

SPRING 2010

THE MAGAZINE OF GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE

# the chronicle

CONNECTING  
THE CLASSROOM  
TO COMMUNITY



Georgia  
Perimeter  
College



STRATEGIC STRIDES

In February we leaped one giant step forward in meeting the goals in our college strategic plan. For nearly three years we have worked to connect our faculty, students and curriculum to the communities we serve. On Feb. 15, the 39th president of the United States, Jimmy Carter, and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter cut the ribbon on the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning at Georgia Perimeter College.

With the opening of the Atlanta Center, 11 of our outstanding faculty were recognized as the inaugural class of GPC’s Faculty Academy. They have incorporated the civic engagement

and service-learning components of critical and reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility into their coursework to improve student learning outcomes.

“Building civic engagement into course design transforms students into informed, active, caring citizens and has the added benefit of connecting the students to course content, to the instructor and to each other,” Tamra Ortgies Young, a Faculty Academy member, says.

The creation of the Atlanta Center demonstrates initiative, says Dr. George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges. “AACC is proud that Georgia Perimeter College is moving to strengthen service-learning and volunteer opportunities for everyone on and beyond its campuses. ... It is clearly in the forefront of civic engagement and education efforts nationwide.”

President Carter’s message powerfully underscored the positive impact that community service can have on those who serve. “Georgia Perimeter College is the kind of institution that can engender this within the minds and hearts of students,” he says.

GPC’s impact is greater than ever. For the first time, the college has surpassed an enrollment of 25,000 students. In this issue, you will read about GPC’s Dual Enrollment Program—the largest in Georgia—and about accomplishments of our professors, alumni and students. Common themes emerge: access; community involvement; “four campuses—one college,” and strengthened student learning and success. This is no coincidence. These themes are among the strategic goals of one strong institution—Georgia Perimeter College, and they stand as the foundation for all we do.

Dr. Anthony S. Tricoli  
President, Georgia Perimeter College

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*On The Cover:*  
Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, answers GPC student questions during the Feb. 15 official opening of the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning at GPC. Carter was keynote speaker for the event and, with the help of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli, cut the ribbon to the center on Clarkston Campus. *Photo by Rod Reilly.*

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The opening of The Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning positions Georgia Perimeter College at the national forefront of enhancing student learning by incorporating real-life experiences into curricula.



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## THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW MAGAZINE CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Georgia Perimeter's critically acclaimed literary magazine, The Chattahoochee Review, is in some ways like the college that created it: it is accessible and diverse, says editor Marc Fitten.

Speaking at a Jan. 15 luncheon celebrating the Review's 30th anniversary, Fitten talked about how the growth of the magazine has mirrored the college's growth. The celebration was attended by former editors and others involved in the magazine's history.

The Chattahoochee Review began its life in the 1980s under the direction of founding editor Lamar York, who grew the publication into "a journal of fine Southern literature," according to Fitten.

In the 1990s, under the leadership of editor Lawrence Hetrick and a group of enthusiastic professors who saw the value of a literary magazine at GPC, the Review expanded its scope and became nationally recognized—even as GPC also was gaining a national reputation.

Under Fitten's stewardship during the past five years, the editorial direction of the magazine has moved to include international writers. "It's a natural progress," says Fitten, the American-born son of Panamanian parents. "As the college becomes more diverse, so too should its major literary publication."

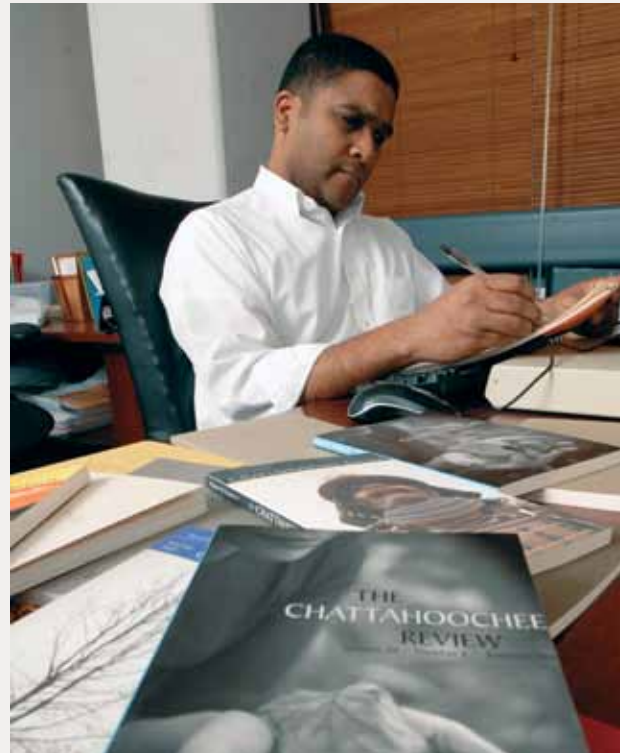
The Chattahoochee Review is open to anyone curious about literature, Fitten said. "It is not locked away behind graduate doors or only of interest to stuffy academicians. Following one of the core values of GPC, it is

accessible—accessible to our students, accessible to the public. Our doors have always been open to the young would-be thinkers and writers of tomorrow."

Fitten should know. A dozen years ago, he was a GPC student and one of those would-be writers. He joined the Review's staff as a student editor/intern and continued to work for the magazine and hone his writing and editing skills while earning his bachelor's and master's degrees at Kennesaw State University.

Shortly after finishing at KSU, he became editor of the Review. Since then, he also published his first novel, "Valeria's Last Stand," which is being translated into five languages.

Literary magazines bring value to their communities, as well as to the college, Fitten said. "Literary magazines have a distinct and profound position in the world of letters. While not generally known by the public at large, they have a major impact in the publishing world and in the life of their parent institutions by being hothouses of creativity. They enrich the life of their community by providing access to writers and thinkers; they add value to literary programs and degrees," he said.



*The Chattahoochee Review, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, is edited by GPC alumnus and novelist Marc Fitten.*

The Chattahoochee Review is under the umbrella of GPC's Writers Institute. Fitten, together with the Writers Institute director, Rob Jenkins, and the college's writer-in-residence, Jack Riggs, have brought many well-known writers to GPC classrooms and community halls. The Writers Institute also is a founding sponsor of the 4-year-old Decatur Book Festival.

In addition to providing a forum for authors, The Chattahoochee Review and the Writers Institute celebrate outstanding writers, co-hosting the prestigious Townsend Prize for Fiction, which recognizes Georgia's best fiction writers.



*Poet Rita Dove stressed the importance of literacy in her MLK Celebration keynote address.*

## MLK CELEBRATION INCLUDES SPEAKER, AWARDS, SERVICE DAY

Georgia Perimeter College's 14th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration offered an expanded list of events this year.

In addition to its hallmark Jan. 15 evening program, the college sponsored an MLK Day of Service on Jan. 18. More than 700 GPC students, employees and community members volunteered at multiple locations.

Rita Dove, accomplished playwright, Pulitzer Prize winner and former Poet Laureate of the United States, was the keynote speaker for the MLK evening event at Beulah Missionary Baptist Church. She talked about literacy and the importance of books.

"If you are not literate, you are not free," she said. "You can go anywhere in the world with a book. It's so important to provide young people the opportunity to explore and discover books."

Earlier in the day, Dove was interviewed on Clarkston Campus by WABE radio "Between the Lines" host Valerie Jackson.

Georgia Perimeter presented its annual Humanitarian Awards at the evening program. This year former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Kaiser Permanente and Adam Slater were awarded the Individual, the Corporate and the Student Humanitarian Awards, respectively.

"Community service and human connections are fundamental elements of Dr. King's legacy," said GPC's Dr. Anthony Tricoli.

GPC's King celebration was supported by Presenting Sponsor Harland Clarke Holdings Corp. and Special Sponsor Stone Mountain Memorial Association, along with sponsors AT&T, The Champion Newspaper, CW69 Cable 10, the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta, Gas South, Georgia Power, GPC's Student Government Association and V103 radio.

## briefly

Photo by Mandi Singer



*Robby Williams, right, with student.*

Six Georgia Perimeter College professors have won the 2010 NISOD Teaching Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development. Winners are Valerie Dotson, Janet Hollier, Martin Okafor, Melissa Schoene and James "Robby" Williams. ...

Georgia Perimeter College continues to garner awards for **outstanding customer service**. In addition to being named the University System of Georgia's gold medal Institution

of the Year last fall, GPC received new recognition in January. College photographer Bill Roa of the Marketing and Public Relations staff and GPC's Public Safety "An Eye on Safety Team" received Governor's Customer Service Commendations Jan. 21. Past customer service awards have gone to GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli, the 2008 gold and 2009 silver award winner for Customer Service Leadership; the Admissions Department, Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service; plus honorable mentions to Lisa Fowler and Frank Nash, Customer Service Team; Tamra Ortgies Young, Customer Service Individual; and Fran Mohr, Customer Service Champion. ...

GPC Online was once again recognized as the state's top choice for online courses during National Distance Learning Week in November: "GPC far outstripped any other USG institution, having generated more than 94,500 distance learning semester credit hours during fiscal year 2009," noted a University System of Georgia press release. GPC Online offers 12 associate degree programs and more than 600 online sections. ...

GPC's Gateway to College Academy graduated its largest class to date in December. Five students who had previously dropped out of high school earned their high school diplomas with several hours of college credits to boot. They included Joshua Gibson, who collected his diploma with 39 credit hours toward his associate degree and who called Gateway "a fresh start for me."



**New Student Center:** Newton Campus student Uyen Taphom is helped by library staffer Rebecca Rose at the new library in Newton's Student Learning Center. The center, which opened fall semester, is the 2 1/2-year-old campus' second building. All GPC campuses have opened new or renovated student centers in the past year.



## GPC EXPANDS OFFERINGS WITH CREATION OF HEALTH SCIENCE DIVISION

To better meet the increasing demand for more health professionals, Georgia Perimeter College has combined its health care programs into a new Health Science Division.

In addition to the college's long-standing and well-respected Nursing and Dental Hygiene programs, the new division includes partnership programs with the Medical College of Georgia and DeKalb Medical Center plus several non-degree health care programs.

GPC has six programs in collaboration with the MCG, according to Dr. Diane White, GPC's Health Science dean. They include Health Information Administration, Medical Technology, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Therapy, Respiratory Therapy and Sonography. Students complete the core liberal



*Nursing student Kathryn Smiley's studies now come under the direction of the new Health Science Division.*

arts education at Georgia Perimeter and earn an associate degree in Health Science. They then have the opportunity to interview at MCG and obtain entrance into the health science program of their choice. At completion of two years with

MCG, students earn a bachelor of science degree in their specialty and are ready to enter the work force.

GPC also has a partnership program in radiology technology with DeKalb Medical Center. Students earn their associate degrees after taking their clinical courses at the hospital and completing their core curriculum at the college.

Non-degree programs, including training for certified nursing assistants and patient care technicians and in medical coding, will be offered as needed through grant initiatives and partnerships, said White.

"Health Science programs will continue to expand as the work-force needs for these professions increase and thus are a driving force in our program development," she said.

