

# SIX MILE POST

*The Student Voice*

September 29, 2009

www.sixmilepost.com

Vol. 39, #1

## GEORGIA HIGHLANDS

*prepares for...*

# H1N1



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

(From the left) Instructor Jennifer Tubre teaches students Brittany Keesee, Megan Thomas and Shae Calhoun at the nursing campus laboratory at Heritage Hall. These students will be required to get the H1N1 vaccinations for their clinicals at the hospital.

*Please see page 2 for full coverage of GHC and the H1N1 virus*

### **GHC has G.H.A.M.E.**

Highlands participates in program designed to help increase male African-American graduation rate.

**Page 3**

### **Dangerous Texting**

Is texting more dangerous than drinking while driving?

**Page 10**

### **Touchdowns and Dunks**

Check out the scores and coverage of GHC's intramural basketball and football.

**Page 12**

# Georgia Highlands plans for global pandemic, H1N1

By Nick Godfrey  
Editor

In the shadow of the H1N1 epidemic, colleges and universities across the state have taken precautions, and Georgia Highlands is one of many with a plan.

"Our plan is closely coordinated with the University System's plan," said GHC President Randy Pierce.

"We are monitoring all of the press coverage given to the H1N1 virus. We will adjust the plan as the fall and winter progresses and we see how bad it gets. At this point, we are just speculating," he said.

According to Dana Davis, director of college rela-

tions, Georgia Highlands' plan at this point is prevention, above all else.

"Stage one is just doing all we can do, which is prevention," Davis said.

She explained that hand sanitizing dispensers have been affixed to the wall in almost every hall.

Teachers and faculty were also given small bottles of hand sanitizer as well.

Davis also stated that if 20 percent or more of students were out, the college would turn to other methods, such as putting assignments online and moving classes online.

"Of course, you can't go from what we do now to putting everything online," she

said.

"Depending on how huge an epidemic it becomes, the Board of Regents has final power to say whether it's closed or not," Davis said.

She stated that the general guidelines are that if a student is having flu-like symptoms, such as a fever, the student should stay home at least 24 hours without a fever or the aid of fever reducing medication before returning to class.

Davis has also asked teachers with strict classroom policies, such as not allowing makeup tests, to be "generous and flexible" with students this year.

Other plans coupled with prevention are still in

the works.

Renva Watterson, vice president of academic affairs, said that Georgia Highlands is looking into making flu vaccination shots available to students.

"One of the things we're exploring is how we can join hands with health sciences and nurses and with the Health Department," Watterson said.

She said she hopes that Georgia Highlands can work something out and make vaccines available to students and faculty at little to no cost.

"We are exploring every plan possible," she said.

Davis said that despite Georgia Highlands' plan

already in the works, two college employees from the Paulding campus have already been diagnosed with the flu virus.

A faculty and a staff member were diagnosed after being administered a rapid test.

However, the rapid test does not distinguish between regular flu and H1N1, but instead shows whether or not a person has a flu virus.

"I think we're doing the best we can. I think we are well ahead," Davis said.

"We were all aware of this. Several working in the University System have been working on this for a year. Everybody is pretty much on top of it," she said.

## Students use varied prevention techniques to avoid flu

By Christine Sisson  
Staff Writer

Students are finding different ways to try to avoid the flu virus.

"The best way to prevent infection is by having good hand hygiene," said Brandi Boozer, a nursing major from Armuchee.

"Sneeze or cough into your elbow, avoid shaking hands or touching your nose and eyes, and wash hands frequently," she said.

Tara West, a resident of Rome majoring in art and sociology, stated that she was sticking to her normal routine of washing her hands, drinking plenty of orange juice to keep her immune system strong and using sanitizer constantly.



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

Medical supplies used in the nursing programs at Heritage Hall.

## H1N1 symptoms no different than the regular seasonal flu

By Lauren VanWinkle  
Staff Writer

People 25 or younger are at a greater risk of contracting H1N1, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website.

Logan Boss, the public information officer for the Floyd County Department of Health, described the symptoms as identical between the two viruses.

"You can develop a cough, stuffy nose, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, fever, runny nose and occasionally vomiting and diarrhea," he said.

One important thing to remember, according to Boss, is how easily people can infect others.

According to the CDC website, people that have diabetes, kidney disease, asthma or are pregnant are at greater risk for complications from both viruses.

A recent report issued by the CDC also stresses the importance for pregnant women to receive the flu vaccine regardless of their trimester, since it may offer the baby some immunity after the child is born.



# G.H.A.M.E. plans to aid college students

By Kursten Hedgis  
Assistant Editor

According to the University System of Georgia's Task Force on Enhancing Access for African-American males, new statistics show that of the 41 percent of African American males that graduate from high school, only 37 percent go on to graduate from a college institution.

Georgia Highlands has established a program to help combat these statistics and stereotypes.

G.H.A.M.E. (Georgia Highlands African-American Excellence) is part of a state-wide program aiming to help students use the associate degree attainable at GHC as a platform for transfer or career programs.

