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The HOOPEE BIRD



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Dixon crowned Miss EGSC 2016

by KATELYN MOORE, EGSC Communications Coordinator

On February 6, 2016, East Georgia State College crowned their 2016 Miss EGSC Scholarship Pageant Winner, Jessica Dixon. The 18-year-old is the daughter of Michael and Pam Dixon of Girard. Her platform is the Impact of the 4-H Program and she is a sophomore Biology major.

Dixon also won the Lifestyle and Fitness Award and the Talent Award for her performance of a martial arts form involving fans. She was crowned by 2015's Miss



DAVIS

EGSC, Allison Durden.

Other winners in the 2016 Miss EGSC Scholarship Pageant were first runner-up, Darienne Coleman, and second



KANGETER

runner-up, Hailey Rials. MaNazja Davis was named Miss Congeniality, and Alex Kangeter was the People's Choice Award winner.



All photos by Elizabeth Gilmer

COLEMAN, MISS EGSC 2016 DIXON AND RIALS



Photo by Katelyn Moore

McCOLLAR, JOHNSON AND EGSC PRESIDENT BOEHMER

AAMI hosts first MLK program

by HARRY DUKES, EGSC Swainsboro

Days before the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., students walked into the auditorium on the cold night of January 14. Under its current director, Jonathan McCol- lar, the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) program at East Georgia State College held its first program celebrating the influence of Dr. King. The program began with an introduction by Deborah Kittrell Mike- ll, Director of Academic Advising and former director of AAMI. Agape Worship Center provided gospel music, and one of EGSC's own, Germain Williams, sang with the choir.

Jabarri Williams, a

sophomore, then spoke about spending two years in the AAMI program before introducing keynote speaker Rev Dr. Francys Johnson. Johnson, the state president of the NAACP, has been an ordained minister for 18 years and is Senior Minister at the Mount Mariah Missionary Baptist Church in Pembroke and the Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church in Statesboro and is also a member of Diamond Life.

"We should continue doing our part to pay our respect to those who came before us," said Dr. Johnson, speaking of Dr. King and the value of an education. He also discussed the lineage of leaders such as President

Barack Obama and other prominent figures in history as well as biblical figures such as John and Paul.

"It felt like being in the presence of greatness," said Jabarri Williams after meeting Dr. Johnson. "He said some meaningful things about how blacks back then didn't have the opportunity to go to college but now we do."

Members of AAMI presented Dr. Johnson with the "Carrier of the Dream" award in appreciation for his participation, and McCol- lar ended the program by thanking everyone who attended. "If Dr. King was here, he would be proud," he said.

Reps and reqs: The P.E. requirement

by HOOPEE BIRD STAFF

At 9 a.m. on a cold, rainy Wednesday, students huddle at the front of the gymnasium, answering "Here" as Assistant Professor Johnna Eaton calls their names. They gradually warm up, running in place and doing jumping jacks and lunges. Fifteen minutes later, their arms reach toward the beams overhead in side plank, and a few students even sing along to "Moves Like Jagger" as it pulses from the suitcase-sized speaker

at the front of the gym. Their energy is contagious, and it is hard to imagine a curriculum that does not include Beginner Aerobics.

However, the debate rages: should physical education courses be required for college students? Before you decide, take a look inside at two opposing positions from student writers as well as a guest column from Dr. H. Lee Cheek, Dean of the School of Social Sciences on page 2.



Photo by Jessica Palumbo

AUTUMN COXWELL PRACTICES SIDE PLANK POSITION IN PHED 1101

The Smithsonian visits Swainsboro!

The *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America* exhibit, part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street traveling exhibition program and presented by Georgia Humanities, opens Saturday, March 19, at the East Georgia State College Luck Flanders Gambrell Center Rotunda in Swainsboro. Swainsboro is the first stop on the exhibit's travels around Georgia, and the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting will be held Saturday, March 19. There will be many dignitaries in attendance, and a tailgate party will be held to celebrate! Visit www.ega.edu/hometownteamsec for more information on upcoming events.

Scan here or visit www.museumonmainstreet.org for more information

HOMETOWN TEAMS
HOW SPORTS SHAPE AMERICA

MARCH 19 - APRIL 30, 2016

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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East Georgia's "voice of the students" wants to hear from you!

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DEADLINES

News items:
Monday, March 7

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 *The Hoopee Bird*.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS IN CONTROVERSY

Preparing mind and body: A defense of the Liberal Arts

by DEAN H. LEE CHEEK, JR., *School of Social Sciences*

The liberal arts help order the soul. In a democratic society, the perpetuation of the social and political order depends on an educated populace. If a society is to prevail, it must preserve and transmit the intellectual and cultural patrimony that gives it coherence and wholeness.

The liberal arts are often misunderstood, however. The “liberal” arts have nothing to do with a specific political idea or movement; in fact, you could support the liberal arts and be a follower of Bernie Sanders or Ted Cruz, or any other political candidate or cause

of your choice. Instead, a devotion to the liberal arts is an attachment to discovering the truth. A liberal art curriculum trains students to think critically and imaginatively.

Unfortunately, the older foundational elements of what is commonly referred to as Western civilization have lost much influence. Edmund Burke’s “bank and capital of the ages,” the norms and traditions kept alive by families, churches, universities, among other groups, is in some disrepute. At the heart of the problem lies an inability on the part of the West to realize the limits of its elevation of reason—in a thoroughly

modern sense—and the ensuing decline of personal freedom.

When the influence of the older approach to liberal learning, which appreciated the need for personal liberty to be connected with the social order, began to dissipate, a new approach took shape. In the eighteenth century, “enlightened” thinkers propagated a new view of history and humankind that disputed the claims of classical and religious insights into education. The Enlightenment solution was to separate the individual from the species, and this view has greatly influenced education in America.

Contrary to the praise

for an education of malcontent and obscurity, the ends of a liberal education must also be ethical. At the minimum, a liberal education depends upon the attempt to transmit the salient aspects of the older tradition to the rising generation. The imparting of the proper tools, the instruments of learning, can guide a student throughout his or her life; such an education nurtures the intellect and the moral imagination of the student.

