Georgia Gwinnett College student life began a new era with the completion of the institution’s Student Center.

“We have come a very long way in a very short time,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “When we opened our doors to 118 students in 2006, we had few facilities. We now have three outstanding student residence halls and a new, state-of-the-art Library and Learning Center. With the opening of the new Student Center, our transformation to a full-service, residential campus is complete.”

The $24 million Student Center reinforces the college’s supportive, enhanced-learning environment by developing the campus community and empowering students with opportunities for holistic development through a diverse set of high-quality, student-centered programs and services.

“This building is for and by the students at GGC,” said Jay Patel, president of the GGC Student Government Association at the building’s recent ribbon-cutting ceremony. “This is an amazing facility where we can study or relax, eat or socialize, interact with each other or get involved with campus activities. We are all excited to have it open.”

“Students were involved throughout the entire design and planning process,” said Jim Fatzinger, associate vice president of Student Affairs. “They approved a mandatory student fee to fund the project, provided feedback on design elements and selected furniture, carpet colors and other features.” The Student Center logo was even designed by GGC student Homero Gonzales.

The 81,000-sq. ft. building’s architecture coordinates with...
Teacher education program approved for implementation

Georgia Gwinnett College received a green light from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to implement its teaching unit and teacher education programs. The commission’s developmental approval enables GGC to pursue national accreditation for the academic programs in the School of Education.

GGC’s teacher education programs include early childhood education, special education and teacher certification programs for majors in biology, English, history, mathematics and political science.

The School of Education surprised its students with the commission’s decision. As students returned from a break during a recent seminar they were greeted by officials from the college and the Gwinnett County Public School (GCPS) system, who had arrived with a celebratory cake. Upon hearing that their program had been approved for development, the students applauded loudly; some even cheered.

“We are delighted and proud that GGC achieved all of the standards for the unit and the programs with no areas for improvement cited,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “This speaks to the outstanding quality of our programs, the dedicated work of our faculty and staff, and the strength of our innovative partnership with Gwinnett County Public Schools. Our student teachers are very fortunate to work in a world-class school district, honored as the 2010 winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education.”

Kaufman had a surprise of his own – a framed copy of the report filed by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission review team, which he presented to Cathy Moore, dean of the School of Education.

Kaufman explained that before the college had its name, he involved GCPS in the planning of a signature teacher education program that would serve Gwinnett County and areas beyond. He encouraged the students to welcome the opportunity to establish a legacy, and appreciate their important roles as teachers.

“You will set the standards for those who will follow you. And you have the chance to change lives and inspire your students. That’s what is special about being a teacher.” –Daniel J. Kaufman

GGC breaks ground for new instructional laboratory facility

Georgia Gwinnett College recently broke ground on a $7 million, 24,000-sq. ft. instructional laboratory facility. Funded by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents, the structure will support the college’s rapidly expanding student body.

“I cannot emphasize enough how important this facility is for the college,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Our lack of existing laboratory space is a limiting factor on our enrollment growth and further development as an institution. This year, we hit that limit.”

Without the facility, GGC would have had to cap its enrollment at about 6,000 students. The new laboratories will serve up to 8,500, a number that Kaufman expects the college to achieve in fall 2011.

“The size of our enrollment and the pace of our growth is really no surprise,” Kaufman said. “The Gwinnett region needed a four-year, public college. Nothing reaffirms this institution more than our enrollment. Our ongoing challenge is to anticipate the growth, and to plan for it responsibly.”

All students must take a minimum number of laboratory science courses. As GGC’s enrollment has grown to almost 6,000, so has the demand for such courses. GGC’s 10 existing laboratories are operating at maximum capacity, including evening and Saturday sessions.

“This fall, we will have 1,000 juniors and 700 seniors who will require upper-level laboratory courses. Without this facility, they would have been turned away.”

Charter GGC foundation chair to step down: continued from page 1

invaluable. He helped us get the foundation off the ground and the college off to a great start. I’m sure we will continue to make him proud. We look forward to his continuing contributions as a member of the board of trustees.”

