TOP-CHOICE COLLEGE GPC POSTS RECORD ENROLLMENT

Georgia Perimeter's top-choice status is helping to drive record enrollment numbers at the college.

With an official enrollment of 24,549 students in fall semester 2009, Georgia Perimeter College posted a record enrollment for the fourth consecutive year, remaining the third largest public institution in the state.

According to the enrollment report from the University System of Georgia, GPC enrolled more freshman than any other institution in the USG, and they know the quality of our program here at GPC is #1, says student Hamadi Ahmed. “Everyone, from the department chair and Student Life advisors to directors and faculty members, have all been very supportive.”

Ahmed says that support helped him earn the 2009 National Society of Black Engineers ExxonMobil Regional Scholarship.

“Joining MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, and technology) has been very helpful as well,” he adds. “When you ask MESA members for help, they’re students just like you and have been through what you’ve been through and understand just how to help you out.”

MESA is just one of the extracurricular activities favored by GPC Engineering students. There’s also the Computer and Engineering Club, which keeps students active and in touch with professionals. The club’s robotic team has developed a national reputation for winning engineering competitions.

All this, along with the growing numbers of students transferring successfully, has helped increase exposure of GPC’s Engineering program. As a result, the program now offers a full load of courses at Dunwoody Campus as well.

Whether their students’ dreams involve rocket science or mechanical engineering, GPC’s Engineering professors are dedicated to seeing those dreams realized. “We care about what they want and where they are going. We help them with the transfer logistics and continue to help them after they leave here,” says Engineering instructor Jarrett Terry. “We keep a good relationship with the admissions people at places like Georgia Tech and Southern Poly. We know what they are looking for in transfer students, and they know the quality of our program here at Georgia Perimeter. If you get a recommendation letter from us, it definitely means something.”

by Roger Barnes

Georgia Perimeter College student John Turner may become the next “Iron Man.” That’s the movie character who inspired Turner to enter GPC’s Engineering program.

In “Iron Man,” genius engineer Tony Stark (played by Robert Downey Jr.) creates a high-tech suit of armor to escape captivity.

“Basically, I got tired of waiting for someone to create the things I wanted to see, so I decided to create them myself,” says Turner, a high school dropout who has a 4.0 GPA at Georgia Perimeter and hopes to transfer to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (alma mater of the fictitious Stark).

Another GPC student, Fernand Garcia, got his inspiration to become an engineer from his father. “My dad was a mechanic, but I decided that instead of fixing cars it would be more challenging to try to design them,” he explains.

Garcia’s choice for transfer is the Georgia Institute of Technology, which—like MIT—is widely considered one of the leading engineering schools in the country. The Regents Engineering Transfer Program, a 5-year-old transfer agreement that Georgia Perimeter has with Georgia Tech, will pave the way for Garcia’s dream to come true.

In addition to Georgia Tech, students who complete GPC’s Engineering program also transfer to Southern Polytechnic State University, the University of Georgia and a host of other institutions in and outside the state.

Most students say, however, that the best part of GPC’s Engineering program is not where you go when you leave but rather what you get while you’re here. “This college has a good faculty and small class sizes,” says student Hamadi Ahmed. “Everyone, from the department chair and Student Life advisors to directors and faculty members, have all been very supportive.”

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GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE
THE NEWSLETTER OF
GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE
WINTER 2010
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ENGINEERING A SUCCESS
GPC’s growing Engineering program is preparing students for transfer success
New student centers at Decatur and Newton expected to live up to names

by Roger Barnes

Student Learning and Student Success: those are the names, respectively, of the two new buildings at Georgia Perimeter College’s Newton and Decatur campuses. And they’re aptly named, according to Shakira Dowell, the Decatur Campus Student Government Association president who spoke at the official ceremony to open the Decatur building Oct. 21.

