

InsideEDGE:



GGC task force explores starting an intercollegiate athletics program



Regent Larry Ellis to speak at January commencement



GGC remembers Lonnie Harvel, vice president for Educational Technology



The three-story atrium of GGC's new Library and Learning Center glows under a moonlit evening sky.

## Welcome to the new Georgia Gwinnett College

Students, faculty and staff returning for the fall 2010 semester were greeted by a Georgia Gwinnett College forever changed by the recent completion of construction projects and the near-doubling of enrollment.

"The campus is alive with an energy we've not experienced before," said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman at a recent gathering of faculty and staff. "This has been an exciting, historic transformation. This is a dramatically different institution from what it was only a few short months ago. Welcome to the new GGC."

Over the summer, the commuter-only institution became a residential college. The campus expanded by five new buildings, two new parking lots and a new street. Students are now living on campus, and using the new Library and Learning Center's reading, study and gathering spaces, as well as its new café. Faculty, staff and

students are enjoying the "all you can eat" meals offered by dining services in the GGC Student Center, which will be completed for spring semester.

The campus is also much busier. The sidewalks, eateries and study areas are now filled with more than 5,300 students. The faculty nearly doubled to more than 330, bringing GGC's total staff to almost 630. More new students are expected to enroll for spring semester.

There was even a brief traffic jam on the first day of classes as 2,300 first-time students navigated the unfamiliar surroundings, and returning students were surprised by all of the extra cars.

Numbers do not tell the full story, however. This commemorative issue of *Leading Edge* features these milestones in words and images that celebrate GGC's historic fifth year.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 3  
Spring 2011 payment deadline
- January 6  
Spring semester begins
- January 8  
Winter commencement
- March 14-20  
Spring break
- June 17  
Fall 2011 application deadline



With students now living in new residence halls, the campus is bustling almost around the clock as students take full advantage of the dining hall, library and student activities.

## GGC maintains impressive retention rates

Georgia Gwinnett College's preliminary 2010 first-year student retention rate is 70.4 percent, maintaining the college's strong record of inspiring its students to stay in school.

"For an access institution, such retention rates are remarkable," Kaufman said. "They are even more significant when one considers that 37 percent of our students work at least 21 hours a week and about 36 percent require some level of learning support. These factors usually work against retention."

GGC's retention rates significantly outperform other state colleges in the University System of Georgia, and are comparable to the rates of Georgia's state universities.

About 80 percent of GGC's first-time, full-time freshmen remain enrolled at GGC or other USG institutions, another impressive outcome of Georgia Gwinnett College's innovative approach to higher education.

At a recent presentation to the GGC community, Kaufman credited the faculty for achieving the high retention rates, which

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President Daniel J. Kaufman helps GGC's first student resident, Chantelle Murray, unload her belongings on the college's first-ever student move-in day.

## GGC welcomes first student residents

GGC welcomed more than 400 students during the College's first, historic move-in day.

"We are now officially a 24/7, residential campus," said President Daniel J. Kaufman. "We have spent months planning for this day, and now that it is here I can say that the campus is truly a more vibrant place."

The new residence halls offer suites of two to 12 private bedrooms with shared living and kitchen space. These modern facilities feature built-in classroom and activity space; on-site security; wall-mounted, 46-inch, flat-screen televisions and laundry facilities that alert students by text message or e-mail when their laundry is finished.

Student families enjoyed a valet unloading service provided by GGC faculty, staff and volunteers, as well as a complimentary barbecue

lunch on a newly landscaped lawn within the residential quad.

The housing complex required \$102 million in bonds, provided by a public/private partnership with the GGC Foundation.

"The student residence halls are a culmination of long-time community support," Kaufman said. "They would not have been possible without the support of the GGC Foundation and our trustees."



Glenn White, chair of the GGC Foundation board of trustees, surveys the completed student residence project with President Daniel J. Kaufman and Vice President for Facilities and Operations Eddie Beauchamp.



Student residents received red-carpet treatment on move-in day, including a free BBQ lunch and commemorative t-shirts.



Completion of the student residence halls was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, reception and tours. Shown are Stas Preczewski, GGC vice president for Academic and Student Affairs; Michael Russell, H.J. Russell & Company; Gordon Harrison, GGC Foundation president; Richard Tucker, USG regent and GGC Foundation trustee; Jonelle Faal, 2009-10 president of the GGC Student Government Association; State Rep. Melvin Everson; Felton Jenkins, USG regent; Daniel J. Kaufman, GGC president; State Sen. Don Balfour; State Rep. Clay Cox; State Rep. Lee Thompson and Eddie Beauchamp, GGC vice president for Facilities and Operations.

GGC maintains retention rates: continued from pg. 1

typically result in high graduation rates.

"We have achieved these retention rates because of how well you do your job," Kaufman said. "Thanks to your efforts, GGC is more than a 21st century access institution. GGC is a 21st century success institution."

As of the 2010 fall semester, GGC now enrolls the largest number of Gwinnett County's first-time freshmen of any institution.

"Considering that we've only been open for four years, we are very pleased to have reached this milestone," Kaufman said. "Not only are Gwinnett area students taking advantage of the college's convenient location, more students are enrolling from throughout the state."

Stas Preczewski, GGC vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, speaks to prospective students and parents at one of the college's Open House events. As the college's enrollment grows, so does attendance at these popular introductory sessions.



GGC President Dan Kaufman led a group of hungry students in an impromptu ribbon-cutting for the college's new dining hall. Located on the ground floor of the student center, the dining hall served its first official meal to students on the evening of the first student move-in day.



