Student leader arrested in golf cart incident

BY RACHEL PATTI COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

On Thursday, Aug. 13 at the 5th annual March Through the Arch Event, freshmen and new transfer students participated in the tradition of marching through the Arch of Knowledge outside the library to signify the start of their journey as GGC Grizzlies.

“This event marks the beginning of the most incredible journey of your life at one of the most unique institutions,” Student Government Association President Chase Goodwin explained as he began his welcome speech.

Goodwin stressed the uniqueness of the Georgia Gwinnett College campus by emphasizing the diverse cultures and backgrounds of the students.

“We are lucky that GGC provides us with these different perspectives and it is important to take advantage of these opportunities,” Goodwin continued. “They will prepare us to become global citizens as well as provide us with the most important learning opportunities of our college careers.”

“What is a Grizzly?” Goodwin asked of the crowd, to which they chanted in unison, “I AM A GRIZZLY!”

Goodwin used his speech to stress the importance of diversity as an advantage of the GGC student body. Student representatives from various cultures and backgrounds joined Goodwin’s speech to give examples to the claims of diversity.

Dejan Cavic from Croatia, Ana Bedon from Colombia, Abdulkareem Adekunle from Nigeria and Khadjia Kazmi from Pakistan spoke in both their native languages and in English to show the new students the variety of nationalities represented at GGC.

“My name is Ana, I’m from Colombia, and I am a Grizzly,” Ana Bedon said, who is a member of GGC’s Pride Alliance.

Other students represented non-traditional status, army and ROTC affiliation, as well as freshman, commuter and resident statuses.

“My name is Dreyvis, I’m a first generation college student, and I am a Grizzly,” Dreyvis Perez said, who studies International Business.

The crowd cheered as each of the student representatives showcased their unique identities and eagerly answered Goodwin’s question of “what is a Grizzly?” with shouts of “I am a Grizzly.”

“Being diverse is not a weakness, but a strength of the GGC experience,” Goodwin said.

Mentions were also made of the support offered from GGC faculty and the wide array of student organizations that will allow any student to expand their horizons.

This special event served to welcome all the new Grizzlies to Georgia Gwinnett College and this year there were plenty of carnival games to keep the new students entertained. Student representatives and were also on hand to answer questions and welcome the new students to GGC.

Student leader arrested in golf cart incident

BY LAURA WALSH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students are questioning the arrest of Michael Masha, a Junior Transfer Assistant (TA), for driving a golf cart on campus that had previously been used for the move-in event that began on Thursday and continued into the weekend.

“I feel like he was singled out because he wasn’t very well known” Alexia Lyles, SGA Chief of Staff added.

Masha was arrested Monday evening, August 17 for disorderly conduct based on “unauthorized use of government property,” which is written on his written citation along with the comment “golf cart belongs to GGC.”

“Something I do want to make very clear is Michael did not get arrested because he’s black but something just as important is that if he wasn’t he, he would not have been arrested” commented Chase Goodwin, SGA President, who further explained that as a white male he has been able to circumvent many campus procedures such as signing in at the residence halls.

“Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, all student leaders involved in move in … were all using different facilities and different items like the golf cart,” Erin Lucier, a Senior RA explained, and added that the keys were constantly traded around.

Masha explained that he was given the key by Esteban Gonzalez — SGA Vice President — in order to “help facilitate getting people during move in from one hall to the student center or to anywhere, just people who needed transportation or had disabilities.”

With eight days of moving in hundreds of students, Lucier explained that “at the end of each day, I really had no idea who had the key and I don’t think anyone who had originated with the key had any idea where it went. There was no sort of check-out process,” Lucier added.

On Monday afternoon, members of the Office of Student Involvement noticed that their golf cart was missing and with no knowledge of who had the cart, they reported the missing property to Public Safety. Dr. Maria Arvelo Lumpkin, Director of Student Involvement and the Student Center, explained that calling Public Safety is standard procedure anytime an item is missing.

Chief of Police, Terrence Schneider explained that the officers go out and look for the golf cart as there are multiple ways to define belligerence. He explained that “the officer has certain discretions whether or not Masha was arrested for being belligerent,” President Goodwin explained. Various representatives in the meeting echoed Goodwin’s concerns that the narrative had shifted to another black male arrested for being belligerent, rather than a simple miscommunication.

Chief Schneider declined to comment on whether or not Masha was arrested for being belligerent as he was not present, but noted that there are multiple ways to define belligerence. He explained that “the officer has certain discretion that they can effect and it’s up to the officer to decide whether or not to make that arrest.”

When we asked Masha to address the rumor, he said “I was in front of the 1000 building, in front of where I reside. I live there. There’s everybody, and it’s the first day of school and the last thing I want to do is embarrass myself or put on a show.”

Chief Schneider explained that “the officer arrested in good faith based upon the information that they had at the time” and it is now up to the legal system to ensure that the case is handled fairly.

“I hope it’s an eye-opening situation not just for us as student leaders but for everyone on this campus and even faculty members … to not always jump to conclusions when you see something out of the ordinary,” Lyles said.

When asked what his plans are now, Masha laughed.

“My first day of school was pretty rough but I’m gonna stay focused on my classes and get my GPA much higher than it is, continue my RA duties and make better connections with my residents, try to impact people’s lives … It’s a great day to be a Grizzly.”
GGC Commencement sees a variety of graduates

BY LAURA WALSH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Georgia Gwinnett College’s summer commencement took place Tuesday, Aug. 4 at the Gwinnett Arena, featuring a graduating class of about 150 students. A diverse group of graduates filed into the Arena, excited to walk across the stage as their final act in their journeys at GGC. The event was conducted with the formality and precise attention to detail expected of such a momentous occasion.

GGC senior Sharmia Tooson performed the Star Spangled Banner to an enthusiastic audience who cheered as she performed the difficult high notes and added her own flair to the rendition. Tooson also represented the GGC Alma Mater at the close of the ceremony.

