



A New Year Many Milestones!

Dr. Virginia M. Carson

Vice President for Academic Affairs



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The beginning of the 2007-2008 academic year marks the achievement of numerous milestones for GHC. First and foremost, the Fall 2007 enrollment that is currently at an unduplicated headcount of 4,352 is the highest in the history of the college! No small amount of time and resources on the part of all faculty and staff went into providing these students the assistance required to register with us. Now the challenge is to help them reach their educational goals.

The Cartersville and Marietta sites each reached record enrollment this Fall, and the Acworth site has begun to climb toward its previous high. The planning done by Division Chairs and Site Directors for course offerings for our redistributed and increased student population proved to be right on the money. Even though popular class times closed early as usual, there were seats available at all locations right up to the close of drop/add.

The launch of a new newsletter for academic advising, *Academic Advising Advice*, is described herein as is the 2008 schedule of international education offerings at GHC

The Year of Reaffirmation of Accreditation!

The August 9, 2007 GHC In-Service provided a platform for the kickoff of the GHC Quality Enhancement Plan, *Information Competency* (IC). This is a five-year project to improve student learning. Leslie Johnson, Chair of the QEP Implementation Committee, writes about IC within this newsletter.

From **October 15-17, 2007**, the On-Site Team will come to GHC as part of the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation now in progress. Dr. Patricia McKenzie from Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas is chair of the On-Site Team. Dr. McKenzie, Vice President and Dean of Instruction at Angelina, visited GHC on August 31 in preparation for the October session.

GHC has invited Dr. Caroline Stern, Professor in the Department of Language and Literature at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, to be the QEP Evaluator. Dr. Stern will arrive with the SACS On-Site Team and contribute to their analysis of the institution.

And, GHC is preparing for the reaffirmation visit from the National League for Nursing in February 2008.

The mileposts are whizzing by!

And the Winner is: Dr. Laura Musselwhite

The Wesley Walraven Faculty Award, presented at graduation, honors a distinguished faculty member, whose presence has made a significant impact on the Georgia Highlands College community. Nominations are open to all full-time faculty members who have been active during the current academic year, and the faculty vote on the winner. This award is named in honor of Dr. Wesley Walraven, who was the first academic dean of the college, from 1970 to 1993. In the spirit of Dr. Walraven, nominees should have made a substantial contribution to teaching and learning at Georgia Highlands College.

The 2007 recipient was Dr. Laura Musselwhite, Professor of History and Chair of the GHC SACS Leadership Team. Musselwhite began her teaching career at the college in 1991. "When I came to Floyd College as a first time teacher, I was incredibly excited, but nervous. The people at the college, including Dr. Walraven, made me feel welcome and introduced me to the world of academia. As I continued my journey, I tried to get more and more involved in the life of the college. As I did so, my affection and respect for the institution and its people grew. I am very honored and proud to be the recipient of the Walraven this year. While the award recognizes the accomplishments that I personally have made at GHC, it more importantly represents the critical role of faculty in the life of the institution. We give our time and talents to the college and the college repays us with a career, a community, and a love of the classroom."






Dr. Laura Musselwhite












Student Bloopers

Let's face it - we've all said things that, in the immortal words of grade-school teachers everywhere, "did not reflect our best work." Our students are no different. Following are a few choice student bloopers submitted by GHC faculty (initials of contributors given) for your entertainment.

Sometimes it's that jewel of a story...

