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THE CORE ONLINE

SUMMER 2007



MGC Holds First College Assembly at Georgia Aviation Campus

Middle Georgia College (MGC) marked yet another milestone on Friday, June 29, holding its first employee assembly at the college's new Georgia Aviation campus in Eastman. MGC staff and faculty from the Cochran, Dublin and Eastman campuses all came together for introductions, a tour of the new campus and the opportunity to discuss the college's future. The enthusiastic mood of the meeting indicated that MGC's current phase of innovation and expansion will continue to build momentum.

"Holding a college assembly on the Georgia Aviation Campus was a unique opportunity to bring together our staff and faculty from all three campuses," stated MGC President Dr. Richard Federinko. "For some of our folks based in Cochran and Dublin, this was the initial opportunity they've had to experience first-hand the amazing aviation training and educational facilities that are here in Eastman. It was an opportunity to formally welcome the Georgia Aviation campus employees to the Middle Georgia College family, and to let them know just how excited we are about the new opportunities and responsibilities we have to become the leader in aviation education for the world."

Earlier this year, The University System of Georgia Board of Regents and the State Board of Technical and Adult Education both voted to approve the transfer of Georgia Aviation Technical College (GAVTC) to MGC. The transfer became

effective on July 1, 2007, creating the Georgia Aviation campus of MGC. Georgia Aviation is the only state-supported aviation college in Georgia offering select baccalaureate aviation degree programs and a variety of certificate and associate degree programs.

Georgia Aviation's Chief Aircraft Technician Rodney Hood said, "The staff and faculty at Georgia Aviation have been looking forward to joining with MGC to further enhance our aviation training programs. We thank the Cochran and Dublin staff and faculty for allowing us to host the assembly and providing us the opportunity to give them a detailed look at the aviation programs during the tour that followed." Hood added that "the prestige and reputation of MGC is a perfect match for the quality training available at Georgia Aviation."

During the June assembly, Federinko welcomed new employees, and MGC's vice-presidents and department chairs from all three campuses took the opportunity to introduce their staffs and explain the duties and responsibilities of their offices. Progress reports were given on the completion of the transfer of GAVTC to MGC, recent MGC accomplishments were discussed, and future goals and plans for all of the college's campuses were shared.

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MGC Now Operates One of Only Two Collegiate Air Traffic Control Facilities in the United States

On June 12, 2007, Georgia Aviation's Eastman Air Traffic Control Tower (ATC) was commissioned, making it one of only two collegiate air traffic control facilities in the nation. The tower now operates within the national airspace system with four FAA certified air traffic controllers.

Georgia Aviation's Air Traffic Management Department Chair John Hunt credits staff members Ron Ardelean, Gil Calhoun, Marco Charlin and Caprice Woodard with helping to accomplish the commissioning of the tower. Hunt stated that "Marco and Ron corrected building design challenges while Caprice and Gil made sure that the needed equipment was obtained quickly." Hunt added, "If it wasn't for these folks, the tower would be nothing more than an expensive observation deck."

MGC's introduction into the elite group of collegiate air traffic control is well known; Federal Aviation Administration employees have referred potential students, politicians have pledged their support for growth and aviation enthusiasts flock to the campus for tours. MGC's reputation within the aviation community is based on a three tier air traffic control training approach. Instructors guide students through an academic program that has 67 percent more academic content than current FAA collegiate requirements, students

experience advanced simulation training and four-year students experience live ATC training in the Eastman Air Traffic Control Tower.

MGC ATC FACTS:

- MGC's ATC tower simulator is one of 102 systems in use. The FAA owns six, the U.S. Air Force owns 94, Middle Georgia College owns one, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University owns one.

- MGC's advanced radar simulator is one-of-a-kind, and the I-SIM configuration is unique to MGC and loved by the FAA.

- MGC's tower is responsible for 26.54 square miles of Class Delta airspace.

- In the first month of operation MGC's tower controlled \$250,000,000 worth of aircraft (1096 operations).

