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The HOOPEE BIRD



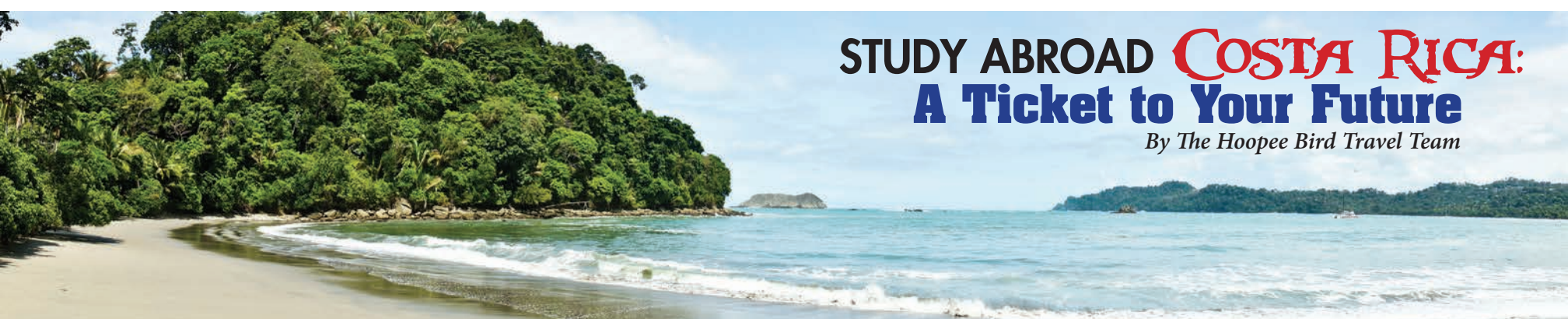
THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF
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STUDY ABROAD COSTA RICA: A Ticket to Your Future

By The Hoopee Bird Travel Team



Hours before dawn on a warm June morning, a rented van pulled away from the Swainsboro campus as students set out for a 10-day trip that would bring them face to face with monkeys and beautiful blue butterflies. These students from Swainsboro, Statesboro, and Augusta had signed up to fulfill course requirements in Costa Rica, more than 1,600 miles from their usual classrooms.

Study Abroad Costa Rica is the longest standing study abroad program at East Georgia State College, and it is open to students on all three campuses. The 2015 trip will be the team's fifth visit to Central America. Each year offers a number of courses completed in the streets of San Jose, the beaches of Manuel Antonio, and the mountains surrounding the UGA Ecolodge.

Program Director and Dean of Humanities Dr. Carmine Palumbo notes that study abroad provides much more than course requirements. "The Costa Rica program offers students experience in many of the areas that employers of the 21st century are looking for in potential employees: a 'global perspective' which is informed by actual experiences in another country, the ability to adapt to environments and situations and overcome challenges, the ability to work with people of diverse backgrounds and with different world views, language skills, creative skills, and knowledge of the environment and how it changes," he said.

This year's adventure begins on June 1 with an early flight from Atlanta to San

Jose, and students will first travel to La Fortuna to experience the hot springs at Arenal Volcano. Day Two includes a hike to the waterfall before a drive to the University of Georgia campus at San Luis near the Monteverde Cloud Forest. When they wake the next morning, participants have the opportunity to milk a cow and enjoy the milk in a cup of the famous Costa Rican coffee.

After a natural history walk, students learn about Costa Rican culture and then take a night hike to discover the nocturnal habits of tarantulas and bats.

On Day Four, a tour of a local coffee farm fills the morning before students visit Rancho de Lelo for fresh-caught tilapia from ponds on the property and a game of soccer. Flying through the rainforest is on the itinerary for the next day, followed by classes on local cooking and Latin dance, including merengue, cumbia, and salsa. On the last morning at the UGA Ecolodge, students observe the birds of San Luis before traveling to the pristine beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park for two days. The end of the trip returns students to the Costa Rican capital, San Jose, for a glimpse of urban life—and

a possible trip to the volcano—before the flight back to Atlanta on June 10.

As they travel, students complete coursework in Critical Thinking, Digital Photography, Spanish, and World Literature, satisfying portions of Areas B, C, and F. "The courses we offer are designed to give students a unique opportunity to approach the material," said Jessica Todd, Assistant Professor of Spanish. "For example, where better can one receive language instruction than in a country where the language is spoken and where increased language ability will improve her experience in an immediate way?" Assistant Professor of Art Desmal Purcell added, "Where better to learn the nuances of digital photography than in a place where everything begs to be photographed and carried home to show others?"

The tentative price of the program is approximately \$1,500 including airfare, lodging, and most meals. Tuition, textbook costs, passport fees, and exit fees are not included.

The program is now accepting applications and deposits. For more details, attend an information session (see times pg.2) or contact Program Director Dr. Carmine Palumbo (cpalumbo@ega.edu), Jessica Todd (jatodd@ega.edu), or Desmal Purcell (dpurcell@ega.edu).



SGA Members Attend Leadership Conference

Article Submitted by Student Life



Pictured in front of the UGA Bulldogs' stadium from left to right are Whitney Pope, SGA Secretary; Lucas Frink, Sophomore Senator; Caitlan Coleman, Freshman Senator; Taliyah Campbell, Sophomore Senator; Harina Kesete, Sophomore Senator; Kathy Carpenter, SGA Vice President.

On February 6 and 7, six members of EGSC's Student Government Association along with Advisor Vicki Sherrod attended the 19th annual Georgia Collegiate Leadership Conference (GCLC) at the Tate Student Center on the University of Georgia's campus in Athens. The theme of the conference was "Be Bold," and the event offered a dynamic way to allow maximum leadership development for college students from around Georgia.

Over 25 colleges from Georgia and one from South Carolina sent participants to the conference. The event began Friday evening with an exciting speaker, James Robilotto of New York, N.Y. By infusing his thought-provoking talk with comedy and self-awareness, Robilotto kept his audience thoroughly engaged. In 2011, James was signed by the

nationally renowned college agency, CAMPUSPEAK. Becoming a professional speaker has allowed James to do the two things he loves the most: having a positive impact on individuals' (especially college students') lives and making people laugh. East Georgia even got a "shout out" from James during his presentation. The evening was full of networking, entertainment by the legendary "Accidentals" from UGA, lots and lots of pizza and exciting and fun leadership development activities. Everyone had a great time and then had plenty of time to walk downtown Athens to top the evening off with a visit to the local Starbucks.

Saturday began with breakfast and a keynote address by Lynita Mitchell-Blackwell. Mitchell-Blackwell is currently

the Chief Leadership Officer of the Leading Through Living Community (LTL) in Atlanta, Ga. She designs, leads and executes workshops, seminars and motivational speeches that position emerging leaders for success. Based on her work and service to the community, Mitchell-Blackwell has received many national and international awards. She both challenged and inspired the group to "Be Bold" and become great leaders. The rest of the day was full of leadership workshops and competitions that included New Emerging Leader, Poster, and "Steal This Program" contests. The group had a wonderful time and came back inspired with many new and exciting ideas they hope to implement on East Georgia State College's campuses.

Lovelady Signs with KSU to Play Division I Baseball

by Taylor Edenfield
Assistant Director of Student Life

Richard Lovelady, a sophomore from Hinesville, Ga., has the distinction of being the first East Georgia State College baseball player to sign with a Division I team. Beginning this fall, Lovelady will trade in the green and gold of his Bobcats uniform for the black and gold of the Kennesaw State University Owls.

Lovelady was born into a military family at Fort Stewart, and grew up in Hinesville as the youngest of four children. He began playing sports at a very young age with his father, SFC Richard Lovelady, and after trying baseball, soccer, and football, the younger Richard decided to focus primarily on baseball. However, his road to the collegiate pitcher's mound was not an easy one. In Little League, he played third base, a difficult position for a lefty like Richard. At age 11, he started his first game as a pitcher and consequently hit 11 batters. This disastrous first appearance on the mound shook his confidence, but instead of giving up, Richard's parents hired a pitching coach with whom he worked constantly over the next year.

"I have lived by the motto that you have to believe in yourself even if no one else does," said Richard. "I'm lucky to have had strong support from my family and coaches along the way." After a year of professional pitching lessons, Richard took to the mound again and threw his first no hitter. At only 5'3", Richard entered his freshman year of high school as one of the smallest players on the team, which propelled him to start working out. A combination of time at the gym and a growth spurt (he now stands 6'1") saw him starting on Liberty County High School's varsity team as a sophomore. During his first home opener as a varsity player, Richard came in as a reliever when his team was losing 9-6, pitched three scoreless innings, and turned the ballgame around for a win.