G.H.A.M.E.'s official mission is to enhance the recruitment, retention, and graduation rate of African American male students.

The program aims to reach these goals with a combination of meetings to monitor academic progress, academic study hall tutorials and workshops to develop skills needed to succeed in college.

According to Jon Hershey, professor of English, more than anything G.H.A.M.E. is a mentoring program.

"It provides a network of African-American males available to support and guide each other down the road to a brighter future," he said.

Not only is the aim of G.H.A.M.E. to help support males that have made the decision to go to college, but it is also to help bring the idea of higher education to all youth, regardless of past or background.

This is exactly what it was able to do for sophomore Anthony Donaldson, a business management major

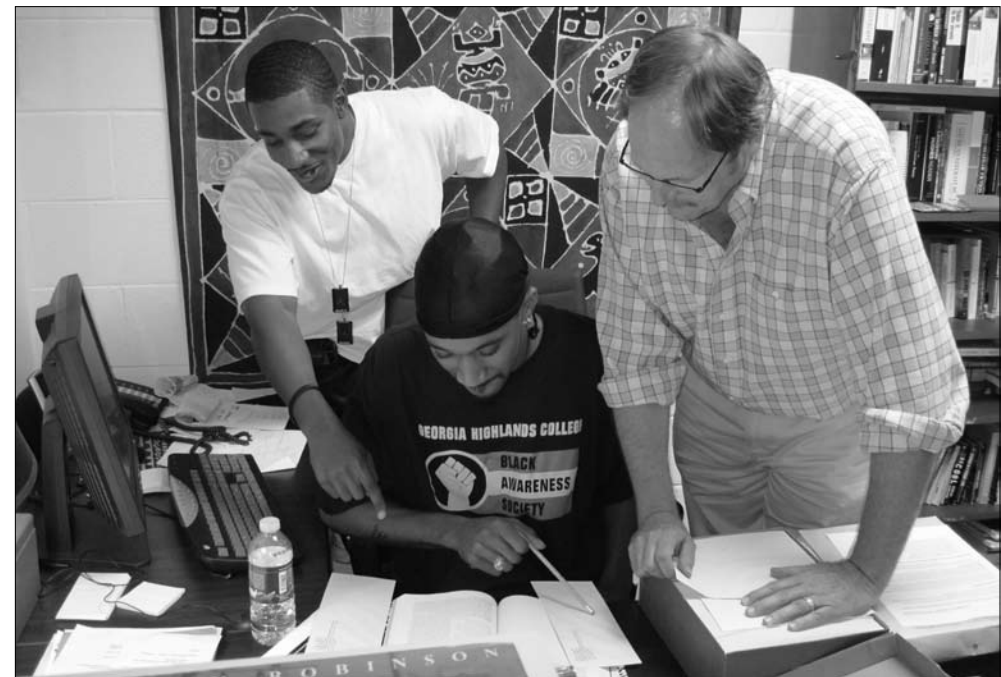


Photo by JoNathan Brown

(From the left) Corey Pitts and Derrick Johnson, of the G.H.A.M.E. program, work with Jon Hershey, one of the G.H.A.M.E. program's directors.

from Rome.

"I'm in school because of this program. They came to my high school and introduced me to the idea of going to college. They showed me encouragement and saw my potential. G.H.A.M.E. is the reason I am in college and succeeding," Donaldson said.

Although the official mis-

sion statement might read differently, the heart of this program is about broadening horizons.

"It helped me become a leader in my community so that I can influence kids at a young age to help them imagine a future that involves college," Donaldson said.

Through summer camps

and speaking engagements, G.H.A.M.E. is not only leading through example, but replacing those stereotypes with the idea that a college education is a realistic goal.

When asked if Donaldson believed that the G.H.A.M.E. program could reach these ambitions, he said, "Yes. Absolutely. I have no doubt about that."

## SMP is also online!



Visit the website  
for exclusive stories  
such as...

--The Scantron Situation  
at GHC

--Story behind the new  
Mascot Outfit

[www.sixmilepost.com](http://www.sixmilepost.com) *i*

## Stevi B's Pizza

### Highlands Deal!

\$5.97

Student I.D. required

Located in Wal-Mart parking lot  
in Cartersville



MEXICAN RESTAURANT

1325 Cassville Road • Cartersville, Georgia 30120  
770-386-6722

# Enrollment grows as Paulding, Douglasville open

By JoNathan Brown  
Assistant Editor

Georgia Highlands College opened two new instructional sites this fall, one in Paulding County and the other in Douglasville.

The campus in Paulding is located at 25 Courthouse Square in Dallas. The classes are being held in the old courthouse building, which has been renovated.

The local government gave two buildings to the college as a starting block which can be added to later, if needed.

Twenty-seven classes are now being held at the Paulding site.

Cathy Ledbetter, Paulding site director, stated that she was "very surprised with how smoothly the first couple of weeks went."

