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March 2016

The Globe

Georgia Gwinnett College
Lawrenceville, GA

9th Edition

Campus carry clears legislature

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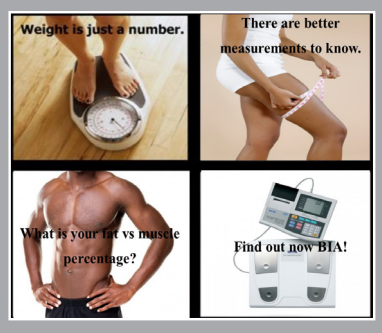
Student fees cover basic health care



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Slam poetry performance

Photo Credit, Mishel Cabrera

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Affordable food near campus

Photo Credit, John Preston Corbin

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GGC ski trip

Photo Credit, John Preston Corbin

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Explosion ignites speculations

By Chris Davis, Executive Editor
& Laura Walsh, Editor-in-Chief

Fear and speculation followed in the wake of an explosion in A building on the morning of Monday, March 21 at Georgia Gwinnett College.

The explosion seriously injured one woman who was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. The woman works for Aramark, which provides food services for the college.

As of printing, the reports show that a fire alarm, apparently unrelated, was activated at 7:30 a.m. followed by the explosion in the restroom at 8:02 am.

Tanya Stowell, a senior Biology major, was on the scene when the explosion occurred.

Stowell previously worked for five years alongside law enforcement in planning and executing evacuation plans as part of a safety team at Disney.

"There was confusion on when to re-enter the building," Stowell said in a Facebook message. "We evacuated and re-entered the building twice and with no direction or control of the situation."

"At no point did I see any other faculty or building employees present or assisting with the evacuation other than two Chick-fil-A employees," she said, and "once evacuated students were not at a safe distance away from the building."

Stowell arrived on campus at 7:35 a.m., just after the first fire alarm activated. "Everyone inside was calm and going about their business, and there were no fire trucks or emergency personnel."

A student told Stowell that he thought the alarm had been accidently set off and she went into the food court and placed an order with the Aramark employee who was later injured. Shortly after she sat down to eat, the employees asked everyone to exit the building.

"As I walked out the door the fire alarm stopped and about 30 seconds later people started to re-enter the building," Stowell said. "About two minutes later a policeman walked into the food court from the hall and . . . [instructed] the employvees that the building needed to be evacuated and that no one was allowed to enter the building until the fire truck leaves."

Emergency vehicles outside A building
Photo Credit, JOHN SPINK / JSPINK@AJC.COM

"We then left the building for a second time and I noticed there were no fire trucks outside," she said. The fire trucks arrived at approximately 7:50 a.m. according to Stowell.

At 7:59 a.m. the alarm went off again and Stowell, along with other students, re-entered the building for the second time. She never saw or smelled any smoke, fire or gas.

"Just as I entered through the side door I heard and felt the explosion," she said.

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First gender inclusive bathroom opens on campus

By Quinn Mayes
Staff Reporter

Georgia Gwinnett College's Residence Halls debuted the campus's first gender-inclusive restroom on Feb. 24 in the lower lobby of Residence Hall Building 1000.

"I am extremely excited that the gender-inclusive bathrooms are now open and in use," said Erin Lucier, GGC junior and Student Government Association (SGA) senate chairperson. "

The restrooms are labeled "All Gender Restroom" with deadbolt locks that indicate whether or not the facilities are vacant or occupied.

Director of Residence Life, Dr. Boone, and Pride Alliance president Rene Bernal have been the major overseers of the change.

"We were able to make our dream a reality and ensure that there are now spaces on campus that all of our Grizzlies can feel safe," said Lucier.

The actual grand opening consisted of a rope cutting and a speech from Boone.

"It is a wonderful initiative toward social change and social justice that speaks to the diverse population that is GGC," Boone said.

"I was thrilled to attend the Residence Life all-gender bathroom ribbon cutting ceremony. I am so pleased that we are making these strides

Photo Credit, adasighndepot.com

to create more inclusive spaces on campus," said Marni Brown, assistant professor of Sociology and Chair of the Faculty Senate Gender Task Force Committee.

The restrooms were originally separated by gender. Throughout the campus, there are also many showering facilities that GGC administration considers gender-inclusive, although they lack labels to specify them as such.

"It is very appropriate for the space that we live in here, our space here in the residence halls, is not exclusive to any one specific gender identity or gender expression," said Courtney Gregory, GGC sophomore and resident assistant.

While the GGC community continues to grow rapidly, there are high hopes that the college will have the ability to keep up with the needs of the diverse student body.

Spotlight on schools

School of Science & Technology

Georgia Gwinnett College's School of Science and Technology (SST) is a solid choice for students who wish to partake in a rigorous STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and math) program in order to find good-paying jobs in the Atlanta market.

Over the past 5 years, GGC's growth percentage within STEM majors has exceeded the growth percentage of the overall GGC population. SST programs now contain over 3,000 students.

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School of Liberal Arts

The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) at Georgia Gwinnett College continues to grow and expand with two new majors being proposed for approval to align with 21st century job demands.

The school currently offers degrees in five traditional disciplines with multiple concentrations found within each discipline. English, history, and political science majors can also collaborate with the School of Education to become certified to teach at the secondary level.

Page 03

School of Health Sciences

Georgia Gwinnett College's School of Health Sciences, which will graduate its first class of 30 students with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) on May 12, anticipates high-capacity B.S.N. enrollment of 90 students next semester with an additional 1,300 enrolled in its pre-nursing program.

GGC will continue to weigh options for expanding curriculum and majors to meet the growing demands of the healthcare industry, according to the Dean of the School of Health Sciences Diane White.

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School of Transitional Studies

The School of Transitional Studies (STS) may be the most obscure of Georgia Gwinnett College's six schools, but, then again, it deals with a most obscure topic.

STS offers student success courses to prepare students for college level core classes and workshops, the Academic Enhancement Center, as well as the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program.

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News

High demand for SST graduates

By Rusty Hatchell
Staff Reporter

Georgia Gwinnett College's School of Science and Technology (SST) is a solid choice for students who wish to partake in a rigorous STEM-based (science, technology, engineering and math) program in order to find good-paying jobs in the Atlanta market.

Over the past 5 years, GGC's growth percentage within STEM majors has exceeded the growth percentage of the overall GGC population. SST programs now contain over 3,000 students.

One of the key attributes that students can expect within the SST is the factor of interdisciplinarity, according to the Dean of SST, Dr. Tom Mundie.

"Most of our big problems in society are not disciplinary problems. They can't be solved just by doing a math problem or by writing a paper. They usually are multidisciplinary in their issue. You have to consider ethical issues and economic issues, technical issues and scientific issues," said Dr. Mundie.

Dr. Mundie and the School have proposed a new program that would allow students to focus on multiple disciplines concurrently. Currently, it is called an Interdisciplinary Science program. It has been passed by GGC, and is now at the Board of Regents for approval.

"Our thought with this program was there are a lot of careers and areas where you can't pigeonhole that particular career into a particular discipline," said Dr. Mundie. In response to the career of science writers, he questioned "should they have an English degree or should they have a Biology degree?"

The program would allow students to concentrate in one of the traditional disciplines within the School of Science and Technology, but would also have a flexible portion of their degree plan that would allow students to study multiple upper-level courses in another discipline. In addition to science writing, Mundie also cited neuroscience as a particular career choice that would benefit from the proposed program as well.

Aligning with the value of student engagement at GGC, if the program is passed, faculty committees would be able to approve and oversee student-crafted plans that align with career goals of the student's choosing.

The genesis of the interdisciplinary program "emerge[d] from the kind of interdisciplinary discussion that's in GGC's DNA," said Dr. Mundie.

Many SST programs already include interdisciplinary components. For example, the Digital Media concentration of the Information Technology degree requires art courses.

GGC has recognized that spreading out the offices of faculty members throughout the campus has opened up conversation between faculty of different disciplines and inspired a campus full of interdisciplinary courses and programs across the schools. However, many other institutions centralize their disciplines in separate buildings or hubs on campus.

According to Dr. Mundie, there are an assortment of reasons why students become successful in their postgraduate decisions after engaging with the School's core components .

"We've kind of broken this paradigm that you see at other schools."

GGC has nurtured an engaging environment "so that students feel safe that they can stay in [our programs], even if they're struggling with the higher math courses. We see students across the full spectrum." Whereas, students who want to major in STEM programs at other institutions may feel that they have to be high-performing to stay a STEM major.

" Students are self-selecting into our programs," explains Dr. Mundie.

"Students know if they major in IT, then their likelihood of getting a good paying job is good. Our students at GGC are very employment-focused."

Information technology isn't the only career field with high demand. "A lot of companies and businesses are looking for people who analyze data, so they'll look at math majors to do that," said Dr. Mundie. Biology majors can fill jobs in the health industry, pharmacies, and plenty of other ventures, including sales of pharmaceuticals. "We've [also] had several students accepted into medical school, P.A. [physician assistant] school, pharmacy school, and PhD programs."

GGC students have excelled not only in the classroom, but also in the competitive circuit of STEM-based competitions. "We have been quite successful; we have won awards every since 2010," said Dr. Lissa Pollacia in an e-mail. "You can see the trophies in front of the SST Dean's office, 3rd floor of the H Building." GGC STEM students repeatedly beat competition from highly prestigious and well-renown programs, which shows the success rate of GGC students on a practical level.

What sets GGC apart from other institutions has been a question that Dr. Mundie and others have discussed as they see the growth of the school's student body start to level off. He stated that there are three characteristics of a college that GGC embodies. He first mentions high student engagement. "We have small classes, faculty mentors. We always have lots of opportunities for students to be engaged, for faculty and staff to be engaged with students." Second, there is the low cost of GGC. And third is the rigor of the programs at GGC. "I cannot think of another institution that does all three of them. It's easy to do two."

Along with high demand in many fields across Gwinnett County and the Atlanta metropolitan area, graduates are equipped with all of the tools to become successful in the workplace.

SST profile

Enrollment (as of Fall 2015)
Total: 3,220
Bachelor of Science, Biology: 1,234
Bachelor of Science, Chemistry: 121
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science: 33
Bachelor of Science, Exercise Science: 486
Bachelor of Science, Information Technology: 1,172
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics: 174

Faculty (as of Fall 2015)
Full-Time: 187
Part-Time: 118
Dean: Dr. Tom Mundie
Associate Deans: Dr. Joseph Ametepe, Dr. David Kerven
Assistant Deans: Dr. Alvina J. Atkinson, Dr. James Brownell Crabbe, Dr. Bagie George, Dr. Kamal Kakish, Dr. Lissa Pollacia, Dr. Joseph Sloop, Dr. Livinus Uko

Disciplines
Degrees offered: 6 (B.S. in Biology, B.S. in Chemistry, B.S. in Environmental Science, B.S. in Exercise Science, B.S. in Information Technology, B.S. in Mathematics)
Minors offered: 1 (Information Technology)

Campus carry shoots through Ga legislature

By John Preston Corbin
Staff Reporter

Since the last issue of The Globe, there have been many developments around HB 859 (Campus Carry). If signed into law, HB 859 would make it legal for anyone with a permit to carry a concealed weapon onto the campus of Georgia Gwinnett College or any other college campus in the state of Georgia.