“Being the first to serve as trustee chair for a new college is no small task. The challenges are great but the opportunities are greater,” said Gordon Harrison, president of the GGC Foundation. “The caliber of Glenn’s leadership sets a high standard for all who will follow him.”

White is president of the Atlanta Region–United Community Banks and has held leadership positions with several other banks in the Atlanta area.

His impressive community involvement record includes serving as chairman of the University System of Georgia (USG) board of regents, and the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He has been president of the Council for Quality Growth and Gwinnett Council for the Arts.

He has served on the board of directors for the USG Foundation, Metro Atlanta Homebuilders Association and Gwinnett Foundation/Northeast Georgia Community Foundation. He has been a prominent volunteer leader for the United Way.
Honeybees are in trouble. The primary agents of pollination for many crops are dying in massive numbers, threatening the nation’s food production. The cause of the threat to honeybees is uncertain. Scientists are debating the phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), and studying suspects such as inbreeding, parasites and pesticides. “This could jeopardize the food supply of the entire planet,” said Mark Schlueter, associate professor of biology at Georgia Gwinnett College. “Also, farmers’ costs go up dramatically when they pay beekeepers to provide hives to pollinate crops, and those costs are passed on to consumers.”

Schlueter and GGC student Nick Stewart recently received a $15,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Southern Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Grant to support their research into a solution for this problem. They hope to identify native bee species that can supplement or replace the commercial honeybee for crop pollination. Schlueter and Stewart have spent more than 1,000 hours in field research at North Georgia apple orchards, including the state’s largest orchard, Mercier’s. The duo has collected and identified more than 10,000 insects, including 1,500 native bees. They have indentified more than 90 native bee species within the orchards.

“We want to find out which native species are out there, how abundant they are, and if we can find good pollinators and create habitats for them — even if it’s just to provide piles of sand where they can nest,” said Schlueter. “If a native bee could replace or supplement the commercial honeybee, then food costs would be reduced for the public.”

“Of the 4,000 species of bee in North America,” Stewart said, “there are roughly 300 species I believe could be capable of relieving the over-burdened, non-native, dwindling European honeybee.”

This research has significance well beyond Georgia, as it can help predict possible pollinators in other states and for other crops,” Schlueter said.

Grant funding enables Schlueter to recruit and compensate additional GGC students to help with the tedious, sun-up to sun-down research, during which the researchers gather vital information and critical background data on the bees. At the same time, students learn about experimental design, field collection techniques and many other applied research techniques.

The bee survey data provide a snapshot of the diversity and abundance of native bees in apple orchards.

“The initial survey results and the SARE grant will be a stepping stone to much larger, multi-year studies. This will open the door for future research into this subject at GGC,” said Schlueter, who has 16 years of experience conducting field studies and coordinating student research. “Dr. Schlueter has introduced me to facets of research which were entirely foreign to me,” Stewart said, “like writing grants, detailing budgets, dealing with the business side of research work, and getting our study into the hands of a wider audience.”

Stewart is a senior biology major who plans to pursue graduate studies at the University of Georgia after earning his bachelor’s degree at GGC. He then plans to teach at the college level, but also hopes to continue his study of bees, as well as spiders, scorpions, reptiles/amphibians and evolutionary biology. Having an opportunity to conduct research at the undergraduate level enriches his educational experience.

“Research is hands-on learning,” Schlueter said. “It allows students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to real-world problems by asking and answering questions never before considered. It enables them to contribute to human knowledge before they ever graduate.”

GGC to begin intercollegiate Grizzly athletics in 2012

Georgia Gwinnett College will introduce six intercollegiate sports for the 2012-2013 academic year, and possibly up to three more the next year. “We are pleased to offer intercollegiate athletics to our students, as it represents another milestone in our brief history. Varsity sports will enhance the college’s vision of a fully integrated educational experience,” said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. “Studies 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 program including varsity, club and intramural athletics offers all students an opportunity to develop skills in teamwork, leadership and other key areas.