- ATC responsibilities are delegated from the Federal Aviation Administration via a formal letter of agreement.



Students are trained on a tower simulator at Georgia Aviation.

Board of Regents Chair Tours Eastman and Cochran Campuses



BOR Chair Allan Vigil and Georgia Aviation's John Hunt

Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia Chair Allan Vigil visited MGC's Georgia Aviation and Cochran campuses on June 18 and was given extensive tours of both locations. Vigil also met with MGC faculty and staff during his visit.

Following a tour of Georgia Aviation, Vigil said, "People have to see this to believe it. When you come to a facility

like this and see what's going on here, it's pretty amazing." Vigil added that "Any student who visits this campus is going to be impressed."

Vigil just began his second term as BOR chair and said he's making it a top priority to visit all 35 of the University System of Georgia's campuses.



Vigil and Department Chair of Aviation Management and Business Dr. Julie Massie Clark

MGC Professor Establishes Regional Symphony Orchestra

Offering exciting new cultural opportunity to the Middle Georgia Area



Dr. Charles Quinn

Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Charles Quinn has been spending his time away from campus this summer working to bring a new cultural institution to the Middle Georgia area. Quinn has founded and will be conducting the Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra.

“We are moving forward even faster than we thought possible,” said Quinn. “Already we have an inaugural season of five concerts planned. We have a remarkable home base, Hawkinsville’s graceful and functional Opera House, and we have an enthusiastic core of musicians and music lovers ready to turn our planning into reality.”

The orchestra will serve the Middle Georgia region “wherever the Ocmulgee River flows,” making it a cultural asset for an area that includes such cities and towns as Hawkinsville, Cochran, Dublin, Eastman, Warner Robins, Perry, Fort Valley, Unadilla, Abbeville and Cordele.

“The Macon Symphony Orchestra has provided great music to the region for many years,” said Quinn. “We can’t claim to compete with its heritage and reputation, but we know the need for good music exists here, and we’re going to be concentrating on excellence. We will find our audiences, and they’ll find us.”

One immediate concern is the establishment of a “friends of the orchestra” organization of volunteers to help with such activities as publicity, advertising, ticket sales and hospitality. Anyone interested in assisting with these efforts can contact Julie Stewart of the Old Opera House at 478-783-1884 or visit the orchestra’s website at www.ocmulgeesymphonyorchestra.com.

The orchestra’s inaugural concert will be on Saturday, October 13th at the Opera House, and other concerts are planned in December and April. Two guest groups also will be heard in the opening season: the widely praised Czech Trio of Dana Vlachova, violin, Miroslav Petras, violincello, and Milan Langer, piano; and the Jose White String Quartet, beginning its first United States tour. The latter group is a first prize winner in the Premio Nacional De Musica De Camara.

“These are top-level performers,” said Quinn. “To have them join our first season of concerts is an honor. You’ll love their

music and their professionalism.”

Quinn also pointed out that the local musicians that will be participating in the orchestra are extremely talented. “There are many competent performers here, especially in our colleges and schools, and they want the challenges of playing demanding works together,” Quinn stated.

The Ocmulgee Symphony Classical Music Series

\$25.00 per concert or Season Tickets for \$100.00

10/13/07 Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra Inaugural Concert

Overture Der Schauspieldirektor - Mozart

The Haydn Trumpet Concerto

Dr. Charles Gates (University of Mississippi) guest soloist

Mozart Symphony No. 35 in D

Trumpeter’s Lullaby – Leroy Anderson

12/15/07 Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert

Humperdinck – Hansel and Gretel Overture

Corelli Christmas Concerto

Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker

Anderson Sleigh ride

1/22/07 The Jose White String Quartet from Mexico

4/5/07 The Czech Trio

4/26/07 Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra Season Finale

Smetana – The Moldau

JC Bach Concerto for Bassoon in Bb

Lisa Lombardo – Soloist

Bizet L’Arlesienne Suite No.2

Beethoven Symphony #3

Tickets can be purchased by writing to:
The Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra
P.O. Box 684
Cochran, GA. 31014

