



# SIX MILE POST

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## Georgia Highlands College opens new Marietta campus

By Chris Daniel

On May 23, classes began at the new GHC campus in Marietta. Located at 1090 Northchase Parkway, the new site has replaced a small site located on the old KSU Southern Polytechnic University campus.

This expansion provides more options to students and increases GHC presence in Metro Atlanta. The campus has eight classrooms, two computer labs, staff offices, a library and learning commons.

"We're really proud of our new home," Marietta campus Dean Ken Reaves said.

Reaves also noted the recent growth of the campus.

"We have an enrollment of 450 students and a staff of 20 part-time and 10 full-time faculty members." He also mentioned the possibility of expanding to the third floor during the coming years.

Mackleen Desravines, assistant professor of English, shares Reaves' enthusiasm for the new site.

"The new site is so nice and we feel more at home. I really like the newness of the building and all that is to come," she said.

Another advantage the

new campus offers is that the Marietta location is no longer sharing space with Kennesaw State University.

"We are able to hold our own events in our own space, such as the Halloween Horror Open Mic and other fun events for students, faculty and staff," Desravines said.

The new Marietta campus is one of several projects seeking to help serve thousands of students, along with the Cartersville campus STEAM academic building, the "Charger Learning Commons" and ongoing renovations to the Winn building on the Paulding campus.



Accommodating 450 students and 30 staff members, the new GHC Marietta campus is the newest expansion of its facilities in Northwest Georgia. Students will no longer need to share space with Kennesaw State University, as the previous location was combined with KSU. Students have had complaints of needing to pay for parking for both institutions in order to park on the property. KSU parking passes range from \$40 to \$190 while GHC passes have a flat rate of \$10 per semester. **Photos by Patrick Daniel**





# Gaming Club has record-breaking membership

By Ashley Hall

Club activities have been scarce or suspended altogether since the height of COVID, but now, GHC clubs are regaining their footing. The Gaming Club has risen from a seemingly capped number of 30 members to 141 as of publication.

"We have definitely broken the stagnation," Gaming Club President, Tristen Tolbert, said. "We are still growing."

Multiple factors have led to the growth of the club, the main ingredient being determination.

"Ever since I became president, my No. 1 goal was to reach other campuses," Tolbert said. "Over the summer... we were planning to really come back this semester and just have it be our best semester yet."

The Gaming Club also has a new co-adviser, English Professor Victoria Banks. She has a background in game writing, interactive narrative design, ludology and even worked as a gaming journalist for some time. She works with IT Helpdesk Support Lilly Hayes to co-advise the club.

"I was definitely interested. I thought I could help students who also have this as a hobby or are interested in it as a career path," Banks said.

"I'm very new and still learning, but I'm excited to help the Gaming Club students and offer what knowledge I can."

Tolbert had the idea to expand the number of officers the Gaming Club has to properly accommodate the number of members. There are four vice presidents, one president and two co-advisers.

"Having more vice presidents and having people that are also equally passionate come together and put in the help... was a really big part of it," Tolbert said.

He added that the Gaming Club



Members of the Gaming Club, including President Tristen Tolbert and Co-Adviser Victoria Banks, gather in the Paulding campus Learning Commons to play board games and partake in pizza for a club event called Game Lounge. Members are taking their turns in "Betrayal at House on the Hill." Photo by Ashley Hall

Discord server has also "helped us hit that hidden market of online students."

Monica Phillips, a GHC computer science major, is a fully online Gaming Club vice president that mostly interacts through the Discord server and Zoom meetings.

"The main reason I joined the Gaming Club is because I got an email about it..." Phillips said. She added that the club has a bigger presence on the Rome and Cartersville campuses where students linger after classes and congregate near the cafeterias and in the recreational rooms.

"I think Discord channels also are really inviting for students to kind of start, especially if they're nervous about meeting new people..." Banks said, "...but it's an easy way to

become connected with each other, especially even if across campuses."

"No matter what you do on campus, you're not going to reach those fully-online students," Tolbert said, "but now that we have this online aspect of the club, we can reach anybody."

One other aspect that is helping the growth of the Gaming Club is that word is getting out that it is inclusive of all games, not just video games.

"There's a common misconception, that I think we're finally starting to break—that we are a video game club. We're not. We're a gaming club," Tolbert said.

The club encourages members to participate in and provide all kinds of games, such as video games, tabletop games, board games and

card games.

A few examples of the games the club members play are "Super Smash Bros.," "Dungeons & Dragons," "Risk" and "Splatoon." The club also holds fully-online tabletop campaigns so online students have the chance to participate.

The Gaming Club holds many inclusive on-campus events for anyone to join. It holds tournaments for "Super Smash Bros." and "Magic: The Gathering," anime nights and gatherings that have been dubbed "Cheese Boards".

"We get a bunch of pizza, we get a bunch of board games, video games, card games, tabletop sometimes... invite everybody we know..." Tolbert said. "We say it's open to the campus; anybody can come. I don't care if a bunch of professors rock up, cool. I know they know how to play 'Uno.'"

The Gaming Club officers have plans for the future of the club and what it can provide. Banks wants to use her expertise to guide students to get professionally involved in the gaming industry.

