

# The **Tigers' Roar**

August 2009  
SGC Faculty & Staff Newsletter



## From the President



*Dr. Virginia Carson*

*Welcome...*

I am delighted to greet each of you as we kick off the 2009 fall semester.

I sincerely hope that you enjoyed a pleasant and productive summer, and you are as excited as I am about the start of this new academic year.

I want to extend special greetings to our new faculty and staff. I am pleased that you have joined our campus community, and I firmly believe that you will find Douglas and SGC among the best places in the world to live and work.

I continue to be proud of our accomplishments as a College. I commend all of the departments that worked diligently to achieve a rating of "excellent" on our internal audit last month. I am truly grateful for your service and all that you do in the name of SGC.

As we come together at Convocation, I look forward to the innovative ideas and the fresh start that a new year always brings to campus.

Let's build on the benchmarks we met in 2008-09, and aim for a great year!

## CONVOCATION

*South Georgia College will mark the beginning of its 2009-2010 academic year with Convocation on Monday, August 10. New faculty and staff will be treated to a light breakfast at 8:30 am in the Art Gallery of Peterson Hall, where they will be greeted by College administration and community leaders. A campus-wide assembly for all employees will be held at 10:00 am in Room 142 of Stubbs Hall. A casual cookout will follow at 11:30 am in the historic Clower Center. All offices at SGC will be closed from 10:00 am to 12:45 pm. For other activities during the week, visit: [www.sgc.edu/faculty\\_staff/index.html](http://www.sgc.edu/faculty_staff/index.html).*

## SGC rated "excellent" on audit

The Office of Internal Audit (OIA) announced that South Georgia College rated "excellent" in its recent internal audit.

The OIA audits institutions within the University System of Georgia to report on operational effectiveness and efficiency, the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information, the safeguarding of assets, and compliance with laws, regulations and contracts. The OIA adheres to the USG Core Values of Integrity, Excellence, Accountability and Respect. The goal is to promote competence and maintain confidentiality while adhering to all professional standards. The OIA also considers risk.

South Georgia College, last audited in 2005, received an "excellent" rating at that time.

Traditionally, each institution is audited at least every four years. However, when there is a significant management change, the USG assigns a high priority to the institution. Given Dr. Carson was appointed president effective February 1, 2009, South Georgia College was selected for an audit in FY 2009.

The following six areas were the focus of this year's audit: Purchasing Cards, Study Abroad, Tuition Classification, Emergency Planning, Institutional Travel, and Prior Audit Follow-up.

"This past year we have implemented numerous new procedures. The areas involved have ensured we follow the guidelines, and their efforts are reflected in this rating," said Dr. Carson.



South Georgia College QEP

*“Preparing for Success  
in a Global Society”*

## QEP: Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

*Dr. Carl B. McDonald*, Vice President for Academic Affairs

*Critical Thinking through the WRITE Plan:  
Writing and Reasoning to  
Improve Thinking Effectiveness*

**Purpose of the QEP:** South Georgia College seeks to develop the critical thinking skills of its students through five student learning outcomes directly related to (1) the College’s definition of critical thinking, (2) the five subscales of the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST), and (3) the College’s critical thinking rubric. Student-written artifacts produced in a variety of core curriculum courses constitute the majority of direct assessment measures.

**Definition of Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking is the process of drawing conclusions and solving problems through evaluating, analyzing, making inferences, and using deductive and inductive reasoning.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to infer.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to reason deductively.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to reason inductively.

**Assessment of the QEP:** The QEP assessment plan employs multiple direct and indirect measures of student learning outcomes, as follows:

- Written student responses to embedded course assignments
- Written student course capstone assignments
- Student developmental portfolios of course written work
- The California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST)
- The Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress Test (MAPP)
- The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)
- Surveys of currently enrolled students nearing graduation
- Surveys of alumni at senior transfer institutions

**Targeted Improvements:** The QEP assessment plan includes targeted improvements for each of the five student learning outcomes and for each of the above assessment measures.

**Constituency Involvement:** The broad-based QEP development involves input from the institution’s president, administrators, faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community stakeholders. In addition, the QEP takes into account the strategic plan of the University System of Georgia, as well as the mission, vision, and goals of the College. The plan is faculty-driven, and its annual assessment includes feedback from steering, assessment, professional development, resources, and community stakeholders committees.



*Ice Cream Party!*  
**JULY 7**  
**Clower Center**

**We celebrate SACS Reaccreditation!**



*SSS Luau:*

On July 8, Student Support Services hosted a tropical getaway in Powell Hall. The event featured refreshments, electronic trivia, fun with words, and an entertaining geography game. Students visited with SSS staff and enjoyed a leisurely afternoon playing games.



# SUMMER ROAR 2009!



**SGC's First Annual ROAR (Residential Orientation and Registration)** took place on July 17-18. Thirty-nine residential students and over 40 guests from across the state entered Tiger Village on Friday afternoon and completed the check-in process, including having student IDs made, completing all paperwork, speaking with Admissions and Financial Aid representatives and temporarily moving in.



