The Campus of Tomorrow

Georgia Gwinnett College launches the inaugural issue of Leading Edge, the official newsletter of the nation’s first public, four-year college in the 21st century.

On the Leading Edge of 21st Century Education

by Jeff Corbin

Years of planning and preparation will culminate this August when more than 1,000 freshman, transfer and returning students fill the classrooms of Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) – the nation’s first public, four-year college to open in the new century.

Standing up a new college takes time. State lawmakers gave the official approval to establish GGC in 2005, which launched the process of opening Georgia’s first new four-year public institution in more than 100 years.

“Georgia Gwinnett College will be a critical part of Georgia’s mission to educate our workforce,” Gov. Sonny Perdue said during GGC’s opening ceremony.

Everyone at GGC is striving to live up to the challenge – providing students with innovative teaching and interactive learning supported by the latest technology.

“The opportunity for students here is unlike any other,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Our graduates will become the trendsetters and leaders of the next several generations. Students attending GGC will be making history.”

The college is making full use of its extensive online presence – www.ggc.usg.edu – to expedite enrollment as well as to help build a sense of community. Additionally, the inaugural issue of the Leading Edge, the official GGC campus newsletter, is now in the hands of students, teachers and select residents of Gwinnett County and beyond.

And when the doors reopen and classes begin this fall, GGC will be more alive than ever before.

“As a college of the 21st century,” adds Kaufman, “we are committed to thinking like ‘tomorrow’ in designing our programs, organizing our departments, and teaching our students.”

Fall 2007 Opening

The sky’s the limit

by Jeff Corbin

Those helping to build Georgia Gwinnett College’s learning environment have an exciting message for the incoming class: “Get excited, jump in and participate!”

Jim Fatzinger, associate vice president for student affairs, says there is virtually no end to what students will be able to do.

“We have all the support services in place,” Fatzinger says. “We can accomplish anything over the next year – the sky’s the limit.”

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President Daniel J. Kaufman
Leading Georgia Gwinnett College from the start

Opening a new four-year college is challenging enough, but maintaining a campus dedicated to staying on the cutting edge takes something more.

And Dr. Daniel Kaufman stood out as the natural choice to direct the development and launch of Georgia’s most exciting education endeavor.

When Kaufman agreed to serve as the school’s first president, the retired Brigadier General joined an entity with no official name, no faculty members and no students.

“The opening of the college was a signal event,” Kaufman says. “We had programs developed, implemented and under way in one short year, starting from scratch and with a great deal of support from the Gwinnett Community. But we still had much to do.”

Under Kaufman’s guidance, GGC hired its first-ever deans and brought in a full compliment of faculty and staff. More than 5000 applications have been received for positions at the college and now scores of applications are coming in from freshmen.

“Every member of GGC’s faculty and staff is devoted to student intellectual and personal development,” he says. “Teaching and student engagement are our foremost commitments.”

President Kaufman’s impressive academic background has greatly contributed to GGC’s successful start. He is drawing on skills he developed as the former chief academic officer at the United States Military Academy at West Point, from which he retired in 2005.

Growing the Gwinnett Campus
by Eddie Beauchamp

Growth will exist in all sectors of Georgia Gwinnett College including student enrollment, faculty size, staff size and of course, building construction. In the past year, Sasaki and Associates, an internationally-prominent architecture firm from Boston, has been developing a GGC campus master plan.

This plan took many factors into consideration as it positioned buildings not only on existing property, but also adjacent to campus. These ancillary parcels included 40 acres that Gwinnett County has earmarked for the campus. Altogether, the master planners were working with 205 acres. Joining with staff from the Board of Regents and GGC, Sasaki developed an outstanding plan that will form a template for the buildings and recreational fields in GGC’s future.

In a parallel effort, the Board of Regents office of facilities has been working with the 35 units of the University System of Georgia to modify previous policy in how the building construction process is funded. In the past, institutions were required to place projects on a capital funding list approved by the Board of Regents and wait until legislative funding occurred. Projects placed on the list could often take four or five years awaiting funding to begin construction.