Dr. Stas Preczewski welcomed the audience, congratulated the graduates, and introduced the speakers quickly and enthusiastically. Preczewski spoke of the diversity of the graduating class, noting that one-third came to college as older, non-traditional students and half are in their first year in college or receive a degree. Dr. Bette S. Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, served as the commencement speaker. She is in her 41st year working in higher education. To kick off her speech, Wheelan gave students one final assignment, asking them to stand up and yell “hallelujah.”

“You won’t remember anything I say,” Wheelan laughed, "but you’ll remember that I had you on the edge of your seats yelling ‘hallelujah.’”

Wheelan passed on advice to the graduates, reminding them to thank their support group and to dress for the job you want, not the job you have… the key there is professionalism.

“If you don’t believe in you, nobody else will either,” Wheelan said. She concluded with the fact that “learning is a lifelong phenomenon; it doesn’t end with this degree.”

Regent Richard L. Tucker addresses the student leaders at the SGA luncheon. (Photo Credit: Emelyn Ochoa)

“Thank you to my family, friends, advisors, and mentors throughout these past few years for your support and encouragement...It has truly been an amazing yet challenging past few years, but I wouldn’t trade any experience for the world. On to the next chapter of life...Forever learning!”

Wheelan reminded students continue to ask questions, no matter how stupid they think they are and to learn to laugh. She concluded her speech by sharing a story of a non-traditional student — an 87-year-old woman named Rose — who was finishing college and passed on the wisdom that “we do not stop playing because we are old; we grow old because we stop playing.”

The graduate reflection was delivered by Crystal Thompson, who received her Bachelor of Business Administration. Thompson reflected on her experience at GGC and the rewards of stepping out of her comfort zone when she traveled to Ecuador and went zip lining, despite her fear of heights.

She explained that “daring greatly” led her to the fulfillment she needed and encouraged other students to step outside their comfort zones.

“If you don’t remember anything else,” Thompson said, “remember that life truly begins at the end of your comfort zone.”

Commencement concluded in typical fashion with the conferring of degrees, cheers from family and friends and a welcome to the newest alumni by Chad Miller, Chair of the GGC Alumni Board.

A menagerie of brightly colored heils, honors cords, stoles and decorated caps highlighted the achievements and individuality of the GGC students crossing the stage to receive the promise of a diploma to be delivered at a later date.

After the ceremony concluded, Atiya Crockett reflected on her time at GGC, saying that “challenging myself in the academic arena of my life has strengthened me. In my faith, in my confidence, and, of course, in my knowledge. GGC has been the home to my butterfly process and though bittersweet, it feels great to graduate with new found strength.”

Leading by example: GGC’s SGA luncheon a ‘major success’

BY JACQUELYN WALLER
NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, Aug. 5, Georgia Gwinnett College’s Student Government Association (SGA) celebrated the coming of Fall semester by hosting a luncheon, which was part of a larger program designed to prepare the students of SGA for their roles as student leaders and representatives of GGC.

The luncheon also featured a gathering of many important and notable individuals within Gwinnett and the GGC community. The attendees included GGC’s President Stanley C. “Stas” Preczewski, Regent Richard Tucker, Senior associate provost Jim B. Fatzinger and SGA president Chase Goodwin.

As the luncheon commenced, community leaders delivered speeches, focusing on the theme of leadership and the integral role leaders play within society. Tucker’s speech detailed several aspects of GGC’s history and the sacrifices one must make to create the institution. He also stressed the importance of leadership and ethics within life, illustrating his own life experiences by telling stories to the audience.

A leader, Tucker said, “should always be the hardest working person” and that “comfort is the enemy of success.”

He explained that in order to be a true leader one must not succumb to the comfort found around them but to continue to strive onwards to achieve their goals. “You can crash but try not to burn,” Tucker said on the topic of failures. If you fail, use it as a lesson to build you back up.

After the Regent’s speech, President Preczewski delivered his speech concerning the growth of GGC and other traits necessary to be a good leader. “Teams make things happen,” he said — a leader must successfully employ his people and resources because it is impossible to do it alone. The president also made it clear that as leaders and students of GGC that the actions we take are defined by the community as an action representative of GGC.

In other words, all students are active ambassadors of the college and each has an impact on the school’s reputation in the community.

During his speech, the president spoke about new developments coming to GGC in the near future: “Phase three of building C will be finished by August of next year,” Preczewski said. This is a massive expansion to C building, which will increase size and capacity for classes to accommodate GGC’s rising student population.

Dr. Fatzinger concluded the event with a presentation regarding the next chapter of GGC. This presentation featured goals that GGC and the SGA will strive to achieve in the coming years. It detailed how student/faculty interaction would be improved in order to facilitate change and help students reach their goals throughout college.

During the luncheon, SGA members had the opportunity to converse with various Deans from each school of study and were able to inquire about current challenges that are present within the college.

The last note of the day was regarding upcoming events on Sept. 17. As part of GGC10 Celebration Week, that Thursday will host a variety of events on campus such as Building C groundbreaking, a cookout and an ice cream social. Students are encouraged to come out and enjoy the various events going on throughout the day.
Seven years ago, the city of Lawrenceville approved its 2030 Master Plan, which puts forth the city’s plans and possible courses of action in development over the next two decades. In 2011, the Master Plan was reissued to determine the best course for the “College Corridor” project.

“The idea for the College Corridor came from the desire to connect the core of the city with a crucial piece of Lawrenceville’s future,” Mayor Judy Jordan Johnson said. “Continuing to strengthen the relationship between GGC and the city will allow the [city] Council to make decisions going forward based on the needs of students.”

According to the plan, the city’s desired pattern for development is meant to “complement college life.” This includes providing entertainment options in the Depot area, redeveloping local neighborhoods to suit college needs, expanding the college campus south of SR-316 for “future athletic events” and exploring alternative transit methods between the college and downtown.

Entertainment options in the immediate vicinity of the college have been limited for years, and one of the aims of the Lawrenceville Plan is to address this issue by adding more entertainment options in the Depot. Some of the nearest attractions are the two movie-theaters nearby (the AMC just south of campus, and the value theater at HWY-20 and Gwinnett Drive, south of downtown Lawrenceville), the Aurora Theater on E Pike Street, Sugarloaf Mills mall on Sugarloaf Parkway and Stars and Strikes bowling alley ten minutes east of the college on SR-316.