"I'm hoping I can help students collaborate, network, enter competitions and develop their experience within game design so that they can be set up to succeed upon graduating and apply for internships and gaining those connections," Banks said.

She recommends that students interact with game developers and writers at conventions and build an online portfolio of any gaming-related work they have done.

The Gaming Club has many more things to offer to any interested students.

**(Story continued on page 3)**



# GHC is phasing out its music pathways

By Julia Haynes

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents met on Sept. 8 to discuss terminating 215 degree programs from USG institutions, including many language, journalism, landscaping and education programs that have faced decreased enrollment in the past three years. GHC will be ending several of its pathways as a result.

GHC will phase out the Music and Music Business pathways from its listed programs within the next academic year. Some pathways, such as philosophy and physics, have already

been dropped for a lack of interested students.

"There have been several contributing factors over the last few years which have led to this decision, the No. 1 factor being the pandemic," Robert Adams, professor of music at the Cartersville campus, said. "It simply was not safe for musicians to gather for rehearsals or performances."

When asked how he felt about GHC terminating the music programs, Adams said, "I am very saddened by this development. Some students in our Northwest Georgia corridor will not have the opportunity to pursue music in college."

Many students, regardless of their major, flock to GHC because it is less expensive than other schools. Future students will not have the opportunity to receive their Music or Music Business degree at GHC with the music programs being terminated.

However, the Humanity School Chair, Allen Dutch, said that GHC "will continue to provide any courses current students must take in order to finish their degree."

Current music majors will not have to transfer to another school to continue their education, as is the case in other USG institutions. However, new students will not be accepted

into the music program and may have to look elsewhere.

"Some students may change pathways, and others will probably transfer to a school where they can continue their music studies," Dr. Sam Baltzer, music professor at the Floyd and Cartersville campuses, said.

While music majors are impacted by the termination of the music pathways, music professors are affected more.

"Upon completion of this academic year, I will retire from teaching," Adams said. "I became the first full-time music instructor for [GHC] in fall 2004. Over the past 19 years, I earned tenure and

the rank of professor."

"Creating these music pathways with just two full-time faculty, few accommodations and no budget has truly been nothing short of a miracle," Adams said.

Though the Music and Music Business pathways are being phased out at GHC, there are still plenty of opportunities for students to become engaged in local music programs, including the Northwest Georgia WINDS and the Highlanders, both directed by Dr. Baltzer.

## Gaming Club (continued from page 2)

"It's more than just playing games and having other people to play games [with]," Tolbert said, "we're really just trying to build a community at the college where people can come and really just enjoy being here."

"It is welcoming to a wide range of people with interest in gaming, whether that's as a hobbyist, or as competitive or in an industry," Banks said.

Tolbert said that he would like to see the Gaming Club grow to 200 members by Christmas.

Anyone interested in joining can join the Discord server by scanning a QR code found on campus bulletin boards, or by contacting Lilly Hayes (lhayes@highlands.edu) or Victoria Banks (vbanks@highlands.edu).

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# New GHC president says education is the ‘silver bullet’

By Abigail Henderson

Growing up, Mike Hobbs never saw himself in the academic world. Instead, he wanted to be a professional baseball player. However, as he entered college, he began to appreciate academics as he realized education was the way to prepare for the real world.

It wasn't long before he started working with high school and college students, helping them prepare for the real world themselves. One could say he's 'hit a home run in life' as after years of experience in higher education, Hobbs was appointed by The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia as president of GHC in May of this year..

"Mike has the right background to help [GHC] build upon our solid foundation and plot a course forward for the future," Julius Fleschner, GHC Dean of Libraries and College Testing, said.

Presiding over a community college that primarily offers two-year programs comes with its challenges as well as unique opportunities.

As president, Hobbs loves that at GHC, students don't have to wait until their junior and senior years to have options for internships, co-ops and academic honors courses.

Mixing hands-on training and skill development in freshman and sophomore years is essential to Hobbs.

That way, students trans-



**Left:** Dr. Hobbs speaks out on encouraging others to take college classes while in the workforce to bolster their credentials and get ahead in their careers. **Right:** Dr. Hobbs meets with attendees at an event. Provost Sarah Coakley said, "[Dr. Hobbs] really has connected with GHC—with the people here, with the community here—in such a short time." Dr. Hobbs and Dr. Coakley have said that it feels like they have known each other for years even though Dr. Hobbs has only been GHC president since May of this year. *Photos by Ashley Hall*

ferring out after their sophomore year will obtain a degree and get physical skill training in the classroom, lab or by working with others.

This mixed approach is fundamental to him as students are not only taught subject matter but also learn how to be self-aware. Thus, students can transition to junior and senior level classes in partnership with universities with the neces-

sary experience to succeed.

Dr. Jessica Lindberg, GHC Dean of Humanities, said, "[Dr. Hobbs] spent a lot of time listening to people in all areas of the institution and learning about how we are viewed in our region. This has also given us the opportunity to see GHC from a new perspective."

Students will undoubtedly encounter many opportunities as they progress in their journey. President Hobbs

said education is that silver bullet that connects opportunities to change your life.

He encountered this firsthand, as his time in higher education allowed him the opportunity to travel outside of local counties and cities. He was able to meet many people internationally with different experiences and diverse cultures.