One of the most important and influential thinkers of all time, Plato, the great philosopher of ancient Athens, suggested the importance of physical fitness as a

central part of a liberal education. For Plato, the mind and the body were integrated, and this is a concept that we still affirm today; in fact, without a healthy mind and a healthy body, one could not be considered to be fully educated: “In order for man to succeed in life, God provided him with two means, education and physical activity. Not separately, one for the soul and the other for the body, but for the two together. With these means, humankind can attain perfection.” Accordingly, it is no accident that part of a liberal education includes physical education. To have one without the other is to allow us to fall short of

our potential as scholars.

At a time when the offering of physical education courses is coming under increased scrutiny, let us remember Plato’s warning: the body and the mind must be challenged together, as we develop as scholars in search of the truth and the good life. We need physical education classes for many reasons, and not the least of these is to provide for as complete an education as possible. Let us keep our physical education course requirement as a way to help us fulfill our calling to the liberal arts.

P.E. courses are essential

by JACQUELINE YEPE, *EGSC Swainsboro*

Colleges often require students to take institutional courses such as Physical Education. These particular required courses should always be mandatory for college students. Yes, some students may argue they are useless, but in doing so, they ignore the many benefits the courses offer.

One of the most obvious benefits of required physical education courses is an improvement in general health. For instance, students like me who take these classes, such as Fitness Walking, have to be active for the entire class period and are expected to do so outside of class time for a grade. Some students might not exercise at all outside of class, so these classes help them get started and motivate them to continue to exercise. Being active is very important for young people, and we should be practicing these skills. What better way to encourage healthy living than by awarding a grade for it?

Others might argue that, despite the increase in calories burned and heart health, these requirements serve as an

obstacle to speedy graduation. However, P.E. classes are only one credit hour each and do not take much time to complete. They can actually be a much-needed form of stress relief amidst more demanding classes and offer a facet of a well-rounded education. Just as the required Student Success course aims to help students succeed, Physical Education courses provide a similar framework for success beyond the student’s time in the course and even beyond her time at East Georgia.

As you debate our required institutional courses, remember that some other colleges ask for even more. For instance, according to *The Washington Post*, Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma requires all students to “meet strict fitness goals.” A newly implemented portion of this initiative requires students to wear Fitbit fitness trackers at all times to measure a required average of 10,000 steps per day and 150 minutes of intense activity each week. In comparison, a one-hour course doesn’t seem so bad, does it?

Remove the P.E. requirement

by ASHLEY FRANCIS, *EGSC Swainsboro*

Many students in college just want to get their degrees and the classes they need for their career in order to find a job. However, since students are required to take institutional courses including Physical Education, they often spend the months before graduation in classes that do not prepare them for work in their chosen fields and that, frankly, should not be required.

To argue that students need the exercise assumes that they have no outside activity as part of work duties, hobbies, or exercise routines. As adults, students are capable of maintaining a healthy life style on their own. Many use exercise as a way to relieve stress; I

run to calm myself down. Forcing students to take mandatory physical education classes steals time from completing more relevant classes related to a selected field of study, slowing the graduation process and decreasing the number of graduates.

If you’re in college, you know tuition can be expensive, and textbooks are as well. Why incur these additional costs for classes that don’t seem necessary? Instead, you could use that money for gas to get back and forth to school to attend classes related to your career. Institutional classes create obstacles for potential graduates; remove the requirement and leave more time for more important classes (and time for exercise, too).

What do you think about physical education requirements for your degree?
Send your opinion to the Hoopee Bird staff at ohoopee@ega.edu

Fashion faux pas: Will the wedgie-fit jean enlarge your assets?


The latest Levi’s wedgie-fit jeans are inspired by vintage Levi’s. This cheeky fashion trend is touted as the newest way to enhance a woman’s best asset. The way these jeans are designed to hug your waist and hips makes, in one representative’s words, “your butt look bigger.” While this may be a great marketing ploy, I believe it to be just that—a ploy! There is no way a pair of jeans can add pounds to your body.

I would advise everyone before you run out and buy these jeans, which have price tags from \$120 to \$160, to do careful math. I would, also, advise you to consider just whose asset the Levi’s corporation is actually trying to enlarge with their latest trend. Is it yours (as the advertisements would have you believe), or is it theirs? Only time will tell if women will



by Debra Quinn, *EGSC Augusta*

be financially exploited in the name of being “sexy.” Before you buy, just know the Levi corporation is interested in their bottom line, so they are most likely not really interested in your bottom.



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Searching for scholarships? Look no further!
Go to www.ega.edu/scholarships and click the link for online scholarship applications.
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Contact Dr. Palumbo at cpalambo@ega.edu for more information.

RACE POLITICS: FACULTY AND STUDENT VOICES



SCENES FROM THE *FORMATION* MUSIC VIDEO ©2016 PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT AND COLUMBIA RECORDS

Beyoncé joins rank with Nina Simone and Billie Holiday as “Artist Activist”

by DR. REN DENTON, *Statesboro Faculty Editor*

Beyoncé dropped her new video and song “Formation” on the internet the Saturday before the Super Bowl, and the video exploded instantly into controversy. Many black women recognize it as a song calling black women to unite. Artists and musicians are excited to get a quality music video that competes with those of Michael Jackson’s. Cultural Studies scholars are abuzz about the song’s representation of black culture, black history, and cultural traumas that are unique to African Americans as a group that shares a collective past. However, the song is not settling well with many Americans who believe Beyoncé is anti-police. They believe that she has inserted political controversy into her entertainment --- a controversy that makes many Americans uncomfortable, especially when they are trying to enjoy a football game. Nevertheless, Americans would be wise to stop and listen to Beyoncé’s

message and understand that Beyoncé’s video joins a long tradition of African American music resisting systematic racism and institutionalized oppression.

Mainstream American audiences almost always reject messages that expose the discrepancy between American ideals and American realities or that illuminate the underbelly of the American Dream. Beyoncé is not the first African American artist derided for telling her story. Nina Simone, internationally known jazz musician and Civil Rights activist, tanked her career with a song that spoke against the lynching in the south and the violence in the nation that took place in the midst of the struggle for Civil Rights. She used the Lord’s name in vain and expressed her anger about inequality, gradualism, American hypocrisy, and racial violence. She was criticized for sounding too angry or too proud. Likewise, Billie Holiday shocked audiences when she sang “Strange Fruit” as a

song that documented racialized lynching and the pain that lynching created among black communities. Holiday and Simone made Americans realize that each lynching or violence committed against one individual was actually an assault on a whole race because the lynching and the violence were committed as a means to debase, demoralize, terrorize, strike, and conquer a whole race. Americans did not want to confront these truths when they wanted to be entertained.