The new capital implementation plan requires that institutions prepare a six-year capital funding plan for approval by the Board of Regents. Subsequently, the Regents, state lawmakers and the institution would come up with a funding process and time-frame based on mutually agreed upon priorities. Within this framework and with the strategic assistance of Sasaki, GGC undertook the development of its campus construction priority list. See the chart below for a list of GGC’s master plan priority projects.

College administrators are also working with local and state transportation officials to identify needs on both campus and local road/highway infrastructure. Roads through and around the campus are being considered, as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails. The expansion of Highway 316 and connection of access ramps are part of the overall planning process, as well as access concerns along Collins Hill Road.

In all, GGC has had an extremely successful year not only in achieving the $28.3 library funding, but also in creating a long term master plan.

The future of the campus is bright.

Project | Cost | Status
--- | --- | ---
GGC Library and Learning Resource Center | $28.3 M | To be completed 2009
Allied Health & Science Building | $80.0 M | To be requested 2008
Student Center | $20.0 M | To be completed 2009
Student Services Center | $8.0 M | Phase I to be completed fall 2007
Academic Building Expansion (Phase II) | $6.0 M | To be completed fall 2007
Parking Decks (at least 2) | TBD | First deck to be completed fall 2007
Athletic Fields | $24.0 M | TBD
Student Housing | $120.0 M | Begin construction fall 2008

All costs associated with projects are estimated.
Building a Community Through Technology

by Jeff Corbin

Lonnie Harvel knows that having the latest technology available for students and teachers is great, but not if it means Georgia Gwinnett College loses the human side of the classroom experience. “Relationships are key to our human experience, and a learning community’s relationships define it,” says Harvel, who is the college’s CIO and vice president for educational technology. “Technology may be used to help create, support and mediate learning relationships.”

Leading studies on classroom education and the learning process show that human interactions—not gadgets—are what help students thrive in the classroom. People generally perform better when their friends are involved. Friendships, coupled with faculty engagement, improve the chances that students will stay in school and graduate.

“Relationships are foundational for institutions, too. Just because a student is within close physical proximity of a professor in the classroom does not mean that student is engaged in learning,” Harvel says. “Technology should help support the critical relationship between students and their professors.”

To that end, the college has entered unprecedented partnerships with the likes of Rave Wireless, Sprint, Microsoft, and other industry leaders. The college’s cooperative agreements will afford students communication and collaboration technologies straight to cell phones, including the ability to connect directly to online class content. Announcements for courses and campus student groups will be delivered by phone as emails and text messages. Cell phones will be used in class to respond to surveys or quizzes, and global positioning system (GPS) options will assist in campus security.

Another significant innovation is the “classroom capture” system. Students will have full access to review streaming sessions of what has occurred in class, and they can “tag” segments of the material they find important.

“Georgia Gwinnett College] is taking a leading position in higher education with projects that combine not only a phone program with applications from Rave Wireless and Microsoft, but a combination of hosted and enterprize applications,” says William Hagen, Mobile Solution Specialist with Microsoft. And the efforts of Georgia’s newest four-year institution to stay ahead of the leading technology curve have not gone unnoticed in other places.

William Hagen, a Mobile Solution Specialist with Microsoft, says Georgia Gwinnett College is undertaking an ambitious plan that goes beyond those of its peers across the country. Hagen credits Harvel for the innovative leadership necessary to develop a “mobile vision” that will ultimately craft an example for other colleges and universities to follow.

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Advancing Georgia Gwinnett College

Roughly 18 months ago, there were four senior officers at Georgia Gwinnett College addressing issues that most colleges take months and sometimes years to tackle.

Strategic decisions were thoughtfully and quickly rendered, and implementation was dedicated to the urgent items on the agenda. The quickened pace was driven by the reality that the tidal wave was soon to be upon us and time was limited. Now with more than 200 faculty and staff, a budget of $35 million and freshmen students on the way, we are prepared for fall 2007’s surge of activity.

