring. She is spending the semester interning with the Writers Institute and the Atlanta Writers Club.

“We’re excited to have Lydia working with us this year,” says Rob Jenkins,

director of the Writers Institute. “As a student intern, she’ll be helping us plan and carry out our programs, working on other tasks, and participating in the initial review of manuscripts for The Chattahoochee Review. She’ll also enjoy a level of exposure to the literary world that most undergraduates can only dream of—and I’m sure she’ll meet some very interesting people. It’s an incredible opportunity.”

The endowment of the \$20,000 scholarship for Georgia Perimeter College students was announced earlier this year. The Writers Institute/Atlanta Writers Club Scholarship awards \$1,000 annually to a full-time GPC student majoring in English.

The scholarship covers tuition, fees,



Scholarship recipient Lydia Kamau with GPC Writer-in-Residence Jack Riggs, left, and Atlanta Writers Club President Clay Ramsey.

books and expenses and will be dispensed over two semesters. For information, visit www.gpc.edu/Foundation/scholarships.htm.



Sixty enthusiastic students attended a two-day GEAP orientation.

COLLEGE WELCOMES GEAP SCHOLARS

The GPC Educational Achievement Program is off to a roaring start with a new director and initial class of scholarship recipients. Sixty students went through a two-day orientation, preparing for their first days of college.

The GEAP program supports GPC’s long-range plan to increase educational opportunities for underserved members of its community. The program targets Hispanic/Latino students who have been accepted or are enrolled at Georgia Perimeter.

To stay in the program, scholars must maintain a 2.6 grade point average, be enrolled as a full-time student at GPC, have plans to continue college at one of the GPC-Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) partner institutions and demonstrate financial need.

A gift from the Goizueta Foundation pays for 120 annual scholarships and also funds a program director’s position.

The program’s effort to retain and graduate all of the scholars is aided by a network of support that includes faculty, staff and mentors, according to Angela Bonet, program director. GEAP students receive tutoring, frequent academic and career advising and personal counseling. In addition to receiving peer and faculty mentoring, GEAP Scholars also can be assigned to professional mentors in their intended career fields.

The goal is not only to help the students succeed, but also to aid them in becoming advocates in their communities, Pinder explains. GEAP Scholars are expected to complete individual community service hours and service projects as a group.

“The GEAP vision is to create a learning environment that extends beyond the classroom and into the students’ communities,” Bonet says. “GEAP Scholars’ road to becoming change agents starts now.”



Jordan Fitzpatrick

JORDAN FITZPATRICK:
WHY I GIVE

GPC student Jordan Fitzpatrick remembers growing up in awe of his father’s photography, even after his father died. Consequently, he started a scholarship at Georgia Perimeter College to honor the work of his dad, who was a professional photographer.

The Edward Fitzpatrick Jr. Photography Scholarship gives \$250 to a student who is pursuing a degree in any major. To be considered for the scholarship,

students must submit two photos: one depicting happiness and one showing sadness. Students also must include a brief synopsis with each photo.

“There is no required GPA or major to get the scholarship,” says Fitzpatrick, who attends Decatur Campus. “I just want the scholarship to go to the student who best understands that pictures can be powerful.”

Fitzpatrick, a Psychology major, lost his father when he was in the sixth grade. He says he long considered starting a scholarship in his father’s name because he understands the difference extra money can make in a student’s life.

“It’s important to give back because so many students have financial aid issues and have to take out loans. I wanted people to know that scholarships are an option,” he says. “You don’t have to wait until you graduate to give to or create a scholarship. When you have a little, give a little. You don’t have to have a lot to give to others.”

Fitzpatrick plans to increase the scholarship at GPC and start another scholarship at a four-year institution. “I want to preserve and celebrate the art of photography, and help my peers earn their education. It takes a village.”



Behind the words: GPC retiree Johnnie Kemp, right, greets featured speaker Rick Badie, writer for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, during a meeting of the Georgia Perimeter College Retirees Association. The organization, in its second year, has more than 80 members.