HB 859 easily passed the Republican controlled House and Senate. However, Republican Governor Nathan Deal expressed some concerns and has asked lawmakers to re-address the bill before signing it.

A statement released by Governor Deal's office says that he is concerned about k-12 students who also attend college classes and allowing some discretion at the institutional level to set "reasonable rules regarding disciplinary hearings and faculty and administrative offices."

As of printing no changes have been proposed but lawmakers are expected to address Gov. Deal's concerns, allowing him to sign the bill into law.

In a statement before the Georgia Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, March 2, University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby came out in support of the current firearms law banning guns from campus.

Huckaby spoke on behalf of the Board of Regents, the presidents of its 29 institutions, its campus police chiefs and all other concerned parties.

"We feel strongly that current law strikes the right balance between creating a safe environment on our campuses while affording those individuals who are carry users a safeguard location," he said. "The bottom line — we oppose this legislation."

This stance against Campus Carry has been reiterated by Georgia Tech President G.P. "Bud" Peterson and University of Georgia President Jere Morehead.

University of Georgia students protest HB 859
Photo Credit, TAYLOR CARPENTER / TAYLOR.CARPENTER@AJC.COM

"We appreciate Chancellor Huckaby's leadership in testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of the 29 institutions in the University System of Georgia," said Peterson. "He represented us well. I join him in supporting the current law and opposing the proposed campus carry legislation."

Jere Morehead released a statement to Archnews in which he also came out against Campus Carry, alluding to the statement made by Hank Huckaby.

Online petitions at colleges such as Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia also express opposition to the bill. UGA students have even gone so far as to stage public protests against the bill.

News

SLA expands current curriculum

By Rusty Hatchell
Staff Reporter

The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) at Georgia Gwinnett College continues to grow and expand with two new majors being proposed for approval to align with 21st century job demands.

The school currently offers degrees in five traditional disciplines with multiple concentrations found within each discipline. English, history, and political science majors can also collaborate with the School of Education to become certified to teach at the secondary level.

While it is exciting to see new degree plans being developed at GGC, it is a lengthy approval process.

"It has to go through the channels here on the campus. And it has to go up to the Board of Regents (BOR). And the BOR reviews it, and then they send it back and they ask for more information," said Dr. Laurel Holland, associate dean of the SLA.

"We're looking for degrees that will give our students jobs. We're looking for degrees that will be meaningful to our students. We're looking for degrees that aren't going to cost us a lot of money initially so that we don't have to think about raising tuition or raising fees."

The first proposed major is human development and aging services.

"The focus will be working with the aging population," Holland said, and she added that baby boomers are beginning to transition into retirement and that will spike the demand for those who are well-educated in the needs of the aging, ranging from healthcare services to recreational services and estate planning to social services.

What sets this degree apart from traditional gerontology degrees at other institutions is that the degree will not only focus on the aging, but also educate students in other age areas as well, including childhood and young adulthood.

Holland cites government agencies, such as the Department of Family and Child Services, and nonprofit agencies as career outreach opportunities. Packaged with the interdisciplinary skills that the SLA promotes, students can also apply for marketing jobs that focus on these age ranges, as well as a host of other job opportunities.

Interest for this degree has already been piqued as surveys regarding new degree plans were recently circulated to students in the SLA.

The SLA is also proposing emerging media and technologies as degree. The film discipline currently offers a minor, but Holland explained that this degree would venture beyond the confines of a film degree.

"Film degrees are offered at other schools," she explained. "[The proposed degree] would go beyond film to include things like social media, graphic design, writing, perhaps website development." The degree would focus more on the technical side, including fundamentals of production and design.

According to the state of Georgia's official website, "Georgia-lensed feature films and television productions generated an economic impact of $6 billion" in the 2015 fiscal year alone. The SLA's vision on creating employment-focused degree plans is very visible in this aspect.

When asked how the SLA at GGC sets itself apart from schools of liberal arts and sciences at other institutions, especially in the University System of Georgia, Dr. Holland stated that "we want to give our students a holistic approach to education. . . . we're trying to offer courses not only that cover the core, but that meets students where their everyday lives are impacted."

Many of the students at GGC identify very differently from college students at other institutions. For many, English is not their first language. Indeed, GGC has students that represent 118 countries across the globe, according to the GGC Economic Impact report..

Many students are also first-generation college students, meaning that they will be the first in their families with baccalaureate degrees. So while the school is pursuing degrees with employment in mind, they also recognize the value of globalization in the classroom and the effects of exposing internationalization to their students.

"If you have a degree in the social sciences or in the liberal arts, the world really opens up to you," Dr. Holland said. "Employers are looking for folks who have a knowledge of a diverse population and who can relate to those people and understand their concern. And so the liberal arts degree would prepare you for that work environment."

One of the goals of the School of Liberal Arts is to ensure that students graduate with a high-impact experience at GGC. This experience is tightly connected to the community and opening up the minds of students to experiences they may have never experienced.

Political science professors frequently take students to the Capitol to show state legislation first-hand. The campus also holds many classical music concerts, symposiums, and cultural events to develop well-rounded students during their time at GGC.

In addition to the majors and minors the school offers, the SLA also awards a Certificate in Latin American Studies to those students who pursue the curriculum. After the faculty recently revamped the curriculum requirements, there has been some growth in the pursuit of the certificate.

In addition to the two new proposed majors, the school is also considering a Certificate in Women's Studies. "The possibilities are really endless. [However,] we have to go one step at a time," Holland said.

No matter how many new additions the school intends to propose and have approved in the near future, Holland mentioned that the faculty of the School tries to create courses that do three things:

"Offer students a wide variety of experiences; that's where the liberal arts comes in. Offer students courses that will help them in their career. Offer students courses that will help them in their everyday lives."

"Exposing students to an international curriculum" remains an important factor for the School of Liberal Arts, according to Holland. "We're looking for people who have a broad perspective and an interdisciplinary approach. . . . we're not just citizens of Georgia, or citizens of the U.S., we are global citizens."

SLA profile

Enrollment (as of Fall 2015)
Total: 1,980
Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice: 564
Bachelor of Arts, English: 254
Bachelor of Arts, History: 222
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science: 176
Bachelor of Science, Psychology: 764

Faculty (as of Fall 2015)
Full-Time: 144
Part-Time: 84
Dean: Dr. Adolfo Santos
Associate Dean: Dr. Laurel Holland
Assistant Deans: Dr. Dovile Budryte, Dr. Rachel Bowser, Dr. David A. Cook, Dr. Ellen Rafshoon, Dr. John Haydock, Dr. Jill Jones and Dr. Kay Heath

Disciplines
Degrees offered: 5 (B.S. in Criminal Justice, B.A. in English, B.A. in History, B.A. in Political Science, B.S. in Psychology)
Minors offered: 7 (Criminal Justice, English, Film, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology)
Certificates offered: 1 (Certificate in Latin American Studies)

Explosion rocks campus, continued from page 01

By Chris Davis, Executive Editor
& Laura Walsh, Editor-in-Chief

"I have, in my past, heard cannons fire, so if I a.m. rating a cannon as a ten . . . this was about a 4. It was more of the vibration of it than the loudness of it. What it sounded like was metal debris falling or collapsing. . . . like a large file cabinet falling down a short flight of stairs."

"I then saw the woman who was injured pulling herself across the hall floor into the cross section of the two halls by the restrooms and was screaming for help," Stowell said. "Her arms were bloody and looked badly burned."

"She was screaming out in pain. I was told to leave the building and . . . I could see them dragging her out of the building to safety."

The first RAVE alert went out at 8:38 a.m., an hour after the first alarm and 30 minutes after the explosion, and simply stated, "Fire related incident reported at GGC building A. The building will remain closed until at least 1PM. Go to www.ggc.edu for more updates." However, at the time the alert was sent, there was no mention of the fire or explosion on the website.

The alert led students to believe that everything was fine but what students saw on campus gave them a very different impression.

"When I arrived on campus and saw the amount of emergency response, I was skeptical [that it was safe]," said Hillary Marie Mackay, a senior English major. "I saw the fire department, police, news crews, bomb squad and the entire Lawrenceville Police Mobile Unit."

The limited information released by GGC led many students to turn to Facebook, Twitter and other news outlets for information on the event.

"Nice that we can at least get information from the news," Cindy Renner Lail, a former GGC employee, posted on Facebook in response to a CBS 46 news article. "This is more than I've seen from the school."

Foul play was not ruled out until Dr. Stas Preczewski, president of GGC, released a statement at 2:28 pm stating that onsite testing "failed to indicate the presence of an explosive device" and that a build-up of gases in a sewer line were suspected to have caused the explosion.

During the four hours between the initial RAVE alert and the President's statement, speculation fueled student fears for their safety on campus.

"It was pretty scary this morning," Emily Robinson, senior English major, said in a Facebook conversation.

"I do think it's a little suspicious that 30 minutes before the explosion happened, the fire alarm [sounded]," she said. Robinson continued that after re-entering the building the alarm went off a second time and then a third.

"This time we could [hear] screams and had security beating on the windows telling us it was serious this time," she continued. "We went outside and saw a fire truck and the woman who was injured on the ground outside."

"The 3 fire alarms is strange. And I feel like they are not addressing that," said Robinson. "They say there is no suspicious activity or evidence but that should constitute as suspicious right?"

"If I was on campus, I would have wanted to know if they felt it was an accident or if there was a possibility of an explosive device in order to make an informed decision about my own safety," Lail said.

"I find it suspect that a 'false alarm' fire alarm is pulled, the fire department gives an 'all clear,' and then an explosion goes off," Mackay said.

"A security guard told me that it was 'just a plumbing issue,'" she said. "If it is only a plumbing issue, how do bursting pipes burn someone?"

"When I called my husband to let him know the details, he asked me to get off of campus because he also felt uneasy about the details."

As the day continued, and more information became available, reactions settled down.

Most students appeared satisfied with the overall response of campus and local emergency personnel; however, several students described confusion immediately after the explosion.

"I feel that students are very safe at GGC," Stowell said. "Thanks to the quick response to the emergency crews for clearing the building during the fire alarm prior to the explosion. More people could have been hurt."

"As an EMT I feel the county responded and handled the situation with experience and expertise," Sera Walcott, junior pre-nursing major, said. "I felt the school did a good job of keeping the [Facebook] page updated."

"[GGC's] communication was very good regarding student safety and campus-wide impact," Lail said in addition to her concerns immediately after the event.

The reactions and concerns regarding the availability of information following this incident echo the responses that followed the Nov. 17 lockdown of campus after a shooting at a nearby apartment complex.

It is currently unclear when Building A will re-open.

"The building will not be reoccupied until I receive written clearance concerning its safety from the building's owner, The University Financing Foundation (TUFF)," Preczewski said in his statement.

As of printing the building will remain closed until at least Sunday March 27. In the meantime classes scheduled to meet in A will be relocated to other locations while all other classes will meet as normal.

Rusty Hatchell contributed to this report.