While staffers in other departments focus on student services, building construction, and getting the college up and running, the advancement team is focused on being sure the public knows we are here. Media, advertising, public relations, marketing, fundraising, and government affairs are all at the heart of the advancement team’s mission. These fields require people, dollars, and time—and we are constantly searching around the corner for all three.

The exhilaration is that both internally and externally, the momentum is building. New faculty are bursting into our offices with “I’ve got some ideas for involving the public.”

Trustees and other friends are faithfully coming to us with ways to enhance our college. A total of 103 faculty members. Among the newcomers will be Antiwan Walker, who most recently taught in the English department at Clark Atlanta University. Walker says the most exciting part of teaching is that “light bulb moment” when it all starts to click for a student. The opportunity to share that special learning experience in the state’s newest college is just too good to pass up.

“I was very excited by the fact that it is a ‘new millennium’ institution,” Walker says. “The college was founded in this century, and its technologically-advanced status positions it as a gem ready to sparkle.”

Walker is not alone in seeking out the newest college experience. According to Stas Preczewski, vice president for academic and student affairs, many applicants want to be a part of a brand new program.

Preczewski says the college has the added attraction of supporting education through the application of the latest technology. “Our curriculum will use technology to encourage success; however, the true measure of accomplishment will be in the ultimate achievement of our students. This is highly motivating for a teacher,” he adds.

New College Flooded with Employment Applications

The many new faces at Georgia Gwinnett College this fall will include more than just freshmen or transfer students.

The college has received more than 4,000 applications for employment with almost half of those seeking faculty positions. Professors and academic leaders from nearly every state and all sizes of learning institution have expressed an interest.

In the end, 85 new instructors have joined Georgia Gwinnett College for this fall making a total of 103 faculty members. Among the newcomers will be Antiwan Walker, who most recently taught in the English department at Clark Atlanta University.

New Deans Leading the Way

Georgia Gwinnett College’s successful launch requires strong leadership in its administration.

To help create the best start possible, four leaders experienced in higher education have been selected to serve as deans.

Victoria Johnson is developing and assessing the initial structure, content and accreditation of the undergraduate business programs and the operation of the school of business.

Johnson received her doctorate in public administration from the University of Georgia, and her master’s degree in public administration and bachelor of arts degree in English from Georgia State University. She serves on the Board of Directors for United Business Institutes and the Editorial Board for Global Business and Economics Review.

Cathy Moore is responsible for developing the education degree program and setting the direction for the school of education.

While at Brenau University, Moore helped establish a new master of arts in teaching degree program. She received her master’s degree and doctorate in child and family development from the University of Georgia. She also received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Georgia Southern University.

Thomas Mundie will employ his 27 years of experience in higher education to expand the college’s science and technology learning programs.

Mundie has taught advanced science and medical courses and led extensive research efforts in Washington, D.C., and Honolulu, HI. He received a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Mississippi State University, a master’s degree in strategic leadership from the U.S. Army War College, and a doctorate in pathophysiology from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Lois C. Richardson oversees the 12 course areas making up the college’s liberal arts education programs with an eye towards producing graduates prepared for a variety of disciplines.

Richardson recently served as dean of arts and sciences for Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Fisk University in Nashville, TN. She received her master’s degree in counseling psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York as well as a master’s degree in education from Columbia University. She obtained a doctorate in counseling psychology from Seton Hall University in New Jersey.
On the Move

Cathy Hakes, director of student services, received an honorary Life Membership Award for outstanding support for the Florida Community College System and the Florida Association of Community Colleges. The Florida Association of Community College Student Development Commission’s 40th Anniversary celebration included recognition for Hakes’ leadership as a past commission chair.

Four faculty members will make a presentation Oct. 15 as part of the Beginnings & Endings: Best Practices for Introducing and Bringing Closure to the Undergraduate Psychology Major conference at Kennesaw State University. Participating in the presentation will be Juliana Lancaster, director of institutional effectiveness and associate professor of psychology; Thomas Hancock, assistant professor of psychology; Holly Haynes, assistant professor of psychology; and Vickie Williams, associate professor of psychology.

