



Indicators of Success

Dr. Virginia M. Carson

Vice President for Academic Affairs



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The just announced \$600,000 two-year Mathematics Science Partnership Grant to Georgia Highlands College with Kennesaw State University and the Etowah GYSTC will provide science in-service training to seventy-five 4th, 5th, and 8th grade teachers from Floyd County, Bartow County, Chattooga County, and Polk County Systems. In addition, GHC will also be involved with teachers from Cobb County as well. This is a tremendous testament to the GHC reputation and the quality of the GHC science faculty that the grant was awarded. This opportunity to expand the reach of the GHC teacher education program beyond pre-service education to include teacher practitioners in the region is a significant step forward.

Screening committees are active for the 2007-2008 replacement faculty positions. The chairs of the committees are as follows:

Accounting	Betty Nolen	Biology	Andy Dawson
Education	Dr. Bill Mugleston	English	Frank Minor
Geology	Billy Morris	History	Dr. Laura Musselwhite
Mathematics	Harriet Kiser	Spanish	Dana Pergrem

The volume and nature of the applicants indicates that GHC attracts many good candidates.

Another signal news development at GHC was that the institution's compliance report, part of the decennial reaffirmation, was submitted to SACS on March 15, 2007! Many, many thanks to everyone who was involved over several years under the leadership of Dr. Laura Musselwhite! The next step will be the off-site review that will be conducted in Atlanta in May 2007.

Georgia Highlands College Hosts Science Fair Event

On February 9th, Georgia Highlands College played host to the Northwest Georgia Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Nearly 100 middle-school and high-school students converged on the Floyd Campus to compete in the areas of Health/Medicine, Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, Environmental Science, and Mathematical Computation. Some of the schools represented include Rome High School, Coosa Middle School, Dalton High School, and Menlo School. Thanks to the hard work of the following GHC faculty, the event was a great success: Andy Dawson, Dr. Johnny Duke, Emily Flynt, Lavinia Heaton, Sharryse Henderson, Jason Hitzeman, Dr. Mark Knauss, Joseph McCauley, and Devan Rediger.

Through the cooperative efforts of Lt. Col David Wright from Etowah GYSTC and the science and mathematics faculty at Georgia Highlands College, over 25 students were selected to move on to the Georgia State Science Fair in April, and countless others were exposed to the benefits of higher education at GHC.

Annual Ski Trip Enjoys Continued Success

This year 51 students attended Dr. Ken Weatherman's 27th annual ski and snowboarding trip to the Boone/Blowing Rock, NC area. The trip is in conjunction with PHED 1420 and 1421, Beginning and Intermediate Snow Skiing and Snowboarding respectively, but is open to others wishing to attend for non-credit. After attending six hours of pre-trip instruction taught by Dr. Weatherman on the Cartersville and Floyd campuses, the students traveled to Appalachian Ski Mountain in Blowing Rock, North Carolina for five days of "on the slopes" instruction with the French Swiss Ski College.

"We have been very pleased with the program that French Swiss has offered our students through the past years," says Weatherman. "Their founder, Jim Cottrell, is a well known person in the Southern ski industry with multiple academic qualifications and a wealth of experience. I like the personal touch that he and his staff take with our students. His goal is for each student to end the ski week with a positive ski experience."

Another positive aspect of the trip is its affordability. Weatherman elaborates, "We stay in a nice motel that offers a good breakfast each morning without charge. The amenities of the program include motel expenses, equipment rental, lessons, lift tickets on the slopes, and even the textbook for the course. Options include staying one, two, three, or four to a room. Students staying four per room this year continued to get this ski package for slightly less than \$300.00, which is an incredible bargain. Getting the same amenities during peak season would easily cost twice as much." ►

Annual Ski Trip continued



Averaging around 40 participants per excursion, this event remains a popular physical education option for Georgia Highlands students. This year's group included an especially large contingent from the Cartersville campus. Weatherman said, "Often we take more students on the program than other larger colleges like Clemson and UGA. I am very proud of our Georgia Highlands College skiing heritage."