After unpacking belongings into their rooms in the residence halls, students enjoyed their first campus meal. The new dining hall offers an "all you can eat" concept, including a wide variety of meal options that are appropriate to any dietary need. Meal plans also are available to faculty and staff.



Even General was busy during "Operation Move In," helping move carts filled with student belongings from the parking lot to the students' rooms.



Faculty, staff and volunteers greeted each student family with a valet service, ensuring that unpacking the vehicles was fast and easy. This enabled families to spend more time helping students settle into their rooms.

## Did you know?

The laundry facilities in the residence halls can be programmed to alert students by text or e-mail that their laundry is done.

All of the rebar in the Library and Learning Center is made from recycled cars. These metal rods are typically used to reinforce concrete.

Students selected the colors for all of the paint, carpets and furnishings in the residence halls.

The name of GGC's new Army ROTC unit is "Grizzly Company."

The library has over 800 reader seats, and 45 seats for staff.

The library can currently hold up to 300,000 volumes, but can hold 500,000 by adjusting shelving in some areas.

The water feature behind the student center is more than just attractive; it is a retention pond that will provide GGC with an irrigation source.

Soil removed from Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves, was used as fill dirt under the GGC Library and Learning Center.

The library has more than 1/3 of an acre of glass on the exterior of the building.

Both the library and student center buildings are designed to be LEED Silver-certified, meaning that they meet specific, "green," environmentally friendly parameters.

# Library and Learning Center opens

“With a place like this to study in, I’ll be here all the time,” said a student to a television reporter visiting the new Library and Learning Center, which opened just before the start of the 2010 fall semester.

Since classes began, the new library has been busy with students working in private group study rooms or at the Information Commons computer stations, studying in the Grand Reading Room or enjoying a hot coffee creation in the café.

Beautiful and functional are just two of the words used to describe the new building, a dramatic structure designed to provide the very best in learning support for both students and faculty.

“The Library and Learning Center represents the hallmarks of a GGC education. Its very design blends technology with active, collaborative learning and its role strengthens the connection between our students and the community,” said GGC President Dan Kaufman. “This facility will not only serve students and faculty, but also will welcome the community as a regional resource, educational facility and common gathering space.”

The 95,370 square-foot building features a three-story, curtain wall of windows and squared arches that make a strong architectural statement. The curtain wall encloses an atrium with views of the campus central quad and signature building. The atrium houses the Information Commons, a large study area wired to power students’ laptop computers as they work individually or in groups.

The library is designed to house 300,000 volumes and a fusion of digital and print holdings. It offers self-check services, and its inventory is managed by an electronic tag system not often provided in collegiate libraries.

The building contains technologically advanced classrooms, a presentation practice room, 37 private study rooms, a lecture room, a reading room and a café. The Center for Teaching Excellence and Academic Enhancement Center also occupy the facility.

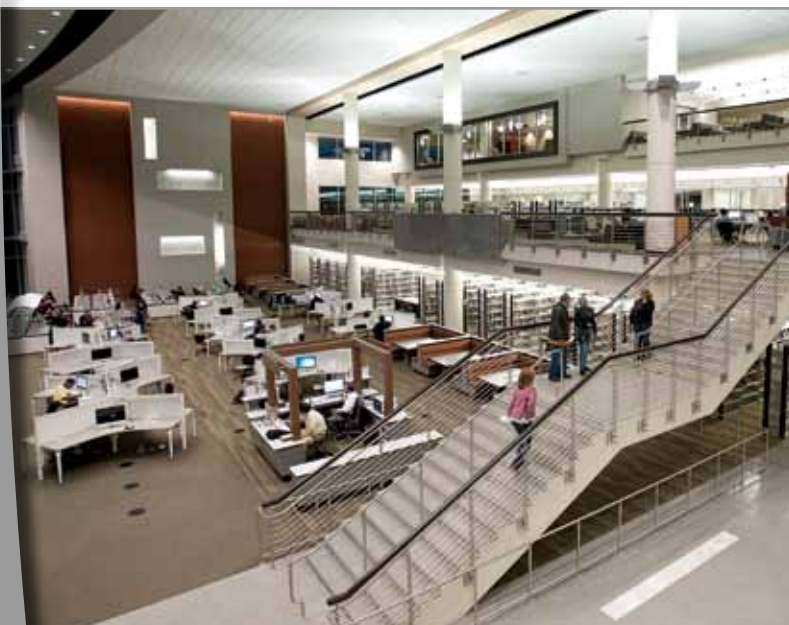
The \$28.3 million Library and Learning Center was funded through Georgia’s general obligation bond package in 2008.



Guests stream into Georgia Gwinnett College’s new Library and Learning Center following the building’s ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Cutting the Library and Learning Center’s celebratory ribbon were Stas Preczewski, GGC vice president for Academic and Student Affairs; Michael Potts, The Potts Company; Gene Ruffin, GGC library director; Robert E. “Rob” Watts, COO and executive vice chancellor for Administrative and Fiscal Affairs, University System of Georgia; Daniel J. Kaufman, GGC president; Richard Tucker, USG regent and GGC Foundation trustee; State Rep. Len Walker, Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee; Jonelle Faal, 2009-10 president of the GGC Student Government Association; Joy Bolt, GGC library head of Outreach and Assessment; State Rep. Lee Thompson; State Sen. Don Balfour and Eddie Beauchamp, GGC vice president for Facilities and Operations.



