MARK STROM APPOINTED CHIEF COLLEGE RELATIONS OFFICER

Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, President of Georgia Military College, and Mr. Dudley Rowe, Chairman of the Georgia Military College Foundation, are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Mark Strom to the position of Senior Vice President for College Relations and Executive Director of the GMC Foundation effective October 1, 2014.

As Senior Vice President and Executive Director, Mr. Strom is responsible for overseeing the various College Relations functions, including Development and Advancement, Alumni Relations and Public Affairs, as well as serving as Executive Director of the Foundation.

Lieutenant General Caldwell stated he is very excited to have Mr. Strom lead the Office of College Relations. “Mark is exactly the right person to be assuming this critical leadership role in our institution. He will take what is a solid foundation and move it to the next level. His intellect along with his great interpersonal skills and drive will greatly benefit GMC.”

Mr. Rowe remarked, "The foundation leadership is excited to have Mark as a key member of its team. His knowledge of GMC and his broad experience in the business and related community will be a significant asset as we work to align the foundation’s goals with General Caldwell’s Vision 2029.”

Mr. Strom says he is excited to be joining an already successful College Relations team and looks forward to taking on the challenges of substantially growing the endowment, providing ever improving outreach to alumni, and raising the awareness of Georgia Military College across the state and beyond. “General Caldwell has articulated his Vision 2029, defining what Georgia Military College will look like at its 150 year mark. The Office of College Relations and the GMC Foundation are strategic partners that, working together with the institution, will ensure that this vision is achieved and that future generations of students will continue to benefit from the character-based education delivered in our halls.”

Mr. Strom most recently served GMC as Senior Vice President for Business Development and Chief Human Resources Officer. Prior to joining GMC in 2008, Mr. Strom served as Vice President of Human Resources for a multinational aerospace materials firm, based out of the Charlotte, NC, with operations throughout the United States and Europe. He graduated from Clemson University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and in 1987 with a Masters of Industrial Education degree in Human Resources Development. Mark and his wife, Julie, reside in Milledgeville, Georgia with their daughter, Madison, and son, Walker. Madison currently attends the GMC Preparatory School as a 7th grader and Walker is looking forward to becoming a GMC student when he enters 6th grade.
GMC was established on October 14, 1879 by act of the Georgia General Assembly and was originally called Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College. In 1900, the name of the school was changed to Georgia Military College.

The Old Capitol Building, then as now, is the main college facility and sits on the highest point within the Milledgeville city limits. In 1880, the school’s first session opened with 219 male and female students. Dr. W. S. Dudley, the school’s first president, guided this class.

In 1950, the War Department designated GMC a “Military Junior College.” Today, GMC is one of only five United States Military Junior Colleges and has been designated by the Georgia General Assembly as “The Military Junior College of Georgia.”

For over a century, graduates have fought in world conflicts including the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the Iraq War and the Afghanistan Conflict. Many alumni have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

For 135 years, students have come to GMC to invest in an education that inspires, challenges and provides opportunities for their future. GMC President, Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, believes the school is unique in that it not only offers a challenging education but also strong character development.

Lt. Gen. Caldwell says, “While here, students are inspired to ask questions, then challenged to explore solutions and hone their critical thinking skills. And from here, they’re prepared to explore a world of opportunities.”

In 1879, a handful of students enrolled in GMC, most to pursue either a military path or agricultural studies. Today, more than 12,000 students attend GMC either online or at one of the nine (soon to be 11) campus locations throughout Georgia to pursue limitless career options.

Caldwell adds, “Here, they’ve discovered an affordable education that sharpens their minds, broadens their perspectives and strengthens their character. To borrow an inspiring phrase from the students themselves, they know that ‘from GMC, you’re ready to go anywhere.’”

*Celebration was delayed due to inclement weather.
GMC ANNIVERSARY

135th Anniversary of First Meeting of the GMC Board of Trustees

Georgia Military College Celebrates

For generations, Georgia Military College has stood as a unique educational institution within the state of Georgia. Through legislative acts of 1920 and 1927, the school was designated as a corporate body with a legally elected Board of Trustees.

The Georgia General Assembly provided for a seven-member board to be elected from within the jurisdiction of Milford Mill. They are elected every four years and represent the city council districts. The trustees are prohibited from holding any other official office during their term. The Milford Mill Store serves on the board because GMC is a city-chartered school.

The board has the authority to determine policy and conduct of the college and to govern financial and personnel matters. This includes overseeing the prep school curriculum and articulation agreements for the college.

The board consists of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary treasurer and four members-at-large. The desire to help the school achieve set goals is expected from each member, but a personal connection to GMC is not required.

2014-2015 GMC Board of Trustees

Randy New Chairman

Albion C. Martinez, Jr. Member at-Large

Alberto C. Martinez, Jr. is a graduate of Georgia Military College and attended GMC as a non-traditional business student. For Martinez, it is hard to choose one singular favorite event that he has been involved with as a board member. He believes the most important accomplishments have been in fundraising efforts bringing about growth and change. For fourteen years on the board, there has been an impressive transformation of the main campus-the new and modern buildings, the Grand Parade Field, the athletic fields-a truly amazing makeover, “he said.

Retired from the state of Georgia, he last served as chief attorney for the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit District Attorney’s Office. He is a member of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia. His family includes wife Joanne and daughter, Mary Beth.

Ken Vance

Although a transplant from South Georgia, member-at-large, Ken Vance has been a dedicated resident of Milford Mill for decades. He is currently in his third term as a board member and excited to part of the school’s bright future.

Vance brings a mixture of experiences to the board table. As head of campus police at GC, for over twenty-seven years, he knew local students and students simply as “Chief.” He served on the Milford Mill City Council for twenty-eight years and has degrees in English, Creative Writing, and Public Administration. Vance currently serves as the executive director of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission of Georgia where he was reappointed under current Governor Nathan Deal.

Married to Carol Grant, they have two children, Emily (HS ’08) and John Amin (HS ’10), who are both GMC graduates. Vance prides the strong educational support that helped his children achieve success. “The Character Education Program is what we see as the greatest influence on my children,” said Vance. “Additionally, the disciplined environment, created by Principal John Thornton and Assistant Principal Pam Grant and the wonderful faculty, contributed to my children’s success.” He believes the school prepares students for the next step in their lives after graduation.

Doris Renfree

Secretary/Treasurer

Ms. Renfree is a native of Milford Mill and has served on the board for eight years. She graduated from Bodie High School in 1958 and attended GMC as a nursing student.

Bodie High School has been her family for decades. Her favorite event that she has been involved with as a board member was the renovation of the older buildings along with the construction of new facilities has been just amazing,” stated Hogan.

As a trustee, Hogan’s most memorable event was the historic alighting of the partnership between GMC and Fort Valley State University. He believes this connection provides another opportunity for local students to continue their education within the Middle Georgia area.

Fraley enjoys family life with wife Daphane, son Lavar, Antonio Fraley and daughter Shanteka Fraley. He is a proud grandfather to grandsons Darien Fraley and Justin Antonio Fraley Jr. and granddaughter Jakia Fraley. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, traveling and hiking.

Alberto C. Martinez, Jr.

Member at-Large

As a trustee, Fraley’s most memorable event was the opening of the new renovatated buildings, the Gran Parade Field, the athletic fields and has witnessed remarkable changes to the main campus. “The renovations of the older buildings along with the construction of new facilities has been just amazing,” stated Hogan.

As a trustee, Martinez’s favorite event has been the prom of 2014, “which was a truly amazing makeover, “he said.

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The GMC Foundation was named the state’s top fundraiser during Georgia Gives Day, raising $120,705 during the 24-hour online giving campaign on November 13, 2014. Georgia Gives Day is a significant platform for engaging online giving and this event has become part of Georgia Military College Foundation’s annual fundraising campaign. Our efforts brought a sizable increase due in large part by ramping up our social media exposure which helped us reach more audiences than in years past.

On Georgia Gives Day, Lockstep Technology Group, a boutique reseller of IT solutions, generously committed to establishing an endowed scholarship. Lockstep leaders, who have been strategic technology partners with the college for a number of years, made the pledge after learning about General Caldwell’s scholarship initiative. “He explained the need for scholarships and we already knew how deserving GMC students are, so it was an easy decision,” said Brian Onstott, Lockstep’s Director of Technology Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in a technology-oriented program of study. “We loved the idea of establishing a technology-specific scholarship,” Brian said. “Technology offers so many promising careers and we try to give back to our educational customers what we can.”

Through its work with GMC for the past three years, Lockstep has played another important role for students by completely redesigning and redeploying the school’s IT infrastructure. “We’re extremely grateful to Lockstep for their hard work, their generosity and their enthusiasm for backing our students,” said GMC President, Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV. “They’re a great example of a valued business partner going the extra mile to make a meaningful difference.”

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Facility staff and alumni of Georgia Military College recently gathered at Usery Hall for the unveiling of a new community room dedicated to a special guest.