Other classic entertainment options include the Gwinnett History Museum, Bullseye Shooting Range and the LONA Gallery, but more entertainment options in the Depot.

Other plans for the college have been confirmed, however, such as new sidewalk installations, new buildings and a new project for the college’s entrance. This housing goal will be accomplished through higher-quality, off-campus housing.

The College Corridor is a swath of land beginning at GGC and stretching southeast, into downtown Lawrenceville, along portions of Hurricane Shoals Road, and encompassing several retail and residential zones. GGC is in the top left of the shaded area, while the Depot is in the bottom. Downtown Lawrenceville begins after the Depot.

The small facilities department runs the maintenance for the entire school, including parking, classroom renovation, heating and a/c, lawn and garden, and has multiple enrichment projects just waiting for funding.

Last on the Lawrenceville Plan, the city would like to improve the basic infrastructure of the Corridor. This includes roadways, sidewalks, green spaces, and “other amenities supportive of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit traveling between the college and downtown area,” as stated on the plan.

The Liberty Law Office of Ason Wilson

Despite touting itself as “The Land of the Free,” America now has the second-highest number of incarcerated citizens of any country in the world. With 707 prisoners out of every 100,000 citizens, the only country that has managed to beat us out of that top spot has been the island nation of Seychelles with 868 – leaving us well ahead of Cuba, Russia and Rwanda.

This is largely the result of Drug Prohibition, a disastrous policy that has criminalized private behavior and has turned the United States into a Police State. Originally created as an excuse to punish African Americans and get them off the perceived race course, it has turned into an industrial war on African Americans without stopping there.

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Summer renovations: Facilities does its homework

By Laura Walsh
Editor-in-Chief

Students on GGC’s campus this summer likely noticed yellow caution tape and construction vehicles scattered across the campus as the facilities department made use of the reduced attendance of summer classes.

Frank Covington, Associate Vice-President of Facilities, explained that the push for working on projects over the summer happens because “it’s the only time I have.”

According to Covington, the best time for work is during the short periods between semesters and over the summer.

“My team works over Christmas, anytime when no one is here,” Covington said.

GGC has very little flex space during the Spring and Fall semesters.

“We run the highest utilization rate in the Board of Regents, 75%,” he said. “I don’t have any down time.”

One of the main renovations over the summer was the sidewalk in front of the H building and the brick walkway between the Library and H buildings. The sidewalk in front of H only had one drain and “when it rained really hard it would clog and cause a river,” Covington said.

The brick portion of the sidewalk was also widened to fill the area where landscaping was unable to survive the wet conditions and consistently developed root rot.

“I just think things have changed . . . the campus is evolving so as things pop up we’re trying to address them,” Covington said about the trend of drainage problems.

He also discussed classroom renovations to improve lighting and replace air conditioners, and converting the old public safety office into a large classroom space. The biggest project in the works is breaking ground on the new C3 building, which will complete the C building.

When asked about additional projects waiting in queue, Covington told The Globe that, “We’re just waiting on if they fund it. There’s always a laundry list of projects just waiting on funding.”

Humans of GGC: Campus Profiles

By Tyler Vining

Majorica Barnes

“I’m a sophomore marketing major and this is my third college. I had moved here a couple of years ago because my mom has been here for 10 years. My mom actually went to GGC before I did. I was drawn to GGC for its diversity and because it was affordable. I lived in Wisconsin and it was depressing and poverty-stricken. . . . We didn’t have much to do and every time we had a good thing going something would happen and we needed to go home.”

Micah Siebel

“I like free sunglasses so when GGC gives them away, I really makes me love this college even more. I want to work with the federal government, maybe in an embassy. Something that lets me be somewhere away from here for a little while. Family is most important to me especially my nieces and nephews. My church community is my primary core of friends. And my third love is GGC itself and its wonderful organizations and people, especially Dr. Maria Lumpkin. The more time I spend here, the better my life gets. As a resident Gwinnettian, I love GGC because it’s close to home and affordable as well as the bountiful diversity here. It’s also smaller and you have more of a connection to your professors. Diversity adds more to life. If people are alike, everything is boring.”

Rebeka Emerie

“I’m originally from Atlanta but my parents of Ethiopian descent. I speak Amharic but it’s broken Amharic—Amplhnglish. Being Ethiopian in America makes me look through things with a different lens but it’s a bit different because I’m the first generation here but I know my roots and my identity. I was attracted to GGC because it’s close to home and affordable as well as the bountiful diversity here. It’s also smaller and you have more of a connection to your professors. Diversity adds more to life. If people are alike, everything is boring and you’re not exposed to the different variety of cultures.”

Cait Morrigan

“When I first joined GGC I was 17 years old, and my parents were adamantly against it. I had moved from Ethiopia to America and I was really scared. For example, I changed my name on Facebook a while ago and plan on legally changing it after graduation (I can’t now since it could mess with certain benefits that pay for college). Big deal, right? Well . . . apparently it was! All of these people who are my mom’s friends are apparently messaging her asking her if I’m “ashamed of my (late) father” and saying it’s a “slap in the face.” I’m a 24-year-old woman who works hard as a student, writer and in many other areas. So, to me, that degrades my work since I spent over a year writing it. If that isn’t an example of male chauvinism in society, I really don’t know what is!”

Micah Siebel
What’s happening at the community garden?

By JULIE THOMPSON  
STAFF REPORTER

This June, GGC’s community garden received the Plant a Garden Grant as part of the 2015 Great American Cleanup Challenge—a project that involved 13,000 participants in 256 distinct projects across Gwinnett County.

In order to qualify for the award, garden administrators and volunteers Dr. Paul Grant, Dr. Evan Prescott and Brandon Seay were required to submit a proposal describing the garden’s past, current and future agendas.

The garden was founded March 21, 2012, but according to Dr. Paul Grant—the only founding member still involved with the garden—volunteers essentially had to “start over” this year. New trees had to be planted, the ground had to be prepared and new rows had to be dug again.