Hobbs ultimately believes that people can participate and absorb college expe-

rience through what they carry with them in engaging with others and making connections.

Tune in to the Student Spin podcast's latest episode of On The Record to hear an exclusive interview with President Hobbs as he shares more of his many life adventures.

## Community partner Gregory Shropshire missed by many

By Ashley Hall

Gregory Shropshire, a Navy veteran and community serviceman for the city of Rome, Georgia, passed away on Aug. 5 at the age of 51.

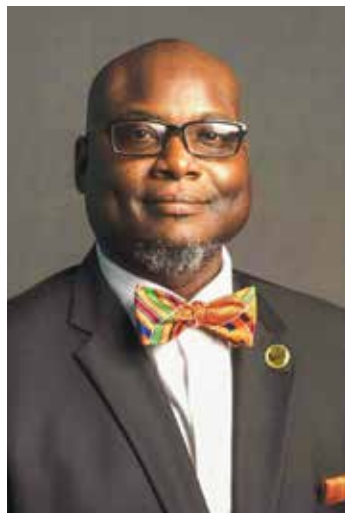
Shropshire was the president of the 100 Black Men of Rome – Northwest Georgia and orchestrated a community partnership with the GHC Brother2Brother/GHAME initiative through that position.

GHC Marietta Site Manager and GHAME Assistant Director, Ken Reaves, said, “The main thing that Greg did, for me, is that he gave the example of a young man who may come from a challenging background, but with the persistence of his character... I think he was a shining example of the possibilities of the human spirit.”

The programs mentor and guide minority men by exposing them to academic environments, providing networking and scholarship opportunities and demonstrating leadership skills.

Reaves said that Shropshire had a “tremendous impact” in the GHC B2B/GHAME initiative and that he could identify struggling students because he was one of them.

“I think a lot of Greg’s efforts over the years were to help encourage kids to stay in school and go on to college,” Jon Hershey, Shropshire’s mentor and GHC GHAME Director, said. “He and I have worked together on many things since I first met him almost 30 years ago.”



Shropshire was a co-director of the Foundation Camp, a GHC function that is conducted through a partnership with the 100 Black Men of Rome. It was created in 2005. Shropshire, Hershey and David Mathis, former GHC Director of Athletics.

“I can’t think of anyone that’s had a more steady and consistent impact on student lives at the college,” Hershey said. Shropshire took it upon himself to mentor some students as well. One such student is Quentin Leek, GHC alumni and former president of the Floyd chapter of B2B.

“This man was totally like a father figure to me,” Leek said. “He wasn’t afraid to have the hard conversations; he wasn’t afraid to let you know about yourself.” Leek added that Shropshire was selfless, a great influencer and that he influenced Leek to do “what I’m doing today and keep striving for what I’m doing.”

Shropshire was directly involved in other academic and community programs such as the GHC Commu-



nity Watch program, the Housing Authority, former president of the College Alumni Association and the Writer’s Academy at Anna K. Davie Elementary School.

“Mr. Shropshire served in several different capacities as a community partner,” Evan Snelling, GHC GHAME Coordinator and B2B Director, said. “He created opportunities to host workshops for our students,

attend and plan community outreach... and he served as a mentor for several of our GHAME/B2B students in addition to the countless hours he put in at the local (Rome) middle schools and high schools.”

Rontavious Coley, a student previously in the Writer’s Academy, enrolled at GHC. He is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Healthcare Management and owns a business in Rome called The Early Way on Broad. Coley is a former vice president and president of the Floyd chapter of B2B.

“[Shropshire’s] known so many people. He was like the bridging gap,” Coley said. “The stuff he was teaching us, he was doing it and giving back to the community itself.”

Gregory Shropshire hailed from Summerville, Georgia, and graduated from Chattooga County High School.

He went on to enroll at GHC after serving in the Navy, where he became the president of the Black Awareness Society, a student organization GHC had at the time. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta after graduating GHC and finished his bachelor’s degree.

Shropshire passed away following a motor vehicle accident that occurred late on Aug. 4 in Cobb County.

“Evan and I have already started having conversations about how we’re going to move forward without him,” Hershey said. “I’m sure we will, but there’s obviously a huge missing presence there.”

Reaves said, “People like Greg that are willing to take their time and their talent... to pour into other people, so anytime you have a loss like that, especially unexpected-ly, it’s a lot to overcome.”



Photos provided by Dr. Jon Hershey



# Student loan forgiveness: A step in the right direction

By Chris Daniel

President Joe Biden believes he has found the solution to the woes of American students who are laboring under the weight of student loan debt. His three-step plan is a step in the right direction but only sees a small corner of a larger picture.

The ever-increasing costs of secondary education have many students scrambling to meet these needs.

According to the U.S. Department of Education website, federal grants once covered almost 80 percent of costs. However, due to a failure in government oversight, that is no longer the case.

In consequence, the typical American student graduates with over \$25,000 in debt. Even worse are the students that still incur debt but never attain a degree.

In this dog-eat-dog economy that we as Americans live under, the idea of loan forgiveness is not popular in some quarters.

"If you can't afford college, you shouldn't go" is a common refrain these days. This very oversimplified and shortsighted viewpoint is inspired by the perceived cost to taxpayers.

