

Tigers' ROAR

October 2011

SGC Faculty Staff News



SGC Opens New Dining Hall

Ten months after construction began on South Georgia College's new dining hall, the project has been completed and students are eating in a modern facility. The 292-capacity space is a blend of old and new architecture and offers students a variety of dining options. To celebrate the opening of this new facility, SGC recently hosted a ribbon cutting to show off the dining hall to the community.

The \$6.5 million project was a public-private venture between the South Georgia College Foundation and the Atkinson-Coffee Economic Development Authority.

The new dining hall is located in the building that actually served as the SGC cafeteria for decades. The original building was constructed in 1927 and served as the dining hall until it was converted to classroom space when the cafeteria moved to Engram Hall in the early 1970s.

The new facility blends the older portion of the building with new, modern construction



that preserves the historical integrity of the architecture. The dining hall is also the last step in moving the student life center to the southern area of campus. Now, the residence halls, recreation facilities, campus store and dining hall are all centrally located in close proximity to each other.

The new dining hall has been designed with future expansion in mind, approximately doubling its current footprint. Ambling University Development Group, Hendessi and Associates, Juneau Construction Company, and Lord, Aeck and Sargent architecture firm were the development partners involved in this project.

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From the President

NEW FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

It is great to have classes underway and see the faces of our new employees and 2,269 students--another record number!

We have been so fortunate to have a ribbon cutting to kick-off the fall semester the past two years. Our renovated Dining Hall provides a contemporary gathering space for the residential side of campus. The Engram Hall groundbreaking in September also served as a great opportunity to thank the many state and development partners who are bringing to reality this improved space to enhance our students' and parents' experiences while visiting and enrolling in the College.

I am very excited about our three new degrees, and the common read of the first year experience class. I am team teaching with Dr. Randy Braswell and enjoy my interaction with students. Our academic programs are also enhanced this semester by tutoring offered through the Academic Support Center, under the direction of Ms. Diane Blum.

As we adjust to the changing budgetary decisions from the system and state, it is imperative we adhere to our mission and goals. I am appreciative of the Cabinet members and planning team who worked together to create the SGC 2012-2013 goals under the guidance of Ms. Valerie Webster.

I encourage you to pause and celebrate the many accomplishments shared in this issue. You each are truly making a "Degree of Difference."

Dr. Virginia M. Carson

SGC Planning Cycle begins for 2011-2012 Academic Year

Ms. Valerie F. Webster

Director of Entry Programs and Planning

With the beginning of the academic year, SGC continued its planning efforts by holding a review of the College Mission, Vision, and Institutional Goals. Cabinet members met on August 30 to complete this first step in the annual process of planning and assessment.

The group began by conducting an environmental scan, in which they considered what events during the past year had the most significant impact on the College. Among the top issues identified were:

- 1) The mission change to allow the offering of limited baccalaureate degrees
- 2) Lack of funding, including changes to HOPE
- 3) Staff changes at the system level
- 4) Changes in learning support admission requirements for the System
- 5) Community and faculty/staff perceptions of SGC

The group reviewed each of the 2010-2011 goals in light of this discussion. Members agreed to leave some goals the same, while revising others to reflect changes in the environment. The group then reviewed the environment issues to ensure that all had been addressed with the revised goals.

For a complete list of revised institutional goals, visit <http://www.sgc.edu/president/departments/IE/index.html>.

The next step in the planning process is for the Planning Committee to analyze assessment results from the past year and assign responsibility of each goal to the appropriate Administrative and Educational Support (AES) units.

This will be an ongoing column in the Tigers' Roar. Look for more information on this topic in the next issue.

Dr. Carson on USG Search Committee

Dr. Virginia M. Carson is a member of the search committee charged by USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby to embark on a national search to fill the position of Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer (EVC/CAO). This is a senior leadership position that reports directly to the Chancellor. The search committee will select approximately four unranked candidates to recommend to the Chancellor, who will interview the finalists and make the final selection.