The garden has grown since its initiation—80 crop types burgeon in the 6,000 square foot plot’s soil. These plants were donated by Bonnie—an Alabama-based plant company—by Dr. Grant and Officer Alan Blake.

The first harvest was donated on July 7th. Brandon Seay, President of the Environmental Club, personally delivered these crops to the Coop Mission’s food bank from which a food insecure family residing in Lawrenceville or Duluth can receive a weekly supply of food every 30 days. On August 21, garden administrators will host a garden party from 12 to 2 p.m. Affiliates who have aided in the garden’s process will be invited. Linda Freund, head of the Lawrenceville Co-op Ministry, school deans and faculty interested in the garden, Connie Williams from Gwinnett Beautiful and even garden volunteers are invited to join the party. It will feature food, raffle prizes and a ceremony.

Brandon Seay gave a group of volunteers a tour of the garden on July 10th. He pointed out the rows of tomato plants a group of volunteers had planted the day earlier. These plants will be donated to the Co-op Mission. “We are planning to acquire a digital scale so that we can accurately quantify the amount of produce donated each time we harvest,” Seay, 28, said.

However, the garden’s soil faces sustainability issues. Located between 1 building and 316, the plot’s topsoil has eroded, and all that is left is clay-based soil. According to agricultural expert Dr. Evan Prescott, who has been intensively involved with the garden since April 2015, this kaolin-clay based soil has a low capacity to hold nutrients or to retain water.

“One main objective in improving our soil is to progressively integrate organic material, such as compost, peat moss, manure and mulch, which will improve the water and nutrient holding capacity of our soil and cause it to resemble topsoil,” Prescott said.

Help is always needed with plant and soil maintenance. Seay led a small group of volunteers through the garden since April 2015, this kaolin-clay based soil has a low capacity to hold nutrients or to retain water.

“On July 10 we planted tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and basil,” Seay noted. “High maintenance. Seay demonstrated how to prepare the ground for planting using a ‘kangaroo hop’ method. He jumped on a shovel to push it deep and effectively break up the stiff Georgia clay. “This allows the gardener to have more surface area, which actually makes it more compact,” Seay said. After an additional step of tilling the ground, the patch will be ready for planting.

Seay pointed to the verdant rows of produce, including peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, kale, watermelon and an assortment of herbs. The plants need to be watered, but the sun’s rays burning 96 degrees would scorch the delicate tomato plant leaves. “Am I for the roots on the tomato plants, but you can water the entire pepper plant,” Seay said.

There were deep tracks among the parsley plants. To prevent animals from eating the crops, a fence will be built. Deep holes and yardsticks outlining the perimeter of the fence that will occupy many volunteer hours in the upcoming months.

As a member of the GGC Sustainability committee, Dr. Grant hopes to see improved water sustainability. The most efficient way to conserve is the old fashioned method—watering the plants by hand with a caniter.

By JULIE THOMPSON  
STAFF REPORTER

Gov. Deal opened his address with a call for all people to be good stewards of the environment and reuse material, such as grinding bricks to reuse the powder and reusing wooden materials. After brief mentions of recycling and reuse, Gov. Deal spent the majority of his address on water conservation and usage.

Gov. Deal’s Environmental Address: Focus on water

By LAURA WALSH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Many prominent figures and local environmentalists filed into the Gwinnett Center’s Grand Ballroom on the morning of Thursday, June 4th, in anticipation of Gov. Nathan Deal’s Environmental Address. The event was hosted by Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful. Representatives from many of GGC’s student organizations were present, including the Student Government Association (SGA), Greenlight, Environmental Club, The Globe, African Voice, Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), Muslim Student Association, GGC Honors Program and other student leaders. Faculty and administration members were also in attendance.

GGC President Stanley “Stas” Preciozzi joined Gov. Deal onstage for the presentation of a $2500 scholarship to GGC sophomore and biology major, Rawgan Arsalan. “I like the environment and I like to find out what people who matter think about the environment,” explained Brandon Seay, who is the President of the Environmental Club. “It’s really neat to hear directly from the decision makers while also representing our school and making contacts, most people think of politicians as just leaders but they are regular people too.”

The program was kicked off with opening remarks from Connie Wiggins, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful’s Executive Director. The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem were also played by the Duluth High School Chorus. Charlotte Nash, Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, took the stage to introduce Gov. Deal.

Gov. Deal, who is famously known as “the budget guru,” laughedingly explained “need for introduction.” Nash made a point to thank Governor Deal for making the choice and “stepping up to lead Georgia rather than stay in Congress” even though it was “a tough time to be governor” because of the state’s economic struggles.

Gov. Deal opened his address with a call for all people to “be good stewards of the environment and reuse material,” such as grinding bricks to reuse the powder and reusing wooden materials. After brief mentions of recycling and reusing, Gov. Deal spent the majority of his address on water conservation and usage.

As for water, I’m under a gag order,” Gov. Deal explained. “That’s not good when your speaker is under a gag order, but I am pleased to tell you that long term prospects regarding water projects are moving along.”

Treating and returning water was explained to be the highest importance, especially ensuring that those who treat and return water are given credit for that extra effort. “If you really are an environmentalist that should be one of your top priorities,” Deal said, “because it is the best way to incentivize systems that withdraw from our rivers and lakes . . . clean the water and return it.”

Other projects—which such as various reservoirs and underground water storage in south Georgia —were also discussed, and Gov. Deal encouraged Gwinnett to continue their efforts toward environmental sustainability and praised the cooperation of Georgia’s agricultural community. In his closing remarks, Gov. Deal concluded by thanking local environmentalists.

“If you have good ideas about ways to keep Georgia even cleaner and more beautiful than it already is, please pass those along,” Deal said.

“We are always willing to listen to new ideas and hopefully be able to implement them.”

“A lot of great things have been accomplished by this state and Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, but there is still a lot more that needs to be done when it comes to taking care of our earth,” SGA President Chase Goodwin said.

“It starts with our own individual communities and I’m glad to see the progress that Gwinnett has made and the resources allocated to these efforts.”