Beyoncé’s song tells about her life. Basically, she is saying that she hasn’t forgotten her roots, but at the same time, she has not allowed the burden of the past to define her identity. She has formed her own identity despite of systematic oppression of blackness and history’s haunting traumas that focus on the slave / slave master dichotomy that Toni Morrison claims continue to shape our individual identities and mentalities even as they uphold a national institution

of racism.

Beyoncé also uses a trance state that is common to voodoo priestesses channeling the spirits of the dead. Through her trance, images of past and present bleed together, and these images connect today’s racial discord to those of the past, making a statement that we are not living in a post-racial nation but we are living in a nation where black lives continue to be devalued.

However, cultural studies scholars claim that the image of the cops surrendering to the young black boy offers hope that a community will come together to protect all children – black or white. This is not anti-police, but points to a healing from historical abuses of power where lives of black children, from Emmett Till to Tamir Rice, have been stolen. The problem arises from the fact that many Americans are not familiar with African American music traditions and the music’s relationship to activism. Many Americans are also not familiar with a history

laden with lynching and racial violence, or the way historical and cultural traumas can imprint on human psyches and identities.

Ultimately, just like Simone’s and Holiday’s songs, Beyoncé video should be understood as a story about black lives, black experiences, and black traumas, even as her song celebrates her own conquering of a system that has the power to keep her locked underneath oppression and an identity not her own. She has chosen when to tell her story and how to tell it. What does it mean when an artist of her caliber chooses to tell a story about American injustices at the largest American sporting event and releases the accompanying images the night before that event?

Want to answer the last question in this article? Send your response to a Hoopee Bird editor.

What is the Black Lives Matter Movement?

by IMANI TOLBERT, *EGSC Statesboro*

Judging from the response from All Lives Matter, it seems that the media and the American masses have misunderstood what it means to say that black lives matter. Many assume that the movement is saying that black lives are the only lives that matter, or that black lives matter more than police lives. However, that is not what it means. #BlackLivesMatter is a movement that is saying “Black lives matter too – that black lives need to be valued as much as white lives.” Essentially and ironically, it too is saying All Lives Matter.

The BLM movement was created after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was posthumously put on trial for his own murder, and his killer, George Zimmerman, was not held accountable for his crime of murder. After Trayvon Martin’s killing, there were several other well-known unjustified black murders in our society, some of which got worldwide coverage. Most recently, we are sorting through the emotional aftermath of Tamir Rice who was shot by a police officer for having a plastic gun while playing at a park. Many believe that his death was justified because it is hard to determine a toy gun from a real gun during the split second officers have when determining if they are in danger. However, many don’t know that the person who called 911 told the operator two times that the gun was most likely fake and that the boy looked to be a minor but felt the situation just needed to be checked out to make sure. The police responded as if a real crisis had been called in as an emergency.

#BlackLivesMatter is responding to these recent events where systematic racism has more than likely played into the police’s judgment in assessing the situation, something that our

black society has been dealing with for years. Back in 1955, Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old African American boy, was beaten, mutilated and then shot by two white men because Till supposedly whistled at a white woman. The two men were acquitted of Till’s kidnapping and murder.

Even though #BlackLivesMatter is a newly organized group, it is not just a response to recent events; it is a response to historical events of crimes against African Americans. Basically, this movement is a response to the racism that permeates our society. BlackLivesMatter affirms the lives of Black queer and trans, disabled folks, black-undocumented folks, and folks with records and all Black lives along the gender spectrum. It centers those that have been marginalized within Black liberation movements. It is a tactic to (re)build the Black liberation movement. This movement is relevant to our society’s situation now. There has been a spike in the past few years of crimes committed against black people where the crimes go unpunished. This movement is in place to try to put a stop to this. If all humans are equal, then we should have our rights protected equally and not be discriminated against because of skin color.

People look at the name of the movement and make their judgment about it instead of looking at what they stand for and why it became a movement in the first place. We as people cannot just ignore systematic racism. When we ignore it, it is just as bad as if we committed the crimes ourselves. Things won’t get better until we all stand as one and work to have everyone’s rights protected equally. Hence, all lives do matter, equally, only the Black Lives Matter movement is to remind people of that fact.

Hip-Hop: Controlling Blackness with “The White Man’s” music industry

by MYLES J. LATIMER, *EGSC Statesboro*

You may have read an essay in your English Composition class titled “If Hip-Hop Ruled the World.” Aisha Finch, the author, traveled to Africa only to be jarred into reconsidering the negative images of African Americans that are being portrayed in today’s Hip-Hop music. She was troubled by the gang violence that Hip-Hop glamorizes because these images of African Americans are exported around the globe, giving the impression that American blackness is violence. Her essay makes the point that more and more African Americans are starting to realize: Much of Hip-Hop music aligns “authentic” black culture with negative perceptions about blackness.

The American music industry uses Hip-Hop to reinforce the American mainstream culture’s negative assumptions about blackness, even those old white racial attitudes: these images include the use of illegal drugs, stealing, street violence, drug distribution, guns, and the degradation of women. Hip-Hop encourages audiences (white and black) to think of these images as authentic representations of blackness instead of desperate acts of poverty-stricken individuals of all races.

Today’s hip-hop artists are influencing the youth with their negative lyrics and choice of content. For example, an artist known as French Montana has mixtapes known as “Coke Boy.” He describes and praises his drug dealing lifestyle throughout his mixtapes. Another popular song that has a negative influence is, “I’m in love with the coco.” The artist of this song is OT Genesis. The lyrics glorify drug use

and are extremely explicit in depicting black males as drug addicts and peddlers. These are only a few examples. In today’s world of hip-hop, four out of five artists will present negative and illegal lyrics in their songs. The music industry’s representations of blackness are reinforcing these negative images as normal and glamorized behavior, which then commodifies “authentic” blackness and produces performances of the type of blackness that white audiences have associated with crime, violence, and negativity. My fear is if the youth listens to these negative factors every day, they will be influenced by the lyrics and commit the illegal activity portrayed in the songs because they think it’s normal. Why are we supporting images that reinforce historical negative racial attitudes?

