

# The Tigers' Roar

Nov/Dec 2010

SGC Faculty & Staff Newsletter



## From the President

Dr. Virginia M. Carson



Although it seems the semester has just begun, we find that we are about to wrap up our first academic session.

While we must deal with the day-to-day business of our jobs and plan ahead, I want to encourage each of you to appreciate each day and the success it brings. I have heard many examples of our faculty and staff members making a difference in the lives of students this fall – I truly value what you do to help them achieve and SGC thrive. Student success is why we are here, and we are gaining momentum in this area.

We learned from *The Big Read* grant that even a small amount of funding has a great reach. We continue this effort in the months of November and December with an array of quality music, culture and diversity for SGC students, faculty, staff and the communities we serve. I truly believe such events enable our students to interact with others, have new experiences, and become more active and well-rounded citizens.

As we pause to celebrate with one another during the upcoming holidays, I want to express my sincere wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season. May you cherish this time with your loved ones!

## Diversity Panel members share paths to success



A capacity crowd filled Stubbs 142 on November 8 for SGC's first-ever Diversity in Science and Math panel discussion.

Audience members heard from five distinguished professionals in our region who are employed in a math or science-related field. The panel members were Dr. Laura Chaney, a large animal veterinarian; Mr. Charles Ward, mathematics instructor at the SGC entry program at Valdosta State University; Dr. Subhash Goel, a chemist at nearby Optima Chemical; Dr. Penny Jackson, a local chiropractor; and Dr. Andrew Jackson, DMD. The panelists discussed how they chose their professions and any roadblocks they might have had to overcome to achieve their goals.

While all five of the panelists stated that they had worked very hard and jumped over a number of hurdles to get through school, Mr. Ward may have had the most compelling story. Although he graduated as valedictorian of his class in Broxton, he was stunned when a professor in the first classroom he entered as a college student uttered a racial slur in front of the other 34 students.

"I was the only black person in the class," he said. "And later, I became the first black professor at South Georgia College."

Ward worked from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. each day at Douglas Egg Plant. He managed to find his way to class at 8 a.m.

"If I can overcome all of that, you can overcome your obstacles," he said.

Dr. Jackson had a unique story of her own. She graduated from high school with a two-month old son. She then attended college and eventually became a chiropractor.

"My child was my motivating factor. I wanted to help people and be in the medical  
*continued page 5*



*Diversity Panel: (l to r) Dr. Subhash Goel, Dr. Penny Jackson, Dr. Laura Chaney, Dr. Andrew Jackson, and SGC's Charles Ward with Dr. Charles Johnson, division chair.*

## William S. Smith Library wins statewide award



*The Georgia Rooms*

*Dr. Virginia Carson, SGC President, and Library Director Jacqueline Vickers (left photo) accept the statewide award for the William S. Smith Library from Georgia's Secretary of State Brian Kemp. Leann Boyd, Information Services Librarian (right in middle photo), had a major role in organizing the award-winning Georgia Rooms.*

One of the area's best kept historical secrets, the Georgia Rooms located inside the William S. Smith Library at South Georgia College, are secrets no more.

Home to an extensive collection of important historical records and documents, the Georgia Rooms were recognized by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB) earlier this month at GHRAB's annual awards ceremony, where they brought home the Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development.

Jacqueline Vickers, Library Director, Leann Boyd, Information Services Librarian, and other library staff have recently expanded the library's selection of historical records. As a result of this ongoing effort, the library has tripled the size of its special collections area known as the Georgia Rooms.

The primary focus of the Georgia Rooms is college records, Georgia authors, and local and Georgia history. The collections also support college programs by touching on Native American history, theology, agriculture, geography, and environmental studies.

The library has increased access to these collections through its Web site, and, in order to protect its collections, has developed a comprehensive disaster and recovery plan.

"I am thrilled that South Georgia College's William S. Smith Library has been recognized for efforts made to preserve and protect the Georgia Rooms collection,

which documents the history of the college and the state," said Jacqueline Vickers. "The expansion into a second room allowed us to maintain and care for the materials we have and add appropriate resources from the campus and the main library collection. I commend Leann Boyd for her significant contributions in the organization, conservation, and enhanced access of these resources. Both campus and outside researchers are welcome to use the Georgia Rooms."

