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The Globe

Georgia Gwinnett College's Student Newspaper



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Letter from an Editor

By Julie Thompson

Managing Editor

What am I doing on this page? I just wanted to offer my salutations before doing my "I just graduated" dance. It's been a whole semester since I was Editor-in-Chief of The Globe, and I can't say I've missed it. The fact is, putting together a newspaper every month is actually a lot of work, and the rewards are not always instant.

No regrets, though. Being part of the newspaper has been the crowning experience in my college career, and it's not a far cry to say that it has actually made me into a better person. So much of what I have learned during my time at GGC was in this fishbowl of a room, squabbling about which order the articles should appear in and wondering how we were going to make our next deadline.

It's the people who have made the experience, to be sure. Working with the newspaper advisors in and out of classrooms has been one of the best uses of my time in the past two years. Dr. Daniel Vollaro and Dr. David Sepulveda are great professors, so if any of my readers have the chance to take their classes or to chat them up in the halls for a few minutes on the way to class, my advice is go for it. There are so many wonderful professors here, but I have to say they are the best, and that is an objectively subjective opinion.

After investing so much time in the newspaper, it has been hard to pull away the past semester, but the staff has done their job so far, and I have full confidence that she will keep plugging along after I'm gone.

I don't know what's next, but hopefully it will be a job and eventually grad school. Scrambled typography floating in an eerie crystal ball says there will still be a lot of words in my future, and that excites me. Wherever I end up, I want to stay sharp and keep writing.

According to Señor Google, 26.7% of GGC students graduate here. A lot of people think of this school as a place to get their core credits and then transfer, but I am of the opinion that it's a good idea to put in the full time in one place. This campus is a second home to me, especially the fishbowl room, and it's nice to leave feeling like I know the place like the back of my hand.

While people can and have successfully made the transition, friendships and connections with professors are better when cultivated over the years, and I wouldn't trade places with anyone. As someone once told me, it's better to earn someone's respect first-hand and have others gain interest in her school than to gain respect because she was part of a big name on which she had no footprint.

The world's a scary place, and I can't wait to get out there. To everyone who has put effort into making it possible for first-generation college students like me to find a way into academia, I owe my sincerest gratitude. You guys handed it to us on a silver platter, and I hope to start making my contributions as well.

Now it's time for me to go decorate my graduation cap or do whatever it is people do the week before receiving their diploma. Oh wait, finals! *sigh.*

Keep reading the newspaper and yay Feminism!

Updated Media Relations Policy limits student journalists' access to sources

By Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

The school's revised Media Relations Policy directly impacts student journalists and *The Globe* by limiting access to GGC personnel on all issues regarding the institution.

Effective since Nov. 6, 2017, the policy's stated purpose is to "establish guidelines for contacts and interaction with news media..."

GGC has previously and continues to adhere to a media relations policy that filters news media outlet inquiries through the Office of Public Relations, but their stance on how to respond to student journalism has been less clear.

In May of 2017, their policy was updated with procedures specifically relating to reporters working with *The Globe*. The new, current policy makes no mention of *The Globe* but directly addresses student journalists representing campus media outlets.

In both cases, the policy dictates that interview requests must be routed through the Office of Public Relations. This require-

ment could be used to infringe on student journalists' right to free expression.

The legal basis for this claim derives from the application of the Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) to student journalism and student media. This court case defined student expression as constitutionally protected, and therefore also protected against censorship.

According to The Student Press Law Center (SPLC), legal precedent states that school officials cannot "censor or confiscate a publication, withdraw or reduce its funding, withhold student activities fees, prohibit lawful advertising, fire an editor or adviser, 'stack' a student media board, discipline staff members or take any other action that is motivated by an attempt to control, manipulate or punish past or future content."

The current Media Relations Policy effectively censors student journalists by controlling their access to sources within the school and by policing faculties' responses to their questions.

"State and federal courts have decided over 60 cases in the last two decades directly involving censorship of the college and

university student press," the SPLC said. "The decisions have been unanimous in their agreement that the First Amendment forbids almost all censorship of student-edited publications by college administrators."

Before this revised policy was instated, *The Globe*'s faculty advisors questioned Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and Provost Dr. T.J. Arant about whether or not faculty are required to refuse to answer questions from media in all circumstances unless told otherwise by PR.

"No, there are circumstances where faculty and staff can answer without being referred by PR," Arant said. "For faculty, these include stories about faculty research, course projects, or general academic coursework. For staff and faculty alike, these might include stories about their backgrounds, their hobbies, their interests, and the like. In other cases, media should follow the practice of contacting PR and working through them."

GGC personnel are contractually obliged to comply with college policy, but students are not considered faculty or staff.

This new Media Relations

Policy intends to govern over "student media/organizations."