The ironic part about the whole situation is these hip-hop artists are not living the life they are portraying in their music. Their job is music. They produce what their record labels tell them to produce, and their record labels want to commodify a certain image of blackness to authenticate black culture as one steeped in violence and poverty. These musicians are bettering their lives by negatively influencing the life of the youth.

Why can’t black artists be free to express in their music what really is important in life? The hip-hop culture has to change or the world will never become a better place. We can only force a change by being aware of what we are supporting with our money. Don’t buy the negativity, and they will stop producing it.

Do you have comments or any recommendations for Hip-Hop music that pushes for social changes? Email one of the Hoopee Bird’s editors.

The EGSC Learning Commons is now open on Sundays! The EGSC Library is open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the A.C.E. is open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come study with us!

****Hours subject to change on holiday weekends. For the most updated schedule of Learning Commons hours, check our website****

ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

Wiz still dropping hits

by CHATEARI STITH, EGSC Augusta

On Friday, January 5, 2016, Wiz Khalifa dropped his new album on iTunes *Khalifa*, which follows his mixtape released on December 15, 2015 called *Cabin Fever 3*. He never really intended to make a big deal about *Khalifa* because it contains music that never made any of his other albums; so he put them all together and created the *Khalifa* album.

Also he and Charlie Puth recorded “See You Again,” which is a tribute to the late Paul Walker. It reached a billion views on YouTube. The song topped the charts and was also featured on the soundtrack of *Fast and the Furious 7*. He has been keeping his Taylor fans excited and relevant with all the music, shows, interviews and Grammy award nominations. He is also keeping artists who are signed to his label busy by featuring them (TyDolla \$ign, Chevy Woods and Juicy J) on his newest album. Other artists that also featured on the *Khalifa* album are Rico Love, Courtney Noelle, Travis Scott, and his son, Sebastian. Wiz Khalifa is doing extremely well for himself and plans on continuing to do so as he prepares to drop his *Rolling Papers 2* album later this summer.

Monthly zodiac briefing

by ANGELA DANSBY, EGSC Augusta

There are 12 signs. Fire: Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. Earth: Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn. Air: Gemini, Libra, Aquarius. Water: Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces. Do you believe?

Aries- If you were born anywhere between March 21 and April 20 then you are in fact an Aries! One interesting fact is this sign is the first sign of the zodiac. People under this sign tend to be very independent and goal-oriented. They are very courageous individuals and love to lead others. You can just call an Aries the Big Man in charge.

Taurus- Were you born around April 21-May 21 then yup you’re a Taurus! As a Taurus you’re all about strength and will sometimes so strong willed that you can be downright stubborn! But even that has its benefits because you fight for what you want. You can be a bit of a procrastinator but you have good work ethic so the job always gets done.

Gemini- Hey Twin! Yes you! Born between May 22-June 21 then you are in fact a Gemini. Geminis are known to have two sides to them and are known for their energy. Geminis are talkative and are social butterflies! It can sometimes be tough to predict how they will react. They can turn from hot to cold and may be prone to mood swings. However, they are generous signs and are affectionate, creative and imaginative.

Cancer- Anybody born around June 22- July 22? If so, then you are a Cancer! One thing you may hear a lot as a Cancerian is, “Make up your mind!” Cancers can be fickle at times, but y’all tend to deny it. Naturally you’re a homebody, you love anything family-related, and you enjoy the simple things in life. You appreciate security, but you seek adventure. Y’all always keep the rest of us guessing.

Leo- Roaaaar!! Says the mighty lion! If you were born around July 23-August 21 then you are the mighty Leo. They have a tendency to be high-self-esteem and vocal about their opinions. Although hot tempered they can be forgiving. They are brave, intuitive, and also head-strong and willful. Leos are natural born leaders and not scared to show it! Watch out Aries you got some competition!

Virgo- Elegant, classy, intelligent, and analyzing if this describes you then perhaps you are the lovely Virgo! Born between the dates of August 22-September 23, Virgos are highly mind oriented. They are always analyzing and thinking about something. You can be a bit of a worry wart but its only

because you want things in order. Bit of a perfectionist wouldn’t you say?

Libra- Harmony, Order, and Equality: Libras cling to their ideals. If you find yourself craving these things, then perhaps you are a Libra. Born around the times of September 23- October 22 Libras are all about balance, justice, equanimity and stability. They get along well with just about anyone and are ambitious. They have very expensive taste and work hard to get that money!

Scorpio- Woah take it easy there! Born around the dates of October 24-November 22 Scorpios are known for being intense. These people tend to have personalities that are bold and are oozing with confidence. Scorpios are known to treat others with kindness and loyalty.

Sagittarius- You little rebel! Born from November 23-December 22, Sagittarius are reckless! You love the sense of adventure. However, you are very focused and tend to be very intense just like are Scorpio friend. As a Sagittarius you must channel your energy or you will waste time and wear yourselves out going in too many directions at once. They tend to have vibrant personalities and enjoy meeting new people.

Capricorn- Look at Mr./Ms. Smarty Pants. As a Capricorn born from (December 23- January 20) you are highly intelligent! They apply their knowledge to practical matters, and strive to maintain stability and order. Their mind re always active and they have to be in control of their own lives. They do not deal well with criticism but typically a Capricorn will often shrug off negative comments towards their character. Haters gonna hate, right?!

Aquarius- The Creative Mind is always thinking. If you were born around (January 21- February 19) then you are an Aquarius! Aquarians goes about accomplishing goals in a quiet manner. Each day they find to be a day of opportunity to work on their goals. Aquarians are always formulating new ideas and are creative to a T. Aquarian’s will take up any cause, and are humanitarians of the zodiac. They are honest, loyal and highly intelligent.

Pisces- Last but not least is the Pisces! Born around (February 20- March 20) you are in fact a Pisces! They are honest, unselfish, trustworthy and often have quiet dispositions about them. Known for their emotional ways Pisces tend to be kind of sensitive. A Pisces can be a great friend and listener. If you’re having problems come to a Pisces for advice.

Top 5 TV shows on Netflix for college students (in no particular order)

by CARA THOMPSON, EGSC Augusta

United States of Tara

A show about family, but not your average family. When your mom has DID (Dissociative Identity Disorder) formally known as Multiple Personality Disorder, life is anything but ordinary or easy. Mom and wife Tara can transform into one of many different people, or alters at any given moment. This includes a redneck named Buck, a 1950’s housewife named Alice, and a promiscuous teenager that calls herself T. A fascinating look at what this captivating mental illness is really like. It’s especially perfect for anyone who is interested in Psychology.