The Honorable W.J. Usery Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Labor and GMC Alumnus, cut the ceremonial ribbon that unveiled the new Usery Community Room. “I believe I have lived life in accordance with the creed of this institution and I am proud to call myself a GMC alumnus,” Usery said. “But I am also 91 years old, and I want to make sure that the school that I love and has made me the man I am today lives on long after we have passed. I am asking that this room be christened the Usery Community Room to reflect the largest part of my public life at GMC and the navy.”

Usery became the first Georgian to serve as U.S. Secretary of Labor. He was appointed to the position in 1976 by U.S. President Gerald Ford. During his military career, he served aboard the Guam in the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet from 1943-1946. “If we are to overcome current geographic and racial barriers,” he said. “The coming together of different groups is the core of theUsery Community Room as well as his legacy, he added.

“As my legacy at GMC, I want to help in providing for the years ahead the opportunity for all of us to work together for the future we want our children, our schools, our city and our nation to have. This is what Usery Community Room is all about.”

— W.J. Usery Jr.
Alumni Weekend 2014 was full of exciting new events, as well as, visits with many from GMC’s past.

“Alumni Weekend for our JC ’64 class was nothing short of wonderful. GMC went all out to make everything and everyone quite special. The campus has been transformed and I certainly plan to return again.” — Dr. Richard Elmore (JC ’64)
GMC announces 2014 Alumni Award Recipients

These nine extraordinary people are representative of the fine character and countless acts of excellence displayed by the alumni and friends of Georgia Military College. GMC is fortunate to have been a part of the lives of each of these fine people. Their contributions have, without a doubt, made the world a better place.

Distinguished Alumni Award
BRIGADIER GENERAL TOMMY FRANCIS GIRER, JR., Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose lives have embodied the ideals of Georgia Military College including discipline, sound character, and scholarly achievements. Their accomplishments have made a conspicuous and positive impression on those who will follow their lead. Their lives are examples of extraordinary accomplishment.

Alumni Achievement Award
COLONEL BERNARD R. LINDSTROM, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

The Alumni Achievement Award is designated for an alumni who has achieved notable success in his chosen field or profession, and whose achievement may serve as an inspiration to anyone considering entering that chosen field or profession. It might serve as inspiration to anyone who aspired to this chosen field or profession because of the example set by the recipient of this award.

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award
CAPTAIN AURLBRIIO L. FENNELL, Alexandria, Virginia

The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recognizes alumni who, having completed their studies at GMC within the past fifteen years, have demonstrated excellence in academics or in their chosen profession, or who have made great strides in their personal life, and who show promise of continuing excellence.

GMC Service Award
WILLIAM EDWARD “ED” ROBINSON, III, Hephzibah, Georgia

The GMC Service Award is designated for an alumni or friend of Georgia Military College who has rendered special service to the college or to any of its auxiliary organizations including the GMC Alumni Association, the Bulldog Club, the Auxiliary, or the GMC Foundation, Inc.

Community Service Award
BARBARA SHAHEEN, Warner Robins, Georgia

The Community Service Award is given to Georgia Military College alumni who, through leadership, inspiration, teamwork, or hard work in the spirit of volunteerism or in their professional activities, have taken the lessons of GMC’s Character Education beyond the classroom and whose actions are characterized by a loyalty to the community through a continuing dedication to reaching an unquestionable impact within their community.

Honorary Alumna Award
JUDY ARCHER, Jonesboro, Georgia

The Honorary Alumna Award is bestowed upon individuals who are not alumni of Georgia Military College, but who have rendered special or exceptional service to the school or to its Alumni Association, and who, by virtue of their service, are worthy of the designation of GMC Alumna and all that the designation entails.

Nominate your choice for the 2015 Alumni Awards!

We invite alumni and friends to submit nominations for the 2015 GMC Alumni Awards. The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2015. For additional information, please call the Office of College Relations at (478) 445-0202.

Please include supporting documentation for the nomination using no more than 500 words. You may include: career highlights, achievements, community service, letters of recommendation and/or newspaper/magazine articles. Specify GMC graduate HS and/or JC.

AWARD NOMINATION CATEGORY: Alumni Achievement | Distinguished Alumni | Outstanding Recent Alumni | Honorary Alumni | Community Service Award | GMC Service Award
2014 Band Company Reunion

Band Company and Gold Brigade

BG Curt Rauhut
Harry Mollae
Cliff Dunn
Dee Smith
Terry "Yokelaff" Johnson
Ben Underwood
Dean Miles
Robert Rushing
Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV

Danny Stowe
Dr. Robert Baer
Fred Brown
Graham Bird
Warren Taylor
Al Davis
Mike Witherspoon
Jack Riley
Robert Rushing
Steve Smirlis
Buzz Durham
Dr. Richard "Rich" Elmore
Charles Pennington

HS and JC Classes of 1964 - Gold Brigade

Jack Riley
Robert Glenn Ross
Al Dennis
Danny Stowe
Dr. Richard T. Elmore, Jr.
Shannon New-Diaz; alumni board president
Robert Rushing
Dr. Robert Baer
Steve Smirlis
Mike Witherspoon

JC Class of 1989 - 25th Reunion

SGT Wayne T. Burton, Jr.
COL Bobby L. Christine
COL Reginald G. (Reg) Neal

HS and JC Classes of 1974 - 40th Reunion

HS Class of 1974: Millard Harrington, Patricia Thompson, Tom Torrance,
Charlotte S. McShurley, and Bill Barnes

JC Class of 1974
Ken McDonald
Robert Giggans (HS ’72)
Shannon New-Diaz (HS ’76, JC ’77)
Marye Hamilton (JC ’76)
Carl Mason (HS ’72, JC ’74)
Jeffrey D. Kilian (HS ’72, JC ’74)
David Grant (HS ’72, JC ’74)

HS and JC Classes of 1973

Jim and Maggie Kjer, Mike and Kathy Perez and Ben and Carol Plexico (in front)

HS and JC Classes of 1975 – 40th Reunion

"The Gold Brigade"

HS Class of 1975 – 40th Reunion
Date: TBD
Class Agent: Clay Wood
478-363-4511 (c)
cwood@triumphgroup.com

ALUMNI WEEKEND REUNIONS:

HS & JC 1970 – 45th Reunion
HS & JC 1975 – 40th Reunion
HS & JC 1980 – 35th Reunion
HS & JC 1985 – 30th Reunion
HS & JC 1990 – 25th Reunion “The Silver Brigade”
HS & JC 1995 – 20th Reunion
HS & JC 2000 – 15th Reunion
HS & JC 2005 – 10th Reunion

If you would like to help with planning your anniversary reunion, please contact Earlene Hamilton at chamilton@gmc.edu or 478-445-0205.
When General Acker took the reins at GMC, it was during a time when major General Bill Acker had visited GMC for 22 years, but returning in October felt much like receiving a hero's welcome.

"General Caldwell worked hard enough to invite my wife, Nadine, and me to attend alumni weekend, which included a parade and an opportunity to address the cadets," said the Milledgeville native, who now lives in San Antonio, TX.

The Acker's also attended a prep school football game, where he was officially presented with the game ball, which arrived from on high via a team of Golden Knights parachuters. Later, at an alumni dinner, General Caldwell announced the creation of a GMC scholarship in General Acker's name. "Nadine and I were shocked and so pleased," he says. "It was really an emotional and outstanding experience to go back to GMC.

General Acker, 84, might have been away from GMC for a long while, but he's certainly no stranger to the school. In fact, General Acker is the only GMC grad (JC '50) who also served as the school's president, a position he held from 1991 to 1992. "Before taking the job, I was commander of the Third Air Force, responsible for the entire Air Force presence in Great Britain," he explains.

Thanks to the tenacity of that core group, along with supportive faculty and staff, GMC remained on its feet, despite the odds. Today, of course, it stands among the most acclaimed junior colleges in the nation. "Coming back to GMC, it made me very happy to see how the facilities looked. The old barracks have been replaced…the land we acquired for the GMC jaws was close to retirement so decided to accept." When General Acker took the reins at GMC, it was during a time when military schools were a decidedly unpopular choice due to political backlash from the Vietnam War.

"I'm an old fighter pilot and we fighter pilots are very responsible for the entire Air Force presence in Great Britain," he explains. "Before taking the job, I was commander of the Third Air Force, responsible for the entire Air Force presence in Great Britain." He also created educational opportunities with three off-campus centers.

General Acker, in turn, credits several key supporters for their vision and perseverance during that difficult time: Harold Goodrich, Jake Goldstein, Charles Erwin, Dr. Jimmy Baugh and Tony Ovens. "They refused to let that old school die," he says. "And I couldn't have kept it open without them."

"Some friends from my hometown of Milledgeville came over to England and I could see how well the school is doing," he says. "General Caldwell and his wife are a real asset to the school and to Milledgeville; I know they're going to continue to do good things for both."