The Library and Learning Center’s design provides a dramatic, open floor plan. Here, one can see the windows of the Grand Reading Room, which overlooks the atrium from the third floor.

GGC Foundation Trustee Ron Garrard and his wife, Dana Garrard, pause for a photo with President Dan Kaufman and GGC Foundation Trustee Cathy Petty Nichols at a recent reception in the Library and Learning Center.





Glenn White, chair of the GGC Foundation board of trustees, welcomes the audience to an appreciation reception in the library's Heritage Room, marking the first event to be held in this premiere lecture and gathering space.

*"GGC simply would not be here had it not been for the members of the Gwinnett-area community,"*

*GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman*

## GGC celebrates its growth with the community

A key aspect of Georgia Gwinnett College's legacy is its close relationship with the local community. Gwinnett leaders worked for many years to establish a four-year institution in the Gwinnett area, and the college has benefited from the community's ongoing, enthusiastic support.

As the college marked its recent milestones, it presented a series of ribbon-cuttings and receptions for GGC Foundation trustees, donors, elected officials and community leaders who played important roles in the college's growth and development.

"GGC simply would not be here had it not been for the members of the Gwinnett-area community," said GGC President Dan Kaufman. "Some of these individuals spent years working on behalf of this college long before GGC was ever founded."

In many ways, Kaufman noted, these people all have earned a degree in, "how to grow a college from scratch," and could be thought of as honorary GGC alumni.

"We are always delighted to invite our friends from the Gwinnett community to share in our celebrations because without them, there would be nothing here to celebrate," he said. "Our success is their success."

The college/community relationship is strengthened through GGC's focus on service learning and "real world" education. Instruc-

tors find innovative ways to expose their students to subject matter outside of the classroom. From marketing classes creating campaigns for non-profit community groups, to job shadowing at Gwinnett Medical Center and from charity fundraisers, to Gwinnett's annual Great Days of Service, students have a wide variety of opportunities to interact with the local community.

"One of GGC's goals is to produce citizen-graduates who not only understand the importance of their role as active members of the community, but who also understand their potential to make a difference," Kaufman said. "It is through our close community relationship that we can achieve this goal and ensure that we are producing future leaders for Gwinnett County, Georgia and beyond."

As the college has completed recent construction projects, it has expanded its circle of community connections by inviting visitors to tour the campus and hear presentations about the college. These visitors have included groups such as the Asian/Pacific American Council of Georgia and the Korean-American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia, and representatives from organizations such as Fifth Third Bank, Merrill Lynch, The Hudgens Center for the Arts and Gwinnett County Public Library.

"GGC's role in the community is growing as the college itself grows," said Gordon Harrison, president of the GGC Foundation. "We look forward to developing partnerships and affiliations that are mutually beneficial for the college, its students and the communities we serve."



State Rep. Brooks Coleman, chair of the Georgia House Education Committee, talks with GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman following a legislative luncheon. During the luncheon, Kaufman updated the Gwinnett legislative delegation on the college's status and future plans.



Members of the Asian/Pacific American Council (APAC) of Georgia visiting Georgia Gwinnett College included the following individuals. Their APAC roles and affiliate organizations are indicated. First row: Lam Thanh Ngo, president - APAC and president - Vietnamese-American Community of Georgia; M. Deborah Patz, director of corporate and foundation relations, GGC; Varinee Sangmalee, past president and communications director - APAC, president - Thai Association World Center USA; Le Dam Doan, board member - APAC, Vietnamese-American Community of Georgia; Eleanor Mae Pascual, secretary - APAC, board member and past president - Filipino-American Association of Greater Atlanta; Katie Tang, treasurer, Vietnamese-American Community of Georgia; Marie Firestone, assistant director of foundation relations, GGC. Second row: Nathan Kongthum, treasurer - APAC, Thai Association World Center; Gordon Harrison, vice president for Advancement - GGC and president - GGC Foundation; Charlie Yoon Kim, past president and advisor - APAC, Korean-American Association of Greater Atlanta and president of Korean-American Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Pinder, director of internationalization - GGC; Daniel Fu, board member - APAC, president - Indonesian Community Heritage Foundation.

# Student life is enriched as GGC becomes a residential campus

As a 24/7 residential campus, GGC is now alive with activity almost around the clock.

"There is electricity on campus as a result of the introduction of residence life and our enrollment growth," said Jim Fatzinger, associate vice president for Student Affairs. "Our programs and services now run into the evening."

One aspect of an active, vibrant, student life is club involvement. During Grizzly Days, held the first week of fall semester, many student clubs recruited new members through exhibits on the quad.

Students have founded more than 50 organizations, ranging from academic honor societies like Golden Key International Honor Society, to service/advocacy groups including Fight Back for Children and Habitat for Humanity, to special interest groups such as the Drama Club and Students for Christ. Student sport clubs include the baseball club, swim club, tennis club, fencing team and others recognizing the importance of physical activity.

"Our students are able to take an idea, interest, or passion and build a club around it," says Tomas Jimenez, dean of students. "Because this is a new college, students have endless opportunities for contributing to the growth of GGC culture and establishing a legacy for years to come."

The college provided programs during Grizzly Days, as well. Students could watch an outdoor movie, camp out under the stars or play Ultimate Frisbee on the Green. Other events included the Amazing Library Race, Trivia Night, Job/Internship Registration, a hypnotist show, opportunities to meet with the Student Government Association, a Wellness Fair, a Service Learning Lunch and Learn, and campus tailgate culminating in an evening with the Gwinnett Braves.