SOFTBALL JAGUARS’ 2011 GOAL: RETURN TO UTAH FOR NATIONALS

It was bound to be a special season when Georgia Perimeter College’s freshman-laden softball team opened its 2010 campaign by winning the championship at the prestigious AAU International Women’s Fastpitch Softball Tournament in Kissimmee, Fla. The Jaguars went on to win the NJCAA Region 17 championship via a one-hit, extra-inning shutout; a walk-off home run and a walk-off single—all by freshman pitcher Christina Ezell. The Jaguars next traveled to St. George, Utah, to play in the 16-team NJCAA national tournament. They lost their first two games in the double-elimination event—7-4 to Chipola College (Fla.) and 5-4 to Odessa College (Texas)—to finish the season with a 31-15 record. But they gained valuable experience. “The freshmen saw what they have to do next year to compete at the national

tournament,” head coach Ed Schutte says. “And that’s our goal for 2011—return to nationals and win games.” Ezell led the nation in strikeouts per inning, pitched three no-hitters and 10 shutouts and was named the conference pitcher of the year as well as player of the year. In addition to Ezell, three other Jaguars earned region honors. Sophomore Caitlin Peisel and freshman Nicole Montesanti made the all-region first team, while sophomore Tiffany Phillips made the second team. Though they will miss hitting leader



Freshman pitcher Christina Ezell, shown at nationals with third baseman Erin Wilson, led the nation in strikeouts per inning.

Peisel, Phillips and sophomore Lauren Mathis, who hit two home runs at nationals, the Jaguars have a powerful roster returning next season and a very promising recruiting class.

SLADE EARNS TOP HONOR AS TENNIS TEAMS CONTINUE REBUILDING

Georgia Perimeter College has a strong tennis tradition. The men’s team won four consecutive national championships from 1998 to 2001, and the women joined them with a national title in 2000. Both teams dominated the conference for more than a decade. Current coach Reda Nait Omar aims to bring the trophies back to Georgia Perimeter, and he and the Jaguars are making progress. This fall the GPC men’s and women’s tennis teams swept all four titles at the prestigious USTA/ITA Small College Regional Championship. As a result, both teams qualified for the national tournament in Mobile, Ala. “We made the big noise in junior college tennis,” said Nait Omar. “This

sends a good message to the teams on our schedule that GPC is back.” The main contributors for the Jaguars were sophomore Salif Kante, who took the men’s singles crown; freshman Akeem Byron and Kante, double winners; freshman Salma Dahbi, women’s singles winner over freshman teammate Sadia Mayou; and sophomore Mary Slade and Mayou, doubles champions. Slade did her part in the spring campaign. She lost only one singles match all season, finished with the most valuable player award at the conference tournament and led the Jaguars to a second-place finish in the event.



Mary Slade, a freshman, led the Jaguars’ spring campaign and was named region most valuable player in the conference.

Meanwhile, the GPC men finished in third place at their conference tourney. Kante reached the singles final, finishing second.

point-by-point



Ron Moore

Assistant men’s soccer coach Ron Moore made two trips to Haiti on relief missions and also drove a truckload of supplies to south Florida to be shipped to the country’s earthquake victims. Moore worked in Haiti with the Alliance of Christian Athletes of Haiti, providing tents, medical supplies and a variety of other assistance. ... The GPC women’s soccer team has posted exceptional grade point averages in addition to its success on the

field. Three returning all-region players have excellent GPAs: Taiwo Adeshigbin (fifth highest scorer in the nation last year), 3.64; Arielle Sabina, 3.76 and Tori Klingensmith, 3.4. Sophomore midfielder Storm Williams has a 3.38 cumulative. Two recruits from Nigeria, Esther Anyanwu and Linda Chukwuji, registered 4.0 in their first semester at the college this spring. They excel on the field, too—late in October the team was 18-0-1, Anyanwu was top scorer in the nation and Adeshigin was fifth. ... Sports fans can win a coveted Jaguar hat or T-shirt by participating in online contests during this academic year. For details, visit www.gpc.edu/athletic. ... Follow the Jaguars through audio webcasts, on Facebook and Twitter and on the website at www.gpc.edu/athletic. Check out the schedules there, too. Look under “Game Webcasts” to follow play-by-play audio broadcasts.