News

SHS to graduate inaugural class

By Kathy Lang Albright
Staff Reporter

Georgia Gwinnett College's School of Health Sciences, which will graduate its first class of 30 students with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) on May 12, anticipates high-capacity B.S.N. enrollment of 90 students next semester with an additional 1,300 enrolled in its pre-nursing program.

GGC will continue to weigh options for expanding curriculum and majors to meet the growing demands of the healthcare industry, according to the Dean of the School of Health Sciences Diane White.

"Our first directive was to get GGC's nursing school up and running," White said of one of Georgia's most recent B.S.N. programs to receive the Georgia Board of Regents (BOR) approval.

"But we also recognize that there are great job opportunities in healthcare that are not limited to careers in nursing. Now, the challenge is to develop curriculum and majors to address [both] health care workforce needs and student interests while using available resources that do not require expensive labs or more bricks and mortar," she said.

White is currently exploring several options, including "cross-over" majors, using resources currently available within GGC's School of Science and Technology (SST) and School of Business, as well as building on resources available in other areas.

High on her list of options she is investigating along with SST's Dean Tom Mundie is "health informatics technology," which she describes as a "complex construct involving systems which support patient portals, doctor access, insurance reporting, Medicare and Medicaid data, along with federally mandated health care information and billing, all in compliance with the stringent HIPAA patient privacy and other ethical regulations."

Another option, according to White, is to develop a major in health care management in conjunction with the GGC business program, which would use existing business curriculum with additional coursework specific to health care, such as medical vocabulary, anatomy, legal and ethical considerations and health care terminology.

Both of these areas are viewed as major employment growth opportunities in Gwinnett County and the state of Georgia, according to Adam Forrand, director, Education and Talent Development, Economic Development and Partnership Program, with the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

"Demand outstretches supply," he told staff reporters in a recent interview at the Chamber of Commerce.

Photo Credit, GGC

Forrand described his role as a "conduit and bridge builder" in the region's "economic ecosystem," working to help align business, industry and health care providers with educational institutions, developing partnerships to help shape mutually beneficial curriculum, subject matter and relevant internships to meet anticipated employment needs.

"GGC is a great source of knowledge that can help close that health care gap," he said. He pointed to the continued interests of Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman, GGC's first and former president, and current President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Phil R. Wolfe, GGC Foundation board member and president and CEO of the Gwinnett Medical Center, in supporting that growth and continued partnership.

Aside from traditional nursing careers, there are expanding and diverse job opportunities in health care, according to White, and she is investigating those options as well.

"We have many students who decide that bedside nursing roles are not for them, but they want to stay involved in some aspect of health care. We need to develop curriculum that will support those career choices."

Those areas being evaluated include physical therapy, training related to sports medicine, physiology and rehab, exercise and nutritional training, which White cites as the health-related careers most often mentioned by students during her fact-finding visits to Gwinnett County high schools.

"Again, we have the facilities in place with our [Grizzly] Athletics department, our sports teams and working relationships with attending doctors, so we could develop a program to attract students who clearly want to follow that career path," she said.

She is also reviewing policies that would allow students to take "dual courses" at GGC while still attending high school, offering qualified students an early start in health care training.

Taking a longer view, White is investigating procedures that would welcome returning veterans with some credit for their boots-on-the-ground experience as medics who want to continue careers in civilian health care.

Such credits are not currently offered and must be approved by various licensing boards as well as GGC and the BOR; this option is also being encouraged by SST's Dean Mundie, who served as a medic during his military career. "Now, vets have to start with the basics, with first aid fundamentals. Can you imagine their frustration after all they've been through?" White said, shaking her head.

The state of Georgia has set a goal to have at least 80% of their bedside nurses earn their B.S.N. by the year 2020. On the horizon is the need to train more nurses who currently have associate degrees to complete the additional 12 to 18 months of coursework for their B.S.N. degrees, she said. "The current rate [of bedside nurses with B.S.N. degrees] is about 43%."

"We'll need to offer flexible class schedules on weekends and evenings, probably combined with some online training to accommodate and encourage this working population." Again, she cautioned, this option must go through many layers of state licensing and other approval levels, so it will be some time before such a program can be implemented

With the excitement of planning for the School's first graduating class as well as future development within the School, White emphasized that she and 11 full-time faculty, as well as 9 part-time faculty remain focused on the primary task of training nurses who are taught "not just to care for, but to care about" patients and their families.

"We were given the unique opportunity to create a nursing school with a philosophy and conceptual framework that goes beyond the traditional model, based on the way things have always been done," she said.

In addition to the rigorous technical training required to pass accreditation exams, "we wanted to develop a program to care for people in all dimensions — , empathy, listening, touching and having those crucial communications — that are not always easy, but are needed."

That concept is "emphasized from the first semester, when students tackle 'reflective writing' assignments, exploring the difference between caring for and caring about the most vulnerable among us," she said.

"Our definition of 'vulnerable' goes beyond the usual idea of not having money, titles or positions of power. When you learn that you are really sick, no matter who you are, you and your family are at their most vulnerable."

"We encourage frequent self-reflection and open discussions about populations that have backgrounds, values and beliefs that may be very different from the environments many of us are accustomed to," she said. "As nurses, we need to be in sync with our diverse patient populations and honor their points of view."

But nursing is also a part of a business model, and White maintains that helping nurses understand the complex business side of health care helps to prepare them to work in an increasingly competitive and regulated environment. She cites coursework in leadership training, ethics and professionalism, as well as lectures from visiting speakers and the variety of internships offered, which help prepare students for real life demands of the profession.

"We have to have a voice in the process, to advocate on behalf of the patient, but we're also employees and we have to work within the system and understand the constraints of the environment."

Nursing, White believes, "is a true calling. It has to be, to go through all of this competition to get into school, to get through school, to get licensed," she said, waving her hands to emphasize her point. But it has its rewards, she said.

"The sign of a good nurse," White explained, "is when the patient asks if you are coming back, if you are going to be 'their' nurse. Then, as a nurse, you know you've done a good job."

SHS profile

Enrollment (as of Fall 2015)
Total: 1,332
Pre-Nursing: 1,250
Bachelor of Science, Nursing: 82

Faculty (as of Fall 2015)
Full-Time: 12
Part-Time: 9
Dean: Dr. Diane E. White
Director of Nursing: Dr. Sharon Grason

Disciplines
Degrees offered: 1 (B.S. in Nursing)

Relay for Life returns to GGC

By John Preston Corbin
Staff Reporter

In an effort to raise money for cancer research, raise awareness about the disease and reach out to those affected by it, Georgia Gwinnett College will once again be a part of Relay for Life of Gwinnett. The GGC Honors Program will begin hosting events on and off campus.

Confirmed events include the Color Run and the main Relay for Life event on May 13.

The Color Run will take place on campus at the end of Spring semester. Participants will pay a $10 registration fee to engage in a 1-mile run/walk for cancer.

During the event, colored powders will be dispensed through the air, turning the run into something resembling the Indian Holi festival. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

The second event will be a tent run by the Honors Program at the Relay for Life of Gwinnett on May 13. This event will take place at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds and feature hundreds of teams from around the county, each fundraising for the cause.

What Georgia Gwinnett College's team will do to raise money at their tent has yet to be decided. Last year they ran a drink bar and sold refreshments, any net earnings going to the fight against cancer.

There have been two meetings among student directors and the possibility of having many other events in the time between now and May has been discussed. The Honors Program hopes to partner with different student organizations to make events happen.

Right now, Relay for Life needs volunteers, people willing to help organize events, people willing to fundraise and people willing to donate money. Anyone can join the cause. If you want to help in the fight against cancer, go to Relay for Life's Website and sign up. Be sure and join the Georgia Gwinnett College Grizzlies' team.

Once you've done that, sign up for Relay for Life on Getinvolved too so that you can receive notifications of when there is going to be an event and when volunteers are needed.

GGC Relay for Life logo
Photo Credit, Katelyn Lindsey

News

Disability Services under pressure as campus grows

By Rusty Hatchell
Staff Reporter

As the state's newest bachelor degree-granting institution, students with disabilities remain concerned that Georgia Gwinnett College will not be able to provide innovative and efficient accessibility options to all students.

The Office of Disability Services must provide "reasonable accommodations" for students with documented disabilities, as outlined by the University System of Georgia.

Disabilities can be generally categorized as either physical or mental. Students with physical disabilities face very different challenges on campus and rely on GGC to accommodate their needs.

"The transition to college from high school can be quite stressful," said Jennifer Arrocena, Director of Disability Services. "We are currently working to ensure information is provided early so students have an easier time navigating the process." She explained that outreach is the major focus of the office at this time.

The massive growth of the campus over the past decade has meant that more students with disabilities have been enrolling at Georgia Gwinnett College. One of the accommodations that the Office of Disability Services provides is volunteer note takers. However, the school's growth has placed pressure on finding enough volunteers to assist their classmates.

Section 508 compliance, which is a priority for the campus, dictates that any non-text elements in electronic or information technology have comparable accessibility methods for students with disabilities.

Images and charts should have alternative text attached, so that text-to-voice applications can read to visually-impaired students what the image looks like. Text magnification and audio enhancement web tools can also enhance the learning experience for students with disabilities.

"We are working on dispelling myths and educating students on being good stewards in education," Arrocena said. "Service is one of the four pillars of Georgia Gwinnett College and is a great way to lessen the stress that students with disabilities may have in the classroom setting."

While Section 508, an amendment to the federal 1973 Rehabilitation Act, is not directly written for institutions of higher learning, the state of Georgia receives federal funding from the Assistive Technology Act, which requires the University System of Georgia to comply with 508.

Julie McMillan, an English major, relies on her motorized wheelchair to navigate through the school. She finds the layout of the A-Building very problematic in accessibility due to the close proximity of motor vehicles and the inefficient sidewalks that line portions of the building's circumference.

In accordance to state laws and the Georgia Accessibility Code, buildings must also have accessibility options for all students and faculty. Compliance with the Code falls under the GGC Facilities office.

"Only the front entrance doors have a push button, and I always have so much trouble opening [other] doors while maneuvering my chair and holding onto books and coffee [as well as] steering around other people leaving or entering," McMillian said.

McMillan also notes ramp and push button issues. With some sidewalks leading directly into traffic pathways, she has often found herself in the company of moving vehicles while trying to get to and from her parking space.

Julie McMillian, Photo Credit, GGC

Director of Campus Planning, Design and Construction, Rex Kizzort, did not respond to queries from The Globe regarding plans for ramps, building access and other facility access issues.

Student fees cover basic health care

By Simone Seerattan
Staff Reporter

At Georgia Gwinnett College, tuition and fees cover a multitude of services and activities for all students, including visits to the Health Services Facility located in residence life.

In the midst of completing assignments, stressing over grades, and finding the time to get much needed sleep, students forget to take care of their health. There is more to health and wellness than simply reading the stall street journal on a trip between classes.

"Our students are busy, and they work hard," said Frances D'Imperio, a Health Services administrative assistant. "Preventing illness is often a much better option than treating it. So eat healthy, sleep well, exercise and hydrate. Balance is a good goal to have!"