In his junior year of high school, Richard transferred to First Presbyterian Christian Academy, where he had his first experience in the state playoffs. As a senior, he reached a career high with a pitch at 83 miles per hour. During his tryout at East Georgia, Richard impressed the coaching staff athletically and academically, securing an athletic scholarship and a place on the Bobcat Baseball roster.



Richard Lovelady, EGSC Sophomore

While at East Georgia, Richard has been a stand-out on the field and in the classroom. "Richard works hard on and off the field," said East Georgia Head Baseball Coach Matthew Passauer. "There has yet to be a hiatus in time when he is not making significant strides on the mound, and he has maintained over 3.0 GPA while doing so. Richard is a great sign for Kennesaw, and I have very high expectations for him moving forward."

It was during the Darton Extravaganza in October 2014 that Richard first caught the eye of Kennesaw State Head Coach Mike Sansing, who urged his Pitching Coach Kevin Erminio to contact Richard. An official visit was scheduled, and shortly after, Richard Lovelady became the first Bobcat Baseball player to commit to a Division I school. He has even been contacted by Major League scouts but for now intends to finish his education first.

While excited about what the future holds, Richard remains focused and grounded. "Going to the league would obviously be a dream come true for me," he said. "I think most athletes dream of one day being able to play their sport professionally. But I know that East Georgia has given me the foundation I needed to grow as both an athlete and a student. Currently my primary focus is to obtain a college degree while working towards my ultimate goal of playing professional baseball. It doesn't get any better than that."



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DEADLINES
News items:
by the 9th each month.

EDITORIAL POLICY
Letters to the editor must be accompanied by the author's name, phone number and email address. All columns and letters to the editor are the opinion of the author. The views expressed in the Editorial section do not necessarily express those of The Hoopee Bird.

A Student's View of Costa Rica

By David Wade, EGSC Swainsboro



I was skeptical. Going to a foreign land with a completely foreign people to finish studying a language that could be vital to both my academic and personal success while I was there was an interesting idea. At the same time, I had to remember that my way of life would be completely different. While there would be plenty of opportunity for adventure, there could also be just as much opportunity for danger. I was wrong. Life in Costa Rica is almost entirely unexpected, and what dangers I had anticipated were practically erased from my memory after the first few days. The strangers I met in Costa Rica were some of the nicest people I've ever known, and one of the friends I grew to know while I was there turned out to be more sincere and kind than some back in the States. Needless to say, it was an entirely different world, and I grew to love it.

Costa Rica is a land of simplicity, of comfort and leisure. Everywhere I looked I saw people enjoying themselves and each other's company, enjoying their meals and their drink. The only hectic moments involved the drivers, but even then they seemed to flow naturally. There was only one apparent danger, and that was one's naïveté, understandably. Costa Ricans love Amer-

icans, but their merchants love American money more and often will round up the price in dollars in order to turn a profit on many tourists not comfortable with using colones, the national currency.

Despite that, Costa Ricans are more than generous on most occasions, such as when they have invited American exchange students to live in their home for a few weeks where they feed them with homemade recipes, teach them about their customs and culture, and reserve a nice bed for them to sleep on at the end of the day (which is more than needed after long days of hiking). Now picture this: a big Southern man raised in Georgia dirt, telling you that while you're there your rice won't need salt, pepper or butter, your coffee will be better black than it is in the States with milk and sugar (which, even then, is better tasting than ours), and the fruit you eat will always be better tasting than at home. I know, I'd find it hard to believe, too, but a man as big as I am has come to appreciate food more than some, and Costa Rican cuisine is the best I've had. It is natural, and the flavors are strong on their own without being processed. No need to worry, though. In case rice and beans isn't your thing or if you just miss

home, they have plenty of stands and restaurants serving American cuisine to suit whatever you prefer. All I can say is try everything at least once because you don't want to miss out on the flavors of Costa Rica.

Flavor isn't the only thing there is to experience in Costa Rica. The grass is greener, the pools are clearer, and the sand is brighter. Pictures—as good as they may turn out to be—will never, ever do the countryside justice. Nature is something we've come to appreciate and has become a necessity for some of us to be at ease, offering a break from being surrounded by walls. Even then, there are plenty of opportunities to sit down and enjoy a solid meal. From bustling cities with skyscrapers as far as the eye can see to tilapia farms in green communities, Costa Rica has a good balance of everything.

Whatever it is that one decides to do in Costa Rica, I hope he or she lives it to the fullest and really takes in the whole experience as I did. I hope this year's students take home some memories they will never forget, be they from the rolling mountain ranges, the crisp, green fields, or the lively city streets. All I can say, my friends, is Pura Vida!

American Campuses and the Sexual Assault Crisis

By The Hoopee Bird News Staff

Universities have, for decades, been accused of ignoring allegations of rape. In 2014, 55 colleges and universities faced Title IX investigations, as the media exposed these schools' mishandlings of sexual harassment complaints. President Obama's administration has urged for greater transparency in the investigations, and the U.S. Department of Education is dedicated to eradicating sexual violence on college campuses. According to the research that the White House released, one in five female students is sexually assaulted. Another study states that 20 percent of the national female student population and 6 percent of the national male student population have been the victims of some type of sexual harassment or assault. What is more disturbing is the fact that these numbers do not reflect the crimes that have gone unreported.

Sometimes, students may be confused about what has happened, or they may not recognize that what they have experienced could be defined as sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or sexual assault. Though the person may not identify what has happened as sexual misconduct, he or she is left feeling extremely uncomfortable or violated. Students need to know that sexual harassment has occurred when an employee's or student's sexually suggestive behavior creates an uncomfortable and/or hostile environment where working, learning, or campus participation is hindered. Typical forms of severe sexual misconduct and harassment may be defined in the following ways:

- Purposeful inappropriate body contact, inappropriate touching, or kissing without consent.
- Sexual innuendoes and jokes stated purposefully to signify a sexual interest or to humiliate, degrade, undermine, or embarrass the person.
- Suggestive emails, threatening electronic communications, or electronic communications that proposition or solicit sexual acts.
- Vulgar, sexual gestures, comments about the body and/or appearance, or expressions that suggest sexual desire or sexual acts. All of these actions are used as a means to objectify the harassed person, and may be used to inflict fear, intimidation, degradation, humiliation, or embarrassment.
- Blocking movement, threatening, or stalking.
- Employees who may have on display sexually suggestive (objectifying) posters, drawings, screen savers, or other sexually suggestive or sexually objectifying objects/materials should be reported, as such materials disrupt the conditions of a safe learning/working environment.

To sum it up, any unwanted sexual advances or involuntary exposure to sexually explicit and degrading materials are legally classified as "harassment" and should be reported whether the offending person is a student or school employee. Any sexual act that was coerced should be reported, as this is sexual abuse and abuse of power. Any sexual act that was performed against the will or without consent (or consciousness) is rape. These situations should be reported if it happened on campus or off campus, at school related activities, or if it involved a professor or any other school employee.

So what are students to do if they find themselves experiencing sexual harassment? Fortunately, Title IX requires investigations of formally filed complaints. Colleges and universities that do not follow Title IX guidelines risk state funding. Sexual harassment is a serious offense, and will not be tolerated at EGSC. Title IX defines sexual harassment as illegal sex discrimination that violates civil rights. It does not just apply to women athletes; it applies to a wide-range of sex discrimination acts that include harassment, misconduct, and assault. It is illegal for any person working for a college or university to retaliate by rescinding any privilege the person has a right to as an enrolled student or employee.

Everyone, no matter what his/her status and rank on campus, has civil rights that the state has an interest in protecting. Should you find yourself exposed to sexual harassers, your rights include the following:

- The right to say NO: Verbally express your refusal of any sexual advances, and tell the person to stop.
- The right to report: Contact Tracy Woods in Swainsboro (478-289-2035/ twoods@ega.edu) or Public Safety.
- The right to follow your school's complaint process: See Student Handbook for details.
- The right to be protected: If you are not satisfied with the school's outcome or if the misconduct is severe enough, you may also file a report with the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. They have complaint forms online and offices in the state of Georgia.

