Cadet Colonel Nicholas Trouy is the Regimental Commander for the 133rd Corps of Cadets. A native of Lebanon, Tenn., c/COL Trouy is a State Service Scholarship cadet who is also enrolled in the Early Commissioning Program. He has excelled in every facet of cadet life from academics (3.68 cumulative GPA) to duty (National Guard infantryman) to cadet life (outstanding leadership in positions of ever-increasing importance). Among other accomplishments, Mr. Trouy has distinguished himself as the commander of the JC flag detail at the Grand Tattoo, he is a member of the prestigious Ranger Challenge team, and a recipient of the Order of the Centurion medal—an award granted to those who have proven themselves to be scholars, athletes, and warrior leaders.
Georgia Military College has achieved several milestones since you heard from us in the last issue of *The Cadence*.

- We have begun offering online courses, and the program already has provided a strong indication of extraordinary success. We expect the programs we offer in this milieu to continue to expand on all fronts — among the military as well as others who find online learning conducive to their lifestyles.

- As you know, a number of our campuses are not only proximate to military bases, but have extension centers located on the bases. Other sites include extension centers in both Madison and Sandersville. The enrollments in this arena have already exceeded expectations.

- A new site has been opened in the city of Stone Mountain, a suburb of Atlanta, with the campus at Fairburn exercising control of this startup. The city of Stone Mountain has been extraordinarily accommodating and has extended itself in assisting us in every possible way. We are indebted to Dr. George Coletti, HS’57, JC’59, for his help in moving this initiative forward.

- Finally, we have concluded an agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to act as a prep school for their future cadets. The first of these young men and women, numbering 15 in all, will enter GMC this fall.

Looking ahead, our lack of space to support physical education has prompted us to undertake the design of a Health and Wellness Center that will incorporate the present Cordell Events Center. The new facility will provide exceptional opportunities for partnerships and programs to develop and maintain health and fitness among our students. The first phase of this compelling project is expected to begin in approximately one year.

The institution continues to focus its efforts on development of the intellect concomitant with the elevation of character. We are among the very few public institutions in the United States that promote this dual purpose in education and maintain a high degree of excellence in our offerings.

For those of you who attended GMC, we are grateful to you for embracing the values of your alma mater and continuing to uphold its worthwhile mission. For those who are friends of GMC, thank you for your realization that this fine institution merits your support. Our alumni and friends make a world of difference by honoring the institution’s heritage and helping ensure its strong future.
Much like its partnership with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Georgia Military College recently entered into a similar partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Beginning in the fall of 2011, a number of students from across the country (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, Virginia and Washington) will be enrolled in the Corps of Cadets on the Milledgeville Campus. Coast Guard Academy Scholars, of which an average SAT critical reading and math score exceeding 1150 is required, will focus upon completing courses within the CORE Curriculum, including English, math and science. Several will participate in athletic programs while enrolled at GMC.

Students attending GMC through the Coast Guard partnership have been selected by the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and will attend GMC as enlisted members of the U.S. Coast Guard for one academic year. They are expected afterward to return to the Coast Guard Academy to continue their college education.
In May, Georgia Military College announced the launch of its Online Campus, an initiative targeted at servicing current and future GMC students who require the convenience, flexibility, and mobility of online learning. The GMC Online Campus, located at MyGMCOnlineCampus.net, offers 24x7 access to students worldwide in programs such as Homeland Security, Criminal Justice, Paralegal Studies, Logistics Management, Business Administration, Pre-Nursing, Information Technology, and General Studies. The College has made a major investment in infrastructure, course development, and technology to support the e-learning needs of students located in Georgia, around the nation, and across the world. Using an advanced Learning Management System to create and deliver online courses, Georgia Military College will extend educational opportunities outside the current limits of its nine Georgia locations.

For more information on enrolling in the GMC Online Campus, visit gmconlinecampus.net on the World Wide Web.

"Arming myself with an education was my next step. Choosing an established college with online degrees was a great decision for me."

ONLINE ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN

- Homeland Security & Emergency Management
- Criminal Justice
- Computer Information Systems
- Business Administration
- Information Technology
- Paralegal Studies
- General Studies...and more!
As GMC alumni and friends, you will be pleased to know that the GMC Online Campus opened for its first full term on August 8, 2011. By establishing an online presence, GMC can now transcend all traditional geographic boundaries for students, dramatically increasing student enrollment and the visibility of our great institution around the world.

We can now offer active duty military personnel the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree from GMC – an established, credible, time-honored school – entirely online, no matter where they reside. We are offering discounts for military personnel as well as their spouses and other family members.

Our traditional student population will have the flexibility to benefit from an affordable, quality degree program at an accelerated rate, anywhere and at any time.

Our alumni represent the best resource available to GMC to spread the good news about our institution and its online programs. If you know someone who may benefit from enrolling at our GMC Online Campus, please don’t hesitate to connect them with us.

Justin Mays, MPA  
Senior Online Admissions Counselor  
1-800-342-0413 | 478-387-4950  
jmays@gmc.cc.ga.us | Skype: gmconlinecampus  
Visit us on the Web at www.gmconlinecampus.net  
Follow us on Twitter @gmconlinecampus

Georgia Military College maintains a long history of providing quality education at the two-year degree level to citizens of the State of Georgia, United States Armed Forces personnel, and others outside of Georgia. As a result, the College has constructed the infrastructure and administrative capability to provide, at a distance, quality education leading to associate degree programs in a variety of disciplines. In concert with prior initiatives and as a consequence of careful planning, Georgia Military College provides its students with online course delivery. Resources have been allocated and acquired as the College has developed an appropriate foundation for online learning through technology infrastructure, curriculum and instruction resources, academic and administrative support capabilities, and strategic market and financial planning. As an institution, Georgia Military College possesses the necessary strengths to provide this value-add to its students.

Georgia Military College maintains a strong focus on serving the needs of United States military personnel and those considering a military career future. Close alliances with United States military personnel create a unique opportunity to better serve the academic needs of students who relocate, travel, or are temporarily deployed to geographic locations outside the service area of the College’s existing campuses. Rather than interrupt, discontinue, or move their studies elsewhere, Georgia Military College students in these situations can complete their academic work and graduate from the institution as planned.

Samuel S. Conn, Ph.D.  
Vice President Information Technology  
Director Online Learning
Phase I of the project, targeted for completion by fall of 2014, will be comprised of the addition of 60,000 square feet on three levels.
Having earned its place among the nation’s best two-year colleges, Georgia Military College continues fulfilling its ambitious plans for the future. By continuing to carry out the facilities master plan with new and updated structures to match its aspirations and dreams, the College will achieve and maintain excellence for years to come. The next phase of this master plan will be the construction of a Health and Wellness Center.

The new Health and Wellness Center will be a state-of-the-art facility to drive the integration of healthy living on a day-to-day basis. The facility will meet a critical need, first and foremost, by providing the appropriate space to educate GMC’s college and preparatory students on health, nutrition, and fitness. Such training will combat the alarming health trends among our state’s youth and enable our young people to develop the sound, fit, and healthy bodies needed to live longer, more productive, and contributing lives.

The Health and Wellness Center will be constructed near the existing Cordell Events Center and will, in fact, incorporate most of that structure. It is important to note that the Cordell Events Center served fewer than 500 GMC students when newly constructed. Currently, the facility serves almost 2,000 students in grades 6-12 and the junior college – far more than its reasonable capacity.

None of the current space in Cordell Events Center will be lost with the construction of Phase I. The later Phase II will include a convocation center with a capacity of 1,800, as well as additional instructional spaces, physical training spaces, and offices to support the institution. It will encompass a substantial portion of the existing Cordell Events Center through renovation and will also involve new construction.

Phase I of the project, targeted for completion by fall of 2014, will be comprised of the addition of 60,000 square feet on three levels, including: six health and wellness instructional spaces, athletic healthcare and training lab, over 9,000 square feet of physical training space, elevated walking/running track, two multi-use courts, locker rooms to support the entire prep school populace, and staff offices.
In 2007, Kicklighter was sworn in as the sixth Senate-confirmed Department of Defense Inspector General.

“The most important year of my entire education was the year I spent at Georgia Military College. The foundation I received there was the foundation on which I built the rest of my career of service. It has sustained me throughout my life.”

