

GEORGIA  
HIGHLANDS  
COLLEGE



The University System of Georgia

AA/EE/EEO Institution

ADA

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# Thirty-Sixth COMMENCEMENT

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May 13, 2006

## Academic Regalia

Stylized and distinctive academic regalia is a notable feature of all formal functions of colleges and universities throughout the world. The use of a particular kind of costume to distinguish university scholars evolved in Europe during the earliest days of these schools. Since there was an intimate relationship between the early universities and the church, a large number of scholars were prepared for the priesthood and many of the faculty were clergymen. The garb adopted for students was similar to that worn by the clergy, although differing enough in design to set the scholars apart from the churchmen.

There are three types of gowns, three styles of hoods and two kinds of cap tassels included in American academic costume. The bachelor's gown is without ornamentation and has long, pointed and open sleeves; the master's gown is similar, but has even longer sleeves, which are closed at the bottom (there are openings about midway for the hands); the doctor's gown has full-length lapels of velvet and bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars. The master's gown may be worn either open or closed.

All hoods are lined with the colors of the institution granting the degree and faced with the traditional color of the primary field of study. The bachelor's hood is three feet long; the master's hood is three and a half; the doctor's hood is four. The doctor's hood has wide-set panels. The major field of study can be determined from the facing on the hood according to the following schemes: arts white, science gold/yellow, nursing apricot, physical education green, business administration drab, librarianship lemon, education blue.

The mace, a great and splendid staff, is actually a club and a symbolic weapon. Medieval universities would not defend themselves with the sword. It was not considered appropriate for gentle scholars to draw blood, but they could defend themselves using a cudgel, and they did. The mace has come to stand as a symbol for two critical matters. First, it stands for the freedom of the academy to seek the truth and to teach it. It also stands for the authority of the academy. This authority is best described by two traditional Latin terms: magisterium and auctoritas. Magisterium includes control of equipment, buildings and grounds, as well as the behavior of members and visitors to ensure order and liberty. The second term auctoritas includes a defense of the liberty to conduct research, to study, to publish and to learn. The mace makes the statement that the academy must protect and foster those ideals.

The Georgia Highlands College mace was designed by Mr. David Mott, associate professor of art, and Dr. David Cook, retired professor of biology. The faculty selected Ms. Carolyn Parks, associate professor of child development and director, student success centers, to have the honor of carrying the mace in the processional.

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES Dr. J. Randy Pierce, President, Presiding

### \*PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 in D Major, OP. 39 ..... *Elgar*  
*Mace Bearer, Ms. Carolyn Parks, Associate Professor of Child Development and Director, Student Success Centers*

### WELCOME

*Lori Momon, Chairperson, Student Engagement Council and President, Phi Theta Kappa*  
**COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

*Congressman Phil Gingrey, United States House of Representatives, 11th District of Georgia*  
**PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL AWARDS**

*Dr. J. Randy Pierce*

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

*The Honorable Joe Frank Harris, former governor and regent*

### WESLEY C. WALRAVEN FACULTY AWARD

*To be announced*

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

*Dr. Virginia Carson, Vice President for Academic Affairs*

*Assisted by Ms. Travice Obas, Instructor in Communications*

### AWARDING OF DEGREES

*Dr. J. Randy Pierce*

*Assisted by: Ms. Sandie Davis, Registrar, and Ms. Sherri Beideck, Graduation Specialist, Enrollment Management*

### COMMENTS TO THE GRADUATES

*Dr. J. Randy Pierce*

### GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Ms. Lesley J. Henderson, President*

### CLOSING

*Adam Lee, 2006 Academic Recognition Day Representative*

### \*RECESSIONAL

*Psalm XLX.....Marcello*

*\*Audience will please stand.*

*The audience is asked to remain standing until the processional and recessional are complete.*

*Only hand-held video cameras will be allowed and must be used from your seat. Still photos may be taken only from behind the graduate seating area.*

*Music provided by Carolyn Walker.*

*Interpreters provided by the Georgia Highlands College Access Center.*

*The Georgia Highlands College Alumni Association will be represented by Ms. Kelli Thomas, advancement office, alumni support.*

*Sound engineering and digital keyboard provided in cooperation with Ready or Not, Inc., Lee Shealy.*

*Large-screen video production by Georgia Highlands Television.*

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

### Rep. Phil Gringrey

Rep. Phil Gringrey, a physician and resident of Marietta, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002. He now serves on the House Rules Committee and was previously on the House Armed Services Committee, the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Science Committee.

