

# THE CORE ONLINE



## September 2008

### Students welcomed back to campus with annual Move-In Day



Middle Georgia College (MGC) employees, students and community church members all volunteered their time to welcome new and returning MGC students during the college's annual Move-In Day event on Sunday, August 17. Volunteers were on hand starting at 10:00 a.m. to help students move luggage, furniture and other items into their new dorm rooms, and several of the college's offices were open to help students with last-minute questions.

MGC's Director of Residence Life Charles Mullis organizes the Move-In Day event each year. Mullis stated, "The MGC family has always graciously volunteered their time to help our students move into their home away from home on Move-In Day, and this year was no different. Thanks to all our volunteers who worked in the rain and in the sunshine. Around 1,300 students moved in this weekend, and I really believe this was the smoothest Move-In Day we have ever had."

Mullis added, "Student retention begins with the first contact a student has with a potential college or university. What we do for our students on Move-In Day validates to the student and their parents that they made the right choice when they chose MGC. This first impression goes a long way towards bringing them back next year."

As students arrived on campus with their families and their belongings, every dorm was ready and waiting with Move-In Day volunteers and MGC Residence Life employees to help the students get settled in to their rooms and on their way to get their student ID card and books. MGC faculty and staff, including new college President Michael Stoy, joined in as volunteers to direct traffic, assist with unloading vehicles and providing water to all who needed it. The local Piggly Wiggly store donated the use of their shopping carts to ease the transport of students' belongings from their vehicles to their new dorm rooms. MGC Student Activities Coordinator Melissa Baker arranged for a hotdog roast to be set up in front of Georgia Hall, providing both students and volunteers with lunch. Local church members served hot dog plates with chips, cookies and ice cold drinks. Music was also provided for those who wanted to find a shady place to sit down and enjoy their lunch.

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## Middle Georgia College receives scholarship endowment from Dodge County resident Bertie Mae Garrett

MGC alumna and emeritus faculty member Bertie Mae Garrett of Eastman has made an endowment gift to the MGC Foundation that will provide scholarships for full-time aviation students. MGC President Michael Stoy accepted the gift at an endowed scholarship signing ceremony on the college's Eastman campus on August 15. The event was attended by college employees, MGC Foundation members, local and state officials including Representative Jimmy Pruet and Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture and former Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives Terry Coleman. The scholarship will be named the "Bertie Mae Garrett Endowed Scholarship."



*Stoy accepts endowment check from Garrett.*



*Garrett signs endowment documents during ceremony on August 15.*

During the ceremony, MGC Foundation member Nylan Hinson of Eastman made an additional donation to the endowment in honor of Garrett. "I could never say enough good things about Ms. Garrett. She has been such an inspiration to so many people, especially the thousands of students she has touched during her 43 years as a teacher. She taught me while at MGC and also others in my family during their high school years. Donating to this scholarship is a great way of giving back to her and showing our appreciation. By establishing this endowed scholarship, her legacy will live on and benefit so many deserving students," said Hinson.

MGC's Director of Advancement Jennifer Barfield stated, "As evidenced through her lifetime of service to others, Ms. Garrett has a generous spirit and a love of education. Her decision to create this scholarship is an extension of that spirit and all of us at Middle Georgia College are happy to have had Ms. Garrett as an alumna of MGC for the past 72 years and we are grateful to her for the example she has set through this wonderful gift. This scholarship will live on in perpetuity as a fitting tribute to Bertie Mae Garrett."

Garrett graduated from the Old Dodge High School in Eastman. She then enrolled at MGC and in 1936 earned an Associate Degree in Home Economics. She continued her education and

earned a B.S. in Home Economics and a Masters of Education from Georgia College. She earned her Specialist in Education from the University of Georgia. She has done graduate work at Peabody College, Nashville, TN, University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Columbia University, N.Y. Garrett dedicated 43 years of her life to the field of education working as a teacher at Plainfield Elementary, old Dodge High, Hendrix Elementary, Chauncey Elementary and Dodge County High School in Eastman. She was head of the Business Education Department during her years at Dodge County High School. After serving as a teacher in the Peace Corps for two years, at the Special Teachers Training Institute in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, she returned to MGC in 1969 as Associate Professor of Business Education. She was faculty advisor of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) for 12 of the 15 years she taught at MGC. The BSU set up the Bertie Mae Garrett Scholarship in her honor when she retired. This scholarship supports students wishing to work in missions during their summer breaks. Ms. Garrett was recognized by MGC as an Associate Professor Emerita of Business Education in 2002-2004, following her retirement from teaching in 1983.

