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# SIX MILE POST

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## Leadership Conference features GHC faculty and keynoters

By Ashley Hall

The second annual Charge Into Leadership Conference was Friday, Oct. 14, on the GHC Cartersville campus. It was coordinated in conjunction with the GHC School of Business and Professional Studies and Student Engagement to bring strong leaders to the college and teach attendees how to use leadership skills to forge the life they envision for themselves.

The conference proceeded between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., with three breakout sessions led by GHC staff and other speakers and two speaker panels: the Women in Leadership panel and the Entrepreneurship panel.

There were 96 total attendees with 30 of them being high school students hailing from the Youth Leadership Bartow program of the Cartersville-Bartow Chamber of Commerce.

Shanika Turner, Associate Professor of Business Administration, said the purpose of the conference is to teach students about leadership.

"We give them many different examples of leadership with our keynote speaker, with our panels and



ASHLEY HALL | PHOTOGRAPHER

**Left to right:** Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Lisa Jellum, Dean of Business and Professional Studies Melanie Largin, Professor of Communication Travice Obas, Cartersville campus Dean Leslie Johnson, Dean of Humanities Dr. Jessica Lindberg and Assistant Vice President of Academic Resources and Retention Michelle Lockett.

our breakout sessions, and so, it's really focused around leadership and showing great examples of leadership and how to be a great leader," Turner said.

"We were very excited to be able to open it up to a little bit of the community to bring in some high school students so they could experience the Leadership Conference as well," Turner added.

The keynote speaker, George Mitchell, is an Atlanta native currently residing in California. He works in Corporate America in finan-

cial services and licensing agents to help with investment securities and helping families become financially independent.

"The biggest thing is understanding what you want," Mitchell said. "I think the biggest thing is just really recognize what your weakness is but put a lot of focus on your strengths because your strengths are something that's a part of you."

Mitchell said that people need structure in their lives to be successful, and for him, that structure was band.

"You know how the military is, it's very structured, everybody's on one accord, and so, it just taught me a lot of discipline," Mitchell said. "I think that's the main thing that helped me become the great leader that I am today."

Joy Hambrick, Division Chair of Business and Professional Studies, led a breakout session about having a healthy work-life balance.

"You're learning as a leader, you're supposed to be working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the

knowledge that I hope to impress on [attendees] is that that's not a good life to live," Hambrick said.

She said that leaders need to have a balanced life between work and leisure in order to give their best to their profession and their team.

Grace Belisle, a Woodland High School student in the Youth Leadership group, said "it was really interesting to see how balance is really, really important, and how there's different types of balance and different things that you need to do to be in a satisfied position."

Alec Morris, a GHC Associate of Science major, said that his favorite breakout session was Mindset Mastery led by H.A.N.K. Music and NYLA XO, independent music producers who own a recording studio.

"The most important thing that I could take away from their interview is to keep your passion on your mind and to always remind yourself of what your passion is because I feel like the main point in living is just to pursue what you love," Morris said.

(Story continued on page 9)



# GHC annual Wyoming study trip gets an upgrade

By Julia Haynes

This summer, GHC is having its 26th annual Wyoming Field Study trip led by Geology Professor Billy Morris, but a new face will be joining the crew: STEM Division Chair Brandy Rogers.

Rogers tagged along for the 2022 Wyoming trip to “see what it’s all about,” but this will be her first year teaching ecology courses to attending students.

“I think the thing I’m most excited about is sharing [the trip] with the students,” Rogers said. “Getting to see students experience [Wyoming] for the first time...I can see the impact that it has, and I can anticipate what that’s going to do for their education going forward.”

The Wyoming summer field courses will offer the opportunity to earn 11 science credits. Students can complete all Area D requirements through

geology— eight total credit hours—or receive four credit hours in ecology, all while experiencing the ecosystems and geological formations of Wyoming and Utah.

There will also be an optional P.E. class called Fitness Walking and a special topics course called Dinosaurs.

The overall trip fee is \$1700, not including tuition, and it is assessed as a lab fee. Financial aid can apply to some students. Spots for the trip are first come, first serve.

The departure date for 2023 will be on June 17. Students will begin traveling through 11 states starting from the Rome campus in two 15-passenger buses. There will be 24 students as well as professors Morris and Rogers. The trip will take around 30 hours with many stops along the way.

Students will be given background information on each course before leaving so they can build founda-

tional knowledge during the trip.

There will be stops in Casper, Thermopolis, Cody, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, Kemmerer, Dinosaur National Monument and the Arches and Canyonland National Parks. Students will return to Rome on July 8.

Morris said that the integration of geology and ecology is exciting for the 2023 trip because science in the natural world is not separated into categories.

“To explore the interconnections and the way that these two disciplines interact with one another is very exciting and the students seem to really react well to that,” Morris said.

“I found a sign when we were out in Yellowstone last year that said exactly that, and it got me really excited because that’s our whole plan,” Rogers said.

Students will spend time doing hands-on work in the geology classes: observing, documenting, taking notes and trying to record and explain what they see.

“Wyoming has rocks from every geologic time period in the states,” Morris said. “It has a wide range of surface features, like volcanism, streams, glaciers and active mountain building. It’s a living textbook.”

The ecology classes will focus on seeing how organisms interact first-hand with both the living and non-living components of their ecosystem.



