

deftly defining direction during dire developments

compass

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posing in ridiculous
costumes for the sake
of students' enjoyment



Llanes wins national award

Selected to be on top 20 community college team

Lauren Blais
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For the second year in a row Gainesville State College has had one of its students achieve a special national recognition.

Stephanie Martin Llanes was named a top 20 member of the All-USA Community College Academic Team.

"When I found out I was actually at home, it was one of the snow days," said Llanes. "To be honest, I was really not expecting it."

Like other community colleges, GSC nominates two students every year. Llanes did not think that the selection committee, administered by Phi Theta Kappa, would choose another GSC student a second year in a row. Last year her fiance and now husband Juan Llanes was selected a top 20 winner.

Llanes served as vice president of the Student Government Association this year. She is also vice president of GSC's Phi Theta Kappa Ro Mu Chapter, and a member of the college's award-winning SIFE club. She has also served as president of the Latino Student Association.

Llanes began attending GSC in 2008 after working on her music career for four years. When a deal with a record company made her choose between a

career in music or her morals, Llanes chose her morals and left the music business. She enrolled at GSC.

"I started from nothing basically. I had to take learning support classes."

Llanes served as vice president of the Student Government Association this year. She is also vice president of GSC's Phi Theta Kappa Ro Mu Chapter, and a member of the college's award-winning SIFE club. She has also served as president of the Latino Student Association.

Her interest in civil law began after taking a sociology class.

"That class... it just changed my life. I saw the world in a different perspective."

Llanes and GSC President Martha



Lisa Crone

Stephanie Martin Llanes is the second GSC student to be selected to the All-USA Community College Academic Team.

Nesbitt recently flew to Seattle, Washington, where she was recognized.

She was also selected as the New Century Scholar, the top scoring nominee in the state. Llanes received scholarships for both honors.

"I couldn't have done this alone by myself. I've had numerous teachers that not only impacted me academically, but just as mentors. They've taught me things like how to speak better."

Llanes has advice for students.

"Be determined, stay hungry and be determined. Don't ever get satisfied," she said. "Be disciplined and not only that but dedicated. Not only dedicated to school but to yourself. And know that in the end it will pay off."

Recycling grows on campus

But more awareness needed, staff says

Emily Perry
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You finished off a refreshing drink and now you need a place to toss that bottle. Walk the halls in any building on campus and you will find a recycling receptacle, compliments of GSC's plant operations.

However, based on volume, some of the receptacles are underutilized according to Bill Moody, director of plant operations. "Cans, yes. Plastic, not so much. Recycling the plastic bottles just hasn't caught on."

When the custodial crews perform their daily cleaning, they gather recycling from receptacles when they are full, usually twice a week, said student worker Lesa Chadderdon. "We put the stuff in the trailer until it fills up. Then it magically disappears."

Grounds supervisor at GSC, Thomas Burson, said his department had to purchase a trailer which is used to collect and then transport plastic to the Hall County recycling center on 1008 Chestnut St. in Gainesville.

When recycling plastic in Hall County, there is a requirement that lids must be removed from bottles. Additionally, plastic must be separated as no. 1 PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) and No. 2 HDPE (high density polyethylene).

The staff hours needed to meet those requirements is provided by the county's use of the Department of Correction's inmate work detail.

All GSC has to do is pull into the recycling station and the detainees unload the bags of plastic bottles. "There's not necessarily a contract, but we handle a lot of big companies and schools," said David Hirneisen, of Hall County's resource recovery division.

GSC's aluminum can recycling is handled differently. "Currently the aluminum cans are collected in each building by the maintenance staff and they take them to recycling centers," Mary Mayhew, advisor for Students for Environmental Awareness, wrote in an e-mail.

GSC recycles cardboard, paper, aluminum cans and plastic.

Cardboard is removed from campus two times a week, paper is picked up whenever the service provider is needed.

Enough garbage is generated on campus that it has to be picked up daily, Monday through Friday mornings, before students arrive.

Doing their part to recycle is the Student Government Association (SGA). They have switched to using all-recycled paper, Cara Ray, director of student life and orientation, wrote in an e-mail.

"With about 6500 students here at our campus, plus several hundred faculty and staff, we can create a lot of trash - or we can recycle a lot of products," Ray said. "It's very easy to recycle here at GSC, but you do need to walk those few extra steps to seek out the appropriate bin.

"The choice is yours."

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COVER DESIGN
BRANDEN LEFTY

PHOTO
BRANDEN LEFTY

Leigha Fouts, Andrew Wilkinson, and David Spencer pose behind a shield featuring the seal of the Student Government Association.

It's all about the Benjamins

Glaser explains how GSC uses money, and talks about the budget crisis

Emily Perry
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In the wake of the budget crises presented to the University System of Georgia in late February, questions arose from students, faculty and staff about where our college gets its money. Paul Glaser, vice president of business and finance at GSC, shed some light on the subject.

WHERE GSC GETS ITS MONEY

Glaser: There are three categories of revenue; operating revenue, non-operating revenue and capital gifts and grants equal our total income.

Operating revenue is our tuition and fees, grants and contracts and auxiliary funds. The grants and contracts in this category refer to small contracts given to the science department to perform research. Auxiliary income comes from the bookstore and food service, which does not make any money. Our largest (auxiliary income) is the book store.

Non-operating income is your state appropriations, grants and contracts, and a small amount of investment income. The grants and contracts in this category refer to Pell Grants, which we don't keep. It comes to us and then gets deposited into the student's account. The key is the state appropriations.

Then you've got your capital gifts and grants which is money given to us by the state for construction.

