

GEORGIA  
HIGHLANDS  
COLLEGE



Celebrating GHC's mission  
change to a state college  
May 10, 2011

The University System of Georgia



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# Forty - First COMMENCEMENT

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May 14, 2011

## 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 ensuring 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 Dr. John Reiners, professor of business and economics, to have the honor this year of carrying the mace in the processional.

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

### \*PROCESSIONAL

Fanfare .....Giovanni Battista Gordigiani  
The Kilworth Hills/Loch Maree .....McLennan  
Pomp and Circumstance ..... Sir Edward Elgar  
*Mace Bearer, Dr. John Reiners, Professor of Business and Economics*

### WELCOME

*Maggie Jackson, Phi Theta Kappa member*

### GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF REGENTS

*Willis Potts, Chair, Board of Regents*

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

*Dr. Steve Blankenship, Assistant Professor of History*

*Response: Lindsey Carden, 2011 Chancellor's Academic Recognition Scholar*

### GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Ms. Brandi Gulow, Class of 2010*

### PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL AWARDS

*Dr. J. Randy Pierce*

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

*Dr. Jon Hershey, Chair, Division of Humanities and Professor of English*

### WESLEY C. WALRAVEN FACULTY AWARD

*To be announced*

### COMMENTS TO THE GRADUATES

*Dr. J. Randy Pierce*

### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

*Dr. Renva Watterson, Vice President for Academic Affairs*

*Assisted by Ms. Travice Obas, Assistant Professor of Communications*

### AWARDING OF DEGREES

*Dr. J. Randy Pierce*

*Assisted by Ms. Sandie Davis, Registrar, and Ms. Sherri Beideck, Assistant Registrar,  
Enrollment Management*

### CLOSING

*Michael Geibel, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Engagement Council Member*

### \*RECESSIONAL

*Scotland the Brave Medley .....Traditional*

*\*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 Joe Dunaway, bagpipes.*

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

*The Georgia Highlands College Alumni Association will be represented by Mrs. Alison Lampkin, alumni director.*

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

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

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

### Dr. Steve Blankenship

Dr. Steven R. Blankenship has taught full time at the college since 2005, and now holds the position of assistant professor of history. He is fully engaged in the college community, serving on numerous committees, acting as a mentor for new faculty and serving as instructor to the first history honors course this spring. Dr. Blankenship was GHC's nominee for the Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching in 2010. He was the recipient of the John A. Alexander Memorial Award to the Outstanding Graduate Student in History at Georgia State University in 2004. He was also a founding member of the Faculty Association for Interdisciplinary Research and Pedagogy in 2009. He is a member of the Phi Alpha Theta Honorary Society, the Southern Historical Society, the American Historical Association, the World History Association and the Association of Georgia State Historians. Dr. Blankenship holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of North Florida, a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in history from Georgia State University. His topic today is "Leaving Friendly Footprints."

## RESPONSE TO THE GRADUATES' CHARGE

### Lindsey Carden

Lindsey Carden, graduating with a chemistry major, is responding today to Dr. Blankenship's charge to graduates. She was the Chancellor's Academic Recognition Scholar from GHC this year, and she is a member of the GHC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the honorary society for two-year colleges. She has been an active member of Green Highlands, a student organization that promotes sustainable lifestyles. She recently won the Business Merit Award at GHC's honors night.

## PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Pierce has chosen Dr. Jon Hershey as the recipient of this award for 2011. As a member of the college faculty since 1983, he has distinguished himself at Georgia Highlands and in the Rome/Floyd County community by working diligently with at-risk and minority students. He has consistently found ways to help them succeed in primary and secondary school and at the college level. Most recently Dr. Hershey received the Best Practices Leadership Award from the University System of Georgia for his work developing the Georgia Highlands African-American and Minority Male Excellence initiative to retain and graduate these populations, which have lagged behind other cohorts in attendance and graduation rates. He also won the Rome Heart of the Community award in 2005 for similar work helping disadvantaged youth in Rome and Floyd County. He works tirelessly each year as the co-director at our Foundation Camp, which provides at-risk boys the opportunity to experience what a college environment has to offer. Many of our faculty and staff are also involved in giving these boys an enriched experience in sports, nutrition and even polite behavior and dress. He developed and implemented an after-school creative writing program for students in 2004 at Anna K. Davies, Main and West Central Elementary Schools. The effort also included a service learning component for GHC students to work with children. Dr. Hershey holds a Doctor of Philosophy in creative writing and English from Georgia State University, a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and English and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Alabama.