CALEB BLAYLOCK | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Grand Prismatic hot spring, the largest hot spring in Yellowstone, is one of many features seen by students during the Wyoming trip.

“We’re standing there, looking at it, taking pictures of it, touching it, drawing it, writing about it in the field as opposed to doing it in a classroom,” Rogers said.

There will be a wide variety of plants and animals to examine, including everything from microorganisms to big animals such as elk, bison, bears and wolves.

While geology students will look at the rock formations there, ecology students will investigate desert plants and animals in order to study the adaptations these organisms have undergone to survive in their environments.

Students will get to hike, collect fossils, tour museums and more over the course of the trip. Students who were previously strangers grew to become friends on past trips.

“I still stay in touch with many of those students

from 20 years ago or more,” Morris said. “I really got to know students outside the classroom and develop relationships with them.”

The trip has given some students a new perspective according to Morris.

“When you put students in a challenging physical place where they’re having to work hard, where they’re doing something they might not try on their own otherwise, it really opens a lot of doors in the brain,” Morris said.

“It will give a fantastic opportunity for students to expand their knowledge in a unique and rewarding way,” Jason Christian, Dean of the School of STEM, said. “This expansion we hope to be the beginning of new study-away options for more GHC students in the coming years.”



CALEB BLAYLOCK | PHOTOGRAPHER

Geology Professor Billy Morris’ summer 2022 geology class hikes in Yellowstone.



# GHC crime-free for three years

By Chris Daniel

The recently released Georgia Highlands crime report for 2022 documented no major incidents. This is the third consecutive year that the report has been crime-free, making GHC one of the safest institutions in the state.

Crime and safety is a major concern for both students and faculty as they move about campus. The GHC record of low crime is an asset to everyone who arrives on campus daily to conduct the business of higher education.

Alex Stokes, a student at GHC, has taken note of the lack of crime. “This campus is a lot safer than most campuses I’ve been on,” she said.

Each site has its own office and certified officers patrol the campuses in both marked cars and on foot. They respond to and follow up on all reported incidents of crime along with local law enforcement.

“We have a great working relationship with local law enforcement and the visible presence of our outside security contractor, Dynamic Security, helps keep our campuses quiet and safe,” GHC Chief of Police, David Horace, said.

Horace seeks to continue the consecutive crime-free streak going. “We would like to institute more crime awareness programming

and more preventative measures,” Horace said. “We look to pick back up on these things where we necessarily had to leave off due to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Some other schools are not so fortunate. According to data from the U.S. Department of Education, both Kennesaw State University and the University of West Georgia are plagued by crime.

In 2019, KSU reported 3.98 incidents, which works out to 10.53 per 1,000 students. UWG reported 172 incidents in that same year, 12.99 per 1,000 students. GHC reported a single incident that year.

GHC students and faculty are aware of the lucky position they are in at the school. “This campus doesn’t have the same issues that the bigger campuses have,” Cindy Wheeler, GHC professor of English, said.

Campus housing is the source of some of the problems with crime on larger campuses. While GHC campus police do not have campus housing to patrol, it does have to contend with five different campuses which are miles apart. The spread-out nature of GHC creates logistic complications in the

effort to ensure a safe and secure educational environment.

All colleges and universities must release a report of their crime statistics yearly in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure Act. These reports are available from the U.S. Department of Education or directly through the schools themselves.



CHRIS DANIEL | ARTIST

## Upcoming GHC events

Nov. 15	Nov. 18	Nov. 29
Native American Heritage Month Speaker Series: Mary Crowe	PTK Induction via Zoom	Native American Speaker Series: Daniel Steele
Paulding Campus & Zoom 1-2 pm	Time to be announced	Mark Twain Lunch and Learn
		Time to be announced
		Cartersville campus & Zoom 2-3 pm



# GHC named Aspen Prize semi-finalist

By Abigail Henderson

The Aspen Institute awards a prize of one million dollars to a community college every two years. One hundred and fifty colleges were eligible to participate in the competition this year. GHC has been selected as one of the 25 semi-finalists in the nation for the award.

“Our faculty and staff work so hard to create a caring and supportive environment for our students. Being included in such a strong group of institutions who have committed themselves to serve that greater purpose is [the] validation of the work we do day in and day out,” Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives, Jesse Bishop, said.

Per the Aspen Institute, colleges are chosen based on their distinguished excellence in five key areas:

1. Teaching and learning
2. Certificate and degree completion
3. Transfer and bachelor’s attainment
4. Workforce success
5. Equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds

The analysis of this em-

pirical data was the driving force behind the selection and progression of GHC throughout the competition.

“A lot of institutions claim to put students first, but we have the data to back up our claims,” Bishop said.

The time it took for the Aspen Institute to evaluate GHC allowed reflection on what makes the college a special place for the students.

“It is not just academics that help GHC make the impact it does,” Dr. Sarah Coakley, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, said. “It is an ‘all of the college’ effort even to get nominated for something like the Aspen Prize.”

The Aspen Institutes’ recognition of GHC was due to the dedication of the GHC president, professional advisors, recruiters, campus deans and many more departments in the college.

“I hope our students and communities see this and know just how hard everyone here works toward student success, how focused we are on improving each and every term,” said Bishop.

