

Tigers' ROAR

April 2011

SGC Faculty Staff News



Oh what
a Night!

"A Night to Shine" showcases 40 years of SGC Foundation

"A Night to Shine" Gala, a 40th anniversary celebration of the South Georgia College Foundation, was an occasion to celebrate the charitable work the Foundation has performed over the last four decades. It was also an important night for one of SGC's dearest friends, Mr. Romeo Reyes of Satilla REMC.



Mr. Romeo Reyes (SGC '96), President/CEO of Satilla REMC, was surprised to win SGC's first Alumni Award.

Ms. Shelly McLean (SGC '99) of the SGC Foundation served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Mr. Romeo Reyes, Satilla REMC President/CEO, received SGC's first-ever Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award. Mr. Reyes, a 1996 SGC alumnus, began his career with Satilla REMC as a lineman. He decided to return to school in order to obtain an engineering degree. At that time, he was married with a young family and had numerous financial obligations. Mr. Reyes attended South Georgia College after work and graduated with honors. He eventually transferred to Mercer University to complete his degree in 1999. Today, after serving as an engineer and district manager, he leads the company.

Mr. Mickey Whittington, Director of Customer Service and Chairman of Satilla REMC, said he considers it a privilege to have Romeo as his boss.

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HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2011



From the President

SGC FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY

In the past two years, South Georgia College has benefited greatly from the support of the SGC Foundation. Tiger Village II in 2010 and the Dining Hall in 2011 are two of the recent capital projects financed by the Foundation. See a glimpse of the magnificent renovation of the Dining Hall from the topping off ceremony in this issue.

This year the SGC Foundation celebrates its 40th anniversary. In honor of this milestone, Foundation leaders set and achieved the goal of raising \$40,000. The "A Night to Shine" gala, held April 2, honored many original leaders and their accomplishments over the years. In this issue are many photos from this fabulous event where Mr. Romeo Reyes, a 1996 alumnus, received the first-ever SGC Outstanding Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Reyes is an excellent role model in his company and our community. The heartwarming story of his rise from lineman to CEO makes him very deserving of this honor.

I want to conclude by thanking each division and student group for the excellent array of events and special activities planned this month. Please encourage your colleagues, students, family and friends to attend. I assure you these events will not only stimulate your mind, but will also showcase the many talents and resources we are fortunate to have at South Georgia College.

Dr. Virginia M. Carson

SGC announces Susan Driscoll as 2011 Commencement Speaker



For its 82nd Commencement Exercises, which will take place on May 5 at 9 a.m., South Georgia College is pleased to announce that Ms. Susan Driscoll, co-founder of ignition, inc., will serve as the event's commencement speaker.

Ms. Driscoll's company, ignition, inc., is a marketing firm with offices in Fitzgerald, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Germany and Italy. A savvy marketer and enterprising business leader, Ms. Driscoll founded McWhorter Driscoll, LLC, in 1997, along with her business partner and husband, Mr. Mark "Dill" Driscoll. As the enterprise has grown, Ms. Driscoll has maintained responsibility for all financial planning and management of the companies that comprise the holding company. Since its inception and under her fiscal stewardship, McWhorter Driscoll has founded and/or added several properties to its holdings, including: ignition Abroad, the parent company for ignition's international offices and MacGolf, a nationwide amateur golf tour. She is co-founder of ignition and CEO of its creative arm, ignition Studios.

Projects ignition has overseen include Whamo's birthday celebrations of the Frisbee, Hackey Sack and Hula Hoop; Coca Cola's first Olympic Torch Relay in 1996; and the first ever FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour. The company has received numerous awards for its work on projects all over the world.

Ms. Driscoll also serves on the boards of WorldSpan Ministries, the Irwin County Chamber of Commerce, and Ruth's Cottage, an organization that helps abused women and children.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2011

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“His constant movement up the chain of command from lineman, to engineer, to district manager, to CEO shows that in life, the good guy can still win,” Mr. Whittington said. “He has always had a positive attitude, even through the tough times he has faced.”

An emotional Mr. Reyes accepted the award, and expressed a heartfelt thank-you to Satilla REMC and his family for their support while he attended school.

“I would not have been able to accomplish all of this without their encouragement. They believed in me and made this possible,” stated Mr. Reyes.

His family-wife Tammy, children Hannah, Jake and Ansley, as well as his father-joined him on stage as he accepted the award.

Mr. Reyes also expressed his gratitude to SGC.

“As a non-traditional student, I would not have been able to achieve a college education without SGC,” he added.

Mr. Reyes has also given back to his alma mater by serving as a Trustee of the SGC Foundation since 2009. In his honor, SGC will present a scholarship in his name to a non-traditional student.