Animal House

Calling all dog lovers! This re-

ality show gives an inside look of what it’s like to work in one of the largest no-kill animal shelters in the country. Heartwarming yet educational on the effects of pet overpopulation. Also a great reminder of why we should all adopt and not shop!

New Girl

Dorky and happy-go-lucky Jess moves in a loft with several guys. This is a fun, lighthearted show about life after college filled with relationships, friends, and careers.

Apartment 23

Conservative June responds to an ad on Craigslist for a roommate needed in New York. She is surprised to find a spunky and carefree girl named Chloe whose hobbies include binge drinking and partying. What starts as an

uncomfortable situation turns into an unlikely friendship.

This is Life with Lisa Ling

The lovely Lisa Ling hones in on a variety of pitfalls in America. Ranging from exploring relationships with a “sugar daddy” and “sugar baby,” healing psychedelic drugs in South America, what it’s like to work in North Dakota, and many others.

Freaks and Geeks

A shy girl named Lindsey starts hanging out with a group of burnouts at school. She struggles between figuring out what’s right and what’s wrong all while having her parents and little brother disapprove. A coming of age story that’s relatable yet unique. Featuring a young James Franco and Seth Rogan!

Film Flam:

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies: A Critique

by VICTORIA LONG, EGSC Augusta

Released earlier this month, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* is an adaptation of Jane Austen’s classic novel—with a twist. This flick has romance, snark, sass, and zombies of course, making for an enjoyable film for males and females alike.

The movie does include lines from the original work, with added lines that make all the characters a little more brutally honest than their passive aggressive former selves in the Edwardian era. In a world where the plague caused zombies, no one is really left the luxury of just looking to make a fine match, but having to learn to fight and handle themselves in the worst of situations.

The Bennett sisters are all beautiful and just as deadly in combat, taking away that damsel in distress trope that is popular in action movies. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley are just as wealthy and dashing as in any rendition, but Mr. Darcy has an added edge with a constant distrust of anyone who’s encountered zombies and not come away unscathed.

Where there may have been lulls in *Pride and Prejudice* there are zombie attacks and tense situations over the safety of the main characters. The love plot leaves nothing to be desired, maybe in many, and my own personal opinion to have even made certain scenes more amusing or exciting. The drastic difference in reaction of Lizzy Bennett in Parson Collins’ proposal with her awkward dismissal compared to Mr. Darcy’s proposal which leaves her with a more vehement denial gives room to interpret her strong feelings and her personality when it comes to Mr. Darcy.

The George Wickham arc ends up expounding and he becomes more important to the plot instead of just part of a triangle of feelings and he’s just a character trying to get just money. The casting choices, overall, are well done; the makeup and costumes are phenomenal. While it took seven years before finally seeing the big screen and didn’t seem to make much in the box office, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* is one of a kind. Adding to the base plot of *Pride and Prejudice*, it makes for a fun flick and should be seen by more people, or garner more attention with its amazing sense of self-awareness in and of itself.

A day in the life of a pageant contestant

by KESHAUNA JONES, EGSC Swainsboro

I never thought of myself as one of those pageant girls, strutting down the runway with a trunk load of makeup on and spending money on gowns to wear only one time. Through the years, though, I found that all those pageant girls only want one thing: to be happy while having fun. Pageants are not just about showing people what you can do but believing in yourself, your talents and what you can do. A day in the life of a pageant girl isn’t easy, but it is definitely worthwhile.

As a young girl, I never pictured myself being in pageants because that life always seemed distant, but since I’ve been in college, I’ve realized that the odds of being different are great. To step outside of my comfort zone is to explore the world, so I signed up to compete in the Miss East Georgia State College pageant. The days leading up to the pageant were rigorous and intense. I wanted everything, from my dress and stage presence to heels and attitude, to be perfect because I only had one chance. A couple weeks before the pageant, I began to ask everyone I could think of for advice. Most of them said, “Confidence is key,” so I began to write down the tips and study them every day to build confidence.

The week of the pageant arrived, and there

were so many things left to do: hair, nails, feet, eyebrows, and makeup, just to name a few. Each outfit had to be ready: swimsuit, on-stage interview outfit, talent outfit and evening gown. The friends who were doing my hair and makeup had to prepare, so we did a trial run. On Tuesday, February 2, we had a mini practice with Miss EGSC Allison Durden to help us with our walks, and it was surprisingly fun. We practiced our walk for the swimsuit and evening gown portions several times. A lot of people think that pageant girls are just stuck up and snooty, but that’s not true. All the girls were extremely nice and welcoming, beautiful smiles and souls, and I’m truly blessed to have met them and shared the pageant with them. Days leading up to pageant, I was so anxious about taking the stage, but I remembered the words of Ms. Vicki Sherrod, “Have fun and make new friends,” and that message carried me through the week. On Thursday, February 4, I thought I had everything ready, so I tried on my black cocktail dress, which didn’t fit. I panicked until I realized that I had brought my red cocktail dress with me for back-up. On Friday, the day before the pageant, we practiced in the auditorium for five hours until 11 p.m. We had to go over everything from the opening number to the crowning; it was hard work, but we



Photo by Elizabeth Gilmer

JONES DURING 2016 MISS EGSC PAGEANT laughed and had a good time.

The day of the pageant was stressful for me. It’s a very fast-paced atmosphere, and it shows that you have to be prepared for the unexpected. Right before the pageant, I called both of my parents, and because I was nervous, they said, “Calm down, breath and count to five.” When the lights hit, I was ready. Everything went so fast from on-stage questions to the crowning of the queens. We were all running back and forth from the back room where all our clothes were to the stage to prepare for the next event. To add to the chaos, seven minutes after trying to zip up my evening gown, nothing was working! Ten minutes had passed, and finally, my friend Demetria succeeded. The rest of the event went smoothly, and soon we were congratulating Jessica Dixon, Miss East Georgia State College 2016. I enjoyed the experience and gained new friends, and I feel extremely blessed. Because of this pageant, I’ve grown in many ways and have a few words of wisdom to carry with me, thanks to Ms. Vicki: “A girl’s most beautiful outfit ever is charisma, the prettiest accessory a smile, and the best pair of heels is confidence.”