Dr. Coakley’s Provost Speech on the Aspen Prize

shed light on how GHC’s nomination would not have been possible without the faculty’s forethought for continued growth and success.

It was a joint effort from all the departments to help improve student experiences and prepare them for other challenges that may lie ahead.

“Just being recognized alone by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program is incredible,” Nicholas Godfrey, Director of Communications, said.

“It is always wonderful to be recognized for the hard work of our students alongside the hard work of our faculty and staff.”

“I’m deeply honored and proud to be a part of this

team and engaged in this work with you,” Dr. Coakley said in her Provost speech.

“I am excited for what’s next for GHC, and I have a

feeling we might get a shot at bringing home the 2025 Aspen Prize.”



ABIGAIL HENDERSON | PHOTOGRAPHER

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# How do you feel about GHC adding more evening classes?



**Enshaly Ochoa**  
*GHC student*

“I feel like with peoples’ schedules–yeah, I think that would be ok, just because some people prefer to work in the mornings, and instead of taking time off in the mornings to come to class, they have a chance to be able to go to evening classes and be able to work in the mornings.”

**Issac Carrol**  
*GHC student*

“For me, no. In general, sure, a lot of people would probably enjoy that, but it’d be a lot better for certain people, but for me, I’ve got work, I travel a lot, so no.”

**Malcolm Lovett**  
*GHC student*

“That would work for people who work in the morning and in the afternoon. I work at night- I mean, it depends on your job schedule, your life, if you can get there is the big thing. If they’re online courses, then sure. I’m sure a lot of people would really like that.”

## Fall Frenzy takes GHC by storm



Students and guests are judged on their Halloween costumes. Pets and their owners also participate in the festivities.



LAILA MCCLEERY | PHOTOGRAPHER



# Title IX: Empowering women for 50 years

By Tami-Ann Treasure

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that was enacted in 1972. This law prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities.

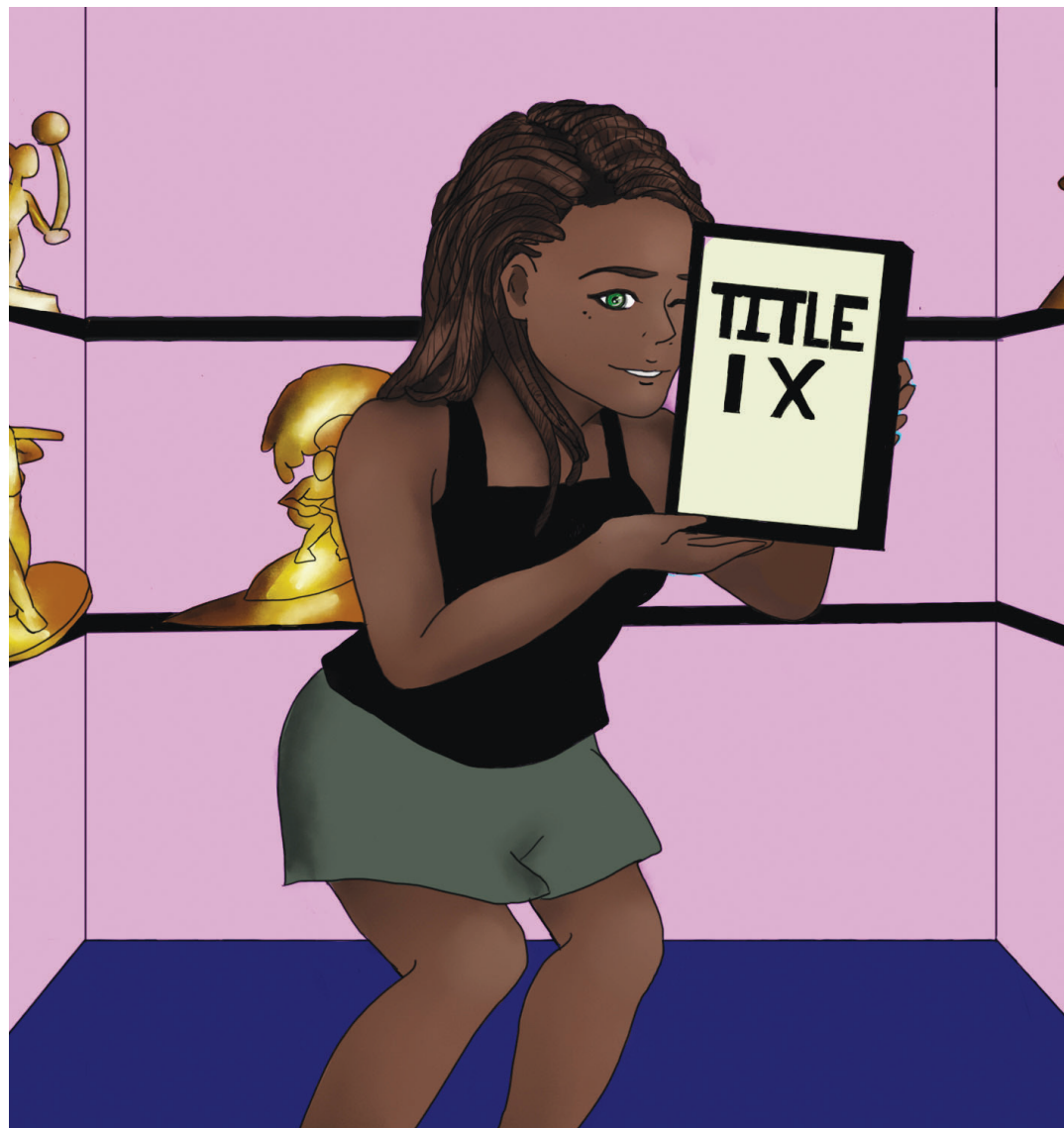
All members of a school family are protected under this law: Undergraduate and graduate students, staff, faculty and even visitors. This law also applies to elementary and secondary schools, public and private.