However, this country is currently suffering from a dire shortage of medical staff, educators and mental health practitioners.

Manufacturing and industrial jobs are disappearing rapidly. An already grim picture in these areas would be painted even darker if



U.S. President Joe Biden's federal student loan forgiveness plan will forgive \$10,000 or \$20,000 depending on legal factors such as marital status and taxes filed. Some say the forgiveness amount is not enough and others say that it's a slap in the face to those who had to pay off all their student loans. *Art by Abby Chesnut*

those who sought a college degree surrendered to defeat because of cost.

On the other side are those who feel that the cancellation of student loan debt is to be praised as a very good thing.

As Georgia Highlands College Financial Aid Counselor Ana Kind said, "This is going to help a lot of people not be burdened by loan payments after graduation."

Billy Velasquez, a student at GHC, agrees. "I have a student loan and I will be applying for student loan forgiveness to keep my debt

down," he said.

Others believe that education should be encouraged due to the correlation between an educated populace and quality of life ratios. The higher the education ratio a society has the fewer social problems such as poverty, crime, bigotry and inequality exist within it.

Students who pay out of pocket or former students who have already paid off their loans have mixed emotions concerning Biden's plan. Many believe it unfair, while many approve.

Ray Muther, a student at

GHC, said: "Though I pay out of pocket, I like the idea of loan forgiveness. I think it's a good thing to help students."

Though President Biden's plan focuses largely on student loan debt and the nation's attention is centered on that one aspect, the plan has two additional steps.

The third step, though lacking in detail, is important due to its proposal to hold colleges accountable for rate hikes.

Objectors to Biden's plan as defective in the long run are correct. Debt forgiveness

cannot go on forever. Why should it have to? Students would have a better chance of not finding themselves in debt if the cost of secondary education was affordable.

Institutions of higher learning should be held accountable for increases in price and responsible for reducing costs where possible.

Eliminating added costs such as athletic fees for students who do not participate in sports, and hefty technology fees are among the efforts that could be made to ensure that a college education is more affordable.



A Bartow Family Resources Medical bus outside the BFR Medical building in Cartersville. BFR Medical offers early pregnancy care, including testing and education on options to those who are pregnant. *Photo by Ainsley Howard*

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# Editorial: How GHC can help those affected by the overturning of Roe v. Wade decision

By Six Mile Post Staff

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the Supreme Court on June 24, 2022 after almost 50 years of groundbreaking legal protection felt like a slap in the face to those affected. This has given individual states the right to ban or restrict abortions, making it difficult for people to gain access to healthcare resources.

Georgia Highlands should have resources in place for students directly impacted by the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

GHC can do so by plastering signs of abortion access in bathrooms and by sending mass emails to those students who are not frequently on campus. It is important that these posters and signs are not biased and do not appear to be conveying a political message. The information has to be concise for this reason.

Counseling and psychiatry evaluations are available for free for GHC students at the Student Support Center. Any students that need help processing any emotions or working through a hard time caused by the Supreme Court ruling can seek information and support there. While these services are available, there needs to be more direct and open access to resources for students seeking an abortion.

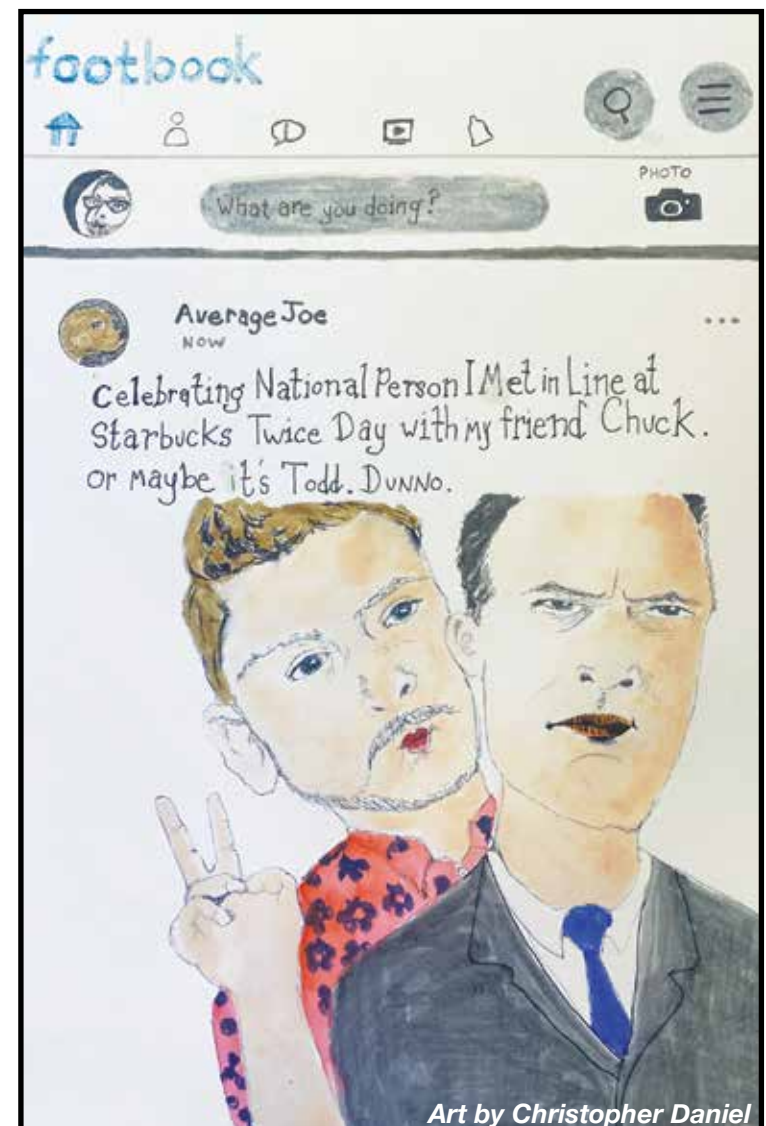
For students that are not seeking an abortion, there needs to be better resources implemented so students don't feel as though they have to choose between school or child-rearing. Students should feel supported to do both.