The following nine varsity sports were selected based on student interest, gender equity, facility requirements and potential community interest:

2012-2013 – Men’s baseball, men’s soccer, men’s tennis, women’s soccer, women’s softball, women’s tennis.

2013-2014 – Men’s basketball, women’s basketball, women’s volleyball.

Kaufman appointed a 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 task force will continue guiding the athletic program development until a director of athletics is hired.

GGC students approved an athletics fee to be used to fund the programs — a fee that also was approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents at its April meeting. Private support will provide additional funding.

The director of athletics will be hired this year and will quickly begin hiring coaches and staff. Construction of athletic facilities could start this summer. GGC intends to apply for membership in the NAIA.

“I am delighted that we are creating a unique, integrated athletics program,” said Tomas Jimenez, dean of students and task force chair. “It will enrich the educational experience, build excitement and enhance campus spirit.”

“Our athletics program will add engagement opportunities for our students and the community at large,” said Kaufman. “I can think of no better place to build an intercollegiate athletics program than in Gwinnett. This region has the resources, the interest and the enthusiasm to support and champion a collegiate program. We look forward to many years of hearing our students, friends and neighbors cheer, ‘Go Grizzlies!’”

www.ggc.edu Georgia Gwinnett College

Faculty-student team researches honeybee alternatives

Dr. Mark Schlueter and student Nick Stewart believe that one of these trays contains bee species that can accomplish the critical pollination work of the dwindling European honeybee.
that of other campus buildings, and it helps frame the central quad. The project includes significant outdoor space, including a plaza shared with the library, a nearby flag court, and an outdoor terrace and patio overlooking a water feature that doubles as an irrigation resource. The structure was designed to achieve LEED Silver certification, which is pending.

Its open interior features glass on all levels, filling it with natural light from a large curtain wall at the front of the building, skylights and multiple windows along the corridors and across the width of the 750-seat dining hall.

"Everything about this building is designed to support student life, wellness and development," said Adam Sterritt, assistant dean for Student Life. "It will enrich the student experience and help our students make the most of the many opportunities they will encounter while at GGC."

The ground floor provides easy access from the student residence halls, and includes some of the busiest student facilities – a multipurpose room, game room and dining hall. The multipurpose room will be used by the GGC Greenlight Activities Board to host open mic nights, video game tournaments and other student events. The game room features pool, ping pong and foosball tables. The GGC dining hall features an all-you-can-eat concept with a wide range of meal options to meet the varied dietary needs of the student body.

The Student Center’s main entrance is on the second floor, off the campus quad. This floor has a gathering space, meeting rooms, a Barnes & Noble store, and a large open area for events.

"This is an amazing facility where we can study or relax, eat or socialize, interact with each other or get involved with campus activities."

Jay Patel - president of the GGC Student Government Association

GGC celebrates completion of new student center: continued from page 1

Georgia Gwinnett College’s commitment to going green has earned the college a golden honor.

The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded Georgia Gwinnett College a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification to GGC’s recently completed Library and Learning Center.

"From the start, our students made it very clear that they wanted their college to uphold the highest standards of environmental responsibility and stewardship," said GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman. "Earning a LEED Gold certification is a testament to our students’ collective vision, our staff’s dedication to that vision, and the insightful skills of the building’s designers."

The LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of sustainable buildings. By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the community.

GGC’s facility is the first academic library in Georgia to achieve LEED Gold certification, and one of only seven Gold-certified academic libraries in the U.S. It is the fifth Gold-certified facility in Gwinnett County.

Designing and building the facility to LEED specifications proved a challenge, as libraries traditionally use large amounts of energy for lighting and for climate control systems needed to preserve printed materials. The college’s goal of achieving LEED Silver certification required even higher standards.

The international architecture, planning, engineering, interior design and program management firm Leo A. Daly answered the challenge with a design that surpassed expectations.

Leo A. Daly’s team designed a building that is not only beautiful, but functional and efficient," Kaufman said. "The features that contributed to earning the LEED Gold certification are impressive. We are very proud of the entire project team’s work."