“This building serves as a testament that Georgia Perimeter cares about our futures,” said Dowell. “I have always felt nurtured and supported throughout my college experience here. The services rendered by the persons and departments working in this Student Success Center will help ensure that all current and future students will be properly prepared for bright and successful futures.”

Dowell’s counterpart on Newton Campus, SGA President Alea Bennett, said the construction of the Student Learning Center there definitely has played a part in her own learning and success at GPC:

The building was under construction when she began her studies at Newton. Bennett said at the center’s opening ceremony Sept. 30. “People told me this building would house the SGA and Student Life offices. At that time I didn’t know what the SGA was, but I wanted to get involved.”

Bennett said that participating in student government and taking advantage of the other services in the learning center improved her grades. “I never really used the tutoring lab until it came here [to new center],” she said. “We also have a library here that is a nice place to sit and study. This center gives the Newton Campus what we need to improve student success. It allows us to better work together, learn together and grow together.”

The new Newton building boasts 50,000 square feet and is home to an 8,800-square-foot library, a 144-seat lecture hall and a fitness center. Testing Services, Disability Services and the Learning and Tutoring Center also are housed in the new building, along with the Student Life and SGA offices.

Felton Jenkins of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents and Kathryn Morgan, chair of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, also spoke at the Newton ceremony. Morgan recalled the earliest days of planning a college in Newton County.

“It had been a dream to bring Georgia Perimeter to Newton County,” she said. “Everyone involved knew an institution like this could transform lives and have an impact on our local economy. What we hoped for was fulfilled and has exceeded our wildest imagination. Education is indeed the key to our future.”

Decatur’s 30,000-square-foot Student Success Center is the first new academic building to open on the campus since it opened its doors in the early 1970s. Dowell called it a “one-stop-shop” that houses a number of essential student services, including Student Life, College Admissions, Enrollment and Registration, Disability Services, Student Advising and Counseling, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Testing, an open computer lab and the Learning and Tutoring Center.

“These services are the cornerstones to student success,” GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli said in his address at Decatur. “In the last two years, enrollment on this campus has nearly doubled. As our student body continues to grow, GPC must provide the services and space necessary to allow our students to have an exceptional educational experience.”

Also speaking at that ceremony were DeKalb County Commissioner Lee May; GPC Retiree Association President Ronald Swoford, formerly a dean on Decatur Campus; and Communications Professor Louvincey Brown.

“The center symbolizes our commitment to life-long learning,” said Brown, the college’s 2009 Cole Fellow. “May our students be stimulated now, and for generations to come, to reach the highest possible educational attainment because they will occupy this space.”

The Decatur and Newton campus ribbon-cutting programs were the third and fourth such ceremonies in 2009 at GPC. In June, the Dunwoody Campus opened a renovated student center. In August, Clarkston Campus re-opened two renovated buildings, an international center and a student center.

Decatur SGA president Shakira Dowell cuts ribbon to officially open the Student Success Center, Decatur’s first new building since the campus opened in 1972. Pictured from left are Jalessa Bass, Dr. Anthony Tricoli, Dowell, Dr. Ronald Swoford, Commissioner Lee May, Demon Nolan and Dean Mary Hickman Brown.

Newton SGA president Alea Bennett, pictured center wielding the scissors, is joined by other college and community members who had a hand in bringing the new campus Student Learning Center to life.
FORTY YEARS LATER: EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE RESONATES

New Canaan Advertiser (Conn.), Oct. 31, 2009

“… Forty years ago this fall, 10 black student teachers from Norfolk State [University] arrived in the largely white town of New Canaan [Conn.] to take part in what became a cultural and educational exchange. … At Saville Middle School, Al Kraus, head of social studies, mentored the ‘magickal’ Beylee Isaac (now Dr. Beylee Baker), who was struck by the many differences in teaching style and class structure between her new environment and what she was used to back home. ‘We were not limited in our questioning and what she was used to back home. ‘We were not limited in our questioning and learning,’ Baker said. ‘That was new to me and it stood out.’ She was also impressed by the ‘high parental involvement’ and a ‘freedom to try new things. … We were not limited by the four walls of the classroom,’ [said] Baker, now a professor of social science at Georgia Perimeter College.”