How can GGC students achieve optimal health? A simple visit to GGC's Health Services office will often suffice.

"In terms of staffing, Health Services is staffed with an administrative assistant, nurse practitioner, and visiting physicians from Gwinnett Medical Center on a pre-scheduled basis," said D'Imperio.

As a first step to taking health and wellness into one's own hands, students should know that the staff in health services are there for the welfare of all GGC students and to promote proactive healthcare.

Health Services provides care for minor injuries and illnesses in addition to diagnostic testing. As most visits to any clinic goes, the process of each service varies based on the circumstance and the lab test being run.

"Lab work is sent to an outside lab (LabCorp) for testing after on-site collection here at Health Services," says D'Imperio. "The collection necessities are provided by LabCorp, such as needles and centrifuge."

Health Services provides flu shots and testing for things like STDs and pregnancy, but nothing is free. For any financially under-resourced student, the question of how finances come into play is at times a major deterrent for visiting any health provider, let alone in a college atmosphere where tuition expenses already weigh high on the list of reasons not visit.

Most basic health care is covered through student tuition and fees. Basic over-the-counter medications, condoms, and health promotion and education materials are also provided. Additional fees may be charged based on service provided, but Health Services does not charge for office visits.

Insurance can be used at the student's request. This requires bringing your insurance card to your visits or participating in voluntary student insurance through United Healthcare.

"We advise that students bring their GGC Claw Card for student verification, as we are only able to provide services for current GGC students. Cave Cash is the only form of payment that we are able to accept, and the charge is collected at the time of the visit."

For students worried about their privacy when visiting, there are regulations in place for the protection of sensitive information.

"Tests results are stored and protected in accordance with the Confidential Data Policy contained in the GGC Administrative Policy Manual," says D'Imperio. "Results become part of the student's confidential medical record only, and are protected by HIPPA and FERPA."

"Student privacy and confidentiality is paramount to us. Results are sent to us in Health Services from LabCorp. Students are required to pick up results in person and we recommend they call us first to verify that results have arrived from the lab."

Health Services has partnered with Gwinnett Medical Center and their affiliate Strickland Family Medicine to provide onsite visits with physicians (ggc.edu). Office hours are Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm and Fridays by appointment only in Residential Life Building 3000, Suite 3106.

"We strongly recommend that students make an appointment when they can to reduce wait time. Consultation occurs before any tests are ordered," says Frances D'Imperio.

STS helps students face challenges

By Julie Thompson
News Editor

The School of Transitional Studies (STS) may be the most obscure of Georgia Gwinnett College's six schools, but, then again, it deals with a most obscure topic.

STS offers student success courses to prepare students for college level core classes and workshops, the Academic Enhancement Center, as well as the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program.

"I come to the AEC to get a better understanding and help with my class work," said freshman Stenecia Charles, a Biology major. That week, Charles visited the library for Pre-Calculus help, as well as the AEC in B building for writing tutoring. The pre-med student found the AEC tutoring to be "very helpful," as teachers rarely have time for one-on-one assistance.

STS aims to help all students. "We are there to help students to make the transition from high school to college and then from each year until graduation," said Dr. Jernigan, Dean of the School of Transitional Studies.

Uprooting college careers from the Dominican Republic, sisters Mariela and Rosanny Tejada have experienced their fair share of uncomfortable transitions. However, thanks to STS' EAP program, they have successfully adjusted.

"It was kind of difficult to come here and to start college. We could not transfer our credits and we needed some financial help," said Rosanny Tejada, 23, a Marketing major.

Rosany recalls the hard work at La Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo. The sisters had entered their sophomore year, taking as many as 10 classes one semester. It took a year for their college credits to transfer to GGC.

EAP Course listing. *Photo Credit, GGC*

The Tejada sisters were 18 years old when they left their hometown of San Jose de Las Muertas to join their father in New Jersey. The Tejadas had always planned on immigrating to the United States. When their father moved to New Jersey in 1998, he planned on bringing his family across the Caribbean Sea someday, but the timing had to be right.

"My father thought that New Jersey is a worrisome state, and he did not want my sister and I to lose our way," said Mariela, International Business major, 23. "My father knew children can be affected by the kind of friends they make, and he wanted us to keep the morals we brought from our hometown," agreed Rosanny, the elder sister by ten months.

After moving back and forth from New Jersey to Georgia, the family ultimately settled in Georgia. The Tejadas lived under one roof for the first time in fourteen years.

As nonnative speakers, the sisters were required to enroll in the EAP program before they could work towards their degrees at GGC.

EAP differs from Students Success Courses, like Math 0099 or English 0099, that help students assimilate into degree courses.

EAP is strictly for nonnative speakers "who have to bring their English up to a college level so that they can function in their other classes," said Nancy Ciudad Simmons, who mentors EAP students.

There are three EAP sections: reading, writing, and listening and speaking, with two levels for each section. Ciudad Simmons confirmed that EAP students are placed based on their compass test scores.

Mariela was placed in the first level for Reading and Writing classes and the intermediate level for Listening and Speaking classes.

When asked what skills they found most challenging to acquire, both said writing. Mariella recalled the summer of 2014, when she took an EAP writing class. Frozen in fear, she spent an hour in a class writing a paragraph of 5 lines.

"By the end of the semester, I wrote more fluently. I have been doing very well, and I can say truly that is due to the EAP program," said Mariela. She now is a Special Assistant for Student Involvement, an SGA Senator for the School of Business, and an Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) member.

While Rosanny finds that pronunciation is still the most difficult part of the English language to master, she too has adapted. Rosanny works for HOGAR (Hispanic Organization for Growth Advancement and Retention) and Disability Services. She hopes to start a business with her husband upon graduation.

The sisters had a full schedule with EAP alone. Mariela took two classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The first semester at GGC, she took only EAP classes, added an art class in her second semester, and a math class in her third semester. After that, her test scores were high enough to leave the EAP program and earn credits towards her degree.

"We have to understand that we have to let others know, not so that they give us more opportunity, but so that they understand our situation. If you go to them, the professors will usually go over and explain," said Mariela, remembering a lesson she learned as she began to integrate into core classes.

All Grizzlies can take advantage of STS programs.

For English alumni Christie McGowan, STS offers a stepping stone into the workforce. She began working at the AEC as a peer-tutor, and returned after graduating as a professional tutor in 2013. McGowan also works as a Professional Assistant for I Love Martial Arts Georgia.

While McGowan doesn't know where she will land a full time job, she enjoys the many transitions she faces, "I am happily working as I am figuring things out. There are many interests, and life just keeps throwing more," said McGowan.

As Dr. Jernigan said, STS is responsible for Grizzlies new and old as they juggle the many transitions one makes in their college career. STS serves a vital function in GGC's environment, and encourages nontraditional students to advance towards their professional goals.

Arts & Culture

The biggest problem with "The Force Awakens"

By John Preston Corbin
Staff Reporter

Editor's note: This article contains spoilers for Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Since its release, Star Wars: The Force Awakens has received almost unanimous praise from fans and critics. However, it still suffers from a few rather large hang-ups. While few seem to mention this amid the glowing reviews and admiration, I can't be the only one who thinks that this movie could have been better.

For the first half of The Force Awakens, I was fully invested in the story and the characters. J.J. Abrams was definitely the right person to direct it, as the galaxy that we were first introduced to in A New Hope and The Empire Strikes Back is once again brought to life on the screen.

From the awesome creature designs to the amount of detail put into the environments, everything feels real. Instead of the CGI backgrounds and characters that sucked the life out of the prequels, there are actual set pieces and models. Everything feels lovingly crafted and faithful to the source material. Yet, by the end, I was left strangely unsatisfied.

While the credits rolled, I sat there and tried to understand what was wrong. I narrowed it down to three things. The first, and biggest problem, is the death of Han Solo. Not in the fact that he dies but in the way he dies. The second problem is the plot about another Death Star. The third is distracting CGI characters, like Supreme Leader Snoke.

I'll start with the new Death Star, an idea that was tired when they reused it in Return of the Jedi. In The Force Awakens we are on Death Star Number 3, only instead of a small moon this one is the size of an entire planet. And instead of being able to destroy an entire planet, this one can destroy an entire star system.

For the following sequels they will have to build a new one, only this time it will have to be as big as three planets and have the ability to destroy the entire universe. Of course, the Rebels will also blow this one up.

All jokes aside, the idea and way the Death Star's destruction is handled felt uninspired, a real shame in a film that otherwise managed to mix up the old formula giving us something new.

Another big mistake is the inclusion of obvious CGI characters. The introduction of Supreme Leader Snoke was unastonishing.

I was put off by the fact that I believed he was supposed to be a giant only to realize later that he was a hologram and the actual character was much smaller. Even then, any time he was on screen, I couldn't help noticing that he was animated. The same goes for Maz Kanata.

In a movie full of such incredible-looking animatronics and creatures, Snoke and Maz stick out like a sore thumb. This would be forgivable if the character's appearance couldn't be achieved with make-up or prosthetics, or if the animation was on par with Gollum from The Lord of the Rings movies, but this isn't the case.

Here, makeup would have been more compelling. CGI can be useful for depicting space battles or backgrounds, but a close-up of the character's faces makes their features appear cartoony.

Now onto the hang-up that prevented me from truly loving this movie: Han Solo's death.

In an attempt to bring his son, Kylo Ren, back over to the light, Solo confronts Ren on a bridge across a bottomless chasm. What follows is the cheap death of an iconic character.

What's important to understand is that what determines whether or not the death of a character is cheap is not how grand or epic it is, but how meaningful their death is to the plot. Killing a character without a good enough reason can seem like a waste.

If you're going to kill Solo, you better have a damn good reason.

The scene we get is done well. It's fittingly large and dramatic. What makes it cheap is that the main reason he is killed off is to show how evil Ren is. Ren is the villain, cutting innocent people down in the opening scene, making the whole debacle feel unnecessary.

Following in the tradition of A New Hope, Solo fills the shoes of Obi Wan Kenobi, the wise mentor figure who must die so that the hero is forced to survive on his own. Like Obi Wan was to Luke, Solo is to the main characters of The Force Awakens, Rey and Finn.

Although there is a trivial amount of advice given, Solo spends more time as a purveyor of comic relief than as a mentor. Thus, the reactions of Rey and Finn did not have the emotional weight for the seemingly big scene. When they witness Solo cut down by his son, their cries of horror seem to have less to do with the loss of their friend than with the audience's reaction.

Promo poster. *Photo Credit, Imdb.com*

Another justification for killing Solo is to show the tragic relationship between him and his son. This fails, as the anguish both he and Ren's mother, Leia, have for their son's turn to the dark side doesn't feel genuine.

While this is largely due to Carrie Fisher's emotionally distant performance as Leia, the main problem is with the writing for this scene. When Leia and Solo discuss what's become of Ren, they never call him by name. They only refer to him as "our son" although not in an angry fashion.

Merely calling him by his name would have made them appear more like concerned parents and less like distant strangers. Granted, their son probably does seem like a stranger to them now but they're still adamant about his return to the light side.

Regardless, the death of Solo is cheap. Despite its epic importance, it doesn't do enough service to the plot. Sure, there is some added drama, but that could have been achieved elsewhere.