Along with her dedicated service to the education of Middle Georgia's young people, Garrett has given back to her community in countless other ways. She has served as a member of the Dodge County Hospital Auxiliary, managed the Lifeline Assistance program for the Eastman Pilot Club, volunteered for the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Community Action Agency Ombudsman Program along with many other service activities. On May 27, 2008, at the state capitol, as part of Senior Week, Senator Ross Tolleson, the Senate and Gov. Sonny Perdue recognized Ms. Garrett as the annual Georgia Council on Aging Distinguished Senior Georgian. Garrett is an active member of Zebulon Baptist Church and has generously supported missions throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. She set up a scholarship at her church which is used to support missions. After her mission assignment in 2004 in Russia she saw the need to help girls from orphanages get higher education in Theology and thus initiated a scholarship for this cause. The scholarship is administered by David George with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

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# Charles Williams exhibits “New Paintings” in Peacock Gallery



*“Spiritual Graffiti”*

MGC Peacock Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of their first exhibit of the semester, a showing of new paintings by Georgia artist Charles Williams. An opening reception for the Williams exhibit was held on Monday, September 8 that included a gallery talk and question-and-answer session with the artist. Williams’ paintings will remain in the gallery until September 26.

MGC Assistant Professor of Art and Peacock Gallery Director Charlie Agnew stated, “I was first introduced to Charles Williams’ work by Desmal Purcell of the Stillmoreroots Group based out of Swainsboro, Ga. I have always been drawn to impasto painting (thickly painted surfaces) which gives the artwork an almost sculptural presence.” Agnew added, “[Williams’ paintings] show a record of the creative process that comes from the build-up of all the different surface layers throughout the course of making the artwork. Thus, his work gains a sense of history and becomes a record of the artistic method, suggesting a narrative that can come from the artist or the viewer’s own experience with the piece.”

Williams received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida and went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in literature and a Master of Fine Arts in studio art from Florida State University. He is currently an assistant professor at Albany State University teaching painting and drawing. Williams has taken part in both solo and group art exhibitions in Georgia and Florida.

“I am intrigued with the notion that a painting is a document

of my physical movement and, therefore, of my experience. A viewer brings his or her experience to the painting and a conversation takes place,” Williams explained. “I have always been fascinated with found surfaces (table tops, doors, building facades) and the way they convey an historical conversation. In my early work, I documented these through photography, and I began to add to the history by manipulating the surfaces through mark making and assemblage. Eventually, I committed to creating my own surfaces with their own histories. In this way, my abstractions have a narrative quality.”

Williams added, “As I gained an understanding of the material and history of painting, I began to experiment with conceptual tension by incorporating traditional techniques and materials with high modern abstraction and the immediacy I saw in ‘outsider’ art. Abstract forms existed in a figure/ground arrangement, bringing objectivity into question and creating a space for language as people would naturally try to name or talk about the objects within the paintings. While narrative and conceptual ideas remain extant in my work, my newer paintings are also about the possibilities and limitations of the paint, creating tension and action in color, texture and form.”

The Peacock Gallery is located in Russell Hall on the Cochran MGC campus and hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The gallery is open to the public, and admission is free. For more information about the exhibit or the Peacock Gallery, please contact Charlie Agnew at 478-934-3043.

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## *“Move-In Day” Continued...*

“This was an exciting day, and it was great to see all of the students filled with so much enthusiasm,” Stoy said following his first Move-In Day experience. “Seeing the dedication and personal attention of the MGC faculty, staff and student volunteers toward our new and returning students made me proud of my new home.”

Jordan Williams, 18, a recent graduate of Buford High School in Gwinnett County moved in to MGC’s Harris Hall with the help of his mother and younger sister. Jordan will be a freshman computer science major this year. When asked how he came to choose MGC he replied, “I was first contacted by the MGC basketball program about possibly playing basketball, but I decided not to play ball this year and instead just keep my nose in the books.” The general consensus among the new and returning students at Move-In Day was that MGC had what they wanted academically, but it was the great people at MGC that really make the college a special place.

## Georgia's Center of Innovation-Aerospace establishes headquarters at Middle Georgia College

*MGC's Aviation Campus in Eastman will connect center with students, researchers, industry*

Georgia's Center of Innovation-Aerospace has established its headquarters at Middle Georgia College's Aviation Campus. The Eastman location, a thriving hub for aerospace technology and workforce development, will open up new opportunities for the Center to accelerate growth in Georgia's aerospace industry.

"Locating at Middle Georgia College's Aviation Campus allows us to tap into its extensive aerospace resources," said Sterling Wharton, director of the Centers of Innovation, part of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. "Access to a well-educated workforce, several on-site laboratories and Eastman's existing aviation assets will enhance the State's capacity to continue to support the aerospace industry in Georgia."

Middle Georgia College offers degrees in aerospace programs including Flight (both fixed wing and helicopter), Air Traffic Control, Aircraft Structural Technology, and Aviation Maintenance. The Eastman campus's focus on aviation has attracted several aerospace companies to the area, including Tower Aerospace and Aircraft Manufacturing and Development.