It is important to speak on the relevance Title IX in our academic society today as we acknowledge the 50th anniversary.

Title IX is no doubt still relevant today as its “Final Rule” was released in 2020. This rule made a clear distinction between how schools should respond to a formal complaint versus other sexual harassment allegations. If the law no longer had relevance, there would be no need to update its standards.

Schools have a responsibility to respond to all complaints and allegations and failure to do so gives the Department of Education the right to investigate, enforce Title IX and force accountability.

“Discrimination is often confused with Title IX, but sexual violence is most definitely a hostile environment for a victim and therefore can be classified as discrimination since sexual harassment of any kind prevents students from equal access to education,” Cynthia Elsberry, GHC assistant professor of Health Sciences, said.



BREE MESSENGER | ARTIST

Limitations should not be placed on what is considered discrimination. Every student deserves the right for their complaints to be heard and acted upon.

This law also sheds a light on how males and females are treated in college athletics regarding competence and equality.

“I feel like boys will always get more funding in their activities no matter how they

produce compared to girls,” Madiala Diabate, a student athlete at GHC, said.

Young women and men being extended the same opportunities to participate in sports and school activities is a great way for them to maximize their potential.

“I believe we need to ensure that we are funding men’s and women’s sports on a level field,” GHC Director of Athletics, Brandan

Harrell, said. “We need to continue to offer young women the opportunity to participate in athletics at the college level.”

Knowing that this legislation exists to protect us all from discrimination and sexual harassment makes the times we are living in feel a bit safer.

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# Is AI art the death of expression?

By Alexis Hall

On Aug. 29, 2022, Jason Allen submitted his art piece “Théâtre D’opéra Spatial” to the Colorado State Fair annual fine arts competition. His print was an immediate hit in the “digital art/digitally manipulated photography” category and won the first-place blue ribbon and a \$300 prize.

The significance of this win, however, stems from the method he used to create this beautiful piece. He didn’t use traditional art mediums like thread, clay, paint, etc. He instead created this piece through a program called MidJourney, an artificial intelligence program that turns lines of text into hyper-realistic graphics.

Midjourney operates by taking a text stream of descriptions given by the user. Virtually everyone

with internet access could generate an award-winning art piece with a good enough description.

Artists are furious, and understandably so. Allen’s win undermines years of effort, hard work and dedication that all artists experience to perfect their art in their respective mediums. Some are even nervous about their jobs or degrees becoming obsolete with the potential AI replacement.

Here is where the discussion of ‘what is art?’ comes in. According to Britannica, art is “a visual object or experience consciously created through an expression of skill or imagination.” Art is arguably one of the most human of all practices because of the emotion it requires. It sets humans apart from all other lifeforms on Earth. So how could Allen’s entry even be considered an art piece?

GHC student Stockton Norrod and I looked into Midjourney together and both determined the only work or frustration we felt while generating the sub-par images was having to figure out a way to get Batman to come out not looking deformed. Even if the image came out well, we both agreed that we had zero respect or emotional connection to the piece.

Stockton and I also discussed what the role of AI is and should be in society.

He said he finds it useful in certain aspects and later explained “it is useful in sectors that are repetitive and better suited for machines i.e. manufacturing, automotives, computer networking.” He later said he “worries for the industrial art students who create commissioned logos, emblems and fonts for companies,” as

the art students are more likely to get replaced.

The possibility of an organization constructing an AI to generate company images is alarming and possibly already taking place because it saves money. Time and money are the biggest motivators and threats when it comes to AI. The productivity is higher, but at what cost? The

**“I do not think AI can ever replace an art student’s career.” - Mohan Naidu**

job of an artist.

I also asked two GHC staff members the same question ‘How do you think the introduction of AI-generated artwork will affect GHC’s current art students?’

Mohan Naidu is an assistant professor of computer science at the Cartersville campus. He said this subject has actually hit really close to home as he is a professor in STEM, and his daughter is an artist and art teacher at Hillgrove High School.

In contrast to Stockton’s comment, Naidu said he is doubtful of AI becoming a replacement in regard to the impact of human art.

“I do not think AI can ever replace an art student’s career. The ‘human’ element of art often lies in the conversation and response to the piece. Inherently the ‘why’ for AI-generated pieces will never be there. The emotion behind the algorithm is likely missing” Naidu said.

He did, however, see it as a potential tool for aspiring artists, just as Scott Arthur, GHC assistant professor of art, also stated. He looked at this situation the same way as I, Stockton and Naidu did.