Dr. Virginia Carson, SGC President, added, "I applaud the library staff for a commitment to preserve our historical heritage and I'm grateful to the GHRAB for this recognition. This collection of historical documents, records and manuscripts in the Georgia Rooms captures snapshots of our past that will benefit generations to come. The staff has also gone above and beyond by drafting a plan to protect the collection in the event of an emergency. By cataloging and safeguarding these documents, this collection will remain an asset to the community for a long time."

GHRAB works to ensure that Georgians of all ages are made aware of the significant historical records located statewide, enhances the preservation and care of these treasures, and improves the access that Georgians have to their records. Board operations are funded through annual appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly and through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

## Women's cross country team finishes 22nd in nation

In just its first year of competition, the South Georgia College women's cross country team finished the season ranked 22nd in the country (out of 91 Division I junior college cross country teams) and brought home the second-place plaque from the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association Region XVII conference meet October 30.

The men's team, which also had a strong season, placed third in the meet on the backs of three runners — Sam Caldwell, Mark McLeod and Brandon Lundin — who finished the eight-kilometer race in under 30 minutes. Three Tigers made the All Conference team as a result of their efforts at the meet.

The 2010 season has been filled with tough courses and unfavorable weather. On October 30, the perfect storm of a flat course and cool weather, combined with over three months of hard work, converged on the campus of Darton College. Both the men's and women's teams responded by running their fastest races of the season.

"In August, I told our team we were going to peak for the conference finals. Our goal was to steadily improve at every meet through September and into October. Each runner bought into our program and did everything I asked of them," said Robert Preston Jr., cross country coach.



For the first time since SGC added cross country to its athletic program, the All Conference team included a few Tigers. The top 10 runners in the conference finals earn a spot on the All Conference team: top five (First Team) and places six-10 (Second Team). Sam Caldwell of Bremen, who finished fifth overall with a 27:57 time, and Jennifer Cumbus of Berrien County, also fifth overall with a 21:53 time, earned First Team honors while Minerva Arreguin of Avon Park, Fla., ninth overall with a 22:16 time, made Second Team.

"I cannot overstate how proud I am of each one of these runners. To come away with awards from the finals means that they've worked very hard and put in the miles, done the laps around the track and slogged through all the long runs. They have represented their families, their program and their school very well this year," said Coach Preston.

On November 13, the Tigers will compete in the junior college national meet at Spartanburg, S.C.

In early 2010, SGC's Initiative to Promote the Retention of Campus Residents Enrolled in Learning Support project was selected as one of 10 finalists in the 16<sup>th</sup> National Bellwether Futures Assembly Awards. An article of the same title, coauthored by Dr. Carl McDonald and Robert Preston, recently appeared in the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*.



*Georgia Association of Nursing Students from the SGC Nursing Division participated in the March of Dimes Walk October 16 at Coffee Regional Medical Center.*



*SGC Nursing faculty and students conducted blood pressure screenings October 9 at the 2010 Community Health and Wellness Festival sponsored by Coffee Regional Medical Center.*

The SGC swim team had its inaugural meet in November at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. The men's team placed fourth and the women's sixth against four-year schools from Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky.





# Faculty Focus

**Duane A. Benson**, associate professor of mathematics, attended an intensive two-day Mathway workshop in Palo Alto, California, on September 29-30.

The Mathway initiative, a three-year grant funded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, seeks to develop a new path for learning support mathematics students who are non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) majors.

SGC, along with seven other two-year colleges from across the nation, is working in a collaborative approach to develop a new, one-semester, learning support mathematics course.

During the recent workshop, Benson and team leaders from the other seven colleges, as well as Carnegie staff and support personnel, learned about a seven-step protocol that will be used to pilot lessons for the new course.

