

The **Tigers' Roar**

SGC Faculty & Staff Newsletter

January 2009



From the President



Isn't it funny how we just celebrated the official start of the New Year, but our College year is already half over? As we approach spring semester, we have made great progress on our 2008-09 action plans; however, we must continue to work hard on these important initiatives.

For example, the SGC Master Plan is a very complex project and affects much of what SGC will look like and do in the future. Check out what steps have been taken and learn more about what you can expect in this issue.

There have been great strides made on our SACS reaccreditation, and Dr. McDonald shares more in this edition about where we are and what remains before we submit our report in April.

There is no doubt 2009 will be an exciting year. It will take a team effort, but we have the right people in place committed to success. Remember, our goal is to create "A Degree of Difference" in the lives of our students and our community.

Sincerely,

Virginia Carson
Ph.D., Interim President

SGC Marks its Entry into 2009 with a Futuristic Master Plan

The SGC Physical Master Plan, prepared in 1998, is in the process of being updated to reflect the current needs and potential growth of South Georgia College.

According to Wanda Lloyd, Vice President for Business Affairs, this Master Plan is a physical reflection of SGC's strategic plan, providing detailed guidelines for the physical development of the campus and its facilities in order to support the College's academic mission. The SGC Physical Master Plan encompasses campus organization, land and building use, site and building design, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, infrastructure, open space, and relationship to the community.

In 2008, SGC received funding from the University System of Georgia for a Physical Master Plan Update. Administrators retained the consulting group, Hendessi & Associates, and Lord Aeck Sargent Architecture to assist in the process. On December 3-4, representatives from these two firms held a series of sessions at SGC to compile ideas and suggestions from community leaders, students, faculty, student support/residence life staff, and the College's facilities group. A community forum on December 12 allowed input from all segments of the College.

The updated Physical Master Plan is expected to be completed in the spring of 2009. While this planning process is for the Douglas campus only, SGC remains committed to continuing growth on its outlying campuses (Waycross, Valdosta and Americus) as well.



SGC's Physical Master Plan Update will link the College's past (Peterson Hall) with its future (Tiger Village).

Solicitation

South Georgia College would like to remind its faculty and staff that the email system should not be utilized for personal solicitations. Please review the SGC Employee Handbook guidelines below:

“Solicitation shall include any undertaking of an individual or group, which attempts to promote the sale or use of a particular product or service. Solicitation in residence halls, classrooms, administrative buildings or any other campus locations by private individuals, faculty, staff, students, or non-resident students are prohibited. Door-to-door sales at any of the College facilities are also prohibited. College facilities are for the use of the College, its departments and programs. Requests for use of facilities for non-College entities may be granted on a space-available basis for a fee. The Administration recognizes that there are activities associated with the performance of one’s official duties as an employee of the institution, which involve solicitation-related activities. Interpretations of the above shall be the responsibility of the Vice President for Business Affairs or designee.”

Tiger Village Phase II To Break Ground in 2009

In November 2008, the SGC Housing Committee reviewed the plans of three development companies for the proposed Tiger Village Phase II.

The Committee selected Ambling University Development Group for the privatized student housing project.

Ambling’s design entails approximately 300 beds in 150 units, distributed throughout a single, three-story, wood-frame building with interior corridors.

South Georgia College anticipates breaking ground in June 2009, with the goal of completion by fall 2010.

New Parking Regulations Take Effect

As part of an ongoing effort to maximize parking for employees and students, South Georgia College will implement the following changes on January 1, 2009.

Parking in front of Richey Hall will be for “Students Only.” The parking lot located between Tanner Hall and Richey Hall will be for “Faculty/Staff” and “Students,” with signage on the pavement to designate the spaces in each area.

JUST A REMINDER...

Doing What’s Right to Maintain High Standards

An ethical workplace begins with the actions of each individual employed by SGC. The College has the responsibility to conduct business ethically and legally, but needs the help of faculty and staff to reach that goal. By “doing what’s right” every day, SGC employees build a reputation for excellence and integrity.

Don’t ignore unethical or illegal activity. Express concern, and if the situation does not improve, contact a supervisor. For those who prefer to remain anonymous, SGC now provides an independent company, The Network, to document an employee’s report of a possible unethical or illegal activity.

Simply call a 24/7 toll-free hotline at 1.877.516.3465, and an interview specialist will relay the information to the College without revealing its source. The conversation will not be recorded without consent. Employees may also contact The Network via a link on the SGC website or at www.reportlineweb.com/SGC.