LeAndre Davis, left, and Nathan Fawbush were drafted by the Minnesota Twins. Davis is returning to GPC for his sophomore season.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAMS DRAFT JAGUAR TALENT

Professional baseball teams drafted three players associated with Georgia Perimeter College in the June Major League amateur draft. The Minnesota Twins selected right-handed pitcher Nathan Fawbush and freshman infielder LeAndre Davis. Left-hander Matt Hill, who was ineligible for the season but excelled in fall scrimmage games, was drafted by the Texas Rangers. The draft capped a mostly successful season for the Jaguars. Although the team’s hitting and defense sometimes were inconsistent, GPC pitchers led NJCAA Region 17 in earned run average (4.24) for the second consecutive season. The Jaguars finished with a 36-19 record, 12-9 in the region, and reached the semifinals of the region tournament. “We didn’t hit well in the clutch all year,” head coach Danny Blue says. “We just could never really get a hit at the right time. But I think we’ve got a little better team than our record shows.” Sophomore pitcher Alan Busenitz was named to the all-region first team and also the all-district team that includes Georgia and Tennessee. Busenitz posted a 7-2 record and an earned run average of 3.82. Also making the region first team were catcher Blake McCullers and freshman outfielder T.D. Davis. Freshman first-baseman Jamie McMillan made the second team. McCullers paced the team with 52 runs batted in; T.D. Davis led with nine home runs and McMillan had the highest batting average, .386. During the six tournament games, LeAndre Davis led GPC with a .462 average. Sophomore right-hander Jake Dyer (7-4, 3.80 ERA) was named to the all-tournament team.



Photo by Getty Images

All-Star alumnus: Former GPC baseball player Marlon Byrd scores the final run of the National League’s 3-1 victory in July’s Major League All-Star Game. Byrd, who plays center field for the Chicago Cubs, also made a key defensive play in the ninth inning that sealed the victory.

GEORGE AND DR. SALLI VARGIS SHARING A LOVE FOR EDUCATION

by Rebecca Rakoczy

Twenty-five years and a half a world away, two newlyweds vowed to teach college students in the United States. Their road to fulfill that vow took some detours, but today George and Dr. Salli Vargis are a highly respected duo at Georgia Perimeter College whose dedication to their students' success goes beyond the classroom.

United through a traditional arranged marriage in their native India, the couple say they knew they were companions for life. They married within three months of meeting each other in 1985 and moved to the United States. Their first stop: the Navajo Nation in Gallup, N.M.

"My brother-in-law worked for the Navajo Nation, and he sponsored us as immigrants into the United States," Salli says. She recalls being surprised to see that there were still dirt roads in America.

Their introduction to this country had only begun. Both Salli and George had received their master's degrees at the University of Madras. Without teaching

experience in the United States, however, no one would hire them as educators. So they boarded a Greyhound bus and set out for Los Angeles, where they found jobs at a Sears in Santa Monica.

Over the next few years, Salli became a reservationist with Singapore Airlines in Beverly Hills, while George worked as a teller at Bank of America. Salli, a self-described "geography buff," developed a reputation at the airline for her international expertise. "Every time someone had a round-the-world ticket, they would transfer the call to me."

George was doing well at the bank. The Vargises were happy and traveled a lot, thanks to the airline job, says Salli. But they were not fulfilling their shared dream. "I knew teaching was the only thing I really wanted to do," Salli says. She began applying to graduate schools.

She was accepted into the doctoral program at Mississippi State University, and George took a graduate teaching position there. The couple developed warm friendships with the faculty, students and community at MSU, but when GPC offered Salli a job as a world history professor in 1995, they left for Atlanta.