SPORTS

Cam and Peyton: Changing of the guard?

by COREY HIGGINS, *EGSC Augusta*

Most sports fans have a favorite team. I have favorite players. Super Bowl 50 was a delight for fans like me who enjoy watching talented athletes achieve greatness. I've always said it's great to have an all-time favorite and a current favorite. Peyton Manning, my all-time favorite, along with my current and future favorite Cam Newton clashed in Super Bowl 50.

I was at crossroads before Super Bowl 50. I wanted to see Peyton win on his way out (if he does in fact retire now); but then again, I wasn't going to be disappointed if Cam led his Panthers to their first Super Bowl victory. The dust of Super Bowl 50 has settled. Both quarterbacks had a less-than-impressive outing in San Francisco: they combined for twice as many interceptions as touchdowns. Although they looked mediocre at best on February 7, and although both defensive squads stole the show (if we discount Coldplay's colorful half-time performance),

football fans witnessed two future first-ballot Hall of Famers spar until the bitter end.

Peyton Manning has an incredible football I.Q. that has made him into a field general able to conquer any defense. He's been a true ambassador to the sport and has always been gracious in both victory and defeat, displaying sportsmanship that athletes—both amateur and professional—should follow. Manning, a 39 year-old veteran, is knocking on retirement's door, and Super Bowl 50 might have been his last game. He's lost a lot of play-off games (13-13 in career playoff appearances), and football pundits have continually knocked him for this; however, now that he has won Super Bowl 50—the second of his career—Manning has cemented his legacy as one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time.

When I first saw Cam Newton five years ago, I fell in love. As soon as I saw him play in his first NFL game against the Arizona Cardinals, I knew he was going to be special. Being versatile and

possessing that type of swagger speaks volume. Cam, at the ripe age of 26, has numerous on-the-field accomplishments, such as winning a high school championship, the Heisman trophy, a college football national championship, and the NFL's MVP. And on Super Bowl Sunday, he was minutes or inches away from leading his team to the coveted Lombardi trophy. Down by 6 points in the 4th quarter, Cam looked poised to deliver a punch; instead, Von Miller stripped Cam of the pigskin, which fell harmlessly to his feet. Time seemed to stand still—and so did Cam. He froze, abandoning both the ball and his dream of winning his first Super Bowl.

Coming into the game, Peyton looked as if he was ready to pass the proverbial torch to the young Newton. Newton, blinded by the light, proved he was not yet ready to bear the torch, as he retreated from the ball, allowing the Broncos to score and seal the victory.

Sports Poll:

Who will win the 2015-2016 NBA Most Valuable Player?

A. Steph Curry

B. The rest of the NBA

EGSC HOMECOMING
Casino Night
March 9 - 7 p.m.
The Studie A. Fulford
Community Learning Center
EGSC SWAINSBORO



Photo by Jacqueline Yepe

THE LEARNING COMMONS ON EGSC'S SWAINSBORO CAMPUS

Staying on the right track

by JACQUELINE YEPE, *EGSC Swainsboro*

As we approach the second half of spring semester, the deadlines and test dates begin to accumulate. Whether you are ready to graduate or in your first semester at East Georgia, it is always a good idea to keep up of important dates, assignments, and, most importantly, your grades. In order to be successful in college and to graduate on time, it is essential for you to keep up with such information and to be prepared to ask for help. Follow the right path to two places where you can find help:

- Meet with your advisor and your professors on a regular basis. Office hours are designed just for you, so stop by to check on your progress. If you see that you are not doing well in one class, you should ask your professor for suggestions to improve your grade. For instance, you have trouble understanding concepts in your Biology course, you may ask for clarification and extra examples. Sometimes it may just be that your testing skills are not strong enough. Trying different studying habits to perform better.

- Seek help from your local Academic Center for Excellence (A.C.E.). Courtney Ruiz, from EGSC Swainsboro says, "The A.C.E. is very helpful to me in so many ways. I can get help on my assignments there from the staff." She is accurate; the A.C.E. is very useful, and there you can get free tutoring in any subject you wish. In addition, you have access to computers to complete assignments; it is a quiet place where you can spend your time studying in peace. In the A.C.E., you can also get academic advising for schedule changes, answers to registration questions, and address other academic concerns.

Take advantage of the many helpful resources that we have on campus to stay on track and be successful.

EGSC to host Critical Thinking Conference

by KATELYN MOORE, *EGSC Communications Coordinator*

On Friday, March 25, 2016, East Georgia State College will hold their fourth annual Critical Thinking Conference. The theme for this year's conference is "Thou Dost Infect Mine Eyes: The Bane of Technology in the Classroom." The theme was chosen in celebration of the anniversary of William Shakespeare's death.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Santanu Majumdar, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at Georgia Southern University's Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. He believes that 21st century students' design proposals tend to be example-driven, and therefore students' research is often reduced to browsing for pre-existing solutions through search engines, which creates only surface-level problem solving skills instead of



MAJUMDAR

skills that use more in-depth critical thinking and method-driven design solutions. Professor Majumdar has received several national and international awards and has presented papers on design education, on sustainability in design, on mentoring, and on collaborative research projects at several distinguished national and international design conferences. In line with the conference's theme, his presentation is entitled "Balanced Critical Thinking Through 'Infectious,' Eye-Catching Design."

Proposals are being

accepted until Friday, March 4, and must recognize technology as a "rascal," a "braggart vile," a "finical rogue," and as a "base, proud, shallow, beggarly, worsted-stocking knave." The conferences welcome presentations about experiences where technology has posed a problem and has therefore created the need for critical thinking. Proposals are also welcome on any other topics that deal with critical thinking in an educational setting. Those interested in presenting are asked to provide proposal summaries through EGSC's electronic Proposal Submission Form at <https://myegsc.ega.edu/web/pages/6>. Proposals should be no more than 250 words. Final presentations should be no more than 20 minutes' reading time in length (approximately 10 typed, double-spaced pages.)

Prepare now for El Niño

by CHIEF WILEY GAMMON, *EGSC Police Department*

El Niño is throwing a tantrum! Given the crazy weather we have had this year, a column on weather preparation seemed appropriate.

"Whether we're more likely to have an ice storm, snow storm, significant flooding or severe weather outbreak, it's all up for grabs," said one meteorologist at the National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Atlanta about the rest of winter. Forecasters predict that, after reaching 80 degrees in the first weeks of February, temperatures may be back in the teens by the end of the month.