High School Students in My College Classes? Who Knew?

Newton Citizen, Sept. 20, 2009

“They look at the information we provide them,” said Bruce DAVIS of the University System of Georgia. “They may have never thought of attending college and hearing about these classes before, and now they want to get started.”

Baseball Alumni Gather: An oct. 25 family event brought together a who’s who of alumni and coaches from Georgia Perimeter’s rich baseball history, which dates to the mid-1960s at DeKalb College. Among the dozens of former baseball players who went on to play in the majors are, from left, Mill Hill, Glenn Sutko, Nick Green and Herm Winningham, pictured with plaques presented at the Baseball Alumni Day.

African Culture Celebrated: Dunwoody Campus students were led in African dance moves by two professional dancers Nov. 4 during African Culture Day at the campus. All GPC campuses also held events to celebrate International Week in November.

In The News
**Noteworthy**

**GPC is state's top choice for distance learning**

As the United States Distance Learning Association celebrated National Distance Learning week Nov. 9-13, Georgia Perimeter College was once again recognized as Georgia's top choice for students looking for variety, rigorous coursework and convenience in online courses.

“GPC far outstripped any other USG institution, having generated more than 94,500 distance learning semester credit hours during fiscal year 2009,” noted a recent University System of Georgia press release.

Georgia Perimeter College Online offers 12 associate degree programs and more than 600 online sections. More than 7,100 students are currently enrolled in online courses with more than 2,500 of those students studying exclusively online.

“Georgia Perimeter has the ability—and the commitment—to serve those Georgians in locations where they cannot come to a USG campus,” said college President Dr. Anthony Tricoli. “In addition to online courses, we are finding creative ways to provide student services to these Georgians through webinars and other online events.”

For more information on GPC Online, go to www.gpc.edu/online.

**Newton's Daffodil Festival celebrates U.S. pastimes of baseball, softball**

“Play Ball! America’s Favorite Pastimes” was the theme for five days of colorful events during GPC Newton Campus’ annual Daffodil Festival and Fall Symposium Oct. 19-23. Activities included a daffodil bulb sale, panel discussions, poetry readings, campfire storytelling and a concert by internationally-renowned folksinger John McCutcheon at Jaguar Stadium.

GPC’s baseball and softball teams are based on Newton Campus. “We wanted to honor our Jaguars by treating these vital sports academically, recognizing their fascinating history and sharing our hopes for their enrichment of our students’ lives in the future,” said Academic Dean Alan Jackson. McCutcheon’s concert featured his original songs about baseball and softball from his recent CD, “Sermon on the Mound.”

**Two-year college students to pay the lowest in fee increases**

Students at Georgia Perimeter College and the state’s other public two-year colleges will be impacted the least by new student fee increases approved in November by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

The board voted to double a special mandatory fee starting in January; the initial fee was instituted last January amid economic worries and state budget cuts. Two-year college students will now pay a $100 fee, up from $50 last year. Other students at state colleges and universities will pay $150 to $200. The fee will be in effect until June 2012.

The increased fees are part of several measures being taken to keep state college academic programs topnotch in the midst of the economic crisis.

Ron Carruth, GPC’s executive vice president for Financial and Administrative Affairs, says Georgia Perimeter budget cuts include mandatory furloughs and reductions in operating expenses, equipment and travel.

“The system and institutions have worked together to find an appropriate balance between controlling costs and providing the appropriate resources to ensure that students continue to receive high-quality instruction,” said Carruth.

**International advisors visit to learn about educational opportunities at GPC**

Georgia Perimeter College’s Center for International Education played host Nov. 5 to educational advisors from Ghana, Suriname, Mongolia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Nepal. The visitors were participating in United States Based Training (USBT), a State Department training program for overseas advisors to inform them about educational opportunities in this country.