Spotlight: Jesse Bishop

"What Goes Around Comes Around"

A former Floyd College student, Jesse Bishop has now come full circle as a new member of the English faculty at Georgia Highlands College. Jesse shares his unique perspective on GHC, the experiences that shaped him, and how he incorporates those lessons into his classroom activities:

I recently attended the AWP Writer's Conference, the annual meeting of the largest creative writing organization in the world, where I presented a paper on creative writing pedagogy. In one of the breakout sessions on teaching at community colleges, I heard a young woman say to the panel (with a huff and a sigh), "I guess I'm going to have to work at a two-year college." It was clear that she was opposed to the idea in a substantial way, and perhaps she felt this was a step down from her current pursuit of an MFA. I was a little offended, at first, because not only am I on the faculty here at Georgia Highlands, but I am a former two-year student.

Time and time again, my experiences as a student find a place in my classroom activities, discussions, and lectures. Unlike the woman at AWP, I do not see GHC as a lower-tier school. I see it as home. In fact, I chose to work here over a larger university because I believe in what we do here. I believe in the students that come to us, who are sometimes unmotivated, unsure of themselves, or perhaps even simply trying to find what it is that they like in the world.

I have the unique opportunity to be a new faculty member and new administrator, since I teach English and serve as the assistant site director to Dr. Diane Langston for the Accelerated Transfer Program (ATP) at the University of West Georgia. Not to say that teaching in the ATP does not have its challenges, as teaching in general has its fair share, but I'm especially fond of the ATP because, although I did not go through it myself, I did spend two years at then Floyd College before transferring to UWG. This has given me a different perspective about what these student face when they leave us.

I suppose I should mention how I ended up here. I started at Floyd College in the fall of 2000. One of the most important classes I took was Dr. Kristie Kemper's English 1101, not for the technical and formal instruction about writing that I received, though it certainly has important, but because she encouraged me to get involved with the Six Mile Post. As a reporter, first, I learned all about asking questions. This naturally led to my involvement in all manner of campus activities, for good or ill, I suppose. Still, there was a payoff. I won several awards from the Georgia College Press Association as Dr. Kemper's news folks do each year, and later I won awards at UWG from the same group for my editorial and investigative work.

When I transferred to UWG in the fall of 2002, I signed up for several English courses, one of which was called "Practical Criticism and Research." It was not nearly as dull as the course name might imply. Rather than offer a litany of the courses I have taken, I mention this one because we "learned" a special tool of the trade: close reading. The problem for me, though it certainly was not a problem at all, was that I had already learned this skill, just not that fancy name. Dr. Jon Hershey's "Introduction to Creative Writing" (ENGL 2116) was probably the most important class I have ever taken because he gave me the essential skills to succeed as an English major, although I feel confident that I could have succeeded in most any field that involves critical reading and thinking. In fact, I was able to use what Dr. Kemper and Dr. Hershey had given me in the way of skills and tools to win a very coveted "Insight Award" at UWG one of the first of these awards to go to a transfer student. ►

Jesse Bishop continued

These two anecdotes, while they are not all that exciting or glamorous, are representative of the things I keep in mind whenever I step into a classroom. I ask myself, "Am I going to make these students think about the world around them?" and "Am I going to give them a skill or reinforce a skill that will be essential to them later on?" Those skills developed because my professors were available to me, both in the classroom and outside of it. Whenever I had a question or concern about my studies, I knew that I could turn to any number of people for direction and support. As a new professor, I know that I can be available for my students, in the event they miss something or in the event that I simply fail to communicate some idea to them clearly enough. This, too, is one of the most rewarding things about teaching at GHC. No matter where I have taught in the college, whether in Carrollton or Rome, I always make myself available to students in the same ways that my professors and now colleagues have made themselves available to me. Without a doubt, I can say that this is my most important function: to inspire students to come to the office for longer discussions, for more in-depth explorations of whatever text we might be studying, and for better-formed questions because I do not have all the answers, but I can come up with good questions, the kinds of questions that the Dr. Kempers and Dr. Hersheys have offered me through my college career.