FUNDING OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Glaser: The new academic building, for example, is going to cost a total of \$37.5 million. In the first year (2009) we were given \$2.4 million for the design, architects and such. The second year (2010) we were given \$28 million for the construction phase. In 2011, we are supposed to be given the (remaining) balance of the \$37.5 million which we will use to purchase furniture and equip-

ment for the building.

Now this money is given to us from GO bonds, government offered bonds, through the state of Georgia. It does not come from the Board of Regents (BOR). This money comes from the total state bond expenditures, they're either 20-, 25- or 30-year bonds. Our \$37.5 million in bonds were sold last November. For the biggest part of \$28 million, that bond sale was \$840 million, state-wide money. This money can only be used for construction and is not repaid with students fees and tuition. We don't have to do anything and we are not liable for that debt. The state owes the money back and we get the benefit of the building.

TUITION AND FEES

Glaser: The BOR sets tuition. We as a college cannot raise or lower anything to do with tuition. We've been asked why our tuition is different from other schools. It is not. We are in the state college sector of 2-year colleges and they have basically the same tuition per hour, which is right now \$84 per credit hour.

Student fees that are mandatory are the activity fee, which gets divided among the clubs, and such, the student center fee, student parking fee and the technology fee. The technology fee goes back to IT (Information Technology department) to maintain purchases and keep the equipment running. It's really the only mandatory fee that is not directly used by students. The activity fee is the only one that is divided up and the president signs off on that. The rest of the fees are based on what might be required for a class the student takes.

STUDENT FEES USED FOR CONSTRUCTION

Glaser: But let me explain about some of those mandatory fees. For example, the parking center fee was established under BOR guidelines to pay back construction funds for building the parking deck. The parking deck is also indirectly state bonding money. It was through

the Georgia Higher Education Funding Authority. It (GHEFA) was formed about three years ago as an alternative to getting things done in a timely manner as opposed to issuing bonds. We wrote up a program and had to ask the BOR for parking deck funds. They said okay, here's the plan and here's the payback. We charge \$35 per semester per student. And we do have to pay it back. We make two payments a year and the parking deck will be paid off in 30 years.

It (parking deck) was our first student-funded construction project. We have tried to not burden the students that much, understanding we cannot get sufficient money quick enough for our needs from the state. Such as the new Academic building. We needed a new building back in 2002. In 2009, construction finally began. It took seven years to come to be.

Now the student center fee is another story. When we first started to renovate and enlarge the student center, we asked for money from the state. We asked for state bond money in 2002. Back in 2006, the state used to have programs called "majors and minors," where "minors" were any capital construction

project \$5 million or less. By the time we received the \$5 million, the scope of the project had enlarged. The number of students got bigger. We got the \$5 million and had an \$8.5 million project. It was decided the difference would be paid back by students. So the \$3.5 million will be paid back over a 20-year period.

HOW THE BUDGET PROCESS WORKS

Glaser: I think we have a very good budget process. It starts in August and is a very laborious process with the BOR. Our fiscal year ends June 30. By the time school starts, I have been asked to make projections of our tuition revenue for the



Paul Glaser, vice president of business and finance.

next year. That's the first thing. Then auxiliary revenue, sales and services, grants and contracts, really all operational revenue is projected. In October, we start putting this information into spreadsheets, which is backup for what was told them (BOR) in August. Usually by the middle of December that information has to be sent to

leges. It's not across the board.

Once we know what our share of the new money is, the Executive Council (consisting of the college's president and all the vice presidents) typically then apportions that new money to the departments accordingly. Every year, until this past September, the first priority has been to hire new faculty

"We are very efficient here, one of the most efficient in the (state university) system."

the BOR. Then by the middle of January, we know what we call "new money" will be available.

"New money" is money based upon enrollment two years prior to the current operating year. The state uses a formula to determine how much money each college gets. That formula is based on growth, total square footage of the campus and also based upon our past efficiencies, which can hurt as much as help us. We are very efficient here, one of the most efficient in the system.

What happens is the Legislators have said "you are going to get 'x' number of dollars based on the formula." It is based upon the three factors in the formula. That money is not divided evenly among the 35 col-

leges. The first year I was here we hired 11 new faculty. Second year, 18, and in 2009, we hired 34. In that same time frame of three years we hired approximately only 10 staff positions.

So as part of the budget process, the EC sits down and says, "who, beyond faculty, needs new staff positions?" Whatever department that staff position is in, that director or supervisor comes forward (to the EC) with why they need a new person. We review those requests, which can be made by anyone who wants to participate in the process. What it comes down to, there are more people wanting positions than we have money for. I know how much money we've got because I've already subtracted faculty

salaries. Then it's a process of elimination. So it comes down to critical need.

Usually by March, my department sends out a detailed budget to every department head. At any given time you can see what your budget was, what you spent, what was encumbered to spend and what you have left. The vice presidents take that information to all the departments. All departments have a say in the budget. If an individual in a department did not get a say, that's not up to just the vice president. It's up to that department chair or department head within that division.

Once the budget information comes back to me, it is put in the system (spreadsheets). The BOR has to approve it then. It has to be done by BOR guidelines and it has to be done by the end of June.

We are the only unit on campus that is audited by the BOR.

the first time ever with the formula funding, there is a 50-50 chance the Legislature will not give any money to the BOR.

News Editor: What happens then?

Glaser: We'll just have to do something different. We've been doing something different for the past two years. Two years ago, when we started out at the beginning of the fiscal year, our allocation was \$19 million. By the middle of July, they (the state) took back 2 percent of that money. By January, they had taken 12 percent of our money that we had already budgeted to spend. So when that take back occurs, I have to go back and adjust the individual budgets.