“I was on the founding Board of Trustees and my heart is truly at GGC and I am so proud of the school,” Wiggins said to GGC representatives after the event’s conclusion.

“It’s really her heart, sweat, blood and tears at GGC. Connie is, in fact, one of our best and dearest supporters and we couldn’t have done it without her,” Dr. Jennifer Wunder said.
Don’t make excuses, make a difference

By Ana Beldon
Business Manager

On Tuesday, Aug. 14, we sat down with Ethel Ngene and Nailah Williamson of Volunteer GGC to discuss projects at play for those making a difference. Volunteer GGC is an organization that gives students the opportunity to perform community service on campus and in neighboring communities through metro Atlanta.

Mr. Allen Clarke is the coordinator of the organization since Volunteer GGC first started. Clarke — along with other GGC staff — saw that Georgia Gwinnett College needed a student learning and community engagement program that gave students the chance to grow and improve their local communities. Volunteer GGC was started, and student leaders on campus started to join.

The organization now has six student assistants who help plan and coordinate service projects throughout the year.

Feeding the homeless, visiting homeless shelters and charity events are some of the many service projects Volunteer GGC has done. They assisted cleaning a new building at Rainbow Village — a homeless shelter located in Duluth — where homeless families with children can find refuge and learn to rebuild their lives with the love and support of a community-based family surrounding them. Volunteer GGC spent three to four hours cleaning the building, and the team spirit was vibrant and caused them to be more united as a group.

“It was an amazing experience that impacted all of the students and staff that attended,” Williamson, a member of Volunteer GGC, said.

Another service project they worked on was preparing meals for patients and residents at Wishes 4 Me Foundation. Wishes 4 Me Foundation is a non-profit organization located in Lawrenceville that assists adults with disabilities to live a more active and involved lifestyle. It was founded on the belief that giving up is never an option and it ranges from age 18 and up. Volunteer GGC was privileged to socialize with the patients there by playing games, and reading books.

“The experience was emotional, educational and very satisfying,” Ngene, a member of Volunteer GGC, said.

The GGC Community Garden is one of Volunteer GGC’s signature events. The Community Garden is in collaboration with the Lawrenceville community as their produce is donated to the Lawrenceville co-op to feed those in need. This program allows students to have the experience of sowing, watering, fertilizing and reaping the produce of the Garden. They are also allowed to participate in the donating the produce and to see the impact they are having on their community. They volunteer two to three times each semester, and this will be one of the service learning programs here at GGC this Fall Semester.

Volunteer GGC, the office of Student Involvement and the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) are also hosting a Back to School Drive to donate school supplies to Rainbow Village and Graves Elementary School located in Norcross.

There are two locations you can drop off your donations. One is at the Student Center, 2nd floor, and also in A building in front of Chick Fil A. They will deliver all donations the first week of October.

Why should we care? When I asked members of Volunteer GGC why they care about volunteering, Williamson replied, “Because we enjoy helping out and giving back to our community.”

Ngene also stated, “I enjoy helping others, and I would like for more students to get involved and join Volunteer GGC.”

Letter From the Editor

By Laura Walsh
Editor-in-Chief

It has been a while now since our last newspaper and I didn’t realize how much I had missed it.

We took the summer off in order to focus on developing a budget and business plan for becoming an institutional organization. There are no guarantees, but we have made great progress and we are hopeful that we will reach an agreement.

In July, we presented our business plan to the President and other members of administration. The business plan was about 50 pages long and we now have to wait for the process of scrutinizing each page and making changes where necessary. We are not the official GGC newspaper, but we are hopeful that we will be by the end of this semester.
Supreme Court says “I do” to marriage equality

BY TYLEN VINNING
NEWS EDITOR

On June 26, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality for same-sex couples in a historic victory for the LGBT rights movement. In Obergefell vs. Hodges, the Justices ruled 5 to 4 that the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples violated the Due Process and the Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The movement for marriage equality, which is only one part of the LGBT rights movement, began in the 1970s but didn’t begin gaining headlines until 1993 when the Supreme Court of Hawaii ruled that the prohibition of marriage equality was unconstitutional. This ruling led several states and the federal government legislating that marriage was solely between one man and one woman, including the enforcement of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

In recent years, not only did DOMA get repealed, but many states’ bans on marriage equality were ruled unconstitutional and the restriction of gay and lesbian persons in the military, “Don’t Ask. Don’t Tell,” was lifted, heading many LGBT people to celebrate this shift in the tide. Celebrations even took place in Gwinnett County with GGC students sharing their happiness through Pride Alliance, GGC’s LGBT organization. Here’s what the officers of Pride Alliance had to say:

“It took me a long time to accept myself as gay and part of that was because I knew it would be long time if ever, before I could have the right to marry someone I love. The Supreme Court ruling has provided a significant step towards equal rights for the gay community.”

— Nehemiah Hester

“I’m excited that the day has finally come that all families are equal in the eyes of the law. However, we can’t forget the many struggles still faced by members of the LGBTQ community. Almost half of all homeless youth are LGBTQ. In almost 30 states it’s still legal to be fired for being LGBTQ. A victory has been won. A war yet remains.”

— Jory Alexander

“Ever since I first came to terms with my sexual identity, the idea of marriage seemed far off, and more of an idea for later generations. Now, though, that dream is able to become a reality, and it’s comforting to know that marriage is available to me one day should I choose it.”

— Morgan Woody

While many LGBTQ people and their heterosexual allies remain ecstatic that progress has been made, many remain vigilant that there’s still a long road ahead for complete equality not only for LGBTQ people, but for people of color and women, as social issues are severely intersectional. Social conservatives were disappointed by the Supreme Court ruling and many still ask their representative to do something on this issue. It remains to be seen whether their efforts will be fruitful.

What are your thoughts on marriage equality? How does the ruling impact you personally? Email me at tvinning@ggc.edu

Addiction on campus: Seek help for addictive behavior

BY RACHEL PATTI
FEATURES EDITOR

When students hear the word “addiction,” they might think of “a skid row bum in a dirty raincoat drinking from a brown paper” — an image described in Alcoholics Anonymous. But addiction comes in many shapes and forms, not discriminating by gender, race, age or vice. Addiction can range from cravings for alcohols, street and prescription drugs to gambling, sex, excessive eating, compulsive spending or shopping and even exercising.