The work of Jessica Damíañ, assistant professor of English, was accepted for the 2007 International Conference on Romanticism taking place in Maryland this fall. Damíañ submitted an abstract, “The Indigent Vase its Silence Broke: Anna Laetitia Barbauld’s Cantankerous Silver Tankard,” and she will represent GGC at Loyola College at Maryland and Towson University in October 2007.

Demetrios Lambros, assistant director of public affairs, received a Distinguished Service Award for Communications Newcomer from the Georgia Education Advancement Council. The recognition signifies his outstanding performance and commitment to the field of higher education communications as well as significant, specific contributions yielding positive results for GGC.

Thomas Hancock, assistant professor of psychology, gave a presentation to the Vestibular (Balance) Disorders Support Group at North Side Hospital in Atlanta this past fall entitled, “Vestibular Disorders and Cognition.”

Christopher Brandon, assistant professor of biology, completed the Governors Teaching Fellow program at the University of Georgia’s Institute of Higher Education. Brandon’s training is a faculty development/enrichment program for members of private and public institutions in the state of Georgia. He also recently gave a presentation to two local high schools on the topic, “From Gene to Protein: The Expression of the Insulin Gene.”

Holly Haynes, assistant professor of psychology, and her cousin from American University and Georgetown Law made a presentation concerning Teaching Generation Me at the American Integrative Studies Conference at Emory University. The presentation outlined the joys and frustrations of teaching an instant gratification generation.

Lonnie Harvel, vice president for educational technology, recently had his journal article, “Convenience is Not Enough,” appear in Innovative Higher Education. Additionally, Harvel’s presented “From Distraction to Interaction: Incorporating Cell Phones into the Learning Environment,” at the 2007 EDUCAUSE Southeast Regional Conference in Atlanta.

Tyler Yu, professor of economics and accounting; Victoria Johnson, dean of the school of business, and faculty member Miranda Zhang had their work titled, “Comparative Analysis of Economic Performance under Republican and Democrat Presidencies,” accepted for presentation at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines in Orlando. The paper received the Best Paper Award from the Academy, and Yu received a Service Award for his contributions to the organization. Additionally, the group’s paper titled, “Team Approach or Individual Approach: A Statistical Analysis of the Impact of Socioeconomic Heterogeneity on Students’ Preference in Writing Term Papers,” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Diversity Management.

Tyler Yu, professor of economics and accounting, and four GGC students were co-authors of a paper titled, “International Comparative Study of Infant Mortality Rate: A Multivariate Statistical Analysis.” The paper was presented at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines Conference in Dallas. The effort was a first-of-its-kind undertaking for student-teacher collaboration at GGC.

A paper from Douglas Johnson, professor of business management, was accepted for publication in the Journal of Health Economics, Policy and Law, Cambridge University Press. Johnson’s work is titled, “Family History of Chronic Disease and Participation in Healthy Behaviors.”


A paper co-authored by Victoria Johnson, dean of the school of business, and Frank Ghannadian titled “Socially Responsible Investing: Attitudes and Behaviors of Mid-Level Managers,” has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Business and Society.

GGC library staff members Jessie Copeland, Joy Garmon, Scott Gillies and Michele James were actively involved at the 2007 GIL User’s Group Meeting at Fort Valley State University in May. Each took part in a panel discussion, moderated a presentation or served as a program presenter. Gillies was the first recipient of the new GIL EndUser Bon Voyage Grant, which goes to an individual who has not previously attended EndUser and agrees to attend specific sessions as a representative of the state GIL users group.

GHC library staff members Jessie Copeland, Joy Garmon, Scott Gillies and Michele James were actively involved at the 2007 GIL User’s Group Meeting at Fort Valley State University in May. Each took part in a panel discussion, moderated a presentation or served as a program presenter. Gillies was the first recipient of the new GIL EndUser Bon Voyage Grant, which goes to an individual who has not previously attended EndUser and agrees to attend specific sessions as a representative of the state GIL users group.

