



## From the President



*Dr. Virginia Carson*

One year ago this week, I began my role here at SGC. As anyone starting a new position, I was excited and anxious about this move.

In the beginning, my only goal was to offer guidance and insight to improve SGC. In time, I learned so much about the College and the vital role it plays in this region. Whether working on increasing enrollment, enhancing academic programs or fostering community partnerships, it has truly been a rewarding year, and I am grateful to have been chosen to remain your President to build on the progress of this past year.

We have had very complex work and tough decisions since last March. I want to commend the leadership team at SGC. The administration cares very deeply for this school, and I assure you they have all worked together unselfishly to ensure we make the best choices for SGC.

I hope *The Tigers' Roar* newsletters offer each of you a glimpse of important facets about the college to be better equipped to promote SGC's mission.

## Nursing Students Surpass State, National Pass Rate

Nursing students from South Georgia College have surpassed the national and state pass rate averages on the National Council Licensure Examination — Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN), a required exam for nursing students applying for their registered nurse license.

According to Nursing Division Chair Melissa Peacock, the national first-time pass rate on the NCLEX-RN in 2008 was 86.7 percent. In Georgia, 90.6 percent of nursing students taking the exam for the first time passed. SGC's pass rate was higher than both of those figures; 92.2 percent of first-time NCLEX-RN takers passed the test in 2008.

"We've done well on the test before, but 2008 was one of the best years we've ever had," said Peacock.

She gives much of the credit for the above-average pass rate to her faculty, who are always available to assist students.

"It's very much faculty-driven. Our faculty are available for tutoring students, either one-on-one or in small groups," she said.

The faculty also emphasizes the importance of passing the NCLEX-RN, and the students understand the importance of the test.

"It means job security for our graduates. If they don't pass the test, they have to work as a nurse tech until they do. That's a difference of about \$8 per hour," said Peacock.

The demand for well-trained, qualified nurses remains very high. Nursing is a stable and high-paying field, and with more and more Baby Boomers retiring and the population continuing to grow, nursing will remain an in-demand career.

"You're guaranteed a job if you're willing to work," said Peacock. "Nursing is one of the most important courses of study at South Georgia College. The fact that so many of our graduates pass the



*SGC nursing student April Vining tends to a local resident.*

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## Suzanne Usry Joins SGC



We would like to welcome Suzanne Usry to the SGC team.

Suzanne began her duties as Accountant with SGC Business Affairs on February 16. Her office is located in Thrash Hall.

Suzanne has ten years of accounting experience. Most recently, she worked as an Advanced Staff Auditor with the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts.



## Inauguration

### Planned for April 23

Dr. Virginia Carson will be inaugurated as President of South Georgia College at 2 pm on April 23, 2009, in McGouirk Auditorium, Peterson Hall. A reception will follow the ceremony on the lawn in front of Peterson Hall.

The SGC campus will be closed and no classes will be held from 12:15 to 6 pm on the day of the Inauguration. Evening classes will resume at 6 pm.

Other events are being planned during the week of Inauguration, so stay tuned for updates as plans are finalized.

Inauguration committee members are Duane Benson, Jake Brinson, Marie Brooks, Kit Carson, Dr. Jim Cottingham, Amy Hancock, Cathy Hand, Walda Kight, Kevin Mason, Sue Miller, Jean Silva, Dr. Adam Safer, David Terrell, Wayne Quinn, and Jacqueline Vickers.

## VPAA Search Committee Formed

South Georgia College has formed a search committee in order to appoint a permanent Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The SGC Search Committee will advertise the position and interview candidates during the next few months, with the goal of announcing the new VPAA in July of 2009.

Committee members are Dr. Michael Fisher (chair), Angela Nuga, Dr. Bill Webster, Wes Brown, Sue Miller, Melissa Peacock, Dr. Charles Johnson, Dr. Yuna Chen, and Jessica Crowe.

## Nursing *continued from page 1*

NCLEX-RN on their first attempt shows not only how dedicated our nursing faculty are, but also demonstrates how hard our students work.”

“This is great news for South Georgia College,” said Dr. Virginia Carson, SGC president.

Other activities in the nursing program include an upcoming job fair in the IT building on March 16, where recruiters from area hospitals will be on campus to talk to students. Also, on March 23, Miranda Hawk from Georgia Southwestern State University will share information about an online RN to BSN degree.