One way students can be supported from an educational standpoint is for early childhood classes to be offered. Unless a student is majoring in nursing, this class is not included in the curriculum and it would be very beneficial to expectant and new parents.

A long-run goal that GHC would greatly benefit from is having daycare centers set up across the larger campuses. Childcare is expensive and parents would not have to be concerned with finding childcare while attending classes. Students could also intern and gain experience by working in these daycares.

It is understood that funding would be needed for them to be established, but for the cause, it would not be impossible to accomplish.

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, students need to know that they can get support from their educational institutions. Students want to feel like school is a safe haven for them away from this wounded country.





# Employees face pressure to resume in-person jobs

By Tami-Ann Treasure

Working from home was the main method of keeping the workforce afloat when the Covid-19 pandemic struck in 2020. With the introduction of vaccines and safety protocols in place, employers are now trying to get workers to return to the office and out of the comfort of their homes.

The question is do they want workers in the office to boost productivity or simply to satisfy their need to monitor employees? There are pros and cons to working from home with the pros no doubt outweighing the cons.

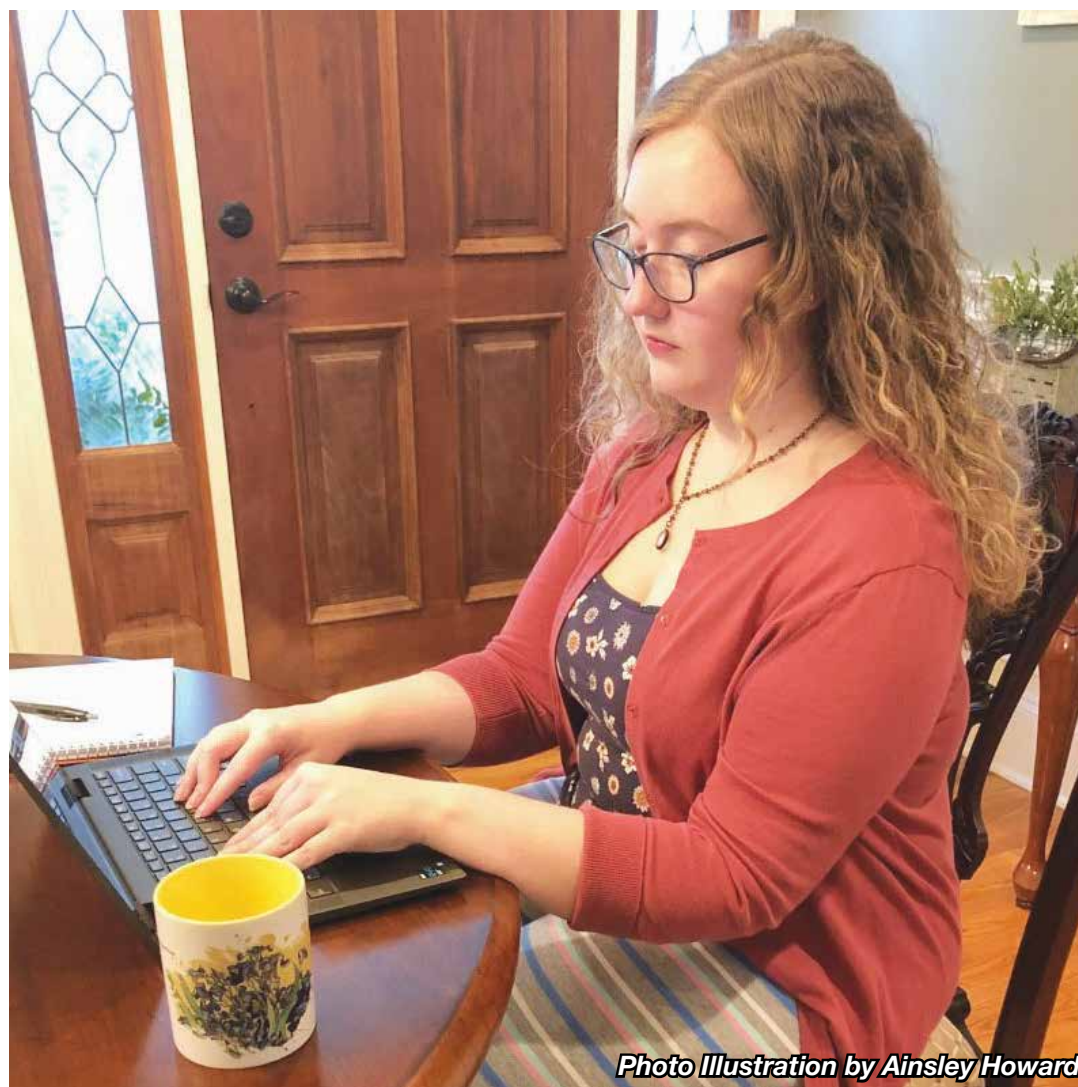
Working from home fosters personal, mental and emotional growth. Such is the case with Colin Dose, a student based on the Cartersville campus.