During the alumni weekend festivities at Georgia Military College, four young men were honored as "Young GMC Alumni" for having clearly demonstrated their character and having represented the very best that is Georgia Military College. These young men are:


Each one is a Georgia Military Graduate who earned a commission in the U.S. Army through the GMC Early Commissioning Program.

Each one is serving or served honorably on active duty in the U.S. Army during wartime and in a war zone.

Each one served while in harm's way, led other Americans in wartime, and three of them are Purple Heart recipients.

CDL Fred Van Horn, GMC Executive Vice President, spoke of them saying, "When we say 'God Bless America,' we are asking for His blessing on these young men, and the many more young men and women like them. Young GMC alumni like those are serving this nation in places where every day they voluntarily place themselves in harm’s way. They selflessly go about the business of keeping our nation safe while making life more bearable for the sick, hungry, homeless, and the persecuted. If it is true that the young men and women who pass through the GMC gates are the living messages we send to a time we will not see, then we are indeed fortunate today to be able to see here four of our very best at the midpoint of their journey. It is by way of the presentation of this award that we can say to: 'We are proud of you and we are inspired by your example.'"

A scholarship has been established in the names of each of the three Purple Heart recipients, Capt. Jeremy Haynes, Capt. Ibrahim Tantawi and Capt. Robert Withers. The purpose of these scholarships will be to assist GMC students participating in the SPCRT program as members of the corps of cadets. These funds will help with the expenses incurred for tuition, fees, books and uniforms. If you would like to learn more about these scholarships or contribute to them, please contact Sally Thrower, Associate Vice President of College Relations, 478-445-0008 or stthrower@gmc.edu.

GMC Honors

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM ACKER

Dr. George Echols, Acker

MK and Mrs. Acker, Ted and Jona Smith

Randy New, Acker and Dudley Brown

Alumni Spotlight

I needed more life experience before heading to someplace big, like UGA. So I applied. In retrospect, it was a wonderful decision because at 17, I was not sure of my interest in the military. Graduating from GMC was the most important decision of my life – more decisions still. Yet the best decision he’s ever made, Bobby says, was to attend GMC.

As a private practice attorney and magistrate judge, Bobby Christine makes decisions for a living. As an Army Coloned and State Judge Advocate, he’s faced plenty more decisive moments. As an adjunct GMC professor and husband and father of three, he’s more decisions still. Yet the best decision he’s ever made, Bobby says, was to attend GMC.

Bobby explains how the pieces fell into place. “In high school, I took a career survey and checked ‘government/foreign service’ and military” as areas of interest. My father had served in the military – he lost an arm and leg during his second tour in Vietnam when I was a baby – and we were a military-minded family, which likely influenced my choices.

I was called to active military duty in 2003 and served 14 months in Iraq as both a Judge Advocate General (JAG) and combat engineer with the 265th engineering group. “I was a rewarding experience because I had the opportunity to apply skills from my civilian life to the military and vice versa.”

Back home, the pursuit of military education continued to interest Bobby, leading him to become one of the oldest Georgia National Guard soldiers to graduate from the U.S. Army Airborne School. Currently, he’s attending the U.S. Army War College as the first Georgia Guard JAG to be accepted by the prestigious school, with graduation expected for this July.

But Colonel Judge-Dad Bobby Christine the college student is also Colonel Judge-Dad Bobby Christine the college instructor. Recently rejoining a part-time adjunct faculty role at GMC Augusta, where he also taught from 1998 to 2007. “It thrilled to be back on the GMC team. Every student is there for different reasons, but they’re all pursuing goals,” he says. “I’m very passionate about folks who are pursuing a goal as a real pleasure. Not everybody is blessed to be able to help someone else do it. I missed that and now I’m back at it.”

Returning to his alma mater has also given Bobby the perspective of time. “It’s been like coming home, but even better. There’s been such an impressive physical transformation, for which I observe a great debt to General Blank and now General Cadwell. He says, “Those in my age group also remember the foundation of all these good things is the institution General Acker was able to do. The goals GMC’s leaders set – and the decisions they’ve made – have created a physical plant that now harmonizes with the school’s long-standing values. And that is a beautiful thing.”

MEET ALUMNUS BOBBY CHRISTINE:
Upholding Duty, Honor, Country and a Love of Learning

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Back home, the pursuit of military education continued to interest Bobby, leading him to become one of the oldest Georgia National Guard soldiers to graduate from the U.S. Army Airborne School. Currently, he’s attending the U.S. Army War College as the first Georgia Guard JAG to be accepted by the prestigious school, with graduation expected for this July.

But Colonel Judge-Dad Bobby Christine the college student is also Colonel Judge-Dad Bobby Christine the college instructor. Recently rejoining a part-time adjunct faculty role at GMC Augusta, where he also taught from 1998 to 2007. “It thrilled to be back on the GMC team. Every student is there for different reasons, but they’re all pursuing goals,” he says. “I’m very passionate about folks who are pursuing a goal as a real pleasure. Not everybody is blessed to be able to help someone else do it. I missed that and now I’m back at it.”

Returning to his alma mater has also given Bobby the perspective of time. “It’s been like coming home, but even better. There’s been such an impressive physical transformation, for which I observe a great debt to General Blank and now General Cadwell.” He says, “Those in my age group also remember the foundation of all these good things is the institution General Acker was able to do. The goals GMC’s leaders set – and the decisions they’ve made - have created a physical plant that now harmonizes with the school’s long-standing values. And that is a beautiful thing.”

As a private practice attorney and magistrate judge, Bobby Christine makes decisions for a living. As an Army Coloned and State Judge Advocate, he’s faced plenty more decisive moments. As an adjunct GMC professor and husband and father of three, he’s made decisions still. Yet the best decision he’s ever made, Bobby says, was to attend GMC.

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“Shana came to the Augusta campus with the business acumen to understand, analyze and solve problems,” said General Curt Rauhut, GMC’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “Her overarching mission is student success, toward the goal of either graduating or transferring to a four-year college, but she also applies her business lens to ensure we’re making wise decisions.”

Another strength, he said, is Shana’s ability to build talent. “She’s been able to build a cohesive organization that understands her vision and intent. Her team is quickly moving the school’s mission forward.”

Building the Team
Shana also came to Augusta with a passion for taking organizations from floundering to flourishing, exactly what the school needed. “When I arrived in 2012, the facilities were in terrible disrepair, with old technology, electrical and plumbing issues, and original furniture from the 80s. The facility were well-kept; they just weren’t well known,” she said. “I could envision what this campus could become and it presented a challenge I was eager to take on.”

With school leaders’ support to “spend money to make money,” Shana first took time to get to know her team and understand where their opportunities lay. “I drew from the foundational strengths of GMC Milledgeville – our history and our legacy – and from best practices the other GMC campuses.”

With the new team in place, the school’s transformation was swift and impressive. As dean of academics, one of the first challenges Derek tackled was class scheduling. “Classes were heavily concentrated during the morning. Now, we offer classes from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, with full-time faculty teaching day and evening,” said Shana.

Expanding our hours immediately attracted a larger student population and gave them access to the wealth of knowledge our faculty offers,” said Shana. “The new schedule also means we fully utilize our facilities, which is more cost effective.”

Meanwhile, as dean of students, Leia oversaw efforts to improve the college experience. “Prior to Laia coming, we were really just a commuter school because there was no reason for students to stay on campus. Laia has taken us from three clubs to 13…she’s given us an inviting student lounge, with food vendors so students don’t have to go out for lunch…”

She’s helped transform this into a true community college experience, a place where students can learn and grow, not just take a class and go home.”

As campus improvements took shape, including modernization of the facilities and technology, the Augusta community took note. “Our admissions team did a fantastic job of going into a competitive environment (there are 16 other colleges in the area) and sharing what we have to offer – a wide range of programs offered on the quarter system, low tuition, complete accreditation, small classrooms, student-focused faculty and so much more,” said Shana. “And once prospective students are on campus, they love the environment!”

Reaping the Rewards
By the numbers, GMC Augusta’s turn-around is clear: student enrollment is up from 900 to more than 1,300 (toward a goal of 1,500), with credit hours and revenues up 26%.

But data doesn’t tell the whole story. “What’s truly makes a difference in this community is our people. They make sure students (whom Shana typically refers to as ‘friends’) know they’re not just a number…”

“Friends” know they’re not just a number, that we’re going to help them navigate these waters successfully,” said Shana. “That’s what’s drawing students here and it’s what’s keeping them here until the graduate.”

Working the Plan
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FORECAST FOR ALUMNA LIZ JARVIS FABIAN: Bright, With Continued Success
For a 15-year-old girl from Long Island, the move to Millidgeville might as well have been interplanetary. “I went from an all-girls Catholic school in New York to a co-ed, military prep school in small town Georgia,” says Liz, GMC Prep School Class of 1978. “My father’s job with Northrup Grumman transferred us, but I knew no one and nothing about Georgia. GMC truly became my gateway to Georgia – and, really, my entire journey from there forward.”