He also served as a state senator in the Georgia General Assembly from 1998 to 2002 and on the Marietta school board from 1993 to 1997. He won the Earnest Barrett Outstanding Leadership Award in 1996 and he has been active in The Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts, Leadership Cobb, Focus Cobb and his church.

The congressman earned his Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology and his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia. He practiced medicine as an obstetrician and gynecologist in Marietta for 26 years before entering politics. He is a member of the Medical Association of Georgia, the American Medical Association and the Georgia OB-GYN Society.

## PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Pierce chose former Governor Joe Frank Harris, one of the most formative leaders in education policy, for this year's award. Appointed to the Board of Regents in 1999, he was the first former governor to join the board. He was elected by fellow board members to serve as its chair in 2002 and re-elected to that position in 2003.

But Harris made education policy a priority long before his tenure at the Board of Regents. One of the hallmarks of his governorship was the education reform he implemented. He engineered the unanimous passage in the General Assembly of the Quality Basic Education Act, which made full-day kindergarten available to all Georgia students and required teachers to pass certification tests to demonstrate their subject proficiency. During his two terms, he increased funding for education by \$2 billion and raised teacher salaries by nearly 70 percent. He built or renovated 1,100 elementary and secondary school facilities. He established the Department of Technical and Adult Education and allocated almost \$1 billion annually to the University System of Georgia.

At the end of his terms, he returned to Cartersville where he served on a number of boards and still found time for his interest in education. In 1994 he became the first Distinguished Executive Fellow at Georgia State University and a public affairs professor there. Harris is a member of the University of Georgia Foundation Board of Trustees, a former member of the Mercer University School of Medicine Board of Trustees and an honorary board member of the Kennesaw State University and Reinhardt College foundations.

He holds honorary doctoral degrees from Mercer University, Morris Brown College, the Woodrow Wilson College of Law, Ashbury College and LaGrange College. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Georgia.

### Honor Graduates (Gold Tassel):

*Summa Cum Laude 3.90-4.0 – Graduation Grade Point Average*

*Magna Cum Laude 3.70-3.89 – Graduation Grade Point Average*

*Cum Laude 3.50-3.69 – Graduation Grade Point Average*

✧ *Phi Theta Kappa (Gold Stole) Members of the National Honor Society for two-year colleges*

✧ *Psi Beta (Gold and Blue Honors Cord) Members of the National Psychology Honor Society for two-year colleges*

### ● HOPE Scholarship Recipients

*The HOPE Scholarship Program in Georgia has provided financial assistance to many Georgia Highlands College students each year since its inception in 1993. This year 46% of our graduating class received HOPE financial assistance in the form of scholarship funds and/or book allowances. Georgia Highlands College thanks our legislative representatives for continuing this program for deserving students.*

## Candidates for Graduation

### Associate of Arts

- Emily Ruth Bohannon
- Heather Renee Bryans
- Candice M. Callaway
- Brittany D. Chambers
- Brian Cook
- John B. Durden
- Ebony Carmen Everett
- Evan Fleetwood
- Susan Flores

- Matt Brandon Hall
- Georgia Erin Henderson
- Charles Casey Jones
- Jeffrey L. Lawler
- Kina Eugella Lewis
- Kerianna Elise Pettett
- Diandra Nicole Pile
- Kimberly Lynn Prater
- Peggy M. Pulliam

- Deidre Michelle Ringer
- Casey Leigh Shore
- Jennifer Smith
- Angela Renee Spranza
- Angela Renee Spranza
- Crystal Dawn Studard
- Rosetta Williams-Sullivan



### Associate of Science

- Lauren Michelle Abrams
- Fabiola Josefina Aguilera
- Stefanie Beth Anderson
- Alyssa Marie Anderson
- Robert Allen Andrews
- Marina N. Aquino
- John Edson Bailey
- Sharon Kristi Bare
- Rebekah Barnett
- Kristy Lyn Belcher
- Karen Suzanne Bennett
- Robert Shane Bishop
- Pamela S. Blakeney
- Ashley Nicole Boling
- Martha D. Broome
- Robert Lee Cavin Jr
- Robert Lee Cavin Jr
- Katherine Davis Chadwick