Students should know that East Georgia State College is dedicated to protecting the learning environment and its students. EGSC's student handbook states, "East Georgia State College prohibits sexual harassment and follows the policy statement passed by the Board of Regents, University System of Georgia (Section 8.2.16 of the Policy Manual)." The policy also stresses that East Georgia State College "responds promptly to all complaints of sexual harassment." Persons can file sexual harassment complaints with the Title IX coordinator Tracy Woods, who is also the Human Resources Director in Swainsboro. If students are unable to file during business hours, students may contact Public Safety. For more details on Title IX and EGSC's policy on sexual harassment, see the EGSC's Student Handbook (accessible online): <http://www.ega.edu/policy/08-sexual-discrimination-harassment-and-misconduct-policy.pdf>. Information and procedures for victims can be found at <http://www.ega.edu/policy/08-information-and-procedures-for-victims.pdf>.

Study Abroad Costa Rica Information Sessions

Friday, Feb. 27, at 12 p.m.
in Room J503, Library, EGSC
Swainsboro

Wednesday, Mar. 4, at 4 p.m.
in Room J503, Library, EGSC
Swainsboro

EGSC Adds New Courses for Communication Arts Degree

By The Hoopee Bird News Staff

On each campus of EGSC, students now have the opportunity to earn credit for work on college publications and theatrical productions. The one-credit Communications Production courses in print media and theatre offer students a glimpse of the foundations of these industries through real-life application.

COMM 1112, 1113, and 1114 cover printing production of EGSC's student newspaper, *The Hoopee Bird*, and the literary magazine, *Wiregrass*. Newspaper production students work under the direction of three faculty advisors: Instructor Lindy Blount (Augusta), Professor Jessica Palumbo (Swainsboro), and Dr. Ren Denton (Statesboro). Students from the three campuses communicate and collaborate to assemble the paper each month. The students are responsible for developing story ideas and executing those ideas in publishable articles that could serve them in a portfolio should they pursue a higher degree or career in the media field.

Students who enroll in Professor Steve Lavender's course collaborate to produce the *Wiregrass* magazine. In addition to writing, students gain experience compiling and editing the college's literary journal.

Successful students will be those who are actively engaged in producing these publications. Grades for both courses are determined on the quantity and quality of student participation.

Students in COMM 1115, 1116, and 1117 gain experience in the various aspects of theatre production. According to Professor Ronald Ellison, the courses allow students to experience "practical application of principles and practices of acting, script analysis, costuming, set design and construction, lighting, blocking, music, and public relations." Students are assessed on their production participation and application of principles. "There are many possible ways to work in a play production, and this course offers a small taste of that variety," Ellison said.

These production courses fulfill a portion of the requirements for the associate of arts degree in Communication Arts. Other degree requirements include Public Speaking or Intercultural Communications and four Humanities electives.

The A.A. degree in Communication Arts prepares students to enter a number of fields associated with communication including journalism and public relations, according to Dr. Carmine Palumbo, Dean of Humanities. "Our graduates may choose to pursue the B. F. A. degree at Valdosta State University with a major in Speech Communication in their department of Communication Arts," he said. "Augusta students may also benefit from these courses as they transfer to the B. A. in Communications with a focus in Journalism at Georgia Regents University where they can carry their newspaper experience to the GRU student newspaper, *The Bell Ringer*."

The Hoopee Bird
East Georgia
State College

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Why English is a Great Major

By Brianna Watson, EGSC Swainsboro

English is a major that is often deemed impractical and unrealistic for getting a job. Too often its importance is overlooked in favor of a more occupationally driven major. However, English classes are a crucial part of any post-secondary education, and a degree in English is very valuable.

Why Choose English?

A struggle that every English major is all too familiar with is the list of questions almost everyone will ask at least twice:

- “So, you want to be a teacher?”
- “No? Well what else can you do with English?”
- “Why didn’t you choose a more realistic major?”

Could there possibly be any value in learning about language, communication, and expression? Yes! English doesn’t only teach students how to read and write. It also teaches critical thinking, which will be a requirement for success in any career. Another benefit of majoring in English is learning how to form intelligent and logically sound arguments on any subject and how to express that argument effectively. Through the study of English, students also learn how to see things from new perspectives and consider ideas and positions they had never considered before. All of these skills are very important parts of being successful in any career.

The Foreign Language Requirement

The foreign language requirement is something that makes many students wary of the English major. “Why do I need to learn a foreign language to major in our own?” they ask. The English major is about learning the art of language and communication, and studying a foreign language is a great way to expand that knowledge. This requirement helps students to understand where words originate and how different cultures communicate. It is interesting to observe the differences between how we express ideas and how other cultures express them. The foreign language requirement may seem daunting, but it is an enriching and beneficial experience for any student and is an essential part of an English major’s education.

Pursuing a degree in the field of English gives students many unmatched tools and abilities for being successful in any career. And the reading and writing parts of the major have their own benefits. Reading transports students to other times and places and allows them to see the world as it was seen by someone else from his or her unique perspective. When it comes to writing, there is nothing more satisfying than creating something yourself and knowing that it effectively conveys the ideas you were trying to express.

An Easy, 12-Step Guide to the Life of an English Major:

1. Wake up on your notebook, which also sometimes doubles as a pillow.
2. Go to class.
3. Read.
4. Have an existential crisis.
5. Write eight pages, and then delete six.
6. Cry. (Note: Every major requires the use of this step.)
7. Get an essay back marked with an A+ and praise from your professor and feel like a literary genius.
8. Go home and write what you’re sure will be the next New York Times bestseller.
9. Encounter writer’s block.
10. Aimlessly wander around your room searching for inspiration until you find a stroke of genius and feel like the most profound author of the 21st century.
11. Fall asleep on your notebook.
12. Repeat.

A Hole in One: DISC GOLF AT EGSC

By Brianna Watson, EGSC Swainsboro



With registration for summer and fall semesters rapidly approaching on March 23, it is time to start considering what classes to take. Swainsboro students, how are you going to fill that P.E. requirement? A great way to earn a P.E. credit which you may not have considered is our Introduction to Disc Golf class here at EGSC!

Maybe you’ve never heard of disc golf. It’s a sport that many people are unfamiliar with, but it is growing very quickly in popularity. Disc golf got its start in the 1970’s when Ed Headrick, father of the Frisbee, invented the basket target at which to throw them. The basket is elevated thirty-two inches off the ground and is equipped with steel

chains to catch discs. Later, the Frisbee was reimagined to better serve its purpose for the game. Discs were made heavier and more compact to reduce air resistance

East Georgia hosted the first state collegiate disc golf tournament in the nation.

and allow for more accurate throws. There are three categories of discs varying in weight and shape, each designed for a specific purpose: drivers, approach discs, and putters. Most of the terminology is the same as in traditional club golf, and a typical game of

disc golf also consists of eighteen holes.

Disc golf is a fun and laid-back sport that anyone can play. It can be played alone or you can bring some friends along and get competitive. For those who particularly enjoy the game, the annual Georgia Collegiate Disc Golf Championship is held the first Saturday of October at the Swainsboro course. Anyone who is interested in participating may contact Dr. Walt Mason or Dr. Alan Brasher for more information. Although you don’t have to enroll to go down to the course and throw a few holes, it will certainly be beneficial to any aspiring disc-golfer and is an enjoyable way to earn a P.E. credit.

CHECKLIST FOR GRADUATION

By Karly Cano, EGSC Statesboro

Congratulations to those who are graduating this spring!

You should have filed a graduation application last semester. Here are just a few more things you’ll need to remember. If you have additional questions about graduation, you can contact the Registrar’s Office at (478) 289-2169.

- Pay \$35 mandatory graduation fee.
- Watch your school emails for directions regarding the ordering of your cap and gown.
- Make sure to wear dark colors for uniformity in photos taken after the ceremony.
- Attend Spring Graduation on the Swainsboro Campus (Gymnasium) at 7 p.m.

What is the most pressing issue for students?



- a. Paying for college
- b. Working while attending college
- c. Reaching graduation
- d. Maintaining relationships with friends and family

Email ohoopee@ega.edu to let us know what you think.

Make or (Spring) Break: It’s Not Too Late to Make Plans

By The Hoopee Bird Travel Team

Perhaps this article should begin with something like “Spring Break is only a few weeks away and just a couple more after that for our Augusta students,” but we all know that everyone at EGSC is well aware of the upcoming break. However, there may still be some people who are still without plans. “Spring Break” conjures up some not-so-flattering images from news network footage, but the week can really be anything you want it to be. From saving your money to exploring the beauty of middle Georgia and beyond, there are plenty of possibilities for the famous and much anticipated Spring Break.