Dining Hall *continued from page 1*

"In the early 1970s, there was a lot of excitement because we thought we were on the verge of becoming a four-year institution," said Mayor Jackie Wilson at the ceremony. "That excitement died down until SGC adopted a master plan. The Wellness Center was built and other projects followed. Then Dr. Virginia Carson came along. Now we have a four-year degree in nursing. We're excited about the future, and this college has never let us down."

Benjamin J. Tarbutton, Chair of the Board of Regents, attended the ribbon cutting as well.

"This new dining hall is another step forward for this college and for Dr. Carson. We are very supportive of her work here at South Georgia College," he stated.

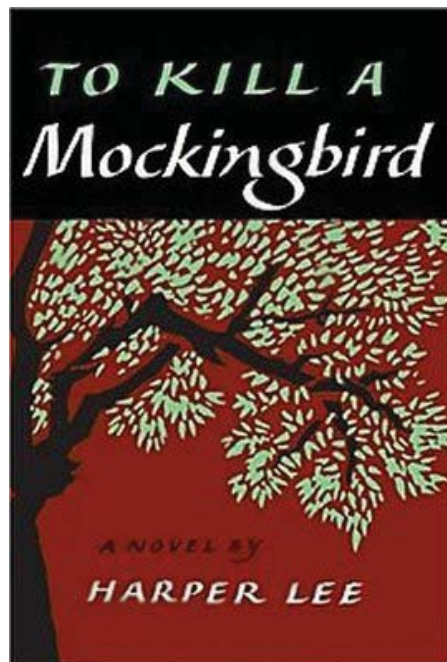
"It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of this," commented Nancy Juneau, CEO of Juneau Construction Company. "We built about 9,500 square feet of new space and renovated 6,500 square feet of old space...We had to take the old and blend it into the new...About 40 percent--\$1.8 million--came from local vendors and subcontractors. We love this campus, and we love seeing it transformed."

Dr. Virginia Carson, SGC President, closed the ceremony with a few remarks of her own: "A project like this sends an important message to students. It shows that this institution cares. It shows we recognize the needs of our students, and we are willing to go the extra mile to make sure those needs are met. The students have ownership of this dining hall. It is located next to their community. It's a space they can call their own, one devoted entirely to them. At South Georgia College, we say every student counts. This dining hall is just the most recent example of our commitment to each and every student on this campus."

Common Read at SGC

Dr. Carl McDonald

Vice President for Academic Affairs



South Georgia College is taking a "novel" approach to the first-year college student experience.

If you see lots of copies of Harper Lee's celebrated 1960 novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* on campus, it is because that book has been selected as this year's "common read" for first-time full-time freshmen enrolled in SGC's required orientation course, SGCO 1000.

A common reader is a book assigned to first-year students to create community, promote discussion, stimulate intellectual engagement, foster critical thinking, and encourage reading.

Harper Lee's novel was written from the background of the American Civil Rights movement to depict in a powerful way struggles with prejudice, hypocrisy, and civility that are quite pertinent to our understanding of not only history, but also important social concerns for today and the future. The book is an excellent vehicle for promoting all the things that a college stands for—understanding diversity, encouraging tolerance, stimulating the intellect, and building cooperative community.

This semester there are 33 sections of the orientation course with an enrollment of 925 students engaged in the common read dialogue.

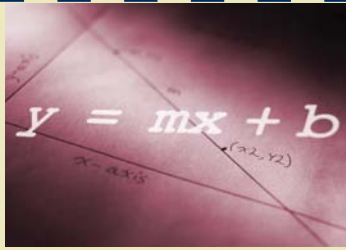


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SGC opens Fall Semester with **Week of Welcome**

In what has become an annual event on campus, South Georgia College opened the fall semester with a week of activities known as WOW-Week of Welcome. Events included a faculty/staff vs. students softball game at Crider Field (top); a campus cookout with some fun outdoor sports (left, middle and bottom); a health presentation by **Dr. Scott Thigpen** and **Ms. Bobby Jean Fountain** (middle right); and a Community Resource Fair (bottom right). As always, this is a great way to introduce incoming students to life on the SGC campus.