- Brittany D. Chambers
- Amy Barber Chappell
- John Ronald Chason
- Jessica Brooke Chenoweth
- Jacob Mayson Cheshire
- Gregory Michael Christian
- Israel D. Christopher
- Amanda Grace Chriswell
- Nancy Dawn Clanton
- Kelly LeAnn Clark
- Jeanne Ann Coleman
- Natasha B. Cooper
- Michael Lauren Crawford
- Wanda F. Crider
- Brittany L. Culpepper
- DeVona Lee Daniel
- Michael Braden Davis
- Lauren Leffew DeBoard

- Roseanna M. Densmore
- Trisha Lynn Desantis
- Megan Judith Dixon
- Tri Duc Doan
- Michael Joseph Dodson
- Malinda Elise Dugger
- Mandy J. Dupree
- Lorrica Ann Earwood
- Amber Edwards
- John D. Eller
- James Matthew Elrod
- Stephanie Nicole English
- Matthew T. Evans
- Sherri Farmer
- Jennifer Ferrick
- Christina Fleming
- Kelly Ann Fountain

### Associate of Science Continued

- Candice Wells Fowler
- Jonathan William Fowler
- Leigh Ann Fowler
- Kenneth G. Futch
- Janore Lee Gaines
- Donna Edwards Garland
- Amy Elizabeth Garrett
- Kayla Garrett
- Brandon Cleveland Gordon
- Crystle Leigh Gordon
- Norris L. Gravitt, Jr.
- Carly Elizabeth Green
- Tricia Ann Green
- Zachary Cuyler Green
- Mario Vance Gresham
- Kelley Sheree Grubbs
- Amanda Nichole Gurley
- Brittany Mae Hall
- Beverly Lynn Hancock
- Ashley Nicole Hand
- Zena Marie Hanner-Buckley
- Eunice Harris
- LaFaye S. Harris
- Jesse Collins Hatcher
- Elizabeth Irene Hatcher
- Daniel Helton
- Dawn Traylor Henderson
- Brandon Herder
- Sandra Hernandez
- Tangela Dalon Houston
- Angela R. Howard
- Amy Kristin Hughes
- Seth Andrew Ingram
- Laura L. Jennings
- Eleanor Jeanne Johnson
- Jeffrey Wayne Johnson
- Michael A. Jones
- Amanda May Jordan
- Paulette Patricia Jordan
- Nancy Kamau
- Jessica Lynn Kemp
- James Kimberly
- Elizabeth Padge King
- Michael L. Kitchens
- Renee J. Lamb
- Adam David Lee
- Meagan Lemaster
- Billy J. Lockaby
- Trung Ly
- Rachael A Maloney
- Mark Markham
- Amy Louise Martin
- Randie Mayo
- Terry McAbee
- Louis Kyle McClure
- Shannon Nichole McCoy
- Michelle Treglown McElveen
- Joseph William McMichen
- Scott A. Mears
- Lauren K. Mears
- Lisa Marie Melendez
- Hillary Brianna Melton
- Melissa Meyer
- Mark Adam Middleton
- Lori L. Momon
- Catherine Monroe
- Jessica Lynn Montgomery
- Carla Joyce Nixon
- Phillip Gregory Nolen
- Ashley Marenda Nugent
- Gregory Peter Nyahay
- Brandi Ann Odom
- Grace Olumayowa Orekoya
- Kristin Leigh Parks
- Selena Lynn Parrish
- Amy Pavlik
- Jo Anne Pelfrey
- Callie Anna Pendley
- Jeremy Peppers
- Monica M. Perkins
- Tera Ponder
- April M. Pope
- Jill Suzanne Puckett
- Tyra Paige Rakestraw
- Paula Christine Ray
- Leigh Lorraine Roberts
- Elizabeth Ann Rodriguez
- Glenda R. Rogers
- Jamie Rae Rohler
- Angela Ross
- Anila Joyce Roy
- Shira Breanne Rummel