SGC recognized several other important friends of the College during the gala. Dr. Virginia Carson presented a plaque to Coffee Regional Medical Center for its years of support and for recognition as the largest corporate donor of endowed funds, most in the form of scholarships for the nursing program. Dr. Carson also mentioned the Mr. Herman McGouirk family, which has been the most generous private donor. Mr. McGouirk, an SGC professor of English who served as a chairman for the Division of Humanities, created a planned gift and bequeathed over \$300,000 to SGC upon his death in 1983.

Dr. Carson announced a new endowment to the Foundation’s catalog of scholarships. Mrs. Mary Ann Saylor and her two sons, Johnny and Michael, have endowed a scholarship in memory of Mr. John Saylor, a long-time faculty/staff member of SGC and former professor of education.

“It is exciting any time we can announce a new endowment, but being able to do so against a backdrop such as this gala is even more extraordinary,” stated Dr. Carson.

Mrs. Saylor said she and her husband John moved to Douglas in the 1970s, thinking they would be here for just a few years. Over 30 years later, the Saylor family is still in town.

“This college was an important part of our life and remains so today. We have wanted to do this for a long time and are very thankful we can finally announce our endowment,” said Mrs. Saylor.

The 40th anniversary tribute included remarks from former SGC Foundation Presidents Mr. Earl Brice, Mr. Robert H. “Bob” Preston, and Mr. Matt Greer. Dr. Drew Bagwell and Miss Megan Shook also offered reflections on being SGC scholarship recipients.

Before the evening ended, Ms. Shelly McLean, SGC Foundation Vice President, recognized Ambling University Development Group and Juneau Construction Company as VIP Sponsors and Hendessi & Associates and ABL Educational Enterprise as Premier Sponsors. She also announced that “A Night to Shine” helped the SGC Foundation reach its goal of raising \$40,000 for its 40th Anniversary.

“As a non-traditional student, I would not have been able to achieve a college education without SGC.”

**Mr. Romeo Reyes
Alumnus of the Year**



Foundation Gala

ABOVE:

Coffee Regional Medical Center accepted the honor of being the SGC Foundation's largest corporate sponsor in the past 40 years. The Saylor family established a scholarship in honor of Mr. John Saylor, an education faculty member at SGC.

RIGHT:

Many SGC staff members attended the gala as sponsor table guests, including Mr. Jim Folds and Mr. Lance Keaton. Members of the Office of Advancement, including Ms. Amy Hancock, Ms. Walda Kight, Mr. Robert Preston, Ms. Becky Wehmeier, and Ms. Kayla Tillman, assisted with the event. Mr. Keith Newell and Ms. Lena Helmbrecht served as staff volunteers at the "A Night to Shine" VIP Sponsor Reception.

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2011



Mr. Rob Brunel, SGC Athletic Director, participated in the Foundation Golf Tournament, while nursing faculty and students (including Ms. Cheryl Swain pictured) gave free blood pressure screenings at the Tiger baseball game Friday. Ms. Mary Clyde Scott, SGC alumna, spoke Saturday at the William S. Smith Library about her book on Gaskin Avenue families.



SGC to participate in Emergency Drill

An April 22 planned emergency preparedness drill, the first of its kind at SGC, will be a multi-jurisdictional training exercise involving SGC staff; city, county and state law enforcement agencies; and local emergency personnel.

This date was selected because fewer students will be on campus and thus it will minimize disruption for the campus and community.

The emergency preparedness drill will also involve the closing of College Park Drive for a portion of the day during the exercise. Drivers are encouraged to use an alternate route on this day. Faculty and staff may also see emergency vehicles on campus or hear SGC's alarm system.

"At South Georgia College, we have a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan in place that addresses a wide array of emergency situations, such as the type we will test on April 22," said Ms. Sonja McCulloch, SGC's Director of Public Safety. "This drill will highlight the strengths of our plan and also show us areas in which we need to improve. We look forward to working with various government agencies and emergency personnel to help ensure SGC is well prepared in case our emergency plan is needed."

As part of a continuing commitment to safety, SGC will host an emergency preparedness drill Friday, April 22, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

SGC INFO NIGHTS



In an effort to show prospective students what it takes to register for college and the resources that are available to them once they are enrolled, South Georgia College sponsored a pair of Info Nights for all area high school seniors. Graduates of the Class of 2011 had two opportunities to receive valuable registration information



on March 3 and 15. Representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Life, Housing and the Office of Advancement (including **Dr. Randy Braswell** and **Ms. Walda Kight**) were on hand to share key information about SGC and its benefits for students. Of particular interest for students and their parents were the key deadlines for registration and scholarship applications. SGC staff also covered topics ranging from how to apply for financial aid opportunities to the activities and services on campus.



Topping Out



Dr. Virginia Carson speaks to the dignitaries and workers attending the Dining Hall Topping Out Ceremony on March 29 in the renovated Nursing/IT Building.