We could even see ice and snow as late as early April this year, thanks to a record-breaking El Niño, abnormally warm seas in the tropical Pacific that trigger a shift in nearby weather circulations including

the jet stream pattern across the United States.

"El Niño had been dragging its feet the last year and a half," says NWS Meteorologist Adam Baker, "but it looks like it's more than making up for its previous lack of presence."

To prepare for weather-related power outages, follow the tips below:

Light

- Use flashlights and battery-powered lanterns. (LED models conserve batteries.)

- Have extra batteries.
- Avoid using flames as light sources.

Food

- Stock up on non-perishable foods that don't require cooking.
- Have a manual can opener.

- Don't use charcoal indoors.

Water (if supplied by a well)

- Fill tubs for household use.
- Fill pitchers and jars for drinking.

Heat

- Gather heavy clothing, gloves, sock hats, blankets and sleeping bags.

- Close off one room and stay there.

- Gather extra firewood if you have a fireplace.

Information

- Purchase a battery-powered radio.

- Have a car charger for your cellphone.

Medical

- Have a first aid kit.
- Keep several days' supply of prescriptions.

- Make contingency plans for loved ones who depend on electricity for medical devices. This may include moving the patient to another location.

Generator

- Operate away from house and garage to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Use proper connections to your home's electric system.

A LESSON BEFORE DYING
 BY ERNEST J. GAINES
 READ IT NOW BEFORE
 CONVOCATION:
 SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

STUDENT VOICES

History in the Making: East Georgia State College and Augusta University--together turning dreams into reality

by KEVIN HIGGINS, EGSC Augusta

The Summerville campus, shared by East Georgia State College (EGSC) and Augusta University (AU), is a place where the present merges with the past and the future at once. Generations have gained education and inspiration following in the footsteps of their predecessors; this is the place where success is achieved.

At the age of four, I had my first encounter with Augusta University (it was called Augusta College then). On certain Sundays, my brother and I would end up riding home from church with my uncle instead of him and my aunt together. I consider those days to be special Sundays because I would ride around downtown Augusta learning the different fun and interesting facts about the past. My uncle would talk the entire ride, circling the city, sharing Augusta's history with us.

Summerville's campus is like an encyclopedia of Augusta history. Displayed on pillars and in different areas throughout the walking paths or other areas of the grounds, several dozen plaques commemorate Augusta's past. These plaques take visitors on a journey through Sum-

merville's history, from its time as a military arsenal up to the current day.

Three years ago, East Georgia State College became a part of the site's growth and is now a part of Augusta history. Allowing individuals of all ages to further their education, East Georgia State College and Augusta University work together, giving students the tools for deciding their fates. Through this collaboration, students now have the opportunity to gain access to fields of education that would not have been available to them any other way.

Research universities have higher admission standards than colleges and state universities. When ASU became GRU, the school raised admission standards, leaving many local students without a point of access for higher education. These standards, which in most cases are very high, keep many people from continuing their education. Some may have struggled in high school while others may have settled on a GED (General Education Diploma) for one reason or another, but it all boils down to many people just don't qualify.

The union between EGSC Augusta and AU has changed the fate of

many and has the potential to change the future of many more lives. EGSC prepares students for the next level of higher learning and for a seamless transfer to Augusta University or just about any other university in the nation. This transfer depends on the individual and how much effort that student puts forth; however, EGSC is here to make that a possibility. Before AU and EGSC began working together, many potential college students' prospects for attending college vanished. Many potential students received denial letters—myself, a former ASU student, included—because we did not meet those new standards. East Georgia State College was there to help (my denial letter even directed me to EGSC); any student who is willing to enroll and complete 30 credit hours with a GPA of 2.8 or higher is now a strong candidate for transferring into a four-year institution.

I have found more than a way to transfer to a university; I've been given a chance at an incredible start to my future.

Here is my five-star rating of my experience on 24 January 2016:

East Georgia State College strives for excellence. The faculty and staff will guide you along



Photo by Kevin Higgins

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY'S "HISTORY WALK"

your path, whatever that might be, and help you succeed. Going to this school has changed my life, prepared me for greater things to come, encouraged me to strive excellence, and shown me the path to my goals. East Georgia State College is now a part of who I am and will forever have a positive impact on my life.

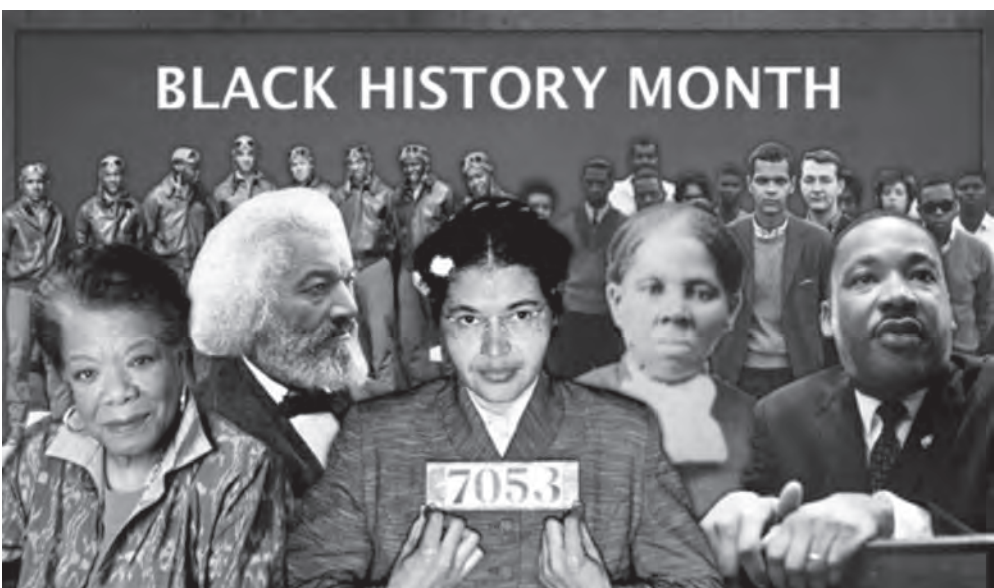
This is my call to my fellow students to stay with EGSC and leave your mark on history. Become a graduate and receive your Associate's degree before you move on to the next level. A person can never pre-

pare enough for his or her next step in life. Take advantage of the one-on-one care that we as students receive here; get as much experience as you can, and nothing will stand in your way. Be a part of history; be a part of an East Georgia State College graduating class. Then, move on to your next step. How many people can say they have a degree from more than one college or university in a lifetime?