Through the Wellness and Recreation Center's new Outdoor Adventures program, students can participate in programming ranging from hiking to dragon boat racing.

"This fall, GGC's first dragon boat team finished third in competition with other very notable institutions" says Bill Rogers, assistant dean for Wellness.

However, student life is not all fun and games. "Participation in student clubs, service learning programs, sports and other programs is a valuable part of individual development," said Stephanie Coyle, assistant director for Student Life. "Such involvement teaches leadership, collaboration, goal setting, teamwork, fundraising and a host of other skill sets that are critical to how well our students will succeed."

GGC's student life programs will expand even more when the student center opens in several weeks. The new building contains facilities to support student-focused programming, as well as a Barnes & Noble bookstore and dining hall.

"The student center will be fully operational in time for winter, when many programs move indoors," said Adam Sterritt, assistant dean for Student Life. "The building will serve as the heartbeat for student life on campus."



Jay Patel, president of the Student Government Association, listens as Dr. Jeffrey Rosensweig, 2010 convocation speaker, shares some final comments with the audience. Rosensweig is director of the Global Perspectives Program at Emory University.



These students enjoyed a movie on the quad during Grizzly Days, a series of special student activities presented during the first week of classes.



These students are showing off their GGC pride with college-themed shirts they tie-dyed during a Grizzly Days activity.



Students, faculty and staff teamed up to paint over a graffiti-covered wall in Lawrenceville as part of Gwinnett Great Days of Service.



Student organizations presented an information and recruitment fair.



A large group of students enjoyed College Night at the Gwinnett Braves.



Several students, faculty and staff were recognized during the 2010 convocation ceremony. Here, Geoffrey Smith celebrates his award for excellence in service with his parents, Stan and Rachel Smith. Geoffrey is a Student Government Association senator for the School of Liberal Arts.

## What's next on the construction schedule?

Plans already are being made for new facilities to accommodate GGC's expanding enrollment

Construction will soon begin on a \$7 million instructional laboratory facility, which will become part of an Allied Health and Science building. These projects are necessary to provide enough capacity for the projected 2012-13 enrollment of more than 11,000 students, and to support GGC's nursing program.

Student housing will become more important as the college attracts more students from beyond the Metro Atlanta area. Plans include a residential parking deck and a second phase of residence halls.

GGC's first intramural athletic fields will be available for play in the spring of 2011. Located adjacent to student housing, the fields were designed for soccer.



General socializes with students during Grizzly Days activities on the quad.



Coming soon: intramural soccer fields.



Faculty members Mike Furick, assistant professor of marketing; Rama Menon, professor of mathematics education; Tom Lilly, assistant professor of English and Chulsung Kim, associate professor of chemistry, prepare to lead the faculty processional for the 2010 convocation ceremony. This was the first time that GGC held a large event in the new outdoor venue created as a result of the library's construction. With staging on the library plaza, the quad forms a natural amphitheater that will host future commencements and other major events.

## “Team Grizzly” explores intercollegiate athletics at GGC

President Dan Kaufman recently announced the formation of a task force charged with exploring the feasibility of initiating an integrated GGC intercollegiate athletic program to supplement the college’s intramural and club sports programs.

“Our students asked us to consider forming athletic teams,” said Kaufman. “Now that GGC’s enrollment is more than 5,300 students, it is time to explore this option. I have charged the task force with proposing a program consistent with GGC’s vision and mission, and one that fully complements our academic and student development objectives.”

Tomas Jimenez, dean of students, was appointed to chair the task force, which will develop a set of recommendations. The task force will consider financial and resource needs as it determines what types of athletic programs it will propose for consideration.

“Football will not be on the list,” Kaufman said. “Football is prohibitively expensive, and we need to begin our efforts with more manageable programs.”

“Team Grizzly” includes individuals with a

rich variety of experience with athletics at various levels. “We all share an appreciation for the value of athletics in the collegiate environment,” Jimenez said. “Our combined knowledge and perspectives will enable us to develop solid, well-informed recommendations for the development of Grizzly athletics.”

Jimenez has 17 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics, including senior staff positions in the athletics departments at Louisiana State University, the University of Virginia, the University of Miami and Northern Arizona University. He was involved in national football and baseball championships. Jimenez also coached basketball at St. Thomas University and served as a member of the NCAA Division I Football Academic Enhancement Working Group.

Bill Rogers, assistant dean for Wellness, has won numerous honors for his impressive tennis-coaching career at Brenau University. He has coached 14 national tennis champions.

Rogers received the United States Tennis Association’s Outstanding Community Service Award and was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

Task force member Eddie Beauchamp, vice president for Facilities and Operations, has a broad perspective as both an athlete and an athlete’s parent. His son, Jacob, was recently recruited by several colleges for his baseball skills, giving Beauchamp a view into the student

athlete’s experience.

Tee Mitchell, director of Student Recruitment and Admissions, played professional baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Alan Cox, special assistant to the president for strategic initiatives, has played hockey since he was four, and served his college team as goalie.

The task force includes members with experience in athletics support, as well. Laura Maxwell, vice president for Resources, served at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, as senior associate athletic director/chief financial officer for Army Athletics. Jennifer Stephens, director of Public Affairs, supervised the sports media and communications function at Georgia Perimeter College.

Development Director Lori Buckheister has experience in athletics funding, and played on volleyball, softball, basketball and track teams; she currently plays tennis. Ellen Cox, special assistant to the president for strategic initiatives, has an extensive equestrian background. Gary Nelson, professor of mathematics education, is an avid fan.