As GGC's student-run newspaper, this issue is particularly concerning to *The Globe*. When *The Globe* was institutionalized, the founding editors and faculty advisors fought to maintain journalistic integrity as an independent student publication.

This fight is ongoing, and policies like these restrict student journalists' agency and their ability to report on the happenings of their own school.

"Student journalists representing campus media outlets who are reporting on topics regarding the institution, such as College policies and developments, must route requests through the Office of Public Relations. A public relations staff member will facilitate interviews with the appropriate sources."

— Media Relations, Policy

Students want more clarity regarding campus carry

By Marendra Scales
Staff Reporter

House Bill 280, otherwise known as the "Campus Carry" bill, allows for licensed gun owners to carry a concealed weapon on college campuses.

Other schools including Kennesaw State University and University of West Georgia have provided guidance and informational sessions in response to House Bill 280. These universities have created an open dialogue between their students and faculty on what this bill means for their universities and its effects.

The University of West Georgia created a FAQ section on their website answering questions highlighting the specific facilities where weapons are allowed, whether faculty members are allowed to have them in their offices, and where they can store their guns if they may have it on their person in prohibited places.

GGC responded to this bill with an email stating that the bill has been put into effect and provided links to the statement released by University System of Georgia Chancellor Dr. Steve Wrigley and the bill itself.

"They [GGC] could have done more," student Genesis Richmond said, "made a flyer, or posted it on my.ggc. Somewhere that everyone has access to."

The school has released commercials that explain where the weapons are not allowed. These are broadcasted on the tv's in the B building atrium, at the Technology Helpdesk in the C3 building, and other places across campus.

Some students are still unaware of the specifics, and many students did not notice the email sent to the student body.

"Even though I am in favor of this bill I still believe more could have been done," history major Amond Whitfield said.

GGC's Office of Legal Affairs has taken steps to provide

such information. When asked what other measures have been taken, the school declined further comment.

Brandon Denson, Business Management Major and student worker for the College and Career Center stated that more information pertaining to limitations, restrictions, and rights should have been provided.

The Office of Legal Affairs was not able to provide documentation from GGC but deferred to the Wrigley's statement

"It will be the responsibility of those license-holders who choose to carry handguns on campus to know the law and to understand where they can go while carrying," Wrigley said. "The weapon must be concealed. Concealed is defined as carried in such a fashion that does not actively solicit the attention of others and is not prominently, openly, and intentionally displayed except for purpose of defense of self or others."

A copy of the bill and

the letter from the chancellor are accessible to students via the GGC website, but many students were not aware of this fact and few teachers have opened up their classrooms as a place of open dialogue.

"I think that HB 280 has introduced insecurities into the classroom." Professor of political science Dr. Dovile Budryte said. "Overall, I believe that HB 280 has had a negative impact on academic freedom and freedom of expression on campuses in Georgia."

For more information regarding HB280 follow these links:

www.ggc.edu/community/legal-affairs

<http://www.usg.edu/hb280>

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Jacob Bennett

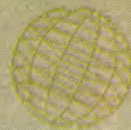
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Corrections:

In the last issue, an article referred to student Brandon Seay as the president of the GGC Environmental Club. Seay is the former president.

The same article also included a quote that stated the dimensions of the community garden to be 100 by 40 feet. The actual dimensions are 20 by 40 feet.

Students support the DACA American Dream

By Juan Carlos Sierra Barbosa
Staff Reporter

On August 18, 2006 for the first time 118 students had the opportunity to start their educational journey at Georgia Gwinnett College.

Now a group of immigrants from different nationalities who benefit from DACA are about to see their dreams truncated once the program ends in March of 2018.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a temporary program created by the Obama administration to benefit illegal immigrants who came as children to this country. Children, who for their aspirations of higher education, are known as "Dreamers."

"Somos personas de Georgia, tambien somos estudiantes y queremos que haya cambio con el programa de DACA que estan quitando. Que se termina en Marzo, [We are people from Georgia, we are also students and we want a change with the DACA program that they are removing. It ends in March]," student Mark Guevara said.

Surrounded by GGC students, senior ITEC major and former president of the Organization of Latin American Students Mark Guevara collects hand-written letters to send to Georgia Senators David Perdue and Johnny Isakson.

According to Guevara, the objective is to let them know why they should not take away the program DACA because it benefits the

country, in economy and in talent.

"El año pasado tuve la posición de presidente, pero al mismo tiempo siempre tuve la posición de hermano, de estudiante, de primo, de amigo. Éso nunca se va. Yo tengo familia, amigos que están afectados, [Last year I took the position of president, but at the same time I always had the position of brother, student, cousin, friend. That never goes away. I have family, friends that are affected]," Guevara said. "Hay un estigma ahorita de que solo es un problema de Latinos. No lo es, es algo más grande [There is a stigma right now that it is just a Latino problem. It is not, it is something bigger]."