Ledbetter also pointed out an advantage of the Paulding site.

"The Paulding site has four parking lots, but the students only fill up one," she said.

The Douglasville site is located at 4899 Chapel Hill Road. This site is temporarily located on the grounds of

Chapel Hill High School.

Dana Davis, director of college relations, said that a permanent location will be finalized by spring semester.

The local high school provided GHC with three modular units to hold classes in. Each modular unit holds four classrooms.

The site director for Douglasville is Ken Reaves.

Reaves said he is "pleased with the progress so far" and feels "the students are pleased and excited about the new campus."

Randy Pierce, president of GHC, stated, "Opening the two new sites has been part of a plan to expand into the north metro area. It has been a vision to increase the number of campuses to service a diverse number of communities and population."

The opening of the new sites coincides with an enrollment increase.

According to Todd Jones, director of admissions, the total enrollment at all five campuses exceeds 5,000.

The enrollment count is as follows: Floyd: 1,734, Cartersville: 2,468, Marietta: 980, Douglasville: 80 and Paulding: 200.



Photo by Robyn Johnson

This Paulding site building is one of the new additions to the growing Georgia Highlands community.

# State budget crisis impacts Georgia colleges

By Kursten Hedgis  
Assistant Editor

Budget cuts and furloughs can only mean one thing for the college, right? Budget crisis.

Robert Whitaker, vice president of finance and administration, would caution anyone from using that exact terminology.

"I would categorize it more as budget concerns. The state is having a budget situation tied closely to the changing economy, and that trickles down to Georgia Highlands, which means we have to attempt to work within the states' cuts to

balance our budget."

After a budget cut of 11 percent in the fiscal year 2009 and Board of Regents' mandated six-day furloughs, GHC was tasked, along with all other state agencies, to produce three budget cut scenarios for the fiscal year 2010: a plan to cut 4 percent, 6 percent and 8 percent of the budget.

The 8 percent plan will produce a \$1.6 million cut in the budget. This plan includes things like freezing and eliminating vacant staff positions, reducing travel expenses across all departments, the use of more part-time staff, reduction of the

budget for information technology services, and student incurrence of small fees that the institution can no longer cover.

All of these cuts will have an impact on the institution. But, according to Whitaker, through careful examination of these impacts, the finance and administration department has been able to choose the actions that will have the least impact on students and staff while still working within the states' budget constraints.

The Board of Regents accepted all of the plans for cuts and has submitted them to the governor. No

cuts will take place until the legislature votes and acts on one plan.

Students will have to wait until January when Georgia legislators will take action on this pressing issue in order to learn the extent of the impact on GHC.

However, that does not mean the college has not yet had its budget reduced.

In anticipation of legislative action, the governor has already reduced the amount of money being dispersed to schools.

Nevertheless, according to Whitaker there is a bright spot. He said, "Is this a budget crisis, no. Why? Because

GHC is experiencing such a growth in enrollment. This growth is having an unintentional positive effect on the situation our college finds itself in."

Whitaker explains, "With enrollment at over 5,000 students it is obvious we have a product people want: a great education at a reasonable price. We are making the necessary budget decisions in order to continue to give students that product."

Whitaker said, "These temporary pains we must endure are going to make our institution more productive and successful in the long run."



# The Swinging '60s return for Fall Frenzy

By Robert Holder  
Staff Writer

The fall session is in full swing, and what better way to celebrate than to get groovy at Fall Frenzy.

This year's theme for Fall Frenzy is "The Swinging '60s." Free spray-on "tye dye" t-shirts, psychedelic spin art, "Big Chair" photos and an Oxygen Bar will be offered at both Floyd and Cartersville campuses.

The Cartersville event will also feature inflatables, including the Four Way Bungee Jump for adults and the Kiddiepillar for children to crawl around in.

Other activities will include tables and booths hosted by GHC student groups. Free food will also be provided.

Those in attendance at Fall Frenzy are encouraged to dress like "hippies," get "groovy" and enjoy a day of

"love, peace, and fun," said John Spranza, director of student life.

The main entertainment for Fall Frenzy is the band The Return, a Beatles tribute band that has played at multiple events, including The Fox 97 Ultimate Oldies Concert in Atlanta as well as The 94.1 Oldies Fest in Salt Lake City. The band has shared the stage with performers such as Chubby Checker and Jerry Lee Lew-

is.

"When the HIP (Highlands Interactive Productions) members decided to bring The Return in as the main entertainment, the theme just grew from that," said Spranza.

The Return band members do a total on-stage impersonation of the Beatles including clothes, hairstyles, identical musical instruments and even the same stage mannerisms and

movements.

"The HIP members wanted to totally buy in to this image and create a full '60s environment for the event," Spranza said.

Fall Frenzy is scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Floyd campus and Oct. 7 from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. on the Cartersville campus. The Return will be playing at noon on the Floyd Campus and 7 p.m. on the Cartersville campus.