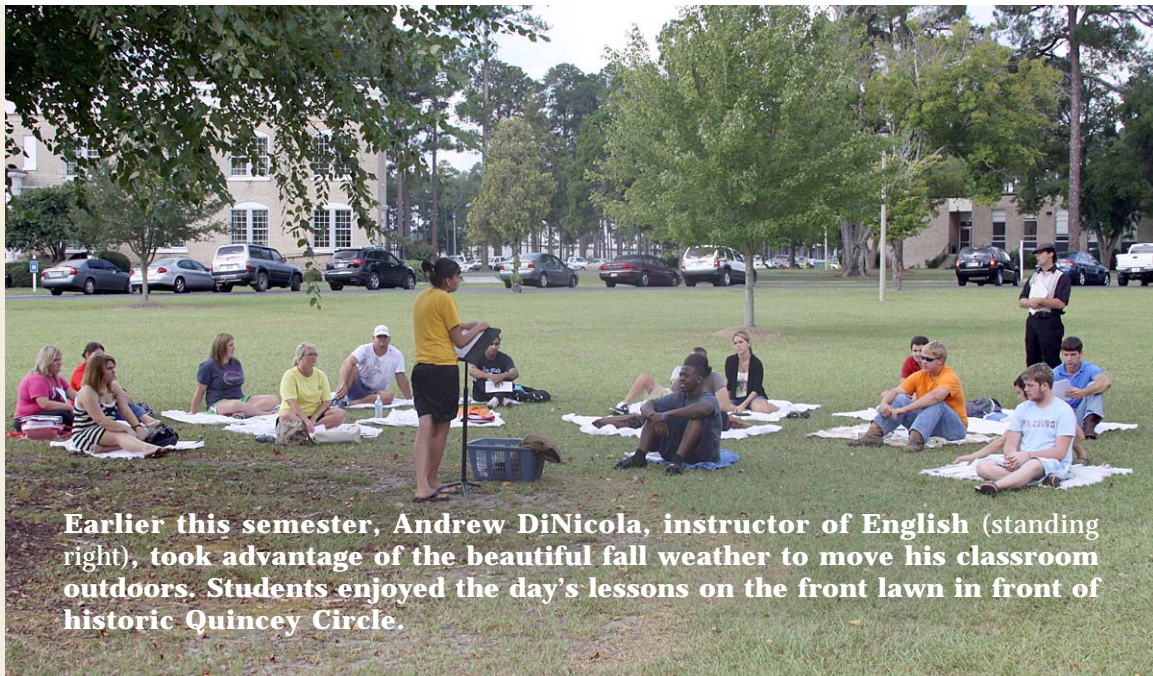
Benson and fellow SGC faculty Mathway team members Derek Westwood and Tim Brown will be piloting lessons for this new course this fall and next spring. Plans are in place to offer three sections of the new course (Mathematical Literacy for College Students) starting fall 2011.

This course would take the place of two learning support courses (Math 0097 and Math 0099) for non-STEM majors. Students completing this new course would be prepared for Math 1001, Quantitative Skills and Reasoning.

**Dr. Rick Reiman**, academic division chair of Business and Social Sciences, has been invited to participate in an International Faculty Development Seminar in Germany and Poland in June-July 2011, sponsored by the Council for International Educational Exchange, entitled *Ruin and Revival: History, Modern Memory and Identity*.

**Dr. Leonard Steverson**, associate professor of sociology, had entries on Interventions; Violence, alcohol related; Medicinal uses; and Race and Ethnicity published in ABC-CLIO's *Cultural Encyclopedia of Alcohol* in October 2010.

**Jeremy Petrella**, an SGC Entry Program history instructor at Valdosta State University, helped organize the October Tolerance and Diversity Film Night October 25. Approximately 80 students enjoyed a cookout, a film featuring Native American culture, and a presentation by Dr. Brad Finson, VSU Art History Department.



Earlier this semester, Andrew DiNicola, instructor of English (standing right), took advantage of the beautiful fall weather to move his classroom outdoors. Students enjoyed the day's lessons on the front lawn in front of historic Quincey Circle.