-  One of my students was having trouble on Vista recently. She received an email saying her password had been reset but that her username would be unchanged. A few days later she came to my office saying she STILL couldn't get on VISTA. I asked her to try and logon from my computer so I could see what the problem was. She got to the login page, and for the username she typed in "unchanged." JH
-  I was asking students to turn their topics in to me for their persuasive speeches. I had given them an extensive list of topic ideas to choose from if they wanted. A student came up to me and told me that he wanted to do his speech on pro-life. So I began to explain to him that he would need to present both sides of the issue and explain why his side was a stronger argument. The whole time I was explaining the process he needed to go through, he was staring at me with this confused look on his face. When I finished my explanation, he looked at me and said, "What other side of the issue? I was just going to talk about what elements of life are good...like sports." ES
-  A young man in my communication class was relaying his concerns about an upcoming course involving mass media. When I told him the subject matter would be quite entertaining, he countered with a slight edge of hysteria to his voice. "I don't even like giving speeches in a class of twenty-five people," he lamented. "I can't even imagine speaking to two hundred or three hundred people." Confused, I asked why he thought he would be required to present to such a large audience. Then the answer became clear. It was, after all, a Mass Communication course. DP

Other times it's the wording choice that doesn't quite make the cut...

-  Cleavage is busting out everywhere. KK
 -  In soccer there is one pint awarded for each shot into the goal. KK
 -  In flag football all person wears is a flag around their waste [sic]. Playing coed football can bring a person "close" to other players by blocking them and pulling their flag off. If a person wants to meet a boy or girlfriend, playing coed football is a sure way. KK
 -  I believed in my shelf. KK
 -  20/20 hide sight KK
 -  When a couple can not get alone with one another in a marriage, they turn to a divorce. KK
 -  Abigail and John [Adams] were married at Weymouth parsonage on October 25, 1764. They both said they were virgins and in seconds she was pregnant. KK
 -  I believe abortions should be allowed in cases of rape (though I would encourage the mother to be a man about it and have the baby). KK
 -  Who can forget suffering from "teat" anxiety (test anxiety)...or a "dealer add-on" of undercoating of a new car, which comes from an "arousal" can (aerosol). CP
 -  A female student was giving a speech a couple years back and was providing an example about how the government was covering up a scandal. She meant to say "snow job" but alas, her consonants became confused. TO
 -  While discussing visual aids, I used an example in class involving flowers, specifically, a lily and an orchid. A few days later this example surfaced again in the form of a test question. As we were going over the test, an obviously disgusted student raised his hand. "An orchid would NOT be an acceptable visual aid for a speech about flowers," he argued. "You can't just bring a bunch of trees into class." DP
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QEP Update

By Leslie Johnson, Instructor in Communications

Developing successful programs which increase student learning is always a challenge, and GHC is always up for a challenge. This most recent endeavor tackles the need for increased information literacy among college students.

Over the past couple of years, Georgia Highlands College (GHC) faculty, staff, and students exchanged ideas through a series of town hall meetings, surveys, and committee meetings. From these interactions, it was agreed that GHC students have a strong need for a program which will help them gain a greater ability to navigate, understand, evaluate, and utilize the growing multitude of information resources available in today's society. With the explosion of new technology, many times students feel overwhelmed in their attempts to wade through the mire of information and unearth the pertinent, reliable information they desire.



Based on this knowledge, committee members worked together to create a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which will help GHC students meet this need. Officially known as Information Competency (IC) @ GHC, implementation will begin with Fall semester 2007.

The mission for IC@GHC is to create a curriculum-wide culture of information competency (IC) among students, which will be demonstrated through writing or other modes of communication (such as oral communication.)

From this mission four student learning outcomes (SLOs) are encouraged. Students will develop the ability to determine the nature and extent of information needed, access the needed information effectively and efficiently, evaluate information and its sources critically, and demonstrate IC through writing or other modes of communication.

Much time and effort has been exerted to make sure that this QEP is truly beneficial to the entire student population. Although IC @ GHC will begin implementation in only a few courses, IC@GHC will consistently expand until its influence is embedded into all areas of college curricula. This influence will be aimed at specifically helping students increase their level of information competency and will be accomplished in several ways. First, faculty members will be provided with training and materials on increasing IC in the classroom. These IC trained faculty members will then identify and develop class materials which give students the opportunity to incorporate IC skills into the existing coursework. Finally, faculty members will use assessment instruments to evaluate increased IC skills among their students. Additionally, general collegewide assessment tools will enable a comparison of entering freshmen IC skills to graduating student IC skills. The importance of IC@GHC will also be established through the use of unique marketing items, an interactive website, invited guest speakers, and student involvement.