## GPC ENROLLMENT PASSES 25K; REPORT DOCUMENTS COLLEGE'S TOP-CHOICE STATUS

Georgia Perimeter College's enrollment topped 25,000 this semester, setting a new record for the state's third largest public institution. The official spring semester enrollment is 25,236.

In addition to posting record enrollment numbers for four consecutive years, GPC enrolls more freshmen than any other University System institution and boasts the state's largest Online and Dual Enrollment programs.

"The numbers tell our story; we are a college of first choice," said GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli. "Students and their families know that we are focused on their success, that we are committed to providing an affordable and accessible education, and that we are passionate about providing the kind

of education that is relevant for the 21st century."

A report from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement confirms Georgia Perimeter's top-choice status. The report named GPC the state's second most popular in-state choice of Georgia's high school graduating class of 2008. Georgia Perimeter was the number one choice of high school students in DeKalb, Gwinnett and Rockdale counties and the city of Decatur. It was the number two choice in Fulton County and the city of Atlanta.

Several groundbreaking initiatives have made GPC an attractive choice to students. Those include Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs), which ensure a seamless transfer to four-year institutions, and the newly-created GPC-based Atlanta Center for Civic



*GPC was the top choice of students in DeKalb, Gwinnett and Rockdale counties.*

Engagement & Service-Learning, aimed at strengthening connections between classroom and community.

GPC also remains a popular choice for nontraditional students. In fall 2009, the college enrolled 5,930 students age 25 and older.



*Vice President Dr. Vincent June, second from left, chats with students in the Clarkston Campus student center.*

## NEW VP JUNE CHARGED WITH STRENGTHENING STUDENT SUCCESS

"We will strengthen student success."

To help achieve this number one goal in Georgia Perimeter College's mission statement, the college has appointed Dr. Vincent June to the newly created role of vice president of Student Affairs.

"Strong student services have a great impact on our students' success, both in the classroom here at GPC and as they take the next steps in their education and careers," said GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli. "Having a full-time college Student Affairs office in place is essential to moving our institution—and our students—forward."

June joined GPC in August 2008 as associate vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Services, reporting to Vice President Dr. Virginia Michelich. Michelich, GPC's vice president of Academic Affairs, now will focus entirely on strengthening academic programs at the college. The associate vice president position June occupied will remain vacant.

June's responsibilities include overseeing the offices of Admissions, Recruitment, Orientation, Advising/Counseling/Retention Services, Learning Support, Testing Services, Registration and Records, International Services, Disability Services, Student Life, Student Government, Health/Wellness/Recreation, TRIO Programs and Intercollegiate Athletics.

Among June's first priorities in his new role are finalizing GPC's new First Year Experience program, strengthening academic advising services and encouraging students to take advantage of co-curricular experiences and to become more civically engaged.

Before coming to Georgia Perimeter, June served as vice president for Student Affairs at Florida A&M University, providing oversight for an enrollment of 13,000 students and 18 departments.

## they said



*Lee Smith*

"I like to use the novel-writing process as a chance to learn about things that I don't know quite enough about." **Novelist Lee Smith, speaking and reading from her new book of short stories at Georgia Perimeter's Clarkston Campus Nov. 12.**

"The college's access mission—to me—is the most critical mission in the university system. ... It's part of the [USG] strategic plan to channel students to this [two-year college] experience. It's a great experience, and it prepares students to go on to the next step." **University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr., speaking at GPC's 2009 Fall Convocation.**

"This is an amazing opportunity to see what a diplomatic mission in another country is like." **Matthew Mikkelsen, talking about his experience at Atlanta's Consulate General Office of Japan as GPC's first intern in its new Consul General Program.**



**Tai Chi Grandmaster visits:** Georgia Perimeter students, faculty and staff attended a Tai Chi workshop with Grandmaster Chen Zhenglei sponsored by the college Dec. 4. Zhenglei is one of the top 10 martial artists in China, as recognized by the Chinese government.



# Learning through service

Former President Jimmy Carter helps GPC launch Atlanta Center

BY REBECCA RAKOCZY



*GPC students, faculty and President Dr. Anthony Tricoli gather with former President Jimmy Carter at the ribbon cutting for the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning. Assembled are, front, from left: Newton Campus SGA President Alea Bennett; ESL instructor and Faculty Academy Service-Learning Scholar Barbara Hall; Carter; English professor and Faculty Academy Service-Learning Scholar Dr. Rosalyn Jacobs; Newton Campus SGA Senator Regina Morgan-Dixon; and, rear, from left: Tricoli; Dunwoody Campus SGA President Laura Segura; Kierra Pertiller, Clarkston Campus SGA vice president; and Kizmet Knox, Decatur Campus SGA vice president.*

Photos by Bill Roa

Former President Jimmy Carter's February visit to Georgia Perimeter College presented freshman Phebe Dowels with a dose of reality—a positive reality.

When Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter arrived on Clarkston Campus Feb. 15, they were there to help launch the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning at GPC. Carter's address to a standing-room-only crowd at the Cole Auditorium did more than that, said Dowels, who co-emceed the program.

"When I got to class the next day, I could see the impact that his keynote address had on students," Dowels said. "Having him come to GPC and seeing him and hearing him—he was like a reality that let you know you can reach your goals and dreams," Dowels said. "Most of us sit and talk about making a difference, but seeing Jimmy Carter, you realize that he is real, and that you can do what you strive to do. You can do it."

Before his speech, the 39th president of the United States stood alongside GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli to clip the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning. The center supports programs to enhance student learning by linking classroom lessons to real-life applications that benefit the community.

"That service experience is then brought back into the classroom setting to strengthen the overall learning of that student and others in the class," said Tracey Knight, executive director for the Atlanta Center.

"GPC's Atlanta Center is unlike any other center in the nation," Tricoli said. "... It will not only serve GPC students but will offer resources and services to other colleges and communities, locally, regionally, nationally and worldwide. Right here in DeKalb County, Ga., we have something very special."

Carter applauded the learning and collaboration, as well as the community connections that the center represents. "The establishment of the Atlanta Center is indeed a notable achievement and epitomizes the finest aspects of combining a college learning center, its students, faculty and supporters, with the surrounding community, but also with other greater university components," Carter said.

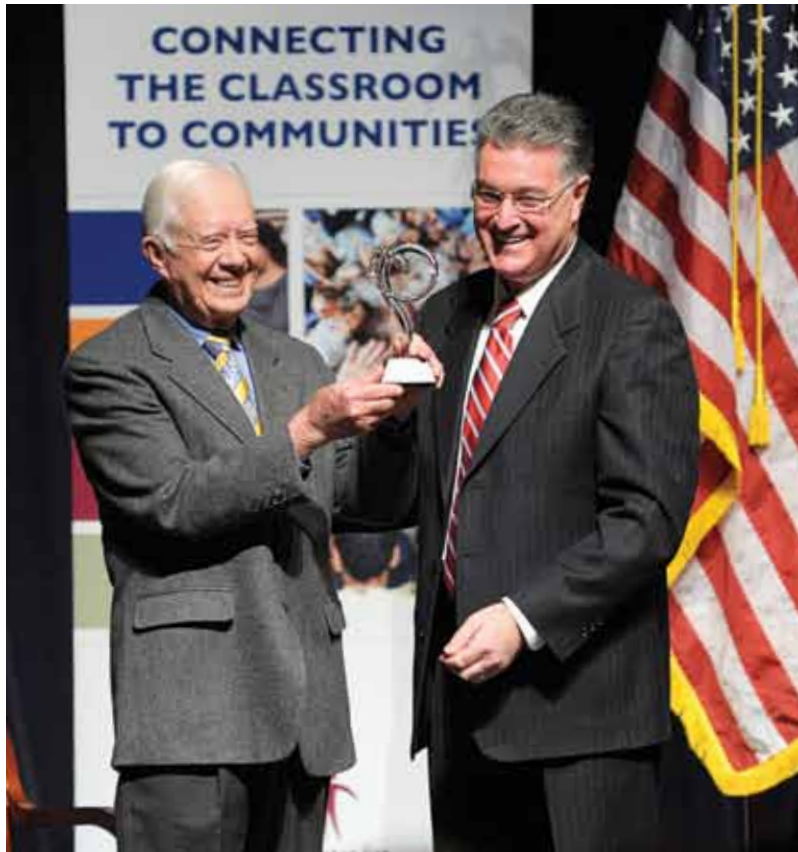
## CENTER STANDS ON STRONG TRADITION

GPC faculty have long supported civic engagement and service-learning and their ability to significantly impact the lives and education of GPC students, Dr. Virginia Michelich, vice president for Academic Affairs, said.

"We have many faculty members who understand the importance of connecting real-life experiences with what students are learning and have for years incorporated service-learning projects into their courses," Michelich said. "The formation of the Atlanta Center is the result of the vision of our president and administrators who understand the significance of civic engagement and service-learning in the lives and education of our students. We now truly have the opportunity to become an 'engaged' college."

Board of Regents Chancellor B. Erroll Davis Jr. expressed enthusiasm about the endeavor. "This new Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning...holds the potential to enrich both the education and lives of our students as well as the quality of life for the citizens of this great state," Davis said.





(Top, left) GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli presents former President Jimmy Carter with “Solutions,” a glass design by Hans Godo Frabel. (Top, right) University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. says the new center can enrich education and lives. (Above) GPC freshman Phebe Dowels served as co-emcee of the opening programs.

### A ‘GO-TO RESOURCE’

The Atlanta Center, located in the Clarkston Campus’ Student Success Center, offers programs, services, information and tools for civic engagement and service-learning, said Dowels, who chairs the SGA community service committee on Decatur Campus. “... Students will be able to research community issues and access service opportunities. Faculty will be able to share, explore and learn from best practices of civic engagement and service-learning.”

Integrating academics and service-learning is at the core of the faculty- and student-led projects supported by the Atlanta Center. The projects will largely focus on four areas:

- Strengthening education and youth development.
- Overcoming poverty and promoting self-sufficiency.
- Forging partnerships for healthy communities.
- Protecting the environment.

“The Atlanta Center will be the go-to resource for anyone who needs relevant information or wants to connect with a community partner who needs their help,” Knight said. She said the center will help develop a pipeline of civic-minded student leaders.

Gail Robinson, American Association of Community Colleges program director for service-

learning, said 60 to 65 percent of all community colleges have some type of service-learning curriculum, and Georgia Perimeter College is in a position to lead others in collaborative efforts. Robinson, who co-authored the report “Improving Student Learning Outcomes with Service-Learning” found there is evidence that service-learning is beneficial.

“We found that students who participate in service-learning achieve more, have better critical thinking skills, are more involved in community and have a better sense of civic responsibility than students who do not participate in service-learning,” she said.

### A CALL TO SERVICE

In introducing Carter, Tricoli noted the former president’s international reputation for championing civic engagement and humanitarian efforts. “I can think of no person who could better personify the spirit of the Atlanta Center,” Tricoli said. “President Carter has strongly endorsed incorporating community service into curriculum requirements.”

Carter’s speech incorporated stories and humor to gently relay the importance of service and compassion. He emphasized that “the most important things are the things you cannot see.”

“You can’t see peace, you can’t see justice, you can’t see compassion—you can see the impact of these things, though,” Carter said. “Whenever you think you’re making a sacrifice, it will always be a great advantage to you.” He urged the audience to make “not just a theoretical commitment to serve—but to make it tangible.”