The GGC student body is represented on the task force by Jay Patel, Student Government Association president. He played on a community parks and recreation program’s traveling baseball team, and has intern experience with the Atlanta Hawks and Atlanta Thrashers.



If General can lead students to get this excited over a Gwinnett Braves game, just think what he will do at future GGC Grizzly games.



General appears with members of the GGC Athletics Task Force, (front row) Gary Nelson and Jay Patel; (back row) Tomas Jimenez, Alan Cox, Bill Rogers, Tee Mitchell, Lori Buckheister, Ellen Cox and Jennifer Stephens.

## Maxwell named vice president for Resources



Laura A. Maxwell

GGC President Dan Kaufman has appointed Laura Maxwell to the position of vice president for Resources. She is responsible for the oversight and management of the institution’s financial and business processes.

“As GGC continues to grow, so will the administrative staff charged with leading this college through its continuing, dramatic growth and development,” said Kaufman. “Laura has been an important part of our management team. Through her new position, GGC will continue to benefit from her experience and leadership.”

Maxwell holds both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in business administration from the State University of New York - Empire State College in Saratoga Springs. She has 20 years of experience in the higher education environment through several administrative

positions at the United States Military Academy at West Point, including assistant dean for resources, and senior associate athletic director and chief financial officer for Army Athletics.

A New York native, Maxwell came to GGC in 2007 as the college’s controller.

Maxwell is a member of the National and Southern Association of College and University Business Officers. She served as president of the American Society of Military Comptrollers for three years and as vice president for two years. She is a recipient of the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, the Commander’s Award for Civil Service and other distinguished awards.

## GGC remembers Lonnie Harvel with art, scholarship

The GGC community recently celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Lonnie Harvel, who passed away unexpectedly Nov. 4. As vice president of Educational Technology, Harvel was one of Georgia Gwinnett College's original four cabinet members and played a major role in the college's development.

"Lonnie was an inspirational leader, a visionary who could see a future that the rest of us could not even imagine," GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman said at a campus memorial service attended by hundreds. "Lonnie not only saw it, he took us there."

Antonio Quesada, director of Information and System Security, said, "To Lonnie, this was more than just a workplace. To us, he was more than just a boss."

Tributes like this described how Harvel's wide range of interests and skills not only contributed heavily to the college, but made him inspiring and fun. He was known for his enthusiasm for theater, art, theology, gaming, costume design, music and others. References to his interests often brought laughter. Quesada recalled Harvel describing his vision of GGC

as, "Starfleet Academy."

"I suddenly realized the magnitude of such a statement," he said. "Not only do we have a vice president who knows what Starfleet Academy is, we have a vice president who wants to build it."

"Lonnie was the biggest advocate for faculty and students I have ever known," said Lee Kurtz, assistant professor of biology. "He wanted us to have the latest technologies to teach our students and our students to have the best technologies to facilitate learning."

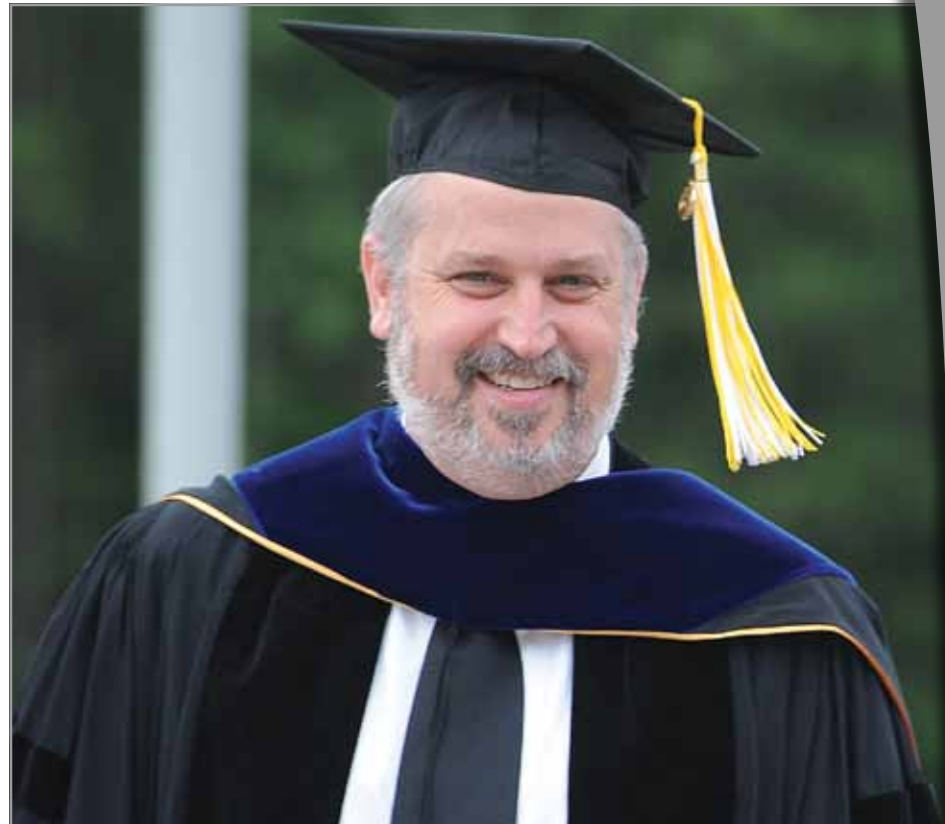
She noted that Harvel did not push technology when, "sometimes you just need imagination or a dry-erase marker."