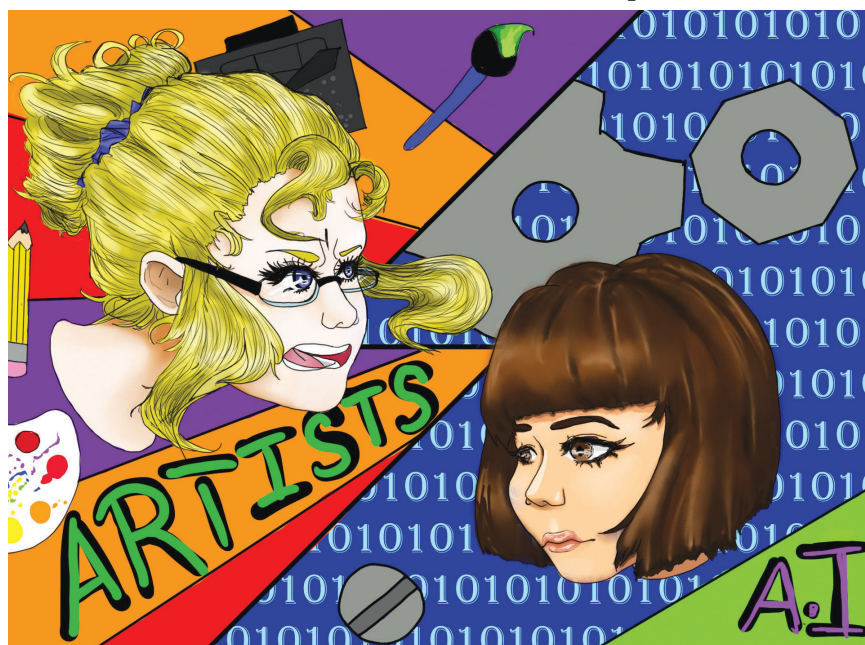
Arthur explained to me how deep the creation of an artist’s work is and how “the

artist’s own history, temperament, their environment, people they love, what was for breakfast” can affect the result. The human aspect an AI will never recreate.

“If I’m pessimistic, I view AI-generated art as simply typing a request for a set of coordinates and retrieving a desired output. If I’m optimistic, I’d say the tool an artist uses is irrelevant,” Arthur said.

In an interview with the New York Times, Allen said “I’m not going to apologize for it,” he said. ‘I won, and I didn’t break any rules.’” Unfortunately, he is correct. I reviewed the Colorado State Fair rules and the only related rule would be, “All items entered for the competition must be entered in the name of the person who created the entry.” With “Jason M. Allen via Midjourney,” he checks that box.

What Jason Allen did is inexcusable and the art piece Midjourney conjured should never have been considered for the win. However, art is most certainly not dead. Art may look different in the future, but creative minds will never cease their passions.



BREE MESSENGER | ARTIST



# Which exam is better: online or in-person?

**In-person**  
By Alexis Hall

Since the introduction of COVID-19, online exams have begun their rise. However, can online exams really compare to its predecessor, the in-person exam?

Personally, I prefer in-person exams. It is much easier to focus in a testing environment with no issues with technology or question comprehension, and academic integrity is easier to uphold.

Imagine taking a three-hour exam, like the AP exam, at home. This was done before and it definitely paled in comparison to the real thing. I couldn't focus and almost ran out of time. At home, the adrenaline rush is almost non-existent. Distractions are everywhere and students can easily lose their train of thought.

Students like me with attention and procrastination issues have an even harder time focusing on a boring exam while at home. Also the question of technological issues or internet access. Do all students have internet access or a device that can run an online exam program at home? Yes, the school may be able to provide those things, but who will fund them?

In the instance where the student does have access, there is a plethora of problems that may arise before or during the exam. While in-person exams have someone on hand to assist them, a student at home is stranded for a period of time until someone can help remotely.

Another issue is that sometimes the wording of a question can throw me off. In-person, a simple hand raise and "Hey, what does this mean?" can solve this issue. Online, the student just has to roll with it and hope their interpretation of the question is correct.

Just like there is nothing stopping a student from having a movie on in the background, there is nothing stopping online exam takers from using their phones or notes during the exam.

During an in-person exam, teachers usually ask students to put all of their resources away to accurately test their understanding of the material, as their brains should be the only resource used. I have been homeschooled online and I can vouch that there is definitely the temptation to cheat when there is nothing stopping you. Who would even know if they didn't know your actual performance on the subject?

As a student on track to becoming a teacher, I will always align with in-person exams. Tests are supposed to be a reference for both students and teachers to track their understanding of topics covered in class. The only way for this to be accurate is to remove distractions and the use of resources. It is a system that has worked for decades and if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

**Online**  
By Patrick Daniel

There have been debates about whether taking in-person or online exams are better since their rise during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I much prefer online testing. For me, there is less stress involved in the process of taking an exam online. Online testing in my own home is way more relaxing than in-person testing in a classroom. Teachers can't look over my shoulder when I take tests at home.

One question that is commonly asked regarding the disadvantages of online testing is "What if the technology doesn't work at the time of the test?" Most technology does not randomly stop working. If it does, there are people who specialize in fixing technology and they will fix any issues.

Online tests can also be taken at any time. If it was assigned on a Monday and then it's due on a Saturday, the test could be taken at any time during the week.

Some GHC students such as Billy Velasquez, feel the same as I do. "I prefer online testing, as it is easier to concentrate," Velasquez said.

When I am at home with more concentration time, I can reread the questions to ensure that I am actually understanding the intended meaning of the question.