After his speech, Carter took questions from three students and spoke about the mission of the Carter Center and its global work to eradicate disease.

Georgia Perimeter student Joey Hornbuckle, president of GPC’s History and Politics Club, was inspired. “Jimmy Carter is all about involvement, and that’s something we’re trying to do also in HaP,” he said.

The day’s message was taken to heart by DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader. “There is a great deal of volunteerism in this district, and this represents a great opportunity for us to partner with students and faculty,” he said.

The strong spirit of service was apparent in January during the college’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. More than 700 GPC volunteers turned out throughout the metro Atlanta area, clearing brush and cleaning nature trails, building benches, cleaning and painting Boys and Girls Clubs and delivering meals to shut-ins.

“It is our desired goal to help build our communities, to strengthen the education our students receive and to make a significant difference in the world in which we live,” Tricoli said. 🍷

## LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE



Fine Arts chair David Koffman gives GPC student Corvette Simmons tips on designing a CD cover as part of a service-learning project in his class.

### ART CLASS CREATES SOUND DESIGNS

Take a peek into David Koffman’s Art 263 I classroom on any given Tuesday or Thursday afternoon. You’ll probably find a Georgia Perimeter College student in the sound booth, composing and recording music on the electronic keyboard. In the main room, a half dozen students are on their computers, using Adobe Photoshop and designing artwork for that same musician’s CD. And in the photography studio next door, three students will be taking portrait photos for another musician’s CD cover.

The art class, part of an unusual service-learning project that combines students from Art and Music disciplines, is designed to give students a taste of the environment of a real design studio charged with developing a musician’s CD.

Koffman, chairman of the Fine Arts Department on Clarkston Campus, says he launched the project as a course assignment that paired a Music student working on mixing and digitally recording original music with an Art student who would help design the package for an audio CD.

“For Music students, examples of their performing and recording are essentially a component of their portfolio to transfer to a four-year institution,” Koffman says. “Art students build a visual portfolio ... for the same transfer needs.”

For GPC Art students such as Alison Delmar, the class offered her a chance to learn Adobe Photoshop and to create a CD cover that she can use in her art portfolio. “This class is pretty amazing; we learn something new every day. I am finding that the little things make big changes,” she said.

Koffman said he has learned new things also.

Because of the nature of working in groups, the students brainstormed developments. One group’s creativity began to feed off the other’s, he says.

“The art designs generated ideas for the Music students, and the Music students’ recordings generated ideas for the Art students,” Koffman said.

“The project also went beyond the finite class assignment and is continuing to develop.”



## LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

### ACADEMY RECOGNIZES FACULTY'S EXPERTISE

The opening of the Atlanta Center for Civic Engagement & Service-Learning establishes a physical reminder of the college's commitment to service and engagement. But members of GPC's faculty have long been active in bringing real-life experiences to their classrooms.

During a special ceremony Feb. 15, 11 faculty members were inducted into the center's new Faculty Academy. Their selection recognized their commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

The academy was formed "to recognize all the incredible and amazing work our faculty has been doing," says Angela Bonet, service-learning coordinator. Also on hand for the induction were Gail Robinson, program director for service learning at the American Association of Community Colleges, and Dr. Vialla Hartfield-Mendez, Emory University's director of engaged learning.

Faculty Academy member Tamra Ortgies Young says she has long been an advocate of infusing service-learning and civic engagement elements into her political science course design.

"Our virtual expeditions include researching Supreme Court cases, analyzing campaign commercials and investigating interest groups," said Ortgies Young. "This ever-changing format is adaptable to real world events like the presidential elections and international crises."

Currently, her Honors Political Science 1101 class is creating a video about American government for future GPC students and the community. The class plans to upload it to YouTube.

The diversity of service-learning and civic engagement programs cuts across all disciplines.

Geology Professor Dr. Pamela Gore gives her Integrated Science 2001 students a taste of what teaching science is like by letting them develop geology lessons based on Georgia Professional Standards. Her students teach high school students in the classroom and on field trips to study the granite outcroppings and flora on Stone Mountain and Arabia Mountain.

Humanities Instructor Liam Madden combines history and literature through a partnership between GPC, the Atlanta



History Center and the Margaret Mitchell House and Museum, his students can attend training to serve as docents as part of their course objectives.

Faculty are linking classroom learning to the real world in other ways as well. Students in Barbara Hall's, Jean Sasso's and Beth Wallace's ESL courses are assigned to tutor refugees. In Dr. Arla Bernstein's public speaking class, students are developing water conservation solutions for the Atlanta Regional Commission.

While 11 academy members were honored, they are not the only GPC faculty members who are developing service-learning and civic engagement models for classes.

GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli urged the academy inductees to help colleagues understand the value that civic engagement and service-learning bring to student learning. "We have something here that is very valuable ... not just something we built for GPC, but something that will blossom from GPC. I hope that we can host a national (service-learning) conference so people from across the country will come and hear your stories and learn from your expertise."

That is a concept that the AACC's Robinson embraces. "The service-learning field is so cool; people love to share their experiences. She urged the Faculty Academy to "keep the momentum going ... the possibilities are endless."



(Top) Service-learning Coordinator Angela Bonet and Gail Robinson, program director for service learning at the American Association of Community Colleges, pose with the Faculty Academy's first class. Front, left to right: Beth Wallace, ESL, Service-Learning Member; Dr. Arla Bernstein; Humanities, Service-Learning Affiliate; Barbara Hall, ESL, Service-Learning Scholar; Dr. Pamela Gore, Science, Service-Learning Member; Dr. Rosalyn Jacobs, English, Service-Learning Scholar. Back, left to right: Bonet; Liam Madden, Humanities, Service-Learning Member; Jean Sasso, ESL, Service-Learning Affiliate; David Koffman, Fine Arts, Service Learning Member; Dr. Susan Cody, Sociology, Service-Learning Member; Tamra Ortgies Young, Political Science, Civic Engagement Member; Robinson; and Dr. Crystal Garrett, Political Science, Civic Engagement Member. (Above) Professor Tamra Ortgies Young renews her acquaintance with Gail Robinson of the AACC during the Faculty Academy luncheon.

## GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

### GRANT PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS BASED ON WHERE STUDENTS LIVE

Georgia Perimeter College student Sharifa Brown had been turned down for so many scholarships she had lost count, but she hadn't lost hope. Still, the Business Administration major who attends Decatur Campus wondered how she would make the next tuition payment. Then a letter came in the mail.

That letter, from Georgia Perimeter College, informed Brown of a scholarship opportunity from a federal grant through the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA). The scholarship was based solely on her residence in an empowerment zone.

Brown, a resident of the former Atlanta Empowerment Zone, recognized a golden opportunity when she saw one—and so did other students, says Lynne Coughlin of GPC's Grants office. Through the collaborative efforts of GPC's Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs, Student Accounts and the college's Financial Aid office, 36 students received scholarships that, combined, totaled \$46,451.

The funds for GPC student scholarships came from one of several recent grants from the AWDA, an agency of the City of Atlanta, for residents of the former empowerment zone. The money assists students with tuition and fees, based on their needs, and the only eligibility criterion was that the students be enrolled in an educational institution and live in the empowerment zone.

The Atlanta Empowerment Zone was an area of central Atlanta federally funded for revitalization by the Clinton administration. That specific funding no longer is in effect, but federal funding was recently available for the empowerment zone through the city agency. The empowerment zone is bordered by Monroe Drive on the north, Boulevard on the east, Jonesboro Road to the south and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the west.

Coughlin said the timing of the scholarships has been particularly helpful because of the increase in financial need caused by the economic downturn.

Brown says she is grateful for the assistance. "Thinking about the cost of college will hold a person back," says Brown. "But knowing that the funds are out there inspires you to keep going."

## q&a



### PROGRAM PREPARES PROJECT MANAGERS

Georgia Perimeter College's Center for Organizational Development has developed a program to train unemployed workers for careers in project management. The college is collaborating with TenStep, Inc. to conduct the classes, and the \$5,000 program is funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) through the

Georgia Department of Labor. Wally Weihe, director for GPC's Center for Organizational Development, answers questions about the program.

#### Q: What does the program offer?

The program provides candidates with training in project management fundamentals and prepares them to take the Project Management Professional certification exam administered by the Project Management Institute. Effective resume writing, interviewing and job search networking also are covered. Participants of this program can earn eight continuing education units.

#### Q: How does someone sign up?

Candidates must visit their local career resource center and meet with a career advisor, who will assist them in the qualification process and will determine if the applicant is eligible for Workforce Investment Act funding. Then, potential candidates are required to complete a qualification form from GPC to determine if they qualify to enroll in the program.

For more information, visit <http://gpc.edu/orgdev/pmwia.htm>, or contact Leon Bracey at 678-891-3021 or Tim Peek at 404-795-9059.



**Sign of Excellence:** John Peebler of Sorenson Communications presents the Sorenson VRS Interpreter Education Program Award of Excellence to Damita Boyd, coordinator of GPC's Sign Language Interpreting Program. The national award is accompanied by a \$10,000 grant, which GPC is using to upgrade its interpreting lab and learning materials.



# Double the credit

Photos by Bill Roa

BY ROGER BARNES

## High school students get a jump start on college through Dual Enrollment

*Full-time Dual Enrollment student Brooke Shannon is scheduled to receive her associate degree from GPC two weeks before she is awarded her diploma from Social Circle High School. Shannon, 18, plans to continue her college studies and become a doctor.*

Brooke Shannon has known for years she wanted to go into medicine.

“When I was a little girl, my mom always watched trauma shows and emergency room dramas on television,” Shannon recalls. “Ever since I was 5, I always wanted to become a doctor.”

Today, at age 18, Shannon believes she’s right on track, even though she hasn’t set foot on her high school campus in two years.

“I started here in my junior year,” Shannon said about Georgia Perimeter College. That was when she became a full-time Dual Enrollment student, taking all of her high school classes at GPC, mostly at Newton Campus. “I took 17 hours last semester and 17 this semester. I’ve taken a lot of math classes and chemistry, and now I’m taking organic chemistry.”

Shannon is scheduled to receive her associate degree from Georgia Perimeter on May 14. She will receive her diploma from Social Circle High School on May 28.

### TWO FOR ONE

Through Dual Enrollment, Georgia Perimeter College offers qualified high school seniors and juniors the opportunity to take college courses that can simultaneously fill high school and college requirements.

Cherini Ghobrial was an upperclassman attending Roswell High School when she decided to jump-start her college education.

“I enrolled in Georgia Perimeter’s Dual Enrollment program,” said Ghobrial. “I thought it would be a good preparatory start before I went off to attend my university.”

Today, Ghobrial attends Florida A&M and is enrolled in the college’s pharmacy program. She says the 26 hours of college credit she earned through Dual Enrollment has come in handy.

“The pharmacy program here is structured so that each semester requires a total of 18 credit hours back to back to back,” Ghobrial said. “This is where Dual Enrollment saved me, because the pharmacy program is so demanding, many students have to attend summer school in order to get the required 18 credit hours or they start off by playing catch-up.”