“What a journey it’s been. Just seven months after arriving in Millidgeville, Liz’s father died unexpectedly. Rather than return to their New York roots, the family opted to stay in Millidgeville. “We were already so immersed in the community and involved with GMC, we simply didn’t want to leave,” she said.

School became a sanctuary of sorts, where Liz found teachers who were our mentors, friends and cheerleaders, who people were interested in our success. At GMC, you always knew what was expected of you and the consequences of failing to measure up, she says. “The buildings were crumbling, but the school’s real foundation – that solidly entrenched military discipline and concentration on character building – that was solidly in place. It continues to define GMC today, as part of a modernized campus that truly become a dream.”

With GMC as her academic springboard, Liz turned a childhood love of “pretend interviewing into an impressive journalism career. While earning her bachelor’s degree at Georgia College, Liz worked part time at the campus radio station, where she was bitten by the journalism bug. A month before graduation, she was hired as co-anchor and weather person at the Macon NBC affiliate. “That was back in the dark ages, when we assembled the evening weather map by stacking magnets, symbols and numerals to a board,” she laughs.

Low-tech graphics aside, Liz’s news delivery got the attention of an up-and-coming national station. The Weather Channel. For nearly four years, Liz anchored weekday morning weather news segments and was tapped into TWC’s first breaking weather news team. Their first live shot assignment was truly a baptism by storm: coverage of Hurricane Gilbert, a category 5 storm off the Texas coast. “That was before cell phones, and hurricanes prediction models weren’t what they were today. We were pretty much hurricane chasing on our own, the only vehicle headed toward the coast as thousands of cars streamed the other way.”

Lessons learned from those early experience helped shape weather reporting and provided the award winning coverage TWC is known for today. In fact, Liz’s team earned a Golden Cable Ace award from the National Academy of Cable Programming for their 1999 coverage of Hurricane Hugo, among other accolades throughout the years.

By 1996, the winds were changing at the Weather Channel, with a shift toward charting the anchor desk with meteorologists. So after years of circumnavigating the country for her craft and getting married along the way – Liz settled in Macon, back at the TV news desk where she went on to earn even more awards. Today, the proud mom of a 14-year-old daughter is a reporter for the Macon Telegraph, and a member of Mercer University’s Center for Collaborative Journalism.

Liz now carries forward the values she has appreciated and applied since her own days on campus. “Tell students that the fires and trials of their lives will strengthen and refine their character. And remind them never to forget that the path that takes you away can also lead you back.”

TRIPLE YOUR GIFT!

The GMC ’73 Scholarship recently achieved endowed status, thanks to the generous support of 44 alumni and friends. Established in memory of Kent A. Wilkerson, this memorial scholarship provided financial assistance during school year 2014-15 to three outstanding GMC Prep School students who will graduate in May 2015. One hundred percent of every donation goes to the GMC ’73 Scholarship. Donations will allow this endowed scholarship to grow, providing financial assistance to students for years to come.

All alumni and friends of GMC are encouraged to donate, and gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated. Tax-deductible donations can be made online (www.alumni.gmc.edu), by cash or check, made payable to the GMC Foundation and designated for the GMC ’73 Scholarship, or through automatic monthly donation deductions, a convenient easy way to offer monthly support.

Triple your gift!
All contributions received by December 31, 2015 will be matched by GMC and the GMC Foundation.
The President’s Circle is one of Georgia Military College Foundation’s most prestigious recognition levels, honoring donors who support the College with vitally important annual leadership gifts of $1,000 and above. To show deep appreciation for these significant annual gifts, the College honors President’s Circle donors with a black-tie dinner each year. This elite group of donors comprises the top twenty-four percent of contributors to the GMC Foundation for 2014-2015 and demonstrates a significant investment in the mission of the College through their philanthropy.
Georgia Military College Steinway Concert Series presented *Christmas in the Air*, a holiday concert featuring the Atlanta Pops with conductor Tom Gibson and soloist Katie Deal, on Sunday, December 14, 2014 in the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts. The sold-out crowd enjoyed favorites *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *The Christmas Song* and *Sleigh Ride* to name a few. A coffee and dessert reception with the artists followed the concert.

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Georgia Military College Steinway Concert Series presented a spring concert featuring *Two Pianos, Eight Hands* with musicians Dr. Ann Caldwell, Dr. Tom Davidson, Dr. Sergio Ruiz and Professor Mounia Yu. The concert was held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 in the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts. The sold-out crowd enjoyed a classical concert including selections from Beethoven, Schubert, Bach and many others. A reception with the artists followed the concert for Steinway members.
The bagpipe played inside as the rain fell outside for the fourteenth annual Grand Tattoo and Command Retreat held on April 16, 2015. The event featured piper William Hunter, trumpeter Cecil Welch who played “Il Silencio” and GMC chorus members who sang “Here’s to the Heroes.”


- Major Clay McElheney - GMC Preparatory School Teacher of the Year
- Major Charlie Harbor - GMC Preparatory School Character Educator of the Year
- Mrs. Debra Dent - Associate Professor of English, Warner Robins Campus - GMC Junior College Educator of the Year
- Mrs. Brandi Jones - Assistant Professor of Biology, Warner Robins Campus - GMC Junior College Character Educator of the Year

On March 27, 2015, Mr. W. J. Usery, Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Gerald Ford, the Citizens of Milledgeville Georgia, Georgia College, and Georgia Military College hosted the 190th Anniversary Celebration of General Lafayette’s 1825 visit to Milledgeville. The celebration included a parade from the Old Governor’s Mansion to Georgia Military College, with more than 2,600 students participating, a welcome ceremony and community picnic for “General Lafayette” on the grounds of Georgia Military College, and a sunset gathering and concert on the campus of Georgia College.

During his March 1825 visit, the Marquis de Lafayette met with Revolutionary War veterans from Milledgeville and surrounding counties and also with a veteran who helped carry the wounded Lafayette off the battlefield at Brandywine. His reunion with veterans was followed by a grand celebration hosted by the Governor of Georgia on the grounds of the Old Capitol Building. It was a spectacular day during which citizens young and the old focused attention on the best of everything American and the principle exemplified by General Lafayette’s service to our nation during the American Revolution.

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The "All-American" Chorus presented a concert for Georgia Military College on April 9, 2015 in the Goldstein Center for the Performing Arts. The Chorus is a musical group composed of Division Troopers representing every unit within the Division. The All-American Chorus was formed in 1964 to sing at Sunday services in the Division Chapel. At that time the Chorus consisted of only 15 members. They recorded their first record entitled "The All-American Chorus," which contained several songs and ballads about the Airborne and the Army.

The 82nd Airborne Division’s "All-American" Chorus performs throughout the continental United States. Though their primary mission remains serving the soldiers of the U.S. Army and Fort Bragg, their off-post performances continue to increase, so much in fact that they have become one of the Army’s greatest recruiting tools. Appearing in their maroon berets, ascots, and army combat boots, the paratroopers of the "All-American" Chorus are truly ambassadors for the 82nd Airborne Division.

On March 22, 2015, fourteen Cadets from the Georgia Military College Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) Program competed in the 26th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, NM. These young, future Army Officers trained for over 5 months for the event, and challenged themselves at the 30th Annual Army Ten Miler, Wounded Warrior 10k, and Soldier Marathon races along the way.

The Bataan Memorial Death March commemorates the World War II events of April 1942, when tens of thousands of American and Filipino Allied Soldiers were captured by Japanese Forces and forced to march for days through the jungles of the Philippines. Thousands of Soldiers died due to exposure, hunger, dehydration, or at the hands of their captives. In their honor, GMC Cadets rigorously trained and traveled across the United States to complete the 26.2 mile course.

Honoring our Past Heroes:

GMC ROTC Cadets Compete in 26th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

By Captain Steven Aoyagi, Cadet Luke Torres, and Cadet Joshua Hall

Curt Flournoy (far left) and Chick-fil-A recently donated $2,500 to establish a Leader Academy at GMC Prep. Chick-fil-A Leader Academy engages students in monthly Leader Labs with a focus on important leadership skills that they will use to create student-led Community Impact Projects. Thirty selected students participate in monthly Leader Labs using unique curriculum technology with a faculty leader to gain insight and principles, then involve hundreds in their school and impact thousands in their community! The program is fully-funded through generous sponsorships from local Chick-fil-A Operators, Chick-fil-A, Inc. and Coca-Cola to offset the annual $4,000 per school tuition.
GOVERNOR DEAL ANNOUNCES $3.5M RESTORATION OF DUBLIN’S SKYSCRAPER

GMC DUBLIN TO OPEN FALL 2015

On October 14, 2014, Governor Nathan Deal announced the restoration of downtown Dublin’s First National Bank Building. Built in 1913, the historic landmark will become home to Georgia Military College’s new Dublin campus. In partnership with the Dublin Downtown Development Authority, Walters Management Company, and Georgia Military College, “Dublin’s Skyscraper” will undergo a $3.5 million restoration with the GMC Dublin campus anticipated to create three administrative jobs and as many as 50 adjunct faculty positions in the first five years.