First Grad Fair



Ms. Lisa Bohannon mans the Office of Business Affairs table at SGC's first Graduation Fair March 8. Approximately 50 students attended this event in the Art Gallery.





Just a few more games...

Time is winding down for **Coach Scott Sims**.

After almost 20 years at the helm of the SGC baseball team, Coach Sims will retire from teaching and coaching at the end of this semester.

The Tigers have just a few more regular season home games this year. On April 19, SGC hosts Middle Georgia in a single game at 6 p.m. On April 29, Georgia Perimeter comes to town for one game at 6 p.m. The following day at 1 p.m., the two teams play again in a double-header. This will be Coach Sims's final regular season game at George A. Cook Stadium.

Coach Sims has had a very successful career. He has amassed over 600 victories and made the playoffs 17 times (including a run of 15 straight playoff appearances). His Tigers have finished runner-up in the conference four times, 17 of his players have been drafted and one—Jason Childers—made it all the way to the major leagues. In 2010, Coach Sims was named GCAA Region XVII Coach of the Year.

Please take the opportunity to attend one of the games and show your support for Coach Sims and the 2011 Tigers.

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Scott Thigpen, RN DNP CCRN CEN, will present his doctoral research, "Improving Recognition and Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarctions with Thrombolytic Therapy in a Rural Emergency Department" at two Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) research conferences: STTI's 22nd International Nursing Research Congress in Cancun, Mexico (July 11-14, 2011) and the Sigma Theta Tau 41st Biennial Convention in Grapevine, Texas (October 29-November 2, 2011). The vision of this Honor Society of Nursing is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, research, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people. Participants to the national and international conferences represent 33 countries from around the globe. Dr. Thigpen also served as faculty for the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) National Leadership Conference in Portland, Oregon, in February. The 2011 conference titled, "Lead, Learn and Inspire," featured a podium presentation by Dr. Thigpen on "Therapeutic Humor Skills in the Emergency Department." He will serve as faculty for the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) National Teaching Institute (NTI) in May in Chicago. Dr. Thigpen will host three sessions on Endocrine Emergencies, Endocrine Pathophysiology, and Snake Bite Management. The NTI is the premier conference for nurses who care for high acuity and critically ill patients and their families with an attendance of 8,000+ nurses. This is the sixth consecutive year he has been selected to serve as conference faculty.

Due to the renovation of Engram Hall, textbooks for Maymester/Summer Semester will not be available in the College Bookstore located upstairs. The process of ordering online at www.sgcbookstore.com will begin May 2. Students may pick up their order from the Campus Post Office and/or have books shipped to their home. Financial Aid orders will be processed starting May 2 and continue until June 15. Information about how and when to order is available at the online bookstore website: www.sgcbookstore.com or by calling 912-260-4233. Please continue to visit SGC's College Store in Engram Hall for logo apparel and other supplies.



Calendar

12

SGC Choir & Dancers

7:00 pm

McGouirk Auditorium

Peterson Hall

12-13

Global Issues Symposium

6:30-8:30 pm

Stubbs Hall 142

Tuesday

The Global Mirror:

Social Problems and Attitudes
in Global Perspective

Wednesday

Times of Transition:

The Muslim World and Arab
Democracy Movements

14

Honors Day

12:00 noon

McGouirk Auditorium

Peterson Hall

15-16

1950s Alumni Reunion

15-20

The Tragic Fall of Fantus:

How a College Student

Loses His Soul

SGC Theatre Production

7:00 pm Friday & Saturday

3:00 pm Sunday

2:00 pm Wednesday

The Black Box Theatre

Peterson Hall 142

18

Nursing Community
Advisory Meeting, 2:00 pm

19-21

Earth Week 2011

Activities in Stubbs 142:

Tuesday, 1:00 pm

Recycling Q&A

Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Dirk Stevenson, Herpetologist

Thursday, 5:00 pm

"Cool It" Film

21

Religious Diversity

Forum

7:00-9:00 pm

Stubbs 142

26

Three Rivers

Symphonic Winds

7:00 pm

McGouirk Auditorium

Peterson Hall

27

Last Day of Classes

28-29

Final Exams

(continued May 2-4)

29

Faculty Assembly

10:00-11:30 am

Stubbs Hall 142

29-30

STEM Showcase

Congratulations

Casey Durden

on her marriage to
Will Clark - April 9, 2011

South Georgia College



Anniversaries

3 YEARS

Lisa Mancil

Nikki Sanks

Birthdays

1

Patricia Waters

3

Frank Pridemore

10

Melissa Peacock

12

Jack Martin

14

Amy Hancock

17

Fannie Poole

25

Mary Benek

26

Frankie Snow

27

Donzella Stinson

30

Tiffany Briceno

In Memory

Claude Jones

Public Safety Corporal
(SGC 2004-2011)

Sherry Cumbass

wife of Kevin Cumbass
SGC Public Safety