Tickets can also be purchased online at
www.ocmulgeesymphonyorchestra.com

Nursing Department Awarded State Grant To Aid Recruitment



MGC is pleased to announce that its nursing department has been awarded a grant from the University System of Georgia (USG) Nursing Education Task Force (NETF) to fund recruitment of new students, retention, and continuing education for already licensed nurses. Institutions from around the state submitted grant proposals to NETF, and well-designed proposals that represent commitments to increase license-eligible nursing graduates by about 40 percent in the next three years were approved for funding. MGC's proposal was funded for a three-year period in the amount of \$162,039 per year.

The director of MGC's Nursing Department Dr. Jo Anne Jackson stated, "MGC has a successful track record in educating and placing registered nurses throughout central Georgia. The 2007 graduating class has a 100 percent first time passing rate on the National Licensure Examination to become registered nurses." Jackson added, "With the support of this grant, it is anticipated that MGC's number of pre-licensure graduates for the next three years will increase by 50 percent."

MGC's grant award will focus on recruitment and retention of both nursing faculty and students while also creating avenues of continuing education for licensed practical nurses seeking to advance their careers. The college plans to have a recruitment and retention faculty position that will work on recruiting outside the usual MGC service area to steer qualified students to the college.

"Middle Georgia College has much to offer the student looking for a traditional college experience," Jackson said. "These are exciting times at MGC, and this grant supports efforts being made and acknowledges the quality nursing program for which the college is known."

USG Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. has challenged nursing programs in the state to achieve a 50 percent increase in

pre-licensure graduates by 2010. In response to this directive, the NETF was formed to position the USG as a national leader in high quality, efficient and accessible nursing education. The NETF sought to develop and implement a plan to meet the current and future demand for registered nurses in Georgia and called for project proposals from the state's colleges and universities.

The MGC nursing program enjoys full approval from the Georgia Board of Nursing until December 2010 and full accreditation by the National League for Nursing until fall 2014. For more information about the program, call Lita Holloway, Nursing Admissions Coordinator at 478-934-3057 or visit www.mgc.edu/academics/divisions/nursing.

WARRIORS

Warriors pitcher Wes Tignor has been selected as a Distinguished Academic All-American in baseball. Tignor, a graduate of South Gwinnett High School, was 17-6 with a 3.89 ERA over his two years at MGC and will be continuing his baseball career at Kennesaw State University.

Warriors Coach Craig Young was thrilled to hear the news of Tignor's achievement. "It is good to see hard working student athletes get recognized for their commitment to academics as well as their performance on the field," Young stated. "Wes has been an example to all of us by displaying the true meaning of a student athlete and what college is about." Congratulations, Wes!



MGC UNVEILS FOUR NEW FACILITIES FOR FALL 2007

MGC celebrated a historic day of ribbon cuttings and dedications on July 31, unveiling four renovated or newly constructed buildings to employees, students, family and friends, and the local community. Ribbon cuttings and open houses were held for new facilities Anderson, Harris and Welch Halls, along with an open house for the renovated Browning Hall.

“We’ve come to the conclusion of the first phase of our housing modernization with the completion of Talmadge, Browning, Harris, Gateway and Anderson Halls,” MGC President Dr. Richard Federinko stated. “Through the effort of both state and private funding, we’ve added 807 modern beds to this campus. We’re only halfway there though, and that’s the good news. We hope that this October or November the Board of Regents will approve the second phase of our housing program and that by the fall of 2009, Middle Georgia College will be able to house 1689 students in modern housing.”