So when we started planning for the year we're in now, I said we are going to start at 12 percent behind where we were last year. And that's before the furlough days got in it and complicated things further. So,

"I have no idea if we're going to get any new money whatsoever. We are basically in limbo."

We are audited every year by the state. We are very well watched over and that's the way it should be. I've always said my entire career, you want an audit, let's have an audit. I have nothing to hide. We've had very good audit marks and I'm proud of what we do.

HOW THE CRISIS IS AFFECTING GSC'S PLANNING

Glaser: Unfortunately, this January, I didn't have information about the new money from the state. I didn't have it in February. I didn't have it in March. I don't have it today. I have no idea if we're going to get any new money whatsoever. The Legislators have put a hold on the budget thing. Talk is that they are going to add days beyond 40 to talk about the budget. The budget should've been done first, in my opinion, instead of last. We are basically in limbo.

Folks want information and I have nothing to tell them. My hands are not tied, it's worse than that. They're cut off. For

I'm wondering if that's going to happen again this year. We don't know what they (the General Assembly) are going to do. We are just waiting.

WHY THE POOL IS CLOSING

Glaser: The decision to close the pool has been discussed for at least two years. It doesn't pay for itself and I don't believe it ever did. At \$250,000 a year, it is the single most costly unit or sub-building on this campus. From a business point of view, and pardon the analogy, you are really pouring water into a hole.

... The Laker Club membership is \$250 a year ... and that brings in \$27,250, and not one cent of that money went toward the pool. It all went to the Foundation. And the Foundation, I think, spends it on scholarships, which I think is a worthy cause.

Swim lessons for Continuing Education was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30,000 to \$40,000 in revenue. That money does not directly come back to the pool.

SGA election results: Fouts wins battle for V.P. New treasurer also takes office



Andrew Wilkinson
President

Hometown: Edinburgh, Scotland
Major: Engineering
Transferring: UC Berkeley
GPA: 4.0
Hobbies/Interests: Current events, taking things apart, graphic design, traditional Scottish dance.



Leigha Fouts
Vice President

Hometown: Roswell, Ga.
Major: Nursing
Transferring: Medical College of Georgia.
GPA: 3.75.
Hobbies/Interests: Volunteering, art, singing, swimming, and music.



David Spencer
Treasurer

Hometown: Layton, Utah
Major: Computer Science and Communications
GPA: 4.0
Hobbies/Interests: A general interest in computers, picture and video editing, and music.

Photos by Branden Lefty

Daniel Dove
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The students have voted, and the results are in. The Student Government Association recently held its annual elections to decide which students will serve as representatives for the student body over the course of next year.

Current President Andrew Wilkinson, who was seeking reelection, ran unopposed. David Spencer also ran unopposed for the treasurer position. The real contest was for the vice presidential seat. Leigha Fouts and Casey Fronek both sought the position.

Current Vice President Stephanie Llanes and Wilkinson both commended the candidates on running organized and professional campaigns. "You guys worked in such a professional manner and I'm really proud of you guys," Llanes said to the candidates.

"I think (they) ran a really, really well-run and organized campaign. (They) reached out to students, which is what SGA is all about," said Wilkinson.

The winners were announced at the weekly SGA meeting on Friday. Wilkinson won a second term as president, Spencer will serve as treasurer, and Leigha Fouts will hold the title of vice president in the upcoming year.

There were actually no candidates seeking the secretary position. According to SGA adviser Cara Ray, SGA will make an internal decision in the fall as to who will fill the position.

"The thing I really want to see is I want to see the student involvement," Spencer said. "I think it's important that we get the word out about what student government is and bring students into their forum. Student government is the voice of the student body, and we need to help the students real-

ize that," Spencer said.

"I believe that my platform is filled with positive proposals to change student life on campus. One of the more significant things that I plan to do for the student body is to allow their voice heard louder, to have a stronger representation," Fouts said in an e-mail.

Fouts plans to reach out to students and get feedback through suggestion boxes, SGA socials, and surveys. "I am aware that many students are busy and they do not have the time to meet with SGA members or attend meetings, this would give them the opportunity to reach SGA without having to attend a meeting," Fouts said of the suggestion boxes.

In a recent SGA meeting, members changed the time of the weekly meetings for the upcoming fall semester to Mondays at noon. The hope is that a new day and time will make the meetings more accessible.

And the President's Art Award goes to...

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GSC honored outstanding art student Caleb Millwood with the President's Art Award. A panel of faculty judges reviewed works submitted by GSC art students and chose Millwood's work to hang in the President's Conference Room.

"I've won scholarships before, but I've never won the President's award. I was kind of surprised... it's one of my more simple paintings. It's a still life, but it's very vibrant," Millwood said.

Millwood's involvement in the arts at GSC goes beyond the classroom; he is also the president of the Art Club. Jennifer Graff, adviser to the club, said, "Caleb has many strong points as an artist. He is willing to spend time looking at current trends in art which helps students to know their field."

Millwood credits Graff and Stacey Kaufman, his color theory and painting teacher, with his artistic growth. "(Kaufman) was always there to help me with anything. I've always liked painting since I was little, and I'm just now getting into pottery. That's what I've been focusing on a lot lately," Millwood said.

"I appreciate that Caleb has spent time in the ceramics studio learning something that is completely foreign to him. It takes courage to do what is outside of your comfort zone. This is what makes Caleb a great student," Graff said.