- Work: If you don’t have plans because you don’t have the funds, this is the option for you. Take advantage of the fact that many others have taken off, grab a few extra hours, and save your money. You won’t regret it when you check your account balance.
- Write a research paper: Yes, this might not be the coolest idea, but no amount of time on a Florida beach will bring you the peace of mind that a completed research paper will provide. If you are lucky enough to be without an essay assignment when you wave goodbye to campus, use your time to study and prepare for the tests that loom in late March.
- Volunteer: Nothing looks better on transfer applications and resumes than time spent helping others. Find a local church or food bank that needs assistance and offer your time. Whether close to campus or in your hometown, there are always organizations seeking volunteers.
- Take a “stay-cation”: The first option for a staycation is a funny one but legitimate nonetheless. Crank up the heat, put on your favorite summer outfit, and jump into a beach read. Silly, yes, but also indulgent in its own way. If this is too much “stay” and not enough vacation for you, consider one of the fantastic locations easily within driving distance of any of our campuses. Local state parks make for a great day-trip; visit <http://gastateparks.org/> for more information about George L. Smith and Magnolia Springs parks. Savannah is another no-brainer filled with interesting places such as City Market or Forsyth Park; for a few more minutes in the car, you can visit Tybee Island (AJ’s Dockside Café and the Tybee Pier are favorite spots).

Homecoming Casino Night March 11

Shake, Rattle, and Roll at our Bobcat Homecoming Casino Night! This event will be held Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center on the Swainsboro campus. Casino Night will feature 10 Vegas-style game tables and the chance to win a cash grand prize! Attire is semi-formal to formal, and admission is free for students. Be on the lookout for more information about Homecoming Representatives and voting for King and Queen. See Taylor Edenfield in the JAM Center if you have questions.



Ezra Pond or Edna St. Vincent M'Lake? A Moment in EGSC History

By John Derden, Professor Emeritus of History

A beautiful centerpiece of the natural environment that makes up the East Georgia State College campus is Ezra Pond. Over the years, it has served as a place for peaceful reflection, been the venue of the annual Duct Tape Regatta, hosted canoe races, attracted adult geese raising goslings, and even served as a fishing spot, both for recovering errant boomerangs and golf discs, as well as hooking an occasional bass. Today, the splashing sounds of the fountain in its center attract the attention of the many students who daily trudge over the bridge that crosses the stream at the upper end of the pond as they go back and forth between their classes and the parking lot and dorm.

Having a pond on our campus is not unusual giv-

en the fact that we live in a region in which numerous farm ponds dot the landscape. However, most such bodies of water are not named, but ours is and unusually so. The story of its naming goes back to the beginning of the college.

The property originally acquired for the college included over 200 acres of what had been farmland but which subsequently had been planted in pines. Two ponds were on the property, one of which became Ezra Pond. The other pond, located across Madison Dixon Drive from the Fulford Center, has only within the past few years become accessible. Although the college opened in fall 1973, the campus was not completed and occupied until the following fall. The first year's classes were held in the National

Guard Armory on Highway 57 West.

In fall 1974, faculty, staff, and students came to the newly-completed campus, and the pond surrounded by the large parking lot and the initial campus buildings began to attract attention. One night at a faculty get-together at a house off-campus, talk turned to naming the pond. Someone suggested "Ezra Pond," recalling the famous early twentieth-century poet Ezra Pound. Before the laughter died down, another voice chimed in: "How about Edna St. Vincent M'Lake?" Edna St. Vincent Millay was a well-known literary contemporary of Pound's. But Ezra Pond stuck, and so it has remained to this day.

Is College Really Worth It?

By Ashley Francis, EGSC Swainsboro

Before, during, and after their days on campuses across the country, students continuously wonder "Is college really worth it?" After graduating, many have trouble finding work and struggle with debt. Despite these troubles, having a degree is actually more valuable than ever, and new research highlights three significant reasons for pursuing a college degree:

1. **A college education increases income:** Income seems to be a factor in many people's decision to attend college. According to the Pew Research Center, bachelor's degree earnings are close to \$45,500 dollars annually, and an associate's degree earnings are close to \$30,000 dollars annually compared to \$28,000 for a high school graduate. Each level of education earned can be associated with an increase in annual income. If you're still not convinced, maybe this will change your mind. According to the College Board, the actual in-state "sticker-price" (published tuition and fees) is \$8,240. However, the price that students actually pay is \$2,490, thanks to grants and federal education tax credits. East Georgia students have one of the best deals around with low tuition, and the cost of attending is regained in income in only a couple of years. The rest is pure profit, right?
2. **The cost of not going to college has risen:** Even lower level jobs demand a high school diploma, but many employers now look for college transcripts. Time after high school not spent working towards a degree costs more than tuition, especially in terms of lifetime earnings. Studies from the Pew Research Center suggest that more than 20 percent of high school graduates are currently living in poverty. Earning potential for this group has actually fallen in recent years, so it seems that businesses are demanding more from those entering the workforce.
3. **College graduates enjoy many other benefits:** We have all heard stories of graduates struggling to find jobs, but things are beginning to look up. The advantages of college education are clear in salary studies, but they extend beyond the number on a W-2. Graduates belong to a select group, and the connections that come with this "membership" can create an even greater divide between those who choose to attend college and those who don't. In fact, those income amounts may increase as a result of these social advantages as well.

In addition to the obvious earnings argument, college can strongly affect your quality of life. Higher education allows you to pursue your interests and find a job you love, providing the priceless advantage of motivation. Is college worth it? Definitely. Now, the real questions is What's your major?

Meet an EGSC Student Ambassador

Student Ambassadors is a select group of students who represent and serve the college at a number of events throughout the year.



CAITLAN COLEMAN

Hometown: Kite, Ga.

High School: Swainsboro High School

Major: Political Science

LAST TIME YOU WERE INSPIRED:

A couple weeks back, I, along with the rest of the ambassadors and members of SGA, had the chance to have lunch with Dr. Boehmer and his wife. I actually had the chance to sit down and talk to our president one on one about my future ambitions. He shared his life experiences and gave great advice. It was quite inspiring!

WHY YOU SERVE AS AN AMBASSADOR:

I serve as an Ambassador because I want to get our college's name and face out into the community. I want to show everyone how much East Georgia State College has to offer.

FAVORITE ASPECT OF LIFE AT EGSC: I love that EGSC has a sense of togetherness. The professors are always willing to help, and the staff as well as the student body are wonderful.

Meet an SGA Member

The Student Government Association, or SGA, is the campus organization governing student activities and representing the students in college affairs. SGA sponsors the annual talent show, the Miss EGSC Scholarship Pageant, and many other activities on campus.

HARINA KESETE

Hometown: North Georgia

High School: Grayson High School

Major: Nursing



LAST TIME YOU WERE INSPIRED:

My most recent inspiring moment was when I went back to Eritrea this past summer. The people of the country were so loving and so willing to help out with anything no matter what the circumstances were. One person who stood out was my Uncle. He was extremely humble and so willing to give, which I find so beautiful. He once told me "Giving is one of the best blessing your future will receive." It helped me realize that the beauty of giving is extraordinary. I got such a lively and positive feeling that it affected me in ways that I thought I couldn't be. What I learned from him and the time being in Eritrea is most definitely an astonishing life-long lesson!

SEE YOU THERE! EVENTS AT EGSC

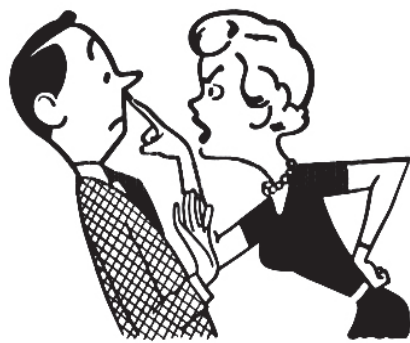
- February 25 Bobcat Baseball vs. FSU Jacksonville, 2:00 p.m.
- February 27 Study Abroad Costa Rica Informational Meeting, 12:00 p.m., J503
- February 28 Candace Canady Memorial Scholarship 5K & Fun Run, 8:00a.m., Swainsboro Campus
- February 28 Sherman's March, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., meet at the Fulford Learning Center
- February 28 Lady Bobcats Softball vs. Florida State-Jacksonville, 1:00 p.m.
- February 28 Miss EGSC 2015 Pageant, 7:00 p.m., LFG Auditorium
- March 2 Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony 6:00 p.m., Fulford Learning Center
- March 3 Transfer Fair, LFG Rotunda, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- March 3 Lady Bobcats Softball vs. USC-Salkehatchie, 1:00 p.m.
- March 4 Study Abroad Costa Rica Informational Meeting, 4:00 p.m., J503
- March 6 Bobcat Baseball vs. Georgia Perimeter, 2:00 p.m.
- March 7 Bobcat Baseball vs. Georgia Perimeter, 1:00 p.m.
- March 7 Lady Bobcats Softball vs. South Georgia College, 1:00 p.m.
- March 7 Emanuel Arts Council Presents Driving Miss Daisy, 7:00 p.m., LFG Auditorium
- March 10 Dawn Baker, Vision Series, 11:00 a.m., LFG Auditorium
- March 10 Bobcat Baseball vs. Darton College, 3:00 p.m.
- March 11 Homecoming/Casino Night, 7:00 p.m., Fulford Learning Center
- March 12 Lady Bobcats Softball vs. ABAC, 2:00 p.m.
- March 16-20 Spring Break, Swainsboro and Statesboro Campuses
- March 17 Bobcat Baseball vs. Chattahoochee Valley, 2:00 p.m.
- March 23 Summer/Fall 2015 Registration Begins, 8:00 a.m.
- March 24 Bobcat Baseball vs. ABAC, 3:00 p.m.