The room's atmosphere was full of good vibes as African Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics, and Asians students posed holding their hand-written letters for a photograph. That is the proof of the letters authenticity. A picture of a bear, the college mascot, serves as a background for the students' picture.

Writing letters to send them to Congress was the second event organized by Guevara and his new organization, Latino College Leadership Alliance.

Sponsored by the Latin American Association, a metro Atlanta organization located in Gwinnett, Guevara also held a discussion panel in the CISCO auditorium to find solutions for the DACA program.

Students' physical traits and skin color reveal the diversity of GGC's students, and at the same time they also suggest that at some point their parents or great grandparents emigrated to this country from all parts of the world. Ending DACA shows an antiimmigrant attitude.

"Yo recuerdo que al principio me importaba. Hasta los 16 años es cuando ya ví la diferencia, cuando todos mis amigos empezaron a agarrar su licencia, [I remember that at first, I did not care. Until the age of 16 years old is when I saw the difference, when all my friends started to get their driver's license]," said sophomore biochemistry major Rodrigo Rodríguez.

"Entonces yo le pregunté a mis padres ¿Por qué yo no puedo agarrar licencia? Ellos dijeron 'tú no puedes porque tú no tienes papeles. Tú no eres nacido aquí,' [Then, I asked my parents why cannot I get a driver license? They said 'you cannot because you do not have papers. You were not born here']," said Rodríguez.

At first, Rodríguez wary about going on the record. His friendship with Guevara softened his demeanor and he agreed to give the interview only if his name was changed.

Rodríguez is the son of Ecuadorian parents. He was brought to the United States at the age of 5 years old. He has never been back to Ecuador.

Guevara has the vision to unite Latino students from the different colleges of Georgia to support social justice, in this case to support the DACA program. DACA

benefits the student immigrants in their pursuit of the American Dream, as well as benefitting the economy of this country.

"Éste semestre pagué como \$8,000.00, más del doble que de alguien que ha nacido aquí, [This semester I paid around \$8,000.00, more than double that of someone who was born here]," said Rodríguez.

"No todas las universidades aceptan DACA y las que lo aceptan son muy caras para los dreamers, [Not all universities accept DACA and those who accept it are very expensive for dreamers]," said Fernanda Fernández, an immigrant brought from Guatemala at the age of 6 years old.

Some of the Dreamers, like Rodríguez and Fernández, have been living for more than 15 years in Georgia.

Dreamers are considered international students. Consequently, they pay Out-of-State tuition, which means that they must pay \$487.80 per credit hour compared to \$130.67 that Georgia residents pay. Everybody must add the mandatory fees which sums more than \$1,000.00 per semester.

"As much as I want, I cannot discuss the DACA issue because it is under litigation," Legal Counsel Jennifer E. Cobb said. "I have my personal opinions, but as a legal counsel, I cannot comment anything."

ARTS & CULTURE



GGC's uncensored "Annual Spelling Bee" play unearths a range of emotions

By Marium Zafar
Staff Reporter

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" play, performed by GGC students at Aurora Theatre from Oct. 25 to 29, showcases middle-schoolers' coming of age story amid a spelling contest. Light filters in between the gaps of the gym bleachers on which the contestants are perched, fidgeting as their numbers dwindle with every musical number. Each song explores a modern issue, from one contestant's struggle with an untimely erection to another contestant's family problems, all sung in perfect harmony.

Rehearsals scheduled two to three times a week in September soon multiplied nearing the day of the first performance. Before then, the cast had to reach a decision about the adult content and language present in the original script, choosing whether or not to exclude certain musical numbers like "My Unfortunate Erection/Distracted" and how to stage emotionally heavy songs like "I Love You."

"We decided that since we are doing the show with college

students who are adults, we were not going to do an altered version of the script," Aurora Theatre's Director of Education Jaclyn Hofmann said.

"Censoring art is a very layered subject. But also, we certainly would not want anyone to audition or come see the show if they did not feel comfortable with the material. So, we did put an adult rating and 'warning' in the marketing to make sure no one was caught by surprise."

With only a few months of practice, the cast fell in tune to highlight the modern issues towed along with coming of age.

As the final acts neared, only a handful of contestants are left, including Chip, a young adult boy played by Spencer Blake. He reluctantly stands under the glare of the bright, white lights with

his jacket balled up in front of his pants. He loses focus staring at a certain someone in the crowd and inevitably stutters over his spelling of the given.

Chip's unfortunate response to his feelings is an erection, which is just one of the many awkward moments for the audience members who extended their sympathetic, pitiful smiles at the height of Chip's embarrassment.

Some mothers threw in a chuckle or two while tightly shielding their children's ears whereas the older men seated in the front crossed their arms, tossed their heads back and laughed heartily.