Despite having practiced art throughout his whole life, Millwood does not believe he has found his niche yet. "Right now, since I'm still learning a little bit of everything, I'm trying to figure out what my signature is," Millwood said.

Graff believes his strength is his use of color. "Caleb has a wonderful sense of color. His paintings are saturated with vibrant colors which is the appeal for me. His work with color earned him the President's Art Award."

The painting that consists of a bright green apple, a dark green pepper and a deep purple eggplant against the backdrop of burnt sienna and sky blue, will be on display until the next term's President's award winner is chosen.

This is not the first time Millwood's art has been on display. "At home I paint landscapes and a lot of decoupage. I give them to my relatives and my friends. I've sold a few pieces, and I have one that's in the collection in the Holocaust museum at Kennesaw State."

The piece was a project for one of his high school classes. "We had to memorialize a victim. I did a painting and presented it. The curator from the museum was there as a surprise, and she liked it so much that she took it for the collection."



Branden Lefty

This self-portrait is one of Millwood's favorite pieces that he has done at GSC. "We had to do a giant self portrait," he said, "and it had to be sort of crazy. I had one of my friends take a picture of me from the diving board in a gym... It was kind of different for me because I don't have my shirt on. It was daring for me. I absolutely love this painting."



Branden Lefty

"This is a self portrait," Millwood said, "a decoupage newspaper. I used pens and ink to draw over it. I think it's very modern."



Branden Lefty

Millwood poses with one of his first pieces of pottery that he has made. Despite never making pottery before, Millwood is still proud. "It takes courage to do what is outside of your comfort zone. This is what makes Caleb a great student," Art Club Adviser Jennifer Graff said.

Finals bring more than test-taking chaos

Graduating art students display their works from GSC



(Up) Tiffany Tunno, Vegetarian, Mixed Media

Branden Lefty



(Left) Tiffany Tunno, Meandering, Mixed Media

Nick Williams

Branden Lefty
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The Roy C. Moore Art Gallery at GSC is hosting works from graduating art students in an exhibit called "Chaos Theory." The exhibit opened earlier this month on April 1. It is expected to end on Wednesday, April 28th. The closing reception for "Chaos Theory" will be at 5 p.m. The Roy C. Moore art gallery is located inside the Continuing Education building.



(Right) Sally Gazaway, A Shadow of Death 3, Digital Photo

Nick Williams

(Down) Crissy Clouse, Artistic Addiction Series, Digital Photo

(Down) Dawn Columbo, Christina's Worry, Acrylic on Canvas



Branden Lefty



Nick Williams

Taking summer classes? Keep up with these dates

May

May 6
Spring Commencement
Summer Tuition & Fees Due
May 12
May Session Begins
May 18
SOAR Session
May 31
Memorial Day Holiday (No Classes)

June

June 1
May Session Ends
June 2
May Session Exams
June 3
Registration & SOAR Session
June 4
Relay For Life
June 7
Classes Begin (Full, June Session)
June 11
Starlight Concert and Fireworks Show

June 19

SOAR Session
June 29
June Session Ends
June 30
June Session Exams

July

July 5
Independence Day Holiday (No Classes)
July 6
July Session Begins
July 17
SOAR Session
July 27
Summer classes end
July 28
Final Exams, Full and July Sessions
July 29
Final Exams
Tuition and Fall Fees Deadline

Chess Club grows rapidly

Michael Mullins
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The Gainesville State Chess Club has only been around for three years but the club has been growing steadily, according to club adviser Douglass Young

"We had the first Chess Club in the history of Gainesville State... For the first time, this semester we've had an average attendance in double figures," Young said

The Chess Club offers a relaxing environment to where students can come in and play chess for a couple of hours and make some new friends in the process.

"It's a real laid back environment... It's not a full-out competition to win," Young added

The club also offers different and unique types of chess

"We have a lot of interesting boards like four-way chess and StratoChess," said Chess Club president David Charamond.

StratoChess is a has 3 chess boards that are on top of one another and Four-Way chess has

4 players and has 160 squares compared to 64 squares on a normal chess board.

On February 20 the Chess Club traveled to Atlanta to compete in the Emory Chess tournament where schools from all over the state including the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech come and compete.

"We went to it once before, but we only had three people; so we didn't get as far. Hopefully, this time we will have six or more people, so, if someone has to leave, we can substitute them in," Charamond said.

This year the Chess Club only had two members show up to the tournament this year and finished 11th. The University of Georgia came in first.

The Chess Club has a variety of tournaments on campus and online.

Those interested in joining the Chess Club can visit Meeting Room 4 in the Student Center Wednesdays at noon or contact Douglass Young at 678-717-3872 and dyoung@gsc.edu or Scott Kantor at 678-717-3664 and skantor@gsc.edu.

SPS and GSC Alliance panel looks at marriage as civil right for LGBTQ Americans

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Gay Americans are citizens just like any other Americans, said a speaker at a recent panel discussion on same sex marriage at GSC.

"I pay my taxes... I invest my money in the markets that drive this economy... I vote... I am in a relationship that has outlasted most of my siblings' but my desire to see it validated is denied because someone still wants to call the faggot out on the playground" Robert Brunet said.

Brunet and a panel of gay rights supporters spoke before a crowd of about 200 for Students for a Progressive Society (SPS) and GSC Alliance co sponsored a discussion named "Is Gay Marriage a Civil Rights Issue?"

"A lot of people think that if you are for gay rights... you have to be gay yourself," said SPS Vice President Destiny Moore. Moore is a straight woman who sympathizes with the gay rights movement because she is also part of an alternative lifestyle. She is married to an African-American man.

