The excitement and anticipation were palpable this summer as GGC faculty and staff prepared for a record fall semester enrollment. When registration was complete, the college again shattered its own projections, enrolling nearly 8,000 students - 3,600 of whom are new students.

This is a dramatic increase over 2010’s fall enrollment of 5,400 and a 150 percent increase from the 2009 fall enrollment of 3,200. About 800 students are expected to live in the campus residence halls.

“One could say that the only constant at GGC is change,” said President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Every fall, the college is completely transformed into a very different institution from what it was the year, or even the semester, before. I am very proud of our staff and faculty in doing what it takes to grow this college so quickly and so effectively without losing focus on our first principle – student success.”

The faculty was expanded by 54 percent to about 500, and the college has been creative in identifying office space. Since student housing is not yet at full capacity, Building 3000 is being used for faculty offices.

About half of the student body is new to campus. To help them find their way around, GGC has developed a new and comprehensive way-finding signage program. Installation of new directional signage has already begun.

In this issue of Leading Edge, readers will learn of other exciting developments at GGC, including new degree concentrations and minors, selection of the first director of Grizzly athletics, a new instructional laboratory that put the college’s total square footage over the one million mark, a new vice president for Educational Technology and more.

John D. Stephens was recently elected chairman of the GGC Foundation. He succeeds Glenn S. White, who served as the inaugural chair from the foundation’s inception in 2006.

“The college would not be where it is today if not for the leadership, dedication and resourcefulness of the GGC Foundation. John D. has the experience and perspective to lead the foundation in becoming an even greater source of critical financial support for the college,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “He understands the complexities we face in today’s challenging economic times, and has what it takes to be successful.”

The foundation has been challenged with building financial resources needed to support a new, unproven institution through its first few years. The foundation initially focused on helping the college develop core facilities that are at the heart of the student experience at any institution. Now that the college has expanded, the foundation’s emphasis must shift.

Story continued on page 5
Amid enthusiastic cheers and the waving of green and white pom-poms, Georgia Gwinnett College officially welcomed its first director of athletics, Dr. Darin Wilson, at a news conference in August.

Wilson comes to GGC from Union College in Barbourville, Ky., where he had been the athletics director since 2003, following a five-year stint as baseball coach. His departure brings an end to 18 years of involvement with Union College, from an undergraduate student-athlete to leading the athletics program. He said it was an emotional decision to leave, but he’s excited about the new challenge ahead of him.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to build an athletics program from the ground up,” Wilson said. “I am most excited to develop a program that will be integrated with GGC’s emphasis on learning and leadership. This program will be conducted with the highest level of integrity, putting academics first while competing for championships in all sports.”

Wilson’s time as athletics director at Union College has been marked by success. He was named the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) - Athletics Directors Association Athletics Director of the Year for 2010-11. The annual award recognizes Wilson’s competent, comprehensive, practical, innovative and principled approach to college athletics. He is a three-time Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) Athletic Director of the Year (2008, 2009 and 2011), and he was also named the 2009-10 Under Armour AD of the Year for the Southeast Region in the NAIA by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. Wilson has a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.

During Wilson’s tenure as athletics director, the school’s teams won 37 AAC regular-season and tournament championships, four Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference titles and six NAIA Region XII championships.

Wilson plans to continue his winning record at Georgia Gwinnett, which intends to apply for membership in the NAIA.

The Grizzlies will be competitive across the board, including on a national level, very quickly,” Wilson said. “Our coaches will motivate and inspire our athletes to be the best they can be, which includes helping them to grow and develop personally. I plan to move quickly in hiring great coaches and organizing our program so we can be ready to field competitive teams next year.”

Wilson also was instrumental in upgrading Union College’s athletics facilities, working to get synthetic sports turf installed on the college’s football/soccer field, remodeling training facilities and providing new scoreboards at all venues. He has arrived at GGC in time to have significant influence over the development of its first athletics facilities.