“Dual Enrollment saved my summers,” she said. “Besides, every single GPC professor I had was remarkable. ... The ones I chose, you can tell they had a passion for teaching. By far, through my four years of high school experience, my favorite professors were the Dual Enrollment professors.”

Dual Enrollment was the best decision she made in high school, Ghobrial says.

This year, students will find more courses available through Dual Enrollment, says Jeff Meadors, coordinator for Dual Enrollment on GPC’s Newton Campus. “With the Carnegie Unit conversions, which were approved by the Department of Education in January and become implemented in July, students will enjoy the luxury of completing more high school credits through Dual Enrollment than in the past,” Meadors says.

A Carnegie Unit is a measure of the amount of time a student has studied a subject, Meadors says. The unit is accepted by most high schools. “The new Carnegie conversions make the program a nice fit for the high school students, as well as making scheduling much easier for high school counselors,” Meadors says.

To enroll in a dual course, students must submit an application to GPC’s Admissions and Records Office. The minimum GPA requirement is 3.0 in high school core classes, defined as English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Also required is a minimum (combined English and Math) ACT score of 20, or a minimum (combined Math and Critical Reading) SAT score of 970. Students who have a 3.5 or above GPA in their core classes are automatically eligible for Dual Enrollment Honors courses.

### MULTIPLE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Georgia Perimeter offers several options for how and where students can take Dual Enrollment courses. There are online courses and day, night and weekend classes. Students can take a Dual Enrollment course on a Georgia Perimeter College campus or at some high schools during regular school hours.

Laney Griffeth attends a Dual Enrollment English composition class at Dunwoody High School. The course, taught by GPC professor Phillip Harrold, meets at 8:30 a.m.

“I like the course because it gives a different perspective than a typical high school class,” says Griffeth. “The teacher incorporates outside stuff that employs thinking in a different way.”

Fellow student John Kiser likes the early exposure to college level work. He plans to attend the University of Georgia next year. “This class helps me get a view of what college work will be like so it’s not a shock when I get there,” Kiser said.

Another student in the Dunwoody High School class, Brenna Davidson, took Dual Enrollment





courses at GPC's Dunwoody Campus before enrolling for the class taught at her high school.

"I think I wanted the experience of being on a college campus instead of at a school," Davidson said. "It was a bit different. You have more freedom, and you have to be more responsible. You have to make time on your own. I prefer to take classes on a college campus because, I can tell you, it's going to offer more a variety of ages and people bringing more stuff to the table in terms of a diversity of ideas."

Davidson said Dual Enrollment courses helped her two sisters complete their undergraduate degrees in three years, decreasing the amount of money her parents had to spend on higher education.

Cedar Grove High School Erica Flanigan travels to GPC's Decatur Campus to earn early college credits.

"My Dual Enrollment coursework is laying the foundation of my college career, knocking out freshman-year math and English," Flanigan said. "The structure of an actual college class is also conditioning me for how to manage my time, plan and schedule for classes, and for having success as I transition in the fall."

#### MOVE ON WHEN READY

Students such as Shannon have taken maximum advantage of Dual Enrollment, completing an associate degree as she completes her high school diploma.

"My parents like that I'm at Perimeter full time and have encouraged me," Shannon said. "My parents just think of me as having graduated two

years early and don't even think of me as being in high school anymore."

After GPC, Shannon plans to attend the University of Georgia and enroll in its pre-medical program.

Under a new Dual Enrollment program called Move On When Ready, more high school students are expected to follow the model set by students such as Shannon. Move On When Ready is a statewide initiative through which an 11th- or 12th-grade student takes all of his or her courses at a college/university and earns high school and transferrable college credits for those courses.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for students who are ready to get a one- or two-year jump start, tuition-free, on their college educations," says Dr. Margaret Venable, GPC's assistant vice president of Early Colleges and Academic Initiatives.

Similar to the traditional Dual Enrollment program, Move On When Ready students must have a 3.0 GPA in core classes and meet college-bound standards on the SAT or ACT exams. However, Move On When Ready requires high school students to be enrolled full time at college, while traditional Dual Enrollment students can attend college part time while taking classes at their high school.

Move On When Ready is funded through the Georgia Department of Education and available to students who attend public high schools. The traditional Dual Enrollment program is funded through the lottery funds that provide the HOPE Scholarship, so students must be enrolled in a



Photo/Cherini Ghobrial

*Dual Enrollment classes are available on GPC's campuses, online and at some high schools. (Top) Berkmar High School student Jamar Robins enjoys his classes at Clarkston Campus. Robins attends GPC full time. (Above) GPC alumna Cherini Ghobrial said the credits she earned early at GPC have helped her at Florida A&M, where she studies pharmacy.*



Photo by Letia Cowart

*(Top, left) Dual Enrollment students Cherise Washington, center, and Adam Yura, right, from Lakeside High School share laughs with GPC student Jannet Peroti in English class at Clarkston Campus. (Top, right) GPC English professor Phillip Harrold teaches a Dual Enrollment class at Dunwoody High School. (Above) Erica Flanigan, a DE student from Cedar Grove High School, attends an Honors English class on Decatur Campus.*

public or private high school that is eligible for HOPE funding. Home-schooled students must be in an accredited home-school program.

Georgia Perimeter College, with almost 900 Dual Enrollment students, already leads the state in Dual Enrollment and is expected to be the top choice for Move On When Ready students, says Venable.

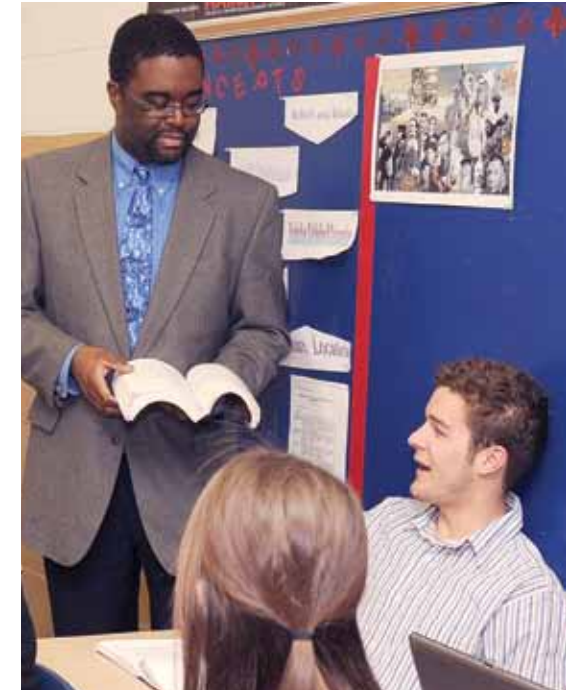
"Students who enroll in our college classes, alongside our other students, and are taught by our award-winning faculty, tell us that the experience has better prepared them for their first year of college," she says.

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Another option for high school students seeking early college credit is Advanced Placement, also known as AP coursework. Advanced Placement allows high school students to earn credits toward their college degree by taking an AP course and then taking a national AP exam for that course. However, some students say Dual Enrollment is the better option.

"College credit was based upon the passing of the AP tests at the end of the semester," Flanigan said. "And even if I were to pass the examinations, it was not guaranteed that the AP courses would transfer and count for credit at college."

"You can have a 100 average in an AP course but if you don't score high on the end-of-course test, it won't count for college credit," adds Brooke Shannon. "Dual Enrollment seemed more sensible to me. The grade you get is the grade you get."



Jeff Meadors says Dual Enrollment students who receive a 'C' or better in a class earn college credit for the class.

"Students, and their parents, have expressed frustration to me this year when they are at the top of their AP class numerically, yet fail to achieve above a score of 2 (on a 5-point scale) on the AP exam," says Meadors. "At that juncture, as one parent of a Rockdale County student told me last fall, 'We are only doing Dual Enrollment from now on.'"

"Additionally, Dual Enrollment provides the student with early college experience, making the ultimate transition to their chosen four-year school much easier," Meadors says.

Alan Loper, head counselor at Chamblee Charter High School, has advised students in Dual Enrollment since 2000. He says it is best suited to academically motivated students with self-discipline. Being able to experience college courses and get an idea of collegiate level expectations are the greatest advantages, he said.

Cherise Washington, a GPC student who also attends Lakeside High School, agrees that the college-level work requires more responsibility. "You have to manage your time well to keep up all of the assignments," she says. "But it does pay off."

Washington, who attends Clarkston Campus, says her Dual Enrollment courses at GPC will allow her to be finished with most college freshman core classes when she graduates from high school. "The work is challenging, but I have learned a lot and enjoy the challenge." 🍀



## ALLEN INSTITUTE TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO FOLLOW THEIR PASSIONS

It's not every day that you receive expert advice on how to make your dreams a reality. That was the rare opportunity given 37 Georgia Perimeter College students when they were selected to attend the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute, "Camp Exposure," in January. It was the first time a GPC group was invited to the institute in Lithonia run by entrepreneurial business leaders Leicester "Bill" and Mattie Allen.

"Student selection was not based on grade point average; instead these students were chosen by faculty for their potential to succeed," said Vicki Carew Johnson, GPC director of Institutional Advancement. Male and female students from a wide range of academic disciplines attended the three-day camp.

Students attended classes and lectures given by business and community leaders, learning how to strategically think about achieving their life's goals, how to develop a business plan and how to promote their ideals and dreams. They were also taught how to dress and act appropriately during business functions and interviews.

"I learned that no matter how hard the road is, it is worth it going to school," says Tucari Keeby, a Communications major who juggles work and class.

"This really helped define my future goals of being a marketing executive," says Curtis Foye, Business major. "They encouraged us to follow our passion."

Christopher Croffit, an engineering major, came to the Allen Institute with the idea of learning more about running a business but left with something more. "I learned it is important to give back to the community."

"This went beyond my normal realm of life, it exceeded my expectations,"



said Collin Eccleston, a journalism major. "I've learned and grown a lot in this short time."

Bill Allen, a teacher and real estate investor, worked with his wife Mattie to operate day-care centers and private grade schools in the Detroit area for more than 30 years. Their schools included charter schools now in seven states and 16 cities. The Allens developed Camp Exposure and the institute to encourage young minority students to pursue their entrepreneurial passions, Bill Allen said.

During the camp's final presentation evening, he praised the GPC students for their work, advising them to "think positively, because positiveness begets positiveness."



Photo by Lennaliba Saldivia



(Top, left to right): GPC students De'Mon Nolan, Leeyan Luke and Jordan Fitzpatrick participate in a mock TV show, "The Vision," at the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute. (Center) GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli talks to students, faculty and administrators who attended the institute's program. (Above) Bill Allen—who with his wife, Mattie, founded the Allen Institute—addresses GPC students.



Carolyn Glenn is the new chair of the GPC Foundation Board of Trustees.

## BOARD CHAIR FOCUSES ON ACCESS

Carolyn Glenn recognized that there was something special about Georgia Perimeter College when she and her husband Earl started their publishing business in 1991.

"I needed a quick course in desktop publishing," said Glenn, publisher of The Champion Newspaper. GPC offered the course, but not in the format Glenn needed. However, an instructor arranged to come to Glenn's office and provide a private lesson.

Glenn, who has lived in DeKalb County since 1969, said she had heard about Georgia Perimeter College, but that was her first personal encounter. It was hardly her last. Glenn has served on GPC's Foundation Board of Trustees for 10 years. This year, she is board chair.