The trademark snark that this character added to the series, that cynical touch that made us feel like it was alright to be sucked into a movie about silly aliens and evil space empires, was too important to be thrown out for added drama. We see the loss of a great character, but what we gain in return doesn't feel worth it.

Of course, none of this makes The Force Awakens a bad movie. I'm still a fan of the series and I want to see where it will go. I just can't help thinking about where it could have gone.

Slam poetry partners perform

By Laura Walsh
Editor-in-Chief

Sister Outsider brought tears and laughter to the Georgia Gwinnett College community, as the headliner of the annual International Women's Day celebration held in the Student Center LVIS on March 1. The event highlighted the continued fight for gender equality and the need to bring communities together.

"It is my honor to be standing here in solidarity with you this afternoon," said Assistant Professor of Sociology, Dr. Marni Brown, as she kicked off the event and welcomed the GGC community. Brown went on to discuss the pledge for parity, which is status and pay equality, through the works of Audre Lorde, a major influencer of the works of Sister Outsider.

"Why is it, 71 years after the United Nations declared equity, equality for women and men that we are still pledging for parity?" said Senior Vice-President and Provost, Dr. Lois Richardson. She went on to call for women and progressive men to pledge for parity by taking action and working to achieve equality within the 22nd century.

"Women are powerful, we are inspirational, we are a force to be reckoned with," Erin Lucier, a business major and SGA Senate Chairperson, said. Lucier encouraged women to stand up for themselves when they are faced with gender adversity.

"Others will try to steal your power, your light - do not back down."

A few more GGC community members took to the podium in an effort to draw the audience together in solidarity around artists, writers, performers and activists who have used their platforms to call for change. The room was then turned over to the enthusiastic guest performers who displayed a familiar comfort in their instant rapport with the audience.

Sister Outsider consists of award winning poets, Dominique Christina and Denice Frohman. Both women explore their unique identity expressing their "otherness" through spoken poetry.

"We're gonna just jump right in," Christina said as she introduced the first poem, a combined work about education titled "No Child Left Behind." She discussed problems with education in which children often have terrible experiences because teachers failed to connect with them or involve their cultural background.

Dominique Christina (left) and Denice Frohman (right)
Photo Credit, Laura Walsh

The three minute performance of the poem displayed the fluid chemistry between the poets and set the stage for what the audience should expect.

Continued on Page 08

Arts & Culture

Accessible, affordable and authentic: A review of Lawrenceville's eateries

A plate of brisket and macaroni and cheese at Goad BBQ company
Photo Credit, John Preston Corbin

Chocolate and strawberry croissants at Fejzic Euro Bakery
Photo Credit, John Preston Corbin

By John Preston Corbin
Staff Reporter

For anyone on the budget of a college student, finding a place that has good food that you can afford to eat can pose a challenge. Areas like Gwinnett Place Mall offer a variety of East-Asian restaurants that cater to those of both adventurous palates and small budgets. However, Gwinnett Place is not the only area that offers exotic dining options.

The food scene in Lawrenceville has greatly benefitted from its Eastern European community. Only a few minutes from campus you can find Bosnian restaurants, markets, and bakeries, each offering unique and delicious options at low prices.

For those with budgets that aren't able to go far out of the way to find great food, no worries. Authentic Texas barbeque can be found directly across SR 316 in the Walmart shopping center, barely a minute from campus.

What are some of your favorite restaurants? Peachtree Café? Oyster Bay? Like The Globe on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter to let me know what I missed. Tell me where I should eat next and I just might review your restaurant.

Euro Gourmet Foods

Right outside of downtown Lawrenceville, you can find Euro Gourmet Foods, a Bosnian market and café. Euro occupies what was once a pharmacy and soda fountain on Scenic Highway, on the neighboring corner to Goodwill. The market offers Eastern European delicacies and is perfect for anyone wanting to stock up on groceries and try something new. If you are looking to eat out, the adjacent café is the perfect place to try some authentic dishes. My personal recommendation is Cevapcici: beef sausages that you can get in an order of ten or stuffed into a fluffy pita for $7.99. The atmosphere of this European-style restaurant is laid back and enjoyable, with covered dining area and trickling fountain. Fair warning: smoking is allowed on the patio. (488 Gwinnett Drive)

Fejzic Euro Bakery

Despite what Yelp reports, Fejzic Euro Bakery is still open and serving freshly prepared breads, pastries and lunch items every day. Located directly across from Euro Gourmet Foods in the Shell gas station, this unassuming location has a lot to offer. It many visits over many years, I have sampled danishes, croissants and giant loaves with mozzarella baked into the top. On my last visit I purchased a rich chocolate croissant, a jam-filled donut, and a savory cheese pie. Not only was I left feeling full for hours; I didn't even spend $5.00. Get here early as they almost always sell out of the best stuff. (259 Scenic Hwy)

Goad Barbeque Company

Practically walking distance from Building D (Admissions and Advising) you can find the Goad Barbeque Company operating out of a strip mall adjacent to the Walmart Shopping Center. Walking in you can smell the aromatic smoke wafting from the back; this is real barbeque. Relatively inexpensive, Goad offers a 15% discount to any Georgia Gwinnett College students that shows their student ID. The meats are all delicious, especially the brisket, though the portions are slightly underwhelming. Combo platters range from $10 to $14. While there, be sure and try one of their homemade fried pies for about $3.99. The flaky, buttery crust is something akin to funnel cake and the fillings range from the traditional apple and cherry to specialties like cookies and cream, coconut cream and bourbon pecan. (722 Collins Hill Rd; Walmart Shopping Center)

Slam poetry partners perform, continued from page 07

By Laura Walsh
Editor-in-Chief

"They managed to take complex issues and make them emotional and relatable in a way that no one else has," Micah Siebel, a political science major and SGA senator, said.

"People in positions of power would talk down to [my mother] as soon as they heard her accent," Frohman said just before performing her poem, "Accents," which was written to celebrate her mother and challenge the narrative that accents imply a lack of intelligence.

"[Frohman] described the women of family perfectly, that hot blooded Latina stuff," Dr. Linda Mancillas, Assistant Professor of Political Science, said.

Christina followed with a poem about her mother that dealt with her feelings of inadequacy as she failed to conform to her family's model of what it meant to be a woman. Another of her poems brought tears to the audience as she described the bombing of a church in Birmingham that killed four young girls.

"Our culture is too quick to show you a body," Christina said as she went over the names of each of the girls, "it allows you to disassociate from when they were whole."

"She made me cry about the four little girls in Birmingham," Mancillas said. "I lived in Birmingham for 25 years and Alabama just never seems to get any better."

On the subject of a first kiss, Frohman stole the show with her two poems on the subject. The first poem described her first kiss with a boy in which she says she was "stood up" by the experience.

"Some things are only felt the second time around," Frohman said as she related her first kiss with a girl, which she wrote was the "only thing better than the Thriller album, ever."

"It was breathtaking, I got chills because it was all so relatable," Jenettha Baines, a junior Criminal Justice major said. Baines identifies as both a black woman and a same gender loving woman, which allowed her to relate to the struggles and passions of both Frohman and Christina.

The last poem of the event was written by Christina in response to someone on Twitter who boasted about dumping his girlfriend because her period started when they had sex. She addressed him throughout the poem as "twitter dummy" and talked of the miracle in a woman's ability to renew herself.

"Men and boys have to be involved," she said of the need for changing the shame women feel over their periods.

Her poem brought out laughter, whoops and nods of affirmation from both the female and male members of the audience and the men in the audience are sure to have walked away with a new outlook on the trials of being a woman.

"I fiercely protect my own identity as a model for my children to be themselves," Christina said. She advises those grappling with their own identity to not hide their struggles, but to be comfortable involving others.

"College is great because it's a microcosm where you can create the community that you want to be a part of," Frohman said. "Go to events outside of what you're used to, don't just retreat into the community you know."

Editorials

GGC students take to the slopes

By Julie Thompson
News Editor

Outdoor Adventures held its largest annual Ski/Snowboarding Trip this February. Of the 46 students who attended the NC Sugar Mountain Resort, many reported a few falls, cold feet and that the trip was a bonding one.

The Outdoor Adventures snowsports package was $155. The package included transportation, five meal vouchers, one night's stay at the Best Western, sky lift vouchers and group training sessions.

Students could choose to either ski or snowboard on the Sugar Mountain's snowy slopes of 1,200 ft. Most students chose snowboarding according to OA Assistant Director Ian Rodgers, and almost half of all students participated in the group training sessions.

"I had heard from multiple people that snowboarding was harder to learn than skiing, but chose it anyway. It was a humbling experience. There was a lot of falling, "said OA Student Assistant Heather Shipman, 24. It was her first snow sport trip.

Temperatures were as mild as 50 degrees Fahrenheit during the two day trip, so most of the snow was artificial. Pumps carried the water from snow makers to the 1,200 ft mountain's summit.

"The feeling of falling down… cold. You have to be mentally prepared to fall down A LOT especially if it's your first time, but it's worth it," said Bio major Kevin Romero, 20. He admitted that most of the students he met were new to snowsports.

Ready with claw cards and baggage, students met at the GGC gym at 5:45 to catch the bus to Sugar Mountain, NC. While some students slept along the 250 mile route,trip photographer Paulus Abuakel, 21 watched the Harry Potter series, courtesy of the "awesome bus driver."

The group arrived at noon on Saturday. They spent the rest of the day snow sporting. On Sunday, the group returned to the mountain from 9-4pm.

Romero described the novelty of standing before a blanket of white as well the rush before sliding down its slope. "When you get those turns, and you can finally break without falling down; the wind against your face is a fantastic feeling, said Romero.

For Shipman and her roommates, the fun did not end when they retired to their room at the Best Western. "In my room we continued to socialize late into the evening while watching Harry Potter and eating warm cookies," said Shipman.

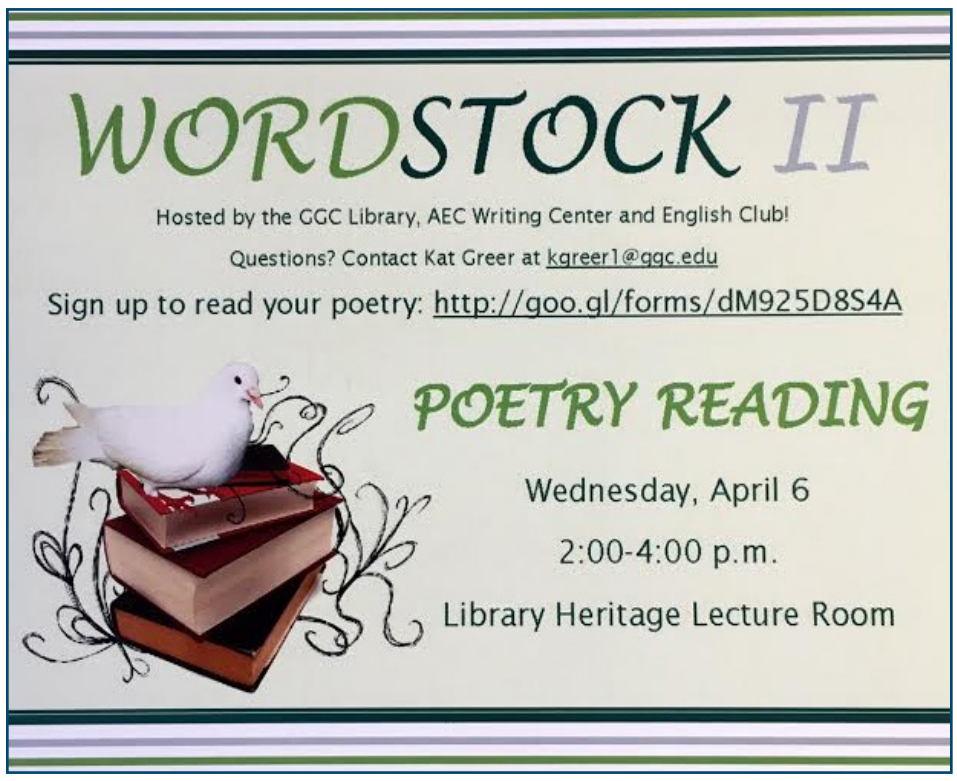
Romero recalls the "great pizza"the group got on the way back, as well as the friends he made during the trip.