“There is no doubt that Darin is the right person to kick start the Grizzlies’ new intercollegiate athletics program, and we are truly excited to have him join the Georgia Gwinnett team,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Varsity sports will enhance the college’s vision of a fully integrated educational experience. Students who are engaged in college stay in college, and this new level of athletics will provide even more incentive for students to get involved, stay in school and graduate.”

The intercollegiate athletics program will add yet another dimension to student life at the rapidly-growing institution, providing opportunities for personal growth and wellness through physical competition and activity. GGC is committed to a philosophy of total personal development. A complete athletics program including varsity sports, along with club sports and intramurals, offers all students an opportunity to develop skills in teamwork, leadership and other key areas.

Kaufman appointed an intercollegiate athletics task force in 2010 to explore the feasibility of initiating a varsity sports program. The task force explored financial and other resource considerations and made program recommendations. The following sports were selected based on student interest, gender equity, facility requirements and potential community interest:

- Men’s baseball, men’s soccer, men’s tennis, women’s soccer, women’s softball and women’s tennis.

Possible sports include men’s basketball, women’s basketball and women’s volleyball.

GGC students and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved an athletics fee to be used to fund the programs. Additional funding will be provided through private support.

Construction of athletics facilities, also based on an already approved fee, could begin soon, pending approval by the Board of Regents. A site plan graphic is located to the left.
GGC added more than 180 new full-time and part-time faculty to bring its total faculty count to about 500 for the fall 2011 semester. This represents a 32 percent increase in faculty positions over the fall semester of 2010.

“With current enrollment of about 8,000 students, Georgia Gwinnett College finds itself in the fortunate position of creating more jobs. It is astounding when you compare our current numbers to our original 118 students and 10 charter faculty members when GGC opened its doors a mere five years ago,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman.

“Since fall 2010, GGC has experienced dramatic student growth, with the addition of more than 3,600 new students, along with a steady expansion of academic programs,” said Lois Richardson, acting vice president for Academic and Student Affairs. “These new positions are essential for continuing GGC’s standard of educational excellence.”

The college received more than 6,200 faculty applications, which included a diverse pool of candidates from across the country. New faculty members recently participated in an orientation program that introduced them to the college and existing faculty. The newcomers will provide instruction in various disciplines within GGC’s five schools: Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Science and Technology and the newly formed Transitional Studies.

“Iken has served as director of Information Technology for the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology since 1998. Before that, he directed the Georgia Tech Scientific Visualization Lab which then became an Iris Explorer Center, one of four such visualization laboratories worldwide. He worked as an instructor and research assistant in the Georgia Tech School of Physics, and was involved in obtaining several grants. This experience enables him to relate to the needs of faculty members both in the classroom and laboratory.

“GGC is an amazing concept. The college uses current technology in ways it’s never been used before.”

Dr. Mark Iken was recently selected as Georgia Gwinnett College’s new vice president for Educational Technology.

When asked what intrigued him the most about his new position, Iken said, “I am most excited about the opportunity to innovate.”

“Mark is known as a leader in the development of innovative educational technology,” said GGC President Dan Kaufman. “In particular, he has pioneered visualization capabilities and developed educational technologies to advance curriculum design and delivery and enhance the student experience. He has 23 years of experience in the University System of Georgia, and has held several leadership positions that provide him the broad-based perspective required to manage the technology needs of a rapidly growing institution.”

Iken’s bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees are all in physics and all from Georgia Tech. He has proven himself successful in the planning and oversight of multi-million dollar projects and experienced in the management of faculty and resources – skills he will use to guide GGC’s Educational Technology staff in supporting an expanding student body.

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GGC’s newest faculty members take time from their orientation program for a group photo on the Student Center’s terrace staircase.

Iken named vice president for Educational Technology

Dr. Mark Iken

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“The large number of applicants indicates that Georgia Gwinnett appeals to talented and committed educators,” said Kaufman. “GGC is passionate about teaching and shaping the future by mentoring and inspiring the citizens and leaders of tomorrow. We are proud to have selected faculty who share this same desire and dedication.”