She says the focus of her leadership tenure will be three-fold:

- To give more and more students from all segments of the population access to the "top-notch institution" of GPC.
- To support programs that will keep the students enrolled.
- To help maintain the opportunities GPC offers despite economic pressures and budget cuts.

Glenn wants to increase the funds raised by the Foundation so more scholarships can be provided to deserving students. She also wants to create opportunities for more women to engage with the Foundation and fundraising—either with the Foundation's annual golf tournament or a new fundraiser through which women and non-golfers might be tapped.

"Georgia Perimeter College is such a fine institution, and it is so needed in our community," Glenn said. "It is that one institution that we have that gives students an opportunity to go to college. It's affordable. It's accessible with all of its campuses, and it has great leadership."

"Access is the most important thing," Glenn said. "We need to provide whatever it takes to give students an opportunity to attend college."



Erica Hart (left) and Felicia Lewis

The Georgia Perimeter College Foundation, through which donors can provide student scholarships based on need and achievement, is revamping its scholarship process with changes scheduled to take effect in fall of 2010. The new process will allow students seeking scholarship assistance to go to a single location: Georgia Perimeter

College's Office of Institutional Advancement. Erica Hart, assistant director of scholarships and annual giving, and Felicia Lewis, coordinator of scholarships, answer questions about the new process.

### Q: How will this help students?

**Hart:** There will be one central place for students to send all applications; prior to this, we had about 40 different faculty managers overseeing scholarships. Also, there will be only three deadlines.

### Q: Will this help GPC track student financial needs?

**Lewis:** Yes. Prior to centralization, we often received just the names of scholarship winners, so we didn't know all of the applicants' financial needs. By centralizing the process, we'll be able to gather more usable data that will help us, with the assistance of a campuswide scholarship committee, to identify scholarship needs. It also will help us to more effectively communicate to our current and prospective donors what our students' needs are and how scholarships impact their lives.

### Q: How many scholarships are disbursed to our students?

**Hart:** In 2009, GPC awarded 175 scholarships for a total of \$110,390.

For more information about student scholarships, go to [www.gpc.edu/Foundation/scholarships.htm](http://www.gpc.edu/Foundation/scholarships.htm)



Photos by Letia Cowart

**First Recipients:** GPC students Alea Bennett (left) and Du Ha (third from left) are the first recipients of the Samuel S. Tricoli Memorial Scholarship. The new scholarship was established in memory of the late father of GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli (right). At a luncheon at Tricoli's home, Bennett and Ha met the president's mother, Elizabeth Tricoli as well as scholarship donors.



## COLLEGE RETIREES RECONNECT THROUGH NEW ASSOCIATION

Franklin Shumake says it is amazing how far Georgia Perimeter College has come since he worked at the college.

He has a rare perspective. Shumake was one of the three administrators who launched GPC's predecessor, DeKalb College, in 1964. He simultaneously filled the positions of director of Admissions, Registrar and director of Student Activities for the college's first class of 763 students.

Shumake later left the college but recently reconnected with it and other former faculty, staff and administrators at the Feb. 10 meeting of the GPC Retiree Association.

"It's just good to see the service they have provided and the continuing interest they have in the college and to know that we're going to keep on promoting the college," Shumake says about the new association.

Dr. Ronald Swofford, president of the association, said it was nice to see Shumake travel from his home near Athens and to welcome other retirees from as far as North Carolina. "That was a compliment to the new organization."

The association, formed in August, has enjoyed a strong start. It has elected officers, printed its first quarterly newsletter and held socials and quarterly meetings. It endorsed the idea of establishing

a scholarship and received a donation for the first \$500 award. Members heard about retirement benefits and issues during a college presentation customized for them. And they participated in reading programs, such as "The Big Read" sponsored by the Atlanta History Center and National Endowment for the Arts.

The word is spreading. The association's paid membership jumped from 52 to 73 from February to early March.

Swofford, who served as an English professor, dean and college-wide Humanities Division dean while at GPC, said he is pleased with the response.

In addition to Swofford, the association's officers are: Vice President Barbara Nipp, who taught English and developed the Joint Enrollment program (now called Dual Enrollment) at GPC; Secretary Dr. Robert "Bob" McDonough, who taught chemistry and biology and served as an administrator for Decatur Campus; and Treasurer Janet



*GPC retirees reunite for a luncheon at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in DeKalb County at the first social meeting of the GPC Retiree Association.*

Barron, who filled roles in district finance and Student Services, including assistant director for Recruitment. Lee Hedden, who recently retired from the Office of Institutional Advancement, is editor of the association newsletter, and Deborah Factory of GPC coordinates retiree association activities for the college.

Among the benefits the association hopes to provide are assistance in maintaining communication with each other and the college and help in obtaining information about retirement issues.

For information call 678-891-2560.

needs of each recipient. It also will fund a full-time student achievement director position.

"We are grateful to The Goizueta Foundation for its generosity and for sharing our vision," says Tricoli. "Student success is at the heart of Georgia Perimeter College's mission, and increasing the success of our Latino students is critical to the strategic future of GPC. This new program will establish an infrastructure to sustain their success from the point of enrollment through graduation and transfer."

Georgia Perimeter.

"We will be addressing financial and social challenges, thus promoting educational success for Hispanic/Latino students," says GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli. "Our goal is to have a long-term impact on the community, to make a college education affordable, accessible and absolutely within their reach."

A \$543,500 gift from The Goizueta Foundation will pay for 120 annual scholarships, each totaling between \$500 and \$1,500 dollars, based on the financial

## NEW PROGRAM INCREASES OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISPANIC/LATINO STUDENTS

Georgia Perimeter College will launch a program during the fall 2010 semester that is aimed at increasing access and success for Hispanic/Latino students. The initiative is made in collaboration with The Goizueta Foundation.

The Goizueta Educational Achievement Program, which supports GPC's long-range plan to provide more educational opportunities to underserved members of its community, targets Hispanic/Latino students who have a demonstrated financial need and who have been accepted or are enrolled at



## ANANI AMOUZOU FINDING HIS PASSION IN CANCER RESEARCH

by K. Patrick Jensen

Anani Amouzou did not find his academic passion in his hometown of Lomé, Togo.

He did not find it upon arriving in the United States, where he moved in 1998 to work and save money for college.

The Georgia Perimeter College student found his passion—researching a possible cure for prostate cancer—in a laboratory. His work there was made possible by the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars Program.

The goal of the 5-year-old PLSAMP is to increase minority students receiving undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Georgia Perimeter College is one of six Georgia institutions in PLSAMP.

Amouzou, who enrolled at GPC in 2006, conducted research last summer at a Clark Atlanta University laboratory as part of an internship.

Amouzou "is interested in helping

others," says Margaret H. Major, PLSAMP associate director at GPC. Essie Smith, Amouzou's PLSAMP advisor, says he "is very proactive" and "actively pursued the internship with Clark Atlanta."

Amouzou was the first GPC student to present research at a state conference—the 2009 PLSAMP Fall Forum at Fort Valley State University, says Smith.

Amouzou, whose native language is French, chose Georgia Perimeter College for its small class sizes and strong English as a Second Language program. "(ESL) helped me through my difficulties at speaking English," he says.

Amouzou also says he enjoys GPC's international "diversity of culture."

In his white lab coat, Amouzou looks at home amid laboratory equipment. The goal of the 12 weeks of research: How to prevent or stop the progression of prostate cancer metastasis by using plant-based diets. The Clark Atlanta research proposes that "phytosterol supplementation may prevent prostate cancer cell progression."

Phytosterols are natural plant compounds found in corn oil, soybeans, tomatoes and nuts, and they curb the growth of prostate cancer cells that grow in cholesterol.

In his research, the 31-year-old Amouzou methodically checked prostate and other cell cultures to determine how they were affected.

Amouzou is "cool-headed, very calm. I believe he has great potential as a scientist," says Dr. Godwin Ifere, one of Amouzou's advisors on the project.

"Most people in our building thought that he was a graduate student because of his work ethic," says Dr. Godwin Ananaba, Amouzou's other advisor. "People were shocked when we disclosed his background as an undergraduate student, with no significant biomedical research background."

"His biggest strength is his heart—the determination that he is equal to any task if well mentored," Ananaba says.

Amouzou will graduate in 2010 after four years at GPC because he added engineering to his pre-med program. He plans to attend Georgia Tech and medical school with the dream of working with nanotechnology, a pioneering field that uses tiny machines at the molecular level to treat patients.

"It (nanotechnology) is a better way to deal with more diseases," Amouzou says. "You don't have to use as many drugs if nanotechnology can go into the cells." ■



GPC SWEETHEARTS FIND LOVE IN GEOGRAPHY CLASS

*Few places on Earth can boast more romantic starts than a college campus, and GPC has sparked its fair share of happily-ever-after stories. To celebrate Valentine’s Day this year, the Office of Alumni Relations held an Alumni Sweethearts contest. Former students were invited to submit stories of how they met their significant others while attending GPC/DeKalb College.*

*James Williamson, who attended DeKalb College from 1992 to 1994, submitted the winning story. When he was recently voted Teacher of the Year at South Gwinnett High School, his wife Tisha even invited the college professor whose class played a role in their relationship to the party. This is Williamson’s tale of how a GPC geography course sparked a lifelong romance with his wife.*

It was the summer of 1992. I had just graduated from high school and enrolled at DeKalb College. I arrived early for orientation and took a seat near the back of the room. While I may have been sitting in the back, I was not too far away to notice one of the orientation leaders. It wasn’t just Tisha’s looks that I noticed; it was her personality as well.

Call it fear of rejection or just being an idiot, but I spent a year passing her in the halls without saying a word.

In the fall of 1993, I registered for a geography class taught by Tommy Barber. I had taken a class from Mr. Barber the previous quarter and decided that I would take any course he offered. He even influenced my career decision—I wanted to become a teacher. On the first day of class, I arrived early and took a seat. Right before class started, I noticed Tisha had slipped into the classroom, too. At the next class, I arrived early again



Photo/James Williamson

*James and Tisha Williamson first saw each other at orientation, but it was Tommy Barber’s geography class that sparked their relationship. James, a teacher at South Gwinnett High School, and Tisha, a teacher at Starling Elementary School, now live in the Grayson/Loganville area with their children, Tyler, left, and Abby, right.*

and noticed the desk next to mine was occupied – Tisha had also arrived early and moved across the entire classroom to take a seat next to me.

Apparently, I was not very good at reading signals because by the end of the semester I had yet to ask her out. I guess she got tired of waiting. Early during exams week, Tisha asked me if I was ever going to ask her out on a date. I’m sure I turned 12 different shades of red as I stammered through something like, “Sure, what about Sunday night after I get out of church?” She smiled and said yes.

I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. I had spent the entire semester nurturing our friendship, and I was scared to death a date might be the end of something I treasured dearly. I found out later that she thought I was going to stand her up, and, honestly, I thought about doing

just that. After church, though, I stopped at a gas station and dropped a quarter in the phone. Fifteen minutes later, I picked her up. Little did we know then, a drive into Lawrenceville to see “The Pelican Brief” and a stop at TGI Friday’s for dessert was the start of a 16-year (and counting!) romance.