“A vibrant, economically robust downtown is a sign of an actively engaged community committed to enhancing its economic competitiveness and its quality of life,” said Gov. Nathan Deal. “The restoration of Dublin’s First National Bank Building into Georgia Military College’s new campus will breathe new life into the community. This project will expand access to higher education and create jobs and economic development opportunities in the region. I’m grateful to all involved in this process, especially the Dublin Downtown Development Authority and State Representative Matt Hatcher, for their continued commitment to keeping Georgia the nation’s top state for business.”

If You Build It, They Will Come

Under Rock’s oversight, progress has been swift and steady. Since breaking ground in October, construction is now well underway of the 25,000+ square-foot, phase 1 facility, opening in early 2015. If you’ve been downtown, you’ve noticed the progress.

After retiring from a distinguished 30-year military career – encompassing a variety of progressively responsible assignments in the U.S. and abroad, including two Pentagon tours and five combat deployments to Panama, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq – Brigadier General Scott F. “Rock” Donahue found himself working as an “Army of One.”

Brig. Gen. Curt Nauholt, GMC’s Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, explains, “When we decided to open a new GMC campus in Fayetteville to support the area’s growing population and business market, we initiated our search for an executive director. With his extensive background in engineering and operations management, budget execution, and coalition building, Rock offered the right blend of leadership and program execution to lead the charge.”

Building the campus’ facilities, faculty and curriculum, Rock has also set up the school’s business processes, developed a marketing campaign and continues to cultivate stakeholder relationships. “We’ve had tremendous support, from Mayor Clifton to the county commission to state legislators…the Board of Education, the Georgia Film Institute, Piedmont-Fayette Hospital, and the Pinewood Atlanta Studios Production Centre…. everyone is excited about what we’re building here,” Rock said. “I’ve also had tremendous support from my colleagues within GMC, for which I’m truly grateful."

Creating a Customized Curriculum

GMC chose west Fayetteville as the home for it’s 10th campus based on the area’s already established business market, which includes Piedmont- Fayette Hospital, with more than 1,000 employees. Additionally, Pinewood Atlanta Studios, a multimillion-dollar, full service film and entertainment studio, arrived there in early 2014.

“To support the area’s growing workforce, we’ll offer all 27 GMC academic programs, online and in the classroom, infused with our core values of duty, honor, country and above all else, character,” Rock says. “But what really sets us apart are the programs we’re developing in allied health and film technology. In keeping with Governor Deal’s new education platform to strengthen schools and colleges, and to provide career relevant education and career ready students, we’re designing these new education tracks for students aiming to develop skillsets for the area’s largest employers.”

Standing On the Threshold

As Donahue surveys the rising structure that will house nine classrooms and biology/chemistry lab, plus a media center, bookstore, student lounge, active learning center, and more, he can clearly envision the future. “We’re standing on the threshold of profound change in how we approach education, both as a nation and institution of higher education” he said. “I consider it a real blessing to be part of the journey.”

GOVERNOR DEAL ANNOUNCES $3.5M RESTORATION OF DUBLIN’S SKYSCRAPER

GMC DUBLIN TO OPEN FALL 2015

The restoration of one of downtown Dublin’s most historic and recognizable buildings has long been the vision of the Dublin Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Joshua Kight, Executive Director of DDA said "By returning one of Dublin’s oldest, largest, and most architecturally impressive structures to full service, the Skyscraper project hits a home run on every one of these levels. Starting just next year, we expect hundreds of students and several new small businesses to use and enjoy this tremendous downtown building every day. This increased activity will hopefully spur additional businesses and tourism, further enriching our community."

“We are excited to be here in Dublin to continue doing what the Governor has asked us to do with the Complete College Georgia initiative to provide opportunities for anyone who desires a college education,” said Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, President of Georgia Military College.

“This is a great project for not only Downtown Dublin but for our entire community. We are very fortunate to have Jim Walters as a partner along with GMC,” said Dublin Mayor Phil Best.

GMC Dublin is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015, and once complete, GMC Dublin will occupy the majority of the building and will feature amenities such as an IT assistance business, a coffee shop, and study areas, with the upper floors serving as classrooms and faculty offices.

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Georgia Military College now holds articulation agreements with 41 colleges and universities.

Agnes Scott College
Albany State University
Auburn University
Auburn University at Montgomery
Berea College
Brewton-Parker College
Columbus State University
Dalton State College
Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)
Emmanuel College
Fort Valley State University
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia Tech University
Georgia State University
Kadlan University
LaGrange College
Mercer University
Middle Georgia State College
Paine College
Piedmont College
Point University
Reinhardt University
Saint Leo University
Savannah State University
Shorter University
Southern Polytechnic State University
Strayer University
Thomas University
Toccoa Falls College
Trident University International
Tennessee State University
University of North Georgia
Valdosta State University
Veseyan College
Young Harris College

GMC PREP’S LIAM FAIRBRASS
IS THIRD GENERATION FAMILY MEMBER TO ATTEND ARMY’S TOP SCHOOL

Mark, Emily and Liam Fairbrass, U.S. Congressman Jody Hice, Kathy and MG Peter Boylan (Ret.)

In February 2015, Liam Fairbrass, a senior at Georgia Military College Prep, officially signed the paperwork to enter West Point, the Army’s most prestigious academic school in the country. U.S. Congressman Jody Hice, who represents the 10th District of Georgia, which is made up of 25 counties, including Baldwin, also participated in the ceremonial signing.

Liam Fairbrass is the son of Mark and Emily Fairbrass and grandson of MG Peter and Kathy Boylan and currently attends Georgia Military College Prep School. In addition to an outstanding record of volunteer service, Fairbrass serves as the Battalion Commander for the high school. His brother, Elliot Fairbrass, GMC Prep Class of 2013, is a sophomore at the USMA.

GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE PROFESSOR INVITED TO ATTEND 13TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS IN QATAR

Georgia Military College Professor Ursula Lande attended the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar in April 2015. There, she worked as an individual expert involved in deliberations of the Congress as well as working with committees, subcommittees and other working groups. Attendance as an individual expert is by invitation only from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Congress brings together countries, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individual experts to discuss issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice. Some of the issues Professor Lande deliberated on included transnational organized crime, cybercrime, and trafficking.

Professor Lande brings a wealth of education and experience to this Congress. Since arriving at Georgia Military College in 2011, she has authored, co-authored, and presented 14 papers at national and regional criminal justice conferences. She has also authored a book chapter on internet sexual offending. Her areas of interest include Security Threat Groups, Terrorism and Social Media, Transnational and Organized Crime, Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Media Representations of Crime.

Her most recent work is entitled Americanizing Terrorism: A content analysis of ISIS and AQAP English-language magazine which she will present at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Florida this March. While at the conference, she received the SAGE Junior Faculty Professional Development Teaching Award. This award is earned by junior faculty members who are making significant contributions to their institution and to the field of criminal justice.

Professor Lande holds a Master’s degree from the University of Cincinnati. She has four years of high-education teaching experience in the fields of criminal justice and homeland security at Georgia Military College. While at GMC, she was also awarded the Milledgeville campus, Junior College Educator of the Year.

Nearly, 10,000 names were written in chalk by hundreds of GMC prep students with bowed heads and hushed lips as they reflected and remembered those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and in the war on terror. Organizer MAJ Scott Seagroves, who hopes this act of remembrance will become a GMC tradition, said, “While it may not be a lasting tribute it was certainly one that was heartfelt and can be considered an act of love and devotion for those who perished.” Names included four GMC graduates, Chad Mercer UC 2000, Michael Stokaly UC 2002, Daniel Gomez UC 2000 and Walter Gray LC 1988, and Roy Wood, the father of GMC prep senior Roy Wood, Jr. Roy, Jr. was featured in the Washington Post’s recent article “Children of the Fallen: Portraits of Loss.” http://www.washingtonpost.com/childrenofthefallen/story/portraits/
Georgia Military College honored those brave individuals who served our nation in the Vietnam War with a Commemoration Ceremony and Parade on Friday, November 14, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. on Grant Parade. The guest speaker was Lieutenant General (R.) Claude Mick Kicklighter, GMC alumnus and Executive Director of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. Vietnam Veteran’s and family members from middle Georgia were invited to join cadets during the pass-in-review segment of the parade. The Reviewing Officer role was deferred to the honored veterans in attendance. Presidential and “City of Milledgeville Georgia” proclamations honoring the veterans were read. Immediately following the parade, a Vietnam Veterans memorial bench was dedicated on the north side of Sibley-Cone Library.

