

# Tigers' ROAR

August/September 2011

SGC Faculty Staff News

## SGC TO OFFER FOUR YEAR NURSING DEGREE

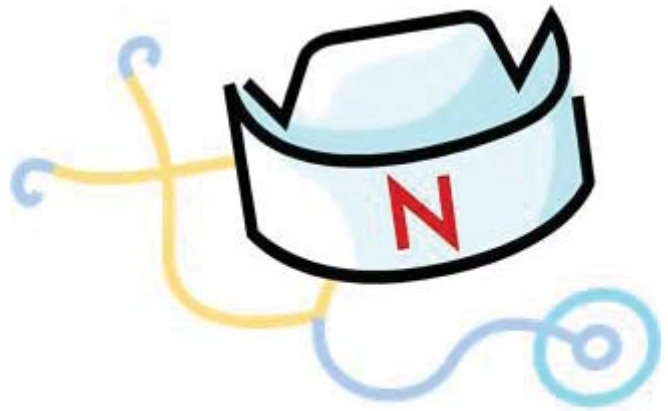
On June 7, 2011, the Georgia Board of Regents approved a mission and sector change for South Georgia College. This decision will result in SGC becoming a state college and offering a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

“The Board’s actions reflect the evolving role of our access institutions as we identify specific job-related and economic development needs throughout the state,” said Mr. Rob Watts, Chief Operating Officer for the University System of Georgia. “Officials at these institutions have made a strong and data-driven case to the Board for the mission change and for the needs in these communities for specific baccalaureate degree programs.”

In 2006, the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that Georgia would have a deficit of nearly 38,000 registered nurses by 2020, absent any action by state leaders. Further, a 2010 report from the Institute of Medicine indicated the need for each state to raise the credentials of its nursing workforce towards the baccalaureate degree to improve quality of care and reduce medical errors and costs.

“Nursing is one of our most popular majors, so this is a logical next step in supporting the health care needs of our region,” said Dr. Virginia M. Carson, SGC President. “Many community, business and government leaders have expressed support for this move, and all of us at SGC are very appreciative and believe this a win-win for our students and our community.”

South Georgia College will continue to offer its associate degree program of study in nursing which



began over 40 years ago; in addition, SGC will now offer a bachelor of science in nursing degree, targeting existing holders of a registered nurse license and associate’s degree who wish to complete the next level, a bachelor’s degree.

“Through the proposal, SGC has developed a process and timeline for creating the BSN program which includes developing curriculum, selecting faculty and obtaining approvals from nursing and college accrediting boards and agencies. The BSN program is projected to be in place by Fall 2012,” said Dr. Carl McDonald, SGC Vice President for Academic Affairs.



*The state college sector was established in 1998 and categorizes two-year, associate-degree granting institutions that have been authorized by the Board to offer a limited number of four-year baccalaureate degree programs. The University System’s other institutional categories are: research universities, regional universities, state universities, and two-year colleges. There are now 14 USG institutions in the state college sector.*



## From the President

### WHAT WE DID LAST SUMMER!

I always chuckle when I hear comments from folks who believe not much happens at academic institutions during the summer. We stayed very busy at South Georgia College with a wide range of summer classes, and I appreciate our faculty who enable students to take classes they need to stay on their chosen academic track.

We also received the exciting news that the USG Board of Regents approved a mission change for SGC to become a state college. Thanks to the nursing division as well as many faculty and staff who have been involved in helping this dream become a reality. This change is one of the most significant in the history of our institution.

I want to applaud those who worked hard to prepare for fall semester. From financial aid paperwork to hosting orientations and registration to renovating buildings, many of you went above and beyond to get the job done. I am very appreciative of your commitment to SGC.

In addition, we held two very special alumni events in honor of former coaches Bobby Bowden and Scotty Perkins. The attendees were impressed with SGC's 2011 accomplishments – particularly the renovated dining hall which many of them enjoyed during their time as students!

I extend a special welcome to our new team members. I look forward to your contributions and wish everyone a great 2012!

*Dr. Virginia M. Carson*



*Ms. Melissa Peacock, Nursing Academic Division Chair, signs the poster announcing SGC's mission change to a state college during an ice cream reception at the Art Gallery in June.*

## Another new degree: Health and Human Performance

This semester, South Georgia College will begin offering a new course of study, an Associate of Science Degree in Health and Human Performance.