## Mark your calendar for these upcoming student life events

• **ThinkFast Gameshow, Sept. 29** at noon on the Floyd Campus and **Sept. 30** at noon on the Cartersville Campus

• **Speaker Series: Paul Rus-sabagina, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.** at The Cage Center Arena at Berry College, tickets are available in Student Life Office

• **Comedian Josh Sneed, Oct. 12, 12:15 p.m.** on the Floyd Campus and **Oct. 13** at noon on the Cartersville Campus

• **Fall Frenzy, Oct. 15** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Marietta site and **Oct. 28** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Paulding site

Removed the useless contracts. Replaced it with \$500 yr in savings.

Use the savings for pizza, and, well, you know...

<b>UNLIMITED</b> <b>\$45</b> 30-Day Plan	INCLUDES	Unlimited Nationwide Anytime Minutes & Texts
<b>ALL YOU NEED</b> <b>\$30</b> 30-Day Plan	INCLUDES	<b>1000</b> Minutes PLUS <b>1000</b> Text or Multimedia Messages

Plan does not include phone

**Straight Talk**

Everything you need in a cell phone without a contract.

Only at Walmart or Walmart.com

## Parking lot brims with trash

With a name like “Lakeview,” it’s kind of hard to believe that there would be a lot of trash scattered everywhere.

Simply said, the Lakeview parking lot on the Floyd campus has seen better days.

For the past couple of weeks, trash has been building up at the Lakeview lot, and the parking area just doesn’t look nearly as good as it should.

But who is at fault?

Someone could easily point the finger at Georgia Highlands and demand that the lot be cleaned daily, or at least, weekly.

But, with budget cuts and the tough economy the college is facing, that might be easier said than done.

On the other hand, where did the trash come from? Possibly from the students who use the lot? No, it is absolutely from the students who use the lot.

It’s really not the college’s job, nor anyone’s for that matter, to pick up after students on a daily basis.

Trash should not just be set out on the ground by vehicles or laid next to the light poles.

We’ve all emptied a cup that we’ve had in the car for a couple of weeks on the ground. There’s nothing wrong with that, but we shouldn’t just toss the cup to the ground altogether.

Something students should consider is while some campuses across the state charge outrageous

amounts for parking and parking lot maintenance fees, Georgia Highlands has maintained a very reasonable price at its Floyd campus.

Of course, it’s not entirely the students’ fault.

No, students shouldn’t throw trash on the ground, but the college should consider putting trash cans close to or around the parking lot.

If there is nowhere to throw trash away outside, students are more inclined to just slip it under their vehicle.

The best way to solve this “trashy” problem is for students to clean up after themselves and for the college to consider placing trash cans close to the lots to at least give students an alternative to littering.



Photo by Nick Godfrey

**Trash of all kinds fills the Lakeview parking lot on a daily basis.**

## Starting strong doesn’t mean you’ve won

Headstrong, we often barrel into anything that seems like a challenge we think we can overcome, but when it seems to be just a little bit too much, we fail.

We don’t have to fail.

Every so often in life, I see a challenge that I think I can conquer. I even feel that I can, and, in actuality, that ability I think I have is real.

But, it doesn’t take much to make us believe that that power we sense at the beginning of any obstacle is not really there. It isn’t gone. We just stop believing in it.

Think about it. What if Muhammad Ali had gone into every match and started out with his famous jab but never attempted to finish the match with brutal combos? Or, what if Apollo 13 went into space for the moon mission and the crew gave up when all seemed lost?

Then they both would

never have achieved their most prized accomplishments.

Don’t forget the power in you when the hardest things in life come your way, because it was you who took them on in the first place.

It’s that power inside of us that made us believe we could meet a goal to begin with, and we still can.

Starting strong is natural. There is a natural tendency to fight for something more, to overcome what seems impossible and to try to achieve something that is only in the mind at first.

So often, students will take a huge course load

of hard classes and say to themselves, “I’m going to buckle down this year and do it.”

But, when reality floods in and it seems “impossible” to complete that challenge, remember what’s inside, remember what wanted to take on the challenge to begin with.

Joseph Campbell once said, “Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves come when life seems most challenging.”

Starting strong doesn’t always mean victory, but staying strong throughout will most definitely ensure it.



### Editor’s Box

**Nick Godfrey**  
Editor

### Six Mile Post

*6mpost@student.highlands.edu*

**Editor**  
Nick Godfrey

**Assistant Editors**  
Kurstin Hedgis and  
JoNathan Brown

**Production Assistant**  
Jose Ajanel

**Advertising Manager**  
Barbara Armas

**Asst. Advertising Manager**  
Savannah DeGrosky

**Online Manager**  
Logan Chastain

**Chief Photographer**  
Chiara VanTubbergen

#### Staff Members

Jason Bowen, Christie Boyd, Jessica Britt, Diana Davis, Danielle Donaldson, Will Floyd, Danielle Harris, Dylan Hatcher, Robert Holder, Robyn Johnson, James Lane, Lesley Mathis, Felix Monterrosa, Ashlyn McPherson, Christine Sisson, Kristin Thomas, Lauren VanWinkle, Hanna Yu

**Adviser**  
Kristie Kemper

**Assistant Adviser**  
Cindy Wheeler

**Campus Liaisons**  
Alex MacMurdo and Jacob Sullins

**Online Consultant**  
Jeannie Blakely

Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office, emailed to 6Mpost@student.highlands.edu, or mailed to Editor, “Six Mile Post,” 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161. Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editors, and letters may appear in print and/or online.