I offer one final anecdote, the one I call my first "teaching moment." In a developmental English course two fall terms ago, I came down with a nasty cold. I lost my voice, but did not want to lose class time because of my illness. I decided to have my students watch the film *Big Fish* and write an essay about the nature of telling stories (or lies perhaps). We only made it through half of the film before class ended, and as I expected, the next meeting everyone wanted to finish the film. I agreed to do so, but with the caveat that the essay now had to be an argument about why the stories or lies are important. They agreed. In the next class meeting, as I was taking up papers, I asked if anyone had any questions about the film. One young woman asked, "What's up with the fish?" A classmate jumped in and added to that query by asking, "Yeah, what does the fish mean?" As I stared at my lesson on comma usage and the importance of the semicolon, and thought of a quick response, another young man asked, "Mr. Bishop, what do you make of all the Christian imagery in the film?" Needless to say, we did not make it to the commas on that day. We just kept asking questions.

Movers & Shakers: Faculty On the Go

Dr. Kristie Kemper and Cindy Wheeler Attend National College Media Convention in St. Louis



Cindy Wheeler at the highest point inside the Gateway Arch

Dr. Kristie Kemper, Professor of English and "Six Mile Post" adviser, and Cindy Wheeler, Instructor of English and "Six Mile Post" assistant adviser, attended the National College Media Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in October 2006. The convention is a combined meeting of the College Media Advisers and the Associated Collegiate Press. This year Collegiate Broadcasters, Inc. participated in the convention as well.

Jehna Holder, SMP editor, also attended the convention, which is typically the largest annual gathering of those in college media, attracting around 2,500 student journalists and college advisers. The "Six Mile Post" staff had been notified before the convention that the SMP had received a First-Class ranking with marks of distinction from the Associated Collegiate Press.

The group from Georgia Highlands College separately attended numerous workshops to bring back as much information as possible. A few of the highlights included sessions conducted by Mike Richman, a top Adobe engineer currently working with a project for Times-Warner, and presentations by opening speaker Jennifer Arul of New Delhi Television and by Tim Harrower, author of an influential book on newspaper design.

The convention was in St. Louis at the same time the World Series was taking place there, so the city sported a particularly festive atmosphere. The group did find a little time for sightseeing, and on the last night, witnessed a fireworks celebration from the hotel windows as the Cardinals won the World Series.



Cindy Wheeler (left) and Jehna Holder at the Gateway Arch

Dr. Renva Watterson Serves As Judge for Columbia Scholastic Press National Crown Awards

Dr. Renva Watterson, Chair of the Humanities Division, returned to serve as a judge for Columbia Scholastic Press Association's national Crown Awards this year. Her specific charge was to join three other judges, two from California and one from North Carolina, in viewing, assessing, providing commentary on and ranking thousands of junior high, high school, college and university newspapers from all over the U.S.

The judging was an intensive, multi-day effort held in December 2006 on the campus of Columbia University in New York City, N.Y. in the School of Journalism. A team of a dozen or so adjudicated scholastic newspapers, magazines, and yearbooks, some critics from professional journalism circles, others from award-winning teaching careers, but all with secondary and collegiate writing, editing and design advocacy interests.

The Crown Awards will be presented officially at the annual spring conference, also on the Columbia campus, later this month. Though Watterson has chosen not to attend the conference this year (she presented last year on awareness of gendered language in journalistic writing), she has been invited to return as part of the judging panel in December 2007 and looks forward to this event at year end.

Watterson is also active in a number of other organizations. She has led several projects for the Rome Exchange Club, a service organization whose primary aim is to prevent child abuse through sponsorship of the Family Resource Center of Rome, chaired the Youth of the Month and Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (A.C.E.) Awards, both of which are speaking competitions for high school students, and serves as President of the Georgia Communication Association. ►

Movers & Shakers *continued*

Dr. Alberta Johnson Assumes National Presidency of Psi Beta National Psychology Honor Society

Last August, at the American Psychological Association (APA) Convention in New Orleans, Dr. Alberta Johnson, Professor of Psychology, assumed the position of National President of Psi Beta in the second of a three-year commitment to this National Honor Society in Psychology for two-year and community colleges. The President chairs the National Council of Psi Beta, its governing body, composed of five regional Vice-Presidents, the Past-President, the President-Elect, and the Executive Director.