New Academic Support Center

The upstairs classroom in Powell Hall is now home to SGC's new Academic Support Center (ASC).

One of the most important areas of focus for SGC, like all USG institutions, is improving retention and graduation rates. The ASC is designed to provide all students with the resources they need in order to be successful in the classroom.

In fact, Diane Blum, who oversees the ASC, states that the Center is an extension of the classroom and augments the lessons learned during regular class time. The ASC is tied to several important initiatives, particularly the StAR plan, the mission and sector change that allows SGC to offer a bachelor of nursing degree, and the living learning community.

As of September 13, the ASC had conducted 221 individual study sessions in Powell Hall and 46 more sessions in the Tiger Village II classroom.

The ASC is free and open to all SGC students. Hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Tiger Village II classroom and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Powell Hall.



SGC student **Mr. Brandon Morley**, **Dr. Randy Braswell**, and **Ms. Diane Blum** at the SGA table during the recent Club Showcase on the lawn in front of the William S. Smith Library.

The South Georgia College Student Government Association (SGA) had its first meeting of the semester on September 8 in Peterson Hall's Art Gallery. Thirty-four students, faculty and staff representing 20 campus clubs and organizations were present for the noon luncheon meeting.

Miss Mary Esther Braswell, SGA Chairperson, led the meeting and shared with attendees the meaning of SGA and the important role that Student Government played on the campuses of all USG institutions across the state.

SGA welcomes a representative from each student-funded club. The following clubs were represented: The Debate Society, The Anime' Club, The SGC Book Club, Environmental Awareness Club, Dance Team, Psych Club, Quiz Bowl Team, Gay Straight Alliance, Campus Activities Board, GANS, Tiger Senators, SPAGE, The Palmetto SGC, Theatre Club, SGC Democrats, Cultural Exchange Club, The South Georgian, Phi Theta Kappa, Residence Life, SAAB, and SGA.

During a concert by the Pennsylvania-based duo The Billies, held in late August inside the Clower Center, **Mr. Jerry Oliver** took to the stage during the open mic portion of the show.



FACULTY FOCUS



Two South Georgia College faculty members, **Dr. Scott Thigpen** (left), Associate Professor of Nursing and Interim Director of the Bachelor of Nursing Program, and **Dr. Charles Johnson** (right), Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences, Physical Education and Mathematics, have been named to the University System of Georgia's Executive Leadership Institute (ELI).

ELI, a comprehensive 100-hour development program conducted by experts in leadership, was implemented in 2009 to strengthen the future leadership of the System. It is designed exclusively for high potential individuals who desire to progress into senior leadership roles. Development activities closely align with this Competency Model, which includes skills identified as critical to the success of leaders transitioning into more complex managerial roles.

Previous ELI Scholars from SGC include **Mr. Wes Brown**, Vice President for Student Success; **Mr. Keith Newell**, Director of Human Resources/Affirmative Action; and **Dr. Rick Reiman**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs/Chair of the Division of Business and Social Sciences.



▲ **Dr. Jessica Crowe**, Assistant Professor of Biology for the SGC Entry Program at Valdosta State University, earned her Ph.D in Post-secondary and Adult Education from Capella University in August 2011. Her dissertation title was “Eco-Spirituality and Religion: Catalysts for Transformation in Environmental Education.” Dr. Crowe has been employed with the Entry Program since 1999.

▶ **Ms. Kay Pace**, Lecturer of English and Learning Support English, has joined the SGC Entry Program at Georgia Southwestern State University as the first full-time faculty member.



Ms. Bobby Jean Fountain, Assistant Professor of Nursing, has been awarded the Peabody B. Mayfield Endowed Scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year, given to a student in the Capstone College of Nursing at the University of Alabama. Ms. Fountain is currently working on her Ed.D in Nursing Education.