"Lonnie's view of using technology to support active learning was a foundational facet of GGC's educational philosophy," Kaufman said. "He didn't believe in using a new technology just because it was new, or just because others might be using it. Lonnie believed in using technologies that enhance the educational

experience, which is what this college is all about. GGC is Lonnie's legacy."

Kaufman announced the new Lonnie Harvel Memorial Scholarship, which will initially support a student majoring, or intending to major, in information technology. Eddie Beauchamp, vice president for Facilities and Operations, presented Harvel's family with a GGC flag that had been flown in his honor.

Jay Patel, president of the Student Government Association, invited audience members to participate in a memorial art project that features



Dr. Lonnie Harvel, 1963 - 2010

symbols of how Harvel touched many lives – hundreds of fingerprints. The finished piece will be permanently displayed on campus.

In closing, Kaufman said, "The monuments to Lonnie's extraordinary contributions to the creation of Georgia Gwinnett College will not be marked by the beautiful buildings or the technologically advanced campus he created literally out of thin air," [but by] "the contributions of the thousands of students whose lives he touched, whether they knew him or not. Those contributions will be measured in decades of service to this community, this state and this nation by GGC graduates now and in the years to come."

*"At GGC, the innovative use of technology is a fundamental part of what, and how, we teach. Technological competence is fundamental to future success. It is an integral part of every profession."*

*Dr. Lonnie Harvel*



Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, friends and family of Dr. Lonnie Harvel added their mark to a unique piece of art that was created to honor Harvel's memory and symbolize the many lives he touched.

## GGC, TAG partner to enhance student experience

Georgia Gwinnett College and the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) have formed a strategic alliance to greatly enhance the educational experience for the college's students through access to TAG's technology-focused programming, resources and professional networking opportunities.

The alliance is the first of its kind in Georgia, and thought to be the first in the nation.

"By partnering with TAG, our students will have access to a rich resource that will add tremendous value to their educational program, expand their exposure to professional environments, and give them a jump start on their careers," said Lonnie Harvel, GGC's vice

president of Educational Technology. "TAG's programming will extend our students' learning opportunities beyond the classroom, and increase the marketability of their degrees."

TAG is a 10,000-member industry advancement organization dedicated to educating, uniting and informing the Georgia technology community. With nearly 30 profession-specific societies and special interest groups, as well as large award programs, TAG recognizes and works with companies using innovation to gain a competitive advantage. It also has technology-focused initiatives in government relations, and K-12 education.

Key to the partnership is the automatic membership in TAG for all GGC students and employees. With membership comes access to TAG's 150 yearly meetings, educational programs and members-only events, and discounts on all TAG training programs. As part of the partnership, some of TAG's pro-

grams will be held on the GGC campus.

While the program is primarily intended for students majoring in technical fields, all students can benefit from the TAG partnership. By extending TAG membership to faculty, the alliance enables them to bring real-world applications of technology into the classroom, enriching the curriculum.

"At GGC, the innovative use of technology is a fundamental part of what, and how, we teach," said Harvel. "Technological competence is fundamental to future success. It is an integral part of every profession. Our alliance with TAG will provide our students access to an incredible spectrum of arenas where their technological skills may be challenged and stimulated to grow."

*This story was written before Dr. Lonnie Harvel's passing.*

## Regent Ellis to speak at January commencement

University System of Georgia Regent Larry Ellis will speak at GGC's January 8, 2011, commencement ceremony. He will be the first commencement speaker to appear in the new student center's large venue interactive space, which will be open in time for the ceremony.

Ellis served in the U.S. Army for more than 35 years before retiring as a four-star general. He commanded units at every echelon of the Army, including the First Armored Division while deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the U.S. Army's chief operations officer, he oversaw multi-year, multi-billion dollar budget programs supporting national strategic objectives.

His military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distin-

guished Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star Medal.

Ellis is the chief executive officer of Ellis Services & Solutions Enterprises, a company that provides facility management and security services. He joined the board of directors of Point Blank Solutions in 2004 and served as president and CEO through April 2009. He serves as a director on the boards of SRA International, the Armed Forces Benefit Association and the National Security Studies.

Appointed to the USG Board of Regents by Gov. Sonny Perdue, Ellis holds a bachelor's degree from Morgan State University and a master's degree from Indiana University. His honors include an Honorary Doctor of Laws, Honorary Master of Strategic Studies, the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the NAACP National Service Award and the ROCK of the Year Award.



Regent Larry Ellis

## Trustee committees work toward key plans for GGC's future

GGC Foundation's trustees consist of 47 members, each with a committed interest in the college's success. Within the board, there are several committees charged with specific duties related to the board's responsibilities to assist in the advancement of the college.

"These committees enable teams of trustees to pool their diverse experiences and perspectives in generating ideas, guidance and recommendations," said Gordon Harrison, president of the GGC Foundation. "This work is critical to the college, and we deeply appreciate our trustees' time, energy and dedication."

Two recently formed committees are developing key plans related to ensuring that GGC continues its legacy of achievement.

### *Renee Byrd-Lewis leads strategic planning committee*

For the past several months, Renee Byrd-Lewis of Cisco Corporation has served as chair of the GGC Foundation's strategic planning committee. She has led the newly formed committee in developing the foundation's first proposed long-term plan, which will be presented at a future meeting of the board of trustees.

The purpose of the plan is to guide the foundation's growth and align its activities, priorities and strategies with the needs of the college, its students and its programs.