During an in-person test, other students in the classroom could interrupt concentration. Online testing does not have that problem.

While people might say that there are more distractions, I believe that certain limits on online tests, like time and number of attempts, help with distractions. The allowed number of attempts makes me think that there are only a few chances left, so I need to read the questions carefully.

GHC Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, Josie Bauier, said, "Limits like time will help with distractions."

When I see the time for the exam counting down, it forces me to focus my attention on the task at hand to guarantee that I finish.

With online testing, I never worry about pencils breaking during the middle of the test. The only worry with online testing is the battery life of the device that is being used. What if the device is in danger of running out of battery? However, a simple solution to that is to keep the device charged. Have a charger on you at all times and make sure you're near an accessible electrical outlet.

Online testing, I find, is the preferred option over in-person. For me, it is more relaxing and less distracting. I can adjust my surroundings, such as lighting and temperature, to my liking and there aren't any extra noises or movements to cause distractions.



VICTORIA BISSETTE (PHOTO ILLUSTRATION) & PATRICK DANIEL | PHOTOGRAPHERS



# Entertainment industry workers demand fair pay

By Victoria Bissette

The concern over fair pay and the rights of artists and actors has reemerged over the past two months as creatives have utilized social media as a call to action. Fan and company responses to these public outcries have been a mix of support and dismissal.

“Creative-field compensation is sometimes at a disadvantage,” GHC Associate Professor of Art, Russell Cook, said. “I think because music and art are not always seen as valuable except in an entertainment sense.”

That disadvantage presents itself in the inconsistency in pay among entertainment workers.

“For fair compensation, you’d want the worker to be able to make a decent living, support a family, have pride in their work etc.,” Cook said.

Many of these factors underline creatives’ concerns with their working conditions. Creators of the WEBTOON LoveBot, Chase Keels and Miranda Mundt, shared an open letter on Sep. 8, detailing the issues they experienced working as artists and writers for the WEBTOON company.

The letter describes issues the creators have experienced such as communication from the company, lack of promotion, access to their series data on the platform and meeting payout requirements for the company’s Minimum Revenue Threshold (MRT).

“Some creators make less than \$300 USD for each 40-panel episode due to needing to pay out of their own pockets for assistants, and still will not have the boon of fast pass to make up for it even a little,” Keels and Mundt wrote.

WEBTOON responded to the letter by posting an announcement responding to frequently asked questions from the creators and a plan to



ABBY CHESNUT | ARTIST

hold webinars with creators to discuss concerns on a regular basis.

“We’re in a sort of ‘Gilded Age’ right now, where labor is valued at much less than it used to be while corporate profits are at record highs,” Cook said. “It’s a political choice that people need to come to terms with if it has any hope of changing.”

Cook’s point is why many voice actors (VAs) have reached out to their fan bases to explain why they stepped down from roles. Most recently, VAs such as Kyle McCarley’s announcement leaving the part of Mob in season 3 of “Mob Psycho 100” and Helena Taylor announcing her refusal to voice Bayonetta in “Bayonetta 3.”

In the statement, Taylor said the pay offered for her role as Bayonetta was “an insult to me the amount of time that I took to work on my talent and everything that I have given to this game and to the fans.”

“I was just asking for a fair, living wage in line with the value that I bring to this game,” Taylor explained in a Twitter thread.

Negotiation is what McCarley was after when he revealed the apprehension of Crunchyroll, a popular anime streaming website, to take on a SAG-AFTRA contract for “Mob Psycho 100” season 3.

“It’s not about money,” McCarley said in his video. “They (Crunchyroll) just don’t want to put it on a union contract.”

McCarley goes on to explain how he proposed a deal to Crunchyroll. He would work non-union on season 3 if Crunchyroll agreed to sit down with executives from SAG-AFTRA to draft a union contract for potential use on future productions.

“An agreement to good faith negotiations,” McCarley said.

Since his original announcement, McCarley has been promoting his proposal for negotiations with the hashtag “JustAMeeting” on Twitter. As of Oct. 28, Crunchyroll has yet to respond to McCarley’s calls for SAG-AFTRA negotiation.

“Unions help to keep the machine running,” Cook said. “As the old American system of companies offering workers retirement and benefits is dying, unions can be important in maintaining a collective voice fighting exploitation.”

Workers in creative fields continue to advocate for better working conditions, pay and an understood value of the work they provide.

“A bundle of sticks is much stronger than one, as long as those sticks can’t be convinced that the rest of the group wants to take their stuff,” Cook said.

## (Leadership continued from page 1)

Morris added that while the conference provided good general information on leadership, he would have liked to see more in-depth guides on how exactly some of the breakout session leaders got to the point they are at today.

“I would want to apply the thing I learned here by having a more consistent schedule and just aligning what I want to do with what I actually do,” Morris said.

Courtney Ringo, a GHC student pursuing a

Bachelor’s in Healthcare Management, said that she plans to use the things she learned at the Leadership Conference to help her earn a master’s in human resources.

“The No. 1 key to being a good leader is communication and listening skills,” Ringo said. “You know that, but you don’t really realize it until you hear all these really successful people explain some of the things and how – that really makes a huge difference.” Ringo added that she is going to become a better listener so that it will help her in her career and general life.