Moore addressed some of the reasons why people do not agree with same sex marriage, one in particular be-

ing that it would legally provide a downward slope of marriage like polygamy or marriage to an object. "This argument is just ludicrous," Moore said.

Political science professor Sean Herlihy took a political approach by stating that there are 400 rights at the state level and 1100 rights at the federal level that are denied to LGBTQ couples. "(The fact) that they don't like gay people... doesn't cut it with doing away with civil rights," Herlihy said. The religious reasons are not applicable to this argument according to Herlihy, saying "(the government) is not allowed to describe scripture for people. Not even if a majority has a particular religious point of view, they can't impose that on a minority."

Christian Vick, a local designer, presented an emotional angle to the gay rights struggle. Vick and her partner have been in a committed relationship for 12 years. While on vacation they have been harassed and even threatened with physical violence for being gay. "We are American citizens that want to be treated as equals... the difference is that we're expected to accept that because we're in a same sex partnership, that we're below the law... If anything were to happen to us, we're just roommates," Vick said.

President of SPS Taylor Lanham approached the issue from the perspective of a straight Christian man.

Lanham believes that since the anti-gay marriage proponents have been proven scientifically wrong, they have taken the stance that gay marriage shouldn't be legalized because God said so. This mentality personally offends him. "That shows absolutely none of God's love the way that it's supposed to be represented through the Christian religion," Lanham said.

Lanham referenced several verses from the Bible that preach against judgment such as Romans 14:10 "... Why do you look down on your brother? For we all stand before God's judgment seat."

The final panelist, Beth Littrell, is an attorney from the LGBTQ civil rights law firm Lambda Legal. She used an interactive approach engaging the audience to guess which states in the Union had which laws for same sex marriage. "I want to get married one day, not gay married... I don't want someone to get down on one knee and say 'will you gay marry me?'" Littrell said.

"I thought that the forum was... progressive... Rarely do I think that people listen to a Gay Rights/Marriage debate/forum from someone who is personally experiencing it" said GSC student Cher Smith in an e-mail.

English professor Kristin Kelley thought that the forum "served to highlight the reality of the pain that ensues when Americans are denied civil rights," in an e-mail.

Mickelson puts on Master-Phil performance

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On a glorious Sunday afternoon in Augusta, on the most beautiful and prestigious golf course in the world, Phil Mickelson delivered a perfect round of golf to win the Masters for the third time in his career.

Mickelson showed a steady hand all day long. He was able to make one incredible shot after another to make up for any mistakes he made to post a 5-under par (67), with no bogies.

The shot of the tournament came on the 13th hole when Mickelson was holding a one shot lead. Anthony Kim was a few holes ahead and had just pulled within a shot of the lead after making three birdies and an eagle in a four hole stretch.

Mickelson hit his drive into the pine straw behind two trees. Rather than lay-up, he went for the green, split the trees and landed the ball only a few feet from the hole.

Although he missed his eagle putt, he made birdie to give himself a two shot cushion and never looked back.

Mickelson would finish out the final five holes with three clutch pars and two birdies, including the 72nd hole of the tournament, to win by three strokes.

There were many storylines before, during and after this year's tournament.

After the first round of the tournament Thursday 50-year-old 1992 champion Fred Couples matched his best career round of 66 to take the opening round lead with two-time champion Tom Watson, 60, only a shot behind.

Both would stay in contention and provide some turn-back-the-clock moments, but would fall short of becoming the oldest Major Champion in history.

The real drama however surrounded Tiger Woods.

The Masters began like no other before it had. There was intense media coverage well before the first ball was struck on Thursday morning due to the return of the worlds #1 golfer Tiger Woods after a five-month hiatus.

Tiger had yet to play this year due to, "personal and family" related issues. Which as everyone really knows was due to the scandal that broke around Thanksgiving about his marital infidelities and the fact he had almost as many mistresses as shots Mickelson finished under par (16).

Woods played well all week, finishing in fourth place at 11 under par for the tournament. He was clearly rusty and it showed.

Tiger drove the ball poorly the entire tournament and it was never more evident than Sunday when he bogeyed three of the first five holes.

Despite tying the record for most eagles in a Masters his inconsistent play



During Wednesday's practice round, spectators attending the 2010 Masters look on as officials put the finishing touches on preparations.

Contributor Billy Wege

and too many bogeys gave him no shot on Sunday.

The real story came at the end of the Masters. For everything Tiger has done wrong off the course, Phil Mickelson has done right.

What started as a Masters focused on the return of Tiger from a five-month absence while he was in rehab ended with Phil Mickelson giving his wife Amy a huge hug and kiss.

For those of you who don't know, after last summer's U.S. Open Phil Mickelson took his own leave from the game. Only

his was to be with his wife, who had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. A short time later his mother was also diagnosed with breast cancer.

This was the first tournament Amy had attended since her diagnosis. His mother was in attendance also and walked all Sunday. Because of her Cancer treatments Amy wasn't in strong enough physical condition to follow him around the course all day long, but she was there to greet him at the 18th and final hole, the perfect ending to a perfect tournament.

Know your Braves etiquette beforehand

Nick Williams
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OK, ladies and gentlemen, I went to opening day yesterday, and quite frankly, I was appalled at the deterioration of people's code of conduct at Braves games. So I found this to be a perfect time to revamp the old rulebook and remind everyone how to act when attending a Braves game.

Here are the rules.

1. When attending a game, wear either generic, unbiased clothing or clothing specific to a team participating in the actual game.

It is not that hard to find out who is playing in the damn game. There are these things called tickets that you have to buy, and they have the opponent on them.