The Health and Human Performance degree is for students who plan to transfer into a wide range of bachelor's degree programs, including athletic training, sports medicine, physical therapy, or exercise science. Careers such a degree can lead to are cardiac rehabilitation, wellness, private corporate wellness and fitness, secondary and post-secondary education-based athletic applications (including coaching), athletic training, and sports medicine.

The Health and Human Performance degree provides an alternative to the existing associate's degree in Recreation, which focuses on leisure and outdoor recreational activities. Health and Human Performance fills an important niche in SGC's academic program by providing a course of study for students interested in athletic performance, conditioning, and injury prevention.

**Other news...** Ms. Danielle Buehrer, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, served on the 2011 SAIR Accreditation Track Program Proposal Review Committee in June. SAIR, the Southern Association for Institutional Research, is dedicated to the advancement of research leading to improved understanding, planning, and operation of institutions of post-secondary education. The Accreditation Track reviewed proposals that address the revised principles of accreditation adopted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

# ON CAMPUS

## ► Retreat

About 25 team members from divisions across campus attended a strategic planning retreat this summer. This two-day annual event was a time for SGC to set goals and action plans for the coming year.



## RYLA ▼



Sixty students from Georgia Rotary District 6920 attended the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference (RYLA) at SGC. **Dr. Charles Johnson**, Chair of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Physical Education and Associate Professor of Physics, is the RYLA Program Director and a Rotary Club member. RYLA participants attended classes on leadership, personal development, motivation, and communication skills and heard from three featured speakers: Joanne Lewis, Executive Director of the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce; **Dr. Carl McDonald**, SGC's Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Andrea Giggetts, owner of Giggetts and Associates.

The SGC School of Nursing was one of 12 chosen as a nominee for 2011 Community Partner by the Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging.



## ROAR & SOAR ▼

During the Resident Orientation and Registration (ROAR) and Student Orientation and Registration (SOAR) sessions conducted this summer, all incoming freshmen spent time on campus prior to beginning fall semester to learn what it takes to be successful in college.

Residential students attended two-day sessions, conducted on June 10-11, June 24-25, July 15-16 and July 29-30, which introduced them to the residence halls and the resources available at SGC. They were also able to register for classes. A general session covered strategies for success and gave an overview of campus. Breakout sessions for students and parents reviewed residential concerns, financial aid, and learning support requirements in more detail. Everyone then enjoyed a cook-out on campus. On the second day of ROAR, students took care of any lingering schedule, housing, or financial issues. Non-residential students attended SOAR sessions each Friday in July.

“These orientation sessions are a vital component of our student success strategies,” said **Mr. Andrew Johnson**, Director of Residence Life. “We want our incoming freshman to be accustomed to our campus before they arrive here for the first day of classes. We want them to understand the resources we have here to help them be successful. Students who attend these orientation sessions have a much greater chance of graduating.”

# SGC Quantway Team attends Summer Institute

It was rad, man. Cowabunga, dude! Like, tubular, brah!

These were some of the surfing lexicon that members of the South Georgia College Quantway team learned about and applied during the Summer Institute hosted by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in Palo Alto, Ca., from July 25-28, 2011.

The goal of this institute was to bring together teams from each of the eight two-year Quantway colleges (from the states of Georgia, New York and Ohio), as well as 19 colleges from across the country that are in the Statway initiative, to work cooperatively with the Carnegie Foundation and researchers from the University of Texas (Austin), UCLA, and Harvard University to help develop and launch new developmental mathematics courses.

Attending from SGC were VPAA **Dr. Carl McDonald**, Registrar **Dr. Randy Braswell**, and math faculty members **Dr. Derek Westwood**, **Ms. Shea Dreaden** and **Mr. Duane Benson**. Each team compiled a power point presentation detailing what was learned at the institute. The SGC power point was presented to the SGC community on August 9.

Some of the tasks ahead for the SGC team are presenting workshops for faculty to spread the word about Quantway, lesson review, production of a webinar, attending the annual AMATYC (American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges) conference in Austin, Texas, in November, and participating in the Winter Institute in December in Palo Alto that will officially launch the Quantway course.