Chip's flabbergasted response adds fuel to his fiery solo, "My Unfortunate Erection/Distracted," in which he aggressively belts out his frustration with his, **continued on page 8...**

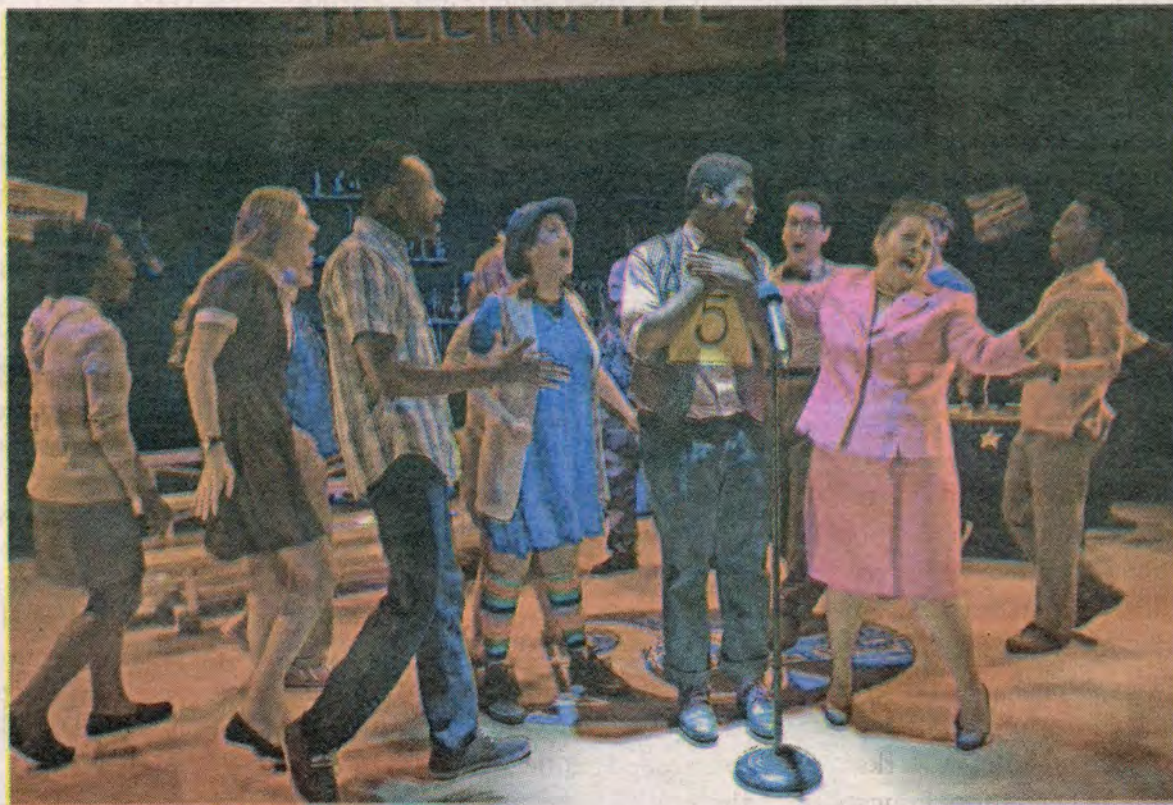


PHOTO CREDIT, ROD REILY

Aurora Theatre's partnership with GGC continues to grow

By Amber King and Marendra Scales
Staff Reporters

In the heart of downtown Lawrenceville is the Aurora Theater. It is Gwinnett County's only professional theater, and one of the fastest-growing professional theaters in Georgia. What makes that connection to the Gwinnett community stronger are the ties the theater has to Georgia Gwinnett College.

Anthony Rodriguez, co-founder of the Aurora Theater and current Producing Artistic Director, and Lonnie Harvel (deceased), former Vice President of Information Technology at Georgia Gwinnett College, connected to begin the partnership between GGC and the Theater. The connection to education and to GGC as a whole has been important to Rodriguez.

The theater is now making a point to not only introduce students to the arts, but to directly engage them through learning about theater and production.

This was the aim of both President Kauffman and current President Preczewski. Rodriguez said that involving the arts with the college experience "are integral to creating a fully formed student."

Jaelyn Hoffman works full-time as Director of Education with the Aurora Theater, and part

time as a professor for GGC. She teaches Theater Appreciation, but is due to teach Acting for Stage and Screen in the spring of 2018. Her role both in the theater and at the college has been pivotal for student involvement, both on the college campus and in productions.

"Every production done has been open for the entire student body," Hoffman said when asked about the involvement of GGC students with the theater. "So, auditions are open for the entire campus, production roles such as build the set, help paint, fittings for costumes... students have a hand in every department."

She also said that classes and clubs on campus have played roles in marketing for the theater. The Photography Club is often invited to final dress rehearsals and their work is the source of production photos for the theater.

GGC's partnership with the Aurora Theatre has opened up doors for many students with varying interests. Jonathan Taylor, third year science major and film minor always had an interest in the idea of working with the theatre but needed a little extra push to get there.