"Working from home helps me to sustain a regular schedule and work at my own pace," Dose said.

Knowing that you are working in a comfortable, secure environment improves your mental capacity to get your work done. I know I am better focused in the comfort of my home with no human interaction.

There is more time to improve one's health and exercise and a decreased risk of illness. Working from home gives me more time to plan my daily meals and find time to attend yoga and pilates sessions as well.

As we are experiencing high prices due to inflation, working from home also helps to save on fuel and vehicle wear and tear.



*Photo Illustration by Ainsley Howard*

GHC Associate Professor of English, Michelle Abbott, said, "Because I travel to campus at my own expense annually, and because I bring my parents and children... my annual trip to Georgia--just the work-related part of the trip--is about \$2500."

Abbott has been a fully online instructor since 2014, helping students from out of state, 12 hours away from the campus.

Some employers believe that workers need to be present in the office to be

more productive. I don't believe that workers need to be micromanaged to get work done and the pandemic proved this.

"I feel more productive working from home than in-office because there are fewer distractions," GHC Professor of Communications, Dana Pergrem, said.

This is not the case for everyone, as GHC Professor of English, Cindy Wheeler said that she gets very distracted when working at home. There is always something to divert attention to. Be it

the TV, a book, a device or even chores. Being in the office makes it more productive for her to get her tasks done.

Others are not as affected by distractions.

"I am neurodivergent, so I am good at working in an interrupted way; I'm not frazzled if my kids ask a question while I'm working..." Abbott said.

The cons of working from home will depend on the nature of one's job. GHC Professor of Psychology, Elizabeth Dose, said, "I nev-

er feel done when working from home and my classes feel like they are 24/7."

There is a constant need to respond to student emails or make clarifications to work assignments which could be limited to office hours.

Conversely, Abbott said that the blended home and work life allow her to be more available for her students than she otherwise would be in the office.

"I often chat with students on phone or via text while I prep dinner or fold laundry," Abbott said. "Sometimes I miss being in the classroom with students, but for the most part, me working as I do is a win-win."

Working from home has the potential to make one feel like a loner. Jessica Valdez, an English major at GHC says that working from home promotes less social engagement with peers. This can affect those that need human interactions to thrive.

Everyone has a different work style and some may be more productive in the office versus at home, but this is dependent on each individual. The risk of burnout, lack of teamwork and motivation are important factors, but organized workers have no problem striving in their home environment.

Productivity is not dependent on the environment, but on the worker, and working from home should be applied for a better work-life balance for those who can benefit.



# HBO removes titles in Discovery merger

By Victoria Bisette

Discovery and Warner Brothers are merging to form Warner Bros. Discovery. The merger has been met with conflicting responses after over 60 titles were removed from HBO in August.

Discovery announced plans to buy Warner Bros. and AT&T on March 11, 2022. Warner Bros., the parent company of HBO, reaffirmed with Discovery+ executives about the plans to merge streaming services on August 4, 2022 in a quarterly earnings call.

A website for the joint companies has been created, Warner Bros. Discovery, wbd.com.

The website states the joint company “[offers] audiences the world’s most differentiated and complete portfolio of content, brands, and franchises across television, film, streaming and gaming.”

John Ford, a Film Production major on the Floyd campus, shared his thoughts on the merger.

“I do like the idea of streaming services merging together or offering a bundle subscription,” Ford said.

HBO decided to remove many HBO originals and shows that are no longer available on live TV. Many

of the shows taken off the HBO platform are no longer available for streaming on any platforms or websites.

When questioned about the recent removals on Twitter, HBO said, “As we work to bring together HBO Max and Discovery+, we’re making some changes to our services. Part of that process includes the removal of select content.”

The removals caused disapproval of the merger from the public. The Warner Bros. decision to remove titles also raises the question if this complete removal of media could become common for media companies. Ford explained his stance on the removals.

“While it is inconvenient for a stream exclusive movie or TV show to be canceled or removed, the viewer moves on rather quickly,” Ford said. “They’re cutting these shows because they are not bringing in enough money to keep them on the platform, meaning viewership is down.”

When asked if the removals changed how Ford’s opinion of entering the field, Ford said, “It doesn’t change it much. My field of interest is in the post-production side of the film industry...which can



Art by Bree Messenger

be more stable.”

Creators of the titles removed from HBO don’t seem to share Ford’s view. Owen Dennis, the creator of “Infinity Train,” responded to the removal of his show from the service on his personal blog.

“I had no idea it was coming, neither did any other creator I’ve talked with, nor any of their representatives,” Dennis said.