- Shirley Jeanne Rutledge
- Ashley Sanders
- Whitney Michelle Sanders
- Andrew Scarber
- Kristy Lynn Scott  
Lori Amanda Sparks  
Lori Ann Starkey
- Brian Alexander Strickland  
Tonya Nicole Strickland
- Karen Theresa Stuenkel  
Ellen Moss Sturwold
- Tiffany Ann Sulsberger
- Dustin M. Taylor  
Amy M. Tice
- Stormy Lynn Townsend
- Nathan Ryan Tucker
- Regina Marie Turner
- Lacey Nicole Vinson
- Sandra Lea Wade  
Morgan Benjamin Walker  
Rickie Flynn Watters  
Lashunda Darzelle Watters
- Kenya Suzanne Webb
- Kristy Ann Webb
- Christopher E. Wellman  
Benjamin D. West  
Josephine Esther West
- Debra Westbrook  
Joseph M. Wharton
- Marilyn Reay Wheeler
- Whitney Renee White  
Jason Wilder  
Angela Williams
- Adam Matthew Williams
- Jamie Kathleen Williams  
Crystal Y. Willis
- Lorri Wills
- Connie Denise Wilson
- Jennifer Wilson
- Mariann Wolverton
- Marcella A. Woodall
- Loretta Woods  
Ashley Lynn Woody
- Elizabeth Doris Wright  
Kayla Marie Wright

## Associate of Science in Nursing

- Traci Lynn Abernathy
- Bethany Nicole Alcorn
- Malissa Brooke Allen
- Tommi Amanda Anderson
- Angela S. Bailey
- Carrie Frances Barr
- Mary Elizabeth Borders
- Pavlinka A. Borissova
- Stephanie Norman Bowley
- Megan Anne Bramblett
- Kimberly Hatcher Brock
- Robert E. Brooks
- Misty Gayla Burkhalter
- Ashley Nicole Campbell
- Amber Camille Cason
- Stefanie Christopher-Kellis
- John Coheleach
- Jessica Lorraine Collins
- Allison Nicole Cornett
- Brittany Allison Dixon
- Linda Donaldson
- Cary Lee Eldridge
- Matthew Lee Estes
- Mira B. Fobi
- Jina Ford
- Penny Rene Fountain
- Katrina Lavelle Freeman
- Rhona Gainous
- Jaime Catherine Gibson-West
- Rickey Glenn Gilbreath

- Kendall Ginn
- Allan N. Gitau
- Gloria Genise Grimes
- Charles Hardaker
- Linsey Michelle Hartley
- Jan Marie Hartness
- Matthew Steven Holland
- Malisa A. Holmes
- Ashley Elizabeth Johnson
- India LaShane Johnson
- Tiffany Rogers Johnson
- Kasia Mikial Johnston
- Jennifer Lynn Jones
- Elizabeth Kariuki
- Joseph K. Karuga
- Susan Jean Kennedy
- Kathleen Layman
- Brenda Bryant Lowry
- Kevin Gregory McFarland
- Amanda McFry
- Kurt Denny McGinnis
- Maria Cheri McTyre
- Jannah Curtis Melton
- Carrie C. Mijon
- Mark Daniel Minton
- Mindy C. Momon
- Annette Gracita Moncion
- Amy Michelle Montgomery
- Julie M. Morin
- Melina Ann Morris

- Renonda B. Olney
- Mary Frances Owens
- Sonia Lee Pack-Clark
- Penny Suzette Payne
- Carrie A. Peek
- Marioly Pena-Donady
- Brooke L. Plunkett
- DeLeah Ramey
- Kathy Lenora Ray
- Sheila Denise Worsham Roberts
- Alvaro N.Roldan
- Sheri Ross
- Latrice Russell
- Michelle Shuler
- Amanda R. Smith
- Tonya J. Smith
- Tiffany DeeAnn Smith
- Lea Smith
- Sherri C. Staggs
- Maria Staikov
- Kimberly Raye Sutton
- Teena A. Tinch
- Thomas R. Vautour
- Lauren Diana Wetzel
- Deanna Lynn Wood
- Jennifer Christine Wrin
- Orlena Wyatt
- Laura Ellen Yarbrough



## Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene

- Kelly Adair Armitage
- Britany Nicole Beavers
- Brooke Cason
- Amanda Brooke Dubiski
- Lottie Rose Duncan

- Tia Marie Fogt
- Ashleigh Nicole Gresham  
Rhonda Hendrix  
Ashley Erin Langshaw
- Julie A. McNeil