# Kirk Nooks takes helm at Marietta site

**By Hanna Yu  
Staff Writer**

After several temporary site directors, the Marietta campus has finally received a permanent site director, whose goals are to further the college on the path of growth and success.

Kirk Nooks, who was recently appointed director, attended Mercer University for engineering but changed career paths to find a job to express his academic passion.

Nooks said he chose to become a part of Georgia Highlands because of his "passion for higher education." He said he believes two-year colleges "represent a rich diversity of America."

His goals revolve around desires to bring out potential excellence within every

student, which will better the Georgia Highlands' experience.

Nooks' goal to wean Georgia Highlands from "sitting in the shadows of Southern Poly" started after his first experience on campus.

Upon getting the job, Nooks decided to tour the campus. However, due to the lack of signs, he had trouble locating the seemingly nonexistent GHC site.

He finally resorted to asking a Southern Poly maintenance worker, but the worker had no idea of the college's existence.

Nooks wants the college to "move past the best kept secret" and allow its presence to become known to the community.

Nooks' goals also include increasing graduation rates



Photo by Hanna Yu

**Kirk Nooks, who has high aspirations for the Marietta Campus this year, was recently named the permanent site director.**

and improving student life on campus.

In regards to student life and the ghost town appearance of the campus, Nooks stated, "The collegiate experience is created by the students."

In hopes of promoting a sense of student life, Nooks has now connected the Marietta campus on Facebook.

Nooks sees a bright future for the Marietta campus. He hopes to "let the Rome and Cartersville campuses know that the Marietta campus is alive."

**Score the Goal of Your Life!**



with Shorter College's Bachelor of Business Administration in Sport Management

**Online Courses Now Available.**



**SHORTER COLLEGE**

Learn more at  
**online.shorter.edu or call 706-233-7319**

**Lube + Car Care Center**




**Student Discount with GHC ID  
(706) 238-9888**

2117 Shorter Ave. Co-Owner/ Manager  
Rome, GA 30165 **David Boatright**

---

*Electronic Filing - Monthly Bookkeeping & Tax Service  
Fast Refunds (RAL) Anticipated Loans*

**Wright's Bookkeeping & Tax Service**  
15 Lakeview Dr.  
Lindale, Georgia 30147

706-232-4184  
Fax: 706-235-6535

# Textbook rentals good for the wallet

By Kristin Thomas  
Staff Writer

Times are tough. Money is tight. How can the savvy college student alleviate some costs? Textbook rental is an option.

Instead of spending hundreds of dollars on new books only needed for a few months, students can rent books like movies. There are companies that offer semester-long rentals on used textbooks.

These books are usually more than half off the retail price listed.

They also come with book condition guarantees, just like the used books at the bookstore.

If it isn't already, textbook rental is sure to become one of the more popular options for textbook sources.

Just last year, our government allotted 10 grants to starter programs in textbook rentals, according to a 2008 press release on [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) about Bill H.R. 4137 (College Opportunity and Affordable Act.)

Imagine how beneficial this could be for Georgia Highlands College students. When asked if Georgia

Highlands should provide textbook rental options, Jenna Owens, a nursing major from Douglasville, replied, "Yeah, my mom ordered my books online through Georgia Highlands and spent like, almost \$500. It kind of pisses me off."

There's got to be a downside right? Well... yes. When students go from buying used textbooks to renting them, they are only saving a small amount of money for a book that they do not own.

One textbook rental business is Chegg.com. Once a simple classifieds directory site for college students, Chegg.com has become one of the leading college textbook rental sources in the nation.

According to [chegg.com](http://chegg.com), "Study guides and CDs are separable as well, so we do not guarantee that any accessory will accompany a textbook unless you purchase a new item under our Cash Back Guarantee program."

And Chegg.com is not just saving students money. It is also planting trees. For every book rented, donated, sold or bought, Chegg.com plants one tree.

## Student Support Services Career, Counseling, and Disability Support

SEEK | SYNC | SUCCEED

Discover your career, get help writing a resume, or learn how to interview for a job.

Displaced by an employer? SEEK out WIA assistance.  
Learn about financial options and the Workforce Investment Act program.

Receive free, personal, professional, and confidential help from counselors who care about GHC students.

Learn stress and time management skills.  
SYNC with new ways to cope with test anxiety, difficult changes, or depression.

Assistance for students with disabilities that will help you  
SUCCEED in college as independently as possible.