Dr. Jennifer Wunder, GGC

Honors Program director, designed the student productions in order to help students like Taylor realize these interests fully.

"I was not ready to be on stage yet," Taylor said, "but I did want to be a part of it so I played piano and the band".

Last spring Jonathan decided to come from behind the instruments and participate in the production of "Much Ado About Nothing."

"Student productions are one of the more special things we do," Hoffman said, "just in that the way that it's formatted there's a professional director, creative team, and designers who mentor students along the way. The students have their hands in everything—building, acting, all the areas that make up a show. They're also learning from some of the best professional artists in Atlanta, people who have worked nationally as well. This is their career path."

Hoffman also believes that experiences in the theater can assist students who don't choose to pursue the arts as a career choice. They can learn soft skills through working on productions, as well as the skill of public speaking through acting.

With news of the film minor that is currently opening in Spring 2018, the partnership has created an opportunity for Jonathan to work with the assistant director in film score creation.

The Aurora Theatre is also creating a new art complex, including a 500 seat theatre, an additional cabaret, dedicated practice rooms, rehearsal rooms, and classrooms.

Rodriguez stated that he hopes that with the expanded campus it will facilitate collaboration with GGC and the newly added Cinema and Media Arts Production program.

"Lawrenceville are the ones putting together the deal for the land next door to the Aurora," Rodriguez said, "and they are supplying the bulk of the money through the variety of means to make the complex happen."

The Aurora Theatre pays the city back by attracting 80,000 plus people a year. They come through the city to enjoy dinner, go shopping, and to learn about the history of Lawrenceville.

GGC celebrates the 500 year anniversary of Martin Luthor's 95 Theses

By Jacob Bennett
Editor-in-Chief

The history department commemorated the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 theses and the protestant reformation with a three-day exhibition. Both faculty and students participated in the event.

According to Lecturer of History Dr. Frank Smith, planning for the commemoration began nearly a year in advance.

"Dr. Richard Rawls [Professor of History] and I were the chief organizers," Smith said. "We realized that this quincentennial was approaching, and thought that having an observance of it on campus would be a neat thing to do."

Over ten faculty members took part in the event, and they delivered a total of ten lectures over the course of three days. Topics ranged from the music of Luther's era and depictions of medieval religious women to connections to early American history and the U.S. constitution.

"The Reformation and its legacy is still alive and with us to such an extent that it is difficult to step outside of time and history and properly assess its impact," Rawls said. "What GGC's professors succeeded in accomplishing was to approach that legacy from a variety of disciplinary perspectives and provide new illumination on

such an influential topic."

On the first day of the commemoration English major Cole Hamilton delivered a dramatic recitation of the 95 theses that Martin Luther purportedly nailed to a door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517.

"I think it's important for great figures of history to be presented in entertaining ways," Hamilton said. "People pay more attention when they are being entertained."

Hamilton was dressed in brown robes and carried a hammer. After the recitation, he nailed the papers to a door that was set up in the front of the room.

"I had a blast speaking Luther's words," Hamilton said. "Reading them on the page, Luther's humor and anger can be lost. But the beauty of acting is the opportunity to infuse emotion into them."

The Reformation Commemoration attracted a total of 210 attendants, and the entire event was videoed and

posted online on Kaltura. This video is available to view throughout the University System of Georgia.

"Christian History is important as well, and Christians need to express their own heritage in open spaces," Hamilton said. "I am not saying that this event was religious in nature. It wasn't. It was academic."

GGC has a no confessional methodology policy in regards to teaching religion. This means that faculty are not supposed to teach religion from the perspective of a being believer. The Reformation Commemoration instead focused

on how Martin Luther's acts have impacted our secular world.

"Remembering the movement which Martin Luther began is important for a number of reasons, including the significance of Christianity and particularly Protestantism in American history," Smith said. "But despite the foundational nature of Protestant doctrine for America, most Americans, including the significant number who would identify as Protestant, are unaware of this history and heritage. Hence, the importance of this observance at GGC."



Res Life hosts an international Escape Room

By Amalisty Johnson
Staff Reporter

To celebrate International week, GGC's Residential Life partnered with the Office of Internationalization (OI) to get students on campus involved and to learn about different cultures. On November 14 they hosted The Escape Room. Students got to learn about different cultures, internationalization, and what their office has in store.

"We wanted to do something different," senior criminal justice major and residence assistant Jordan Drake said. "We partnered with the Internationalization office because they have various programs when they travel."

A little over 80 students came and enjoyed the Escape Room. The Escape Room included trivia questions with clues around

the rooms that had the students get together to brainstorm and escape. The students had a chance to choose 3 different rooms: Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Each room had at least eight students assigned.