Georgia Military College became a Commemorative Partner of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration, which began as part of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families and recognizing their service, valor, and sacrifice.

Donations made to GMC’s 1879 Circle

Captain Michael Lumpkin and Mrs. Suzanne Ratliff, Co-Chairpersons of the 19th Will Robinson Road Race, recently presented the Georgia Military College Foundation with a donation to benefit GMC’s 1879 Circle. The 1879 Circle funds scholarships for children or grandchildren of GMC alumni. The Will Robinson Road Race has been held since 1996 to honor a fallen hero, Deputy Will Robinson, a 1987 graduate of GMC Prep School who was killed in the line of duty, December 17, 1995. Funds raised through the race are shared between scholarships at GMC and community initiatives of the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Department.

Shawn Allen (UC 2013) and Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV

General James Edward Oglethorpe founded the Colony of Georgia at Yamacraw Bluff, near the present-day Savannah, on February 12, 1733. This event officially began the settlement of the last of the 13 original British colonies in North America. This territory would eventually become the State of Georgia.

To promote greater awareness of this historic moment, for more than 30 years, Georgia Military College hosted a formal ceremony for the public signing of the Georgia Day Proclamation. The ceremony took place in the North Wing of the Capitol Rotunda in Atlanta.

Participating in the official ceremony were Governor Nathan Deal; Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell, IV, U.S. Army (Ret.), President of Georgia Military College; the GMC eighth grade class; the GMC High School Marching Band; the GMC Junior College Color Guard; the Junior College Regimental Commander, and Regimental Staff of the 136th Corps of Cadets.

In 1976, under the administration of Governor George D. Busbee, a 1944 graduate of GMC junior college, Georgia Military College was invited to perform a ceremony in the Statehouse celebrating Georgia Day. Each year since that time GMC has presented an Honor Guard and hosted the ceremony. It has become a well-established tradition and Georgia Military College is honored and proud to be able to provide this service to the State of Georgia.
Georgia High School Association 2015 State Literary Champions Class-A-Public

In March 2015, the GMC Prep School Literary Team was named the 2015 Georgia High School Association State Literary Champion (Class-A-Public). Members of the team competed in a variety of literary and artistic events during the state competition and received several additional awards.

- Peyton Mims
  2nd place - Girls Dramatic Interpretation

- Ray Wood
  1st place - Boys Extemporaneous Speaking

- Analese Bridges
  1st place - Girls Extemporaneous Speaking

- Rebekah Veatch
  1st place - Girls Solo Speaking

- Rebekah Veatch
  1st place - Girls Extemporaneous

- Analese Bridges
  1st place (tie) - Boys Extemporaneous

- Nick Weldon, James Cole Harbor, Wyatt Spivey, Maxwell Hopkins
  2nd place - Quartet

- Rebekah Veatch
  3rd place - 300 meter hurdles

- The team competed in a variety of literary and artistic events during the state competition and received several additional awards.

Georgia Military College Prep School

2014-2015 GHSA Class A-Public Track & Field State Champions

Georgia Military College Prep School Lady Dogs track team captured their first state title May 7-9, during the GHSA Track & Field State Championship in Albany, Ga. The Lady Dogs claimed the title by the largest amount of any classification with a score of 57 over the 2nd place team’s score of 49. Kita Aycock was recognized as the high point award winner for all classifications.

- Kita Aycock
  1st place - Triple Jump (35’-3")
  2nd place - 100 meter dash

- Sutton Long
  1st place - Long Jump
  3rd place - 400 meter run
  7th place - 200 meter dash

- Keely Murner
  1st place - 400 meter run (56.45 seconds)

- Cain McKinnon
  1st place - 300 meter hurdles

- Murmer, Long, McMullen and Aycock
  1st place - 4x400 meter relay (Team A) (4:08 minutes - school record)

2014 State Champions


2014 GMC Prep Raider Mixed Team Roster

- Jeff Conner (SR)
- Liam Fairbairn (JR)
- Molly Jones (JR)
- Andrew Kirkland (JR)
- Mark McCabe (SR)
- Marina Williams (FR)
- Abby Kirkland (SO)
- Julie Brooker
  Head Coach
- Allen Simmons
  Head Coach
- Jeff Ward
  Head Coach
- Scott Nitaiett
  Manager
- Chas Sheffield
  Manager

- South Carolina breaking % was .966. The team is comprised of 3 seniors, 7 juniors, and 3 freshmen.

- GMC’s overall record was 25-5, including premier wins over several GHSA Class 5A and 6A programs. GMC also defeated the 2014 GHSA A-Private State Champion Eagles Landing Christian, by the score of 6-1 and 9-2 during the regular season.

- The Bulldogs set a school record with 29 team home runs and an all-time high team batting average of .370. The pitching staff's earned run average was 1.08 and team fielding % was .886. The team is comprised of 3 seniors, 7 juniors, and 3 freshmen.

2014 GMC Bulldog Softball Roster

- Kasey Murner (SR)
- Diorea Raye (SR)
- Macy Watkins (SR)
- Whitley Dunn (JR)
- Kaylie Harding (JR)
- Karlie Harding (JR)
- Sinclair Harding (JR)
- Sutton Long (JR)
- Taylor Long (JR)
- Sarah Margaret Mason (JR)
- Natalie Martin (FR)
- Kate McGhee (FR)
- Julie Brooker
  Head Coach
- Allen Simmons
  Head Coach
- Jeff Ward
  Head Coach
- Scott Nitaiett
  Manager
- Chas Sheffield
  Manager

2014 GHSA Class A-Public Softball State Champions

Georgia Military College Prep School

- On November 2, 2014 the Georgia Military College Prep Softball team clinched the first state softball championship in GMC school history. The Bulldogs defeated Wilcox County by the score of 11-2 in the state finals.

- GMC’s overall record was 25-5, including premier wins over several GHSA Class 5A and 6A programs. GMC also defeated the 2014 GHSA A-Private State Champion Eagles Landing Christian, by the score of 6-1 and 9-2 during the regular season.

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The Georgia Military College football team will have 19 of its football student-athletes moving on to four-year schools, including 12 who signed letters-of-intent on National Signing Day.

Along with seven student-athletes who signed letters-of-intent, punter John David Mote signed a certificate of commitment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point.

Mote is the first student-athlete from GMC to move on to West Point and pursue a degree and play for the Black Knights.

Additionally, seven GMC football student-athletes graduated in December and have already enrolled at their respective four-year schools.

Hewitt, who came to Marshall last season – and found structure he wanted and needed. He was able to overcome those obstacles.

He described everything he gets – and more.” Hewitt’s teammates appreciate his cheerful work ethic and resourcefulness. Those traits are rooted in how he grew up.

For all intents and purposes – from the time he couldn’t lend a football grant-in-aid because of academic shortcomings while playing strong safety at Rockdale County High School – Hewitt was homeless.

He said he speaks with his father – another Neville Hewitt – “a little bit.” The slider Hewitt lives in Maryland. And once his mother was incarcerated, Hewitt said he was living with her then-boyfriend.

“I don’t know; I never asked,” Hewitt said. “Did you ever hear somebody say, “There are some things you’d better not know?” That’s how this is for me. I never asked.”

Hewitt, who came to Marshall last season after two junior college seasons at Georgia Military College, just finished a 3.0 academic semester in business management, is on track to graduate in May 2015.

Hewitt said his mother, Deon Jones, is in a Georgia prison for drug trafficking.

How much longer will she be there?

“I still remember … It was Jan. 22, 2011. I had dreads. But a coach I knew at Middle Tennessee told me, “Sometimes, you’ve got to do things you don’t want to do to get where you want to go. I was in my room crying. I had offers from Buffalo and Valdosta, but I didn’t call them because I didn’t want to go there.”

So, Hewitt went the junior college route. He still had big dreams. He chose Georgia Military College – “No more dreads,” he said, smiling – and found structure he wanted and needed.

Hewitt said when he graduates, he isn’t certain how he wants to use his degree, but he has great leadership skills when a good number of his formative years were spent without much guidance.

Hewitt is unfailingly positive. He smiles easily. He hasn’t asked anybody to feel sorry for him.

But when asked how his mother was, he turned away for a moment.

“That’s how this is for me. I never asked.”

Hewitt, who was voted by teammates as the team’s Defensive MVP and one of the season’s captains.

When Hewitt – one of 19 MU seniors – got up to speak at the affair, he stunned a crowd of about 300 onlookers.

“I talked about switching (from jersey No. 43) to No. 6,” Hewitt said. “I said the reason I wanted 6 last summer was that’s the number of years my mom has been in prison. It was back around my sophomore year in high school.”

Hewitt said his mother, Deon Jones, is in a Georgia prison for drug trafficking.
Helen Oh Represents USA At ISSF World Championship

Georgia Military College rifle team member Helen Oh represented the United States at the 51st International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship in September 2014, in Granada, Spain, and came home with an impressive performance and an unforgettable experience.