"This committee's leadership is crucial in ensuring a vibrant future for the foundation and the college," said Harrison. "We appreciate the time and effort the committee has devoted to their work."

The foundation is especially fortunate to have someone with Byrd-Lewis' experience and expertise in the position of committee chair, Harrison added. An active member of the community, Byrd-Lewis has more than 20 years of experience in corporate relations,

community leadership, higher education and nonprofit management.

She is a charter member of the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation's board of trustees. She also serves on the boards of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation, Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia, United Way, Gwinnett Coalition for Health & Human Services, Computers for Youth, and Leadership Gwinnett.



Renee Byrd-Lewis

Tom Andersen

Byrd-Lewis is director of community relations for Cisco. In that position, she is responsible for ensuring that Cisco is actively involved in social, quality of life, talent and business issues affecting the region.

Other members of the committee are Terri Jondahl of CAB Incorporated, Norwood Davis of 12Stone Church and J. Michael McGarity of The McGarity Group.

### *Development committee explores priorities*

Where does a new college begin to identify its fundraising priorities? This is the question under consideration by the GGC Foundation's development committee, under the leadership of local attorney Tom Andersen.

The committee's work is important in creating an effective approach to GGC's fundraising efforts, said Gordon Harrison, president of the GGC Foundation.

"GGC's development opportunities are unlimited, and we need to bring those opportunities into focus" said Harrison. "We must build a plan with a purposeful emphasis on the priorities that will serve the college and its students in the best way

possible at this point in its growth and development, as well as into the future."

The new committee began meeting this fall and will present a proposal to the board at the next meeting.

As chair, Andersen's extensive community involvement provides him with the perspective necessary to guide the committee through its planning process, Harrison said.

Andersen has practiced law in Lawrenceville since graduating from law school in 1974. After specializing in real estate, banking and commercial finance as a partner in two other local firms, he founded Andersen, Tate & Carr, P.C. with his wife, Ethel. Since then, the practice has grown from two to 30 lawyers with more than 70 employees.

Andersen has been named a Georgia Super Lawyer multiple times, most recently for 2010 by *Atlanta Magazine* and *Law & Politics* in the practice area of Real Estate, and he is included in the 2008, 2009 and 2010 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of real estate law.

Andersen is past chairman and current board member of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, past president and current board member of the Council for Quality Growth, past treasurer and board member of the Regional Business Coalition, and is actively involved as a board member in other civic and charitable organizations including the Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation and the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation.

Other members of the committee are Dr. Carlton Buchanan, Gwinnett Medical Center; Ron Garrard, Garrard Construction Group, Inc.; Greg Hayes, Moore Stephens Tiller LLC; Terri Jondahl, CAB Incorporated; Dr. Stas Preczewski, GGC vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, ex-officio; Bill Russell, Russell Landscape Group, Inc.; David Seago, Georgia Power; David Snell, E.R. Snell Contractor Inc. and Connie Wiggins, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, Inc.

## Happy Birthday



Gordon Harrison, Vice President of Advancement

We recently celebrated two very important birthdays! The Boss, Daniel J. Kaufman, turned middle-aged-something the latter part of October. We honored him with a large cake and the best wishes of 630 employees and 5,300 students of GGC. Happy Birthday, Boss!

And (drumroll)...Georgia Gwinnett College turned five years old this autumn.

I well remember the little tyke—not Dan Kaufman, rather the fledgling GGC. It was 2005 and we had only a handful of employees; no faculty, no staff, no students, no classes, no food. As Dan says, it was the best college job in the nation.

Failure was not an option. We had to grow. We were fortunate that the Board of Regents had given us a great leader in Dan Kaufman and our potential to become a model college with national implications was on the horizon. The famous line from the movie *Field of Dreams* rang true for us: "If you build it, they will come." And they came. Boy, did they come.

I rarely get caught up in sensationalism. Emotional outbursts at my stage in life are reserved for my family, and occasionally

catching a large fish in my little boat on the coast; but the path from 2005 to the present has been remarkable, and for us in the education business—fascinating.

The issue is not the size of the expanding student body, though the magnitude of growth is a satisfying outcome. The extraordinary factors are quality of education, an innovative learning methodology, and most importantly, the makings of student success. Can we sustain the student success at GGC? All indications are that it will be so.

"Retention, progression and graduation," in the vernacular of higher education, is known as, "RPG." It references a number of relevant success indicators in an educational institution that indicates how a student moves in and through his or her respective college career. RPG averages in the nation's colleges and universities are not impressive, for reasons that would take too long to discuss in this column.

GGC's retention factor for Caucasian students is about 65 percent, a robust and healthy statistic well above our sister state colleges, and at par with regional universities. GGC's retention factor for African American and Hispanic students is above 75 percent, significantly above that of Caucasians and rivaling or outdistancing all but perhaps a few public institutions in the United States.

GGC's stats are important in the world of higher education, and are being noticed. It is without question that these statistics are not happenstance; they are there because of a

methodical, dedicated program of success that is unique in the college experience.

We owe a good measure of this success to the dedicated vision of our dear friend and colleague, Lonnie Harvel, whom we lost just recently (*see related story, page 9*). His view of technology as a way to support active learning was key to the development of GGC's innovative educational approach. Our students will benefit from his legacy for years to come.

The first five years of the history of GGC are distinguished by growth, hiring of an exemplary faculty, building construction and day-after-day of success in many areas. The WOW factor never seems to diminish.