— General Mick Kicklighter
Alumnus Lieutenant General Mick Kicklighter reflects on his days at GMC,

Credits the School With Building Foundation For Success

By every measure, General Mick Kicklighter is a man of character. For more than 50 years, he has answered the call to serve his country, amassing a lengthy and distinguished list of accomplishments. An Army officer for more than 35 years, he commanded units at every level, from platoon through Division, and ended his military career by commanding U.S. Army Pacific, a theater army. After retiring as a Lieutenant General, Kicklighter served for more than 17 years in high ranking positions (two of which required Senate confirmation) in the Departments of Defense, State and Veterans Affairs. He also served as chair of Habitat for Humanities’ International Board of Directors. In 2008, Kicklighter became Director and Principle Investigator for the Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security (CIP/HS) Program, a research organization within the George Mason University, School of Law. In June of this year, the Department of Defense announced that Kicklighter will serve as Director of the Department of Defense’s Commemoration Office, focusing most immediately on overseeing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Program.

Despite his noteworthy achievements—he’s been called one of our country’s most illustrious soldiers—Kicklighter categorically rejects the mantle of hero. Yet he’s quick to credit those who inculcated the character traits that so clearly underlie his accomplishments. “The most important year of my entire education was the year I spent at Georgia Military College,” he says. “The foundation I received there was the foundation on which I built the rest of my career of service. It has sustained me throughout my life.”

The Back Story

As a young boy growing up in Glennville, Georgia, Kicklighter had no intention of pursuing a military career. Maybe he’d study science…or medicine…and perhaps he’d come home after college to run the family farm and grocery store. But it was 1950s wartime and 18-year-old Kicklighter was eligible for the draft. “I was happy to serve my country if called on, but I wanted to serve as an officer,” he says. “Several of my high school classmates planned to attend Georgia Military College and the school offered an ROTC program, which also appealed to me.” So in the fall of 1951, Kicklighter made the 130-mile move to Milledgeville.

Lessons Learned

Almost immediately, the military decorum and discipline at GMC resonated with Kicklighter. “I was very proud to wear the uniform and surprised to enjoy the drill and ceremony, including marching on the parade ground.” Each evening, we were required to attend study hall, which was a really beneficial requirement for me. And each Sunday morning, we fell out and marched off to church,” he recalls. “The discipline was good for me—it gave me a certain comfort level and certainly improved my grades. Within that environment, I began to get a real sense of what ‘Duty, Honor, Country’ and integrity really meant.”

But boys will be boys, and young Kicklighter didn’t always follow the rules. One evening, he and a classmate broke study hall and stayed out late with an acquaintance who claimed to need their help. The acquaintance duped the boys, who were then caught sneaking back into the barracks after curfew. Kicklighter’s punishment was to march for 30 hours in the school bull ring—under the scorching Georgia sun. “It taught me a valuable lesson about integrity and honesty, and the importance or following rules and regulations, which has helped me stay ‘on the high ground’ throughout this exciting journey,” he says. “Not to mention the fact that I could out-march just about anyone after those 30 hours of special training!”

Much of Kicklighter’s character development took place in the GMC classrooms themselves.

“I don’t believe you could have found GMC’s character and leadership training being taught at most other public liberal arts colleges during those days. Only at a military school do you have the opportunity to live what you learn, which is the way character and leadership are instilled,” he says. “And the GMC faculty made you feel you were important; they made you believe they were very interested in your welfare and wanted to help you succeed. I’ve been to a number of schools, but never quite felt the faculty was as interested in my success as I did at GMC. Across all subjects, the teachers’ investment in my education and my character made me try harder because they really cared about my potential. This was an important lesson I’ve tried to emulate in my career and life, striving to become a caring leader.”
Examples set by his GMC teachers would stand as inspiration much later, when Kicklighter eventually decided to pursue a military career. “To this day, I believe deeply in serving people—in improving their welfare and inspiring them to reach their full potential,” he says. “That was something that took root at GMC, because I felt very cared for and learned to believe in myself there.”

Reflecting on other early influences, Kicklighter points to his GMC classmates. “I was a member of Company B and felt a special sense of belonging,” he remembers. “At GMC, I came to understand that it’s the team that really counts. The way to accomplish things is through being a strong team player or a leader who knows how to build a team; it is all about team work. Any successes I’ve accomplished have been due primarily to the teams and the people I’ve been privileged to work and serve with, and especially the strong support I’ve always had from my family.”

Even the Milledgeville community holds a special place in Kicklighter’s memory. “I was a kid away from home, but the local people and business establishments in Milledgeville made me feel like this was also my hometown. I’ll never forget Milledgeville.”

Clearly, his year at GMC was a formative time for Kicklighter, one that forged the underpinnings of his future. “I loved the organization, the discipline, how smoothly things were run,” he says. “The way GMC was operated has always given me a picture of success and a foundation to fall back on.”

**A SOLID FOUNDATION**

Kicklighter graduated from Mercer University, where he continued participation in the ROTC. A standout among cadets at summer camp, he reluctantly accepted a regular army commission at graduation. “But the longer I stayed in [the military], the more I felt the profession of arms was my calling. And if I had to do it all again, I’d still choose to follow the flag and serve my country. I’m sure this would not have been my profession, if it hadn’t been for GMC.”

While at Mercer, Kicklighter met his wife, Elizabeth Exley, whom he says has always been passionately supportive of his career. “Without her support, I couldn’t have accomplished whatever that turns out to be. The military definitely became a family affair.” The couple have three grown children, and are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren. Another formative influence is Kicklighter’s deep Christian faith. “Faith is my constant companion,” he says. “I’ve tried not only to serve my country but my God.”

Today, after half a century (and counting) of distinguished service, Kicklighter looks forward to his new role as Director of the Department Of Defense’s Commemoration Office. But he’s never lost sight of his origins. “Life is full of second chances and opportunities to move in new directions. What guides the journey is education and character,” he said. “I’m very sincere in saying that whatever I’ve accomplished, the foundation was started right there at Georgia Military College. I’ve tried to be a servant leader, where the example was demonstrated to me daily at GMC.”

“I don’t believe you could have found GMC’s character and leadership training being taught at most other public liberal arts colleges during those days. Only at a military school do you have the opportunity to live what you learn, which is the way character and leadership are instilled.”

— **GENERAL MICK KICKLIGHTER**
In the early planning stages for this year’s gathering, the group agreed, in essence, “If you got a good thing going, don’t change it!” That decision led members of the class and their families to once again assemble in Milledgeville at the Country Club for an early dinner and social time. This pre-graduation gathering gives class members the opportunity to meet this year’s award recipients and to celebrate the legacy being continued through the endowment which the class has created and continues to support.

CDR William “Bill” Curry again served as emcee for the dinner program, which recognized Sean Tighe, Senior Class Valedictorian, and MAJ Kathie Deen, Prep School Character Educator of the Year. LTC David Lewis spoke on behalf of the GMC Prep School staff and faculty, recognizing the class’s contributions and thanking them for their continued support.

An update on previous student and faculty recipients includes:

2006 Mary Beth Martinez: Graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Georgia (UGA) in 2011 and has just completed her first year of law school at UGA.

2007 Kenneth Stewart: Currently a senior at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. He is set to graduate next May with degrees in electrical engineering and computer science.

2008 Kristen Whipple: Senior at University of Georgia majoring in exercise and sports science. She has been active in the Wesley Leadership, the RHOTU (pre-physical therapy club), and Students with Testimony (S.W.A.T.).

2009 Haylee DeLoach: Senior at the University of Georgia majoring in criminal justice.

2010 John Austin Vance: Currently a student at the University of Georgia where he is pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in finance with a minor in history. He is a member of the Dean William Tate Honor Society and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

2008 MAJ Emily Fairbrass: Seventh grade life science instructor; Odyssey of the Mind coordinator; inducted into the Odyssey of the Mind Coaches Hall of Fame in 2008; middle school soccer coach.

2009 MAJ Linda Brown: Mathematics Department chair; Math 3, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus instructor; planning to complete her doctorate this fall.

2010 MAJ Brent Gebel: English I and II instructor; head golf coach; driver’s education instructor; “aspiring Class of ’53 bus driver.”
MG Boylan and GMC alumni and friends are continuing a tradition and honoring Bill Craig’s legacy with the “Bill Craig Memorial Pheasant Hunt and Auction.” The next event will take place on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Burnt Pine Plantation in Newborn, Ga. A $500 charitable contribution to “The William R. ‘Bill’ Craig Scholarship Endowment” reserves a spot for the Continental Pheasant Hunt and Auction. For more information, contact Henry Craig (478-363-1849 or henry craig1@charter.net) or Dean Grant (478-457-5579 or dean@grantfinancialgroup.com).
Georgia Power Scholarship

The Georgia Power Scholarship fund is available for non-traditional students attending school at one of the Georgia Military College campuses. Applicants must be students who are twenty-one years of age or older and/or have been out of high school for one or more years.