Anything used in excess can become addictive. Common addictions range from too much shopping or compulsive buying to watching too much porn (whether it be for masturbatory pleasure or leisurely browsing). Other addictive behaviors like playing an excessive amount of video games, sitting in front of the television and watching Netflix for hours or working out for hours every day can be signs of an addictive personality.

Recently, a survey was sent out to 50 randomly selected Georgia Gwinnett College students to find out which top four vices run rampant through the campus.

The survey results indicate that of the students who participated in the survey, the majority 48% — indicated their biggest vice was internet usage. Mindless web browsing, surfing from page to page, one link to the next. For most people, this is a casual way of occupying time. However, these obsessions can be dangerous, leading down a destructive path if not carefully monitored.

If a GGC student feels lost, alone or addicted, it is important to realize that there is always someone available to help. Page 417 of Alcoholics Anonymous states that “nothing, absolutely nothing happens in [this] world by mistake.” Resources are available to help people struggling with addiction. Gwinnetta.org, grscna.com and apps like “meeting finder” and “in the rooms” provide information such as addiction awareness and meeting locations. Counseling and psychological services are offered at GGC for students, who can get more information by visiting the student services page on the GGC website.
Anti-Semitism: The hate crimes you didn’t know about

By Julie Thompson
Staff Reporter

In 2013, there were 5,928 hate crimes committed in the United States, according to the FBI’s latest report. Most people associate words like “prejudice” and “discrimination” with hate crimes, but what of the term “anti-Semitism?”

Many GGC students will admit they are unfamiliar with the term. Anti-Semitism can be defined as a strong prejudice distinctly towards Jews, yet the European Union specifies that anti-Semitism “can be verbal or physical, or both, and targets Jewish individuals, or their property, or community institutions or religious facilities.”

The most large scale and thereby most atrocious hate crime took place between 1939 and 1945 — the Holocaust. This genocide of six million Jews is the only anti-Semitic hate crime popularly discussed.

When questioned on the subject, GGC student Angela Delgado, 25 admitted that she heard about hate crimes in the news, but knew little about current anti-Semitic hate crimes. “We only hear about the Holocaust in high school,” Delgado said.

Jewish people in numerous European countries feel endangered because of recent anti-Semitic violence.

“Anti-Semitism is coming back to the pre-World War II level,” Maurice Sosnowski, president of the Belgian Jewish group CCOJB, said.

The Rising Phenomenon

Sixty percent of the world’s religious hate crimes are directed at Jews, according to the 2013 FBI report. In Europe, members of the ethno-religious community live in fear, despite numerous safety measures. France has the largest Semitic population in Europe, with between 500,000-600,000 Jewish inhabitants. In 2015, 1% of this population — a total of 7,000 Jews — fled to Israel.

Forty percent of all French crimes are directed at Jewish neighborhoods; however, Jewish individuals, or their property, or community institutions or religious facilities were suspected of supplying Coulibaly with weapons. 12 individuals were shot the following Wednesday at the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris. The publication was targeted for its satirical nature, often poking fun at religious groups and promoting the French ideal of “laissez-faire!” — freedom from religion.

The Grand Paris Synagogue was temporarily closed as a precautionary measure after January’s events, and military guards are stationed outside schools. “You’d have to pay me a lot of money to live in France or Belgium now,” Marc Cohen, a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said.

The number of crimes directed towards the 30,000 British Jews was 1,168. London anti-Semitic rates rose 137% since January of 2014. Twenty GGC students were selected to complete a similar survey. There were 11 questions to gauge the biases students held towards Jewish people.

Twenty GGC students were selected to complete a similar survey. There were 11 questions to gauge the biases students held towards Jewish people. Students were approached on an individual basis. They were asked to report their ages, majors, and race, but not their names.

Of the surveyees — whose ages ranged from 17 to 25 — eight were female, one reported to be gender fluid. Students were asked to complete a similar survey. There were 11 questions to gauge the biases students held towards Jewish people. Students were approached on an individual basis. They were asked to report their ages, majors, and race, but not their names. Of the surveyees — whose ages ranged from 17 to 25 — eight were female, one reported to be gender fluid and the rest were male. The majors included IT, history education, education, psychology, English, biology, public health and criminal justice.

For the survey, the 11 questions to gauge biases, students were instructed to answer True, Probably True, or False to the following questions.

1. Do you know anyone who is anti-Semitic?
2. Are Jews more loyal to their country than to this country?
3. Are Jews responsible for most of the world’s wars?
4. Are Jews too powerful in the US government?
5. Do Jews have too much control over the global media?
6. Do Jews have too much power in the business world?
7. Do Jews have too much power in international market affairs?
8. Do Jews talk too much about the Holocaust?
9. Do Jews have too much control in global affairs?
10. Do people hate Jews because of the way Jews behave?
11. Jews don’t care about anyone but their own kind?

Most students displayed a lack of anti-Semitic biases. One student even wrote “do people even believe this s***!!” on the handout.

Survey responses are given below: After completing the survey, several students confessed that they had never heard of anti-Semitism.

“I was completely ignorant of this subject and anti-Semitic hate crimes until about two minutes ago,” Devon Brewster, 20, said.

Students curious about international anti-Semitic rates can visit the Defamation League’s website at “adl.org.”

To find pictures and firsthand accounts of anti-Semitic victims in France, one can search the Twitter hashtag “HebdoisJuif.”

Questions T P F
Q 1 3 36 1
Q 2 5 11 4
Q 3 3 17 5
Q 4 2 15 3
Q 5 2 15 3
Q 6 1 34 5
Q 7 1 34 5
Q 8 1 35 4
Q 9 1 33 6
Q 10 1 36 3
Q 11 1 39 1

FREE Vision & Hearing Screenings
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Thursday, September 12th
9:00a.m—3:00p.m
Wellness Suite
Residence Life Building 1000, Suite 1138
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Capture your special moments for a lifetime!