The Vargises have made their mark at GPC. Salli is the Honors Program coordinator and advisor for the honors fraternity, Phi Theta Kappa, and the History

and Current Events Club on Newton Campus. George, known as "Uncle George" to many of his students, teaches political science, advises the History and Politics Club on Decatur Campus and serves as a master faculty advisor for a retention and graduation program. The pair also volunteer at a shelter for Southeast Asian battered women and children, and both are lay leaders in their church.

The couple was honored this past spring as GPC Advisors of the Year, cited for work "above and beyond the call of duty" assisting students and student organizations.

"They took the time to visit a student in the hospital, even though they were not currently teaching that student," says Kaci Wilhite-Green, former Newton Campus student activity director.

Despite their busy pace, the couple does not forget a student's name or face; and few students forget them. A letter from a former student accepted by the St. Louis University Law/Ph.D. program is just one of many thanking them for their guidance. "I don't think I could have gotten an acceptance without the both of you," wrote Kelly Tyler, who was taught by the Vargises in the early 2000s.

That's a letter that makes all the "detours" worthwhile. Says George, "My father always said, 'money comes and goes, but you go with your education.'" ❤️

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Georgia Perimeter College Foundation



Supporting student success: Angela Parra, right, poses with Dr. Diane White, GPC's dean of Health Sciences, during the President's Dinner Aug. 19. Parra, a freshman who plans to major in Dental Hygiene, received the 2010-2011 GPC Foundation Scholarship and is also a GEAP (GPC Educational Achievement Program) Scholar.

In the pages that follow, the Georgia Perimeter College Foundation presents its annual report for 2009. In recognition of challenging economic times and with an eye toward cost efficiency, the annual report is being included in The Chronicle rather than published under its own cover.

The Foundation extends its sincerest appreciation to all who have generously provided support to the scholarships and programs funded through the organization. Your contributions make a difference, and your dedication has enabled the Foundation to continue providing exceptional educational opportunities for GPC's more than 25,000 students.

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Airtran Airways
Amy & Tammy's Boxed Lunches
Atlanta Dream
Atlanta Opera
Atlanta Spirit
Barton Malow
BB King's Restaurant, Nashville, TN
Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA
Canongate Golf Clubs
Charlie Yates Golf Course
Chateau Elan Golf Club
Cherries Divine
Chick-fil-A
Cobb Symphony Orchestra
Coca Cola Enterprises
Collins Hill Golf Club
Dave & Buster's Marietta
DELL
Edwin Watts
Fernbank Museum of Natural History
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar
Follett Higher Education Group
Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta
Georgia Aquarium
Harbor Club on Lake Oconee
High Museum of Art
Historic Savannah Theatre
Hyatt Place Atlanta / Perimeter Center
Jekyll Island Authority
Jekyll Island Golf Club
LPGA International
Mystery Valley Golf Club
Old Savannah Tours
PGA Superstore, Duluth
Providence Golf Club (Monroe, GA)
Regal Sun Resort, Orlando, FL
Regency Fine Arts
Royal Cup Coffee
Roy's Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine
Sheraton Hotel Atlanta - Perimeter North
Stone Mountain Golf Club
Ted's Montana Grill
Tee Time Enterprises
The Alliance Theatre
The Champion Newspaper
Theatre In The Square
The Facility Group
Universal Studios
University of Georgia Golf Course
Walt Disney World
WVEE 103.3 FM (V103)

Independent Auditors’ Report

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.

We have audited the Statement of Financial Position of GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC. (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. The financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC. as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were made for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The additional information on page 12 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Simmons & Jamieson, P.C.

September 30, 2010.