Harris Hall



MGC President Richard Federinko, Lola, Deborah and John Ellis, Board of Regents Chair Allan Vigil, Rep. Jimmy Pruet and MGC Foundation President Charles Parker

The ribbon cutting ceremony for Harris Hall, MGC’s first apartment-style residence hall, kicked off the day’s events. Named for local Cochran businessman Wallace L. Harris, Sr., Harris Hall will provide 156 additional beds to the MGC campus. The four-bedroom layout features two baths, a living room and a small kitchenette that includes a full-size refrigerator, sink, and counter space for a microwave. Open houses for Harris Hall and the newly renovated historic Browning Hall were held after the ribbon cutting.

Harris was well-known for his generosity towards students in need of financial aid and the importance he placed on education. During the ceremony, Federinko read a statement on behalf of Harris’s daughter Lola Ellis. Ellis stated, “The family could not be more pleased that once again the Harris name appears on this dormitory for students seeking a college education. If our father were here today, he would be saying, ‘get an education and never stop learning. Your education is something no one can ever take away’.” Deborah and John Ellis, the grandchildren of Wallace Harris, also attended the event.

Browning Hall



Susan Rockett, granddaughter of Leo Browning, and family with Richard Federinko on the steps of Browning Hall

Browning Hall is a part of MGC’s campus with a rich and extensive history. Originally opened as a residence hall in 1938, the building was severely damaged by fire in 2005 while undergoing renovation. While the fire may have slowed progress on modernizing the building, efforts continued to complete the renovation. “We can celebrate that from those ashes rose a very beautiful, modern and safe facility,” MGC Foundation President Charles Parker stated at the ceremony.

The building is named for Leo Haygood Browning, who served as MGC’s president from 1929 to 1947. Browning’s granddaughter, Susan Rockett, and her family attended the Harris Hall ribbon cutting and open houses at both Harris and Browning Halls. “My grandfather was a man of priorities. He always taught us: God first, family second, education third and MGC fourth,” Rockett stated.

Browning Hall can house 56 students in single suite-style rooms that include a desk and chair, credenza and bureau. A sink and vanity is located in each room, and students will share a common bath with just one suite-mate.

GAMES Program Gets New Home



John McElveen, Joe Ben and Dottie Welch, Dora and John Henry Anderson, and Richard Federinko

One of MGC's most prestigious programs, the Georgia Academy of Aviation, Mathematics, Engineering and Science (GAMES) is moving to a new home this fall with the completion of the impressive new GAMES complex. Following the Harris and Browning Hall ribbon cutting ceremony, GAMES students, MGC faculty and staff, local dignitaries and community members gathered at Welch and Anderson Halls for their ribbon cutting events. The new complex includes a modern and secure residence hall and academic center.

"In a few weeks, this will be the home of some of the brightest young minds in the state of Georgia," said GAMES Director Lisa Whitaker during the ceremony. "Parents and students are going to want to be a part of the camaraderie and excellence of this program."

Welch Hall, named for former MGC President Dr. Joe Ben Welch, houses the new GAMES Academic Center. The center will serve as an academic and advising facility for students in the GAMES program. During his tenure as MGC's president from 1989 to 1998, Welch established the GAMES program. He also played a major role in founding distance education at MGC, began allied health career programs, expanded athletic programs at the school and established the Academic Support Center. Welch currently serves as the chancellor of River Parishes Community College in Sorrento, Louisiana.

Welch praised the "treasured traditions and community loyalty" at MGC and told the crowd that the dedication of Welch Hall was the high point of his 45-year career in education.

"Of all the great things Dr. Welch did for MGC, I believe that his greatest legacy here is, and will always be, the GAMES

program, and he is absolutely the father of the program," stated MGC Vice President for Student Development John McElveen. "Dr. Welch's vision to serve the educational needs of our state's gifted high school juniors and seniors by providing a high quality college-based living-learning experience came to fruition 10 years ago, and it is a true testament to that vision that the GAMES program continues to grow and serve the needs of gifted students today."

Anderson Hall will serve as the 252-bed residential hall for GAMES students and is named for Mr. John Henry Anderson, Jr. of Hawkinsville. Anderson, who is now retired from the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, represented MGC's district on the board during the founding of the GAMES program. A graduate of MGC and the University of Georgia, Anderson served in the Georgia House of Representatives for five terms, representing the Bleckley and Pulaski County area. He also served as sole commissioner of Pulaski County for a total of 24 years.