Augusta Campus: Carmelita Birt
I currently live in Waynesboro, Ga., and travel to the GMC campus in Augusta every day to attend class. This scholarship will allow me to be able to concentrate more on my studies rather than worrying about tuition. Receiving this scholarship encourages me to continue to further my education and improve the standard of living for my children and me.

Columbus Campus: Rasheeda Reese
After taking courses at GMC I know that I will walk away feeling confident that I gained the knowledge and information necessary to pursue my dream. I am a firm believer that life is like a bank account; you can only withdraw what you deposit. I gratefully appreciate the scholarship from Georgia Power and would like to thank all parties who were involved in helping me to continue my education.

Fairburn Campus: Dwight Millbrook
I am honored to receive the Georgia Power Scholarship through the Georgia Military College Foundation. I am pleased with the education I have received at Georgia Military College, as well as the invaluable learning experiences the institution has made available to me that have expanded and strengthened my education.

Milledgeville Campus: Richard Brown
I feel very honored and fortunate to have been chosen as the recipient of the Georgia Power Scholarship. The opportunity to attend Georgia Military College and further my education will certainly be enhanced by this special award. My hope is to finish at GMC and then attend UGA, majoring in graphic design.

Valdosta Campus: Michaela King
I am attending Georgia Military College to pursue an associate degree in pre-nursing. Being a military wife has taken a toll on my college education, as we have moved several times since my husband joined the military. I value a good education and see it as such an important tool that’s necessary to being successful in today’s economy. I am happy to have this opportunity to continue my education at this point in my life.

Warner Robins Campus: Jason Higley
The affordability of school is always a concern, putting an even greater emphasis on my gratitude for being selected to receive the Georgia Power Scholarship. The future with an education presents greater opportunities for my family and me; thank you for easing the financial burden.

The scholarship fund, which rapidly grew to almost $50,000 after Craig’s passing in early 2011, will award $2,500 annually through investment earnings and/or gifts, or a combination of these, toward educational expenses for a prep school recipient. Ideally, provided a recipient consistently meets established requirements, he/she will be eligible to receive the scholarship over a four-year period (grades 9-12). The Craig family wishes, as each individual situation allows, to provide mentorship for recipients during their tenure at GMC Prep School with the goal of enhancing their opportunity for success.

Gifts may be made online at www.gmcfoundation.org or checks to the GMC Foundation and noted for the William R. “Bill” Craig Scholarship Endowment may be mailed to the GMC Foundation, 201 E. Greene St., Milledgeville, Ga. 31061. For further details, call 478-387-4840.
Jill Stewart can be found in books throughout Baldwin County. Wedged into each one, before they are handed out to school children, is a bookmark with Jill’s photograph and an explanation of the Jill’s Books service project by the Rotary Club of Milledgeville.

The children can read that Jill Stewart is the only daughter of Susan and Randy Stewart who was killed in a tragic car accident in March 1996 at the young age of 15. They read that Jill loved books and that her parents are dedicated to helping spread that love of reading to children throughout the community as part of Rotary’s literacy initiative.

They read about Jill, but do they really know about her?

I went searching for Jill in a book of my own, digging under a white cap and gown, a stained softball uniform, and horrendous pictures from the prom, until I found a GMC Recall from 1996—the year Jill died. I wanted to see what she had written in my yearbook. Even though she was much younger than I, she was my friend and I knew she would have signed my yearbook. Her entry would, no doubt, be written in pink or red, sprawling wide and looping across a page. It might even have a few hearts dotted above the i’s. I looked in all of the obvious spots before it finally dawned on me I was searching in vain. Jill never saw the yearbook in 1996. She was two months shy of celebrating the end of her first year of high school.

There were several shots of Jill throughout its pages—many with her classmates, one with her father, Randy, on Homecoming Court, and one full-page memorial photo. It was both beautiful and disappointing. There was no way this black-and-white photograph could ever capture the electric blue-green eyes trimmed in envious lashes or the seemingly acres of white teeth that flashed when Jill Stewart threw a smile your way. She was never loud or boisterous, but she projected a natural pep that infused those around her with positive energy. She bounced ever-so-slightly when she walked, and even as she marched, as I remember it.

Jill was in first platoon of Charlie Company. Somehow, I was the Company Commander. Almost every day during drill, while Jill bounced along, miraculously in step, her black wool tam – an unfortunate piece of the girls’ uniform in those days — would inevitably fall off of her head. (She, of course, could not wear it correctly because it might mess up her bangs.) Each time it would fall, the company would have to mark time while Jill ran back to retrieve her hat.

Jill worked effortlessly for laughs, sometimes playing dumb on purpose, even though we all knew how incredibly smart she was. She was president of the Junior Beta Club and an obvious teacher’s pet. Her best performances were played out on the basketball court where she might squeal or swat at a ball if it were passed too quickly to her. She had the height and the talent to be a good ball player, but she also had the awkwardness of a ninth-grader who hadn’t yet grown to fill the heavy white sneakers. Her silliness was a defense mechanism and even her shots were purposefully exaggerated so they would garner a snicker or two in the event they banked off the backboard. But there was no
need to hide behind laughs when she was running track.

I left for college the year Jill died – able to dull any feelings of loss with anticipation of new experiences to be had in the next phase of my own life. But Jill’s family, teachers, best friends and high school sweetheart were left to mourn in places where they once could find Jill.

Jill has now been gone for as many years as she lived.

For the past 15 years, life has marched on, marked by graduations, new jobs, weddings and the birth of children – events that were stolen from Susan and Randy Stewart. They have worked quietly to preserve their daughter’s memory. An endowment at Jill’s church sends free books to school-aged children throughout Baldwin County.

“I was pregnant with Jill when I was working on my master’s degree and taking a children’s literature class,” remembers Susan Stewart. “My teacher told me over and over, ‘Susan, when you bring that baby home, you start reading to her from the very beginning.’ I did, and it must have worked. Jill loved to read and I thought this would be a wonderful way to honor her memory.”

Today, Jill’s Books has reached hundreds of students, encouraging a love of reading at all levels. Jill’s alma mater, GMC, was the first recipient of Jill’s Books and since then, the Rotary Club chooses a different school and grade level every other year.

“The Boxcar Children,” said Susan. “It’s just nice knowing that children who may not have such access to books will at least have one book from Jill to take home and keep for themselves.”

Those interested in helping support Jill’s Books may send donations to the Rotary Club of Milledgeville or to Executive Board member Randy Stewart at 122 Waters Edge Drive, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

JILL’S TOP PICKS

A re-cap of Jill’s favorite books through the years, as remembered by her mother, Susan Stewart:

1. Little Red Riding Hood – “By the time Jill was two or three, she had this book memorized. I remember we had gone to visit my grandmother, who was blind, and Jill began telling her the story. When she finished, my grandmother asked, ‘Susan, is she reading already?’”

2. The Boxcar Children – “I taught second grade and we were reading The Boxcar Children in class. Jill wasn’t in my class, but we were reading it at home. When her friends who were in my class would come over to our house, they would play it out and pretend to be the boxcar children out in the backyard.”

3. The Polar Express – “Jill absolutely loved this book. After she died, Westend School gave us a copy in memory of her and we always put it out on our coffee table at Christmas.”

4. Goosebumps Series by R.L. Stine – “Jill would read as many of these as she could get her hands on – whenever she wasn’t reading the Babysitters Club books!”

5. To Kill a Mockingbird – “This was on her summer reading list in the eighth grade. She loved it so much we rented the movie and watched it together after she finished the book.”

A tennis court at GMC bears Jill’s name. Jill’s Books have been distributed for years throughout the community.

They work to make sure Jill’s memory is not lost. But one can find Jill in many places. She will always be in the heart of those who loved her, on the lips of those who laughed with her, and within the pages of books that honor her.

I can find Jill reflected in my own daughters and hope that one day they too will possess some of the same principles that grounded Jill Stewart—principles that settled naturally in place during a fleeting lifetime that was a credit to her family, church, friends, and school.