What will the next five years bring? As Dan Kaufman often comments, none of us could imagine the world of today 20 years ago—we could not even begin to predict the swathing of technology that surrounds us. The same applies to our future—where it goes we can only speculate.

At GGC we will have 15,000-20,000 students, the Foundation will have \$1 billion dollars in real estate and endowment assets, the college budget will be \$500 million and the sphere of influence will be statewide if not nationwide. We will host dozens of curious onlooker groups from across the globe wondering how this young upstart of a college could have begun a movement toward a more educated America.

Happy birthday, GGC. You are young with old eyes.



GGC almost doubled the size of its faculty this year to more than 330. This group of new faculty members attended the first week of faculty orientation.

## Wells Fargo supports innovative GGC tutor program

Wells Fargo has made a grant of \$50,000 to the GGC Foundation to fund an innovative program that introduces in-classroom tutors for Student Success courses.

"At GGC, we continually strive to find new, effective ways to help students succeed," said Gordon Harrison, president of the GGC Foundation. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of Wells Fargo, and look forward to the results of this ground-breaking, pilot program."

Because GGC is an access institution, a number of incoming students are underprepared for college-level studies or need extra help to be successful in achieving their goals of a college education. As many as one in three incoming freshman students require placement into Student Success courses. These courses help to assure that students have a

strong foundation in English, reading and math. These courses are a critical part of GGC's overall approach to ensuring that its students will succeed in college and beyond.

An additional component of the Student Success courses is English for Academic Purposes, which is provided to students for whom English is a second language.

GGC recently launched a pilot program that places tutors into Student Success classrooms, enhancing the effectiveness of these courses.

Highly qualified, professional tutors, trained by the staff of GGC's Academic Enhancement Center, provide academic support to both the instructor and students during class. They assist the instructor and the students during lectures and small group discussions, and provide one-on-one support to students.

The tutors also support GGC's commitment to proactive identification and support of students experiencing difficulties, and are available for after-class instruction.

"Wells Fargo is committed to student success programs focused on K-12 students," said

Jerome Byers, Atlanta regional president for Wells Fargo. "Entry into higher education is an important step for K-12 students. GGC's innovative use of in-classroom tutors will help recent K-12 graduates make the transition into college and position them to succeed. We are delighted to support this program."

GGC will need up to 112 Student Success courses for the spring 2011 semester to serve its rapidly expanding student population, now more than 5,300. The Wells Fargo grant will support tutors for 55 courses.

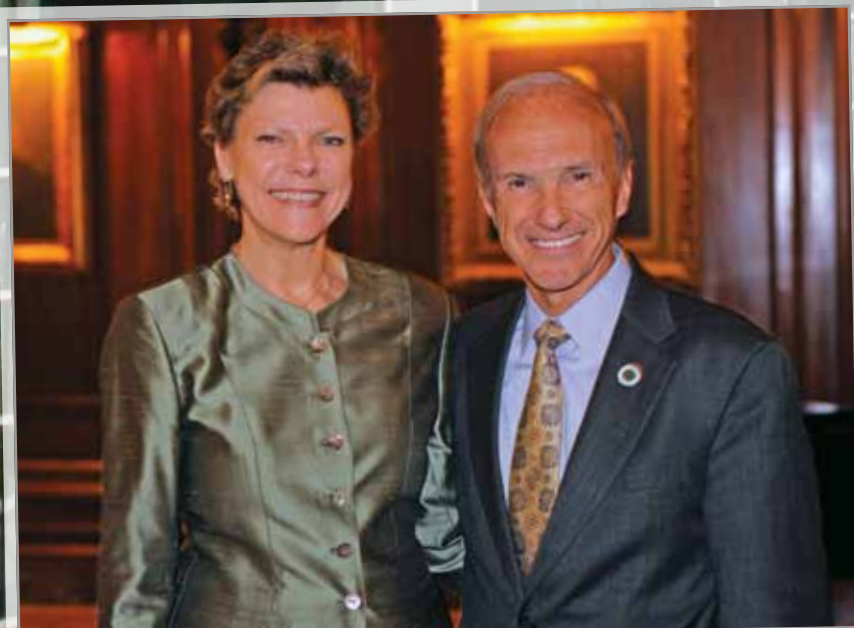
# Photo Gallery



Despite inexperience and little practice, the GGC Dragon Boat Team placed third, besting teams from much larger and more experienced colleges and universities in an Atlanta regional race at Lake Lanier.



General gives a bear hug to a little girl at the Rock-n-Rib Fest, an annual community event presented by the Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association in celebration of the college. Several thousand people attended the event, which was held in historic downtown Lawrenceville.



Television journalist and author Cokie Roberts pauses for a photo with President Dan Kaufman at the TIAA-CREF Institute 2010 Higher Education Leadership Conference. They were part of a select group of speakers addressing issues and realities facing higher education during this national program.



Chantal Napier, Diana Chakkalapadavil and Nancy Mazariegos joined other chemistry students in serving free ice cream samples to hundreds of students during National Chemistry Week. Chemistry students and faculty wowed the crowd by freezing batches of the ice cream super-fast to temperatures of -320°F with liquid nitrogen.



Mexican Consul General Salvador DeLara addresses a group of students about his view of how the U.S. and Mexico can be successful if the two nations face problems together.



These students review a photo they had just taken beside a large metal sculpture of GGC's "G" logo. The college held a signing ceremony during which students, faculty and staff signed the back of the G now mounted on the front of the cube atop Building B. Three other Gs, funded by the GGC Foundation, adorn the other sides of the cube.



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