Oh competed in the 10m Air Pistol Women’s Junior event and placed 51st with a score of 363.

Bert Williams Earns Spot in GMC History

GMC’s junior college football team completed the 2014 regular season with a 20-8 win over Lackawanna College on November 9, 2014, at Joan C. Edwards Stadium on the campus of Marshall University.

With the victory, GMC finished the regular season with a winning record at 6-4 and also gave head coach Bert Williams his 119th win with the Bulldogs in his 15th season on the Midville campus.

That moved Williams past GMC coaching legend Lew Cordell, who compiled a 119-36-7 record at GMC from 1936-68.

Williams now has an impressive 119-41 mark at GMC, which also includes a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) championship in 2001, two more national championship game appearances (102, 113) and nine bowl games.

“I can’t even explain how it feels,” Williams said following the game. “Honestly, it’s kind of surreal and hard to even think about being talked about with someone who had such an impact on this school. I am honored just to be thought of with him today. I’m just proud of these kids for overcoming the adversity. They did a great job.”

Following the game, the Bulldogs presented Coach Williams with a game ball and plaque on the field to commemorate the win.

Williams entered the 2014 season ranked number one in winning percentage (.759) in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

Among active coaches, he was ranked No. 5 for wins and No. 4 for highest winning percentage as the season got started in August.

In the 10-year span from 2004 to 2009 when GMC went 82-25, Williams’ teams ranked No. 4 for most wins at 52, No. 5 for highest winning percentage (.766) and No. 3 for cumulative final season ranking over than period.

GMC’s 2013 national championship run was capped off by a 3-11-9 win over Butler Community College (Kan.) in the Sea Island Company Golden Isles Bowl in Brunswick, Ga.

During the four-year span prior to this season (2010-13), Williams ranked No. 17 for cumulative final season ranking as GMC went 39-12.

Williams was elected to the NJCAA Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010 – the only active coach to be so honored – and his 2001 national championship team was elected to the NJCAA Teams Hall of Fame in 2007.

Williams was named national Coach-of-the-Year by the National Junior College Football Coaches Association in 2001, by AFMM/Scout in 2002, and the NJCCA and American Football Coaches Association in 2013.

Williams has also previously served as president of the NJCCA and American Community College Football Coaches Association (ACCCA).

He still serves as permanent secretary for the ACCCA and is the liaison between the AFCA and the junior college coaches association.

Williams and his GMC staff have developed 70 NJCAA All-Americans, including Javon Robinson as the National Offensive Player of the Year in 2013.

National honors also went to Jermaine Harris as the Loo Plasri Award Winner in 2002 and Randy Jackson as National Defensive Player of the Year in 2002.

Williams is a native of Augusta, Ga., and graduated from Westside High School.

He played collegiately at Davidson College (N.C.) where he was a four-year letterman on the Wildcats’ football team (1986-89) and earned a Bachelor’s of Arts in History.

Williams began his coaching career at the University of Georgia and then went to Union College (Ky.) before landing at GMC in 1997 on the staff of head coach Robert Nunn.

Completing his 18th year at GMC, Williams is married to the former Catherine Ann Coffman of Atlanta and they have two sons – Parker (17) and Zachary (13).

The Georgia Military College rifle team brought home its third straight National Rifle Association (NRA) Intercollegiate Air Rifle Championship in the ROTC division in March 2015.

The Bulldogs captured the title with an aggregate score of 2,145 points (out of 2,400) and outshot the Illinois State University ROTC team, which finished second with a score of 2,033.

Leading the way for GMC’s ROTC team in the air rifle competition were Cadet Kaila Outen (Cummimg, Ga.) with a score of 556 points (out of 600), Cadet Tyler Willingham (Rochelle, Ga.) with a 553, Cadet Drake Robinson (Marr- ritt Island, Fla.) with a 526 and Cadet Samantha McLeod (Midville, Ga.) with a 510.

The GMC ROTC team, along with coaches Mary Ellen Eaton and LTC (Ret.) Duane Clayton, received the championship trophy during the NRA awards banquet at the Iron Works Convention Center in Columbus, Ga.

“They came together as a team,” GMC head coach and range coordinator Mary Ellen Eaton said. “I told them – remember, if you shoot a 9 and come up with at least a 90, then six rounds would get you a 540 score. So they just have to concentrate and focus on hitting that target. And they did. They strive for excellence as a team.”

Oh, who is from Walnut, Cali., and attended John A. Rowland High School in Rowland Heights, Cali., has competed several times in the Junior Olympics and in the Winter Air Gun Championships. She earned a spot on the international team by finishing second in the USA Shooting National Junior Pistol Championship in July at Fort Benning, Ga.

Oh, who is one of 10 students participating in the Coast Guard preparatory program at GMC said, “This international competition was a wake-up call for me to take my shooting more seriously and improve my game. It was a great experience to be a part of the U.S. team and to represent my country at the international level.”

“I am extremely proud to have had this opportunity. I felt honored being an athlete from the U.S. representing my country and this experience is giving me the drive to push myself at this level.”

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GMC Rifle Captures Third Straight NRA Intercollegiate National Title

GMC Rifle Team and Coaches (L-R) Coach and Range Coordinator Mary Ellen Eaton, Cadet Drake Robinson, Cadet Kaila Outen, Cadet Samantha McLeod, Cadet Tyler Willingham and LTC (Ret.) and Coach Duane Clayton.

GMC also competed in the smallbore competition for the first time in eight years and came away with individual gold and silver medals.

Cadet Tyler Willingham (Rochelle, Ga.) won the gold medal with a score of 532 points (out of 600) while Outen took home the silver medal with a score of 530.
**CLASS NOTES**

'55 The Honorable Powell Moore

HS ’51, a graduate of the University of Georgia (USGA) Grady College, spoke about his career experiences in national politics during a lecture at USA on November 5, 2014. The lecture entitled “Washington Insights Over Half-Century: Midterm Elections in the Sixth Year of a Two-Term Presidency” drew a crowd who heard about his experiences ranging from his job as Sen. Richard B. Russell’s press secretary to serving as Assistant Secretary of State and an Assistant Secretary of Defense to his most recent position as Representative of the U.S. Secretary of Defense to the Organization for Security and Cooperation (2006-2009). Moore served in staff positions under Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan.

'60 The Honorable William T. Moore Jr.

JC ’60, U.S. District Judge, joined two fellow jurors on the wall of fame at the federal courthouse in Savannah, Ga., with the unveiling of his official portrait on November 24. The event, which involved a four-judge bench headed by Chief Judge Lisa Godby Wood, honored Moore for a career marked by “his integrity, his intellect and his demeanor.” The portrait, painted by Moore’s sister-in-law and artist Julia Bythewood Hodges, will be placed on the wall in Moore’s courtroom on the third floor of the Wright Square courthouse. Moore noted he has spent 50 years in the law.

William Moore asked whether the portrait meant he was ready to retire. Moore said, “No, I’m not getting ready to retire… There’s still a lot to be done as far as I’m concerned.” Moore said, “When the time comes, I will know it…” But the time is not right at this time.” Moore told a reporter about his next six grandhildren in the courtroom. Most people will always refer to him as “judge,” but to them he is just “granddad,” Moore said, adding that’s always the way he likes it. Besides, Moore said, he wanted them to attend the session to hear all of the nice things others were saying about him.

'51 William C. “Billy” Hansell

(HS ’51, JC ’53) was treated to a visit and lunch with GMC buddies - Bank Company Cadets from 1962 - in Griffin, Ga. in August 2014 during a mini-road trip for the touring rock band from Band Co. It was the first time since 1995 that Dessa Smith and Dean Mills had seen Billy. Cliff Coford (he), and Terry Johnson (he) saw them for about four years ago on an earlier one of the now famous Band Co. road trips. Johnson shared about the visit, “It’s nice and I became good friends of GMC. Life took us in different directions, but always I knew we would be friends forever.”

'61 Col. Lonnie Dale Vona, USA (Ret.) ’70 has retired after serving for 42 years as an Army Infantry Officer and JROTC Senior Army Instructor. Vona’s last active duty Army assignment was as the Chief of Staff of the United States Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Ga. He began his career in the Army as a second lieutenant at Fort Benning in 1972 and ended his career as the senior colonel at Fort Benning in 2012. Compared to the RTOC Community, Vona served a tour as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Furman University. While teaching at Furman, he was selected as RTOC’s Instructor of the Year and was awarded the Army ROTC’s Academic Award. He also commanded Cadet Command’s Second Brigade stationed at Fort Dix, N.J. Upon retirement from active duty, Vona immediately accepted the position of Senior Army Instructor at Hillsborough High School in Tampa, Fla. (2003-2006). At Hillsborough, an inner-city high school, he coached and built a State Championship Rifle Team. He then transferred to Newsome High School in Lithia, Fla. where he opened a new JROTC program (2005-2014). During his nine years at Newsome High School, Vona’s JROTC program quickly became known as an excellent unit within Cadet Command. His cadets achieved many State level championships in Color Guard, Rifle Team, Drill Team and Raider Challenge Team competitions. His Rifle Team was 3rd in the Nation at Fort Benning’s 2013 Army National Competition. Vona credits his own JROTC experience at Plant High School and his GMC experience with setting the foundation for his successful military career. Both programs gave him the self-confidence to face life’s challenges, and he often told his cadets’ “success breeds success.” Col. Vona now lives in Valrico, Fla.