***ABOVE:** The Clower Center was packed for SGC's first-ever Residential Orientation and Registration (ROAR) weekend. Freshmen who will be living on campus during fall semester came to SGC to see Tiger Village, meet other students, and register for classes. Missie Crawford and the student life staff had a number of activities planned for the incoming freshmen, including a dinner and block party.*

***LEFT:** During Friday afternoon's activities, the attendees asked SGC's Tiger Senators questions about classes, life on campus and time management.*

SGC representatives greeted each student with a packet including information about the campus and the Douglas area, as well as a souvenir SGC cup, keychain and sunglass croakie.

After registration, Dr. Virginia Carson and Dr. Jim Cottingham welcomed students and guests. Following name games and icebreakers, current and future resident assistants gave a panel presentation discussing college freshman fears and how they overcame them.

The rest of the evening included enjoying a cookout, addressing specific questions or

concerns, saying good night to guests, and having some fun time in the Clower Center.

Saturday morning started with breakfast and then students headed to Stubbs for an amended Orientation. Guest speakers included Diane Blum, Josey Cameron, Cinnimin Durham and Sue Miller. Dr. Carson spoke to students again, sharing the many exciting developments at SGC.

After Orientation, members of each academic department advised 28 of the students, and registered them for classes. Dr. Carl McDonald gave parents an academic briefing.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKEND:

**-9 of the incoming students stayed in their fall room assignment.**

**-17 students met other students they would like to room with and asked to be together.**

**-1 student paid a deposit on-the-spot after attending the first two sessions.**

**-1 student had not registered for the weekend, but came for a tour and stayed for several sessions.**

**-1 guest asked if it was too late to change an initial school selection because SGC was now the first choice!**



## Why I Give

**Corinthia Wilcox  
Accounts Payable**

*"I remember what it was like to attend college. Money was tight, and I worried about the cost of school. Then I received a Foundation scholarship, and I didn't have to worry as much anymore. The scholarship made it easier to focus on school. I wanted to give something back to the Foundation. The scholarship I received helped me and I want to help others. I would encourage others to give, even if they've never used a Foundation scholarship. It's a great way to help others and support South Georgia College."*

## Familiar faces assume new roles



**Wes Brown**



**Lena Helmbrecht**

Dr. Virginia Carson announced in July that Wes Brown, SGC Chief Information Officer (CIO), had been appointed **Executive Director of Enrollment and Information**.

Since December 2007, Mr. Brown has been serving as Interim

Director of Enrollment Management. Since volunteering to take over the Enrollment Services area (while continuing as CIO), he has earned a Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma, provided the turnaround in customer service in Admissions and Financial Aid that won SGC a 2008 Silver Award from the University System, and is directing the work of six SGC Green Belts in active data gathering and implementation of six process improvement plans.

A new position, **Director of Technology**, has been created to consolidate the information functions that have been separately reporting to Mr. Brown. Lena Helmbrecht, the current Assistant Director of Information Services, was promoted to this position.

"South Georgia College is fortunate to have this depth of leadership," said Dr. Carson. "Our enrollment and information services operations are in very good hands."



South Georgia College has hosted a number of camps for kids this summer. Activities focused on a variety of interests, including science, dance, canoeing and golf. Student Activities Coordinator Josey Cameron spent two weeks showing several local youth the finer points of golf. Josey is an excellent golfer, and played for the Georgia College and State University golf team when he was in college. Josey gave the kids lessons in all aspects of the game, from driving to iron play and putting.

## .....New Faces at SGC.....



***Alicia Harrison***

### **Alicia Harrison takes over as Floyd Hall Resident Manager**

Alicia Harrison, who recently obtained a master of higher education leadership degree from Valdosta State University, is the new Resident Manager at Floyd Hall.

Alicia is a 2002 graduate of Bainbridge High School. She obtained her undergraduate degree in writing and linguistics from Georgia Southern University.

Needing a change of scenery, Alicia moved to Valdosta to complete her graduate degree. When she finished at VSU, she began searching for a job in the South Georgia area. She said the

position at SGC seemed like a good fit.

“I’ve never done anything like this before. I came here because I like the community and the area,” she said.

As a recent college graduate, Alicia understands the needs of students. Her goal is to make Floyd Hall a safe, fun environment for SGC students.

“I want to help shape these students into successful citizens,” she said.

Alicia enjoys reading, shopping and spending time with her sisters from Zeta Phi Beta.

### **Christy Barry joins SGC staff in Americus**

Christy Barry, former College Connection Specialist at South Georgia Technical College in Americus, has joined South Georgia College as the SGC Entry Program Coordinator at Georgia Southwestern State University.

Christy holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Georgia Southwestern and is completing a master of public administration with a concentration in education at Troy University.

Christy had served in her previous capacity with South Georgia Technical College since



***Christy Barry***

2005. Her experience in recruiting, advising and registering students will be a tremendous asset to the new program in Americus.

Christy is a member of the First Baptist Church of Americus and is a mentor with the LEAP-Communities in Schools program in Sumter County. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, gardening and boating.

Christy and her husband Scott have two dogs, Murphy, a yellow lab, and Moose, a Yorkie-poo.

