GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA 1970

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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CURRENT STUDENT SPOT LIGHT:

BECKI DUNCAN

Becki Duncan started at Georgia Highlands in fall 2003 as a General Studies major. After a short break, she came back in 2007 as a Human Service major. Becki isn't sure what she wants to do when she graduates but I am sure whatever she chooses it will be something close to her heart.

Just this spring, Becki was voted Vice President of the Human Services Club. Since then we have noticed a HUGE change in Becki. She is emerging as a true leader and beginning to become more involved not just in our activities, but more important, vocally. When I first met Becki, she was a shy, quiet soul and I am very proud to say that she is coming out of her shell and speaking up on things that she feels is important to not only herself but to others.

Becki is taking a full course load this semester along with doing numerous hours of volunteer services within the community and she is one of the first people to stand up and offer her help with anything the club is doing. She was a key member for the bake sale, and she raised the most money for the walk-a-thon: winning a DVD player. She has helped immensely with the set up of the scholarship fundraisers. I am so grateful for Becki and she is sure to bring more surprises as time goes on.

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us but by how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events, and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results."

Anonymous

GRADUATE SPOT LIGHT:

Mauricia Pledger

Mauricia Pledger graduated from Ga. Highlands College in May 2007 with an Associate of Applied Sciences in Human Services. In July 2007, Mauricia was offered a position as Director of Social Services at Sunbridge at Seven Hills Retirement and Rehabilitation. She is the social worker for one hundred residents who will be cared for long term or either short term for rehabilitation reasons. Her role consists of: Helping the resident and family adjust to placement, overseeing the implementation of a care plan , making arrangements to obtain needed equipment, clothing, and personal items,

(*Continued on page 2*)

Mauricia Pledger continued:

Maintains contact with the family, discussing discharge potential, making referrals for home health care, absentee ballots for voting, and transportation to appointments, Assist residents with legal and financial matters.

Her courses at GHC prepared her to communicate effectively with residents, family, and professional staff. She attained a greater understanding of being empathetic and improving her listening skills that prompted her to be an effective and responsive helper. Mauricia is now continuing her education at Shorter College in the HMSV Bachelors Program. She continues to learn and grow personally and professionally on a daily basis. She will receive her BA degree in February 2009 with intentions on attaining her Masters Degree in HMSV and returning to GHC to be a HMSV professor and advisor. As a non-traditional student, Mauricia gives this word of advice to other non-traditional students: Know who you are and what you can do for others to fulfill your purpose in life.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE...

* March 30th: Walk-A-Thon: We raised $700!!! We really appreciate those that participated. We want to thank Mrs. Kiser for offering extra credit to her class if they came to participate. We had seven walkers. We had to cut the walk short due to weather. Those who were unable to walk made donations. See next page for picture.

WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead

* April 16th: Starfish Phone-A-Friend fundraiser. Be expecting to hear from us for a donation. Donations due April 30, 2008
* April 7-30 silent auction for Rome Braves tickets. Email Susan for more info or to submit a bid contact sclaxton@highlands.edu (2 tickets 3rd baseline, front row, and a VIP parking pass)

Agency Spot Light: Transitions Hospice Care

At Transitions Hospice Care we provide end-of-life care that profoundly enhances a patient's quality of life and eases the physical and emotional burdens on families and caregivers. We believe that our patients and their families come first. We deliver the very best in compassionate, responsive and professional care, 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. Our highly-trained teams of physicians, nurses, certified nursing aides, social workers, chaplains and volunteers provide the very best in care and support during difficult end-of-life transitions. **Our Promise:** We promise to provide compassionate, responsive and professional care that consistently exceeds your expectations. **Join our Volunteer Team:** Volunteers play an important role in helping us meet the needs of our patients and their families. If you are interested in learning how to become a Transition Hospice Volunteer, please contact: Kim Davis

Tel: (706) 378-2273

Email: kdavis@transitionshc.com

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Advisor's Corner: *Susan Claxton*

This month I want to focus on a person. Kelly Kuykendall is a Human Services student, the President of the Human Services Club, Chapter Delegate for Psi Beta, and she is doing her internship for the Human Services Program. She is also one of the key players in helping us get the Felicia Claxton Human Services Scholarship started.