For more information call (706) 295-6336

Services available on all GHC campuses  
Cartersville, Douglasville, Floyd, Heritage Hall, Marietta, Paulding

Ability is what you're capable of doing.  
Motivation determines what you do.  
Attitude determines how well you do it.

-- Lou Holtz



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

Lindsey Carden views photos from the Smithsonian exhibit titled "Transitions."

## Smithsonian exhibit opens at the art gallery on Floyd Campus

By Jason Bowen  
Staff Writer

The Smithsonian exhibit "Transitions," featuring photographs by renowned digital photographer Robert Creamer, is now on display in the Lakeview Building on the Floyd campus. This unique exhibit tricks the eye with images both crisp and textured.

Creamer uses an Epson office scanner to capture detailed images of flora and fauna from around the world.

"The use of a digital scanner instead of a camera brings a very different outlook to this exhibit, and this unique use of technology makes the very nature of these photos different from any other previous exhibit we have hosted," said John Spranza, director of student life.

The scanner brings out the contrast and color of objects without compromising the subject matter. These pictures are in some cases so detailed that at first glance they appear not as two-dimensional photographs but as actual samples or windows into another room.

"Transitions" is on exhibit in the art gallery of the Lakeview Building from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and before noon on Fridays. The exhibit runs until Nov. 23.



Photo by Jason Bowen

Michael Guilory visits the exhibit.



# Jazz musicians perform for GHC

By Lesley Mathis  
Staff Writer

Light jazz tunes filled the student center of the Floyd Campus on Sept. 10 as the musician Galen and his band played for a fascinated audience.

"I don't typically listen to jazz, but this music was very soothing and enjoyable," stated Briana Key, a general studies major from Cedartown.

Miranda Morgan, an early childhood education major from Buchanan, had a similar opinion.

"Galen had mad flute playing skills. I wouldn't have normally listened to jazz, but this was an interesting experience," she said.

Galen and his band, consisting of a drummer, keyboardist, and double bass player, were happy to perform for students. In fact,

Louis Herivaux, the keyboardist, said that his favorite place he's performed recently was Georgia Highlands.

John Spranza, the director of student life, said that he chose Galen because of the unique style that he could bring to the college.

Every year, a variety of musicians, comedians, and other performers come to entertain students at many of GHC's campuses. Many times, students are given an opportunity to experience a new style that they would not have had the chance to enjoy otherwise.

The process to find these artists is a group effort that involves a number of people. Spranza and Jenn Purcell, assistant director of student life, take a group of students from the Highlands Interactive Program (HIP) to a conference to hear and see



Photo by Jason Bowen

Galen plays the flute for Georgia Highlands' students.

entertainers from across the nation who want to perform at colleges.

"This conference has en-

tertainers looking to get in the college market. A lot of discussion goes on between HIP members with input

from Jenn. We try to make the schedule of performers as diverse as possible," Spranza said.

## Movie Reviews

# RIFF's 'Gospel Hill' robbed

By JoNathan Brown  
Assistant Editor

The quality of films at the sixth annual Rome International Film Festival was a mixture of highs and lows.

From the documentaries on the opening morning on Friday, Sept. 11, at Heritage Hall, until the animated films on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Desoto Theater, the festival was filled with high expectations.

"Gospel Hill," one of the best feature films at the festival, was a great example of racial problems in America. It follows the 40th anniversary of the murder of a civil

rights activist and the pain his son is dealing with now that he is grown. The film deals with how John Malcolm, the main character, overcomes the hurt and anger of his father's murder and forgives the killer. Once he overcomes his problems, he can help his wife focus on a bigger problem, saving Gospel Hill, which is being overtaken by a major golf course.

Another great film was a short documentary entitled "And What Remains." It describes a man who is trying to leave his father's legacy inside his own son. He takes his son back to his hometown, where he travels the

road that his father and he traveled years ago. The film asks the question, "What kind of memories are you leaving your family?"

Throughout the weekend there were only a few disappointments. A major film that was disappointing was the short film entitled "My Homework Ate My Dog." The film received little applause, and the crowd was slim. Another disappointment of the weekend was the fact that the best feature award went to "Pound Cake," which was about a mother and a father telling their adult children that they were getting a divorce after 30 years, instead of "Gospel Hill."



Photo by JoNathan Brown

The Desoto Theater, on Broad Street in downtown Rome, hosted many of the films during RIFF.

# Texting and driving: more dangerous than ever

**By Danielle Donaldson**  
Staff Writer

Texting while driving is more dangerous than previously thought, according to a study by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

Many states have banned texting while driving, but this seems to have no effect on teen drivers.

A graphic "Texting and Driving" PSA shown on CBS News stated that when a person texts and drives his or her reaction time is slowed by 35 percent.

It also showed that texting while driving can be more dangerous than driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"As a former U.S. Army officer for four years, I frown upon those who text and drive, and it puts you and those around you in danger. I advise folks to not do it," said Daniel Jones, Cartersville campus safety officer.