Contact: Helen Thomas
Phone: 678-755-6763
Email: helenl84@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/sundayhousestudio
Exploring China: Adventures in international studies

By Jason Waller
News Editor

The International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP) was designed to introduce students of diverse educational backgrounds to various global applications of concepts within their respective fields of study. It was my honor to be nominated to represent GGC and the Golden Key International Honour Society in the ISLP 2015 delegation on International Relations and Diplomacy in China. The Office of Internationalization at GGC played a vital role in the success of my program and has continuously illustrated their desire for success in all students at GGC. During my trip in China, I was fortunate to have visited three major cities including Beijing, Xian and Shanghai. This article will highlight the program’s events in Beijing, as well as several aspects of the city itself.

Upon landing in Beijing — after a grueling 18-hour flight from Atlanta and Toronto — I was relieved to be greeted by members of the ISLP team at the airport. On the shuttle to the hotel I met my fellow scholars who were also participating in the program. They hailed from various nations including Australia, South Africa, India, Great Britain, Mexico, Canada and various states in the U.S. Surprisingly, however, I was the only scholar from Georgia. Despite the large variety of people there was an instantaneous connection between everyone and trip commenced with an exquisite welcome dinner at the Chang An Grand Hotel.

Over the following days, we were assigned case studies relating to China, as well as exploring various parts of Beijing including Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Olympic Green and, finally, the Great Wall of China. Members of the delegation on diplomacy visited The Beijing Foreign Studies University where we had a chance to engage in conversation and exchange of ideas with both students and faculty of the institution, following an astounding presentation by Dr. Xie Tao — a professor who studied the United States.

While in Beijing, we were also able to visit the Icelandic embassy in China, where we saw a presentation from the Consul regarding Chinese relations with Iceland, as well as the role China is currently playing on a global scale. A main highlight of our time in Beijing was our visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China. It was thrilling to be able to converse with diplomats and junior diplomats regarding China’s expansion as a global economic and political powerhouse within the international system. They were incredibly knowledgeable and explained many aspects of Chinese politics and culture and its role with various other contemporary globalizing world.

The cuisine in Beijing was another incredible part of the city — we were able to enjoy the finest Peking duck served in the traditional manner as well as visiting a tea house that boasted a wide variety of teas from all over China. Finally, the visit to historic hutong district was magnificent as we were able to see many ancient buildings and saw many historic parts of Beijing otherwise lost in the bustle of the raging metropolis.

My experience in Beijing was one of adventure, learning, and unavailable life experiences. The time spent in the city was fascinating and enjoyable. From the ancient and exotic structures of the Forbidden City to the grandeur and daunting fortitude of the Great Wall, Beijing is truly a living testament of a rich culture, history and nation.

As the city continues to develop, its people are also continuously rising. They have sacrificed evanescent comfort and luxury and replaced it with industriousness and an iron will. With these admirable qualities in hand, Beijing has become a hub of development and a city of international recognition and acclaim. I am proud to have visited such an incredible place in the world and would encourage others to do so as well — you would not regret it.

Video game review: Splatoon splashes in...

By Tyler Yning
News Editor

Squirting to the top of the gaming industry, Splatoon — released in North America on May 29th by Nintendo — has been a successful summer hit by redefining the third-person shooter in a kid-friendly manner. Ranking in positive reception and award nominations, Splatoon has been such a hit with gamers that Nintendo’s competitors may well be inking their pants.

The game revolves around beings known as “inklings” who seem to be half-human and half-squid, able to be shaped up to two different forms. A campaign mode exists where a single player can go through a playful adventure, but the real action takes place in the online multi-player modes where two teams (split into two different peeping colors) duke it out in three different modes with possibly more to come in the future.

“Turf Wars” has players cover the ground with ink and the team with the most ground covered being named the victor. “Splatoon Zones” has players control a small portion of territory until the time runs out in a king-of-the-hill style. “Tower Control,” the newest mode, has players control a floating tower in an attempt to move it across the map. The game also hosts events called “Splatfests,” which have players choose teams (cats versus dogs, marshmallows versus hot dogs) and compete in Turf Wars to possibly win item upgrades. Alongside these fun options come Ambio capabilities and player created memes all throughout the game with juicy squid related puns. To the top it off, this isn’t the end of it. Splatoon is constantly releasing more content which keep enticing players to come play another match.

All in all, Splatoon deserves a 9/10 and I recommend it to all my friends and squads. Stay fresh!

Student showcase: Creative submissions

Dabbling Duck on New Delhi Street

By Kofi Yankey
Student Submission

Her eyes are shut behind degraded lids, as tears descend from her disfigured face; and smiles that used to hare a thousand bids, will now be hidden for her coming days. She lies as if a child within a womb; her legs are bleeding and extremely bruised. Her mind decays with each minute she lays, and fluids drip where blood and sweat are fused.

She’ll seek your deepest pleasure, your heart will leak out anger when she’s beside another; you’ll wander through your essence, to solve her dimmed desires. She’ll seek your deepest pleasure, to make you feel like fire. You’ll both begin to quarrel and danger will ensue. Your love will then deteriorate, but then it shall renew.

Be wary of the bumble bees, chasing the pollen flowers; the roguish hidden gullies, chasing the pollen flowers; you’ll both begin to quarrel and danger will ensue. Her love will seal your heart; expel the starving vultures. She said — be wary of the pollen, the moment you’re divided.

The Oracle’s Fortune

BY KOFI YANKEY
Student Submission

She said — be wary of the pollen, that summons bumble bees. She said — be wary of the sunset, that summons bumble bees. She said — be wary of the pollen, which keep enticing players to come play another match.

All in all, Splatoon deserves a 9/10 and I recommend it to all my friends and squads. Stay fresh!