## HISTORY

*Nursing is the largest program of study at South Georgia College. It began in 1968, with the first class graduating in 1970. In 1982, SGC admitted its first nursing class on the Waycross College campus, and in 1988, the College started the LPN to RN bridge program.*

## Marie Brooks Coordinates National MESA Conference



Marie Brooks (right), with SGC students at the MESA Leadership Conference in February.

SGC's Marie Brooks coordinated the First Annual MESA Student Leadership Conference February 5-7, 2009, at The Westin Atlanta Airport.

Brooks, Interim Director of SGC's MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement) program, was responsible for hotel and speaker arrangements, as well as production and distribution of conference materials. One of the keynote speakers was Gary Dahlke, an engineer working with the Space Shuttle at the Kennedy Space Center .

The Leadership Conference was hosted by SGC, Atlanta Metropolitan College, Chicago State University, Darton College, Georgia Perimeter College, and Tallahassee Community College. Students attending were selected based on demonstrated potential to be a future leader for their college, the MESA program, and in their professional field. The nine students attending from SGC learned how to build their future careers at the conference, which had as its theme, "Fostering Future STEM Leaders."

"This was an excellent opportunity for our MESA members to network," said Brooks. "They also heard from people who had succeeded in all areas of business and industry, and learned a little about what it takes to start writing their own success stories."

Brooks will now begin work on the next MESA conference, to be held in October of this year.

## SGC Senior Night Draws Crowd



Jennifer Hall and Becky Rumker meet with potential students during SGC Night.

Over 50 people from four counties participated in South Georgia College's first ever Senior Night, which the College hosted in the Engram Union Ballroom on February 17.

High school students and their families from Coffee, Bacon, Atkinson and Clinch counties attended Senior Night.

Representatives from Financial Aid, Admissions, Student Life, Housing and the Office of Advancement were on hand to share information with potential students and parents.

SGC staff and faculty explained the paperwork and deadlines involved in the registration process, and also discussed financial assistance and key dates for enrolling at SGC.

# Tiger Sports Prepare for Conference Play

Baseball and softball seasons are in full swing at South Georgia College, and both teams are gearing up for conference play.

The baseball team emerged from non-conference play with an 8-9 record, which includes an impressive 7-5 win over Tallahassee Community College in Tallahassee, and taking two out of three games from USC-Salkehatchie on a cold weekend.

The Tigers have seen consistency both in the field and at the plate from second baseman Stuart Drew, outfielder Justin Roberts, catcher Brandon Collins and centerfielder Zach Kilday. Through 17 games, Roberts and Drew were leading the team in hitting with .415 and .407 batting averages, respectively. Collins has the team lead in home runs with three. He's also batting .340 with 16 RBI.



*Want a deal from any Sonic restaurant? Then purchase a Sonic card for \$5 from the SGC athletic department. A fundraiser for the sports teams, the cards are honored by Sonic restaurants all over the country – including, of course, the Douglas Sonic. To purchase a card, contact Athletic Director Rob Brunel or Head Baseball Coach Scott Sims. Players are selling the cards, and they are also available at the concession stand at SGC baseball games.*

On the mound, Jamaal Smith is 2-1 with a 1.98 ERA, followed by Greg Fietsam (2-2, 2.84 ERA). The Tigers have also seen very good performances from Ryan Whiddon, James Hickey and Bray Bishop.

The softball team, meanwhile, is having a difficult time finding its identity. The defending state champions are rife with talent, but also inexperience. The learning curve has been steep and difficult for the '09 squad. They have played well at times, and have a solid offensive team. However, they've

also played tight defensively and the pitching staff hasn't found its groove. The result is a 2-10 record with conference play looming.

Still, there have been some bright spots. Crystal Greer has hit the ball extremely well, as has Lindsey Day. The Lady Tigers have shown they can play well together, with Cecily DeMarco, Tara Miles and Megan Hartley turning in solid defensive performances.

Conference play begins March 5 with a 1 p.m. double-header against Darton in Douglas.