# In Memory

## JIMMY CALL

On July 20, South Georgia College lost a very beloved long-time employee.

Jimmy Call, Special Projects Coordinator with the Physical Plant, passed away following complications during triple bypass surgery at South Georgia Medical Center in Valdosta.

Jimmy came to work at SGC in 1977. Originally hired as a graphic artist, his office was located in the William S. Smith Library. Jimmy worked in that capacity for 11 years.

During that time, Jimmy was also earning his electrician certification. Once he received it, he felt he was ready for a career change and left SGC. He wasn't gone long; a few months later, an electrician's position opened on campus and Jimmy returned.

Jimmy retired in October 2007, but returned to SGC again as Special Projects Coordinator and remained a dedicated employee until the day he passed away.

Jimmy reported for work on July 16 as usual. The following day, he underwent a heart catheterization in Tifton. During the procedure, doctors discovered he needed triple bypass surgery. The operation was scheduled for July 21. He never recovered from the surgery.

Glenys Wildes, Library Assistant, was hired a few months

before Jimmy. She worked with him while he was the school's graphic artist.

"He was a great graphic artist. He took a lot of pride in the campus and in the library. He was very devoted to his job," she said.

Back then, the library closed at 10 pm, but Glenys remembered Jimmy staying at work until midnight or later.

"That's just how he worked," she said.

During the Stubbs Hall renovation, the IT Department's David Terrell worked closely with Jimmy installing the audio/visual equipment in the building. Jimmy's work ethic hadn't diminished over the years. David discovered that Jimmy would stay on campus working in Stubbs alone until midnight or beyond, so he began working late to keep Jimmy company.

"He would do whatever it took to get the job done. With the Stubbs project, he wouldn't go home. He would have stayed here 24 hours a day, seven days a week if that's what it took," he said.

David also recalled Jimmy's generosity. When the two were working late together, Jimmy always bought supper.

"I tried to buy sometimes, but he wouldn't let me," he said.

According to his many friends on campus, Jimmy was devoted to SGC and to his family. Whether he



was in the library, with the Physical Plant or at home, he gave his all to the task at hand. He was meticulous in his work, and paid incredible attention to detail. Jimmy wanted to make South Georgia College a point of pride for the community, and he took great care to ensure the campus projected well to community members, visitors and students alike.

Jimmy also cared about the people with whom he worked. He was truly concerned about those around him, and he always had time to talk if someone had a problem or concern.

"Jimmy really listened to you – no matter what," said Glenys. "That was a wonderful quality of his. We talked a lot over the years. A person like him doesn't come around very often. There aren't enough nice things you can say about Jimmy. He was just one of the good guys."

David added, "He was a good person and a good friend. You could always count on Jimmy."

## Happy Birthday!



**1**

Cathy Hand

**3**

Walda Kight  
Kevin Mason

**5**

Cindi Kirkland

**9**

Bobby Jean Fountain

**10**

Mary Jo Hodge

**11**

Jaime Carter

**19**

Peggy Dobbs  
Loia Smith

**22**

Linda Wildes

**26**

Jim Folds

**27**

Sue Miller

**AUGUST**

## SGC August ANNIVERSARIES



### FIRST 10



1 Year

Josey Cameron  
Casey Durden  
Kelly Luke  
Kevin Mason  
Barbara Perry  
Adam Safer  
Linda Smith  
Shelley Smith  
Cheryl Solomon  
Charlotte Thomas  
Charles Ward  
2 Years  
Lea Johnson  
Lance Keaton  
Jeremy Petrella  
3 Years  
Diane Blum  
Rob Brunel  
Susan Clement  
Bobby Jean Fountain  
Cathy Hand

Frank Holiwski  
Lenny Steverson  
David Terrell  
Kelly Waldron  
Paul Wise  
4 Years  
Julie Anderson  
Kit Carson  
Donna Hosack  
Sue Miller  
Loia Smith  
5 Years  
Tim Brown  
6 Years  
Jeanette Dukes  
Rhonda Kelley  
7 Years  
Jaime Carter  
Jessica Crowe  
Glen Maul

### MILESTONES



10 Years

Rebecca Futch  
Cindi Kirkland  
Bill Webster  
11 Years  
Tiffany Briceno  
Wes Brown  
Charles Johnson  
14 Years  
Buckie Sasser  
19 Years  
Gary Lott  
24 Years  
Carol Carver  
27 Years  
Jerry Bryant

## August CALENDAR



**10**

**CONVOCATION**

**14**

**WOW Orientation  
& Registration**  
9:30 am  
McGouirk Auditorium

**15**

**WOW Luau**  
7 - 10 pm  
Wellness Center

**17**

**First Day of Classes**  
**WOW Information Fair**  
**Campus-wide Cookout**  
3 pm, SGC Front Lawn

**17-21**

**Drop/Add**

**18**

**WOW Library Passport**  
The Great Information Race

**19**

**WOW Club Showcase**  
3 pm  
Engram Union Ballroom

**20**

**WOW Game Night**  
6 - 10 pm, Clower Center

**21**

**WOW**  
**Movie Under the Stars**  
8 pm, SGC Front Lawn