This enthusiasm has not diminished among veteran faculty members.

Marilyn Dolven, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in the School of Education, looks forward to the first year the school’s full program is available to students.

“I am excited about this semester,” Dolven said. “Our program is growing rapidly. We will have student teachers in Gwinnett County schools and the School of Education will graduate its historic first class this December.”

Dolven was one of many faculty members helping new students move into the GGC residence halls.

“It was so much fun to see the enthusiasm on the faces of the students and parents,” she said. “You could see that they are so excited about coming to Georgia Gwinnett. This is going to be a great year.”
In today’s global marketplace, it is critical to provide students with skill sets and perspectives that will enable them to be successful in the workforce and as globally competent, contributing citizens. To achieve this, GGC is bringing the world to its students.

“Technology has made the world smaller,” said Anthony Pinder, director of Internationalization. “We must have the academic infrastructure in place to provide an education that prepares students for a world more connected than ever. GGC intends to graduate globally competent leaders who will succeed in the global workforce.”

In only about a year, GGC’s internationalization initiative is already enhancing the student experience through campus activities, an expanded study abroad program and initiatives designed to help faculty bring an international perspective to their curricula.

“At GGC, internationalization is a comprehensive and integrated approach to enhancing the entire student experience,” Pinder said. “You can take any class, and with some creativity and thought, add a new, robust dimension that inspires and excites students. By teaching through a lens of global awareness, faculty can help students broaden their view beyond the classroom.”

Pinder’s work has resulted in an expanded study abroad program. In 2010, eight GGC students participated in study abroad programs. This summer, almost 40 traveled either in groups or as individuals to eight nations to study subjects ranging from tropical jungle biology to diplomacy.

One group made history through GGC’s first global civic engagement program. During his visit to GGC during the 2011 International Week, Prince Cedza Dlamini of Swaziland announced a partnership creating the program. Through the Ubuntu Institute for Young Social Entrepreneurs, five GGC students spent two weeks working with organizations supporting more than 100,000 children in Swaziland orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

A group of 13 students visited with business leaders and elected officials in several European nations during GGC’s annual international global business and commerce study abroad program, led by Dr. Spero Peppas, professor of marketing and international business.

The School of Science and Technology implemented a new course in tropical biology, led by Mark Schlueter, associate professor of biology. While most of the course instruction took place on the Georgia Gwinnett campus, Schlueter coordinated a nine-day field experience in the jungles of Costa Rica for 10 students. While there, the students were introduced to rainforest and tropical ecosystems, plants and animals, particularly birds.

Some students traveled alone or in small groups. For example, Chantal Napier also went to Costa Rica. She spent five weeks at the Universidad de Costa Rica immersed in an advanced Spanish course.

Sarah Marks was the first GGC student to earn a prestigious, $5,000 Gilman Scholarship for her study abroad experience, studying advanced Chinese in China.

Tina Farmer and Diana Oladokun taught English for nine weeks at the Crimson Academy of Gihara, Rwanda. The four-room school was founded by Gwinnett resident, Phillip Haynes, and is the only school in the area, attracting students ages five through 20.

“Through this program, we took GGC’s emphasis on leadership and service learning to the global scale,” said Pinder. “GGC soon hopes to welcome international students to campus. After a lengthy application and approval process, the college is awaiting official word from the Department of Homeland Security that it may begin enrolling international students.

“International students bring a totally new energy and life to a college campus,” said Pinder. “Because the Gwinnett region has a very international population, we expect a lot of community support and enthusiasm for our international students.”

“At GGC, internationalization is a comprehensive and integrated approach to enhancing the entire student experience.”