CHEAP CHOCOLATES AND DEAD-BEAT DATES



By Karly Cano, EGSC Statesboro

Valentine's Day—the day that all singles dread—has come and gone again. For those “lucky” ones with dates, Valentine's Day may not have measured up to the anticipation and expectations. Those “rose-colored glasses” one may have been wearing in the presence of his or her “Valentine” are now gone. It's the Valentine's Day let-down—the Christmas Blues, only in Pepto-Bismol pink.



We can blame the Romans for starting this dreadful holiday. Cultural specialist N.S. Gill tells us the Festival of Lupercalia centered on the boys and girls of Rome. The boys and girls were not allowed to speak all year until the festival. On the “special” day, the girls' names were put inside a jar; each boy pulled out one name of a girl. The boy then had to spend the duration of the festival with the girl. Let's pause here to think about the horror some of these boys and girls endured...does this make being single more appealing?

This holiday started as just a festival that brought the youth of a community together. Now the cultural expectations of this holiday are based upon the glitz and glamour that today's capitalistic market tries to sell to the couples, the hopefuls, and the hopeless. It is cultural pressure to hook up in the most romantic ways that would even make Cupid jealous.

Every year just before Valentine's Day, singles begin to form dramatized versions of their lives for Valentine's Day

such as being swept off their feet or meeting the elusive “one.” I'm not saying it cannot happen, but it is highly unlikely, ultimately leaving the singles feeling alone, eating boxed chocolates by themselves.

That leads us to the let-down...the hot date was a dead-beat, the chocolate was cheap, and the flowers are wilted. Single life settles in again, maybe leaving one with a feeling of hopelessness. No one likes feeling lonely, but it is crucially important to our sense of self that we shake off

these preconceived ideas of Valentine's Day. We need to realize that the movies, TV shows, and corporate marketing of Valentine goods are nothing more than cheap manipulative tactics that pressure the single to find a date on Valentine's Day. These tactics sell us the belief that our value increases when we are coupled with another individual. In other words, the “jar of names” is still with us, metaphorically speaking. And like the ancient Romans, we are subjected to a cultural expectation that is more likely to end in feeling let down than a “forever happiness.” The Valentine's Day letdown is always going to be an issue as long as we continue to believe the marketing tactics that pressure us to believe we must be coupled on one specific day or suffer cultural shame. Ba humbug!

Have any Valentine's Day or other holiday letdowns that you just cannot keep to yourself? Email your sad tales to kcano@ega.edu.

Spring Break GEAR 101



By The Hoopee Bird Travel Team

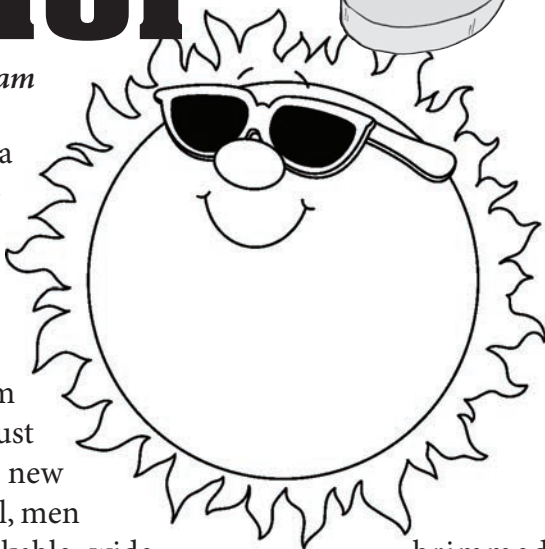
Whether you are boarding a plane after your last class on Friday afternoon or spending your break a little closer to home, it is always fun to have some new gear for your next adventure.

Hat (\$7-15): Protect yourself from the sun, hide messy hair, or just change a favorite outfit with this new gear. For more adventurous travel, men and women can choose a packable wide-brimmed hat by companies like Columbia. Baseball-style caps are versatile for both groups as well (and are even available with built-in flashlights in the brim!). **Sunscreen (\$3-7):** This item needs no explanation. Unless you plan to spend your break playing Halo or Rainbow Six, you will probably need sunscreen at some point. Trust us.

Cell phone charger (\$5-10): Although some of us won't admit it, cell phones are an important part of life. (Take a look around campus if you want confirmation.) Whether you need music, directions, or access to Cat-mail, you'll experience a rather different type of break—that of the heart—if your phone battery dies. Once an expensive accessory from electronics stores (remember RadioShack?), chargers can now be found at many shops and even at your local pharmacy. Walgreens offers a dual-port USB car charger in vibrant colors that are perfect for spring. Your friend riding shotgun will thank you, too.

Radio apps (free): Radio stations offer some great options for road trips, but let's face it: there are areas in central Georgia where the listening options are limited. Android and Apple fans alike can check out TuneIn, Pandora, Spotify or iHeartRadio for the perfect road trip soundtrack. Stitcher Radio offers a combination of these apps for news and talk, and Scanner Radio allows you to listen to local frequencies (think public safety and weather updates).

Tote (\$10-20): As a carry-on or a beach bag, a new tote can definitely brighten your week. Available in a variety of stores, totes can often be found for less at stores such as TJ Maxx. Look for strong handles and bright colors (hint: a bold print can hide marks and extend the life of your tote, too). When the vacation is over, your beach bag will easily double as a tote perfect for carrying books and supplies to classes in the last weeks of spring semester.



Remember When: Memories of Spring Break from EGSC Faculty and Staff

What is your favorite Spring Break memory?

“My favorite Spring Break memories are from the EGSC Washington, D.C. trip of 2012. At the National Gallery of Art, there was an exhibit called ‘Picasso's Drawings, 1890-1921: Reinventing Tradition.’ It was a collection ranging from his childhood sketches to his first explorations in cubism. Pablo Picasso has been a long-time favorite artist of mine, and it was amazing to be inches from his brushstrokes! We also got to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and I must say it was a very humbling experience. We enjoyed diverse D.C. cuisine, and I had my first grasshopper taco at a great restaurant called Oyamel! Professor Desmal Purcell, who has lived in DC, was an amazing guide! All in all, it was a great opportunity that I would not have been able to experience without having been a student at East Georgia State College!”

KIMBERLY PAGE
Records Specialist

“Spring Break in Florida...putting a roof on a house with Habitat for Humanity! There were five of us from my campus and three people from the Florida Habitat office and we “raised the roof!” in one week. Awesome experience and great memories.”

MISSIE CRAWFORD
Director of Housing

“My most interesting spring break was spring break in March 1968. About six Chemistry/Math majors loaded up in a 1956 Mercury and drove 600 miles to Daytona Beach and slept out on the beach. I slept underneath the gas tank of the car. All it cost was four tanks of \$0.25 gas, six loaves of day-old bread, and a large jar of peanut butter, split six ways.”

DR. TIM GOODMAN
Vice President for Academic Affairs

“What's a Spring Break?!...I went to college in the mid-1960s and to graduate school in the late 60s and early 70s; we didn't have Spring Breaks, although some of the schools ‘Up North’ did.”

BOB TOWNSEND
Part-time Instructor of History, EGSC Statesboro

“My favorite spring break memory was the year we went to Washington, D.C. We had a bus load of students and community members who had a wonderful and educational long weekend. We saw many sights and visited so many historical places: Lincoln Memorial, Air and Space Museum, Vietnam War Memorial, Civil War Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. We toured the Capitol Building and many others (too many to name). It was an awesome trip and one I will remember for a lifetime, one I would love to take again with my family.”