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Web visitors can learn more about the six student-led organizations already up and running, including the first student government body. As the population climbs, it is possible as many as 200 groups could form, depending on the level of student interest. Visit www.ggc.usg.edu/campus_life/activities.php to learn more.

The open door of opportunity means an incoming freshman like Ashley Allen can share her interests with upperclassmen and other newcomers to form another independent student group.

Ashley says that having a lead role in driving the college’s future outlook is a challenge she has yet to completely realize. “It’s pretty exciting, but it hasn’t hit me yet,” she says.

To learn more, visit www.ggc.usg.edu/TLC.

Get involved

There is more to college than classes, and there will be experienced administrators showing students the other side of campus life.

Genius is the ability to recognize patterns. — Albert Einstein

To apply for admission, visit www.ggc.usg.edu.
Trustees Strengthen their Relationship with GGC

Georgia Gwinnett College’s Trustees and its Board of Trustees have taken full advantage of recent community-building events on campus. The college has a 51-member panel of Trustees, and 13 of these prominent business, political and civic leaders also serve as members of a Board of Trustees. Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation Chairman Glenn White leads the Board of Trustees.

The Foundation recently conducted its inaugural gala, which was the first event to gather Trustees with other college leaders since the Foundation was formed. Attendance for the black-tie event exceeded 130, with guests including business and political leaders from throughout Gwinnett County and beyond. In addition to the gala, Trustees were invited to join President Daniel Kaufman for a series of early morning meetings conducted in the spring. Special breakfast sessions were held for the president to hear trustee questions and counsel regarding the new college’s rapid growth, and to give Trustees an opportunity to hear first-hand about the preparations for the coming year.

Additional GGC Trustees:

Mr. Thomas Andersen
Mr. Kerry Armstrong
Mr. J.W. Benefield
Ms. Marsha Anderson Bomar
Mr. Stacey Britt
Mr. Richard Chandler
Mr. Jock Connell
Ms. Dionitia Cornell
Mr. Doug Cotter
Mr. Ron Garrard
Mr. J. Terry Gordon
Ms. Paige Havens
Mr. Stephen K. Hill
Mr. William Humphries
Ms. Barbara King
Mr. Mani Krishnaswamy
Mr. James Maran
Mr. Thomas Martin
Mr. Mike McGarity
Mr. D. Alan Najjar
Ms. Charlotte Nash
Ms. Cathy Petty Nichols
Mr. Philip Reed
Ms. Sharon Rigsby
Dr. William Russell
Mr. Raymer M. Sale
Mr. David Seago
Mr. Mike Soh
Mr. John D. Stephens
Mr. Leland Strange
Dr. W. Gordon Tanner
Mr. T. Michael Tennant
Mr. R. Lee Tucker
Ms. Judy Waters
Mr. Ed Weinlein
Mr. J. Alvin Wilbanks
Mr. Philip Wolfe
Mr. Lee Wood

More Student Scholarships in the Works

Georgia Gwinnett College is doing its part to ensure scholarships are available in advance of upcoming enrollment increases. Most recently, the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia (WSWG) Foundation made a gift of $1,500 in December to provide full tuition and fees for a student this spring.

Lori Buckheister, director of development, says recipients of the WSWG Foundation scholarship must be Georgia residents enrolled full-time in an undergraduate course of study. The WSWG Foundation has also pledged full tuition and fees for a student for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Scholarships recognizing both need and merit are being established. With additional support from its Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation, the college is forming partnerships with area businesses to fund student projects, public-private real estate investments, construction and land purchases.

The college currently offers a financial aid package that includes a grant of up to $4,050 per eligible student per year. Buckheister will assist in the administration of the Foundation’s efforts. To learn more about this grant, visit www.ggc.usg.edu/apply/finaid.php.