2. Always have yourself ready to be

searched prior to entering the stadium.

Seriously, this is the dumbest thing ever. When I am standing in line and my cooler is open, I am holding my hat and contents of my pockets and waiting on someone to argue with the guard about not opening your cooler.

3. Umbrellas should only be used when no one is sitting in front of, behind, or next to you.

I learned this one the hard way. The water that you deflect has to go somewhere, and it ends up in someone's lap.

4. When tailgating, try to stick to your area. There are cars moving around you. Be safe.

Trust me, guys, if you were to get in a fight with my car, I am pretty sure I will win.

5. Rally caps should only be used after the seventh inning stretch. They should also only be used when your team is losing, and they are the home team.

6. If you support the opposing team, you have no right to be more obnoxious than the home team fans.

This one gets on my nerves the most. You know the feeling. There is that one fan around you that is for the other team, and they are constantly heckling you about how their pitcher is 100 times better than yours and how you wasted your money to see this whooping.

7. There is a proper way to carry beer. Please take a friend if you think you are going to spill it.

8. Take off your hat for the Star Spangled Banner, and God bless America.

I do not care what country you are from. You are in an American institution, watching America's pastime. Take off the damn hat.

9. Know the players, not the numbers. "C'mon number 22! You can do it!" How stupid does that sound? The player's name is everywhere when he is up to

bat; you cannot possibly miss it. If you cannot pronounce it, do not try to. You will look even dumber.

10. DO THE CHOP RIGHT!

This one is the most important, hands down. The Atlanta Braves Tomahawk Chop is a revered tradition that is as sacred as the national anthem, and doing the chop wrong would be like having your hand down your pants during the Star Spangled Banner. The chop is in a standard four beat measure system four beats to the chop, the hand is down on the most powerful beat. So if you hear BOOM boom boom boom BOOM boom boom boom, your arm should be in the straight out position on the loudest BOOM.

So folks, let's bring some class back to Braves games. Remember the proper etiquette, and honor the code. At least this way we can all have an enjoyable Braves experience.

Thurbert Baker: Beyond the negativity

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With the current Democratic gubernatorial candidate Thurbert Baker being in the headlines of the national news, it was a shock that the GSC Democrats would even be able to book him for a discussion on the issues on our campus. After all, we aren't exactly the most important or largest school in Georgia. However, once he gave his speech, it was obvious that he has no reservations with talking to smaller groups of people.

His message was clear. Baker wants to help Georgia be the best that it can be. The primary goal of his gubernatorial campaign, he said, is to unite Georgians and get "one Georgia moving in the right direction." Considering he has held the statewide elected office of Attorney General for thirteen years, I think he is incredibly qualified to be the leader of that unified Georgia.

Baker discussed a variety of issues ranging anywhere from identity theft and domestic violence to education and the economy. Above all the issues was an acknowledgment that these issues are not Democratic or Republican. These issues are talked about by everyone, and people are interested in finding solutions, not fighting amongst themselves for the sake of partisanship.

This is the main reason why I think Baker has a real shot at being our next governor, and it's why I support him. He has an incredible campaign message. I think the biggest message that came out of '09 elections was that a positive, results-based campaign is the most effective kind of campaign. I think it's safe to assume that

the American people are sick of the partisan bickering that goes on at any level of government.

Every issue that Baker touched on came with a positive solution. His solution for budget cuts to public education was not just to shift the cuts to some other department. Confused with our fixation on cutting budgets, he offered a positive solution instead.

"If we're able to cut our unemployment rate by half, we'll get another \$1 billion of revenue in income taxes," he said. This allows us to increase government revenue

"We don't do (this) for ourselves; we do it for the people we serve."

**-Thurbert Baker
Georgia Attorney General**

and not levy any new taxes on the citizens of Georgia. By taking steps to reduce unemployment, we would gain the money to help us fight the budget cuts that are going to severely affect GSC.

These issues are all interrelated; they're not just independent issues that be tackled all on their own. Solving one problem will go a long way to helping out with other problems.

Despite the overwhelming positivity he offers, he

doesn't shy away from the seriousness of politics.

The biggest batch of negativity within the speech was when he addressed the reasons behind him being thrust into the national news. The current governor, Sonny Perdue, approached Baker and asked him to pursue litigation against the federal government concerning the recent health care reform legislation.

"I won't waste taxpayer money on frivolous litigation," Baker said. Baker just didn't see any justification for the claim that the law was unconstitutional.

This led to multiple calls for his impeachment by Republicans in the state legislature. Despite the seriousness of an attempted impeachment charge, Baker was confident in his opinion to the point where it has become a joke to him. "There's this thing called separation of powers ... (and) as of this morning, I have not been impeached," he said. Even in the face of such negativity, Baker keeps his cool and positive outlook.

This balance of calling out the problems and offering solutions for them is what makes me a supporter of Baker. I agree with him ideologically on many issues, and I think he is a person of incredible character with outstanding credentials.

The thing that puts my check mark in his box at the ballot is his focus on progress. He isn't dedicated to a particular political philosophy. He is dedicated towards helping out the state in solving our many problems and tackling our toughest issues.

This aspect is best summed up by the final words of his speech when he focuses on the point of his public service. "We do this, the work that we do; we don't do it for ourselves. We do it for the people we serve."

Health care reform at a second glance

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When the President Barack Obama signed the health care reform bill, I was pretty supportive of it.

Six months from now, children with pre-existing conditions cannot be denied health insurance.

In 2014, insurance companies can no longer deny coverage to anyone with pre-existing conditions.

In that same year, Medicaid will be inclusive to citizens without children.