Imagine a person who had no plan of pursuing higher education. Then, picture that person becoming a student and not only succeeding but

having a world of possibilities available to him or her. This is real-life history in the making; you can enter EGSC with a GED and, with enough hard work, become a doctor or whatever you choose.

The professors and staff here take the extra time and put in the extra effort so that each student who does his or her part is ready for the next level. I know now that I can take my education in any direction I want thanks to East Georgia giving me an entry point.



How well do you know your Black History?

by ANGELA DANSBY, EGSC Augusta

So you think you know your Black History? Here are some trivia questions to see if you really paid attention in class...

Who was the first African American Major League Baseball Player?

- a. Ernie Banks
- b. Babe Ruth
- c. Jackie Robinson
- d. William Edward White

Who was the first African American to serve as a US Supreme Court Justice?

- a. Charles Hamilton Houston
- b. Rosa Parks
- c. Clarence Thomas
- d. Thurgood Marshall

Who was the first African American to win an Academy Award?

- a. Judy Garland
- b. Hatti McDaniel
- c. Dorothy Danridge
- d. Halle Berry

What year was the Thirteenth Amendment ratified, abolishing slavery?

- a. 1867
- b. 1865
- c. 1920
- d. 1776

With the 15th Amendment ratification in 1870, what did African Americans gain in the United States?

- a. Freedom from slavery
- b. Ownership of land

- c. Voting rights
- d. Right to sit anywhere

Who was the only African American among the original NAACP executives?

- a. Martin Luther King
- b. Thurgood Marshall
- c. Fredrick Douglass
- d. W.E.B. Du Bois

Who shot Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968?

- a. Charles Manson
- b. John Wilkes Booth
- c. Lee Harvey Oswald
- d. James Earl Ray

Which of these four broke three track and field World Records in 45 minutes at Ohio State?

- a. Jesse Owens
- b. Carl Lewis
- c. Michael Jordan
- d. Maurice Greene

Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr. was the first African American to

- a. Become a pilot
- b. Become a Bus Driver
- c. Become a Policeman
- d. Become an Astronaut

Before it became Black History Month what was the observance of Black History called?

- a. Negro Appreciation Week
- b. Slavery Day
- c. Black Awareness Month
- d. Freedom Day

The University System of Georgia's African American Male Initiative

Studies have shown that the national graduation rates for black males are lower than any other demographic group who graduate with a Bachelor's Degree. Universities and colleges seek to close that gap so that education and career opportunities are accessible. The University System of Georgia has implemented a nationally recognized statewide network of programs that track the enrollment, retention, and graduation of African American Males. According to USG site, The African American Male Initiative programs "serve a wide array of students, providing strategic interventions, academic support, and civic and professional exposure aimed at increasing successful matriculation and graduation."

East Georgia State College is one of the 26 Georgian campuses participating in the program. Jonathan McCollar is currently AAMI's director for EGSC. He, with the help of faculty coordinators, organizes and hosts events that focus on issues that directly relate and affect members of the black community as well as the nation and globe. Faculty coordinator Antre Drummer states, "We seek out motivational speakers who can offer foundational support, motivation, and encouragement."

Faculty coordinators help faculty volunteers and students understand issues that may impede graduation. Coordinators and volunteers help students find a balance between academic and personal lives at East Georgia State College.

Know your days

by THE HOOPEE BIRD STAFF

February 29: In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar added an extra day to the Julian calendar. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII created the Gregorian calendar, making Feb. 29 the official date to add in a leap year. People born on this date are considered "leapers" or "leaplings," and there are roughly 4 million people in this group. They celebrate their birthdays on February 28 or March 1 in non-leap years. Some believe that leapers have unusual talents, but the Chinese believe "leaplings" are unlucky and difficult.

March 13: It's almost time to change our clocks, so follow the saying and "Spring forward!" (don't "fall back"). This year, Daylight Saving Time begins March 13. Of course, cell phones set automatically, so you shouldn't have to worry about being late to work or class. Unfortunately, our spring time change means a lost hour of sleep, so try to go to bed early the night before.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day brings huge celebrations to the local cities of Dublin and Savannah, including the Greening of the Fountain in Forsyth Park and parades. The holiday marks the religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland, offering a break from the Lenten fasting and restrictions on alcohol consumption. Enjoy some corned beef and cabbage, and don't forget to wear green (though the saint's color was actually a light blue, and green was associated with him in relation to Irish independence).

Sherman's March Tour

with Dr. John Derden

February 27, 2016

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center

Call Heather Roberson at 478-289-2133
or email hroberson@ega.edu to register.

CAMPUS CONNECTION

Economic outlook includes future jobs

by ASHLEY FRANCIS, EGSC Swainsboro

East Georgia State College hosted the 16th annual Economic Outlook Luncheon January 22. Dr. Jeff Humphreys, Director of the Simon S. Selig, Jr., Center for Economic Growth, addressed a large group in the gymnasium including local business and government leaders as well as EGSC faculty, staff, and the Ambassadors student group. The Selig Center, part of the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, "conducts research on economic demographic and social issues related to Georgia's growth, guiding the state's business, governments, and entrepreneurs on financial decision and public policy."

The luncheon offered a look at the center's studies of the economy around the region. Research Professional Stephen Kuzniak predicted "There will be more jobs available in the years to come." With this news, the outlook luncheon brought hope to small rural communities such as Swainsboro.



Photo by Katelyn Moore
KUZNIAK OFFERS POSITIVE PREDICTION FOR LOCAL ECONOMY

Foundations featured in gallery during March

Stop by the East Georgia State College Student Art Gallery during March to check out drawing and design work from our very own art students. This exhibit highlights work from projects covered in Drawing, Two Dimensional Design and Three Dimensional Design courses. The featured artwork covers a wide range of design elements and design principles including—but not limited to—line, shape, color, unity, emphasis and balance. This exhibition illustrates the intense work ethic and hours of studio time art majors spend in perfecting their craft.



J. COLE BY TORI C. AMARU

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APRIL 29, 2016

VISIT WWW.EGA.EDU FOR TICKET INFORMATION CHASERICE.COM

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