The team achieved a 32 percent reduction in

GGC library earns LEED Gold certification

Sustainable strategies featured in the library include:

- More than 95 percent of the construction waste was diverted from landfills to local recycling facilities.
- Almost 95 percent of the reinforced steel used was recycled from scrap cars.
- The drywall is made of 95 percent recycled content and is a by-product of industrial waste material.
- The wood ceilings are fabricated from 97 percent recycled materials.
- Drought-tolerant landscaping permits more efficient use of exterior water.

Story continued at bottom of next page
A new view now extends across campus on the slope below the signature administration building, with the Library and Learning Center to the left and the Student Center to the right. The large lawn in front of the Library acts as the college’s central quad, and provides an attractive outdoor venue for commencement and other large events. Both buildings were completed within the last year, and continue the architectural character established by the college’s signature building.

The building contains a number of student services, including the offices of Student Affairs, Student Involvement, Orientation & New Student Programs and Student Conduct as well as the Career Development and Advising Center and the campus mail room. The Registered Student Organization Resource Area provides open work areas where students can gather and collaborate on events and projects. The Resource Area also features extensive storage for student organizations as well as a conference room for meetings.

The GGC Student Center was not funded by the taxpayers of Georgia. “The college would not be where it is today if not for the continued support of the GGC Foundation,” said Gordon Harrison, president of the foundation. “The foundation has supported several projects critical to GGC’s growth. The foundation’s trustees have given generously of their time, and we are grateful for their vision, enthusiasm and leadership in helping the college succeed.”

“Over the expected 50-year minimum lifetime of the library, it will produce significant, long-term budgetary savings due to its energy efficiencies,” said Eddie Beauchamp, vice president for Facilities and Operations. “It will reduce the college’s carbon footprint and will provide a healthier environment for students. As the ‘Campus of Tomorrow,’ it only makes sense that GGC is committed to state-of-the-art building design.”

Students took center stage for the Student Center ribbon-cutting ceremony. Shown are Student Government Association officers James Gregorie, Sean George, Tyler Henry, Kasandra Lawhorn, GGC President Daniel J. Kaufman, Jay Patel, Homero Gonzalez, Geoff Smith, Chris Hunter, Sandrine Irankunda and Chelsea Hunter.
GJC Foundation announces recent major gifts

Several recent major gifts are furthering the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation’s growth and ability to support the mission of the college.

“We are deeply appreciative of all of our donors,” said Gordon Harrison, president of the foundation. “Every gift either strengthens the foundation’s financial resources, or adds to its repertoire of funds available for direct student or program support.”

The impact of a major gift to GJC is increased because of the college’s youth, Harrison explained.

“Quite literally, these gifts are forming the foundation upon which the college’s future will be built,” he said. “These contributions will leave a legacy for generations.”

Scholarship honors family member

Greg and Tammy Shumate of Gwinnett County recently established an annual scholarship fund in memory of Greg’s mother, Linda.

The Linda Shumate Scholarship Fund will provide at least $10,000 each year in scholarship support to students who demonstrate financial need and who maintain full-time status and a minimum cumulative GJC grade point average of 2.7.

Preference will be given to students who experienced the loss of a parent before eight years of age, which affected the student’s ability to attend college.

“The GJC Foundation is humbled by the Shumate family’s commitment to remembering Linda through this scholarship,” said Harrison. “Their preferred criteria recognize the profound impact that the loss of a parent can have on a child’s future. We applaud their efforts to help students who faced such circumstances.”

The scholarship may be renewed by its recipients for up to four years.

College receives $50,000 gift from Ratner Foundation

GJC has received a five-year pledge of $50,000 from the Milton M. Ratner Foundation of Franklin, Michigan, for the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund.

The fund will enable GJC to award a partial scholarship to a student with demonstrated financial need. The scholarship fund will build to endowment over five years.

“We appreciate the Milton M. Ratner Foundation’s interest in supporting our students,” said Harrison. “The Ratner Scholarship is a welcome addition to our expanding list of available scholarships.”