-- Andrea Gable (HS '96) is the editor of Lake Oconee Living Magazine, based out of Madison, Ga.
On Friday, May 13, the Georgia Military College Steinway Concert Series presented “Keys to the Heart,” starring The David Osborne Trio, in the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts. The group performed selections from The Gershwin Songbook, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Paul Stubblefield, as well as a tribute to Frank Sinatra and a patriotic medley. Following the concert a reception with the artists was held on Grant Parade. The GMC Prep School Jazz Band honored MG Peter Boylan by performing “Happy Birthday” accompanied by GMC Junior College cadets and guests.
brings David Osborne,
With an eye toward changing the venue a bit, networking crew members traveled to Jacksonville in April to identify a new location in a different part of this large metropolitan area for the next alumni event. Local alumnus Mike Witherspoon and his wife Diana joined in the search, and several new restaurants were visited – and one finally sampled! Stay tuned for an upcoming newsbreak on the final decision and the next event in northeast Florida!

March found ’60s Band Company “organizer and instigator” Terry Johnson assembling a group in Augusta at T-Bones for lunch. Several members had not seen each other since their days at GMC.

Locations of alumni receptions over the past three years:

- Huntsville, Ala.
- Jacksonville, Fla.
- Tallahassee, Fla.
- Tampa, Fla.
- Augusta, Ga.
- Columbus, Ga.
- Pine Mountain/Callaway Gardens, Ga.
- Savannah, Ga.
- Statesboro, Ga.
- St. Simons, Ga.
- Aiken, S.C.
- Edgefield, S.C.
- Washington, D.C.

The crew would welcome the opportunity to travel to your area and host an alumni event to add to the widening circle of GMC alumni and friends who are helping Alumni Relations with implementation of its strategic plan to create centers of influence which assist GMC in fulfilling its mission. Please contact Earlene Hamilton at ehamilton@gmc.cc.ga.us or call 478-387-4881 if you would like to get involved as a local coordinator.
May found crew members journeying west and north to Huntsville for the third annual club “gathering.” The hosts this year were COL and Mrs. Tom Torrance, who opened their beautiful home for the now traditional buffet feast, tall tales, and what this year became known as the “Challenge of the Jacket.” The old, well-loved GMC jacket appeared in fine form and was “fitted” to many forms before the evening was over. (Note: The owner of the jacket preserves it carefully and just as carefully makes sure he is not one of the ones who is trying to fit into it!) A wonderful time was had by all, with next year’s event being looked forward to as this one’s was being enjoyed.

This past June on a very warm summer evening the networking and news crew hosted an alumni reception in Aiken, S.C. Area alumni from surrounding counties as well as Augusta, Ga., along with spouses and guests, gathered at Newberry Hall, a beautiful event location in downtown Aiken, to meet, greet, reminisce, and enjoy some fine hors d’oeuvres. The conversations were filled with memories and laughs about times gone by and the friendships and values that were formed during time spent at GMC. The evening passed in the blink of an eye with compliments offered by all attending for the great location and food and much gratitude expressed for the opportunity to get together.
The 10th annual reunion of the ’60s era crowd began on the overcast, thankfully not too hot, morning of July 16, at the GMC lake lot. Charles Wilcher had been on site since early in the day preparing to serve a lunch of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, special recipe cole slaw, baked beans, chips and cake. Larry Allen was on hand taking photos to “capture the moment” as alumni began showing up and signing in. Folks had traveled from near and far – all the way from Colorado for one couple – to meet, greet, and share recent news as well as old memories.

After plenty of time to enjoy the food and fellowship, reunion attendees split up for the afternoon’s activities. Some headed to the Milledgeville Country Club for a round of golf and prizes. Others took the opportunity to visit GMC’s main campus and see the changes and new additions since they had visited last. For some, it was the first time back since graduation. Wives had the chance to visit Serenity Spa and “kick back” with a special package for reunion members.

The evening found everyone arriving at the Country Club for dinner and dancing. A highlight of the dance was the performance by “The Bellhops,” comprised of ’60s era reunion members, and after dinner, karaoke kept reunion members in laughs for the night.

More than 70 alumni and spouses attended this year’s event; special guests included former coaches Freddy Layton (JC ‘49) and Parnell Ruark (HS ’42, JC ’49), former faculty members Grady Torrance (HS ’50, JC ’51) and Jerry Ellington. The guest speaker at lunch was Rob Manchester, assistant head coach and defensive coordinator of the GMC Junior College football team. All enjoyed the event, and Charles Wilcher, reunion coordinator and chief “mover and shaker,” is already at work planning next year’s reunion!
Just ahead through the gate, memories, friends and surprises ... just wait!

COME BACK TO GMC THIS FALL! WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!

ALUMNI WEEKEND  OCTOBER 20-22, 2011
2011 Reunions

1960’s Era Reunion
July 16, 2011
Class Agent: Charles Wilcher
478-454-6578
bulldog90@windstream.net

15th – HS 1996
Date TBD
Class Agent: Nan Ruffo
817-537-2374
ndp8@cdc.gov

2011 Alumni Weekend
Reunions
(October 21 – 22)

25th – HS 1986
“The Silver Brigade”
Contact: Earlene Hamilton
478-387-4881
ehamilton@gmc.cc.ga.us

25th – JC 1986
“The Silver Brigade”
Contact: Tammie Martin Greene
478-960-0629 (c) / 478-538-2531
tsmgreene@gmail.com

30th – JC 1981
Contact: MAJ Tom Hall
thall@gmc.cc.ga.us

35th – JC 1976
Contact: Ray Mitchell
423-332-9603 (h) / 423-667-0942 (c)
mitchell5712@att.net / rmitch9062@aol.com

1960’s Band Company Reunion
Class Agent: Terry “Falstaff” Johnson
Terry@rockycomfortplantation.com

50th – HS and JC 1961
“The Gold Brigade”
Contact: Earlene Hamilton
478-387-4881
ehamilton@gmc.cc.ga.us

1961 State 1-C Region Champs Football Team
Contact: Earlene Hamilton
478-387-4881
ehamilton@gmc.cc.ga.us

Early Commissioning
Program Graduates
Contact: Earlene Hamilton
478-387-4881/ehamilton@gmc.cc.ga.us

Alumni Weekend begins Thursday, October 20 with a ribbon cutting for the Old Capital Museum’s new fall exhibit, Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground, which will provide visitors an opportunity to experience life in a Confederate camp during the first year of the Civil War.

Friday’s events begin with the annual golf tournament in the morning and afternoon campus tours of Usery Hall (new prep school), the new Academic Complex, Baugh Barracks, and the Ruark Athletic Complex, which will include a “live” rifle team demonstration. This year’s dinner/dance event is Friday evening and welcomes back the Soul Purpose Band from Atlanta for their second Alumni Weekend performance. Dinner will be provided by Jackson’s on Sinclair of Milledgeville.

Saturday morning begins with the Alumni Parade, which will include the Alumni Awards presentations, and will be immediately followed by brunch catered by Southern Affairs of Milledgeville. Saturday afternoon again offers campus tours or the opportunity to enjoy the city’s Deep Roots Festival or host special reunion gatherings. Saturday evening provides the opportunity to gather again over a dinner catered by The Willis House of Milledgeville before heading to the Goldstein Center to enjoy a performance of That Mancini Magic by Mac Frampton and the Moon River Band. Saturday’s events end with a dessert reception on Grant Parade following the concert.

Reunion groups can arrange in advance for reserved tables for Main Tent events.

More details of these events are available on the GMC web site at www.gmc.cc.ga.us in the alumni events section or by calling Earlene Hamilton at 478-387-4840. (Schedule subject to change)

Plan your reunion
The GMC Alumni Office can assist you with planning your reunion. Please contact Earlene Hamilton at 478-387-4881 or at ehamilton@gmc.cc.ga.us for help with class lists, locations, campus requirements for private on-site events, or other questions. We recommend using Alumni Weekend for your event if possible because so much is already in place for you. Your time can then be spent enjoying visits with classmates and catching up on news of each other and changes here at GMC.
ALUMNI WEEKEND ATTRACTIONS

SOUL PURPOSE BAND

MAC FRAMPTON AND THE MOON RIVER BAND
Tenth Annual Grand Tattoo

Major General Peter J. Boylan, President, and the Board of Trustees of Georgia Military College hosted the school’s tenth annual Grand Tattoo on Friday, April 15.