Above: The SGC Foundation hosted two donor receptions in October to allow those establishing scholarships to meet recipients. **Dr. Yoga Sundram**, an SGC assistant professor of biology, and his wife Kamala (right) joined **Dr. Virginia Carson**, SGC President, and Jeff Hennesy, Foundation President (middle), in congratulating Matt Sears (next to the Sundrams) as the recipient of the Nathan Sundram Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the Sundrams' son. Matt's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sears (left), also attended the event.



Above: At the second workshop in a series sponsored by the Division of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and PE, **Dr. Thomas Hickman**, assistant professor of chemistry, joined other faculty members in sharing useful information. He spoke on the Student/Faculty Gap analysis conducted at Georgia Southwestern State University, which revealed the differences between faculty and student expectations.



Left: Students and community members had an opportunity to learn everything they needed to know about casting a ballot at Voter Information Night held in Engram Union a week before the important mid-term election November 2. **Frank Pridemore**, instructor of political science, covered several topics, including election vocabulary and the proposed constitutional amendments. **Tiffany Briceno**, **Dr. Rhonda Heath-Kelly**, **Dr. Frank Holiwski** and **Kit Carson** also spoke at the event.

## **DIVERSITY PANEL** continued from page 1

field. I also wanted to be able to provide for my child," she said.

Dr. Goel attended school in India, but eventually moved to the United States. He said leaving his family was his biggest sacrifice. Dr. Chaney's career path also resulted in a great deal of time away from her close-knit family. She said she was not able to visit home very often while completing vet school.

The panelists urged the students to never let anyone tell them they could not accomplish what they set their minds to achieve.

"Some people tried to discourage me when I told them I wanted to become a dentist. They kept saying, 'Dental school is really hard.' Then when I graduated, those same people told me, 'I knew you could do it all along.' Don't let people discourage you," said Dr. Jackson.



*The award-winning Georgia Guitar Quartet, formed in Athens, Ga., in 1996, brought its high energy blend of breath-taking virtuosity and imaginative musicianship to SGC November 2. Jim Knowles, SGC instructor of music (right), joins group members on the McGouirk stage.*



*Students and members of the SGC faculty and staff donned pink attire to show their support for Passionately Pink Day in Douglas October 27, promoted by a local charitable organization to raise awareness for breast cancer.*



## SGC breaks ground for Dining Hall

It's official: SGC students, faculty and staff will have a new dining hall when the Fall 2011 semester begins next August. On October 27, South Georgia College, along with its community partners, gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony beside the IT/Nursing Building.

The new dining hall project is only part of a much greater renovation on campus. Engram Hall, where the dining room is currently located, will be renovated at a later date in order to make better use of available space for expanding the Admissions and Financial Aid departments due to continued and future growth. As a result of the Engram project, the cafeteria and bookstore will move into the IT/Nursing Building.

According to Charles Perry, COO of Ambling Companies, the dining room will have 292 seats immediately, with room to expand to over 600. The renovated facility will be more than just a cafeteria, also housing a coffee shop, bookstore, and convenience store.

"This is a wonderful site, a beautiful setting and an incredible building," said Perry at the groundbreaking.

Bob Johnson, SGC's Dean of Students, Emeritus, took attendees back to the late 1950s as he explained the importance of the dining hall to student life. Back then, most of the 700 students enrolled at SGC were from out of town. For them, the dining hall was a center of student activity.

"We shared some great memories in this building. I look forward to the cafeteria becoming a focal point of campus life once again," he stated.



**Looking for a simple way to help provide additional support to SGC? The SGC Foundation's 7 in 11 employee campaign is the perfect way to help any area of the College you prefer. By giving a small amount each month through payroll deduction – you will help make a BIG difference. Simply complete the SGC payroll deduction form and return it to Human Resources. The form is located on the Web site under the Human Resources link. For more information, contact Walda Kight at 260.4274 or [walda.kight@sgc.edu](mailto:walda.kight@sgc.edu). Sign up now to be a part of this year's campaign!**

## The Big Read ends on a high note...



Janice Chambers and Julia Safer (left) judge the Community Art Exhibit at the SGC Library (3rd place entry on far left), while the cast of the “Poe, Poe, Poe” theatrical production (above) take the stage at the Black Box Theatre in Peterson Hall during the finale of a month of activities devoted to Edgar Allan Poe.