- Anthony Pinder
Fatzinger selected for prestigious ACE fellowship

Dr. Jim Fatzinger, associate vice president for Student Affairs, has been selected to participate in a prestigious, nationally recognized training system aimed at sharpening leadership skills through first-hand experience – the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program. Acceptance as an ACE Fellow reflects highly on Fatzinger’s demonstrated academic credentials and recognized potential as an administrative leader.

The ACE Fellows Program is noted as the nation’s only individualized, long-term professional development program in higher education.

For up to one academic year, Fatzinger will be mentored by a president or senior administrator at another institution of higher learning. Through observation and participation, he will develop strategic planning and leadership insights regarding all aspects of how administrators direct colleges and universities. Fatzinger also will be tasked with completing special assignments and program projects. His other training opportunities will include attending national seminars, campus and corporate visits and networking sessions with leaders in higher education.

“This is a highly selective program,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “We are very proud that he was selected. While Jim is already a skilled leader, we look forward to the new insights and perspectives he will bring home to GGC when he completes the program.”

Completing the ACE Fellows Program will pay a vital part in giving Fatzinger more of the knowledge and skills needed to propel him toward fulfilling a key role in advanced academic leadership. Since the program’s launch in 1965, more than 300 of the 1,600 Fellows’ graduates have become academic executive leaders; another 1,100 have held senior positions.

Fatzinger has options about the length of time and periods during which he will be away from GGC. In his absence, Tomas Jimenez, acting associate vice president for Student Affairs at GGC, he is an assistant professor in the School of Business. He has completed post-graduate work in history, politics and society at the University of Oxford in England. He also completed the Harvard University Institute for Management and Leadership in Education. According to Kaufman, “While Jim is already a skilled leader, we look forward to the new insights and perspectives he will bring home to GGC when he completes the program.”

Fatzinger has options about the length of time and periods during which he will be away from GGC. In his absence, Tomas Jimenez, dean of students, is serving as acting associate vice president of Student Affairs.

There are vast differences between a college of a few hundred students, and one with many thousands. The needs are very different. For example, more scholarship and program funding is required, as well as initiatives more directly related to supporting enrollment, which continues at a dramatic pace.

“John D. is one of the Gwinnett region’s most accomplished business and civic leaders,” said Tommy Hughes, board of trustees nominating committee chairman. “We are honored to have him serve as chair, and look forward to his leadership as the foundation and the college both enter their next exciting phases of growth.”

“This is an exciting time for GGC, and it is my privilege to be involved,” Stephens said. “I will continue to focus on a healthy organization, especially as we gain momentum in fundraising.”

Stephens has served on the board of trustees of Georgia Gwinnett College since December 2009, and is on the executive committee of the board of directors of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce. The chamber honored Stephens by naming the education center in its building after him and also naming him Citizen of the Year in 2006. He was the recipient of the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Environmental Legacy Award in 2007.

He has served as the past president of the Georgia Utility Contractors Association and as a gubernatorial appointee on the Georgia Board of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Active in the civic community, Stephens supports many charitable causes, including American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts of America, and local non-profits such as Hi-Hope Service Center in Lawrenceville and the Gwinnett Children’s Shelter.

Stephens and his wife, Beverly, reside in Snellville where they enjoy their five children and nine grandchildren.

“This is an exciting time for GGC and it is my privilege to be involved”

-John D. Stephens
GGC graduates largest class to date

Georgia Gwinnett marked its largest commencement so far when 95 graduates became the first to march through the college’s Arch of Knowledge to claim their degrees. The event established traditions for future ceremonies. “The 2011 spring commencement is the first held in our completed outdoor commencement venue,” said GGC President Dan Kaufman. “The plaza and sloped lawn in front of the Library and Learning Center were designed to function as a stage and amphitheater for our commencements, convocations and other large events. The Arch of Knowledge, an architectural feature on the east side of the library, was designed to symbolize the transitions made by our students.”

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal was the ceremony’s keynote speaker. He evoked the spirit of Sir Winston Churchill with a rousing, “Never give up,” message for the graduates. “Your diploma is only a road sign in your life. It is not a stop sign,” he said. He encouraged the graduates to never stop learning or working toward goals and challenges, a key to long-term success.