Johnson feels one of the most rewarding aspects of her involvement with the organization is the "honor and privilege of working with other leaders from around the U.S. who are equally devoted to serving Psi Beta." She finds the work with faculty advisors, students, and others in the psychology arena exciting and is looking forward to sharing the wealth of information she has gained through her many opportunities and associations.

A Wealth of Achievement

On February 16-17th, Ms. Sharryse Henderson, Instructor of Biology and co-advisor for the Alpha Psi Omicron chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (Dr. Nancy Hague is also an advisor), escorted four GHC students to the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention in Dalton, Georgia. During the conference, the Alpha Psi Omicron received two awards recognizing growth and participation of the chapter. Two students also received awards recognizing individual student achievements.

The awards received were as follows:

Four-Star Certificate of Completion

The Five-Star Chapter Development Program serves as a blueprint for developing a strong chapter. In addition, the program provides opportunity for earning local, regional, and international recognition for chapters who participate in activities that reflect the scholarly ideals of Phi Theta Kappa. In this program, chapters set their own goals and advance to higher levels of programming at their own pace. In order to reach the five-star status, chapters must actively participate in multiple activities from all four of the Phi Theta Kappa Hallmarks: Leadership, Scholarship, Fellowship, and Service. The Alpha Psi Omicron chapter was able to complete the Four-Star status by participating in a minimum of 3 activities from each of the Hallmarks.

2006 Pinnacle Gold Chapter

The Pinnacle Scholarship Award Program encourages chapters to enhance their recruitment and orientation strategies. The 2006 Pinnacle Program offers three levels of recognition. The Alpha Psi Omicron Chapter reached the highest recognition level of Pinnacle Gold Chapter Award. This award signifies that the chapter has increased its membership by 10% for three consecutive years.

Distinguished Chapter Officer

Ms. Amelia Hornbuckle, chapter Treasurer, was selected as the Distinguished Chapter Officer for the Georgia Region.

Hall of Honor

Mr. David Hannah, chapter Co-President, was selected to the Georgia Hall of Honor which recognizes chapter members who directly contribute the success of their chapter.

Sarah Anne Staples Award

Ms. Amelia Hornbuckle received the Sarah Anne Staples Award which recognizes the participation of non-traditional students in chapter activities.

Be on the lookout for the work of this dedicated group, as the Alpha Psi Omicron Chapter is involved in a number of valuable service, scholarship, fellowship, and leadership projects both on campus and throughout the community.

GHC Assists 'Young 100' Through Community Partnerships

By Dr. Jon Hershey, Professor of English

Last summer's Foundation Camp created an unofficial partnership between GHC and the 100 Black Men of Rome-Northwest Georgia to help "at-risk" middle and high school boys. That partnership became official this fall when Dr. Randy Pierce signed an agreement with Greg Shropshire, GHC alumnus and President of the local chapter of the 100 Black Men. The boys, known now as members of the "Young 100," are considered at-risk of dropping out of school, due to a variety of factors. The mission of the partnership is to help the Young 100 stay and succeed in school.

Plans have already begun, thanks to David Mathis, on expanding the Foundation Camp for summer 2007. A Young 100 Advisory Board has been put into place to offer guidance on the camp and other activities through the year. Agreeing to serve on the Board are Dr. Walter Cotter, Dr. Catherine King, Billy Morris, Mark Pergrem, Dr. Greg Sumner, and Judy Taylor.

Most recently, a new community partner has joined the cause--the Rome Police Department. Thanks to the efforts of Major Elaine Snow, the Rome Police Department plans to participate in the summer camp and to offer programs for the Young 100 through the year.

Through this partnership, GHC hopes to make a positive impact on the lives of the Young 100 and on the future on the community.