"We are trying to let students know about the different diversities on campus," junior psychology major and Latin American studies minor Alejandra Garcia said, "as well as to promote our office and let the students network with others."

While students waited their turn to go into a room they played games like Jeopardy, the cookie game, and also word searches provided by the OI.

"To celebrate International week we wanted to promote diversity," Resident Director Sandrine Irankunda, said. "The students will gain a better understanding about different cultures that go on in the world and make better connec-

tions."

Activities like this help students learn more about the different offices on campus, learn about different parts of the world, and allow them to build new connec-

tions with their peers on campus. This program was to get students to view the world from new and different perspectives.



PHOTO CREDIT, AMALISTY JOHNSON

Spelling Bee, cont.

...body's awkward reaction, which ultimately was the cause for his elimination from the spelling bee.

Chip's lament highlights the young adult themes of the play in a realistically humorous tone. Cast member and junior environmental science major Jonathan Taylor played the Vice Principal Douglas Panch, and believes including these scenes from the original script was vital.

"That's when hormones start flying, and you start looking

at your environment and noticing things," Taylor said. "I think it [is] important... to be in touch with this modern and older audience."

Challenging family issues also unfurl on stage when another main character, Olive, played by Casey Marie Coyle, is asked to spell "chimerical." Her song, "I Love You," was a voice-crossed rendition between her mother abroad, her late father, and a daughter lost.

The synchronization of red and blue lights swiveling around

the center stage where Olive stands illuminates the prickling anger and stifling sorrow she feels towards her parents, both of whom are physically absent from the spelling bee. The audience witnesses each character's coming of age pan out decades into the future within a matter of minutes.

With this trajectory, the final scene comes to a close, and the cast bows one last time as applause and cheers thunders across the bleachers.

"It was pretty incredible to see how the students grew throughout this process," Hofmann said. "They worked so hard and brought so much heart to the piece."

While the fifth rendition of GGC's "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" won't feature again until fall 2018, students can look forward to catching GGC's upcoming Improvfest play in spring 2018.

Aurora Theatre collaborates with OLAS to celebrate Día de los Muertos

By Juan Carlos Sierra Barbosa
Staff Reporter

The Aurora theatre collaborated with the Organization of Latin American Student (OLAS) to celebrate “the Day of the Dead” with folk dances, storytelling, face painting, and traditional Mexican food in the Student Center.

“We have been doing it for five years now, and since we often collaborate on educational projects and programming with GGC, we decided to celebrate the festival on GGC’s campus,” Aurora The-

atre’s Director of Cross-Cultural Programs Juan Carlos Unzueta said. “A generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and sponsors, like Brandmortgage, make this celebration possible. I was very happy to see hundreds of people attend the event.”

“Él es Dios... Él es Dios... Él es Dios... He is God... He is God... He is God...” They were the lyrics of the opening folk dance on the LVIS stage, performed by Danza

Azteca Acitahuichimtlí.

“Que no se pierdan nuestras raíces de México, [We do not let our Mexican roots get lost],” said performer Arturo Enriquez.

Enriquez is from México City, and along with Imelda Texas, from Tlaxcala, México, founded the folk-dance group composed of only family members.

“Lo hemos estado haciendo por ocho años en Georgia, [We have been doing it for eight years in Georgia],” said Enriquez. “Y llevamos nuestras danzas a eventos religiosos y culturales como el 12 de Diciembre, el 16 de Septiembre y el 5 de Mayo, [And we bring our dances to religious and cultural events, such as December 12, September 16, and May 5].”

The dances presented included “The Fire,” “Guadalajara,” “The Eagle,” “The Lame,” and “The Dove.”

Six female dancers and a male musician expressed their love for native American folklore and displayed colorful dresses and tufts made of pheasant feathers imitating the ancient Aztec tufts.

Natural jingle bells tied to the dancer’s feet and maracas complemented the rhythms of a big drum that was decorated with the face of an Aztec Goddess.

The audience responded with a loud round of applause when the only lyrics of the dance, “Él es Dios He is God” signaled the end of the first presentation of the evening.

Before the first presenta-

tion, there were long lines to have faces painted and to enjoy Mexican traditional food.

The event was originally planned to be outside, but at the last moment the organizers decided to carry it out inside the Student Center.

Outside the Student Center, around 5 o’clock the temperature dropped into the high thirties. In the cold weather, five men and one woman were serving the traditional Tacos al pastor Boston pork, de asada top sirloin, and de pollo chicken.

“Cocinamos en el lugar comida auténtica Mexicana. Tenemos carne para 615 tacos, [We cook on site authentic Mexican food. We have meat for 615 tacos],” said Helio Bernal, from Veracruz, México and owner of “The real Mexican Vittles D Boca N Boca.”

Inside the student center, catering from the “Poza Rica” restaurant complemented the traditional tacos with quesadillas de queso, carne y pollo cheese, beef, and chicken quesadillas, burritos and nachos.