“We are honored to assist Georgia Gwinnett College in providing a source of perpetual funding for scholarships for students interested in pursuing a college education,” said Therese M. Thorn, treasurer of the Ratner Foundation. “The foundation supports children and youth, community development, education, museums, human services and other notable causes.”

SunTrust grant to provide one full-tuition scholarship

GJC is one of 10 Atlanta-area institutions selected to benefit from a $50,000 SunTrust Foundation grant to the University System of Georgia (USG) Foundation. The grant will fund the “SunTrust Scholars” program, which will enable students facing significant financial barriers to attend college.

One GJC student will receive a full scholarship for 2011-12, including a stipend to cover a portion of their additional expenses, such as books and fees.

This is the first grant awarded to the USG Foundation for scholarships at multiple USG institutions. Scholarship criteria include a high school GPA of 2.5 - 2.99.

“As an access institution, we are very appreciative of the SunTrust Foundation’s focus on helping students realize the dream of a college education,” Harrison said. “This scholarship is perfectly suited for GJC, where our programs are designed to help all students succeed.”

GGC breaks ground for new instructional laboratory facility: continued from page 2

Students can be excited by hands-on experiences in the STEM disciplines,” said Tom Mundie, dean of the School of Science and Technology. “As our larger freshman classes advance, these numbers will grow. These new laboratories are needed to accommodate the college’s changing demographics, as well as meeting the SACS accreditation requirement of providing facilities that support our programs.

Of GJC’s current 5,754 students, about 15 percent are majoring in biology. This creates a need for advanced laboratory courses for more than 860 students. The college is requesting approval of a new chemistry major, which will generate the need for even more upper-level laboratory courses. Other students needing such courses include majors in exercise science, math and education.

The laboratory facility is designed for eventual incorporation into the college’s planned Allied Health & Sciences building, which is not yet funded. Its brick, glass and metal architecture will complement existing campus buildings. The laboratory facility’s intended LEED-Silver certification is pending completion of the full Allied Health & Sciences project.

The new structure includes a row of laboratories, fronted by windows and adjacent to an atrium-like hallway that will run the full length of the facility. The design provides natural lighting and allows passers-by to see laboratory activities.

“This is a ‘science on display’ concept. Our laboratories will be centrally located on the campus, not tucked away as they are at many institutions,” Mundie said. “Science and technology are so central to higher education, and to society in general, that we wanted a facility that emphasized this important role through its design and location.”

Mundie cited the need for the U.S. to stay competitive in the STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – to be successful in the global economy.

With completion of the laboratory structure this fall, GJC’s facilities will surpass one million square feet.

“Students can be excited by hands-on experiences in the STEM disciplines,” he said. “If they see it in action, touch it, smell it and answer open-ended questions with critical thinking, they can experience the scientific method and the discoveries it brings.”

Of the seven laboratories, one will be dedicated to computational sciences, one to multi-disciplinary research, one to physics, one to natural sciences and three to biology and chemistry courses. They will be equipped with an advanced audio-visual system, including high-definition and three-dimensional imaging capabilities. Each laboratory will accommodate 24 students.

With completion of the structure, GJC’s facilities will surpass one million square feet.
Gordon Harrison announces retirement

Gordon Harrison, one of Georgia Gwinnett College’s original cabinet members, will retire July 1 of this year. Harrison came to GGC in January 2006 after being appointed by the chancellor of the University System of Georgia to serve on the management team overseeing the college’s creation. “Dr. Harrison was one of three employees at the beginning of GGC’s history,” said President Daniel J. Kaufman. “We had a budget of less than $1 million and the challenge of founding a new college. Today, we have 770 employees, almost 6,000 students and a budget of $60 million. He has contributed in many ways to the growth and success of this institution, and we are very grateful for his good work.”

Harrison originally had a broad role in the academic functions of the college. He was initially responsible for examining programs in the United States and internationally and developing options for creating an innovative learning methodology. He contributed to the formation of both the academic and management structure of the institution, including hiring critical positions.

As the college grew, Harrison settled into his duties as vice president for Advancement and soon was elected by the Board of Trustees of the GGC Foundation as that organization’s charter president. He has been responsible for the development, public affairs and external affairs functions, as well as the growth and management of the foundation. This involved developing legal, fiduciary, financial and external affairs functions, as well as the management of the foundation.