It wasn't until I started reading more into the new legislation that I realized, like everything that rolls down from the Hill, this snowball wasn't as white as it first appeared to be.

I'm fairly boggled as to why we need to change so much for the benefit of only ten percent of everyone.

Would you burn down an entire orchard if only a few of the trees were infested? Would it not be more productive to just pick out the wormy apples?

Since the federal government is involved, reason and productivity are automatically thrown to the wind, and cost efficiency is only a distant dream.

This brings us to the most mathematically challenged institution on the planet: the Congressional Budget Office.

In 1965, when Medicare Part A was enacted, their projected cost for the year 1990 was \$9 billion. Pull that timeline to the actual year 1990, and Congress wrote the program a check for \$67 billion.

When the Medicaid special hospitals subsidy was added in 1987, the CBO projected that its annual cost



Special
President Barack Obama, surrounded by supporters, signs the health care reform legislation in the East Room of the White House.

was \$100 million. Five years later, the costs soared to \$11 billion annually.

These are the same people who are saying that the new reform bill will only cost \$940 billion in 10 years.

How can you blame them? Stephen Hawking wouldn't be able to give an adequate number with Congress hurling amendments at him like Greg Maddux going for a record.

If the health insurance exchange is such a great idea, why won't the members of Congress who wrote and passed it participate in it?

But then again it says that we can keep our current plan if we like it. And since taxpayers are footing the bill for their Coupe DeVille coverage, why would they want to participate in our meager exchanges?

Which brings light to just how we, the American

people, can afford this delightfully mediocre health care plan because most of us can't afford not to. I actually thought they were kidding when I read about the individual mandate.

If you choose not to purchase health insurance of any kind, you are faced with either a surcharge of the higher of \$695 or 2.5 percent of your income.

They also plan to draw revenue from the 40 percent excise tax being imposed on insurance companies that provide above-average health care.

I don't understand how any rational human being could not see this as incredibly bad.

AT&T reported that it will take a \$1 billion hit as a direct result of the health care reform. 3M Company stated that it will also take a hit of \$85 million. Other companies including AK Steel Corp, Caterpillar Inc., Deere & Co. and Valero Energy have reported similar potential losses, according to the New York Times.

You really don't think that these Fortune 500 companies got to the place that they're at by taking billions in losses, do you?

They're going to cut benefits to employees and retirees and cut jobs. How is this beneficial when unemployment is at 9.7 percent?

Health care reform is imperative. Insurance companies should not be able to throw you out on your tuckus if you become sick, or if you have you have used up your yearly allowance. Seniors should not have to choose between food and life-saving medications.

But the bill that was forced throughout the Capitol is more detrimental than it is beneficial. Congress needs to go back to the drawing board and come back with a better picture, preferably with a lighter hue.

It's definitely worth it to be a campus mom

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My life is not that different from most 20-year-old college women. While I am busy with school and friends and family, my heart also belongs to a handsome, funny, smart young man that I am in love with: my son. Two years old, blue eyes, laughs at everything and unusually smart. This may not be the man most college ladies would prefer to have in their lives at 20, but I've never been happier.

People are often surprised to hear I'm a mother. They think I'm too young or not quite capable. The case is quite the contrary. I make time to attend church, study, bring in good grades, get accepted to my transfer college of choice, and hang out with my friends and family...but the most important item on my agenda is not my future. It is my son's future.

However, I'm still the same person I always was before my son entered the world. I don't stay out all night

or act as reckless I once would have now that I am a parent. I have to jump through a few more hoops to go out on the weekends, and I have to stay up a little later to make time for school, but for every phone call to the babysitter and every hour of sleep lost, I am thankful for the change and the joy my son has brought.

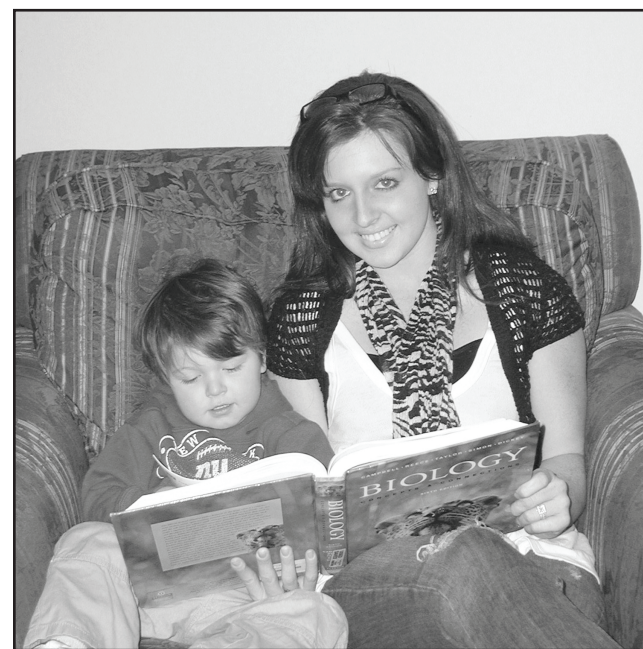
Henry Ward Beecher said, "We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves." I could not agree more. I have nieces and nephews, and I love them. I love playing with them and talking to them. However, a child of your own is a completely different ball game. So, no matter what sacrifices I have had to make being a full-time mother and student in college, it's been worth it. Parents know this.

I am also certainly not the only parent attending GSC this spring. It could be the guy who sits next to you in class or the girl you pass in the hallway every week. We're just like you. We're young. We're smart. We're capable of reaching our goals of earning college degrees as well as anyone else. Maybe even more so. And we have lives all our own outside the walls of GSC.