The military tattoo is an outdoor military exercise given by troops as evening entertainment, and is a program steeped with history and tradition. Georgia Military College’s tenth annual Grand Tattoo featured the John Mohr Mackintosh Pipes and Drums Band, the GMC Color Guard and the GMC Marching Band. In addition, MAJ Patty Anderson was recognized as GMC’s Prep Teacher of the Year, MAJ Kathie Deen was recognized as GMC’s Prep Character Educator of the Year, Professor Jack Hayes was recognized as GMC’s Junior College Educator of the Year, Assistant Professor Robert Sherwood was recognized as GMC’s Junior College Character Educator of the Year, and Assistant Professor Cathy Carter was recognized as the 2011 recipient of the Vulcan Materials Award for Teaching Excellence.

The deeply moving ceremony concluded with the formal retirement of the Nation’s Colors by a fourteen-member flag detail to mark the end of the day.

The Tenth Annual Grand Tattoo and Command Retreat ceremony was dedicated to the late Mr. William R. “Bill” Craig. Bill Craig served GMC as Chairman of the Georgia Military College Foundation, was a GMC alumnus, and was a man who loved this college and this particular ceremony.

On behalf of the Georgia Military College Board of Trustees and the President of Georgia Military College, the flag used for the Tenth Annual Grand Tattoo and Command Retreat was presented by the Georgia Military College Corps of Cadets to Ms. Patsy Craig, who accepted it for the Craig family. The Craig family asked that Georgia Military College hold the flag in trust and continue to use it in future ceremonies.

(L-R) Robert Sherwood, Cathy Carter, Jack Hayes, Kathie Deen and Patty Anderson
GMC Prep Caroline Hooks is Second in Nation

During the most recent National High School Drill Competition, Georgia Military College Prep School Junior, Cadet Captain Caroline Hooks, scored second in the nation in mixed solo exhibition drill. Hooks has been a member of GMC Prep’s “The Real Drill Team” since October 2008 and this was the first time she was accepted to vie at the national level. She competed at the Masters Level, which is the highest and most challenging level of competition, in the Alternative Mixed Solo Individual category. In this category, she competed against the finest male and female drill teams from all over the nation. The National High School Drill Competition is an annual meet, held in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Sergeant First Class Van Dexter Rutledge, The Real Drill Team Coach, said of Hooks, “Her conduct and bearing reflect great discipline and pride in herself, The Real Drill Team, the JROTC Program, Georgia Military College Prep School and her family.”

Cadet Captain Hooks was presented with a trophy from the Nationals Championship Sport Network during the Memorial Day Parade.

Stone Mountain Campus Opens

The citizens of Stone Mountain and neighboring counties will have the opportunity to further their education closer to home. Residents in this area will enjoy the savings of spending less on gas and travel time while pursuing their education endeavors with GMC. The Mayor, City Council, Stone Mountain Downtown Development Authority, and city staff have been working with GMC to establish a satellite campus in the city.

GMC Stone Mountain extension campus began offering classes in August (Fall 1) of this year. This campus is located on the Marta bus line, less than a mile from the Stone Mountain Park main entrance. The campus is nestled in the scenic Stone Mountain Historic District at 5325 Manor Drive, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083, next door to the Sue Kellogg Library.

You may contact Ms. Janis Anderson, Extension Center Director at 678-379-1387 or email: jjanders@gmc.cc.ga.us.

GMC Names Jill Robbins Employee of the Year

Georgia Military College recently selected Jill Robbins, Director of Human Resources Administration and Diversity, as the GMC Employee of the Year for contributing most to accomplishment of the GMC mission during the 2010-2011 school year.

Ms. Robbins was nominated by one of her peers who said, “Jill has been a wonderful addition to Georgia Military College and the GMC Human Resource Office staff. She is one of the first people that new employees meet and sets a very pleasant tone for their initial experience at GMC. Jill has improved herself professionally by earning her PHR certification this year. She attended training after hours and passed a rigorous examination to earn this certification. Only 11% of human resource professionals receive this certification. Jill is also an ambassador for GMC by supporting all campus activities. She actively organized, supported, and participated in the first Milledgeville triathlon, which promises to become an annual activity for the community. Jill is a true professional who has enhanced the Human Resources Department.”

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Usery, Jr. accept a copy of the most recent award for the new prep school building from COL John Thornton.

Georgia Military College’s new prep school, Usery Hall, which was constructed by Skanska, has received its third award — this time from the South Atlantic Chapter of Construction Management Association of America. COL John Thornton, GMC Prep School Principal, represented the school during a special ceremony held to recognize outstanding achievement in the practice of construction management. Mr. Matt Jones, Skanska Senior Manager, accepted the 2011 Project Achievement Award for the category of “constructed value greater than $10 million, less than $30 million.” The construction of Usery Hall, named for former U.S. Secretary of Labor and GMC alumnus, Mr. W. J. Usery, Jr., previously received the Georgia Association of State Facilities Administrators 2010 Innovations Award for New Building Design and Construction in October 2010, and the McGraw-Hill Construction and Southeast Construction Awards Award of Excellence in the K-12 Building Category in December 2010.

Jill Robbins is pictured with MG Peter J. Boylan.

Fall 2011 | The Cadence
Georgia Military College
Class of 2011
The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Retired U.S. Army General Eric K. Shinseki was nominated by President Barack Obama on December 7, 2008 to serve as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. His nomination was confirmed by the Senate on January 20, 2009, and he was sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs on January 21, 2009.

Secretary Shinseki served as Chief of Staff, United States Army, from 1999 to June 11, 2003, and retired from active duty on August 1, 2003. During his tenure, he initiated the Army Transformation Campaign to address both the emerging strategic challenges of the early 21st century and the need for cultural and technological change in the United States Army.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, he led the Army during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and integrated the pursuit of the Global War on Terrorism with Army Transformation, successfully enabling the Army to continue to transform while at war.

Shinseki holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a Master of Arts degree from Duke University, and is a graduate of the National War College.

Secretary Shinseki was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Purple Heart (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Air Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Georgia Military College-Milledgeville 2011 Commencement Speaker

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, presented a commencement address to nearly 200 Georgia Military College graduates on Friday, June 10 on Grant Parade. In addition to those from the Milledgeville campus, graduates from the Madison, Sandersville, and Columbus campuses participated in the commencement ceremony. Secretary Shinseki spoke to the graduates about their futures and three ideals students should follow in their lives: to continue their quest for knowledge, to be determined to succeed, and to always choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong.

During the ceremony, Glenda Lynn Reid received the Harold I. Goodrich Award, which is presented annually to one student chosen by the faculty based on the student’s academic achievement, participation in school affairs, leadership on campus, and recognized potential.

Immediately after the presentation of diplomas, Ms. Merel Harrison, (HS ’73, JC ’74) President of the Georgia Military College Alumni Association, welcomed the members of the graduating class into the Alumni Association.
Among the hallmarks of graduation is the proud celebration of family members.

Sean Tighe Chosen Exchange Club Student of the Year

Sean Tighe, pictured with Randy New and COL John Thornton, was recognized by the Exchange Club as their Student of the Month and Student of the Year in May 2011. Sean competed against students from Baldwin, JMA, and GMC by submitting an essay on the importance of volunteerism by young people. The club also examined Sean’s accomplishments as a student and his work in the community. Sean was given a plaque and a monetary prize worth $1,100.

In honor of Black History Month, Georgia Military College Prep School presented the program, “Walking a Mile in My Shoes,” in the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts. The cast of 40 volunteers presented the journey through Black American history using poetry, song, and dance.

Commissioning

Nineteen GMC Junior College cadets received their commissioning into the U.S. Army as second lieutenants on Friday, June 10, 2:00 p.m., in the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts. Among those commissioned were: 2LT Thomas Bearden, 2LT Leslie Bittenbinder, 2LT Ambiorix DelaCruz, 2LT Jonathan Fortner, 2LT Stefens Jones, 2LT Andrew Keopraseuth, 2LT David King, 2LT David Lyons, 2LT Christian Martin, 2LT Jacob McInnes, 2LT Roy Monroe, 2LT Danny Padron, 2LT Grant Powers, 2LT James Ramsey, 2LT Alexander Scheib, 2LT Emmanuel Sosa, 2LT Cherelle Stevenson, 2LT Rony Thakkar, and 2LT Matthew Whisenant.

The speaker was LTC (Retired) Robert R. Russell, Jr., Professor of Military Science at Auburn University at Montgomery.

GMC’s Early Commissioning Program, one of only five such programs in the nation, is a demanding program in which cadets develop the skills necessary to be leaders in the United States Army within a period of two years.
Prep School Class of 2011

Graduation for the GMC Preparatory School Class of 2010 was held on Friday, May 27 on Grant Parade. MG Peter J. Boylan, President of Georgia Military College, presented the commencement address.