Dr. Scott Thigpen was quoted in an article on snake bites posted on the website ADVANCEWEB. The article also contains an audio clip of the Thigpen interview:

Snake Bite Management:

Reaching a hospital quickly, photographing biting snakes crucial to preventing snake bite complications
<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Archives/Article-Archives/Snake-Bite-Management.aspx>

Right: Dr. Steve Wrigley, USG Vice Chancellor for Administration, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony on September 28 for the renovation of Engram Hall into a Student Success Center.



Below: Dr. Virginia Carson welcomes Dr. Wrigley, Sen. Greg Goggans, and Rep. Chuck Sims.



At a recent meeting of the Douglas Lions Club, **Mr. Jeff Timothy**, Interim Head Baseball Coach, and Braddock Rowe, sophomore catcher, described their experiences at the Junior College World Series this summer and gave the Lions Club an outlook for the 2011-2012 baseball season. Pictured are **Mr. Rob Brunel**, SGC Athletic Director; Amanda Allison, Douglas Lions Club; Coach Timothy; and Rowe.

Calendar



OCTOBER

5

Doing Happiness Project

Matt Glowacki

12:15 pm, Peterson Hall Art Gallery

7

Mid-Term

Fall Semester

11

Crash

Tolerance and Diversity Film Series

7:00 pm, Stubbs 142

18

Dr. Joe Chapman Liszt Concert

7:00 pm, Peterson Hall

21

Financial Aid Priority Date

Spring Semester 2012

SGC welcomes New Faculty/Staff



Dr. Wilbur Shuler
*Interim Vice President
for Business Affairs*



Ms. Dana Drahush
*Administrative Assistant,
Business & Humanities*



**Mr. Ronald
Abercrombie**
*Lecturer of Accounting
and Business*



Dr. Johanno Choo
*Assistant Professor
of Biology*



Mr. Corey Pye
Assistant Baseball Coach



Ms. Tracy Greaves
Athletic Trainer



**Ms. Beulah
Narendrapurapu**
Lecturer of Chemistry



Ms. Lisa Batten
*Assistant Professor
of Nursing*



Ms. Annette Nation
Disabilities Coordinator



Ms. Jessica Miller
Counselor



Dr. Guillermo Gibens
*Lecturer of
Communications*

Kay Pace
*Lecturer of English and
Learning Support English
SGC Entry Program/GSW
(see photo in
faculty section)*

Security Officers:
Jason Flowers
Michael Gordon
David Lott
Casey O'Neil
Shayla Thompson

Custodians:
Stephen Jackson
Brenda Preston



SGC MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

20+ YEARS

29 YEARS

Duane Benson

Jerry Bryant

28 YEARS

Delectia Vickers

10+ YEARS

12 YEARS

Lena Helmbrecht

10 YEARS

Randy Moss

5-9 YEARS

9 YEARS

Jaime Carter

Jessica Crowe

Glen Maul

8 YEARS

Jeanette Dukes

Rhonda Kelley

Martha Morgan

Chris Royer

Jeff Timothy

7 YEARS

Corinthia Wilcox

6 YEARS

Julie Anderson

Kit Carson

Donna Herrin

Sue Miller

Loia Smith

Nate Taylor

5 YEARS

Jacqueline Vickers



Congratulations

Autumn Prescott

and husband Ken
on the birth of their
baby daughter

Ariel Kathryn

Christy Barry

and husband Scott
on the birth of their
baby daughter

Olivia Claire



Birthdays

OCTOBER

2

Jamica Coates

4

Sandra Sims

6

Robert Preston

10

Amanda Barrett

13

Charles Johnson

Peggy Clemons

16

Virginia Bryant

17

Lesa Williams

Jeremy Petrella

18

Josey Cameron

Stephen Jackson

20

Wayne Quinn

23

Annette Harrell

24

Lance Keaton

27

Jerry Bryant

Scott Thigpen



From left: Phi Theta Kappa members Katie Holliday, Jamie Lister and Amanda Shively introduced pianist Ethan Uslan prior to his accompaniment of the silent movie, *The General*, on September 20 in McGouirk Auditorium.