The group met with President Dr. Anthony Tricoli and Associate Vice President Deborah Gonzalez, who offered an introduction to the two-year college system and GPC programming in particular. Tim Brotherton, ESL department chair, and Veronique Barnes, director of International Student Admissions and Advising, provided information from their areas, while Dr. Sonohser Fesseha talked about the GPC Online program.

While on campus the group also visited the classes of Brad Tucker, Stephanie Coffin, and Beth Wallace. They finished their GPC day by sharing lunch with a group of international students and staff.

“Georgia Perimeter was the only two-year college that the group visited, and they were deeply impressed by the opportunities available and the personal attention of our faculty and staff,” said Debra Denzer, director of the Center for International Education.

**Employees taking six furlough days during year as part of budget cuts**

In compliance with directions from University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis, Georgia Perimeter College employees are taking six unpaid furlough days during the 2009-10 academic year.

GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli sought employees’ suggestions before announcing the college’s furlough dates. The plan calls for each furlough day to be taken in a different month, thus lessening the impact on employees’ paychecks in any individual pay period.

On four of the furlough days, the college will close, allowing the institution to also save operating dollars. The furloughs will not cause any loss of class time, emphasized Tricoli.

In October, faculty were furloughed Oct. 6, which had been designated as a student study day with no classes scheduled. Staff were allowed to choose the day in October they wanted to take as a furlough day. Likewise, in May, faculty will take of May 5, another student study day, while staff will choose their furlough day during that month.

College closure furlough days are Nov. 25; Dec. 31; Jan. 19, the day after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday; and March 12, the last day of spring break. Students will have classes on March 2, which had been scheduled as a study day, to make up for classes originally scheduled for Jan. 19.

Several employee groups are exempt from taking furloughs. They are full-time employees who earn below $24,220 annually, Public Safety personnel, part-time employees and any employees who are paid through grants. On the college closure days, these individuals can use vacation time if available.

**GPC MEN’S SOCCER #2 IN NATION; ZAGARA INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME**

by Wade Marbaugh

What a season it was for the Georgia Perimeter College men’s soccer team! After the Jaguars clinched the regional championship, the team won a berth in the 2009 National Junior College Athletic Association national championship match and then fell in a dramatic double-overtime, penalty-kick decision.

Tyler College of Texas denied the Jaguars their second national title in a match decided by penalty kicks at West Windsor, N.J., in November. “We had good chances to score. We just couldn’t finish it,” GPC head coach Marc Zagara said. “Tyler is a very good team, very disciplined. I think we are a better team, but we couldn’t convert the opportunities.”

Both head coaches of the championship game—Zagara and Tyler’s Steve Clements—had been inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame the evening before the tournament. Zagara, an associate professor of Economics at Dunwoody Campus, was recognized for his lifetime coaching achievements and especially for his phenomenal record at Georgia Perimeter (299 wins, 74 losses and 13 ties). Going into the tourney, undefeated Tyler College was ranked No. 1 in the national poll, and GPC was No. 2. With no score after 90 minutes and two 10-minute overtimes, each team was given five penalty kicks. The Apaches made all five of theirs while the Jaguars converted three of four, giving Tyler a 1-0 win (5-3 on penalty kicks).

The Jaguars were making their sixth straight trip to the nationals. They won the championship in 2005 and now have three second-place finishes—2004, 2007 and 2009. It is a return trip to nationals in the cards for 2010, with 19 of the 23 players on the 2009 roster expected to return next year, the Jaguars future looks bright.

GPC freshman midfielder Junior Sandoval attempts a header during the Jaguars’ double-overtime, penalty-kicks loss in the NJCAA championship game Nov. 22. Georgia Perimeter fell 1-0 to Tyler College (Texas) to finish second in the nation.
Georgia Perimeter College Retiree Association members got a generous dose of history recently when guest speaker Pat Faqua Nagle shared her father’s experience about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Nagle’s father, Lt. Commander Samuel G. Faqua, served on the U.S.S. Arizona, and received the Medal of Honor recipient for his heroic actions on Dec. 7, 1941.