Student showcase: Creative submissions

Dabbling Duck on New Delhi Street

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Student Submission

Her eyes are shut behind degraded lids, as tears descend from her disfigured face; and smiles that used to hare a thousand bids, will now be hidden for her coming days. She lies as if a child within a womb; her legs are bleeding and extremely bruised. Her virgin thighs are scared by prints of doom, her legs are bleeding and extremely bruised. Her mind decays with each minute she lays, and fluids drip where blood and sweat are fused.

Be careful of the sunset, that summons bumble bees. She said — be wary of the pollen, which keep enticing players to come play another match.

All in all, Splatoon deserves a 9/10 and I recommend it to all my friends and squads. Stay fresh!
New Year, New Era
Coach Kouns has big plans for Grizzly Women's Soccer

By Cody Butler
SPORTS REPORTER

Georgia Gwinnett women’s soccer program has taken a drastic overhaul since the end of last season, falling in the Association of Independent Institutions conference tournament a few games shy of the national tournament. GGC hired a new head coach this offseason with an entirely new game plan, citing a need for change in departing with previous head coach Dominic Martelli, who finished his career at Georgia Gwinnett with a record of 34-17-4. Georgia Gwinnett was 10-6-2 last season in Martelli’s final year.

The Grizzlies turned the way of Chris Kouns in February, an Atlanta native with nine years of head coaching experience on his resume. Coach Kouns previously was the head coach for Capital University out of Columbus, Ohio, an NCAA Division III program. Kouns won three conference championships in four seasons at Capital University, highlighted by a brilliant 2013 season where they were inside the final four as an NCAA Division III national semi-finalist.

Coach Kouns brings a strong emphasis on goal scoring to Lawrenceville with a brand new mind-set for a lot of Grizzly players. “My style of play will be extremely attacking oriented,” Kouns explained. “We will defend by going forward and look to make the other team think about what they are doing in light of the fact they know as soon as there is a forward. “Quite simply, our goal every year will be to outwork our opponents every game, pay attention to all the little things and play amongst the elite in the nation.”

This approach is needed, as goals will have to be plentiful in 2015 to withstand the very strong schedule the Grizzlies are facing. The women’s soccer team will face seven opponents that made the national tournament last season, making it one of the toughest schedules in the entire country.

The lady Grizzlies open their season on August 28th against Middle Georgia State and Brewton Parker should be excellent tune up games for the Grizzlies, as both of those foes only won two matches apiece last season. After a three match stretch in September that should set the Grizzlies in winning form, the schedule gets daunting and winners of 18 matches last season. Georgia Gwinnett will face Lindsey Wilson on October 28th at 8 p.m. under the lights in Kentucky.

Georgia Gwinnett’s last game of the season is as tough as they come against national power Embry Riddle, a team that went 19-2 in 2014 and spent time as the #1 team in the country. Embry Riddle was a national semifinalist last season. This 2015 meeting will be the first ever between Georgia Gwinnett and Embry Riddle.

Every tough game on Georgia Gwinnett’s schedule will help prepare the ladies for the challenges of a conference and national tournament. By November when the top teams shine, the Grizzlies will be battle tested and ready to play amongst the elite in the nation. “Quite simply, our goal every year will be to outwork our opponents every game, pay attention to all the little things in training and strive for individual excellence in the role we play for our team,” Kouns said of the outlook heading forward. “If we do those things on a daily basis we will put ourselves in a position to win conference championships and reach the national tournament.”

The 2015 campaign for the Grizzlies will be the most intriguing to date with a heavy attack oriented offense and a schedule that includes six opponents inside the top 15 in the nation. The new offensive gameplan will be fan friendly with the possibility of something special brewing quickly in Lawrenceville.
said Dr. Darin S. Wilson, GGC Director of Athletics. “We want to make sure that we do things in the right way, and BE GREAT is another part of that goal. This will help ensure that we continue to make a positive impact off the field and throughout the community.

There are a number of components that will make up the program, beginning with programming that will encompass topics relevant to all student-athletes as well as programming that targets specific groups. For example, a freshman may attend sessions that focus on the rigors of college sports, while a senior will participate in the newly-formed Grizzly Classic=

A select number of student-athletes will also participate in the newly-formed Grizzly Classic, which is set to begin in fall 2016. The mentors will guide incoming student-athletes from a variety of sports as they begin their first year with Grizzly Athletics.

Article and Photos Courtesy of Grizzly Athletics at: http://www.grizzlyathletics.com/
### Crossword

Across
1. Grizzly _______ Speaker was PK Anable
2. _______ is the festival on the lawn from 3-5 pm on 9/13
3. Faith ______ helps students find their way around campus
4. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the I Have a ______ speech on 8/28 in 1963.
5. First National Women's Rights ______ was 8/28/1840
6. Club will be held in the Office of Student Involvement in the RSO Lounge on 8/19 from 11:00 AM
7. Fall ________ begins Monday, August 17th
8. Michael ________ born 8/26/1955

Down
1. _______ Days is the first week back to school, full of fun events
2. The first RSO ______ is August 17th and if you're an officer in a club you must attend this.
3. Hot Dog Festival was on 8/17
4. Student ________ Meal and Credit was on 8/17
5. Green _______ is where all the clubs line up on the lawn to advertise to all the students what they can offer.
6. Help give vegetables and plants to the ________ Garden on 8/21 from 10am-3pm
7. Six ________ is back: the improv comedy show about sex and stuff
8. Miss ______ Applications are due by 8/24.
9. The 5th Annual ________ This the act 7 was on 8/13

### Wordsearch

Find and circle these words. They run up, down, across, and diagonally:

- newspaper
- school
- globe
- fall
- education
- grizzly
- business
- health
- sciences
- international
- uvrir
- tlnco
- newspaper
- gurneafapbuschool
- pixmneducation
- xlrgwjsnfefpznii
- umlqepjkqknoyvb
- srsmnimbkdgymtf
- trtjinvolution
- nfrpwtwmdgnrbdsd
- dyalbeemtkiust
- tlllfrbxytrcsem
- szanlnofqnanicd
- uanshnlfolhlanck
- giesqtgewahvueun
- urbsciencesmssf
- agiscollgeusap
- lul
- urvqfapbusschool
- pixmneducation

### Mandala

Stress Relief Coloring