Developing a new developmental mathematics course for non-STEM



*The SGC Quantway Team at the Summer 2011 Institute (L to R): Dr. Derek Westwood, Dr. Randy Braswell, Ms. Shea Dreaden, Mr. Duane Benson, and Dr. Carl McDonald.*

majors is the goal of the Quantway initiative, and SGC is proud to be a part of this innovative challenge. The course, MLCS 0099 (Mathematical Literacy for College Students), has been approved by the SGC faculty and will be offered the first time as a pilot course spring 2012. Dr. Derek Westwood, Ms. Shea Dreaden and Mr. Duane Benson will each teach one section. The course will be offered to all non-STEM majors who need developmental mathematics starting fall 2012.

**Ms. Amy Hancock**, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor (right), was awarded a scholarship from the PTK Georgia Region to attend the 2011 Honors Institute at Boston University. The conference



brought together approximately 450 members, advisors and alumni from around the country to examine the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Study topic *The Democratization of Information: Power, Peril, and Promise*. Speakers for general sessions included Ethan Uslan, ragtime and traditional jazz pianist; Dr. Sara Paretsky, mystery novelist; Dr. Thomas Perls, founder and director of the New England Centenarian Study; Fred Haise, Apollo XIII astronaut and PTK alumni; and Aasif Mandvi, correspondent for *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart.

# ATHLETICS

## 5 Teams, 5 Students Receive National Recognition



Last year, the South Georgia College athletic program had a banner year.

Seven of nine teams qualified for post-season competition, with four teams (men's/women's swimming, women's cross country and baseball) competing in their respective national tournament and finishing among the best in the country.

This summer, SGC received what may be the most significant athletic recognition. Five of its sports teams (women's swimming, women's cross country, women's soccer, softball and baseball) have been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association's list of All Academic Teams. To qualify for this recognition, each team must obtain a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher.

In addition, five student-athletes have been recognized for individual academic excellence and designated Athletes of Distinction: (above, left to right) Kai Bowen of Baxley (swimming, Superior Academic Achievement), Ben Brinkley of Douglas (soccer, Exemplary Academic Achievement), Gerald Jonah of Lawrenceville (soccer, Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence), Matthew Sutton of Gainesville, Fla., (soccer, Exemplary Academic Achievement) and Brittany Yates of Douglasville (softball, Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence). Students who have grade point averages 3.60 to 3.79 qualify for Exemplary Academic Achievement, while students with a 3.80 to 3.99 GPA are eligible for Superior Academic Achievement. Students with a 4.00 GPA earn the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence.

"At SGC, athletes are students first, and the fact that five teams earned this distinction shows the emphasis our athletic division places on academics and the commitment the athletes have to put their coursework first. I am extremely proud of our coaches and students for this very significant achievement," stated **Dr. Virginia M. Carson**, SGC President.

**Mr. Rob Brunel**, Athletic Director and head women's softball coach, added, "Our goal is to always put very good teams on the field, teams that can compete with anybody in our conference. First and foremost, however, we demand that our athletes place a premium on strong academic performance. Our coaches stress academics throughout the year, and our young men and women have worked hard to meet their expectations."

Two South Georgia College soccer players, Nuno Gourgel and Johnny Waters, have had their college careers extended by two more years. Gourgel has signed to play soccer at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa, while Waters is heading up the East Coast to play for Bloomfield College in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

"I am extremely glad Nuno and Johnny made these decisions. Both had a few offers and they deserve these opportunities. Both will be missed as players and great people in our program," said **Mr. Ken Kirsch**, SGC Soccer Coach.



## FACULTY FOCUS

In May 2011, a book including a chapter written by **Dr. Leonard Steverson** was published: Steverson, L.A. (2011). "Shaming Penalties". In William J. Chambliss (Ed.), *Corrections. Key Issues in Crime and Punishment* series. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

A poem by **Dr. Bill Webster**, "Czech Mountain Lake," was published in *THIRDWEDNESDAYS*, a literary journal originating from Ypsilanti, Michigan.

▶ **Ms. Jessica Crowe**, Assistant Professor of Biology at SGC's Entry Program in Valdosta, attended the Southern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., to present a research paper she co-authored with Carl Hand (VSU-Sociology Department), entitled *Denominational Diffusion of Eco-spiritual Beliefs and Actions: An Analysis of Changes in Environmentalism 1993-2010*.



◀ **Ms. Bobbie Jean Fountain**, Assistant Professor of Nursing at South Georgia College, was selected as an item writer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination (NCLEX®). NCSBN, headquartered in Chicago, is responsible for developing and administering the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® licensing exams.