Even though we had discussed marriage and agreed to wait until we both graduated, I asked Tisha to marry me in December of 1994—simply because I didn’t want to risk losing the best thing that had ever happened to me. We married in April of 1997, and we have been teaching ever since. We now have two children and live in the Grayson/Loganville area. To this day, she is not only my wife; she is also my best friend.



*Major leaguers, from left, Milt Hill, Glenn Sutko, Nick Green and Herm Winningham display the plaques that hang in their honor at the Jaguars’ baseball stadium.*

BASEBALL ALUMNI RETURN TO CAMPUS

Former coaches and players—including several Major League alumni—came together in October to celebrate more than four decades of Georgia Perimeter College and DeKalb College baseball and to kick off a campaign to bring the team back to national prominence.

During Baseball Alumni Day, GPC unveiled plaques recognizing former coaches, former All-American players and those who went on to play for Major League baseball teams. Nick Green, currently with the L.A. Dodgers and a former Atlanta Brave and Boston Red Sox; Glenn Sutko, former catcher for the Cincinnati Reds; Milt Hill, who pitched for the Cincinnati Reds, Atlanta Braves and Seattle Mariners; and Herm Winningham, who played for the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets and Montreal Expos, accepted their recognitions on GPC’s new baseball field at the Newton Campus in Covington. The recognition pieces will be on permanent display at the field house.

“I had a great time at the college, and this is bringing it all back,” Green said.

With more than 30 former coaches and players gathered with their families and the current team, Head Coach Danny Blue took the opportunity to rally support for the Jaguars as they attempt to rise back to national prominence. GPC’s baseball team made it to the national tournament in 1977 and 1998.

“We think we turned it around last year, and we’ve got an exciting team for the upcoming season,” Blue said. “And it’s not all about winning. We’re all about student success here at the college. I want my players to be just as successful in the classroom as they are on the field.”

q&a



GPC JAGUAR SENDS HIS ‘MINI’ SELF ON THE PROWL FOR ALUMS

Georgia Perimeter College now has a fully-staffed department dedicated to meeting the needs of former GPC and DeKalb College students. Still, with more than 340,000 alums—including anyone who has completed one or more credit hours—it is a tall order to

reconnect the GPC family. Fortunately, the Office of Alumni Relations has a well-positioned friend on its side: GPC’s new Jaguar mascot! He’s making the rounds of mailboxes across the country to catch up with alums and let them know how they can be involved with GPC’s exciting new alumni programs. The Chronicle caught up with the GPC Jaguar for an interview during his busy travel schedule.

**Q: How are you locating the GPC and DeKalb College alumni that you visit?**

**A:** The Alumni Relations staff was kind enough to help me find 20 initial alumni, so I set off to connect with them first. The U.S. Postal Service has been a huge help since I hate to fly. I arrive packed flat in a business-sized envelope. I’m very flexible. After each of my visits with an alum, I ask him or her to send me to someone they know who attended GPC or DeKalb College. I never know where I’ll end up next!

**Q: What do you do when you meet an alum?**

**A:** The first thing we do is get together to have our picture taken. It could be in their backyard, at their office, on vacation or with their kids. I like to have fun with it. Then, the alum can send the pictures to alumni@gpc.edu to be posted on the GPC Alumni Web site at www.gpc.edu/Alumni. (I’d do it myself, but paws aren’t very good for typing.) Anyone can go online to check out where I’ve been and see what their fellow alumni have been up to.

**Q: Can an alum request a visit from you?**

**A:** Sure! I love meeting alums and making new friends. If I haven’t had a chance to drop into your mailbox yet, just send an e-mail to alumni@gpc.edu. I’ll put you on my itinerary right away.

**Q: What happens if an alum you meet can’t think of another alum to send you to?**

**A:** That’s no problem at all. Just e-mail alumni@gpc.edu, and the nice folks in the Office of Alumni Relations will send you the name and address of a former student who is eager to see me.



## NURSING ALUMNA DEBBIE JOHNSON LENDS A HELPING HAND IN HAITI

When Debbie Johnson first saw the coverage of Haiti's devastating earthquake on the news, she felt just like everyone else—shocked at the level of destruction and saddened for the people who watched their world crumble. She had no idea that 36 hours later she would be on a plane bringing medical relief to the island.

Johnson, a 1972 DeKalb College nursing graduate and current secretary of the GPC Nursing Alumni Association, is a member of the Georgia Disaster Medical Assistance Team. More than 30 volunteer DMATs operate throughout the United States, bringing much needed medical care to victims of large-scale disasters. Johnson worked on standby during the 1996 Olympics, in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City and after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Her team's two-week Haiti mission was one of the first three DMAT international deployments in history.

Within a day and a half of the Jan. 12 earthquake, Johnson and a team of 35 other doctors, nurses, pharmacists and paramedics headed toward the island nation. Their adventure began before the plane even touched down. In the confusion around Haiti's airspace, the team's plane nearly collided with another aircraft. Pressure in the cabin dropped dramatically, and oxygen masks fell from the ceiling. The pilot was forced to make an emergency landing in Turks and Caicos.

Once on the ground in Haiti, the team set up a medical holding facility for critical patients who were being evacuated to the USNS Comfort, a U.S. Navy medical treatment facility. They provided care until helicopters could transport the patients. At one point, a rescue helicopter landed too close to the



Photo by Cynthia Hunt



Photo by Wende Ramsur

*(Top) Members of the Georgia Disaster Medical Assistance Team relax between patient transports in Haiti. Debbie Johnson, fourth from right, is the current secretary of the GPC Nursing Alumni Association. (Above) The team cares for a Haitian earthquake victim with a crush injury and burns.*

team's tent city, sending their housing and belongings flying.

"There we were, taking care of patients as we watched our sleeping bags blow away," Johnson said.

The team cared for approximately 60 patients a day—people with traumatic crush injuries and other life-threatening injuries, women in labor and children whose parents were missing.

A young soccer player in their care had been inside a practice facility with his team when the roof collapsed on them. He had been left for dead but kept waving his hand until rescue crews found him.

"He had tears in his eyes talking about his teammates," Johnson said.

The human spirit continued to triumph even in the face of destruction. Johnson said one of her patients who had multiple fractures sang hymns to keep up the spirits of her fellow patients.

"I was struck by what a stoic people the Haitians are," Johnson said. "The patients were being cared for in very austere conditions with minimal resources, but they were extremely humble and grateful. Our team left knowing we contributed in some small way to helping these people recover from such a catastrophic event."

HAMILTON CUNNINGHAM  
'GPC FACULTY BELIEVED IN ME'

by Jenn Mason

Math never interested Hamilton Cunningham. Music was his passion, and playing the trumpet seemed much more exciting than hitting the books—a fact his high school academic record reflected.

Cunningham, who lived in Atlanta, dropped out of school and floundered a bit before obtaining his GED and joining the U.S. Air Force. After working two years as an aircraft weapons loader, he left the military to pursue a college education.

Because of his less-than-stellar high school record, he needed a place where he could clear the academic cobwebs. Cost also was a factor. He turned to Georgia Perimeter College.

When Cunningham walked into his first college course at 8 a.m. on a Monday, he had not taken math in years. The course was Algebra.

"For the first few weeks I was totally lost," he said. "At one point I was begging to just get a D, and my professor was like, 'Why shoot so low? Aim for an A.'"

With his professor's support, some

extra tutoring and a lot of hard work, Cunningham pulled through.

"I didn't get an A, but I did get a B," he said. "Now I'm studying economics, and that has a lot to do with my professors letting me know it was attainable."

It wasn't long before success became the norm for Cunningham. A Music major at GPC, he received the Outstanding Freshman Music Student award and the Lewis Belcher Jr. Leadership Award.

Inspired by the support he received at GPC, including assistance that came through his participation in GPC's Leadership Academy, Cunningham began volunteering. He worked with Refugee Family Services, a Stone Mountain-based organization dedicated to helping refugee women and children attain self-sufficiency through education. In an ironic twist not lost on Cunningham, he became a math tutor for the organization.

"In a lot of ways, the GPC faculty believed in me more than I did when I first got there," he said. "I know how much it changed my life, and if I can be worked with, anyone can."

In 2007, Cunningham became the fifth GPC student to be awarded the prominent Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The \$90,000 award is designed to help high-achieving community college students continue their studies at a four-year college or university. Cunningham

used the scholarship to transfer to Howard University in Washington, D.C. to pursue a bachelor's degree in economics.

Though he is busy with studies, Cunningham, who is now 25, continues to find time to give back. He serves as a mentor for the Washington, D.C. chapter of Concerned Black Men.

He also continues to garner recognition for his achievements. Cunningham was named a 2009 Truman Scholar, a prestigious national award that provides up to \$30,000 toward graduate school for students committed to working in public service.

This year he was selected as a National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Champion. Cunningham earned his GED through the ChalleNGe program, a 22-week boot camp for at-risk youth. He followed that with military service and later enrolled in college. As a Champion, he was invited to speak at the program's annual gala in February.

Cunningham hopes to combine his love of music and studies in economics by pursuing a career in the non-profit sector, helping to alleviate the arts funding crunch. He will graduate from Howard in May, and to hear Cunningham tell the tale, his trumpet will be as excited about commencement as he will.

"I'm in a rough spot in my relationship with music right now," he said with a laugh. "She just wants more time than I can give while I focus on graduating." 🎷