## Plant Their Feet group joins in on Poe festivities...



Forty-four students from the local ninth grade academy who are participating in SGC's *Plant Their Feet* program visited the William S. Smith Library on October 21. Their program of activities focused on Edgar Allan Poe and his works, as part of *The Big Read* community outreach. Dr. Virginia Carson, Jacqueline Vickers, and Amy Hancock (*Plant Their Feet* Coordinator) greeted the students. Vanessa Adams, Reference Librarian at Satilla Regional Library, enthusiastically read *The Tell-Tale Heart*, one of Poe's well-known works. Dr. Paul Wise, assistant professor of English, spoke on the literary aspects of the *The Tell-Tale Heart* and presented *The Raven* through a recorded reading by actor Basil Rathbone. Leann Boyd led the students in several games based on the Poe story and poem. The students viewed the Poe-inspired art contest exhibit and other Poe displays in the library created by staff and students of SGC before enjoying refreshments furnished by the SGC Foundation. The library staff presented each student with an Edgar Allan Poe book and encouraged them to read and learn more about his literary works. *The Big Read* is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

# SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

## November Anniversaries



### Under 10 YEARS

Tammy Parker - 6  
Linda Andrews - 5  
Leann Boyd - 4  
Lesa Williams - 4  
Wayne Quinn - 3

### MILESTONES

#### 11 Years

**YOLANDA CROSBY**  
**DAPHNE FRENCH**

#### 12 Years

**PEGGY DOBBS**

## November Calendar



### November 16

**Educator Appreciation Reception**  
4:30-5:30 pm  
**Complimentary Financial Wellness Seminar**  
5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Peterson Hall

### November 17

**Faculty Assembly**  
4:30-5:45 pm  
Stubbs 142

### November 24-26

**No Classes**  
held on SGC Campus

### November 24

**SGC Campus Closed at 3 pm**

### November 25-26

**SGC Campus Closed**

## Happy Birthday



### November

2

**Jennifer Hall**

3

**Lionell Bennett**  
**Derek Westwood**

4

**Kacie Hutchison**

5

**Autumn Prescott**

7

**Annette Lewis**

9

**Wes Brown**

10

**Virginia Carson**

**Lisa Harrell**

13

**Dave Ellis**

**Mary Graham**

**Adam Safer**

17

**Scott Sims**

**Paul Wise**

19

**Lori Seward**

**The South Georgia College Foundation is proud to announce the launching of a new opportunity to recognize outstanding SGC alumni by establishing the**

## **ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

*Nominations are currently being solicited for these awards, which will be presented at an alumni banquet during SGC Homecoming Weekend, April 1-3, 2011.*

# Happy Birthday



## December

1  
Rhonda Kelley  
2  
Jake Brinson  
Suzanne Usry  
4  
Jeff Timothy  
13  
Sandy Ott  
15  
Andrew DiNicola  
17  
Buckie Sasser  
19  
Christy Barry  
20  
Heather Perry  
25  
Linda Mullis  
28  
Lisa Bohannon  
Larry Burch  
Matt Spivey  
30  
Martha Morgan  
31  
Cinnimin Durham  
Kasey Strickland

## December Calendar



December 3  
**Last Day of Classes (Fall)**  
**Admissions Application**  
**Priority Date (Spring)**

SGC December  
Anniversary

December 6-10  
**Fall Semester Finals**

20 Years  
**SCOTT SIMS**

## SGC Christmas Party



**Thursday, December 9**  
**11:30 am to 1:00 pm**  
**Engram Ballroom**

*Meat, rolls and beverages will be provided  
courtesy of the SGC Foundation.*

**Please contact Becky Wehmeier to sign up  
for the trimmings: (by last name...)**

<b>A-H</b>	Desserts
<b>I-R</b>	Salads
<b>S-Z</b>	Vegetables/Casseroles

*As an outreach project, the College will be collecting  
unwrapped toys for local charities in Coffee County.  
To participate, please bring to the party to go under the  
tree or drop off at the Alumni House to be delivered.*