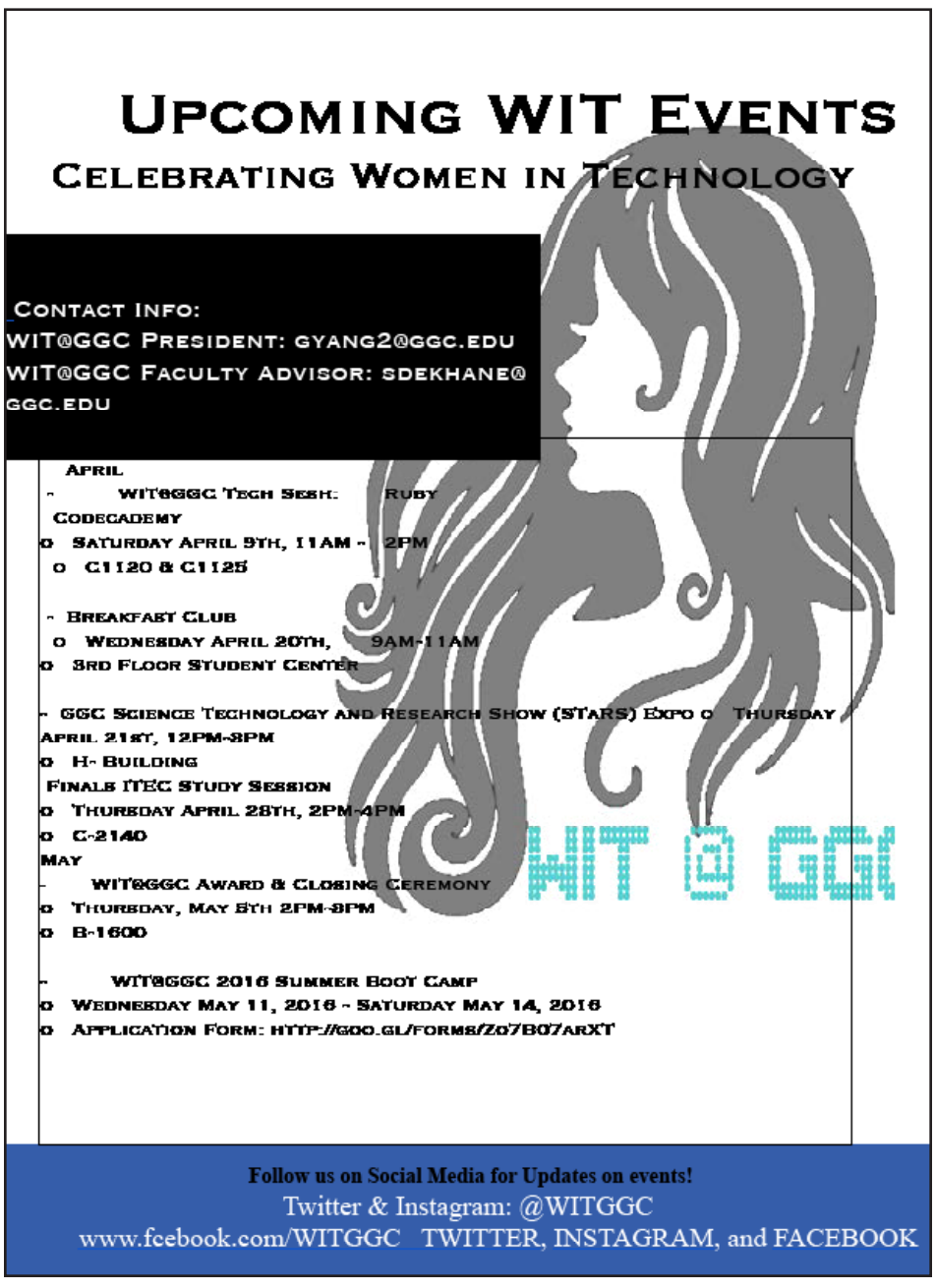
"I'm part of a group chat now with the people I got the closest to, and it's crazy. We all go rock climbing on Thursdays, and have signed up for upcoming trips like the hike to Tallulah Gorge and zip lining. And it's a nice feeling to bump into people on campus that I met on this trip," said Romero.

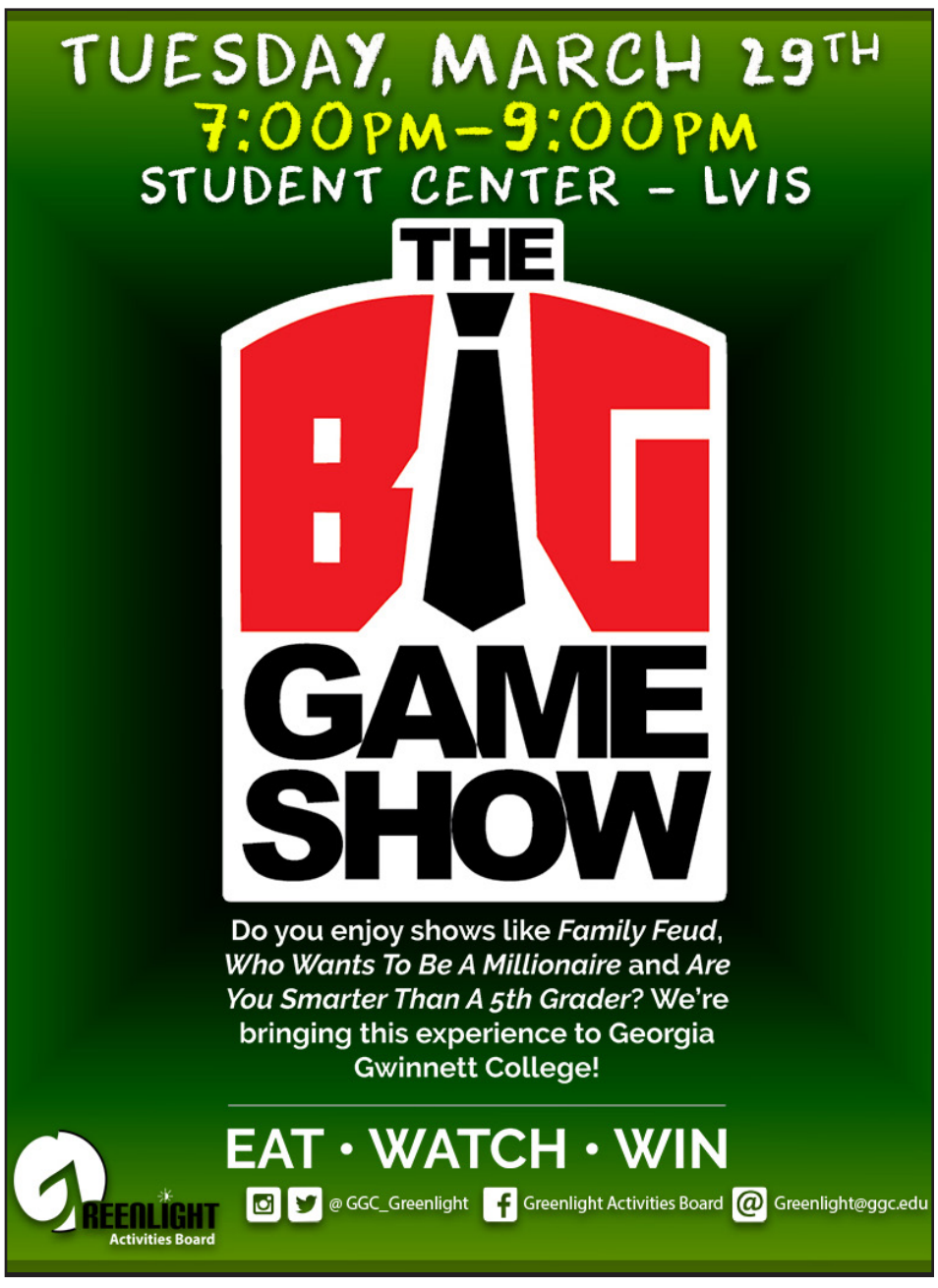
Between students and faculty, 56 Grizzlies participated in the fun.

"(A large crowd) makes it more challenging to get to know everyone on the trip, but you still meet a lot of new people and have loads of fun," said Shipman.

Group photograph from the ski trip. *Photo Credit Mishel Cabrera*







Editorials

Satirical review of Donald Trump's "Crippled America"

By John Preston Corbin
Staff Reporter

With his entirely possible presidential nomination growing closer and the Republican party imploding around him, it looks like Donald Trump isn't going anywhere anytime soon. It feels surreal just writing that.

Regardless of whether you like him or not, you have to admit that Trump has had an illustrious career. He's gone from being a successful businessman, to being bankrupt, to no longer being bankrupt.

His real estate empire has built some of the ugliest skyscrapers in major cities around the world, making sure they were also some of the tallest skyscrapers so that they could be seen by everyone.