Photo supplied by Howard University



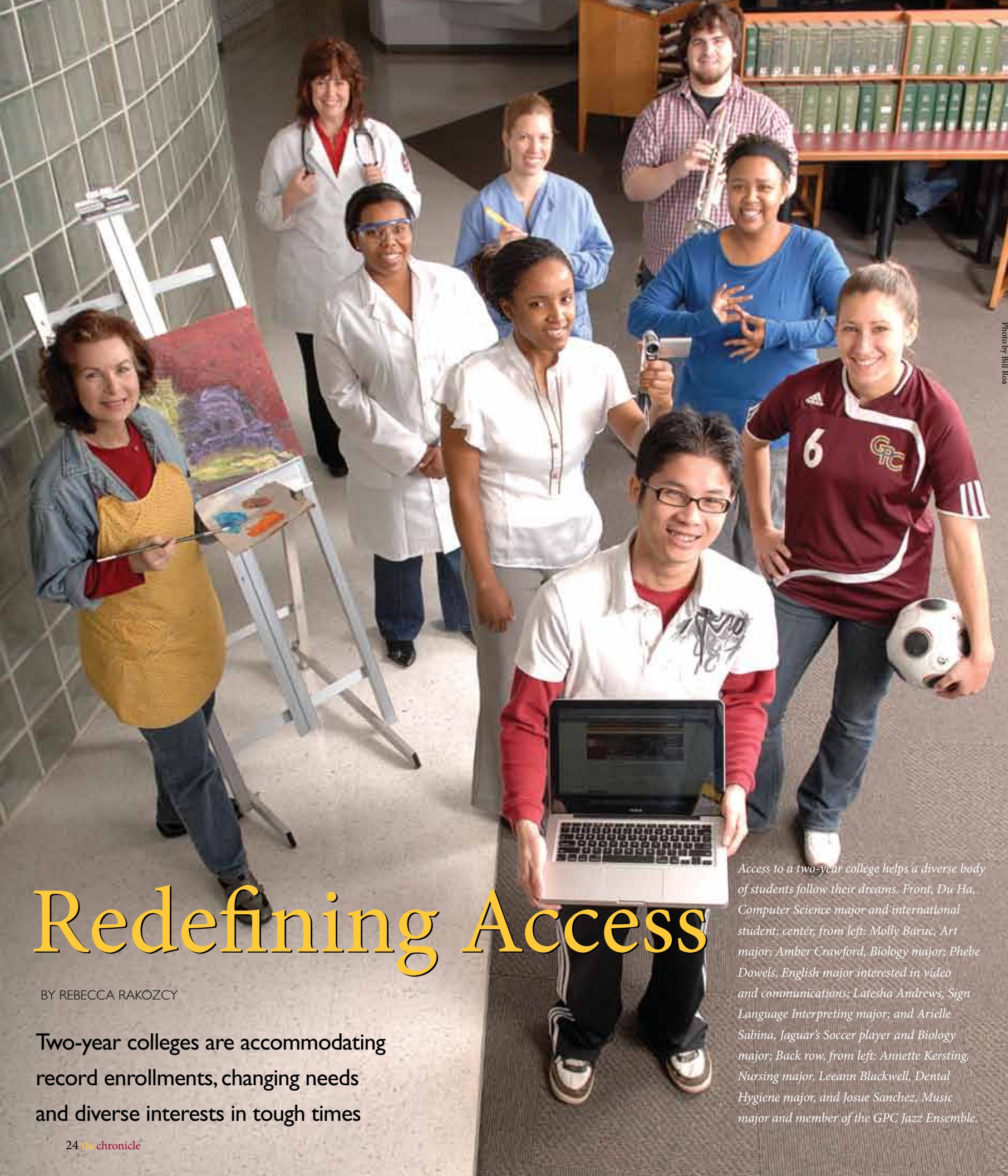


Photo by Bill Roa

# Redefining Access

BY REBECCA RAKOZCY

Two-year colleges are accommodating record enrollments, changing needs and diverse interests in tough times

Access to a two-year college helps a diverse body of students follow their dreams. Front, Du Ha, Computer Science major and international student; center, from left: Molly Baruc, Art major; Amber Crawford, Biology major; Phebe Dowels, English major interested in video and communications; Latesha Andrews, Sign Language Interpreting major; and Arielle Sabina, Jaguar's Soccer player and Biology major; Back row, from left: Annette Kersting, Nursing major, Leeann Blackwell, Dental Hygiene major, and Josue Sanchez, Music major and member of the GPC Jazz Ensemble.

Don't look now, but two-year colleges are in the spotlight. In January's State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama described them as "a career pathway to the children of so many working families." University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. said the system must accommodate nearly 100,000 additional students in the next decade, and much of the growth will be handled by two-year colleges.

Jamie Merisotis, president of the education nonprofit Lumina Foundation, points out that community colleges are being expected to educate more Americans than ever before within a short time frame.

"Never before have we seen the kind of investment in and importance placed on the community college system," Merisotis said.

The reason is access. Two-year colleges provide an open door and an affordable path to the education needed for jobs or for transfer to four-year universities. That access becomes crucial during tough economic times.

"This is my 30th year working in the field of community college higher education, and at no time in our history have community colleges been more important," said Georgia Perimeter College President Dr. Anthony Tricoli.

The access such colleges offer is even more critical as some four-year colleges cap enrollment and the cost of education rises.

"While four-year colleges can be selective in their admissions, two-year colleges open their doors to any student who meets admission criteria and who believes they can benefit from the education we provide," Tricoli said.

Dr. Chris Mullin, program director for policy analysis at the American Association of Community Colleges, recently completed a national survey of the enrollment surge at community colleges, and a common story emerged.

"At community colleges across the country, dislocated workers returned for retraining, traditional-age students reexamined their options, and institutions were asked to do more with less fiscal support," Mullin said. The economic recession has had a dramatic impact on America's community colleges and the communities and students they serve, he said.

One such student is Marlene McDowell, a Business major, who is coming to GPC to retool her education. McDowell, who worked for years in personal care homes, is back in the classroom

to learn how to run her own personal care home. Other students, such as Biology major Amber Crawford, are seeking lower-cost options as they continue their education after high school. Both women are part of GPC's record-breaking enrollment, which passed 25,000 in 2010.

"Historically, students attend two-year colleges because they value the cost-effective option, smaller class sizes and opportunities to interact directly with their professors," said Tricoli. "With the economic downturn, we are seeing an even greater growth rate, including students who previously would have started out at a four-year college, but now find they can't afford to live away from home or they are attracted to our lower tuition. We're also seeing an increase in the number of career changers, as well as those looking to return to the work force to help support unemployed spouses."

The increasing number of students seeking a two-year college education has led institutions such as GPC to seek ways to diversify and improve their historic mission of access so students can get the educational experience they need. That includes offering more courses at night and on weekends and taking advantage of technology by increasing online access. It includes helping students gain the financial aid they need and increasing learning support to match demand. It means embracing the broadening variety of students, including those not native to the United States. And it includes developing ways to help two-year students transfer to a four-year institution.

## TRANSFER ADMISSION GUARANTEES

GPC is the largest associate degree-granting college and sends more students on to four-year institutions than any other college in the University System of Georgia. While two-year colleges have traditionally acted as transfer institutions, students are not always guaranteed a slot to their college of choice.

For three years, GPC's Transfer Admission Guarantee program—or TAG—has helped students get the right courses for a seamless transfer—and guarantees that transfer. Since 2007, hundreds of students have signed TAGs, taking predetermined courses and maintaining a required GPA that allows for easy transfer to their favored institution. GPC now has 38 transfer agreements in Georgia and throughout the nation. In-state agreements include University of Georgia and Georgia Institute of Technology.





Photo by Mandi Singer

Kalene Bannister, a GPC foreign language major, is using a TAG agreement to enter Georgia Tech. “TAG helped me focus just on the classes I needed in order to transfer ... I feel like I’m actually working on my bachelor’s.”

Other collaborative programs between two- and four-year colleges are helping increase access for math and engineering majors. Jobs requiring science, technology, engineering and math training will increase by more than 24 percent by 2014, reaching 6.3 million, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, and that means more students are needed in these fields. “We need increased collaborations between two- and four-year colleges to widen the educational pipeline in general, but in STEM fields in particular,” Tricoli says.

To that end, GPC is actively involved in the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, known as PLSAMP, and the Regents’ Engineering Transfer Program, or RETP, which helps qualified engineering students at GPC complete a specified curriculum that allows seamless transfer to Georgia Tech. Both programs train students for careers in science and engineering.

#### OFFERINGS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

High school students who want a jump start on their college education look to two-year institutions for opportunities to earn early college credit.

Georgia Perimeter College responds with two options. First, GPC offers the largest traditional Dual Enrollment program in Georgia. GPC’s program, which began in 1968 with 37 students, now serves more than 900 students.

Dual Enrollment provides high school juniors and seniors the chance to earn college credit and get an early taste of college life. Students can attend class on GPC’s campuses, take the courses online or—at some high schools—attend special classes on the high school campus.

A new Dual Enrollment program recently approved by the state of Georgia offers a second option to high school juniors or seniors who want to earn college credit. Move On When Ready is designed for students interested in attending college full time during their last years of high school. Dual Enrollment eases high school students’ access and transition to college.

#### ACCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Two-year colleges in urban areas have historically been the key access points for students who are immigrants, refugees or naturalized citizens.

GPC’s Clarkston and Dunwoody campuses are home to a broad range of non-native students seeking an education and, often, a better life. Hailing from close to 150 countries, from Bangladesh to Sierra Leone, Moldova to India, and China to



(Top) Associate professor of Communication and Theatre Janet Hollier works with students Shericka Smith, left, and Meriah Yarbrough. (Above) GPC student Rediet Abebe, who is from Ethiopia, participates in the college International Festival. GPC has a strong international presence, being the college of choice for almost 5,000 students from close to 150 countries.



Photo by Lemalba Saldivia



Photo by Lemalba Saldivia

(Top, left) GPC students gather around Dr. Luise Strange de Soria in Chemistry class as she demonstrates the use of luminol to identify blood stains in forensic science. (Top, right) Online-only education has become the choice of many students, including Sloan Rawhoof of Conyers, who is completing her Business degree through GPC Online. (Above) Gitanjali Baroi conducts an experiment in chemistry class.

Vietnam, they represent almost 5,000 students at GPC. Their circumstances and goals vary; some are students who enter the United States with F-1 visas and will eventually return to their native countries, some are naturalized U.S. citizens, and others are recent immigrants and refugees.

Economics and more stringent immigration standards have caused international student enrollment to dip from its high levels of the 1980s and ‘90s, says Veronique Barnes, GPC’s director of International Student Admissions and Advising.

But GPC’s diversity remains the strongest in the state.

GPC has worked to make the meetings enjoyable. A monthly “coffee house,” introduced 10 years ago, acquaints GPC’s international students with each other and their native countries. At a recent focus on Vietnam, more than 60 students representing 15 different countries showed up on Clarkston Campus to learn more about the Vietnamese culture and taste Vietnamese cuisine.

#### INCREASED ACCESS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The Internet has revolutionized access to higher education at two-year and four-year institutions alike. From Facebook to Twitter, students embrace technology without hesitation.

To meet the challenges of increased enrollment, community colleges are changing and altering the way they serve and present information to learners.

Increasingly, the two-year college student of today may rarely step foot on campus, choosing instead to take all their courses online.

“Community colleges have always been innovative; they’re now looking at the best ways to reach their students, whether that’s offering courses in different formats like online or hybrid,” or scheduling courses on the weekends, or at early or late hours to accommodate busy schedules, AACC’s Mullin says.

That’s certainly true at Georgia Perimeter, which has the largest online program in the state, growing from 1,600 students three years ago to now more than 8,000 students across the state and nation. That number will climb higher.

“I believe we will definitely see a continued increased in the number of students enrolling in online classes,” says Tricoli. “I do not believe classroom lectures will be eliminated, but we will see a surge of hybrid courses offered in the future.”

Students seem to naturally accept such changes, but it can require more effort for faculty more familiar with traditional classroom approaches. The shift, however, has happened.

“I was dragged kicking and screaming into the world of technology,” says GPC English Professor Dr. Rosemary Cox, who has taught at GPC since 1985. “But it’s been very useful, and I certainly will not attempt to turn the tide back.”





(Top) A representative of Georgia Southern University welcomes GPC students to her table at a TAG Fair at Clarkston Campus. (Above) GPC student Tiffany Gates talks to Brenau University representative Scott Wilburn at a TAG fair on Decatur Campus.

#### OPENING DOORS WITH FINANCIAL AID

While today's enrollment boom is seen as a reflection of the tough economy, so are students' financial needs. Access is moot if a student cannot afford tuition.

Though two-year colleges tend to be significantly less expensive than a four-year college, today's students are more susceptible to financial stresses because of the economic climate, according to Martha Kanter, U.S. Undersecretary of Education.