Jones thinks that banning texting would decrease accidents but that another distraction would replace texting.

Fatality Analysis Reporting System found that in 2008 there were a total of 34,017 fatal crashes in the United States.

According to Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), some of the states that have banned texting while driving are Alaska, California, Connecticut, the

District of Columbia, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

**"I try not to text and drive because I'm not paying attention to the road."**

**-Heather Rogers**  
Student

IIHS also states that, as far as Georgia goes, only school bus drivers are not allowed the use of a cell phone while driving.

IIHS reports that a few other states are waiting for the banning law to go in effect. These states are Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina and Oregon.

"Text At Your Own Risk," written by Sari Harrar for "O, The Oprah Magazine" at oprah.com, says that the human brain is not able to focus on two things at a time, so it becomes more difficult to concentrate on the road as well.

"I try not to text and drive because I know I am

not paying attention to the road and it is really dangerous. I see other people texting and driving, and I try to get away from them because they are not paying attention to the road at all," said Cartersville campus student Heather Rogers.

Harrar's research also says a recent survey found that 77 percent of drivers said they've texted or sent mobile e-mail while driving.

Some drivers try to at least take a safer route by waiting to text when at a stop.

"I am opposed to texting and driving, but I occasionally text and try to only text at red lights," Cartersville campus student Ashtyn Glover said.

*Georgia Literary Festival*  
*Come celebrate Georgia books and Georgia authors in Rome, GA*  
*Saturday, October 17, 2009*  
*Historic Broad Street*  
*Free Admission!*  
*[www.georgiacenterforthebook.org](http://www.georgiacenterforthebook.org)*

## New credit card policies mean new charges when paying tuition

**By Diana C. Davis**  
Staff writer

Students who have been paying tuition and fees by credit card are being affected by the implementation of a new GHC credit card payment procedure. These changes mean that some new charges will be added to student bills.

Jamie Petty, director of accounting at Georgia Highlands College, said, "In the past, Georgia Highlands paid the credit card merchants a fee to process student payments."

Petty said because of recent budget cuts, any student paying by MasterCard, Discover or American Express now will have to do so online and pay a convenience fee of either 2.75 percent (or \$3, minimum). Visa cards will no longer be taken as a form of payment.

"Seeing how the school is making other attempts to

cut costs, such as having us pay for our Scantrons, it's no surprise that this fee has come about," said Will Hice, a business major at Georgia Highlands.

The good news is there are still payment methods that offer free options.

Cash and checks will still be accepted in the Business Office with no additional fee. Also, there is no fee associated with web checks from checking.

In order to help students use the new system, front line cashiers in the Business Office were sent a training video to help them better assist with transactions.

They will also attend a cashier training program in October.

"Our goal and hope is for our staff members to be able to assist students with this user friendly system and resolve any current problems with no errors," said Petty.

A new feature students

paying by credit cards will see is a confirmation receipt sent to their student email accounts.

This will include a reference number, in case additional assistance is needed.

Since all tuition and fees paid by credit cards will have to be paid online, students on the Floyd campus may now use the Payment Lounge located in the old Charger Card Office.

Students at all other campuses may use any library computer with Internet access to process their payments.

Students may access online payment sites at home as well.

The last implementation students can expect from the Business Office will be a link on the new division of finance web page.

By using this link, students will soon be able to view a tuition refund schedule.

## Considering Abortion?

Information on a Woman's Choices . . .

**FREE PREGNANCY TESTS**

**Walk-in Hours Daily • Results While You Wait**

*Find us online at [www.sextruth.net](http://www.sextruth.net)*

**100 Redmond Road**  
**235-6833**

*Your Health and Safety Are*  
*Important To Us.*

**PREGNANCY**  
**CENTER of ROME**







## The Extra Point

Will Floyd  
Staff Writer

### Braves playoff chances slim as 2009 season nears end

I really do not like to write teams off before they are mathematically eliminated from the playoffs. With that being said, I am writing off the Braves' chances.

Barring some of the same magic Colorado found two years ago, Atlanta's season should be over on Oct. 4.

Although the Braves probably will not be playing at the end of October, there are certainly some positive things the Braves have done and some progress that has been made. Yet, there are still some areas that need to be addressed in the offseason if the playoffs are going to be a reality in 2010.

The Braves have at least managed to keep their record above .500 so far, which is progress. They finished last season with a disappointing 72 wins and 90 losses.

Atlanta has been surprisingly balanced this year as well, having won three more games on the road than at home.

Another positive was starting pitching. The Braves' starting rotation did surprisingly well throughout the season although missing Tim Hudson until August.

The emergence of rookie

Tommy Hanson, who went 9-3 in 17 starts, was certainly exciting, and hopefully he will continue improving next season.

On the offensive side, the Braves have not really had a lack of productivity so far, and the increased production of players like Yunel Escobar and Martin Prado has certainly helped.