Nagle’s talk was part of the November meeting of the Retiree Association; the program also included information about retiree benefits.

It was the second official gathering of the retirees. In October, some 50 GPC retirees representing more than 500 years of teaching and administrative experience met for lunch at Petite Auberge restaurant in DeKalb County. Both meetings were emceed by former academic dean and English professor Dr. Ron Swofford, who is serving as the group’s first president.

The idea of forming a retiree association for the college came about last spring, said Swofford, and an organizational meeting was held in August.

“We wanted to provide opportunities for retirees to maintain and develop personal relationships, as well as relationships with the college,” Swofford explained. “Having a retiree organization also creates an opportunity for the college to continue to utilize the huge amount of professional knowledge and expertise retirees represent.”

During the October luncheon, attendees shared stories of their years working for the “old” DeKalb College, which was re-named Georgia Perimeter in 1997. Several of those attending were part of the team that opened the college in 1964 at Clarkston.

Marian Hassler was assistant to the registrar when the DeKalb School System launched DeKalb College. She remembers coming to work before the campus was completed.

“The college building wasn’t finished, and some of the classrooms weren’t ready,” recalled Hassler, who retired in 1986. “And there were days we had no heat … and the fuses would blow all the time,” she said with a laugh.

That didn’t stop students from registering for the new college. Jim Godwin, the first vice president of Student Services, noted that “767 students enrolled for the first quarter when DeKalb College opened its doors.” By the time he retired in 1984, enrollment had risen to more than 14,000 students.

Barbara Disney remembers being “either the sixth or seventh hire” of the fledgling college, starting as a clerk in the library in 1964. She retired from the college in 1998 as director of personnel services. Disney also remembers the early days of moving into a building that wasn’t quite ready for prime time.

“The library got flooded—I think they put a pipe in the wrong place, and it burst … we lost a lot of books, and I remember shoes floating down the hall,” she said.

Early growing pains aside, it was the warm relationships built over the years that everyone remembered best. That, and the rewards they found in teaching and guiding students.

Warren Mason started teaching math at the college in 1964; he retired in 1986. “I just enjoyed teaching … and the college had a great group of people,” he said.

“...they’re back...”

College retirees get reacquainted as GPC Retiree Association gears up

by Rebecca Rakoczy

Meetings:
Feb. 10 | May 12 | Aug. 6
All at 1 p.m. in CN 2220, Clarkston Campus

To Join: Send e-mail to Ronald.Swofford@gpc.edu
Dues: $15 a year

The first social event of the newly formed GPC Retiree Association was well attended.

Former HR director Barbara Disney, center, was on staff when GPC opened as DeKalb College in 1964. She is pictured with retirees Judy Chattonay, left, and Dr. Anne Hancock.

President Anthony Tricoli gets some advice from retiree Marian Hassler, who started work at the college before the first buildings at Clarkston was even completed.

Dr. Ron Swofford, right, president of the new Georgia Perimeter College Retiree Association, talks about old times with retiree Jim Godwin, center, and his wife, Imogene Godwin.

GPC RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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**PRAISEWORTHY**

Lynn Eddy, Admissions, received the Collegewide Admissions and Records Employee Recognition award for fall semester 2009. The award recognizes an outstanding employee who makes a difference in the college and in his or her department. Eddy, a 34-year employee of the college, was cited as a star performer and “someone who makes a difference.” The honor is given three times a year and is based on peer nominations.

Rick Lindner and Bill Price, both Humanities, Dunwoody, presented a poster session at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference at the University of Georgia on “Service-Learning Assignments in Communication Courses.”