## ....."Snakes Alive!" .....



On a visit to SGC February 24, Plant Their Feet program participants (current seventh graders who began the program as West Green Elementary fifth graders) were treated to a science lesson on snakes by Dr. Adam Safer. After showing a slide presentation of specific adaptations snakes have developed in order to survive, Dr. Safer and Robert Preston brought out live snakes from their collections, including an endangered pine snake, an albino milk snake, and a 15-foot Burmese python.

# SGC Science Fair Boasts 394 Entries

Over 560 people from 11 counties flocked to South Georgia College on February 19 to participate in the South Georgia College Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Science projects are important components of the curriculum in many elementary, middle and high schools. Students choose a problem to investigate and, using the scientific method, conduct experiments and write a report of their research. A few of the topics from the most recent science fair include Fresher Frazier, Balloon Bonanza, Fruity Smells, Stick to It and Zapped Goobers.

Judges reviewed the projects using several criteria, including neatness, thoroughness, proper source citation and adherence to the scientific method. Organizers then presented participants with awards after all scores had been tabulated.

In the elementary division, the three top prize winners are as follows: Haley Cannon, Center Elementary in Ware County (third grade); Floyd Fullard and Dean Snowden, Williams Heights Elementary in Ware County (fourth grade); and Molly Strickland, Williams Heights Elementary (fifth grade).

In the junior life sciences division, Marianne Tomberlin, a sixth grader from Appling County Middle School, took first prize. Alexia Marie McKinnon, a sixth grader from Willacoochee Elementary School, won first prize in the junior physical sciences division.

The grand prize went to another Willacoochee Elementary sixth grader, Shelley Chancey. She received a \$1,000 scholarship from the SGC Foundation to attend South Georgia College.

SGC invited 55 schools to the fair; 19 participated from the following counties: Appling,



**Grand Prize:** Shelley Chancey, with Cathy Hand  
**2nd Grand Prize:** Kylee Johnson, with Dr. Randy Braswell and Dr. Charles Johnson (in background)



Atkinson, Coffee, Clinch, Echols, Ware, Pierce, Bacon, Jeff Davis, and Charlton. Students from grades 3-8 submitted projects. There were 230 projects in the elementary division (grades 3-5) and 164 in the junior division (grades 6-8) for a total of 394 projects.

“We were very pleased to see so many students turn out for the science fair. Our judges were also impressed with the quality of work the students turned in to us. There were some excellent projects this year. Hopefully, these students will attend South Georgia College and then move on to careers in the math and science fields,” said Dr. Charles Johnson, Division Chair of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Physical Education.



## SGC Pride Wins Derby

Payton Wilkerson of Cub Scout Pack 858 won the pack Pinewood Derby with his SGC Pride car, the “Red Wonder.” Payton is the son of Ame Wilkerson, SGC Bookstore Clerk, and grandson of Lionell Bennett, Bookstore Assistant.

# Happy Birthday!

## MARCH



**1**

Gina LaBorde  
Kelly Luke  
Angela Wilcox

**3**

Michael Talbott  
Valerie Webster

**4**

Glen Maul  
Randy Moss  
Cam Perkins

**9**

Ray Coleman

**11**

Ollie Harkleroad  
Lea Johnson

**13**

Lawayne Paulk

**14**

Jessica Crowe

**15**

Crystal Merchant

**16**

George Wingblade

**19**

Diane Blum

**20**

Chris Royer

**23**

Jimmy Lee

**24**

Tim Brown

Glenys Wildes

**25**

Pat Burch

**27**

Charles Holzworth

**29**

Cathy Gilbert

# SGC March ANNIVERSARIES



## MILESTONES



10 Years

**Autumn Williams**

13 Years

**Lisa Bohannon  
Cinnimin Durham**

## FIRST 9



1 Year

**Jake Brinson  
Virginia Carson  
Walda Kight**

3 Years

**Laura Dubberly**

4 Years

**Fannie Poole**

5 Years

**Lisa Harrell**

7 Years

**JoAnn Taylor**

## March CALENDAR

**3**

**Mid-Semester**

**5**

**Author Jim Bowen  
Bowden Book Signing**  
*Cultural Events Committee*  
6-8 pm  
William S. Smith Library

**17**

**Alcohol  
Awareness  
Event**

7 pm, Peterson  
Hall Auditorium

**19-20**

**Coach Scotty  
Perkins Alumni  
Reunion**

**23-27**

**Spring Break**



**St.  
Patrick's  
Day  
March 17**