Chipper Jones and Brian McCann were productive as usual, and the addition of Nate McLouth, after a trade with the Pirates, also boosted the Braves' offense and should be beneficial next season as well.

One of the biggest problems for the Braves this season was lack of bullpen production. The Braves relievers blew an unacceptable 20 games this season. Middle relief and the lack of a truly dominant closer has been a problem area for the team in the last few seasons, and this is something that Bobby Cox and Frank Wren will surely look to improve during the offseason.

In the end, there is no real reason that the Braves cannot continue to improve and become a playoff team in 2010.



Photo by Lesley Mathis

### Weight room gets equipment upgrade

(From the left) Kyle Howren, Art Dyer and Clay Bell set up new equipment in the weight room. There are three new weight machines and a new incline, decline, and Smith machine.

# ONLINE COURSES

## LEARN, WHEREVER LIFE TAKES YOU



[WWW.GEORGIACENTER.UGA.EDU/IDL/FALL09](http://WWW.GEORGIACENTER.UGA.EDU/IDL/FALL09)

Earn credit toward your degree requirements at your own pace by taking a University of Georgia Independent and Distance Learning course online!

- > CHOOSE FROM 75 ONLINE COURSES
- > REGISTER ONLINE AND BEGIN YOUR COURSEWORK NOW
- > ADMISSION TO UGA NOT REQUIRED
- > RECEIVE ONE-ON-ONE INSTRUCTION FROM OUTSTANDING FACULTY
- > TAKE UP TO NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE A COURSE

Talk to your academic advisor to make sure IDL is right for you!

Contact us at 800-877-3243 or  
[de.advisor@georgiacenter.uga.edu](mailto:de.advisor@georgiacenter.uga.edu).

Independent and Distance Learning (IDL)  
1197 South Lumpkin Street  
Athens, Georgia 30602-3603



The University of Georgia  
Center for Continuing Education

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

## LYNN'S UNIFORMS

MEDICAL/ PUBLIC SAFETY/ INDUSTRIAL  
AND OTHERS

*In-House Monogramming and Alterations  
Available*

[www.lynnsuniformsonline.com](http://www.lynnsuniformsonline.com)

244 Broad Street  
Rome, Ga 30161-3022

800-500-1753  
706-291-7266  
fax: 706-295-0096



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

**Tyson Henderson of LSJ (left) attempts to evade Justin Lasley (center) and Dylan White of The Express.**

## Flag football rushes into full fall action

**By Felix Monterrosa  
Staff Writer**

The Express defeated LSJ 38-27 in the opening game of flag football intramurals on Sept. 8.

Dylan Maynard of The Express threw an interception

to set up the first score of the game for LSJ in the opening play.

This costly mistake turned out to be one of the very few made by The Express.

The Express did a better job of moving the ball down

the field and controlling the clock than LSJ.

The Express had no other turnovers after the opening interception.

One of the rules in co-ed flag football is that if a female player scores any points via pass, rush or reception then

the points will be worth double. Aware of this, The Express teammates sought out receiver Jessica Stanger as their first option when in the red zone.

Maynard and Stanger collaborated on three receptions, two of which were

touchdowns and the other a point after. Stanger was responsible for 26 of the team's 38 points.

In the second game, H1N1 defeated Those Guys 54-0. Cody Folsom scored three touchdowns during the game.



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

**Dylan White (left) successfully removes Tyson Henderson's flag.**

## Basketball begins, Hawks take a victory

**By Jose Ajanel  
Production Assistant**

In a very close opening game for the intramural basketball season, the Hawks defeated the Faculty/Staff team 31-27 on Sept. 10.

The game began with a two point shot by John Southwood from the Faculty/Staff team that led the game in the first half, until Chris Perry of the Hawks added two points in the last minute. The first half ended 15-15.

In the second half, the ball went back and forth between the two teams, each scoring one after the other. Despite the many substitutions from the Hawks, Dale Baker and Perry led their team in the second half with six and five points, respectively.

The Faculty/Staff team had no substitutes, and

Rob Laltrello and Jonathan Ingram led their team with six and four points in the final half, but it wasn't enough.

After a couple of years of being absent from the league, the Faculty/Staff team lost.

"It was an honor to play the faculty. They were in great physical shape," said Perry, top scorer for the Hawks.

Southwood from the faculty/staff team reacted to the loss by saying, "For a bunch of old guys, we did good."

In another opening day game, the Gators lost to the Highland Globetrotters 39-36. The Globetrotters were led by Cody Folsom with 16 points.

In the final game, Nate Hibbets, scoring 26 points, led the Goon's Lurkin to a victory over the Celtics 61-51.



Photo by Chiara VanTubbergen

**(From the left) Matt Spears attempts to shoot over Cody Folsom's outstretched hand, as David Baldwin looks on.**

### Catch Intramural games!

**Flag Football:** Tuesdays, 1:45 p.m. / athletic field

**Basketball:** Thursdays, 1:45 p.m. / gym