Kanter is the first community college official to reach such a high rank within the U.S. Education Department. One of the priorities she has cited is "fixing" financial aid to give more students from poor families the opportunity to attend college.

At GPC, applications for need-based financial aid were up 44 percent from the 2006-07 academic year to the 2008-09 year, according to Robin Winston, Financial Aid director for Georgia Perimeter College.

Financial aid applications jumped from 24,835 in 2006-07 to more than 36,000 in the 2008-09 year. The number of federal Pell grants awarded also saw a significant rise, jumping from 7,251 to 10,741 in the same time period. The amount of the aid provided through Pell grants almost doubled from \$15 million to more than \$27 million during that time period.

"This is for the GPC population only," Winston says. "As unemployment rises, so has the desire to redirect careers. From 2008-09 to 2009-10, we are already seeing a \$10 million increase in federal aid provided, and summer semester will increase that amount even more."

Financial needs also affect the time that students have to put toward their studies.

"Many students today have more economic problems and may tend to work longer at their jobs," notes Dr. Betty Molloy, assistant vice president of Academic Affairs at GPC.

Keeping the college accessible to a diverse student body--despite tightened budgets for students and the state--means being innovative and creative, Tricoli says. Fortunately, innovation and creativity accompanied the founding of community colleges in the United States more than a century ago and are still valid today.

"Those of us in higher education must study organizations that have been successful, as well as those that have failed, to know what we must do to stay ahead of the game," Tricoli says. "We must provide services in ways that others do not." ❀

## PERSONALITIES

### DR. BERYLE BAKER A TEACHER OF TEACHERS

by Kevin Braun

For Dr. Beryle Baker and her students, education has always been a two-way street. "Teaching is reciprocal," she says. "I tell them I'm so glad I had the opportunity to learn from them."

Baker, a professor of Teacher Education, has been teaching—and learning—at Georgia Perimeter College for more than 25 years. For most of her career, her students have been primarily traditional students who are learning to become teachers and employed teachers who need coursework to maintain their professional certification.

However, Baker says a third group is emerging: the career changers, some of whom are retired or displaced from jobs by the economy. "That's another market that I'm beginning to cultivate," she says.

Despite differences in the students, Baker sees a common theme in her contributions. "I serve as a passionate advocate for promoting the role of the two-year college in teacher education."

That role includes supporting and guiding two-year students and presenting them with opportunities for field work, professional networking and transfer to

four-year institutions. It encompasses recruitment and retention of prospective teachers, programming for adult career changers, professional development of employed teachers and work force development.

"Since most of our students are exploring career options and are new to higher education, our role is unique," says Baker.

Baker brings to her career a perspective that few share. When she was a college senior, she was drafted for an unusual project now known as "The New Canaan Experiment." In 1969, on the heels of the civil rights movement, she and nine fellow African-American students from Norfolk State University in Virginia were assigned to work for three months in the predominantly white New Canaan, Conn., school system. Each student teacher stayed with a white host family.

"The New Canaan community welcomed and financially supported the NSU student teachers," she said. When the experience ended, "I felt comfortable. I knew I had grown," Baker says. "As a result of New Canaan, I have learned to explore and to be of service in different settings."

She still keeps up with her host teacher and her mentor from the Connecticut middle school and recently participated in the project's 40th anniversary celebration.

At GPC, Baker started Student Georgia Association of Educators clubs and expanded

them to all campuses. "We have one of the strongest chapters in the state," she said.

She takes pride in the successes of her students. One, Marie Hall, was later Clayton County Teacher of the Year. When Baker was president of the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators (the first from a two-year college), she invited Hall to be the keynote speaker at a conference.

Baker, who also volunteers to provide literacy, indigent and other assistance at a state correctional facility, has three bits of advice for today's students.

The first is to travel. "It opens the mind to possibilities." Second is to join professional organizations. "It gives you a friend when you travel and a resource for your development. It gives you a network." And last is to be loving and caring with students.

Baker takes her own advice. And it shows.

"I believe that Dr. Baker's contribution in Education is beyond compare," said Eric Lopez, a 2003 GPC graduate who now teaches middle school French and Spanish. Lopez said Baker recruited him to study Education and prepared him well.

"There is a high percentage of new teachers who quit before their third year," Lopez says. "The issue is that they are not well equipped and do not know what to expect during that critical period; I feel I was ready for that, thanks to my professor." ❀



JAGUAR SOCCER TEAM FINISHES SECOND IN NATION UNDER HALL OF FAME COACH

Days after their coach was accorded the ultimate honor in junior college soccer, the 2009 Georgia Perimeter College men’s soccer team fell agonizingly short of adding a second national championship to his resume. Marc Zagara, who was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame, led the Jaguars to the final match but had to settle for another second-place finish. After 110 scoreless minutes, Tyler College of Texas won on penalty kicks.

“I think we are the better team, but we couldn’t convert the opportunities,” said Zagara, whose teams have produced six straight trips to the nationals and a championship in 2005. The Jaguars finished second in 2004 and 2007.

GPC (22-2) cruised through Region 17 and the district-level match, placing two players on the All-America team—defender Richard Cayonne and midfielder Kingsley Morgan. Both also made the All-Region first team, along

with midfielder Junior Sandoval. Goalkeeper Brian Garcia, striker Boubacar Toure and defender Thierry Betole were named second-team All-Region, while midfielder Nigel Lake and striker Flavio Souza were honorable mention.

The Jaguars attained the top ranking in the NJCAA poll during the season, and they produced three national players of the week—Garcia, Toure and midfielder Alejandro Duque.

Rury Alvarez, a striker, and goalkeeper Jason Andrew made the All-Tournament team at the nationals in West Windsor, N.J., adding to the hundreds of individual and team awards



(Above, left) Richard Cayonne, number 27, and (Above, right) Kingsley Morgan, number 22, playing in the national championship game, later were named to the All-America team.

achieved during the Zagara era.

In 18 seasons at GPC and its predecessor, DeKalb College, Zagara has never had a losing season, compiling a record of 299-73-13 and coaching 31 All-Americans.

Zagara’s teams have won the Region 17 championship 13 times and made nine appearances in the nationals.

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE LANDS WIN-WIN DEAL WITH 790 THE ZONE

If you’re a sports fan and you listen to 790 The Zone while driving to work, you’ve probably heard Georgia Perimeter College “Did You Know?” items on Monday mornings.

Disc jockey Steak Shapiro delivers GPC sports nuggets on the popular radio drive-time program, “Mayhem in the A.M.”

For example, Shapiro has informed his listeners, “Did you know the Georgia Perimeter men’s basketball Jaguars have made seven national tournament appearances in 13 years?”

It’s all part of a partnership GPC formed last fall with 790 The Zone, the top sports radio station in Atlanta. GPC utilizes the station’s airwaves, Web site

and social networking sites to promote its sports teams and the college mission and goals.

Both the college and 790 The Zone will expand our audiences, so it’s a win-win partnership,” says GPC Sports Information Director Wade Marbaugh.

The plan includes GPC spot ads on the radio channel and visits to the college by radio personalities. Dennis Scott, the Georgia Tech and Orlando Magic basketball star, hosted two of his live call-in shows during Jaguar basketball games. Talk show host Jeff Woolverton will direct a Little League clinic before a Jaguar baseball game.

To view GPC’s page on The Zone’s Web



Dennis Scott, left, Georgia Tech and Orlando Magic basketball star, provides an autograph to GPC freshman William Robinson. Scott hosted his live call-in show during a Jaguar basketball game in February.

site, visit [www.790thezone.com](http://www.790thezone.com) and pull down the features menu.



At their first-round tournament game, the Jaguars and the Austin Road Elementary students they mentor display a check for \$1,400 they raised to fight breast cancer. Donor cards are posted on the curtain in back.

FRESHMAN STARS BRING FUTURE HOPE

Paced by freshmen, the basketball Jaguars—men and women—endured parallel rebuilding campaigns and highly competitive schedules during the 2009-2010 season but also enjoyed multiple highlights.

Coach Alfred Barney’s men’s team finished the season with a record of 14-18, 7-7 in Region 17, and made the semifinals in the region tournament, where the Jaguars fell to College of Coastal Georgia. Freshman guard Jimmy Bacon made the All-Tournament team and also was selected to the All-Region second team.

“We didn’t step up when we needed to, but we were young and had flashes of brilliance that give a lot of hope for next year,” Barney said.

A major success for the team was a “Slam Dunk Cancer” fundraiser that the Jaguars conducted with students they mentored at Henry County’s Austin Road Elementary. The project raised more than \$1,400 to fight breast cancer.

The women also showed great promise for next season. Freshman forwards Nicole Wells and Raven Buchanan earned spots on the All-Region first and second teams, respectively, and Buchanan made the All-Tournament team.

Like the men, the Lady Jaguars (15-15, 7-5) fell in the region semifinals to eventual champion South Georgia Tech, which went on to earn a berth in the national tournament.

With only two sophomores on the roster, the young Jaguars additionally were hamstrung by injuries and sometimes took the floor with only six or seven players—but still won.

“They played with a lot of heart,” Coach James Waldon said, “and most of them will be back next year for what should be a great season.”

point-by-point



Taiwo Adeshigbin.

The GPC women’s soccer team placed four players—all freshmen—on the All-Region team. Forward Taiwo Adeshigbin, the No. 5 scorer in the nation with 38 goals and 10 assists, was a first-teamer, while defender Arielle Sabina and midfielders Victoria Klingensmith and Lynea Fouser made the second team. The Jaguars (11-6) lost in the semifinals of the Region 17 tournament. They beat Young Harris in the tournament play-in game

before losing 3-0 to nationally No. 8-ranked Darton, the host team. “The season, for what the girls accomplished, was a big time success,” said head coach Bruno Kalonji. ... In baseball, early season hopes were high with the Jaguars coming off a breakout 42-16 season in 2009. Catcher Blake McCullers, All-Region in 2009, returned for his sophomore season to handle a hard-throwing pitching staff led by Jake Dyer and Nathan Fawbush. A February highlight for the Jaguars was a 7-2 victory at GPC’s Newton Campus over No. 17-ranked Chattahoochee Valley Community College. ... The softball season began with a highlight as the Lady Jags won the prestigious AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) International tournament in Kissimmee, Fla. Freshman pitching ace Christina Ezell won the tournament MVP and went on to lead the nation in strikeouts at press time. In late February, she threw a 13-strikeout, extra-inning, no-hitter to defeat the nation’s No. 5-ranked team, Florida State College at Jacksonville 1-0.



**Play-by-play:** GPC student Tom Terry, left, and veteran journalist Tom Whitfield deliver a live audio webcast of a men’s basketball game. GPC ushered in a new era with play-by-play broadcasts, which fans can call up at game time or later at [www.gpc.edu/athletic](http://www.gpc.edu/athletic).



## LAST LOOK

### CAPTIVATING COLOR

The brilliant lanterns and costumes of a children's Chinese New Year celebration catch the fancy of 9-year-old Peachtree Academy student Samantha Van Ness as she views the vivid display at Georgia Perimeter College's Newton Campus. The brightly colored folk art paintings and the historic significance of the art form in the rural lives of peasants was on exhibit thanks to a Georgia Humanities Council grant. The show attracted children and adults from throughout the community.

Photo by Mandi Singer

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