Charles Fox, Humanities, Dunwoody, presented “A Manifesto for Processive Poetry” to the South Central Modern Language Association convention Oct. 29-31 in Baton Rouge, La. He also was elected chair of the Freshman Composition panel for next year’s SCMLA conference. His presentation comes from the introduction for instructors in his new book, “Creative Control: Creative Writing Prompts for the Composition Class,” scheduled to be released in January.

Dr. Stuart Noel, Humanities, Clarkston, founded the Truman Capote Society, and the first meeting was held at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference in November in Atlanta. He presented his paper, “Truman Capote’s Swans and Muses,” at the conference. Also presenting on Capote was Kathleen DeMarco, Humanities, Newton. Also at the conference, Dr. Reginald Abbott, Humanities, Dunwoody, chaired the session, “Professing Power: Problems in Professorial/Administrative Culture in the Two-Year College English Department.” Other GPC presenters included Humanities professors Hank Edson, Beverly Santillo and Ted Wadley, all Dunwoody, and Steve Beuchamp, Clarkston.

Dr. John Anderson, Science, Decatur, was the co-leader of the Georgia Geological Society field trip to the Sandersville limestone outcrops Oct. 10-11. Anderson also was a contributing author for the paper, “Biosтратigraphic Correlation of the Sandersville Limestone Member of the Tobacco Road Sand to the Ocmulgee Formation, Georgia Coastal Plain.”

Erin Kendrick, ESL, Dunwoody, served on the Planning Committee for the 5th Atlanta Asian Film Festival, Oct. 9-17. GPC has been an AAFF sponsor and venue for all five years. Kendrick, along with Debra Denzer, Center for International Education, and Deborah Gonzalez, Educational Affairs, represented the college at the festival’s Premier Night Gala. Dunwoody instructors Paul Gaustad, Film; Tom Graham, History; Masako Ikenushi, Japanese; and Melanie Rueff, ESL, volunteered for the festival.

GPC President Dr. Anthony Tricoli spoke to a national audience about the crisis science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is facing in our country—and the role of higher education in solving that crisis. Tricoli was the keynote speaker at the 2009 Workshop on Best Practices for Recruitment and Transition of Engineering and Science Students from Community Colleges to Four-Year Institutions held Oct. 4-6 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Tim Brotherton, ESL, Clarkston, presented a paper on using the New York Times in Advanced ESL composition classes at the Northern New England TESOL Conference held in New Hampshire Nov. 14. Brotherton also was a national reader for the Test of Written English in Concord, Calif., Dec. 4-5.

Michael Diebert, Humanities, Clarkston, is now an associate editor for Futurecycle Poetry, a local online and print journal and press. The Web site is futurecycle.org.

Peter Armstrong, Humanities, Dunwoody, staged the online exhibition of his illustration series, “The 13 Days of Halloween,” which depicted scenes from classic horror/sci-fi books, such as Michael Crichton’s “Jurassic Park.” Poems by Dr. Theodore Worozbyt, English, Newton, have recently appeared in the periodicals Alice Blue, Margie, Seneca Review, Quarterly West, Diode, Image, Shenandoah and The Southern Review.

Andres Pepper, Science, Decatur, was a presenter at the Construction and Startup Workshop given by the Nuclear Power Generation Curriculum Development Project at Southern Polytechnic State University.

Dr. Mary Mattson, Teacher Education, Dunwoody, presented “Communication Web Sites: Reaching Generation Y Students Their Way” at the International Society of Exploring Teaching and Learning in Philadelphia in October. Mattson also serves as an elected board member of the organization and is chairing the publicity committee for the 2010 conference in Nashville.

**Photoworthy**

**Helping their community**  GPC Newton students Claudine Sinclair, Aubrey Elliott and Patrick Dwyer spent a Saturday planting trees as part of an ongoing beautification project with Hands On Newton.