"The naming of Anderson Hall for Regent Anderson is specifically appropriate because he was one who enthusiastically endorsed the vision Dr. Joe Ben Welch brought forth for the GAMES program," McElveen said. "Without Regent Anderson's tireless work in Atlanta with the chancellor, legislators and fellow regents, the GAMES program probably would never have come to pass. His behind-the-scenes work was, to say the least, vital and so typical of the hard work that John Henry Anderson performed in order to improve education and our society throughout his life."

Through a statement read by his nephew, Anderson said, "This act of recognition will live on long after I'm gone, and for a man to be remembered in such a way is truly an honor."

The excitement and energy surrounding the GAMES program was evident in the comments given by one of the academy's young students. Amy Davidson told the crowd, "I've earned 57 college credit hours, and I'm only 16 years old. I actually enjoy going to school now and am excited about learning."

"We think we're building the finest living-learning community that can be developed for a program of this nature, or quite frankly for any program interested in gifted students that are so serious about their studies and development," stated MGC President Dr. Richard Federinko. "We want this program to be the premier academy program in the nation and the world, and we want it to grow and thrive. We think these facilities are a great start to that end. Anderson and Welch Halls are designed for today's use and tomorrow's growth of the GAMES program."

MGC's Miguel Castro Works With Local High School Band to Perfect Their Fall Program

By Belynda Enzor

The Bleckley County High School Royal Kingsman Band has been busy practicing their new tunes for weeks now, which is typical for this time of year. But for the first time ever, the band is providing a week of camp for the percussion musicians directed by MGC's own Miguel Castro! Miguel is MGC's percussion director and an avid supporter of the community and high school musicians. In July, he spent a week of intense training with the BCHS percussionists that range from grades 8 to 12, and he will continue to work with the band throughout the year.



“Some of the kids are experienced percussionists, and some are new this year,” said Castro, “but they all have a talent and have an awesome work ethic!” It's easy to see why the kids enjoy their music. Castro is an easy going, friendly and supportive mentor for them. Zack Songer, a freshman and second year percussionist in the band stated, “Miguel is very patient with the students and challenges us to do better and keep progressing.”

It's hard to stay still while listening to this band practice and even harder when you see the way their director “feels” the music. It's going to be one very special year for BCHS Royal Kingsman and one exciting year for all of us who get to watch and hear them perform!

Volunteer to Help with Move-In Day and Make our New and Returning Students Feel Welcome!

MGC's faculty and staff, local churches, and the Baptist Student Union are gearing up to help new and returning students move into the dorms during the college's annual Move-In Day on Sunday, Aug. 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The college is requesting additional help from the local community for the event.

MGC Director of Residence Life Charles Mullis is organizing the project and recruiting volunteers. “This is our first opportunity to show our students how much we really care,” Mullis said. “We would also really appreciate the community coming out and participating with Move-In Day as we anticipate the largest dorm population in the history of MGC. Any local help would be greatly appreciated. Special thanks go out to the First Baptist Church youth group and college ministry for volunteering to cook hotdogs and serve lunch.”

Mullis added some of the college's offices would be open for Move-In Day. “There will be several volunteers working in the bookstore that day,” Mullis said. “The Admissions, Registrar, Business and Financial Aid offices will be open to assist last minute needs, and of course, campus police will help with traffic flow and issue student identification cards. All of our maintenance staff will be on duty and spread throughout the dorms as well as our custodial teams.”

“Our Move-In Day volunteers do the real work as they help move students' belongings into the dorms,” Mullis stated. “The students and their parents are always very impressed when they are met by a sea of volunteers who help get the job done in minutes instead of what might take hours.”

If you would like to assist with MGC's Move-In Day, please call Charles Mullis or Brian Harrell at (478) 934-3045 or stop by Georgia Hall from 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19.