USG Chancellor Tours SGC

Erroll B. Davis, Jr, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, visited South Georgia College December 10 as part of a routine tour of the system's 35 public colleges and universities.

In his third visit to SGC in the last three years, Chancellor Davis described the Board of Regents' plan for acting responsibly in meeting the higher education goals of the state during an extremely difficult economic period for the system and the nation.

SGC staff and faculty also had the opportunity to inform the Chancellor about key initiatives the College is pursuing to address enrollment growth.

The College treated the Chancellor to a luncheon with community members, who had the opportunity to inform him of SGC's economic impact, successes and challenges.

Chancellor Davis then met with students, who emphasized

the important role SGC plays in the region.

Chancellor Davis said he continued to be impressed by the outstanding job that access institutions perform in preparing students, as well as the strong local support for them.

"Both phenomena are evident at South Georgia," he said. "Dr. Carson has hit the ground running and the changes taking place will benefit students, faculty and the community."



Dr. Virginia Carson and Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. during his recent visit to the South Georgia College campus.



Dr. Grace James, SGC Foundation Chair (left in left photo), and JoAnne Lewis, Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director (right in right photo), had the opportunity to chat with Chancellor Davis.



...Campus Also Hosts Rep. Jack Kingston



U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston (R-GA1) discussed issues facing South Georgia College with Dr. Virginia Carson, Interim President, on a visit to the campus December 3.

Rep. Kingston also took a short tour of the College, including a walk-through of The Clower Center and Tiger Village.

In October of this year, Dr. Carson met with Rep. Kingston while she was in Washington, D.C., as part of the delegation of the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs.

SACS Reaccreditation Update

In July 2008, South Georgia College received a response from SACS directing improvement on three issues: 1) Quality Enhancement Plan; 2) Institutional Effectiveness; 3) College-Level Competencies. The College was put on warning through June 2009. Dr. Carl McDonald, Vice President for Academic Affairs, said assessment will continue to play an integral role at SGC going forward. However, the College has made great progress in addressing these three issues, as evidenced by the following actions:

- ❖ Sent the VP for Academic Affairs to the SACS Commission on Colleges Summer Institute in July 2008.
- ❖ Engaged the services of Dr. Laura Musslewhite of Georgia Highlands College to assist in completely revising the general education assessment process.
- ❖ Arranged professional development workshops for faculty and staff in August 2008 with Dr. Craig Nelson, Professor Emeritus of Biology from Indiana University.
- ❖ Conducted a comprehensive review of all academic programs, leading to a recommendation to terminate low enrollment AAS and certificate programs. Sent notification of termination of these programs to the Office of Academic Affairs in Atlanta and to SACS.
- ❖ Engaged consultants from Georgia State University to assist with the QEP focus and assessment plan.
- ❖ Hosted Dr. Joseph Silver, SACS Vice President, as a consultant on the three SACS recommendations, and sent him updates for feedback.
- ❖ Sent a team of faculty to the Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis Assessment Institute, featuring an entire day of institute staff assessment assistance specific to South Georgia College.
- ❖ Sent the QEP Director and another faculty member to the November 2008 Quinnipiac, Connecticut, Conference on Critical Thinking and Writing, the focus of SGC's QEP.
- ❖ Sent a team of faculty and administrators to the SACS annual conference in San Antonio in December 2008.
- ❖ Reviewed and revised the QEP budget with the VP for Business Affairs, the VP for Academic Affairs, and the QEP Director to take into account current budget constraints and the needs of the QEP.

PLANT THEIR FEET...



Returns to SGC Campus

Forty-one seventh graders who were participants in the original Plant Their Feet group returned to SGC December 4.

Plant Their Feet, which began in 2006 with fifth grade classes at West Green Elementary School, is a program designed to show middle school students the importance of completing their education through high school and to encourage them to pursue a college degree upon graduation.

Amy Hancock, Plant Their Feet Coordinator, and Walda Kight, Director of Community and Foundation Relations, welcomed the group, and Tiger Senators led them on a tour of the campus.

The Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators Club (SPAGE) treated the seventh graders to activities centered on reading and language arts.



The Plant Their Feet group at the Clower Center prior to enjoying a pizza party courtesy of the SGC Foundation.

Tigers Prepare for '09 Baseball Campaign

If pitching is indeed the key to a successful baseball team, the 2009 SGC Tigers are on their way. However, Head Coach Scott Sims will need to overcome some inexperience to reap the benefits from his pitching staff.