**Buzzed for breast cancer research** Marc Zayac gets his head shaved by Devon Collins of the History and Politics Club after losing a bet. The History professor had bet students and faculty that if they raised $1,100 in two weeks for breast cancer research, he would have his head shaved in public. In addition to the Clarkston fundraising effort, the GPC Stompers on Dunwoody Campus raised more than $2,300 during a 5-mile breast cancer walk in which some 80 faculty, staff and students participated.
Dr. Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsiy, Teaching and Learning, has just completed a two-year term as chairperson of the Georgia Consortium of Teaching and Learning. As past chair, she will serve in an advisory role to the new chairperson in 2010.

Brandi Merwether, Health and Wellness, Dunwoody, is the project manager for a Young Adult grant from the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. The $8,210 grant funds a project to promote education and appropriate decision-making skills regarding alcohol use and unsafe driving practices.

Jennifer Mason, Alumni Office, graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Master of Arts in Professional Writing on Dec. 17. She performed a reading from her thesis, “Pilgrimage: A Collection of Short Stories,” at KSU on Nov. 17.

Lewis Godwin, Campus Planning and Projects, regularly volunteers with second-year architectural design students at Southern Polytechnic State University.

Robert Wigfall and the Gateway to College Academy received the state Superintendent’s Distinguished Achievement Award for having made a significant improvement in performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test. Gateway, housed on Clarkston Campus, is a high school completion and dual enrollment program for students who were not successful in traditional high school.

Shana Hunt and Dr. Derrick Tenny, English, Gateway to College, presented “The World as They See It: Teaching Culturally Relevant Pedagogy to At-Risk Students” at the Gateway to College National Network’s Peer Learning Conference in Washington, D.C., and at the Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference in Decatur.

Tanra Ortgies-Young, Social Science, Dunwoody, organized the third annual best practices in teaching panel at the State Conference of the Georgia Political Science Association at Callaway Gardens on Nov. 13. This year’s panel included Dr. Crystal Garner and Adam Stone, both Political Science, Dunwoody; also at the meeting, Shyam Srinivasan, Political Science, Clarkston, served as a discussant on two panels and as chair on two others. He also was co-chair of the 2010 Annual Ramesh and Vijaya Bakshi Community Change, Political Shyam Sriram, Dunwoody. Also at the meeting, Dr. Crystal Garret, Adam Stone, and Breakfast for GPC champions: College employees in the administrative suite on Oct. 9, 2009. This year’s panel included the third annual best practices in teaching panel at the State Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference in Decatur.

Dr. Ray Huebschmann, Psychology and Teacher Education, Newton, spoke on fitness and mental health during a live broadcast on Sirius Radio Channel 161 Nov. 13. His talk also was simulcast on FamilyNet Television. Huebschmann also qualified to compete in the 2010 FINA Masters World Swimming Championships in Sweden and the 2010 Weightlifting World Masters Championships in Poland.

Faculty members Thomas Graham, History, Dunwoody; and Kar Miller, English, Online; and staff members Tiffa Hall, Student Services, Decatur; and Randy Levine, Facilities, Clarkston, represented the college at the University System of Georgia Board of Regents’ fall meeting. They were joined by Fran Mohr, Customer Service Director, and Dr. Anthony Tricoli, GPC president, for the occasion during which USG Chancellor Erroll Davis recognized GPC for winning the 2009 Institution of the Year award for Customer Service. GPC also is featured in a promotional video by the Governor’s Office of Customer Service. Watch the video clip on GPC’s YouTube channel: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DsJ1rl.pucC8.

Dr. Arla Bernstein, Humanities, Dunwoody, presented the poster, “Civic-Minded Scholarship in Communication Courses,” at the 10th Annual National Outreach Scholarship Conference hosted by the University of Georgia Sept. 28-29.


ESL professors Eric Kendrick and Rick Robinson, both Dunwoody, and Tracey Justus, Clarkston, presented “Teaching and Assessing Public Speaking in College ESL” at the Southeast Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages conference Sept. 17-19 in Atlanta. Other ESL faculty from GPC who presented included Tim Brotherton, Barbara Hall, Mary Middemas, Beth Wallace, Caroline Anderson, Danny Meadows and Cynthia Walker.