GGC expands academic program offerings

Georgia Gwinnett has again expanded its curriculum by introducing several new academic programs that further enhance educational opportunities for GGC students. The School of Business now offers both a minor and concentration in leadership. This program is one of the few of its kind within higher education. It will prepare students for success in positions and endeavors requiring leadership knowledge and skills. The leadership concentration is available to business majors and the leadership minor is available to non-business majors.

The School of Business also introduced a concentration in management information systems, a specialized area at the interface of information technology and management science. The School of Liberal Arts now offers minors in English and political science, both of which augment other degrees with critical thinking skills useful in many employment situations. The School of Science and Technology has added a minor in information technology. These programs provide students with more options for customizing their education, based on their academic and career goals. GGC staff continually examines opportunities to broaden the college’s programs.

GGC Alma Mater premiers at 2011 spring commencement

When the official Georgia Gwinnett College Alma Mater was performed publicly for the first time at the 2011 spring commencement ceremony, one graduating senior listened more closely than her classmates. Brittany Dertz, a psychology major from Gwinnett County, co-wrote the lyrics in partnership with Alvina Atkinson, associate professor of mathematics. Known as one of the most active and enthusiastic students at GGC, Dertz has often been called the college’s “biggest cheerleader.” She participated in many campus events, initiatives and organizations. Because she sang in her high school choir and has always enjoyed music, she was especially interested in serving on the college’s alma mater committee, which was charged with generating a student-centered alma mater for the young college. The committee developed a process through which students could submit lyrics and a melody of their own, or lyrics for one of two tunes composed by Thomas Young, acting associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts. The student body would then vote for their favorite submission through the college’s Web site.

“Alvina and I decided to give it a try,” Dertz said. “We looked at the GGC mission and vision statements for inspiration and just went from there.” The team used one of Young’s melodies and spent about five hours on the project, she said. Their lyrics ultimately won the student vote. Dertz said her distinction as a GGC Alma Mater lyricist was particularly meaningful.

“This is a huge honor. What a great way to end my four-year college career at GGC,” said Dertz. “To be immortalized this way, after all I’ve been through and experienced here in the college’s first few years, is an excellent legacy for me.”

Dertz’s plans are to marry and start a family. She eventually wants to go to graduate school, possibly pursuing an advanced degree in developmental psychology.

GGC Alma Mater

Lyrics by Dr. Alvina Atkinson and Brittany Dertz
Music by Dr. Thomas Young

We have gained wisdom and honor
From our home of green and gray.
We will go forth and remember
All we’ve learned along the way.

And with knowledge and compassion
We will build communities
Leading by example
And with dignity.

Georgia Gwinnett, we’ll never forget
How we have grown,
And those that we’ve met.
Our alma mater, Georgia Gwinnett.
$205,000 NSF grant renovates research laboratory

Thanks to a new research laboratory in Building A, several faculty members in the School of Science and Technology are able to offer more research opportunities to their students. An existing laboratory was renovated with a $205,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, and an additional $10,000 provided by the college. The laboratory will accommodate nine faculty members and 18 students per semester and is equipped for multiple disciplines. The facility using the laboratory for their research groups include Dave Pursell, Chulsung Kim and Sang Park (environmental chemistry); Jim Nolan, Candace Timpte and Greta Giles (biochemistry) and Joe Sloop, Richard Pennington and Julia Paredes (organic chemistry).

The need for more laboratories was foreseen as part of helping you fulfill that vision. Featuring seven multi-disciplinary laboratories and an instrumentation core, the sleek laboratory structure and the Allied Health and Sciences building will feature brick, glass and metal architecture to complement existing campus buildings.

