

Panther Press



Communications Club

On Friday April 15, 2005, The Bainbridge College Communications Club, sponsored by Instructor of Communication, Wynton C. Hall, hosted the 2nd Annual Student Speech Competition. The well attended event featured four student speakers who were voted upon by their peers. Pictured from left to right: Thomas Mithen—Honorable Mention, Margaret Marshall—Honorable Mention, Instructor Wynton C. Hall—Sponsor, Dustin Dowdy—1st Place Winner, and Donielle Griffin—2nd Place Winner.

Bainbridge College Students Have GOALS

Bainbridge College student, Calvin Lewis, carries a little more responsibility with his studies than the normal college student. Calvin is one of eight children in his family. He has five younger siblings, four of whom have dropped out of high school. Calvin made a promise to his younger brother, Christopher, that he would stay in school as long as he would. "This has started an epidemic for higher learning in my family," says Calvin. Calvin has been selected as the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) winner for Bainbridge College.



According to Shirley Beck, BC GOAL Coordinator and

Assistant Professor of Administrative Office Technology, the GOAL program recognizes the achievements of the state's outstanding post-secondary technical students, both in technical institutes and two-year colleges. Established in 1971 by the Business Council of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Education, the program spotlights the importance of technical training and emphasizes the dignity of work. GOAL is the first such program in the nation to reward students who excel in learning a gainful skill.



"The GOAL program spotlights students in technical programs who are the "best of the best," says Beck. "All our nominees have worked hard and sacrificed to get where they are today and I am so proud of their accomplishments. Not only have they excelled academically, they are usually the leaders and mentors in their chosen field," added Beck.

The Bainbridge College winner competes against winners from 34 other technical colleges for the opportunity to become the ambassador promoting technical education around Georgia as the state GOAL winner. During the GOAL competition in Atlanta, Calvin will be in the company of the most outstanding technical students in the state. These students will further their knowledge of leadership training, success skills, how to balance daily life, teamwork, and public speaking skills; taught by nationally acclaimed speakers.

Calvin has earned a certificate in Customer Service and a diploma in Applied Business Technology. "Now, I am pursuing a Nursing Degree," states Calvin. "I anticipate that this will take me from a low paying job as a technician to a higher level of earning as an Associate Therapist. Now I have to continue not only for me, but for the ones who are encouraged and motivated by my actions."

Thank you Action GM!

Action GM Sales Manager Randy Downing presents Gene Hendrix of the Bainbridge College Continuing Education Department keys to a vehicle for the department's use in their Defensive Driving classes. Interim BC President Dr. Sherman Day and Action GM General Manager Randy Soden join them in the presentation.



Joyce Hilburn retires from the library after twenty nine years of service to the College. We will all miss you, Joyce.



Butler Wins Scholarship



Cornelius L. Butler, a legally blind honor student at Bainbridge College, is the new recipient of an Edwards-Miller Foundation Scholarship. The Edwards-Miller Foundation for Physical Disabilities was established to provide educational opportunities through scholarships and enrichment programs for persons with physical or mental disabilities. "It is because of programs like these that young people with disabilities across America are able to realize their dream of a higher education and economic self-sufficiency," says Butler. Recipients must demonstrate a strong desire to improve the quality of their life.

"A lot of people told me that they felt that I would not be able to cut it in college because of my disability," says Butler. They were wrong. Butler has earned two technical certificates of credit and is currently majoring in Computer Science at BC.

According to the Edwards-Miller Foundation, on the average, 42% of children with disabilities, between the ages of 14-21 drop out of school, usually before the 9th grade. The foundation further discovered that as disabled children grow into adulthood, 70% of the people with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 65 are still unemployed. However, two out of three of this 70% want to work.

In an effort to make the Internet a more user friendly place for people with disabilities, Butler along with a partner has launched his own business, Butler New Media, LLC. The company's strength and primary offering is the firm's ability to assist in building a more accessible web allowing employees to fully engage their talents and feel valued by the company. "I've seen a lot of the issues people with disabilities face when they try to use the Web," says Butler. "And that served as inspiration to start my own company." As part of his business success, Butler has been invited to speak at several international, national, state, and local events.