The COL Joseph F. Muldrow Salutatorian Award was presented to Cory Neal Thrower, who will attend Georgia Tech in the fall.

The Bettie Z. Farr Valedictorian Award was presented to Sean Michael Tighe, who will also attend Georgia Tech in the fall.

The GMC High School Class of 1953 Award is presented annually to one senior who has exhibited outstanding academic achievement and to one member of the GMC Prep School faculty who has demonstrated teaching excellence. Mr. John Williams presented the Class of 1953 Scholarship, a $500 award, to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Sean Michael Tighe, and the Class of 1953 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, a $500 award, to Major Kathie Deen.

Christin Cox was the 2011 recipient of the W. J. Usery, Jr. Award for Excellence, which is a $500 cash award presented annually to the senior who exemplifies the ideals of the academic, military, and citizenship pursuits at Georgia Military College Prep School.

Immediately after the presentation of diplomas, Ms. Merel Harrison, (HS ’73, JC ’74) President of the Georgia Military College Alumni Association, welcomed the members of the graduating class into the Alumni Association.

The Distinguished Graduating Student Award is an annual award presented to one student from each campus who embodies all the qualities a graduate of Georgia Military College should possess. This year’s recipients are: Blaine Valentin (Columbus), Laura Bechtel (Vaidosta), Hoang A. Luu (Atlanta), Joshua S. Rogers (Milledgeville), Emily Kemp (Warner Robins) and Betty Johnson (Augusta).

To read more about these Distinguished Graduating Students, visit www.gmc.cc.ga.us, click About, then GMC Recognition, then Distinguished Graduating Student.
GMC Women’s Soccer Recap

In 2010, the Georgia Military College women’s soccer team qualified for the conference tournament and has high hopes of returning to conference play in 2011. GMC will have five sophomores this fall: Nahomie Lagardere, Jazmin Manning, Bri Kilgore, Shae Jean-Philippe, and Kayla Cooper. All five players had great spring seasons in the weight room, track, and soccer field. Head Coach Kerem Daser explained, “I think Nahomie has the ability to be an All-Conference performer this fall. Our team captain, Jazmin, lead our back four as our central defender. We will have 15 newcomers this fall. It will be a young team but a very talented group. Bri is one our leaders as well, we are looking forward to a lot of leadership from her as one of our center mid players. We are counting on Shae to score goals in the attacking third. Kayla is one of our hardest working players; she has good pace and a good heart. We are looking forward to her being the very strong 1v1 defender she was last year. The new players will improve our overall team speed. Rachel Berry, Natalie Ellis, Haley Filholm, and Liz Holley are impact players who have outstanding pace. I am looking for Hannah Witcher and Courtney Archer to dominate in the midfield positions; both are very technically gifted midfielders.” The pre-season schedule has GMC battling local power houses Georgia College and also Oxford College. These two teams will help the team get ready for the fall season. Coach Daser added, “The conference is loaded with talent; GPC and Darton College were outstanding teams last year. Last year we were a bit behind ABAC, South Georgia, and Middle Georgia. We hope to be more competitive this fall. I am excited about the fall season. Please come support our GMC women’s soccer team.”

Head Coach Kerem Daser Looks Forward to Successful 2011 Season for Men’s Soccer

Head Coach Kerem Daser is excited about the 2011 GMC men’s soccer team. Last year the GMC men’s team showed significant improvement. The years before this program lost all of their games by big margins, but last year the team improved enough to really compete in some of their matches. According to Coach Daser, sophomore Captain Rene Njiiking will be one of the top players in the conference. “He had an amazing spring season and can break a game open with his speed.” The 2011 team will include other returning sophomores – Terry Hall, James Smalley, and Karlton Mundle, along with 15 new recruits. Coach Daser said, “Like our GMC women’s team, we will be young but will play the game at a higher level. Corbin Heit and Sean Kelly are from the Alpharetta Ambush Club team that has won the USASA National Championship. Erick Douglas, Eduardo Ruiz, Terrell Stewart, Corey Gatlin, Tait Torstenson, and Steve Marion are all talented new-comers.” GMC will start off their preseason schedule with a big match versus Division II power house Savannah College. Coach Daser added, “Our goal is to qualify for conference tournament for the first time. I am looking forward to working with our GMC men’s soccer team this fall and I ask for all of you to come out and support them. Go Dogs!”

Ken Wheat Scholarship Recipients—

Through the support of alumnus Ken Wheat (HS ’68) of Columbia, S.C., GMC JC athletes recently received scholarships for the summer term. Pictured are (Front row L-R): JaVontae Edwards, Damian Dixon, Jarrett Neely (Second row L-R): Nico Ranieri, Rashard Brown, Brant Sally.

Share your news!

IF YOU HAVE NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, please send to: Class Notes/The Cadence magazine, Alumni Relations, Georgia Military College, 201 East Greene Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061 or email to: ehamilto@gmc.cc.ga.us.

Please provide your class year(s), degree(s), address, phone number and email.
GMC JC Football Enters 2011 Season with New Look and Great Challenges  The 2011 GMC JC Bulldog Football Team will look a bit different from that in years past. A new, no-huddle offense and a renewed pressure-oriented defense will bring tremendous excitement to Davenport Field to tackle the toughest schedule in the NJCAA.

The Bulldogs will open the season at home with defending national champion Navarro College on September 3, and it does not get much easier from there. GMC will play four other teams that finished the 2010 season in the Top 20 – Snow College, Nassau Community College, Grand Rapids Community College, and Lackawanna College. Add in a strong group of returners for time as well.

Offensively, the Bulldogs changed their attack, moving to a no-huddle system and making some significant changes to the passing attack. The offense is expected to be led by Colorado State transfer Nico Ranieri, who had a great spring session with GMC. He will compete with returner Dylan Shaddix and newcomer Anthony Riggins in camp. The offense returns a great group of skill position players as well as a dangerous group of newcomers, all of whom promise to make the new look offense very dangerous for opponents. Lonnie Outlaw (6’7, 210), Corey Washington (6’5, 200), and Jamaal Cooper (6’3, 215) return at receiver, and they are supported by a very strong cast at receiver. RJ Robinson (6’2, 220), Jarrett Neely (5’11, 185), and Jameontae Edwards (5’9, 190) return as running backs and also have several newcomers who will pressure them for time on the field. A very solid returning offensive line led by center Rashad Brown (6’2, 300) and a talented group of signees provide the Bulldogs with perhaps their strongest offensive group in recent memory.

Defensively, the Bulldogs return a strong group on the line and in the secondary, but will rely mainly on an extremely talented group of signees at linebacker to return the defense to national prominence. Daniel McCullers (6’7, 380** not a typo!) and Jalen Fields (6’4, 270) lead the men up front, and Brant Salley (6’2, 200) returns as the hard hitting leader in the secondary. They are supported by a solid group of returning defensive backs at cornerback in Demetrius Washington, Martinez Gallman, and Damian Dixon. Tabrian Resby (6’0, 220) and Glenn Mack (6’0, 215) return at linebacker after a strong spring showing, but they will be sternly challenged by a prominent group of signees in Dexter Staley (6’3, 230), Shannon Brown (6’4, 225), Jamichael Beckford (6’2, 230), and Devon Johnson (6’5, 230). Freshmen defensive backs Jaylon Myers, Ronnie Martin, and Neville Hewitt promise to challenge returners for time as well.

Coach Williams stated, “2011 will be a season filled with excitement and great challenge for our team. I hope our fans, students, staff, and alums will come out and support our players. The fans will not be disappointed!”

GMC Football’s New Look Staff

The GMC JC football staff had a major overhaul after the 2010 season. Fortunately, these moves were for positive reasons. Long-time coach Jeff Tatum left to become the head coach at Garden City Community College, and defensive assistant Jeff Koonz left to become the head coach at Holmes Community College. Three part-time assistants also left to take advantage of opportunities as full-time staff members in other institutions.

The new staff may, however, be the strongest yet to lead the Bulldogs.

The Bulldog Offense will have a different look in the 2011 season with new offensive coordinator Ross Robinson at the controls. Coach Robinson comes to GMC from Samford University, where he led their offense for four years. “I wanted to move to a no-huddle offense and make some changes in our passing game, and Ross was a perfect fit for the direction I wanted to go. The offensive performance in our spring practice showed great promise for 2011,” commented GMC Head Coach Bert Williams. Two new young coaches on the offensive side came on board as well in the new year. Receiver Coach Trent McKnight came with Coach Robinson and has great experience in the offense, and offensive line assistant Joe Wondor returns to GMC after several coaching stints in high school programs, most recently at powerhouse Carver High School in Columbus.