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, DECEMBER 31, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets:
Cash and equivalents..... \$1,126,821
Contributions receivable.....\$30,670
Accrued interest receivable.....\$4,206
Accrued rent receivable\$756,301
Prepaid expense.....\$27,500

Restricted assets:
Cash and equivalents..... \$1,246,675
Accrued interest receivable.....\$2,913
Investments..... \$1,380,183
Total current assets \$4,575,269

Property and Equipment:
Land\$3,000,000
Construction in progress.....\$0
Parking structures\$16,943,119
Buildings.....\$59,008,671
Furniture & fixtures.....\$2,478,125
\$81,429,915
Less accumulated depreciation.....(\$3,020,396)
\$78,409,519

Other Assets:
Bond issuance cost, net..... \$1,335,872
Other\$4,000
\$1,339,872
Total assets.....\$84,324,660

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:
Accounts payable.....\$376,552
Retainage payable.....\$103,283
Accrued interest payable.....\$277,072
Deferred rental income\$97,950
Current portion of revenue bonds payable.....\$465,000
Total current liabilities\$1,319,857

Revenue bonds payable, less current portion.....\$75,655,000

Net Assets:
Unrestricted:
Undesignated.....\$760,931
Temporarily restricted.....\$395,434
Permanently restricted.....\$6,193,438
Total net assets.....\$7,349,803

Total liabilities and net assets\$84,324,660

Financial Statements

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT:				
Contributions	\$623,682	\$442,198	\$17,844	\$1,083,724
Special events	\$45,333	-0-	-0-	\$45,333
Investment income (loss)	\$11,039	\$16,330	\$79,762	\$107,131
Contributed goods and services	\$172,892	-0-	-0-	\$172,892
Program service revenue	\$2,308,351	-0-	-0-	\$2,308,351
Net assets released from restriction	\$368,475	(\$368,475)	-0-	-0-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$3,529,772	\$90,053	\$97,606	\$3,717,431
EXPENSES AND LOSSES				
PROGRAM SERVICES:				
Student aid, scholarships, and awards	\$144,308	-0-	-0-	\$144,308
Civic engagement	\$21,130	-0-	-0-	\$21,130
College events/convocation	\$23,075	-0-	-0-	\$23,075
GPC Athletics	\$19,369	-0-	-0-	\$19,369
Memberships	\$25,214	-0-	-0-	\$25,214
Kaiser Health Plan	\$87,242	-0-	-0-	\$87,242
Financial administration	\$16,412	-0-	-0-	\$16,412
Foundation meetings	\$7,427	-0-	-0-	\$7,427
MLK Celebration	\$35,946	-0-	-0-	\$35,946
GPC Newton Campus bond expense	\$1,819,599	-0-	-0-	\$1,819,599
GPC Student Support bond expense	\$1,151,238	-0-	-0-	\$1,151,238
Other	\$77,727	-0-	-0-	\$77,727
Total Program Services	\$3,428,687	-0-	-0-	\$3,428,687
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:				
Management and general fund-raising	\$124,782	-0-	-0-	\$124,782
	\$48,110	-0-	-0-	\$48,110
Total supporting services	\$172,892	-0-	-0-	\$172,892
Total expenses and losses	\$3,601,579	-0-	-0-	\$3,601,579
Changes in net assets	(\$71,807)	\$90,053	\$97,606	\$115,852
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR				
	\$832,738	\$305,381	\$6,095,832	\$7,233,951
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR				
	\$760,931	\$395,434	\$6,193,438	\$7,349,803

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Change in net assets.....\$115,852

Adjustments to reconcile change in net
assets to net cash provided by operating activities:
Depreciation expense.....\$1,888,788
Amortization expense.....\$53,118
Unrealized (gain) loss on investment.....\$112,641

(Increase) decrease in operating assets:
Contributions receivable.....\$170,330
Prepaid expense.....(\$27,500)
Investments.....(\$956,536)
Accrued receivables.....(\$759,596)

Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities
Accounts payable.....(\$10,284,535)
Retainage payable.....(\$1,580,567)
Other current liabilities.....\$226,050

Net Cash Provided (Utilized) by Operating Activities..... (\$11,041,995)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:
Construction in progress conversion.....\$40,135,650
Acquisition/purchase of fixed assets..... (\$53,301,381)
Purchase/disposition of investments, net..... (\$124,944)

Net Cash Provided (Utilized) by Investing Activities..... (\$13,290,675)