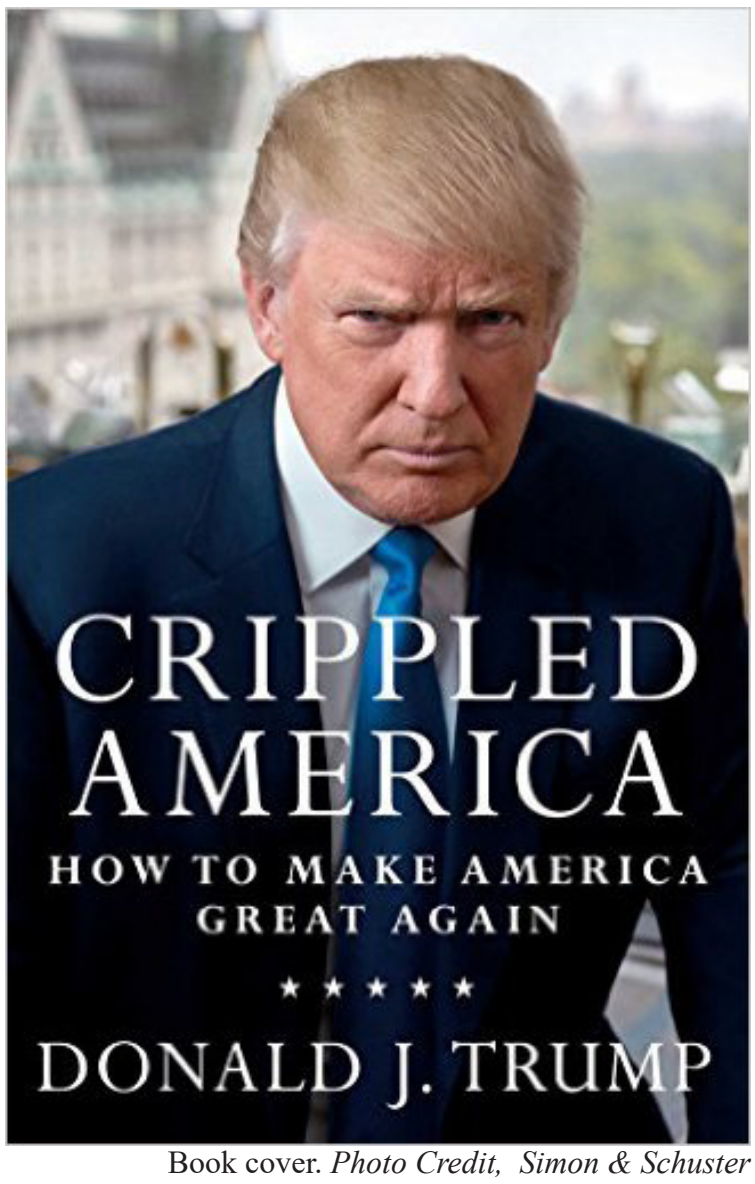
Until recently, Trump was best known for starring in the reality show, The Apprentice. Then, in 2015, he went from being a joke candidate for president to a real candidate for president.

Now it's 2016 and Trump is still a "real" candidate for president. At first, it was funny. Every comedian in America had their own hack bit about him. They mocked his orange skin and comb-over. They laughed about his hatred of the poor and immigrants. They took shots at his wife, who is an immigrant herself.

Among all the hilarious jokes, his anti-immigrant hate speech was most often to come up as it has defined his campaign, right down to receiving the endorsement of white-supremacists.

And now, with his campaign apparently still doing well, it is time I acknowledge his existence. To do this, I will review his latest book. Except for one problem: I really don't want to read his book. AT ALL.

So, as a compromise I am going to review only the cover and the first page. Based on those alone, I think I can get a pretty good idea about what the rest of the book is like.



Book cover. *Photo Credit, Simon & Schuster*

First of all, I can tell it is a book. It has a cover. Beyond the cover are pages and on those pages are words. Some of those words make sentences. These sentences are what deter me from reading any further.

Just looking at the title gives me enough information: Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again, by Donald J. Trump. So, America is crippled and he's going to tell me how to fix it. Good to know.

I also never realized his middle initial was "J." A quick Wikipedia search revealed it stands for "John." That same search also revealed that his mother was an immigrant (meeting Trump's father while visiting from her native country of Scotland).

On the cover, there is a picture of Donald J. Trump scowling and looking very angry. When I look at the cover, it seems like he's angry at me. This makes me feel bad, like he thinks I had something to do with making America crippled.

Now onto the first page:

"Some readers may be wondering why the picture we used on the cover of this book is so angry and so mean looking." - Is it because you don't like me?

"I had some beautiful pictures taken in which I had a big smile on my face." - Now we'll never get to see them.

"I looked happy, I looked content, I looked like a very nice person, which in theory I am." - The idea that he's only a nice person "in theory" makes me laugh. How can you only be nice "in theory?" I'm nice "in theory", except I'm a huge asshole all the time.

"My family loved those pictures and wanted me to use one of them." - It's good to remind the reader that you have a family. Otherwise, they might assume you were made of orange Play-Doh and brought to life by a mad scientist.

"But I decided it wasn't appropriate. In this book we're talking about Crippled America—that's a tough title." - I think I did a good job of breaking it down.

"So I wanted a picture where I wasn't happy, a picture that reflected the anger and unhappiness I feel rather than joy. There's nothing to be joyful about." - It must be terrible having no joy in your life. Maybe if you had more money and power you would feel better.

"People say that I have self-confidence: who knows?" - Yeah. It could be you don't care what you say as long as you get attention: who knows?

"The politicians who talk the great game in campaigns—and play like total losers when they actually try to govern because they can't govern; they don't know how to govern." - If only they knew how to govern without governing like total losers that can't govern.

Trump goes on to make a list of everyone who doesn't think he would make a good president: politicians, lobbyists, the media, immigrants, and Congress. He leaves out rational, free-thinking individuals.

And here is where I end. This is not an actual book review nor was it ever meant to be. This was merely an excuse for me to rant a little in a way that (hopefully) was amusing to some.

In all seriousness, there is nothing funny about a Trump presidency. While Trump himself is rather ridiculous, both in appearance and ego, the possibility of him actually making it to the White House is an unsettling concept.

Yes, there are problems with this country. Many of them stem from lobbyists, the media, and people who can't govern.

However, Donald Trump is not someone who can govern nor is he interested in governing. At best, he tells people what they want to hear. At worst, he actually believes the fascist nonsense coming out of his mouth.

To be fair, I don't think does. I don't think he wants to be president or wants to deport half the people in this country.

I'm not doubting his willingness to do so if he were given the power and position to make that decision; I'm merely saying that he hasn't thought about the consequences.

Donald Trump wants to be president for the same reason he wanted to build his gigantic tower and the same reason he wanted to be a reality TV star. He wants attention, attention that he thinks would make him happy in a way that all his money hasn't been able to.

But being president wouldn't make him happy, and it sure as hell wouldn't make America great again.

Former GGC baseball star set to graduate after major injury

By Tysheira Scribner
Staff Reporter

Georgia Gwinnett College senior John Fidanza IV is set to walk the graduation stage this May but his accomplishments will long linger the grizzly saga.

Fidanza made GGC history in the summer of 2014 when he became the first Grizzly athlete drafted by a major league sports team. MLB franchise Arizona Diamondbacks drafted him in the 23rd round, making him the first of three grizzlies to go pro that year.

"Excited is an understatement," the catcher said, recalling the moment he got the big news.

A native of Louisville, Ky, Fidanza is no rookie when it comes to making history. He threw out 70 percent of base runners his senior year at Ballard High, batted .417 with 14 home runs and 46 RBI as a senior, a first for his school and the regional area.

Fidanza's accomplishments there earned him quite the reputation, and he received a scholarship to play for Coastal Carolina where he helped the team win the 2011 Big South title. But after personal issues with the institution, Fidanza departed and jumped between schools before ending up wearing number 30 as the starting catcher for GGC in 2013.

That season, the Grizzlies would end up on fire, winning their first postseason title, earning them a top seat in the five-team Lawrenceville Bracket of the NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round.

It was during this time that Fidanza suffered a nondisplaced fracture of the right scaphoid in his wrist, which would eventually put a halt to his contract with the Diamondbacks. Still, he continued to play through at least ten games with the grizzlies on an adrenalin rush.

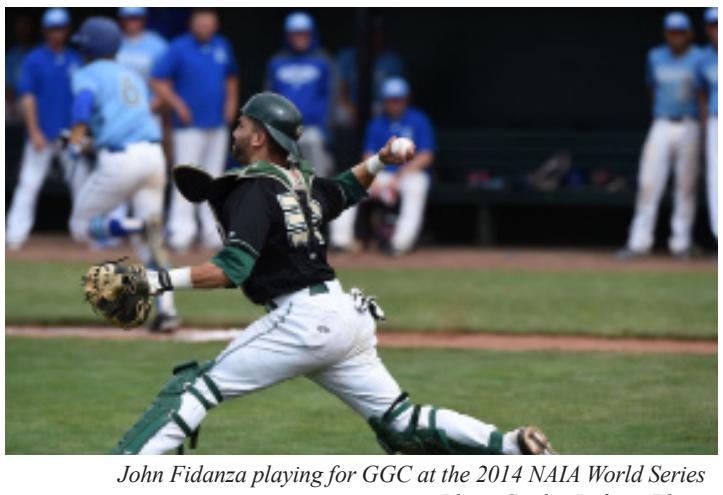
"There was no way I could give it up," he said.

Fidanza's father, John Fidanza III, played professional baseball for the Chicago White Sox and New York Yankees, making a pro title almost inevitable for the younger Fidanza.

But after the draft, the Diamondbacks conducted a series of MRI's and CT scans to ensure Fidanza's health, but his wrist was far too injured. The excitement that was once abundant turned into devastation when Arizona sent Fidanza back home, never finalizing his contract.

"It was an all-time low for me," he said. "Baseball is my life. I cried. I didn't speak to anyone. I didn't know what I was going to do. It led me down a few bad roads because I was just so devastated."

Fidanza began an intensive rehab and that upcoming spring he was given another chance at professional baseball when he was drafted by the Washington Wildthings after tryouts for the Frontier League, in which he currently plays.


John Fidanza playing for GGC at the 2014 NAIA World Series
Photo Credit: Referee Photo

"It's not the same, but I'm still doing what I love," he said.

During the off-season, Fidanza is an ordinary GGC student, who earned his degree in Clinical Psychology. He also works as a coach and instructor for Gwinnett Sports Academy.

"I really like it here. The environment is cool, that's why I decided to come back," Fidanza said.

After graduation, he plans to continue playing pro ball and still hopes to get his shot at the major leagues.

GEORGIA GWINNETT GRIZZLIES

Grizzlies softball sweep Middle Georgia, record 25th and 26th wins

Courtesy of Grizzly Athletics

The No. 21 Georgia Gwinnett softball team bounced back into the winning column on Wednesday afternoon, sweeping Middle Georgia State in doubleheader action.

The Grizzlies, who were swept by Illinois Wesleyan just a day ago, responded with a convincing 8-4 win in game one and shut out the Lady Knights in game two with an 11-0 win.

