

## LOCAL



Ryan Smith / Rome News-Tri

Randy Pierce (from left), president of Georgia Highlands College; Tommy Hopkins, Board of Regents; and Satin Cochran, human services major at the school, talk during lunch.

## REGENTS from 1A

GHAME is led by English professor Jon Hershey and is funded through grant money from the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative.

Dana Davis, director of college relations, said the program was started in 2008 in response to regents' concerns that minority student enrollment numbers were low and retention rates were even lower.

Hershey notes that the program has grown from seven students to 46. To be involved in GHAME and B2B, students must sign a contract stating they will attend class, spend four hours a week studying at the tutoring center or library, and agree to be a peer mentor after their second year at GHC.

"The thing that makes the program successful is that these guys have made it into a family," Hershey said.

Anthony Donaldson, a sophomore at GHC, said GHAME has given him opportunities he otherwise would have missed.

"This really is a brotherhood. I have learned so much from my fellow members. I have learned to be a leader. I have done things with this group I never before like go to plays and museums," Donaldson said.

Board of Regents member Larry E. Harris said the program appeared to be successful, and he hopes to see similar programs implemented across the board and not just to minorities.

"If it works here it should work everywhere else," Harris said. "Why can't we implement this across the board and not just for African-Americans? All students could benefit from this."