Ms. Fountain was approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and selected by NCSBN to participate on the NCLEX® item development panel of subject matter experts. The item development team consists of national nursing experts from across the United States who are lead by a test item construction specialist. Fountain was nominated to participate in this event on the basis of clinical expertise in the areas of Medical Surgical, Critical Care and Emergency Nursing. She has completed three item writing sessions at the NCSBN headquarters in Chicago.

All nurses in the United States and its four U.S. territories must take the NCLEX® and it is administered at testing centers for nursing graduates from international countries. The licensing exam identifies those candidates who demonstrate minimal competence to practice nursing at the entry level. Passing the NCLEX® exam is one of the requirements for attaining a nursing license.

"It is an honor to be a part of the NCLEX item development team," said Ms. Fountain.

**Dr. Frank Holiwski** was elected President of the Faculty Assembly for 2011-2012, and **Dr. Leonard Steverson** was elected Vice President. The first Faculty Assembly meeting of the academic year will be held August 26 at 10 am in Stubbs 142.



**NEW DINING HALL**  
*Ribbon Cutting*  
**AUGUST 24, 2011**  
 10:00 am

# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

**5**  
**LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

**20**  
**Ethan Uslan**  
*The General* Silent Movie  
 with Ragtime Piano Tunes  
 7:00 pm, Peterson Hall

**28**  
**Engram Hall**  
**Groundbreaking**



# CONVOCATION

The SGC administration opened the 2011-12 academic year with its annual Convocation assembly on August 9 in Stubbs Hall.

Dr. Virginia M. Carson, SGC President, discussed developments for the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Carl McDonald announced SGC's mission change and the new BSN degree.

Ms. Walda Kight introduced Mr. Matt Greer as General Chair and Dr. Randy Braswell as Internal Chair of the *Windows to the Future* major gifts campaign. Dr. Carson announced that she was endowing a STEM scholarship in honor of her father, who received a mathematics award pin in high school.

A luncheon sponsored by the SGC Foundation followed Convocation. The week continued with faculty workshops prior to the first day of class, August 15.



**Mr. Kit Carson** (above), **Mr. Jerry Oliver**, and **Ms. Donna Herrin** (right) enjoy the Convocation Luncheon in the new Dining Hall.



◀ **Dr. Randy Braswell**, Registrar and Director of Admissions, was the Keynote Speaker at the Phi Theta Kappa Seminar Day at Andrew College, his alma mater.



## SGC MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

(May-September 2011)

### 10+ YEARS

#### 33 YEARS

Dave Ellis

#### 31 YEARS

Frankie Snow

#### 29 YEARS

Duane Benson

Jerry Bryant

#### 28 YEARS

Sandy Ott

#### 26 YEARS

Michael Fisher

#### 24 YEARS

Ollie Harkleroad

#### 22 YEARS

Valerie Webster

#### 21 YEARS

Gary Lott

Melissa Peacock

#### 19 YEARS

Lori Seward

Scott Thigpen

#### 18 YEARS

Rick Reiman

#### 17 YEARS

Carl McDonald

#### 16 YEARS

Mary Benek

#### 14 YEARS

Yuna Chen

Luck Watford

#### 13 YEARS

Tiffany Briceno

Wes Brown

Larry Burch

Charles Johnson

Buckie Sasser

#### 12 YEARS

Cindi Kirkland

Bill Webster

#### 11 YEARS

Michael Ellis



### 5 YEARS

Diane Blum

Rob Brunel

Susan Clement

Laura Dubberly

Angie Evans

Jim Folds

Bobby Jean Fountain

Cathy Hand

Frank Holiwski

Leonard Steverson

David Terrell

Paul Wise

## *Upcoming Birthdays*

### SEPTEMBER

1

Corinthia Wilcox

11

Codrina Cozma

15

Tammy Parker

16

Kayla Tillman

19

Leonard Steverson

20

Brian Hernandez

21

Nate Taylor

Bill Webster

23

Gary Lott

25

Emily Horne

Isaac Roberson

26

Delectia Vickers

27

Andrew Johnson

28

Donna Herrin

29

Leann Griffiths

## *Congratulations*

**Ms. LaToya Curtis**  
has been promoted to  
Financial Aid Coordinator