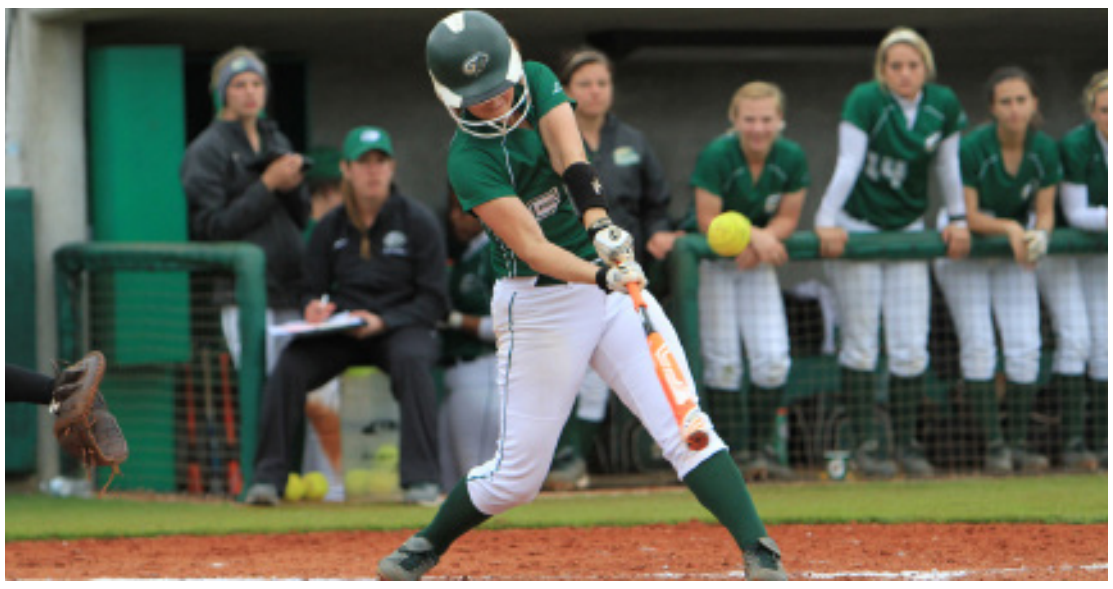
"The team pulled together after two tough losses yesterday and showed that we are still a tough team," stated GGC head coach Kat Ihlenburg.

Game one's starting pitcher Ashley Beyke went four innings, picking up her ninth victory of the season. The Franklin, Tenn., native allowed three runs, one unearned, on six hits while striking out three. Senior Katie Lange recorded the save, going three innings of relief, allowing one run on four hits.

In game two, junior Katie Jo Goodwin pitched a complete game, five innings, in the Grizzlies' 11-0 run-rule victory over Middle Georgia in game two, surrendering just four hits while striking out three. The right-handed hurler took just 51 pitches to work through the 19 batters she faced.

Ihlenburg continued, "Katie Jo threw a great game and really helped seal the sweep with the shutout. We saw a lot of positive things with our offense being able to fire on all cylinders and get a lot of hits today. It should help us carry through the rest of March."

Georgia Gwinnett plated two or more runs in each of the four innings in which it hit. Like game one of the doubleheader, the Grizzlies did their most damage in the first inning of play, scoring four runs. GGC continued its offensive assault, scoring three runs in the second, and two in both the third and fourth.



Haley Thompson went 4-for-5 on the day, driving in four RBIs while scoring twice.
Photo Credit: Grizzly Athletics

Senior second baseman Haley Thompson, who was named the Grizzly of the Day, went 4-for-5 on the day, driving in four runs while scoring twice. Catcher Brashante Dareus also had a big day for the Grizzlies, going 4-for-7 with four RBIs and three runs scored. Notably, Dareus went 3-for-3 in game two.

The Grizzlies return to action on Saturday when they travel to Dayton, Tenn., to face Bryan in doubleheader action. First pitch is set for 1:00 p.m. with game two beginning approximately 30 minutes after the conclusion of game one.

No. 3 Grizzlies baseball back in the win column with 12-6 victory

Courtesy of Grizzly Athletics

The third-ranked Georgia Gwinnett baseball team rebounded from its lone loss of the season against Madonna (Mich.) Saturday, to pick up its 26th win on Thursday, defeating Ohio State University-Lima 12-6.

With the victory, the Grizzlies lead the all-time series against the Barons 13-0.

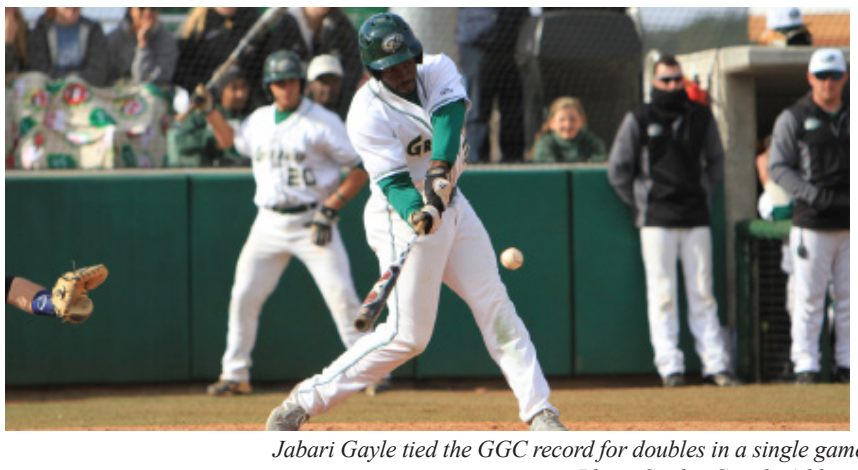
Sophomore second baseman Jabari Gayle tied the GGC record for doubles in a single game, recording three against the Barons. Gayle now shares the record with Jake Fields, who also collected three doubles against Saint Francis (Ill.) on May 2, 2014.

"Tonight, we had the opportunity to regain our focus and get back in the win column," stated GGC head coach Brad Stromdahl. "Jabari had a great individual effort tying the school record for doubles in a single game. We had quality at bats from several guys tonight, and it was good to see our guys gain experience at different spots in the lineup and on the field."

The Barons scored first, taking a 2-0 lead with a run in both the first and second innings. Georgia Gwinnett broke its offensive silence in the bottom of the second, scoring five runs for the 5-2 lead. Shortstop Marcus McCorkle led the inning off with a single, stole second and third base, and then scored the first Grizzly run with Gayle's first double of the game. Three pitches later, catcher Jean Paul Rodriguez drove in the second GGC run of the inning with an RBI-single to left field. First baseman Chris Aichinger added to the scoring run with an RBI-single while a sacrifice fly by Michael Hodorowski and an RBI-single by third baseman Angel Soto concluded the five-run inning.

OSU-Lima pulled within two runs, 6-4, scoring a run in the third and fourth innings and then tied the game at 6-6 with a two-run seventh. Designated hitter Shannon Conway provided the tying, two-run single for the Barons.

The Grizzlies regained the lead and widened the gap to 11-6 with a five-run eighth inning. Three Baron errors and five timely hits by Georgia Gwinnett pulled the Grizzlies ahead.



Jabari Gayle tied the GGC record for doubles in a single game
Photo Credit: Grizzly Athletics

GGC would plate an insurance run in the eighth inning before closer Jeremy Hutchison shut the Barons down in the ninth.

Reliever Michael Royal picked up the win for Georgia Gwinnett, going two and two-thirds innings of relief. OSU-Lima's Luke Jackson was credited with the loss as the Grizzlies grabbed the 12-6 win.

The same two teams face off on Friday in doubleheader action starting at 1:00 p.m.

On Friday, the Grizzlies will host Military Appreciation Day during the second game of GGC's doubleheader against the Barons. At 4:00 p.m., the Grizzlies will offer free admission to all active duty and military veterans.

Georgia Gwinnett has teamed up with C.O.V.E.R.T., a GGC student organization that assists veterans in their transition to a successful college career, and the Lawrenceville Veterans Center for this event and looks to recognize and thank all military personnel for their service.

In a pregame ceremony, the Grizzlies will welcome military personnel for a ceremonial first pitch along with a full color guard presentation for a live singing of the National Anthem.

Fun & Games

WORDSEARCH

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Sudoku

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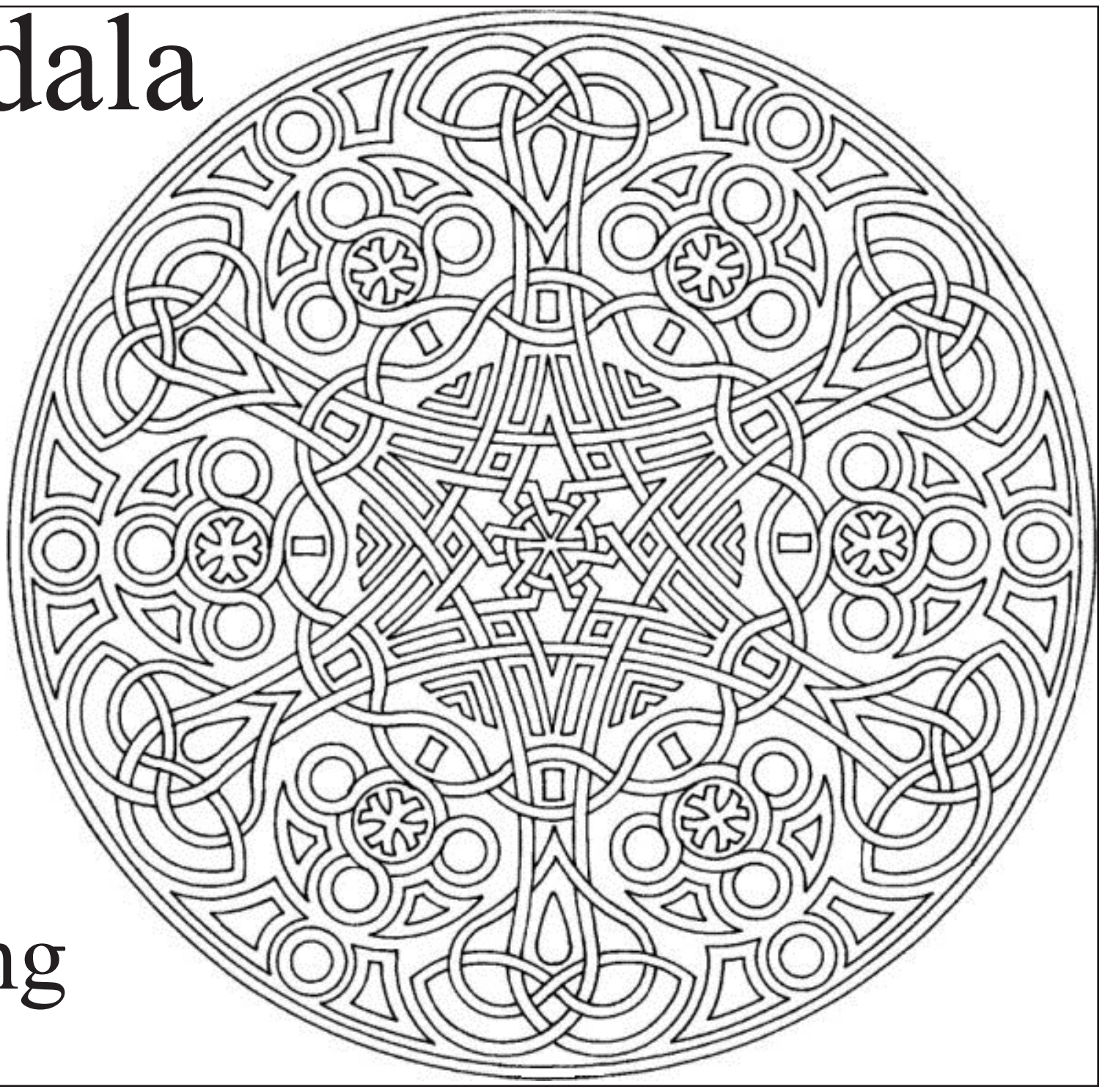

Stress Relief Coloring