The next presentation on stage was from the Mexican folk group “Alma Mexicana.”

The dancers performed “La Negra,” “El Jarabe Tapatio,” “El Toro,” and “The Coyote.”

In historical sequence, the dances from “Danza Azteca Acitahuichimtlí” represent México in precolonial period, and the dances from “Alma Mexicana” represents the postcolonial period of México.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND OPPOSITE), JUAN CARLOS SIERRA BARBOSA

“Siempre tenemos la incertidumbre de qué público nos va ha recibir. Cada público es diferente y éste es muy lindo. Nos recibieron muy bien, [We always have the uncertainty of what kind of audience will receive us. Each audience is different and this one is very nice. They received us very well],” said Hilda Estrella, from Nuevo León, México and founder of the group.

Estrella has been dancing folk dances since she was eight years old.

“Nosotros no cobramos. El dinero que recibimos es para mantenimiento de los trajes y para comprar más. No solo los trajes son muy caros, sino que es más caro traerlos para acá, [We do not charge. The money we receive is for maintenance of the costumes and to buy more. Not only the costumes are very expensive, but it is more expensive to bring them here],” Estrella said.

“Estoy muy orgullosa de ser estudiante. I am proud to be a student at GGC,” senior chemistry major and president of the Society for Advancement of Chicano-Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Whitley Ramírez said.

“Es bonito compartir las tradiciones. Siempre he estado metida en eventos. Me gusta motivar a otros para que vean que el college también puede ser divertido, [It is nice to share the traditions. I have always been involved in events. I like to motivate others to see that college can also be

fun],” Ramírez said.

Ramírez participation in the event was to serve fruit punch and lemonade water and promote her organization.

“Long, long ago in a little house lived a little roach, a very clean little roach. Every day she used to sweep the floor, and one morning she found a coin...”

Back on the stage, Tersi Bendiburg, a bilingual storyteller born in Cuba captivated the audience with a story about a mouse and a little roach.

The audience sang along with the story when Pérez sang to Martina “Cielito Lindo,” a popular Mexican song.

Bendiburg narrated the happy marriage story of Pérez, the mouse, and Martina, the little roach switching from English to Spanish and vice versa.

The presentations closed their evenings performances with another rendition of “Alma Mexicana.”

The line for face painting did not end at the time proposed.

It was until past 7:00 pm when the organizers decided to cut the line leaving some people disappointed. The event was supposed to finish at 7:00pm, but Rio Funk Lordz artists face painted three more kids and two adults after the doors were closed.

“In this event we did everything we wanted to do,” Vice President of OLAS Alejandra Garcia said. “The Aurora theatre financially supported everything.”

“The Run”

Writing Contest First Place Story

By Ricardo Echevaria First-place Winner

A knock at the door after dark conjures a thousand phantoms. You hear the stories about the sons of bitches showing up real late, without a warrant, asking for so-and-so, waiting for a hint of invitation to enter and invade your life. Mom sits at the table in mid-bite through a taco de asada. At the sound of the knock, she gains ten years to her face of forty-five and even the sheen of her just-dyed dark-brown hair (to hide the gray strands) goes lackluster. The shadows beneath her high cheekbones sink and gain morbidity. She stares at me, likely remembering my scrawny legs, four years old, scratched red by the thorns of some thick bush we trudged through as we neared the wet gravel of the Rio Grande. Those same legs, age seven, whose scraped knees testified to my commitment to continue running along with the other children even though they giggled at my accent. Those same legs growing hairy, soccer-bruised, sitting by mom on the cool seats of the Marta bus after practice because a car can't be purchased without a license and now the same bow-legged teenager stands up to the knock at the door.

My shirt sticks to my back. July heat. The AC stopped running last week. Beneath the table, my mother's legs are pale. Dead trees of varicose veins grow on her calves. Her kneecaps are like

seashells under a veneer of sand. She finishes the taco de asada but makes no motion to get up. Time ran on but she has stopped. Is it the finish line that is knocking?

A candle with a Virgin de Guadalupe icon is lit near the portrait of my grandmother. Within her rustic-wrinkled face dwell the Pre-Cortez eyes of those who ran with jaguars. She is tanned like the favorites of the sun. Breast cancer met her before I did. She glowers at me from the confines of the portrait and shames my fear.

The knock comes again.

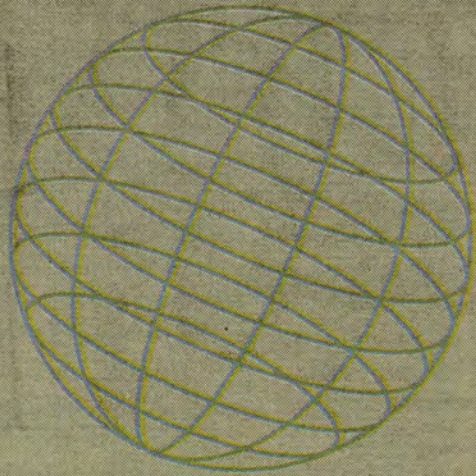
I have to answer. My English is more polished than moms.