The Bulldog Defense brought on two new coaches as well in 2011. Brian Hill came on board as special teams and strength coordinator and defensive assistant coach. Coach Hill comes to GMC from Furman University and has had a tremendous impact from the start on the Bulldogs. “I had the pleasure to work with Coach Hill the year before I came to GMC and have always been impressed by him. The players respond to him and he has great impact in the weightroom. He brings a lot of energy to the team and will do a great job with our defensive line,” stated Coach Williams. Joining Coach Hill is Dustin Ramsey, who came to GMC after beginning his coaching career at Appalachian State University under the tutelage of former GMC defensive coordinator Scot Sloan. “We will still be basing our offense, but we decided to go back to some basics in the scheme, mainly returning to a pressure-oriented attack. I am excited about our new coaches and our fresh outlook going into the 2011 season.”
Jasper Brinkley has stats any athlete would envy. He led Thomson High School to a 2002 state title. He was a two-season MVP at GMC in 2004-2005. In his first year at the University of South Carolina, he had double the tackles of any other teammate. In just two seasons as a Minnesota Vikings linebacker, he’s racked up 48 tackles.

And yet he’d rather talk about his community work. “I’ve always prided myself on that,” he says quietly. Brinkley works with the YMCA, reads to school children, is a Sickle Cell spokesperson and a regular blood donor. “I’m here for a reason and that’s not to make a lot of money. It’s not about me. It’s about being able to give back.”

We live in a star-struck era, a time when professional athletes are elevated as icons even while the sordid details of their lives are being splashed across headlines. So to see one whose feet are firmly planted, whose values are clearly rooted, is nothing short of inspirational.

Lessons from GMC
Born in the South and accustomed to playing football in the blazing heat, Brinkley now scrimmages next to snow banks and sprints through the sleet. “I’ve never seen anything like it... six or seven feet of snow,” he says, not to mention sub-zero temps. “That’s crazy. That’s brutal... I definitely have to battle through it.”

Even better than a parka for surviving the bitter cold is the discipline he learned during his time at GMC. “I definitely wasn’t looking for it when I first got there, but it was instilled in every cadet,” he says. There, too, he had to push through and draw on an inner strength he
didn’t realize he had. “You go through a breaking down stage,” he says. “And they build you back up. Which makes you stronger as an individual, not only physically but mentally. That’s what carries a lot of guys in life after GMC.”

Likewise, rigorous academics helped his growth. Calling himself a lackluster high school student, Brinkley’s grades made him ineligible for Division I schools. He values that he was held accountable at GMC and appreciates the faculty’s attention to details. Thanks to his newfound motivation, Brinkley’s grades improved and he earned an officer position in the corps.

As for football training, Brinkley recalls a particularly tough moment that also shaped his resolve. Running laps one scorching day, he and several players stopped just short of finishing. His coach sent the team to start over from zero. “I don’t know how I got through that,” he says, but adds “dig deep and you can do it every time.” In fact, at some point, he realized that he could take anything his cadet, academic and character training could throw at him. It was a lesson he would come to count on. “If I can make it through that, I can make it through anything.”

Home is where the heart is
Warm weather wasn’t the only thing Brinkley left behind to head north. He also left his twin brother, Casper. They’d been through so much together, including the GMC and USC years. Casper played football for the Carolina Panthers but now lives in Augusta. Brinkley doesn’t dwell on their distance, though. “I see my brother a lot. Every time I have an opportunity, I’m there. And we talk at least three times a day.”

For Brinkley, family is the most important part of life. And in trying to live by example, he often brings this up when he encounters other players struggling with the distractions of stardom. “I ask, ‘How do you think your people will look at you?’ You have to focus on controlling what you can. So I hold myself to a certain perspective. And I just try to lend some encouraging words.”

Just like he did a few weeks ago, working out with the GMC team. He left them with this inspiration: “Stay on it. As long as you have that drive, nobody can shut you down. Nobody can tell you that you can’t do it.”

And the 6-foot, 1-inch, 252-pound linebacker’s success says it all: Start at GMC, Go Anywhere.

We live in a star-struck era, a time when professional athletes are elevated as icons even while the sordid details of their lives are being splashed across headlines. So to see one whose feet are firmly planted, whose values are clearly rooted, is nothing short of inspirational.
William Paul Rodgers, Jr. (UC 1953) recently published a new book, *United States Constitutional Law: An Introduction*. His book aims to provide a basic understanding of Constitutional law, addressing both the history of the U.S. Constitution and each of its individual clauses. It explains the power of the Supreme Court, whereby the bare majority of five justices, each with lifetime tenure, can overrule the president, the Congress, and state and local governments—effectively declaring the rights and obligations of persons and organizations across the land. Referencing more than 950 Supreme Court decisions, the book treats each subject objectively and without opinionated commentary.

Former executive director of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and commissioner of the President’s Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection, Rodgers has argued multiple cases before the United States Supreme Court. He lives in McLean, Va.

Benjamin H. Underwood (UC 1962), Talbott Recovery co-founder and CEO, was awarded the Nelson J. Bradley, M.D. Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2011 National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) Conference held in Arizona on May 14-17, 2011. This prestigious award is given annually to an individual whose lifetime has been committed to the cause of furthering addiction treatment.

Underwood has been a respected leader in the field of behavioral health and addiction treatment for more than four decades. A graduate of the University of Georgia, he began his career in the mid-1960s as Associate Administrator of Atlanta’s Northside Manor and served as President and CEO of The Metropolitan Psychiatric Center in Atlanta.

Underwood also served as President and CEO of Safe Centers, which operated chemical dependency programs around the Southeast. He was instrumental in co-developing and opening the Talbott Recovery Program with G. Douglas Talbott, M.D. The partnership with Dr. Douglas Talbott resulted in an addiction treatment program that has long been recognized as the gold standard in the treatment of addictive diseases and coexisting psychiatric disorders, and his expertise has earned him national acclaim. Talbott Recovery provides comprehensive treatment of addiction, dual diagnosis and related medical, psychological, psychiatric, spiritual and work-related problems and has been recognized nationally for over 38 years as a leader and pioneer in the assessment and treatment of chemical dependency and dual diagnosis. Underwood has served as chairman of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) and was awarded the American College of Addiction Treatment Administrator’s Outstanding Achievement Award in 1992. On behalf of Talbott Recovery, in 2006 he accepted the prestigious James West M.D. Quality Improvement Award for clinical excellence from NAATP. The award reflects his and the entire Talbott Recovery staff’s dedication and ongoing commitment to providing Talbott patients and their families the finest in addiction treatment services. In 2007, he was awarded the Georgia Hospital Association’s (GHA) Chairman’s Award, the association’s highest honor, for his dedication and professional achievements over the last 40 years in Behavioral Healthcare. Underwood served on the Georgia Hospital Association Board of Trustees for 10 years, is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and is Board Certified in Healthcare Management.

Reverend Dr. Thomas Peavy (JC 1970) was ordained into The Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church in Valid Historic Apostolic Succession. The ordination and consecration was held at the General Conference meeting of the LEPC in West Columbia, S.C. on March 5, 2011. He has been accepted into the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus, Ga. Peavy received the Doctor of Education degree from Mississippi State University and has had additional study at Birmingham Theological Seminary and chaplaincy studies at the Assemblies of God Seminary in Springfield, Mo. He currently holds adjunct faculty appointment in the Department of Counseling and Psychology at Troy University, Phenix City Campus in Alabama. Dr. Peavy is married to the former Rita Long of Milledgeville and resides in Columbus, Ga.

Wayne E. Johnson (UC 1996) recently returned to the East Coast after managing the West Coast sales team for a women’s health company. Johnson is currently the southeast regional manager for an oral healthcare company.

Matt Harris (HS 2003) and Stacy Arnold Harris (HS 2004, JC 2007) welcomed their first child, Rhett Matthew Harris, on September 10, 2010 at 4:55 PM. He weighed 5 lbs, 13 oz. and was 19 and 1/2 inches long.