As intense a role as motherhood is for young college students, or anyone for that matter, I make time for myself as well. I need alone time and girl time to balance a life of baby talk and potty training. A bubble bath and a magazine after the little one is in bed is all it takes some nights to make me feel like an individual again.

This season of life for many college students is one for partying, experimenting and the freedom to enjoy his or her youth. My girlishness has been pushed aside for the time being and replaced by the ABC's and bed time prayers. But don't worry! My youthfulness still comes out every now and then dancing around the living room and hiding from "bad guys" under the covers! And if you ask me I'm having more fun now than I ever had before.

I realize that my story may not be the most common outcome for single or teen parents. Most of my single or teen parent friends have been forced to overlook



Special Alex Donnelly studies biology with her son.

their education without as much as a high school diploma. However, I am living proof that it can be done. College. Parent. Relationship. Friends. Fun. It takes time to learn how to balance it all, but the end result is beyond worthwhile.

We all have to make the best of our personal circumstances and everyone has a story no matter who you are. It may not involve a teenage pregnancy, but there's a story within each of us that sets us apart from the person next to us. I speak about my circumstance to show that no matter what life throws at us, we are humans, we adapt. And many times, those circumstances might just turn out to be the icing on the cake. I have embraced my circumstances and I use them as ammunition against opposition. And I've come to believe that sometimes it's the things that make you different that make you strong. And with determination, people can do anything.

Tips from a student-parent

1. Call Hotline at 1-888-281-3000 if you're feeling overwhelmed.
2. Find a support system. Don't be ashamed to ask for help.
3. Plan ahead.
4. Remember your education. Helping your future will further your child's future.
5. Keep your head up! Nothing worthwhile is ever easy.

Student reactions to new health care act



"Well, you know, health care reform has been a long time coming ... and this is an important first step, I think."

-Ben Luker



"I didn't actually think it was going to happen ... I think it's the government overstepping its boundaries."

-Lauren Muller



"I am worried about is how it's going to be interpreted and how it's going to be used."

-Christy Worthington
President of the Politically Incorrect Club



"Overall, the idea of the healthcare legislation that passed is a good idea."

-Wesley Guevara
Social Coordinator of Future Health Care Professionals



"I still pretty much am against it, (but) there's no sense arguing against it now."

-Jacob Thiessen



"I wish that the church would step up more, and that the government wouldn't have to."

-Nick Marsh

<http://blast.viviti.com/>

'BLAST!

by Audrey Williams

GET THE HELL OUTTA TOWN

Almost everyone would like to travel the world or visit some exotic locale. Unfortunately, the majority of us never will because of the high cost of whirlwind vacations. Taking into consideration the price of plane tickets, local transportation, food, tourist attractions and hotel accommodations, a single trip could put you well into the thousands. If only there were a way to travel the world without breaking the bank, oh, what a life that would be.

But let's cut the dramatics and stop only wishing. There is a way to travel without breaking the bank, and CouchSurfing can make it happen. CouchSurfing isn't what you do in front of the TV, remote in hand, nor is it a new water sport. CouchSurfing International is a non-profit organization that seeks to "internationally network people and places, create educational exchanges, raise collective consciousness, spread tolerance, and facilitate cultural understanding," according to the company's mission statement.

In short, CouchSurfing allows users to find somewhere to stay, anywhere in the world, free of cost. Once you join the net-

work, you can browse the organization's Web site for members who live where you are planning to travel. CouchSurfing provides them with a green check of verification meaning that other CouchSurfing users have vouched for them, then you can open up the lines of communication.

Not only is it an opportunity to visit somewhere wonderful at a fraction of the cost, but staying with someone who knows the area could be great for visiting hotspots. They'd be your free, personal tourist guide. Some people may feel wary of rooming with someone who is technically a stranger, but CouchSurfing International has been up and running since 2004 and has had nothing but good reports.

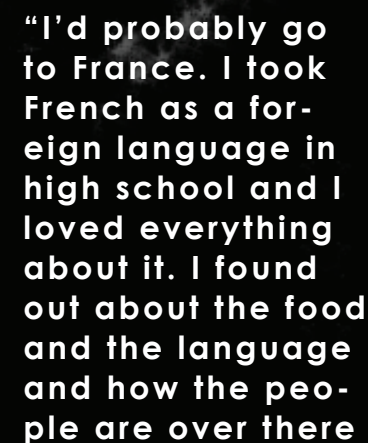
This hospitality exchange network is the perfect opportunity for more people to get "travel the world" off of their life's to-do list. If you'd like to find out more information on how this actually works or join the CouchSurfing community for your future travels, go to <http://www.couchsurfing.org/>.

Audrey Williams is the creator of Blast!, a blog at <http://blast.viviti.com>

IF YOU COULD COUCHSURF, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?



"I think I would go to Italy. I like the culture, the history, the food. It would be cool if someone could show me around and I wouldn't have to spend that much money." Andrea Camacho



"I'd probably go to France. I took French as a foreign language in high school and I loved everything about it. I found out about the food, and the language and how the people are over there and I would like to go meet them. I'd love to see the place and feel the atmosphere." Ally Martin



"If I could go anywhere in the world, it would be Tokyo because of the atmosphere around there and the technology...and the culture, too." Marcus Veal



"Probably Australia. It's a very random place, but I'm a photographer and a lot of the things I do involve different sights. Australia is always one of the places that has a lot of variety. The animals, the tropical stuff, the ocean, but it's also very modern with the buildings. It'd be really cool." Manee Moreno