DONNA FREEMAN
Human Resources Technician

“My favorite Spring Break memory is when my older brother (John Keith: former EGSC Admissions Recruiter) and I drove across the country, ending at the Grand Canyon (Arizona). We left the Monday morning of Spring Break and returned that Saturday, stopping in every major city along the way, eating in all kinds of restaurants, staying in hotels, really just enjoying the road and seeing the country that you cannot see from an airplane.”

AARON KEITH
Admissions Recruiter

“This actually happened to one of my students! A few years ago I was teaching a biology course and the students had just returned from Spring Break. Just prior to the break, the class had completed a unit on the integumentary system (skin). The first day of class after the break, I noticed a young man with a very unusual pattern of sunburn on his face. It appeared that someone had drawn a perfectly straight line down the middle of his face; one side of his face was red and blistered and the other side had normal coloration. I inquired of him how did he get a sunburn that divided his face so perfectly? Did you do this on purpose? His response: I drank too much, passed out, fell in the sand with half of my face buried, and remained there for several hours. Hilarious!”

DR. JIM WEDINCAMP, JR.
Department Chair of Biology

“Last spring break my wife and I left Statesboro in the rain, trusting in the weather reports that there would be a slow clearing and warming by the next day. We set up our tent that evening on South Carolina's Edisto Island in a short break in the rain and then visited the beach, where the rain was blowing almost horizontally—not a good sign. That night we stayed in the tent in a damp forty degrees, survived until the morning—I was warm anyway—cooked a hasty breakfast standing up in the cold, and decided to go visit Charleston to stay warm. Needless to say, we did not stay the second night.”

REID DERR
Associate Professor of History

“I spent one Spring Break in Panama Beach with the Besties on jet skis! :)”

STACEY KING
PE Complex Coordinator/Fitness Center Director

“Spring of 1976—wow—seems like a million years ago and when I think again, it seems like yesterday. We were sophomores at the University of South Carolina in Aiken. We were finishing our two years and moving on with our future, mine as a junior at the University of South Carolina in Columbia and Terese with a job and marriage.

Before our lives took these new twists, we decided one big spring break trip would be just what we needed. We had been everywhere over the years, like best friends do. We had been to the beach, the mountains, and the lake, but Daytona Beach for Spring Break was the golden ticket. We saved our money and talked about everything we would do. Long before the internet, we couldn't do much research, but we sure did a lot of planning anyway. Sunday morning came. We left the boyfriends behind and packed up in Terese's 1974 navy blue Chevrolet Camaro convertible. We had our wooden box of 8-track tapes on the back seat and headed down to Florida on Highway #1 singing along with an eclectic mix of The Rolling Stones, Carolina beach music and even Captain and Tennille (don't hate). What a trip. It was just about as perfect as it could be. We met people from everywhere (Wisconsin people are too much fun), drove cars on the beach, walked a million miles and made memories that can never be taken away.

When we got back, Terese married her prince charming and had two beautiful daughters. I went on to school. We stayed in touch - as much as you can when your lives are on different tracks. We talked, sent Christmas cards, kept up—somewhat. Terese died unexpectedly last year. When I heard the news, the first thing I thought of was that wonderful smile and her great laugh as we sang at the top of our lungs in her navy blue car. I miss her every day and will always cherish Spring Break 1976.

Friendship is all about the memories you share together. My advice: don't miss an opportunity.”

ELIZABETH GILMER
Director of External Affairs

“Most colleges in Louisiana do not have a spring break; instead, they have a week off for Mardi Gras at the end of February. It was quite a change for a guy from the East Coast, when I was in graduate school there, to take a week off only a month after the semester had begun and to embrace this odd tradition which permeated the culture, religion, and function of the entire state for several weeks every year. Mardi Gras parades occur in every town in Louisiana, not just New Orleans, and sometimes the routes and schedules are not well advertised. On one occasion, I went out for groceries at the local Albertson's, and by the time I finished shopping, the parking lot had been barricaded as part of a parade route. There was nothing to do but walk up to the curb and join the crowd. Laissez le bon temps rouler!”

DR. CARMINE PALUMBO
Dean of Humanities

2015 EGSC COLLEGE READINESS TOUR

By Bob Boehmer, EGSC President



Lucas Frink addresses students at Southeast Bulloch High School on Feb. 12.

Over a period of nine days, the 2015 EGSC College Readiness Bus Tour traveled to 24 high schools in our region. Tour participants met with over 4,000 high school juniors and seniors.

Presentations by EGSC students were a highlight of the tour. This is an outstanding example of EGSC students serving our region while working toward their college degree. Participating EGSC students were: Morgane Brantley, Jonpaul Brunner, Ca'Seita Byrd, Jalesa Carroll, Caitlan Coleman, Chris Doughtie, Lucas Frink, Whitney Heath, Harina Kesete, Chase Parr, Danielle Rheame, Ivy Robertson, Tracy Sanders, Harley Strickland, Glenn Tobie, Tondric Johnson and Madeline Vickery.

This was the College's second annual tour. The tour's purpose is to educate high schools students in our region about the importance of college and the steps necessary to be admitted to college and to succeed once admitted.

Each school presentation began with a brief video about college preparation and success featuring EGSC students. Many of the images of our beautiful campus in the video were taken from a drone. Check it out on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1Rft_64LcQ.

Similarly, each school presentation ended with EGSC students telling their personal stories about making the choice to attend college and succeeding at EGSC. As I watched the high schools students each day on the tour, it was clear that these personal stories made the biggest impact on our audiences.

As we watch and read the news each day, it is easy to allow the many stories about the high cost of college and the burgeoning student loan debt to overshadow the real story: college graduates earn more over their lifetimes, are less likely to be unemployed and are more likely to have job satisfaction.

EGSC's amazing students communicate this message so very well. Their personal stories of overcoming adversity to attend college, participating in all of the aspects of college life at EGSC and moving towards their dreams are inspirational. Thanks, EGSC students. You're the best.

HIGH SCHOOLS VISITED

Vidalia Comprehensive High School
Tattnall County High School
Toombs County High School
Swainsboro High School
Jenkins County High School
Treutlen County High School
Hephzibah High School
Harlem High School
Edmund Burke Academy
Warren County High School
Academy of Richmond County
Cross Creek High School
Glascock County Consolidated School
John Hancock Academy
Southeast Bulloch High School
Statesboro High School
Montgomery County High School
Wheeler County High School
Jefferson County High School
Thomas Jefferson Academy
Johnson County High School
Pinewood Christian Academy
Claxton High School
Metter High School

TYRA LACY NAMED GCAA PLAYER OF THE WEEK



From EGSC Athletics

Tyra Lacy, in her first week of being a starting guard for the Lady Bobcats, received the Women's Basketball Player of the Week honor from the GCAA Head Coaches. In back-to-back wins, Tyra scored 19 points and had six rebounds and two steals against Andrew College and had 20 points, six rebounds and three steals against Chattahoochee Tech.

Tyra, a freshman from Hardaway High School in Columbus, Ga., is the first EGSC Women's player to be named Player of the Week in three years.



JILLIAN KIRKLAND NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ACE

Article Submitted

Created in 2012, the EGSC Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) will approach its third year under the leadership of Jillian Kirkland, who was named Interim Director of the ACE in January. Ms. Kirkland has been an employee of EGSC since September 2010 and previously worked in the Registrar's Office as the Assistant Registrar.

"I came to work at East Georgia State College because I have a passion for working with students," said Kirkland. "While I enjoyed my time in the Registrar's Office, I am excited to work with our students on a different level. Tutoring gives me the opportunity to build one-on-one relationships with students and truly make a difference in their lives during their time at EGSC. I am also excited to work with our ACE staff who are dedicated to the academic success of our students."

On each campus, the ACE offers a number of resources for students including advising and tutoring as well as test proctoring and study facilities.



THEY CALL IT PUPPY LOVE

By Cassie White, EGSC Augusta

I usually only watch the Super Bowl because I have no other choice. My husband and our friends somehow actually care about football. When Super Bowl Sunday hits, I have few other entertainment options. Why? Sadly, our cohort gathers around my family's only television, and of course, I'm not allowed near the remote. The sports' enthusiasts that plop on our couch have good reason (I suppose) to keep the remote control out of my hands.

While the friends are itching to see who wins the coin toss, I'm thinking about all the riveting events from earlier in the day—the acrobatics of the Puppy Bowl. I'd rather watch these cute little loves than a football game, particularly since the football is so hard to see on the television screen. Surely, I can't be the only one that has trouble locating that oblong soccer ball on a television set.

Personally, I prefer the Super Bowl, the friendly to my tastes. Animal Planet's Puppy Bowl starts Super Bowl Sunday, offering all ages alike opportunity for pleasure.