Later in the post, Dennis gave a list of services where his show could still

be found and added that he did not know if his show would continue to remain available even across other platforms.

It remains unclear if Warner Bros. will keep removing titles from services as the merger continues. The Discovery+ and Warner Bros. merger sets an example of the potential future for streaming services.

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# GHC students and staff featured on set of 'Spirit Halloween: The Movie'

By Victoria Bisette

Several GHC students and Humanities Division Chair Seth Ingram worked on the horror film "Spirit Halloween: The Movie," which premiered at the Nashville Film Festival. It was released for two weeks in theaters beginning Sept. 30 and will be streaming on-demand on Oct. 11.

The movie was filmed almost entirely in Rome, Georgia, featuring various spots in town. Ingram said the production team "came in and loved" the locations.

"We opened the production offices in the PAM Studios building on Broad Street..." Ingram said. "We filmed in Cave Spring and different locations around Rome."

Ingram is listed as an assistant producer, working with film producer Mike Haggerty to find Georgia filming locations visible in the trailer of the film.

"We were crewing up and I tried to get as many students as we could on the film," Ingram said.

Involvement included students

as extras in the film and paid crew members like GHC students Damon Self and Joseph McDaniel, who both attend the Floyd campus. McDaniel worked as a production assistant (PA) and Self worked as a grip and electric swing on the set.

"It was a great experience for the students... to work on a professional set...with a budget that size in your backyard," Ingram said. "That doesn't happen often on a shoot, and it's kind of scattered around... but to shoot in one geographical location was very nice."

Ingram said that despite the local filming sites, "[Filming] was a challenge."

The filming for the movie took place between late Nov. 2021 through the beginning of Jan. 2022.

According to Ingram, the challenges presented themselves as pandemic accommodations, the winter weather and replacing town Christmas decorations with Halloween decor.

"I feel like every film set is different," McDaniel said. "It all depends



The Toys R Us building near the Mt. Berry Square Mall in Rome is the main setting for "Spirit Halloween: The Movie." The store closed its doors in 2018 due to bankruptcy and has since been used as a Spirit Halloween pop-up store every fall. *Photo by Abby Chesnut*



The DeSoto theatre located in downtown Rome is featured in the first few seconds of the "Spirit Halloween: The Movie" trailer. The film features multiple locations in Rome and Cave Spring including the abandoned Toys R Us, Celanese and the Robert Redden Footbridge. *Photo by Abby Chesnut*

on the genre of whatever the purpose of what making the movie is, you just got to learn to adapt quickly and go forwards from there."

Self found that the ability to network stood out to him most on set.

"Because I met somebody on that film that ended up inviting me to two commercials," Self said. "It was just a start, I guess, into my film-making career."

The filming took place before the GHC internship course for humanities was implemented. Students involved with "Spirit Halloween: The Movie" were employed on the film and were paid rather than earning course credit.

More projects involving students like "Spirit Halloween: The Movie" have already begun. GHC students have already filmed and are in the post-production stage for another feature film, according to Ingram.

"There's a lot of projects out there," Ingram said. "Hopefully, we'll have some more happen like that very soon, be it in Rome, Car-

tersville, Paulding, anywhere in the Northwest Georgia area that we can make them happen."

Self said, "I would definitely recommend any student that wants to be more involved in film to definitely try out Georgia Highlands Film club or any of Seth [Ingram's] classes... he will definitely get you on a film or get you some experience in any way."

More plans are in the works to add additional classes related to film for GHC students.

"I'm trying to build... to make student films," Ingram said. "We're trying to find partnerships and maybe developing more... acting-for-the-camera type courses [for students] to get more involved that way."

Three student films were shot over the 2022 summer break that are currently in the editing stage and are being set to premiere at the Rome International Film Festival.





**Left:** Chargers player Jarred Rosser (0) is helped off the court after an injury by teammates Chris Wright (3) and Jarrel Rosser during their matchup against Albany Technical College on March 4, 2022. **Right:** Chargers player Brandon Barron gets checked out by trainer Amanda Moore after a knee injury during their game against Albany Technical College on March 4, 2022. *Photos by Brandon Dyer*

# Injuries the new norm for today's athletes

## Sports Commentary

By Brandon Dyer

There are many ways that sports have evolved over the course of generations, and it seems now more than ever, injuries are becoming a bigger part of the game.

Long gone are the days when "iron man" players such as Cal Ripken Jr. and Brett Favre, who would play all of the games that their team had.

Now, coaches are having players sit entire games sometimes to keep them healthy.

However, there lies a bigger issue under the surface: youth sports. From a younger and younger age, kids

are expected to be on travel ball rosters in order to make connections.

Parents want the best for their kids, so they will sign them up every year. Then the coaches for these teams push the bar so high that injuries are bound to happen just due to overworking.

According to Stanford Children's Health statistics, 62 percent of sports-related injuries occur during practice. Football, bicycling and basketball accounted for roughly 585,000 sports injuries in 2021.

GHC is not excluded from injuries either. Two Lady Chargers are currently sidelined with offseason injuries: incoming freshman DeJanae Dennis-Cassanova

and returning player Jada Alston.

Dennis-Cassanova is highly touted by Lady Chargers head coach Brandan Harrell for her toughness. Dennis-Cassanova said that injuries are just a part of the game.