- Jennifer Michelle Smith**  
 • **Toni Denise Sunrich**  
**Kelly Underwood**  
 • **Amanda M. Wilmoth**

# Associate of Applied Science

- Steven Cecil Abel

- Gail Elaine Black
  - Maria Borea
  - Travis Bullock
  - Laura Camargo
  - RobertL. Cannon
  - Jonathan Michael Cawood
  - Susan Marie Chapman
  - Kathy Cameron Coker
  - Steve C. Cottrell
  - Carol Hardy Crocker
  - Jennifer R. Elrod
  - Rose Edeline Estime
- Priscilla Faulkner
  - Jennifer N. Garrett
  - Billy Gilleland
  - Virgil Hans
  - Sandra Marie Helm
  - Amy Lynn Hyde
  - Doris Charlene Jablonski
  - Miranda L. Johnson
  - Jessica Elaine Johnson
  - Justin Daniel Lee
  - Elhadji Mbodji
  - Julia Phillips
  - Mary N. Poindexter
- David Aaron Rizer

Horace Caldwell Robinson

- Eric L. Sanders
  - Regina K. Sisk
  - Kimberly Nicole Smith
  - William Smith
  - Randy Scott Smith
  - Alaina Janette Stanbrough
  - Cody Lee Tibbitts
  - Arthur Pierce Ward
  - Kathleen Ann Crumpler Webster
  - Frances Nichole Edna Williams
  - Michelle C. Wood



## Georgia Highlands College Alumni Association

Become a member of the Georgia Highlands College Alumni Association and participate in the college's future. Connect with fellow alumni, stay informed and take advantage of a host of benefits. Any person who attended Georgia Highlands College is eligible to join the alumni association.



The list of degree candidates was required by the printer several days prior to commencement to allow for the production of this program. The status of some candidates may have changed since that time. Some will not have completed all requirements for their degrees, and some will have achieved or lost honors status. The listing of the names in this program in no way implies an obligation on the part of Georgia Highlands College to award a given degree or a given honors status. For official purposes, a final correct list of graduates will be retained in the Office of the Registrar, Georgia Highlands College.

# GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## Board of Trustees

*Executive Director and Secretary*  
Judy L. Taylor

- Co-Chair .....

Co-Chair .....

Co-Vice Chair .....

Co-Vice Chair .....

Immediate Past Chair .....

Co-Treasurer .....

Co-Treasurer .....
- Danny Gibbs

Jerry Norman

Chip Shropshire

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Sue Spivey

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Kay Ann Wetherington
- David Archer

Dee Dellinger

Philip Bridges

Dr. John Cowan

Gay P. Dellinger

Greg Frisbee

James Jarrett

Steve McDaniel

Faye McCord

Tommy Strickland

Paul Battles

## Honorary Lifetime Members

- Julia Quigg Dodd

Sam Doss, Jr.
- Jo Heyman

James D. Maddox
- Murray Stein

Mark Webb

## GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Georgia Highlands College Foundation serves as a vital link between the institution and the communities it serves. Foundation trustees are responsible for ensuring that the college is positioned to meet the current and future needs of public higher education throughout Northwest Georgia.

The foundation works closely with the institution to support advancement activities, including development of a comprehensive campaign strategy with major gifts, annual fund and planned giving programs. Through these programs, donations from the private sector provide scholarships and support special funds, programs and services.

The foundation and the Office of Advancement are currently conducting the public phase of the college's first major gifts campaign. The leadership provided by the foundation trustees is essential to the success of the college. As a regional, multi-campus institution, Georgia Highlands is indebted to the community leaders who serve as foundation trustees and/or chairs of the major gifts campaign and who support the mission of GHC and embrace its vision.

## The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

J. Timothy Shelnut, Chair  
Hugh A. Carter, Jr.  
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**Erroll B. Davis, Jr.**  
Chancellor, University System of Georgia

The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents was created in 1931 as part of a reorganization of Georgia's state government. With this act, public higher education in Georgia was unified for the first time under a single governing and management authority. The governor appoints members to the board, who each serve seven years. Today the Board of Regents is composed of 16 members, five of whom are appointed from the state-at-large and one from each of the 11 districts. The board elects a chancellor who serves as its chief executive office and the chief administrative officer of the University System.