Here's the skinny: The Puppy Bowl starts Super Bowl Sunday, offering all ages alike opportunity for pleasure. The goal of the two sporting events is essentially the same: if a member of Team Ruff (or Fluff, for that matter) happens to reach the "inzone" with a toy, that little puppy secures his or her legacy in the annals of Puppy Bowl history. In other words, the little tyke, by trotting into the "inzone," scores a touchdown. Sure, some folks see the Puppy Bowl as a charade, a corny ploy to hike viewership, but these little bundles of fur have never been accused of using performance-enhancing bones, nor have they intentionally deflated their favorite toys.

If you watch the Super Bowl for the spectacle, then you should also watch the Puppy Bowl. It's just as spectacular. You want cheerleaders? Done. The Animal Planet employs goats as cheerleaders. Super rad. You like pre-game spectacles? Oh boy, wait until you see a hamster flying over the stadium. In a way, the flying hamster is saying, "hey we are all part of the animal kingdom. Let's join hands and unite." They even have halftime shows. This year's half time show featured a cat named Katty Furry, believed to be a distant relative of Katy Perry's pet cat, Kitty Purry (although this is just speculation within the Puppyball community).

If you haven't already started scouring the Internet for this year's showdown, then check out the highlights: <http://www.animalplanet.com/tv-shows/puppy-bowl/videos/puppy-bowl-viii-highlights>.



Puppy Bowl. Every year during the people at Animal Planet cater Planet knows how to program. at 3:00 in the afternoon on providing K-9 and sports love to maximize their viewing

A whole litter of puppies arena that looks like a football Ruff and Team Fluff, simply with toys—much like their man-day. Except, these little puppies leap; they soar. They don't gloat; they (as there is no crying in Puppyball).

is essentially the same: if a member of Team Ruff (or Fluff, for that matter) happens to reach the "inzone" with a toy, that little puppy secures his or her legacy in the annals of Puppy Bowl history. In other words, the little tyke, by trotting into the "inzone," scores a touchdown. Sure, some folks see the Puppy Bowl as a charade, a corny ploy to hike viewership, but these little bundles of fur have never been accused of using performance-enhancing bones, nor have they intentionally deflated their favorite toys.

Jasmine Brewton Wins Apollo Night

By Stacey King, PE Complex Coordinator

The EGSC International Club hosted their second annual Apollo Night on Feb. 10. The house was packed to support the group of talented students competing for a cash prize. Contestants included Jasmine "Jazzy J" Brewton, Lucas "Seven" Frink, Olivia "QT" Holliman, Jabory Williams, Brandon Cato, Morgan Brantley, Malaikia Brantley, and Shakyra Daniels. These students performed as rappers, singers, and praise dancers. The Dazzling Stars, a local young girls' dance group, also participated in the event. Brewton won the show when she gave a powerful spoken word performance. As the winner, Brewton will perform in the International Club's upcoming Fashion Show on April 7.

ALWAYS REDEFINES "Like a Girl"

By Brooke Cason, EGSC Augusta

I am not interested in professional football, but I do watch the Super Bowl every year. I always tune in for the best commercials and the half time show. I expect to see longer more in depth commercials during the Super Bowl. This year, Always stole the show, generating a great message for young boys and girls.

What does it mean to do something "like a girl"? This question is posed to young adult men and women and young girls and boys in the Always advertisement that first aired on Super Bowl Sunday, an advertisement aimed at redefining this all-too-common phrase. First, young men and women are asked to throw and run "like a girl." Both males and females intentionally perform badly, suggesting that being "like a girl" athletically is tantamount to being uncoordinated. These young adults seem to accept this notion as an inherent truth.



They don't seem to take issue with the phrase's pejorative connotations. In the second half of the advertisement, young girls around the age of seven respond to the same questions. The young girls demonstrate their understandings of running and throwing "like a girl": they are intense, they are competitive, and they are athletic. The moral of the advertisement is that as children become adults, this phrase takes on a new meaning, a meaning that is illogical and offensive. Always calls for a revision of society's approach to this idea, leaving viewers with the positive message that the phrase "like a girl" equals strength and pride.

The Next Miss EGSC To Be Crowned Feb. 28

By The Hoopee Bird News Staff

On Saturday, Feb. 28, seven contestants will line the stage of the Luck Flanders Gambrell auditorium to compete for the title of Miss EGSC.

The Miss East Georgia State College 2015 Scholarship Pageant is sponsored by the Student Government Association and is a preliminary competition for the Miss Georgia Scholarship Pageant.

Dabney Edenfield will host the event with a "Young and Beautiful" theme inspired The Great Gatsby. Pageant judges will be Tammy Thomas Spires of Macon, Angie Kirkland Fortner of Midville (Miss East Georgia College 1997), and Judge Darin McCoy and Lawanda Stewart-Burrison, both of Claxton.

The pageant will begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28. Admission is \$7; students receive free admission by presenting a current EGSC ID.

THE CONTESTANTS

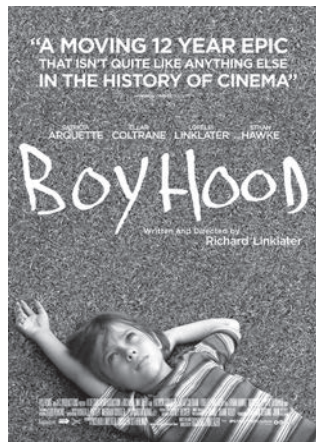
My Case for *Boyhood*

By Julie B. Jones, EGSC Augusta English Instructor

There is one film among this year's Academy Award nominees that stands out in a way that no other film ever has in cinematic history: *Boyhood*. Writer/director Richard Linklater began the film in 2002 with a group of actors who were then periodically filmed over the course of eleven years. ELEVEN YEARS. The film centers on a young boy and his journey from childhood (age 7) to the edge of manhood (age 18).

While it is not a documentary, it definitely has that feel. Linklater took occurrences from his own childhood and experiences as a parent to create the story within the film. But that's not all. He asked cast and crew members for their experiences, especially the young

lead played by Ellar Coltrane. The audience actually witnesses this kid's growth. While other films show the progression of time through the use of multiple actors and prosthetics/makeup, Linklater's film is authentic. Even the adults in the film show genuine signs of aging. Patricia Arquette, who plays the boy's mother, has rarely given a less-than-stellar performance in her nearly thirty-year career. The boy's father is played by Ethan Hawke. There aren't enough words to describe the talents of this actor/screenwriter/director/producer/novelist/musician. I witnessed this firsthand in a performance of *Hurly Burly* in NYC back in 2005. Talent for the camera can be faked. Talent for



the stage? Not so much. It is for these performances combined with the unique vision of Linklater that I believe *Boyhood* should take home any award for which it is nominated. It was truly a labor of love for all involved. To quote David Edelstein in *New York Magazine*, "[T]here's my life before I saw it and there's my life now, and it's different; I know movies can do something that just last week I didn't. They can make time visible."

EGSC AUGUSTA STUDENTS SOUND OFF: THE SUPER BOWL CALL HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD



After watching the Super Bowl live I, like most people, was left scratching my head. Why did Pete Carroll choose a play where his quarterback threw the ball? It was second down. The Seahawks had two time-outs remaining. And most important, the 'Hawks were only five yards away from securing their second Lombardi trophy (in just two years, no less)! After seeing countless replays, though, I think Pete Carroll made a good call. Here's why: the Patriots stacked eight defenders in the box, making it difficult for the Seahawks to hand the ball off to their running-back sensation, Marshawn Lynch. By employing eight defenders to stop the run, the Patriots left themselves vulnerable to an air attack. The Seahawks had an opening; their best receivers were covered one-to-one, which is typically a blessing for potent offenses.

However, the Patriots stellar corner Brandon Browner stuffed Jermaine Kearse at the line of scrimmage, allowing Malcolm Butler to make the interception. Had Kearse been in Butler's way, it would have been one of the easiest throws in Russell Wilson's career. There are also two stats worth noting: of all the throws from the one-yard line this season, only one has been intercepted, and Marshawn Lynch has run the ball from the one-yard line five times this year but only scored once.

--John Crow

I was working Sunday night and did not get to watch most of the game. However, I caught the last two minutes, and it made me mad! I did not think the call was appropriate for that time. The Seahawks should have run the ball. In the post-game interview, Seattle Seahawks' coach Pete Carroll did take full responsibility for the play call. Carroll said, and I'm paraphrasing, something to the effect that losing the game was his fault. I felt sorry for him because it looked like he had tears in his eyes while he said it. People make mistakes. This just happened to be one he will probably remember for the rest of his life.