The partnership between the Center of Innovation-Aerospace and the Aviation Campus allows the center's clients to utilize one of the country's fastest-growing aviation programs for applied research, testing and training. The center is headed by director Nick Fuhrman, and will continue its strong collaboration and presence on Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins.

"The University System of Georgia is committed to meeting the needs of Georgia's strategic industries, including the aviation industry," said University System Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, who is also a Centers of Innovation Board Member. "The new partnership between the COI-Aerospace and Middle Georgia College, the state's public aviation college, will strengthen both organizations and help Georgia design comprehensive approaches to meeting industry needs."

The Center of Innovation-Aerospace was launched in Warner Robins in 2003 as part of the Centers of Innovation pro-



*MGC's Aviation Campus in Eastman*

gram created by Governor Sonny Perdue. Each of Georgia's six Centers of Innovation is hosted by a university in the state, providing technology-oriented businesses and entrepreneurs direct access to university research and development. New research initiatives and start-up enterprises are supported through the center's incubator program, and more established companies benefit through innovative programs created to meet their evolving needs.

More than 80,000 workers work in aerospace product and parts manufacturing in Georgia, and the state is home to some 200 of the industry's leading companies, including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and Gulfstream.

The Centers of Innovation (COI) program focuses on six areas of strategic industry growth and expansion: agriculture, aerospace, energy, life sciences, logistics and manufacturing, located respectively in Tifton, Eastman, Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah and Gainesville. COI's services include access to deep industry expertise and university-level research; product commercialization, and client connections to key state resources including potential investor networks. For more information, visit [www.georgiainnovation.org](http://www.georgiainnovation.org).

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDED) is the state's sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a location for film, video and music projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development.

## Growth and innovation continue at MGC with addition of new dorms



GEORGIA ACADEMY of AVIATION MATHEMATICS ENGINEERING & SCIENCE

### GAMES Alumni and Family Day

On Saturday, October 18 GAMES will welcome alumni along with the parents and families of our students for a full day of activities! Start the day with a continental breakfast and mingling in Welch Hall. Take a leisurely walking tour of the MGC campus, and meet some of our professors. Enjoy family fun, a picnic lunch and women's soccer game: MGC vs. Oxford College of Emory.

Make your reservation before October 3 by contacting:

Theresa Kresl  
478-934-3481  
tkresl@mgc.edu

[WWW.MGC.EDU/GAMES](http://WWW.MGC.EDU/GAMES)

### Garrett Continued...

Garrett's lifelong motto has been, "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy," and her service extends far beyond her local community. At 48-years-old, Garrett joined the Peace Corps, traveling around the world over the course of 990 days as a volunteer for the organization. Following her Peace Corps tenure, she spent 34 years as a summer missionary to 37 countries. Garrett chronicled her experiences in two books; "Chug Chug Lady from Georgia" and "Gathering Jewels" Personal Reflections in Near and Far Places. To obtain a copy of her books please call 478-374-7223.

The Garrett Scholarship Endowment will provide \$500 scholarships to aviation students who are pursuing a college education despite significant personal hardships and challenges. Students from the Eastman area will be given first consideration, but candidates from other areas will be considered if no applications from Eastman students are received. Applicants will be required to submit an essay of no more than 500 words explaining the challenges they face and how the scholarship award would impact their educational goals. Letters of recommendation from two of the student's teachers are required. Financial need and moral character will also be considered in the application process.

Contributions can be made to this endowed scholarship by sending donations to the MGC Foundation, 1100 Second Street SE, Cochran, GA 31014, and designated for the Bertie Mae Garrett Endowed Scholarship. For further information regarding the Bertie Mae Garrett Endowed Scholarship or the MGC Foundation, contact Jennifer Barfield, Director of Advancement, 478-934-6417



Local and college officials take part in ribbon cutting for Regents Hall.

Middle Georgia College employees and students joined with the Eastman and Cochran communities on August 15 to celebrate the college's continued growth with a ribbon cutting and two ground-breakings for new campus residence halls.

In Cochran, the additional two new residence halls, Regent and Warrior Halls, on the MGC campus will complete the school's plan to transition from outdated traditional dorms with community baths to private or semi-private rooms with private baths. Both buildings will house 278 students, with Regents Hall already open for use and Warrior Hall tentatively scheduled for completion in fall 2009.

Aviation Hall in Eastman will provide first class housing to an already exceptional training center and will eliminate the costly daily commute of many aviation students. Current plans call for completion of this facility by fall 2009.

Several prominent officials attended the August 15 events including State Senator Ross Tolleson, Representative Jimmy Pruett and Speaker Emeritus and Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Terry Coleman.



Aviation Hall Ground breaking in Eastman