Alan Craig, Learning and Tutoring Center, Dunwoody, was conference chair for the National College Learning Center Association’s 24th Annual Conference held Sept. 30-Oct. 3 in Golden. Col. Craig was installed as NCLCA president at the meeting, and he presented a preconference workshop for new learning center directors.

Pete Bursi, Library, Dunwoody, participated in a panel discussion, “Assessing Student Learning,” at the Georgia Conference on Information Literacy in Savannah Sept. 25. Bursi also presented a session, “Give Yourself a Hand,” at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations annual conference in Columbus Oct. 8.

Master Faculty Advisors Elaine Bryan, Physical Education, Newton; Susan Leftrom, Joint (Dual Enrollment, Clarkston); Kar Miller, English, Online; Tanra Ortgies-Young, Political Science, Dunwoody; along with Dr. Sallie Paschal, Mathematics, Newton, presented the workshop, “Revolutionizing Advising Services at the Speed of Light: How to Apply Georgia’s Rapid Process Improvement Initiative to Your Home Institution,” Oct. 1 at the National Academic Advising Association conference in San Antonio.

Also, Ortgies-Young, a member of the NACADA Faculty Advising Commission Executive Committee, co-presented “Getting to the Heart of Advising: Faculty Assessment and Reward.” Also at the conference, Paschal and Ortgies-Young accepted the Outstanding Advising Administrator and Outstanding Academic Advisor awards respectively.
Graduates celebrate achievements, prepare to take next step
by Roger Barnes

The gymnasium at Georgia Perimeter’s Clarkston Campus quickly filled with graduating students and their families and teachers, all coming together to hear parting words and celebrate the hard work that culminates at commencement.

“This is a day when hope turns into promise, when hard work yields rewards and when achievement is transformed into opportunity,” said keynote speaker Rep. Howard Mosby (D-Atlanta), a 1989 graduate of GPC (known then as DeKalb College). “My education has been an absolutely essential force in my business career, my legislative and community roles and even in successfully navigating life’s daily issues.”

More than 1,000 students were eligible to receive associate degrees and attend the Fall Commencement ceremonies held on Monday, Dec. 14. Most said they wouldn’t miss it for the world.

“I’m doing this for my family,” said Nursing graduate Andrea Pack. “It means a lot to my family to see me march.” After graduation Pack plans to continue her studies at the University of Illinois.

Fellow nursing student Namwina Penza added, “Nursing school is a very challenging journey. Graduation brings closure to this part of the journey.”

The oldest graduate in the class, Arthur V. Roberts, 70, leaves GPC with a 3.25 and a degree in health and physical education. And his educational journey is not over—he is transferring to Clayton State University.

“After retiring from the construction field, I felt I had to fill the time with something,” Roberts said. “I was caught up on all the home improvement I could do. It was convenient for me to go to Decatur Campus. I always said that if I only had a campus by me when I graduated from high school, I would have gone to college then.”

The memory of Newton Campus student Stephen Wust, 26, also was honored at Fall Commencement as his parents accepted his degree on his behalf. Wust was to have graduated with a degree in business this fall. In October he was killed in a highway accident while riding his motorcycle.

Coming from a high school she describes as being not very diverse, fall graduate Jaleesa Bass has been most impressed by GPC’s diversity.

“I think that’s one of the things my time here has taught me the most about,” Bass said. “When I came to GPC, I took a course on Clarkston Campus, and I got to see and know a lot of people from a lot of different cultures. When that happens, you begin to see things from different points of view.”

Georgia Perimeter President Dr. Anthony Tricoli appealed to the graduating students to make good use of their varied GPC experiences.

“Graduates, after you leave here some of you will go on to four-year institutions, some of you will go directly into the workforce, while others of you may start your own businesses,” he noted. “Regardless of your direction, I urge you to apply all that you have gained here at GPC—the understanding, the knowledge and the willingness to support and serve others.”

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