--Megan Johnson



Pete Carroll has been nothing but the best for the Seattle Seahawks, and he is by far one of the best coaches in the NFL. Since becoming the team's head coach in 2010, Carroll has put the Seahawks back into NFL relevancy. Making the Super Bowl two years in a row is beyond impressive. However, he lost a little credibility after his mediocre play-call. On the five-yard line. In the fourth quarter. With twenty-six seconds left? Come on, man! After the miraculous catch

by Seahawks' wide-receiver Jermaine Kearse left his team within striking distance of the end-zone, I expected the Seahawks to score with ease. And if Seahawks' wide-receiver Richard Lockette had wrestled the ball away from Patriots' defender Malcolm Butler, then the sports' world would be having a different conversation now. Pete Carroll would be anointed a "genius" for his gutsy play-call. Sports networks would be praising the Seahawks as a dynasty. But, Malcolm Mitchell read the play and made an interception. That's the unpredictable beauty of sports. Everything can change in just a matter of seconds.

After the ball was intercepted, I thought about Marshawn Lynch, possibly the best running back in pro football at the moment. He has earned his moniker as "the beast" for good reason. Had the play-call been a running play intended for Lynch, the Seahawks would have been back-to-back Super Bowl Champions. I was shocked and speechless after seeing the outcome of the Seahawks' final drive. Now, Pete Carroll has to live with sports' pundits taking their best shots at him for a while. That's okay. In the near future, I wouldn't be surprised if Pete Carroll and his team win a few more Super Bowls. Experience is the best teacher. They will overcome this year's bitter loss and emerge as a better team in the long run.

--Ryan Keeter

Kristen Floyd

18, is from Hinesville and plans to major in Broadcast Journalism. She will sing "Listen" by Beyonce, and she promotes the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.



Ke'Shon Hinkins

20, is a Sociology major from Hephzibah. She will recite Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son," and her platform is "Care for Asthma."



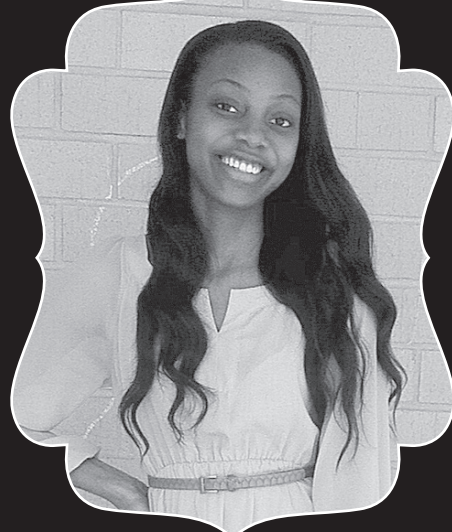
Taylor Hall

20, is a Mathematics major from Twin City. She will perform a lyrical dance to "Something in the Water" by Carrie Underwood, and she promotes "Every Child Matters" as her platform.



JaCourtney Cummings

18, of Augusta is also a Biology major. She will perform a piece on the piano, and her platform is "Become a More Responsible Student: Financial Aid Awareness."



Hannah Gray

19, is a Biology major from Swainsboro. She will perform a flute solo to "Let It Go" from the movie *Frozen*, and she promotes the platform of "Melanoma Awareness."



Annetenisha Johnson

18, is an Early Childhood Education major from Douglas. She will perform a praise dance to "I Don't Look Like What I Have Been Through" by Deon Kipping, and she promotes the platform of "Anti-Bullying; Cleft Palate Awareness."



Allison Durden

22, is a Biology major from Swainsboro. She will perform a tap dance to "Proud Mary," and she promotes "Youth Empowerment through the Boys and Girls Club."



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

Kaylee Arrington

Sport: **Softball** Position: **Pitcher**

Hometown: *Bartow, GA* High School: *Thomas Jefferson Academy*

Interesting Fact: "I pitched the first no hitter in the history of TJA softball."

Career Highlight at EGSC: "Experiencing the Conference Tournament with my teammates."

Why I Chose EGSC: "Coach Smith gave me the opportunity to continue to play softball, and I was fortunate because EGSC is such a good school and so close to home."

Future Plans: "I intend to graduate next May from EGSC and then go on to nursing school. I hope to one day be a nurse anesthetist."

"Kaylee has stepped up and taken control on the mound as a freshman. She's confident in her abilities, she knows the game extremely well, and she's a true team player. We look forward to Kaylee doing big things for the team this season, and to continue to be an asset to the softball program next year as well."

- Coach Megen Smith



Tondric Johnson

Sport: **Men's Basketball** Position: **Guard/Forward**

Hometown: *Atlanta, GA* High School: *Henry County High School*

Career Highlight at EGSC: "My career highlight with the Bobcats was the game against Georgia Highlands when I scored 26 points and had 17 rebounds."

Why I Chose EGSC: "I wanted a small school that put education first, and the staff and faculty here clearly care about each and every student. I wanted to play basketball here under Coach Jordan because I knew it would help me prepare for the next level in my athletic career."

Future Plans: "After I graduate from EGSC in May, I plan to move on to play basketball with a four-year program and obtain my degree in Computer Science. My ultimate career goal is to work in Information Technology for a Fortune 500 company."

"Tondric is a very hardworking and dedicated young man. He shows true talent, integrity, and leadership both on and off the court. He has been a real asset to this program, and I'm excited to see all the things he will accomplish in the future." - Coach Leroy Jordan

Alexus Tillmon

Sport: **Women's Basketball** Position: **Guard/Forward**

Hometown: *Swainsboro, GA* High School: *Swainsboro High School*

Career Highlight at EGSC: "My career highlight is the game against Central Georgia Tech when I scored 27 points and had 12 rebounds."

Why I Chose EGSC: "I felt like EGSC was a good place to continue my athletic career and begin my path towards a college degree."

Future Plans: "I want to play basketball at Tennessee State and one day be a physical therapist."

"Alexus has improved quite a bit this year. She's grown into a starting role as both a wing and a post while shooting 40 percent from the 3-point range. She is also the team's best offensive rebounder. We're very proud of her and look for great things from Alexis as we approach playoff time."

- Coach Brad Childers



Joshua Roye

Sport: **Baseball** Position: **Pitcher**

Hometown: *Augusta, GA* High School: *Evans High School*

Why I Chose EGSC: "To be honest, after high school I wasn't sure if I was going to go to college or go directly into the work force. I had a few friends who were coming to East Georgia to play baseball, so I decided to try out for the team and I made it as a walk-on. Here I am almost two years later, still playing baseball for a team I love and about to graduate with my associate degree. I've had the time of my life at East Georgia, and I am so glad I made the decision to come here."

Future Plans: "After graduation, I want to move on to a four-year institution to continue my education, and I hope to continue to play baseball as well. Coach Passauer has taught me a lot about the game and has really helped me improve as a player; because of his influence I think want to go into coaching."

"Josh has had a great start to the year for Bobcat Baseball. He has come out of the bullpen into some big situations and performed very well and has proven himself to be vitally important to the success of our team. If Josh can continue this success, he will play a huge role in a very exciting spring."

- Coach Matthew Passauer

Jalesa Carroll

Sport: **Cheerleading** Hometown: *Brunswick, GA* High School: *Glynn Academy*

Career Highlight at EGSC: "My career highlight as a Bobcat Cheerleader is really just being on the squad to begin with. I have a background in dance but had never cheered before, so I was very excited to be on a collegiate cheerleading squad. I am very lucky to have cheered for and learned so much from Coach Taylor. Also, I have loved being a part of such a talented squad, especially when we blow the crowd away with our half-time performances!"

Why I Chose EGSC: "I came to East Georgia because I wanted to go to a good school with a personalized learning environment where I could expand my knowledge and be very involved on campus."

Future Plans: "I will graduate from East Georgia at the end of this summer, after which I will move on to a four-year school where I will major in Early Childhood Education. EGSC has given me such a strong foundation that I know I will be able to succeed anywhere I go. I truly believe my options are endless."

"Jalesa, perhaps better known as Red, got her start with Bobcat Cheerleading as the manager of my squad. Throughout her year as manager, she attended every practice, learned every cheer, stunt, and dance, and worked hard on her technique in order to try out and make the squad the following year. Jalesa has a special charisma, a fabulous personality, and such a huge presence, especially when she performs. This campus will definitely not be the same once she graduates, but I am so proud of her and I can't wait to see all the things she accomplishes in the future." - Coach Taylor Edenfield