GGC and its students fared well in the fiscal year 2012 budget allocations of the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents.

In acknowledgment of enrollment growth, a total state funding package of $33.6 million was dedicated to GGC for fiscal year 2012. This figure includes a $2.4 million increase over last year.

“The continuing support from the Board of Regents and legislature is vital for the rapid growth of GGC,” said President Daniel J. Kaufman. “These funds will enable us to hire the faculty necessary to support the college’s growth.”

Kaufman also noted that the General Assembly added $7.1 million for infrastructure projects for GGC.

“These funds are necessary to continue building the college,” he said. “We expect to accomplish a number of vital projects with these funds. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the Gwinnett legislative delegation, the leadership of the House and Senate and the Governor for their strong support.”

State Representative Donna Sheldon from House District 108 (Dacula) stated, “On behalf of the Gwinnett Legislative delegation, I want to express how proud we are of Georgia Gwinnett College and all the students it serves. Making the budget right for GGC this year was a team effort with the delegation.” Sheldon added that GGC is strongly supported by the leadership in both the House and Senate. “The College has accomplished a great deal in the past five years; and the leadership of the General Assembly appreciates the good work of all involved.”

The Board of Regents also approved an across-the-board three percent tuition increase, due to deep reductions in the USG budget as a result of the economic downturn. This means that a GGC student will pay $109.87 per credit hour in the fall, up from $107 per credit hour. A full-time student taking 12 credit hours will pay $1,318.44 in tuition — about $36 more than in the fall of 2010. A special institutional fee will increase to $245 per semester, up from $95 per semester. The fee was scaled according to institution type, with GGC’s set at about mid-range.

GGC fares well in 2011 budgetary decisions

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Commencement features Gov. Deal

Nathan Deal, governor of the State of Georgia, will address Georgia Gwinnett College’s commencement exercises on June 2. Included in this historic graduating class is the first group of students who have attended the state’s newest institution of higher learning for all four years. This graduating class will be GGC’s largest since its opening in 2006, with about 100 students receiving their diplomas.
These students were among those involved in the cultural exhibits and activities held in the Student Center during International Week. Other activities included a trivia contest, ping pong tournament, student debate and panel discussions.

Prince Cedza Dlamini of Swaziland presented the first Global Perspectives Address at the college’s inaugural International Week. As CEO and founder of South Africa’s Ubuntu Institute for young Social Entrepreneurs, Dlamini encourages young people to be global leaders. He is a grandson of famed former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Sophia Chen and Jun Pang celebrate their historic winter commencement ceremony in January. Of the college’s 69 graduates, Allen, Ford, Ortega and Witt opened, Ortega was one of the first three students to enroll at GGC. Also graduating were the first three students to earn their degrees with all GGC credit hours, Chawla, Holder and Surla. Chawla, Holder and Surla finished their course work in 10 semesters. Chawla completed her degree in nine semesters, making her the first all-GGC graduate.

This unusual-looking device is an alert siren and notification system recently installed at GGC. The system will warn the campus community of life-threatening emergencies. It was activated for its first real emergency when the National Weather Service detected a possible tornado headed toward campus during an April 4 severe weather event.

Hundreds of students participated in the School of Science and Technology’s recent Science, Technology and Research Showcase (STaRS). Here, several students try their hand at the chemistry involved in making lollipops.

Joayna B. Ortega, Adam Joseph Holder, Chaand K. Chawla, Brandon M. Witt, Marijana Surla, Darren L. Ford and Valerie Claire Allen celebrate their historic winter commencement ceremony in January. Of the college’s 69 graduates, Allen, Ford, Ortega and Witt opened. Ortega was one of the first three students to enroll at GGC. Also graduating were the first three students to earn their degrees with all GGC credit hours, Chawla, Holder and Surla. Chawla, Holder and Surla finished their course work in 10 semesters. Chawla completed her degree in nine semesters, making her the first all-GGC graduate.

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