GGC opens new instructional laboratories for fall semester

Georgia Gwinnett College celebrated yet another milestone with a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new instructional laboratory facility – a project that brings GGC’s total facilities to one million square feet. The $7 million, 24,000-sq. ft. structure was funded by the University System of Georgia (USG).

USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby participated in the ceremony as part of his first official visit to campus as chancellor. “This institution is a jewel among jewels in the university system,” Huckaby said in his comments to the audience of about 200. “We will continue to build on this campus. You have a great vision and we at the USG are proud to be part of helping you fulfill that vision.”

GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Our existing laboratory space was a limiting factor on meeting the young college’s critical need for more laboratory space. “I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important this facility is for the college,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Our existing laboratory space was a limiting factor on our enrollment growth and further development as an institution. Last year, we hit that limit.”

The need for more laboratories was foreseen in 2006. During his first week as dean for the School of Science and Technology, Thomas Mundie, calculated that GGC would run out of laboratory capacity when it hit 6,000 students. “It’s great to see what’s happening with all of the buildings on campus,” said Georgia State Senator Don Balfour. “But it’s wonderful to see the impact on students’ lives.” He also commented on Georgia Gwinnett’s high retention rates and affordability. All GGC students must take a minimum number of laboratory science courses. As enrollment has grown, so has the demand for both introductory lab courses as well as upper-level courses.

“This fall, we have 1,000 juniors and 700 seniors who will require upper-level laboratory courses,” said Mundie. “As our larger freshman classes advance, these numbers will grow dramatically. These new laboratories are needed to accommodate the college’s changing demographics, as well as meeting the SACS accreditation requirements of providing facilities that support our programs.”

The college will request approval for a new chemistry major, which will generate a need for even more upper-level laboratory courses. Also, students needing upper-level laboratory courses include those majoring in exercise science, math and education.

“The new laboratory facility is designed for eventual incorporation into the college’s planned Allied Health and Sciences building, which has not yet been funded,” said Eddie Beauchamp, vice president for Facilities and Operations. “However, we do have design funds for the building. Both the laboratory structure and the Allied Health and Sciences building will feature brick, glass and metal architecture to complement existing campus buildings.

White establishes memorial scholarship

Jaclyn White of Gwinnett County has endowed a memorial scholarship to honor her husband, Carl D. White, Sr. “My husband worked in law enforcement in Gwinnett County for 30 years. He loved his work, but on or off the job, he was always concerned about helping other people,” White said. “He’d go out of his way to assist a neighbor, or even a stranger, and never expect anything back. I thought establishing this scholarship in his name would be a great way to combine his career in law enforcement with his dedication to helping other people.”

The Carl D. White, Sr. Scholarship Fund will provide support for students who are dependent children of full-time employees of the Gwinnett County Police Department, the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Office, city police jurisdictions located within Gwinnett County or Gwinnett County Public Schools resource officers. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need. Recipients must maintain a minimum grade point average and may renew the scholarship for up to four years.

As an endowment, the Carl D. White Sr. Scholarship Fund will provide a permanent source of scholarship support.
A group of enthusiastic Georgia Gwinnett students and friends manned the GGC team tent during the 2011 Relay for Life at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds.

During his August visit to GGC, University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby visited with a group of students to hear their perspectives.

The GGC bookstore buzzes with activity for its first fall semester sales season.

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Ernest “E.J.” Hatney was one of several students collecting soil samples around campus for a unique laboratory course in which students will identify microorganisms, in hopes of finding a unique species.

Resident advisor Candice Coulter, Falbein Davis and Justin Reed get their Grizzly on during student move-in weekend.

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LeadingEDGE Fall 2011 :: Vol.5 No.2

Georgia Gwinnett College

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Editor: Sally Ramey
Photography: Jason Braverman, Sally Ramey, Anthony and Jennifer Stalcup
Art Direction and Graphic Design: Mark Baran, Bryan Moseley

Editorial and creative services provided by the Georgia Gwinnett College Office of Public Affairs.

A four-year degree-granting unit of the University System of Georgia.