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:
Proceeds from bond issuance -
GGC Student Support..... -0-
GPC Student Support.....\$21,380,000
Payment on bond issuance - GPC Foundation Newton..... (\$450,000)
Disposition of bonds payable - GGC Student Support..... -0-

Net Cash Provided (Utilized) by Financing Activities.....\$20,930,000

NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND EQUIVALENTS..... (\$3,402,630)

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....\$5,776,126

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR.....\$2,373,496

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES
Cash paid for income taxes..... -0-
Cash paid for interest.....\$1,015,719

Fundraising Comparisons

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION HISTORY 2000 - 2009



CURRENT INVESTMENT REPORT

Georgia Perimeter College Foundation Assets managed by Merrill Lynch
Cole Fellowship and general operating dollars managed by Wachovia Bank

Investment Income, 2000 - 2009



* Includes gift of land for Newton Campus

2009 Statistics

Total Enrollment
Head count: 24,549
Full-time equivalents: 18,796

Enrollment by Campus
(duplicated head count*)
Alpharetta: 1,017
Clarkston: 7,331
Decatur: 3,916
Dunwoody: 9,347
Rockdale/Newton: 2,841
Distance Learning: 7,034

Student Classification
Freshman: 14,855
Sophomore: 8,182
Dual Enrollment: 769
Transient: 386
Other: 357

Enrollment by Type of
Residency
and Tuition Status
Georgia residents: 22,577
Out-of-state: 643
Out-of-country: 1,329

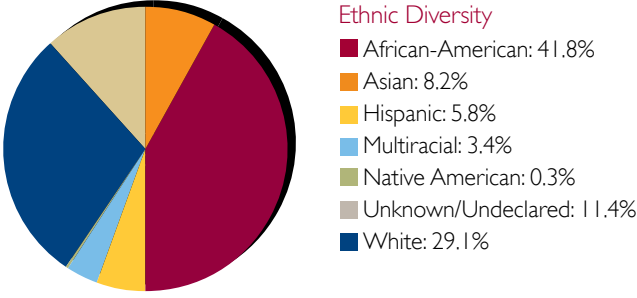
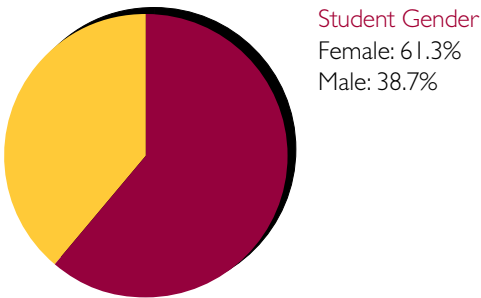
New Student Enrollment
by Classification
Beginning freshman: 4,348
Transfer freshman: 1,492
Transfer sophomore: 437
Dual Enrollment: 714
Transient: 299
Other: 163
Total: 7,453

Students Enrolled in
Learning Support
Reading: 1,416
English: 1,875
Math: 4,904
Total (Unduplicated): 5,868

Enrollment in Transfer and
Career Programs:
Transfer: 22,238
Career: 591**
Undecided: 1,720

* Duplicated head count: A GPC student may have attended more than one campus location. In such a case, the student is counted once in each location category where they attended. As a result, if all the campus location category head counts were added together, their sum would be larger than overall GPC headcount due to this duplication.

** Career Programs include: Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Fire Management, Library & Information Science Tech, Medical Assisting, Sign Language Interpreting, and Surgical Technology.





GOAL SHOT!

Young soccer stars of tomorrow try their skills during a kicking competition at GPC Dunwoody Campus. The competition, part of GPC's Fan Appreciation Day on Sept. 25, occurred during halftime of the Jaguars' 6-0 victory over Darton College in a key men's soccer Region 17 match.

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678-891-3200

Decatur Campus
3251 Panthersville Road
Decatur, GA 30034
678-891-2300

Dunwoody Campus
2101 Womack Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338
770-274-5000

Newton Campus
239 Cedar Lane
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770-278-1200

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