## Georgia Highlands College Senior Administrators

**Dr. J. Randy Pierce**  
President

**Dr. Virginia Carson**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Dr. Ronald D. Shade**  
Vice President for Student Development

**Dr. Wilbur Shuler**  
Vice President for Finance and Administration

## Georgia Highlands College Graduation Air Times

The graduation ceremony will be broadcast on Comcast Cable, Channel 4 HGTV on the following days and times:

*Monday May 15th/May 22nd*  
11 a.m.

*Tuesday May 16th/May 23rd*  
2 p.m.

*Wednesday May 17th/May 24th*  
8 a.m.  
1 p.m.

*Thursday May 18th/May 25th*  
2 p.m.

*Saturday May 20th/May 27th*  
8 a.m.  
12 noon  
4 p.m.

*Sunday May 21st/May 28th*  
8 a.m.  
12 noon  
4 p.m.

## The History of Georgia Highlands College

In its 36-year history, Georgia Highlands College has served the Northwest Georgia community with a solid educational foundation for the first two years of college. Founded in 1970 as Floyd Junior College, GHC is a two-year unit of the University System of Georgia. It serves students who commute from throughout a large portion of Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama.

In 1968, the Board of Regents of the University System authorized the establishment of Floyd Junior College in Floyd County. Under the board's policy, the local community provided a campus site and funds for the construction of the initial facilities. Led by the Junior College Committee headed by Rome attorney J.D. Maddox, Floyd County citizens responded enthusiastically by approving a \$3.2 million bond issue by a margin of nearly three to one. Construction began in early 1970. The college's first classes were offered during the fall quarter of 1970 in temporary facilities. At the end of 1970, all operations were moved to the new campus on Highway 27 (Cedartown Highway), six miles south of Rome.

Dr. David B. McCorkle became the first president of Floyd Junior College on January 1, 1970, and served in that position until June 30, 1991. Following Dr. McCorkle's retirement, Dr. Richard Trimble was appointed acting president of the college and served until the November 1992 selection of Dr. H. Lynn Cundiff as the college's second president. Dr. Cundiff left the college in August 2000. During the 2001 academic year, Robert Watts served as interim president. The Board of Regents named Dr. J. Randolph Pierce the third president of Floyd College on June 15, 2001.

Now enrolling about 3,700 students in transfer and career academic programs, Georgia Highlands College operates additional sites in Cartersville, Acworth, Marietta and Carrollton. The college began offering classes in Marietta on the campus of Southern Polytechnic State University fall semester 2005. The college has also pioneered cooperative programs with Coosa Valley Technical College as early as 1972 and now offers joint programs with North Metro Technical College. Mostly recently, the college has received approval from the Board of Regents and the Georgia Board of Nursing to expand our flagship nursing program to Acworth. A class of 25 nursing students will begin taking classes there during fall semester 2006, a move that will help ease the nursing shortage in Northwest Georgia.

In recent years, the college has become more innovative with its outreach and programming, offering more courses via nontraditional means to meet the needs of its diverse student population and initiating programs that serve as models for college across the country.

In 1994, the college opened Heritage Hall in downtown Rome to be more accessible to the working student. GHTV, a 24-hour cable television station went on the air that same year. It offers classes that could be viewed multiple times a week for students with scheduling conflicts. An open-access channel, GHTV is broadcast in Floyd County through the Comcast cable system.

In 1999, construction was completed on a new classroom building on the central campus in Rome. In addition to classrooms, the Lakeview Building features an art lab, an art gallery and an exhibit hall. The college's student center has also recently undergone extensive expansion and renovation.

Last year as fall semester 2005 was beginning, the college dedicated our new campus and building in Cartersville, on Route 20, just west of I-75. Immediately, enrollment there jumped by 50 percent. The 100-square-foot facility, which houses a soaring library, biology and physics labs and the latest technological advances, can accommodate about 2,000 students. During the first semester, Cartersville enrollment reached 1,181.

Georgia Highlands College, which has grown significantly during the past three years, continues to offer an advanced educational foundation to its expanding student body. On August 1, 2005, the institution officially became Georgia Highlands College to reflect the regional nature of the population it serves. Today's graduates are distinguished as the first graduating class for Georgia Highlands College. Your continuing support and comments are always appreciated.