Through the peephole I spy a man in navy cargo pants, plain white T-shirt, and a blue Cubs hat. It's no conquistador, it's no ICE; it is Robert, the maintenance man of our apartment complex. My skin remembers the living room's hollow heat like the inside of a coffin—the dead AC—

I open the door and before Robert can speak I say, “Why so late? We called since last week.” He mentions a busy day. From the kitchen, the faucet rushes and stops. Mom is no longer at the table. She is drying her hands on a cloth. When she comes over to greet Robert with a soft hello, I notice her gait is slow and her arms are crossed, held at the elbows. But she walks, yes, she walks, and I realize that I have inherited her run, not from, but towards the sun.



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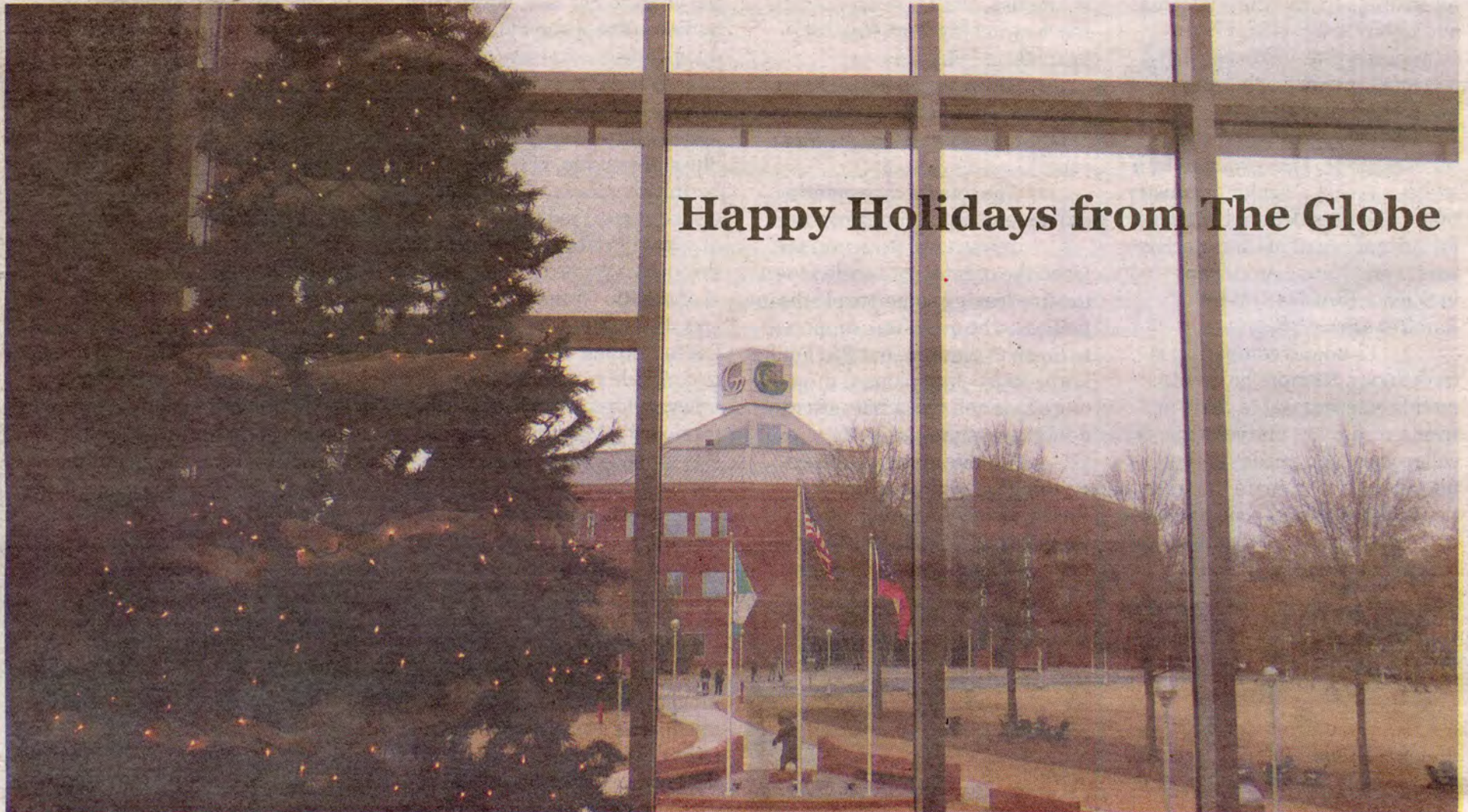
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