Turner said that she is grateful of the faculty who led the breakout sessions and the panelists in

the Entrepreneurship and Women in Leadership panels. She also stated that she is developing an entrepreneurship podcast called “The Loop” that will be available on the entrepreneurship webpage on the GHC website.

“That’s what I want students to see. If they have that passion and they really have that idea that they can really push for it and do it and be successful, just like the people here at the leadership conference,” Turner said.

“People should try these conferences out and things that the school offers because it’s actually pretty cool,” Ringo said.



# 'Cyberpunk: Edgerunners' tragic warning of dystopic future

Review By Ashley Hall

## - Spoiler Warning -

Skyscrapers, neon lights, thumping music, street-hardened citizens and a host of socioeconomic inequalities—this is Night City, home of the powerful mega corporations and the no-nonsense street gangs. It's also the setting of "Cyberpunk: Edgerunners," an R-rated Netflix original anime that was released on Sept. 13.

"Cyberpunk: Edgerunners" is a love letter to the source material, the 2020 video game "Cyberpunk 2077." Studio Trigger, the animation studio, and CD Projekt Red, the game developer and publisher of the anime, worked in tandem to perfectly replicate the environment, culture and feel of Night City. Locations featured in the anime can be found in the game, as well as cybernetic upgrades, certain enemies, songs and characters like Rogue and Wakako.

The anime is a coming-of-age story for David Martinez, a 17-year-old, impoverished street kid who joined an edgerunner crew after his overworked mom died in a gang drive-by. Not only does he struggle with the capitalist colonialism nightmare that is Night City, but he also struggles to gain power and find his place.

The main cast features the no-nonsense edg-

erunner crew: the leader Maine, the extra muscle and Maine's lover Dorio, the master netrunner Kiwi, the foul-mouthed and violent Rebecca, her brother and class clown Pilar and the solemn and secretive Lucy.

Fans of the anime are crying out for a second season after we were all left with tears streaming down our faces thanks to the finale. However, I believe the story was beautifully told in the allotted 10 episodes and that there doesn't need to be a second season. My only gripe is that I wish there would have been more context between episodes six and seven, but I know that there's always a reason for such storytelling decision-making.

I'm sure I'm not alone in saying that watching the first episode was completely jarring, especially as someone that had not played "Cyberpunk 2077" prior to watching the anime. I struggled to understand the elements of Night City and its technology, but not its culture. Mega corporations hold all the power while everyone else is left fighting for scraps below the high-rises. The culture is very much a worse version of today's America, except with better technology.

I watched the anime a second time after picking up the game and understood many more references. "Cy-

berpunk: Edgerunners" has to be the most loyal media adaption I have had the pleasure of experiencing.

The characters are somewhat trope-heavy and predictable, but it was the execution of these tropes that made the story interesting. One thing I saw coming was David's downfall, which made it even more excruciating to watch unfold. Night City is an unforgiving environment that claims victims to its culture every day. David is one of those victims, wanting to become stronger and make a name for himself in the city.

After Maine dies in a traumatic and spectacular fashion in episode six, David takes his place as leader of the edgerunner crew and bulks up by replacing most of his organic body with cyberware. I was one of the many people that were probably yelling "What are you doing?!" at David when we see him in episode seven after a time jump. This innate need for strength and recognition is what ultimately leads to his tragic end. Maine was meant to be a cautionary tale to David of what reaching for more and more power can do to a person.

Cyberware has become synonymous with power in this society obsessed with body modifications. It gives strength and abilities to people that wouldn't be achievable through any natural means. David gains this power after installing a rare spinal implant called the Sandevistan and discov-



BREE MESSENGER | ARTIST

ers he has a high tolerance for cyberware after being able to use the powerful device 10 times in one day—an amount that would kill a normal person or drive them to a mental disorder called cyberpsychosis.

In episode eight, Lucy notices that David is exhibiting symptoms of cyberpsychosis, mirroring the beginning of Maine's descent into madness, and urges him to downgrade his cyberware. High tolerance or not, the human body is simply not meant to hold all those implants and be able to operate them.

In a YouTube video by TFC Tech, he theorizes how cyberpsychosis could be real by using real-world science. The strongest theory is that the bandwidth of the human brain cannot handle all the inputs that excessive amounts of cyberware implants require.

"Every further input you put onto your brain would further melt your perception into a mess and fill your

mind with undecipherable stimuli," TFC Tech said. "What we see in the show is that as characters integrate more chrome into their bodies, they push themselves further and further along the line of finally passing into cyberpsychosis."

David dooms himself to repeat the cycle that keeps swallowing Night City citizens whole by trying to live up to what his mom and Maine expected of him. Living for other peoples' dreams is what ultimately got him killed, although in the best way possible: by the hands of Adam Smasher.

"Cyberpunk: Edgerunners" was not meant to have a happy ending. Some people consume media to escape the drudgery of everyday life, but this anime challenges us to look at our own society and gives us a grim depiction of what we could be headed towards. It's a lesson in knowing one's own limits and needing to escape a bad situation when the opportunity arises.







BRANDON DYER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Left: Chargers player TJ Horton prepares to shoot a free throw in their contest against USC Salkehatchie on Feb. 9, 2020. Right: Chargers player TJ Horton tries to make a pass during their game against Chattahoochee Valley Community College on Nov. 1, 2021.