'77 Rhonda Harding Hincapie

(HS ’77) is once again in happy possession of her GMC GMCS ring, which was lost by her daughter while swimming in the ocean with her friend in June 2006 at Moonlight Beach in Encinitas, Ca. It was returned through the help of Dan Knight, member of a metal detecting club on the East Coast that pride itself on helping find lost items. Knight read about the ring in an online “forum” when it was first recovered and pointed out the e-mail to Earlene Hamilton, alumni coordinator at GMC. Hamilton in turn was ultimately able to contact the West Coast “detectors” Gane Edwards, a Viet Nam veteran, and his wife Wendy, who had found the ring in 2008 about two feet under the wet sand. Hamilton then put Edwards and Hincapie in touch by email, and after some time, the ring was eventually returned. After meeting the Edwards and receiving the ring, Hincapie wrote to Hamilton, “This is such an amazing story that my ring was found …… it’s truly a gift!”

Georgia National Guard Promotes

GMC Alumni to Top Leadership Roles

Dickerson

The role of brigade commander in the Georgia National Guard is an elite leadership role critical to the success of the armed forces. In fact, there are only five brigade commanders in the state – and GMC alumni now hold two of those positions.

Col. Jeffrey C. Dickerson, JC ’87, and Col. Reginald G. A. Neal, JC ’89, assumed command of their units in Dec. 2014 and Feb. 2015 respectively. For selection for a brigade commander assignment, a candidate must hold key developmental jobs of increasing responsibility during their military career and typically hold the rank of colonel. Additionally, the education of the candidate is a key factor in selection, and both officers agree their educations at GMC were critical turning points in their lives.

“When I look back on my life and ask what I did to set conditions for my future, going to GMC is one of the top two things I ever did,” says Dickerson. “GMC developed my leadership skills, gave me discipline, and gave me the self-confidence I needed to be successful in the military. I have benefitted so much from my time at GMC, and am so proud to be a graduate.”

Neal agrees, saying his time at GMC has always been a defining one in his life. “Life as a cadet in the ’80s was tough, but I learned if I was willing to overcome those challenges through hard work and determination I could make it,” he says. “When it all was over I understood that the only limitations are the ones you place on yourself.”

Dickerson commands the 1,200 soldiers of the 560th Battlefield Brigade in Cumming, Ga. This brigade is responsible for reconnaissance, surveillance and intelligence gathering for commanders.

Neal is a few hours due south in Macon, Ga., commanding the approximately 3,000 soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). The IBCT is the Army’s base combat fighting force and contains two combat infantry battalions, a field artillery battalion, an engineer battalion and a support battalion. Its ability to deploy rapidly and operate in complex terrain distinguishes it from other brigade combat teams.

Morgan

Emery Joe Morgan (JC ’88) competed in his first Ironman distance race of 140.6 miles in Wilmington, N.C. at the Beach to Battleground Triathlon in October. The distance started with a 2.4 mile open water swim, then

GMC Names New Executive Director for Sandersville Campus

In January 2015, GMC named COL E. Yancey Walker, IV, HS ’70, United States Air Force (Ret.) as executive director of its Sandersville campus. In this new role, COL Walker is responsible for all campus operations.

“I am already inspired by the sense of energy among our faculty, staff and students. I am also grateful for the enthusiastic support extended by our local government officials, community leaders and alumni,” he says.

COL Walker earned a bachelor’s degree from OCSU, an MBA degree from Augusta College and holds a Master of Health Administration degree from Duke University. Following a lengthy career in healthcare administration in the U.S. Air Force, he retired as a colonel in 2005. He then served as CFO for his church in San Antonio. “I’ve now come full circle back to GMC,” he says. “This school served as my own professional and personal springboard, and I’m very much ready to give back.”
a 112 mile bike ride, and ended with a 28.2-mile run. He placed in the top five in the Master Clydesdale Division with a time of 14 hours and 17 minutes. Morgan is now retired from the Columbia, S.C. Police Department after 25 years of service and is currently working at the Irmo, S.C. YMCA as a wellness coach. He plans to continue competing in triathlon races as his retirement hobby.

BG Jonathan J. McColumn receives his stars

LTC Derek Bean

for the US Army through its eight major Army Materiel Command, is responsible for RDECOM, a subordinate command of the US

'90

officially take command of the 103rd Sustain

tions in Iraq and Afghanistan as a contracting Reserve, including stints supporting opera

er and in addition to his GMC degree holds a

this. “ McColumn is an ordained Baptist preach

throughout the United States be a part of

have so many people from so many places

tavel. McColumn said of the day, “I don’t have

to Brigadier General in the US Army. McCol

Master Clydesdale Division with a time of 14

a 112 mile bike ride, and ended with a

Cotton

Bean and Ivey

Ollie Strickland (HS ’96 and former GMC employee) was among UGA alumni who

to be considered for the list, each organization must have been in business for at least five years, experienced revenues in excess of $100,000 for the calendar year, and be owned or operated by a former UGA student who owns at least 50 percent of the company or be the CEO, president or managing partner.

Chris Wieters (HS ’96) was awarded the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation on July 18, 2014. Chris’ financial planning practice serves clients in several states and is based in Atlanta and Macon, Ga. He and his wife, Krista Wieters, welcomed the arrival of their second son, Andrew Raymond Wieters, on February 2, 2015.

Jonathan Benjamin Bright (HS ’05) was recently sworn into the Georgia Bar Association at the Baldwin County Courthouse in Milledgeville. His parents, District Attorney Grant McElroy and sons, Andrew Raymond Wieters, welcomed the arrival of their

Cotton

Wieters, and participated in the Cooperative Education Program.

Cotton

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Cotton

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Cotton

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Epsilon, where he served on the Executive Board as the Vice President of Recruitment. Vance was also an active member of numerous other groups on campus including the Deian William Tate Honor Society, Student Managed Investment Fund, Terry College of Business Student Ambassadors, and was named “Who’s Who at the Terry College of Business.” He will begin his career in Atlanta this June as an Investment Analyst for Prudential Capital Group.

1LT James Cotton (JC ’10) was promoted to Captain in the US Army Chemical Corps on March 27, 2015.

CPT Gluck F. Hunter (JC ’10) and his wife Kandice are expecting twins, a boy and a girl, in May 2015. Hunter is currently with the 3d Cavalry Regiment and stationed at Fort Hood Texas.

CPT Don T. Lopes (JC ’10) is assigned to Task Force Coral 2/6, 2nd Airborne Combat Aviation Brigade (CAV) at Fort Bragg, N.C. and is currently deployed in Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Resolute Support.

1 LT Kong M. Thao (JC ’10) with the HHBN, 10th Mountain Division Artillery and 3/28th Airborne Combat Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C. recently shared a bit of advice for recent Early Commissioning program graduates - “Focus on school first. Don’t let being a 2LT at your new school get in your head, because my best friend who came in with me at the same time didn’t make it because he didn’t finish school on time.” And, in the spirit of mentorship, Thao also added, “Tell everyone they can feel free to email me, or call me about school on time. “ And, in the spirit of mentorship, Thao also offered, “Tell everyone they can get to your head, because my best friend who came in with me at the same time didn’t make it because he didn’t finish school on time.” And, in the spirit of mentorship, Thao also offered, “Tell everyone they can get to your head, because my best friend who came in with me at the same time didn’t make it because he didn’t finish school on time.”

Jared William Sowell (HS ’14) left for boot camp at Forts Island, S.C. in November that same year. While at boot camp Sowell qualified as a rifle expert; was platoon high shooter; was mentionantly promoted to Private First Class; and graduated boot camp on January 30, 2015. After a short visit home, he then went to the Infantry Training Battalion at Camp Egger, N.C. and attended his required Marine Combat Training. Sowell finished the training on March 20, and will remain attached to the same battalion for his Marine Occupational Specialty training where he will continue training to be an 0331 machine gunner. He will graduate from his formal schools in April 2015 and will be deployed to the Fleet Marine Force as needed.

“If no one weep for me, or celebrate my funeral with mourning; for I still live, as I pass to and fro through the mouths of men.” – Quintus Ennius

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You may also mail to: The Cadence, Office of College Relations, 201 East Greene Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061

Please provide your class year(s), degree(s), address, phone number and email.

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