Of his 29 players, 19 are new. Only three starting position players and two pitchers are returning from last year's state champion runner-up team. These five players – coupled with a few returners who played on the 2007 team but missed 2008 for various reasons – should provide a core of leadership and experience to make the Tigers contenders for the region title.

Josh Palmer (OF), Brandon Collins (1B) and Zack Kilday (OF) are all veteran players who developed into key contributors last year. In particular, Kilday's .319 batting average (second on the team) and .938 fielding percentage provided stability both offensively and defensively.

Douglas native Ryan Whiddon (6-6, 2.77 ERA) threw 65.2 innings last season and is set to be Coach Sims' go-to starter. James Hickey, SGC's other returning pitcher, threw 40.1 innings out of the bullpen. Lee Hall (infield) and Jamaal Smith (pitcher, catcher) were members of the '07 team and are back for 2009.



Jamaal Smith returns to the Tigers after missing the 2008 season.

A strong recruiting class, along with a four-year transfer or two, makes this one of the most promising seasons in recent memory.

"We have good depth and power on the mound. We also have some talented freshmen," says Coach Sims.

The Tigers' season begins on Friday, January 30 when Tallahassee Community College comes to Douglas. Game time is 3:30 p.m.



Attention Travel Buffs: SGC Continuing Education is offering three trips in 2009: *Trains of the Colorado Rockies* (May 23-31), *New England Back Roads* (October 15-22), and *Enchanting Christmas Markets* (December 3-10). For more information, contact Amy Hancock, Director, at Extension #4461.

Intramural Golf Tournament Features Hole-in-One

Bray Bishop and Wesley Morris shot a combined five-under par at the recent intramural golf tournament, which was played at the community golf course on campus. They defeated nine other two-somes to take first prize. Josh Amabile made the best shot of the day, sinking a hole-in-one on the 8th hole.



Wesley Morris



Bray Bishop

College Life

SGC Faculty, Staff and Retirees marked the end of a successful year at the annual Christmas Party December 12 in the Engram Union Ballroom. The SGC Chorus (*far right*) performed holiday tunes during a meal provided by the SGC Foundation and all employees, who shared seasonal recipes.



Former SGC employees Lee Henderson and Aline Burch



Randy Braswell and Sue Miller



Santa (Isaac Roberson) and Wanda Lloyd (above right) join other SGC employees for a sumptuous feast at the SGC Physical Plant's Christmas Luncheon December 18 in Peterson Hall.



As is the tradition for newcomers, Becky Wehmeier (above) "kisses the pig."



Lesa Williams and Autumn Williams



Walda Knight (left) presents toys donated by SGC faculty and staff to The Hope Center.

South Georgia College placed 3rd in the Education Category of the City of Douglas Christmas Parade December 6. Faculty/staff volunteers were Donna Hosack, Carla Wolters, Casey Durden, Josey Cameron, Melissa Peacock, and Rob Brunel, as well as Cathy Hand, Walda Knight, and Kayla Tillman of the Office of Advancement and Gary Lott, Randall

Peterson, Randy Moss, Larry Burch and Lance Keaton from the Physical Plant. Student participants were Monica

Reyes, Ellie Schultz, DeAndra Thompson, and Michael Baker.



**Happy
Birthday!**



JANUARY

1

Jeanette Dukes

3

Robert Brunel

4

James Vickers

6

Michael Fisher

10

David Terrell

16

Linda Andrews

Aaron Ragsdale

17

Jacqueline Vickers

20

Elisa Johnson

21

Charles Ward

29

Becky Wehmeier

30

JoAnn Taylor

31

Luck Watford

Angela Evans

Gregory Roundtree



SGC January Anniversaries



FIRST 4

3 Years

Codrina Cozma

4 Years

Mary Jo Hodge

Stella Mabry

Lawayne Paulk

Cynthia Perry

Lesia Williams

MILESTONES

5 Years

Kit Carson

Cameron Perkins

16 Years

Peggy Clemons

17 Years

James Vickers



On December 9, the Natural Science, Math and PE division hosted a farewell gathering in Stubbs Hall for Lisa Arnold, a chemistry professor at SGC for the past 13 years. She is planning to attend pharmacy school in Florida.

JANUARY CALENDAR

6

**SGC Registration &
Orientation**

Continuing Education Class:
Shag Dance Lessons

7

First Day of Classes

7-13

Drop/Add Period

13

**Spring Semester
Club Showcase**

11 am - 2 pm

Engram Union Building

19

MLK HOLIDAY

21

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Annual Program**

12:30 pm

Art Gallery, Peterson Hall