## Leadership Series: TJ Horton finds home in new sport

By Brandon Dyer

Chargers basketball player TJ Horton arrived on campus during the 2020 recruiting cycle, but how he got to GHC is unique.

Horton attended Cartersville High School, which is roughly seven minutes away from the GHC Cartersville campus. While there, he stood out in both basketball and football.

On the football field, Horton played running back his sophomore season before moving over to wide receiver for his junior season. He had a breakout season his senior year, hauling in 53 catches for 746 yards and ten touch-

downs. His 746 receiving yards were the most on the team.

Horton was part of a 41-game winning streak while with the Hurricanes, which included two state championships. While with the Hurricanes, he was named to the All-Region team twice.

On the basketball court, Horton started as a junior, his first season on the team, and finished second on the team in points per game and leading the team in steals. During his senior season with the Hurricanes, he led the team in points per game and steals yet again.

Horton had a decision to

make after his senior season, play football or basketball. He chose to play football at UT-Chattanooga.

Then Horton made the switch again after being red-shirted his freshman season at UT-Chattanooga, this time choosing GHC as the place to continue his basketball career.

"I ended up experimenting with football, but I knew my love for basketball would be worth it," Horton said.

The transition from going from the football field to the basketball court is one that could be seen as a challenge for many, but Horton said that it was an easy process for him.

"GHC is only 20 minutes away from where I live and Coach Merritt is a good coach," Horton said.

Of all the new basketball recruits that arrived on campus during the 2020 recruiting cycle, Horton is the lone remaining member.

That means that Horton has seen his team lose in the GCAA Championship Game two times already, but he is determined that this season will be the one where the Chargers get over that hump.

With only five players returning from that team a year ago, Horton could solidify himself as the leader of the team early on.

"It feels good to stand out as a leader," Horton said.

The impact from Horton can be seen by his teammates, such as Julian Dozier, who is in his second season with the Chargers.

"TJ is a good leader and he always brings positive energy when things seem like they're going bad," Dozier said. "The biggest thing that TJ has taught me is to control what you can control. There is no reason to worry about what you can't control."

Of all the qualities that make a good leader, Horton said that "not being a follower" is the most important.



# Sports commentary: NFL needs to protect players

By Brandon Dyer

The NFL has had their fair share of sticky situations in the past, but one that remains to be a major concern to me is the lack of action when it comes to concussions.

It is no secret to anyone that concussions are happening at a high rate, even with the safety measures already being implemented. However, the topic got brought up again after Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa appeared to suffer a head injury late in the second quarter in their team's game against the Buffalo Bills on Sept. 25.

In what I thought was a shocking decision, Tagovailoa came right back into the game after halftime to finish up the game.

Just four days later, the Dolphins had a game against the Cincinnati Bengals and yet again Tagovailoa was reported to start the game. To almost no one's surprise, Tagovailoa went down yet again with this looking like one of the most gruesome injuries that I have seen.

Almost immediately, Twitter was caught in an uproar with mixed emotions, such as Twitter user Kyler Burd.

Burd said that he "Didn't see it live, but just saw a clip. Absolutely gutted for Tua. And if the Dolphins had him play knowing there was potential damage from a concussion on Sunday, the NFL needs to bring down the hammer on that organization."

Following the media uproar, the Dolphins fired the consultant that cleared Tagovailoa to play against the Bengals. However, the NFL itself didn't step in and make sure that the situation was handled properly.

Whether this was him trying to play "macho man" or the team itself trying to cut corners in order to ensure their best players are on the field to

produce wins, this situation was a complete disaster.

If Tagovailoa wound up playing because the Dolphins just needed him, then the Dolphins need to get fined and medical staff fired. On the other hand, if Tagovailoa chose to play, then the team's medical staff should have stepped in and told him that he couldn't.

The NFL must do a better job at monitoring the concussion protocol that the teams have in place instead of seemingly having the stance of letting teams handle it internally.

This man almost suffered a career-ending injury just because no one wanted to step in and ensure that his safety was taken as the most important thing.

This incident has not been the first in ignoring a severe concussion injury within the NFL. Concussions have been historically ignored and downplayed in the sport, leading to lasting brain injuries that are detrimental to the players receiving them.

## Intramural sports sign-ups are happening now:

- Co-Ed Soccer
- Womens 5-on-5 Basketball
- Mens 5-on-5 Basketball
- Tennis

For more information  
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## Chargers Basketball Schedule

Nov. 18 @ Gulf Coast State College  
Nov. 19 @ Chipola College  
Nov. 24 @ Polk State College  
Nov. 25 @ State College of Florida, Manatee Sarasota  
Nov. 26 @ Indian River State College  
Dec. 9 vs New Rock Prep  
Dec. 13 vs Roane State Community College

## Lady Chargers Basketball Schedule

Nov. 15 vs South Georgia Technical College  
Nov. 19 vs Middle Georgia Prep  
Nov. 22 vs Albany Technical College  
Nov. 29 @ Cleveland State Community College  
Dec. 3 @ East Georgia State College  
Dec. 7 vs Central Georgia Technical College  
Dec. 9 @ Eastern Florida State College  
Dec. 10 @ Northwest Florida State College  
Dec. 12 vs Wallace State Community College - Hanceville  
Dec. 16 @ Shelton State Community College  
Dec. 17 @ Gadsden State Community College  
Dec. 31 @ Snow College

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