"An injury less than a week after arriving wasn't good and I came here to play. I've had my fair share of injuries," Dennis-Cassanova said.

Alston suffered an ACL tear in the offseason and will have to sit out the entire season recovering from the injury.

Alston was a fan favorite last season, winning the GCAA Defensive Player of the Year award and playing

a major role in the Lady Chargers deep playoff run last season. She was expected to be the most highly sought after Lady Charger on the team this season.

The Lady Chargers were in the middle of a scrimmage against South Georgia Technical College when Alston said she felt something pop.

"It felt like labor pain or something. It was so painful that I just started screaming," Alston said.

The injury was the first of Alston's playing career.

Chargers team trainer Amanda Moore said that she has "seen injuries come in waves" since she first became a certified trainer in 2015.

"There will be times where

we have a lot going on and then out-of-the-blue injuries pick up exponentially," Moore said.

The Doctors at KC Health published a list of things that they feel could prevent the rise of sports injuries. They said athletes committing to one specific sport instead of multiple sports would help decrease injuries. This allows a player to rest during the offseason of that sport instead of immediately having to jump in another one. The Doctors at KC Health found that ACL injuries are up 400 percent.

While the sports world is ever changing and new things will come along, injuries are the new norm in this practice-filled age.

# Dennis-Cassanova's fresh start

By Brandon Dyer

Oftentimes there are players that come in and take over the team they are on, such as Jashanti Simmons over the past two years for the Lady Chargers.

Now with a majority of the women's team that reached the NJCAA National Championship game gone, the Lady Chargers turn to a new set of faces.

One of those faces: DeJanae Dennis-Cassanova.

Dennis-Cassanova will be taking over the point guard spot for the Lady Chargers this upcoming season, a position that Lady Chargers head coach Brandan Harrell has coveted highly in the past.

"I'm harder on point guards than everyone else on the floor because I need them to think the way I think and to understand situational basketball," Harrell said.

Coming to GHC from the United Kingdom, Dennis-Cassanova has been playing organized basketball since she was 10 years old.

She was part of the Nottingham Academy Wildcats before coming to GHC, where she played in 16 of the teams' 29 games during her final season with the Wildcats, averaging 5.7 minutes per game.

Harrell said he was impressed from the moment he met Dennis-Cassanova.

"The first meeting was very positive... it's not just the player, it's the personality and ability to work hard. We knew that DJ was a good

player and had high character," Harrell said.

Dennis-Cassanova said that she was ecstatic about the opportunity to join the Lady Chargers.

"It was such a good feeling. I was really overwhelmed, but grateful mostly," Dennis-Cassanova said. "Being able to go out and do what I love to do is really great for me."

On the court, Dennis-Cassanova said that she has a lot to offer the Lady Chargers this upcoming season.

"A lot of it is decision-making and I want to be able to make quick and critical decisions," she said.

Dennis-Cassanova's journey at GHC has gotten off to a rocky start due to outside factors and a knee injury, but she says that she can overcome those obstacles.

"A lot of people worked hard for me to get here, so I want to work hard and get

to play so I can show them what I can do," Dennis-Cassanova said.

The Lady Chargers are awaiting results for her injury, but Harrell said that the injury isn't a catastrophic one.

"It's going to be one that we can come back from relatively quickly," Harrell said.

Dennis-Cassanova was also critical of herself in one specific aspect of her game. "As the point guard, I need to see the situation of the game because the coach isn't always going to want to use his timeouts, so sometimes I need to take control of the game in those split-second situations," Dennis-Cassanova said.

While Dennis-Cassanova certainly has big shoes to fill, she seems ready to take on any challenge that comes her way during her time with the Lady Chargers.



Lady Chargers player DeJanae Dennis-Cassanova prepares herself for the season. *Photo by Brandon Dyer*

## NBA Predictions



**Chris Marshall**

**West**

*Playoff Locks*

1. Clippers
2. Suns
3. Warriors
4. Mavericks
5. Grizzlies
6. Nuggets

*Play-in tournament*

Timberwolves  
Trailblazers  
Lakers  
Pelicans

*Non-playoff*

Spurs  
Rockets  
Thunder  
Kings  
Jazz

**East**

*Playoff Locks*

1. Bucks
2. Celtics
3. Heat
4. Nets
5. 76ers
6. Bulls

*Play-in tournament*

Hawks  
Raptors  
Cavs  
Hornets

*Non-playoff*

Knicks  
Wizards  
Pacers  
Pistons  
Magic



**Brandon Dyer**

**West**

*Playoff Locks*

1. Mavericks
2. Nuggets
3. Clippers
4. Warriors
5. Grizzlies
6. Timberwolves

*Play-in tournament*

Suns  
Lakers  
Pelicans  
Kings

*Non-playoff*

Spurs  
Rockets  
Thunder  
Jazz  
Trailblazers

**East**

*Playoff Locks*

1. 76ers
2. Celtics
3. Heat
4. Hawks
5. Bucks
6. Nets

*Play-in tournament*

Bulls  
Cavs  
Knicks  
Hornets

*Non-playoff*

Wizards  
Pacers  
Raptors  
Pistons  
Magic