The mission and SLOs of IC will impact all GHC students so that as they enter the workplace they are prepared to fully utilize all available information resources not only to better themselves but also to improve their communities.

Advising Update

By Laura Ralston, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Lead Advising Specialist

The state of academic advising is not perfect, but everyone is working to continually improve the process. Several faculty have commented to me that "things seemingly run smoother than ever before." On that note, let me report that 2006-7 saw a 34% increase in the number of students participating in Advising DAZE.

In July 2007, Dr. Virginia Carson, Carolyn Hamrick, and I attended an advising conference in Salt Lake City sponsored by NACADA (National Academic Advising Association). Participants in the conference were charged with developing an action plan for our institutions to improve an academic advising challenge. This has launched a number of initiatives that are being implemented, as you read about in the new advising newsletter, *Academic Advising Advice*.

Also, let me offer all of you many thanks for your participation in academic advising activities, including the orientation sessions and DAZE. Without you, none of the progress would have been possible. Let's keep moving forward and help our students be the best they can be!

Advising Newsletter Link:

<http://www.highlands.edu/academics/academicaffairs/advising.htm>

Students Without Borders

By Erica Simpson, Instructor in Communications

Do you have students who will do anything to get out of Northwest Georgia if only for a short while? If so, tell them to look no more. Georgia Highlands has just what they need.

In the past, GHC has offered study abroad opportunities through the Board of Regents. While these programs are popular throughout the state of Georgia, the number of Georgia Highlands students partaking in these has always been dishearteningly low. At the same time, companies all over the country are sending their employees around the world to do business on an increasing basis. When hiring, these companies are looking for candidates who have traveled and experienced another culture. Georgia Highlands is continuously devoted to preparing our students for their respective job fields, and what better way to do so than to make it even easier for our students to see the rest of their country and the rest of their world.



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Beginning in Summer 2008, Georgia Highlands will be offering three study abroad trips created specifically for our students. These trips will be open to Georgia Highlands Students, community members, faculty, and staff. Those who choose to go on the trips can participate in the classroom aspect and receive college credit, or they can simply travel with us just for the experience. GHC faculty members will be leading the trips. This provides a closer connection between students and instructors throughout the planning and traveling. Brochures about these trips are located throughout the campuses or can be picked up from Jeff Brown in Extended Learning.

Georgia Highlands is committed to providing all the necessary tools for students to succeed. Scholarships are available for students who wish to go on one of these trips or a trip sponsored by the Board of Regents. In addition to scholarships, a new student club has been revived and reconstructed. "Students without Borders" is a club designed for two purposes: to raise awareness about study abroad opportunities and assist in the fundraising for each student's respective trip. The club is open to any student who is interested in or signed up for a study abroad experience. Whether they plan to travel with a GHC faculty member, go on a BOR trip with students from all over Georgia, or are just interested in study abroad but have not committed to a trip, they are welcome in the club. The club, advised by faculty member Erica Simpson, hopes to meet at least twice a month. This would include one planning meeting per month and one fundraiser per month. If students are interested in being a part of this activity, they can contact the advisor either via e-mail at esimpson@highlands.edu, via phone at 368-7623, or stop by the office on the Floyd campus in F132.

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If you, a friend, a colleague, or a student is interested in participating in one of the new study abroad opportunities, please contact the respective trip leader for more information. Listed below are the trips, contact names, and classes offered on the trips.



- Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland: Erica Simpson (COMM 1100) and Dr. Bruce Jones (ECON 2105)
- Ireland: Brian Barr (ARTS 1113) and Alan Nichols (PHIL 1000)
- Bahamas: Mark Pergrem (PHSC 1012 and PHED 1450)

Study Abroad at GHC:

<http://www.highlands.edu/academics/extended/studyabroad/ghcstudyabroadops.htm>