In May 2005 his company will launch America's first nationwide online panel of people with disabilities. The panel will allow clients to conduct market research, software testing, and other specialized studies. This will provide corporate America and government agencies with real time data on the unique views of people with disabilities. The panel is expected to have 10,000+ members. Mr. Butler continues to work with the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and its President and CEO, Andy Imparato, ensuring a more accessible workplace future for all employees regardless of ability. "I think one key to business success is to always under-promise and over-deliver," says Butler.



Back to Nature at BC

For years the nature walk, which so many have enjoyed at Bainbridge College, has been left in disrepair. However, now thanks to the hard working BC plant operations crew, nature-lovers will soon be able to enjoy the rambling path through native foliage. The walk is approximately 1300 feet in length and rambles past many unique types of horticultural specimens. Built approximately 15 years ago at the request of Dr. Edward Mobley, the trail has been used for countless purposes by BC and the public. The idea was to weave the trail into nature and learn from the experience. "We would take

classes out there and study all the different types of plants and vegetation," said Mobley. "The kids always love the experience."

Retired BC Botanist, Dr. Bob Lane also played a major role in the establishment of the walk. "Dr. Bob walked the exact path he wanted the trail to follow and we marked it as he went, said BC Plant Operations Manager, Leonard Dean.

"There were approximately fifteen different botanical specimens that we had identified at one time," said Dr. Bob Lane. "It was really nice to take our classes out there and actually show them what a Aestivalis or a Ilex Verticillata looks like rather than just photos in textbooks. There is such a great variety of plants because the habitat is ideal for their growth." Before the decline of the nature walk many of the plants had been identified and marked with small wooden signs. "I hope we can re-identify the specimens again, so that people can actually identify what they are seeing," added Lane.

The nature walk has been used in the past for more than exercise. "We actually had a wedding out here several years ago," said Mobley. Just beyond the walk are two very large flint rocks. "We are not sure if they were grave markers for Indians or as some type of foundation support for a building," said Lane. "There have been relics found near the walk such as arrowheads, a grinding bowl and pieces of pottery."

The walk should be completed in mid-April for the public to enjoy once again.



Lori Kuhn-Hancock has been selected as President-Elect for 2005 GATA. Mrs. Hancock will then serve as GATA President for 2006 and as Executive Advisor- Past President for 2007. As part of the preparation and training, Hancock will be attending the Association for the Tutoring Profession in Knoxville, Tennessee to participate as a GATA representative.



Bainbridge College raises money for Relay for Life

Bainbridge College LPN's Pinned



enriched by the realization of the accomplishment for these students."

"Nursing programs are notorious for their content difficulty level and the strict adherence required to the attendance of class and clinical," says Doris Carmichael, BC instructor of nursing. "These graduates deserve earnest congratulations for their determination to succeed."

Bainbridge College is trying to help address the critical shortage of nurses in Georgia and the nation. According to the Georgia Nursing Association, the supply of health care professionals in Georgia is woefully inadequate to meet current demand, let alone the increased level of need forecast for the future. Georgia's growth and the general aging of the population are driving the increased need for health service professionals and the demand simply outweighs the supply. Secondly, The GNA adds that employers have been forced to reduce health benefits coverage for many citizens. Yet, health care service utilization remains high and is expected to grow exponentially in this decade.

"The Licensed Practical Nursing program is very important to Bainbridge and the surrounding communities," says Dr. Karen Hill, Chair of the Technical Studies Division at Bainbridge College. "For the past several years, 100% of our graduates have found employment within two months of passing the state licensure test. Our area hospitals and health care agencies depend on the program to provide highly qualified LPN's for the health care profession to address the current critical shortage, adds Hill."

A recent graduate of the Bainbridge College LPN program, Gene Heard, has now taken his training and put it to the test. Heard is employed with Seminole Manner in Donalsonville. "The program was a great preparation for the real world. Caring for patients is such a huge responsibility," says Heard. "I just try and remember what Ms. Carmichael always told us, 'just don't panic and think back on what you were taught.'" Bainbridge College plans to add an Associate's Degree of Nursing program in January 2006. Anyone interested in the program should call 229-248-2504 for more information.

Fifteen Bainbridge College LPN students realized a dream-come-true, with their recent pinning ceremony. Students, who complete a fifteen month program of study, graduate and then are qualified to test for a state nursing license. "Nursing is a very difficult program of study and these students have worked extremely hard to achieve this goal," says BC president, Dr. Sherman Day. "The health of our communities will certainly be



First BC Senior Visitation Day Huge Success!