Carrie M. Lockhart (JC 2004) graduated as Carrie M. Ledbetter. She and her husband, Christopher, welcomed a son, George Barrett Lockhart. In August 2008, Lockhart recently began her career at Athens Technical College as the General Education Department Administrative Assistant.
For the first time, GMC has a Special Collections Librarian whose job it is to collect, preserve and organize documents of historical significance to the school. To aid in this project, we need your help in gathering newspaper clippings and/or old pictures of significant events at the school and school documents of rules and regulations, such as student handbooks. These can be loaned for scanning and then will be returned or can be donated to Special Collections.

The library also needs copies of old Recalls/school annuals from the years prior to 1921 as well as specifically the years 1924, 1926, 1927, 1941 – 1944, 1947, 1948, and 1950. These can also be loaned for scanning or donated. Work has already been done to create digitized copies of 1945, 1949, 1950 and 1960 – with the plan to ultimately digitize all years. Last year’s Gold Brigade reunion group, the HS and JC classes of 1960 thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to “peruse” their class year of 1960, and 1961 has already been completed so that this year’s Gold Brigade, the HS and JC classes of 1961, can enjoy the same fun.

For more information, please contact Jane Simpson, Special Collections Librarian, at jsimpson@gmc.cc.ga.us or Glen Phillips, Library Director at gphillip@gmc.cc.ga.us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY COACH RUARK

MG and Mrs. Peter Boylan extend birthday wishes to GMC legend Coach Parnell Ruark on his 90th birthday. Coach Ruark is a GMC alumnus, former GMC JC athletic director and head football coach, and minor league baseball hall-of-famer. Coach Ruark’s family hosted a drop-in birthday celebration in his honor on Saturday, August 6 at the Ruark Athletic Complex, which was named for him in 2004.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY — BY JANE SIMPSON

Have you seen the movie The Great Escape? This true story about a GMC graduate is just as exciting.

Walter A. Smith graduated from GMC High School in 1935 and continued his education at Presbyterian College where he was in the school orchestra. In 1944, during his service in World War II, Smith was shot down over enemy territory. He was sent to a Prisoner of War Camp (POW) in Bulgaria where at the age of 28, he was the ranking officer. He organized the POWs as an Army camp. While there, he used found materials to make instruments and organized a make-shift orchestra for POWs to entertain themselves. He and his 365 fellow prisoners managed to break down the gates, escape from the camp and commandeer a freight train to Turkey. Smith hijacked a German aircraft and flew ahead of the train to Istanbul where he made arrangements with the American Attaché to get the men home. After the war ended, Smith played a major role in bringing 76 war criminals before the Nuremberg War Crimes Commission. He later served in Korea and was the commander of the 76th Fighter Squadron, known as the “Flying Tigers.”

Smith retired from his military career in 1962 and returned to the banking industry as Aviation Director of the C&S Bank. He received the GMC Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987.

Jane Simpson is the Special Collections Librarian for the Sibley Cone Library. You may contact her by email at jsimpson@gmc.cc.ga.us.
WHEN THE WORLD ISN’T WATCHING

During a private ceremony at the French Ambassador’s Residence in Washington, D.C., six United States Special Forces soldiers were honored July 25 with the Croix de la Valeur Militaire (“Cross of Military Valor”) by the Ambassador of France to the United States, François Delattre, following their actions in assisting French troops under fire during combat operations in Afghanistan in the spring of 2011. The medal is France’s equivalent of the U.S. Silver Star. Created in 1956 by the French government to reward extraordinary deeds of bravery carried out as part of security and law enforcement operations, the Croix de la Valeur Militaire – or French Cross of Military Valor – is one of the most respected decorations in the French military.

“I am deeply honored to be hosting this award ceremony,” Ambassador Delattre said, “to pay tribute to six most outstanding American soldiers … who distinguished themselves while fighting the Taliban and Al Qaeda elements in Afghanistan. Your presence honors us all and is a tribute to all the soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and in other countries for the values we all cherish.”

French General Gratien Maire, who also spoke at the event, honored the six while alluding to Franco-American military history. Addressing the soldiers, he stated, “With your bravery and your blood, you have written one of the noblest chapters of our bilateral relationship.”

“Your bravery in the face of danger in combat and your determination to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with French soldiers deserve to be commended,” Gen. Maire continued. “In my view, it’s the utmost manifestation of the quality of relations between France and the United States.”

The six American soldiers who received decorations included former GMC cadet, Captain Thomas Harper (UC 2004).

“It’s a huge honor for all of us,” said Harper, a traditional Guard member who has been on active duty most of the last decade and the fight until the last man was out safely.

None of the soldiers mentioned any of this. The quiet professionals stepped briefly into the light to accept honors; said almost nothing of battles fought in Afghanistan and time in hospitals; shook hands with senior leaders who had come to thank them and, by extension, all they serve alongside; shared the moment with parents, wives and children who rarely get to share what they do – and slipped back into the night as modestly and quietly as they arrived.

“We had kind of a tough fight those last few days in Afghanistan,” Harper said. “We were just happy to be alive. We really didn’t expect this kind of honor. It’s pretty overwhelming, I’ll tell you. We’re very quiet in what we do. We don’t expect recognition. We don’t look for it. This has been a little much for us today … but we’re happy that we could be here and that the French felt they could give us this extreme honor.”

Present at the ceremony were some of the United States’ top-ranking military personnel, including Navy Adm. Eric Olson, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; Army Lt. Gen. John Mulholland, commanding general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command; Army Lt. Gen. Richard Zahner, deputy chief of staff for intelligence; and General Martin Dempsey, Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

“Army National Guard Captain Thomas Harper

Ambassador François Delattre awards the Croix de la Valeur Militaire, roughly analogous to the Silver Star, to Army National Guard Captain Thomas Harper.

We were just happy to be alive. We really didn’t expect this kind of honor. It’s pretty overwhelming...”

— CAPTAIN THOMAS HARPER
Georgia Military College and the GMC Alumni Association extend our deepest sympathies to the families of these alumni and friends.

William B. Ryan  
(JC 1920)

Roscoe Brockman “Mac” McDonald, Sr.  
(HS 1933)  
May 3, 2011

Felipe Silva  
(HS 1936)  
September 10, 2010

Earle R. Brown, Sr.  
(HS 1944)  
March 18, 2011

Raymond Kenneth Arnold  
(HS 1945)  
January 28, 2011

James L. Anderson, Sr.  
(JC 1946)  
July 6, 2011

Calvin Alfred Thomas  
(HS 1946, JC 1948)  
February 21, 2011

Milliard Burton “Shep” Shepherd  
(HS 1947)  
March 18, 2011

William Warren Archer  
(HS 1948)  
May 25, 2011

Thomas Edward “Eddie” Rushing  
(JC 1948)  
January 15, 2010

Charles A. Burnett  
(JC 1950)  
November 6, 2010

Rembert F. Brooks  
(HS 1952)  
June 11, 2011

Charles B. Hodges, Jr.  
(HS 1953)  
March 21, 2011

Dr. David D. Fulghum  
(HS 1955)  
June 3, 2011

LTC Wallace E. “Pat” Patterson, USA (Ret.)  
(HS 1955, JC 1957)  
March 15, 2011

Don Roy Adams  
(JC 1957)  
February 2, 2011

John A. Kelly, III  
(JC 1961)  
2003

COL Willard Eugene Marlow  
(JC 1961)  
September 26, 2008

John D. Miller  
(JC 1961)  
October 7, 1999

Eric Francis Jahnke  
(JC 1962)  
2004

William N. Gewecke  
(JC 1963)  
December 27, 2010

John D. Stepp  
(HS 1969)

Capt. Roy C. Womack, USAF (Ret.)  
(JC 1975)  
October 16, 2009

G. Robert Carter  
(JC 1977)  
February 12, 2011

1SGT John Price Mizelle, USA (Ret.)  
(JC 1983)  
January 13, 2011

Jerald D. Brown  
(JC 1986)

John “Jack” Marlin Storlie  
(JC 1987)  
January 6, 2011

Becky L. Stewart  
(JC 2000)  
April 28, 2011

Dorothy M. Sammons  
(JC 2004)

E. Rex Elder  
(JC Alumnus)  
May 25, 2011

COL Bobby J. Rich  
(JC Alumnus)  
April 22, 2011
Just ahead through the gate, memories, friends and surprises ... just wait!

Scan this QR code with your smartphone for the online version of the Alumni Weekend brochure.
(Download the QR Reader free from any app store.)

COMEBACK TO GMC THIS FALL
WE’RE WAITING FOR YOU!
OCTOBER 20-22, 2011