For more information please contact: Susan Claxton, Human Services Program

Kelly is still learning how to accept complements and praise for all she does. I tried to talk her into letting me put her as the "Current Student Spotlight" but she has refused; therefore I am including a little note about her in my corner.

Kelly not only works her 10 hours a week in the Human Services Office but often returns on a Monday with new ideas and work that she has done at home. She gives 110%. In addition to being a full time student, a mom, wife and working on her internship she is going through various CERT Training (a community based program to help during disasters). She plans on going to Jacksonville State to pursue her degree in Emergency Management when she completes her degree at Georgia Highlands. I speak from my heart when I say that she has left footprints on my heart. She is and will continue to leave a positive imprint on the lives she touches.

I feel a since of pride when students like Kelly go out into the community to represent the Georgia Highlands Human Services Program.

Walk A Thon Participants: Back row: Katrina, Becki, Shannon, Wrayanne, Kerry. Front row: Kelly, and Spencer. Tammy Nichols wasn't able to attend but she raised over $100! Thank you all for your support!!

Words from the Human Service Club Secretary: *Katrina Pearsey*

Hello, and thanks to all of the members. I was glad to see the increased attendance at the last few meetings. Things are looking up for us and I hope to continue to get more support from our members as well as the students. We are gearing up for the Spring Fling which is going to have a western theme and we have decided to set up a temporary jail to raise more money for the scholarship fund. We plan to have it set up so that you can have anyone arrested and placed in the jail for a small fee. The" prisoner" will then be afforded the option to bail out and buy insurance so that they do not get arrested again. We will be looking for assistance from volunteers to help us do the arrests. We will have the hand cuffs available and the jail set up in a central location. We will also be planning a horse shoe toss of some sorts. We look forward to everyone's participation. So come on out ya'll and have lots of fun for a good cause. We will always welcome any ideas that you may have for us to raise more money or to offer the students something fun to do.

Thanks for listening

Katrina Pearsey

I would also like to add something about CERT. CERT is a community based program to help everyone become equipped to help during a disaster. If you are interested contact Vicki Wiles at vickiwiles@gmail.com. The next training dates will be: May 6, 8, 13, 15 from 6PM to 10PM, Final is Saturday May 17th from 8AM to noon. Look them up on the web at www.floydcountycert.org

This is a picture of the beautiful Felicia Claxton. I wish to keep her picture here in order to remind us of what we are working so hard for.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands

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Making a difference one starfish at a time!

Human Services Club

In this period of scarce resources, community agencies face unparalleled challenges in meeting existing needs. The Human Services Program/Club works to build collaborative relationships among public and private community organizations in order to help build, shape, and strengthen relationships between Georgia Highlands and the communities within their service area.

"Avoiding the phrase "*I don't have time...*", will soon help you to realize that you do have the time needed for just about anything you choose to accomplish in life." Bo Bennett

Human Service Advising Information

To all Human Service majors and those thinking of joining the Human Service program:

Be advised that these classes are only offered in the **Fall**: SOCI 1110 Intro to Social Services; HMSV 1120 Interpersonal Communication and Helping Skills; and PSYCH 2140 Principles of Behavior Analysis.

These classes are only offered in the **Spring**: SOCI 1160 Social Problems; SOCI 2145 Death and Dying; SOCI 2130 Group Process; and PSYCH 2128 Theories of Personality.

I would suggest that everyone contact Mrs. Claxton to set up an appointment to go over your schedule as soon as possible to avoid any confusion with which classes are offered when.

Also, HMSV 2160 Field Work Practicum I must be taken after you have taken PSYCH 1120 and during your last two semesters.

Human Service Core classes are not taught in the Summer

****If you would like to see your Agency spotlighted, please send a brief statement describing your agency and the clients you serve. Also include what volunteer opportunities are available, contact information, and e-mail address.

How do I change?
If I feel depressed I will sing.
If I feel sad I will laugh.
If I feel ill I will double my labor.
If I feel fear I will plunge ahead.
If I feel inferior I will wear new garments.
If I feel uncertain I will raise my voice.
If I feel poverty I will think of wealth to come.
If I feel incompetent I will think of past success.
If I feel insignificant I will remember my goals.
Today I will be the master of my emotions.

-*Og Mandino*