### 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 – Members of the National Honor Society for two-year colleges*

*Psi Beta – Members of the National Psychology Honor Society for two-year colleges*

### ■ Phi Theta Kappa Graduates

### ● 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. Georgia Highlands College thanks our legislative representatives for continuing this program for deserving students.*

## Candidates for Graduation

### Associate of Arts

Jennifer Lynn Abbott  
Aaron Danton Ashworth  
• Marika Jenna Ray Ashworth  
Zachary Michael Baker  
• Dovie Amanda Barfield  
Jacqueline Ann Bartelmo  
Benjamin Allison Botkins  
• Patti Woodall Boxerman  
• Patrick Kevin Boyd  
Brittany Auriette Brown  
■ Jonathan K. Brown  
• Ryan C. Bucki  
Deidra Leigh Bush  
• Shawn C. Carver  
Amy Elizabeth Chadwick  
Kristen Danielle Chumley  
• Ana Nacole Clayton  
• Lacie Elizabeth Clonts  
Amanda Christine Collins  
• Callie Lynne Crook  
■ Christina Marie Crothers  
• Lori Deanna Dotson  
William Corey Dowdy  
Raul Echavarria  
Pamela Suzanne Ford

• Leanna Jean Gable  
Melissa Ann Garner  
Julie M. Gazerro  
Joshua Scott Glover  
Jessica Mary-Nichole Gresham  
Mariah Lorain Hickman  
• Amber Renea Hoag  
Kristina Glaze Holder  
• Ammericia Riva' Holliday  
• Hannah Hope Hudgens  
Matthew Lee Jackson  
■ • Joseph Henry Johnson  
• Vanessa C. Jones  
• Lacy Shallynn Keene  
• April Shay Kelly  
• Joshua Bradley Kerce  
• Stephanie Burnell Kinsey  
• Seth Lee Lang  
• Tonya M. Lopez  
■ Thomas Rowley Lynch  
Gabrielle Jane Marangakis  
Kellen Marie May  
Kimberly Rebecca McCarthy  
• Derrick Lee Mitchell  
■ Lori A. Morse

• Paula Harrison Mullinax  
Amerilisa D. Nadir  
■ • Tammy McDougal Nicholson  
Maxie Afua Brago Nyame  
Lourie Pak  
Tracy Marie Pittman  
■ Ashley Nichole Poe  
Alexis Chalice Pullen  
Brandy Jean Ragsdale  
Kamal Karran Rattray  
■ • Amanda J. Ray  
Mary Kathryn Reid  
Armando Sanchez  
Brittany Nichole Self  
■ • Katie A. Shetter  
• Justin Curtis Smith  
■ • Chiara Amber VanTubbergen  
• Kelly Nichole Vetter  
Ashleigh Nicole Walsh  
Thomas Allen Wheatley  
Brittany Kayla Williams  
Shelley L. Womack  
■ • Angel Erica Wray  
■ • Orry Nicholas Young  
■ • Hanna Yu

## Associate of Science

- Katherine N. Abemathy
- Jasmine P. Ackey
- Rosemary L. Ajoseh
- Robert Bradley Allen
- • Phillip Charles Altamari
- Brent Daniel Anderson
- Emily Marie Atkinson
- • Cole Gregory Ayers
- Bryan David Babcock
- Jennifer Bethany Bailey
- Jerome C. Bailey
- Phillip A. Barker
- Christina Nicole Barnes
- Russell Wayne Barwick
- Heather Thompson Basham
- Joshua Ideal Bedetto
- Deanna Margaret Bell
- Heather Nicole Bell
- Samuel Eugene Bennett
- Michele Leigh Billings
- Matthew Corey Bishop
- • Terrie Julia Boggs
- Stacey Clifton Bonner
- Heather Renee Braden
- Daniel Weston Brady
- Brittany E. Brand
- Brett Andrew Branton
- Timothy Phillip Broome
- Cameron P. Brown
- Sue Patricia Brown
- Sydney Nicole Brown
- • Terra Kay Brown
- V Eric Browning
- Aaron Michael Broyles
- • Anna Marie Brussee
- Stacey J. Bucy
- Dakota Gary Bunch
- Sarah Jessica Burch
- Johnathan William Burdette
- Lauren Kelley Burkhalter
- Christie Amber Byrne
- Teresa Ann Byrne
- Cailey Meshae Calhoun
- David Jacques Calixte
- Janice Lucille Cameron
- Jennifer Ann Cammarata
- Paula Jean Campbell
- Jonathan Kyle Cannon
- Colby Wayne Cantrell
- • Lindsey Brooke Carden
- Patricia Sue Carpenter
- Matthew Kelly Carrier
- Gregory Wayne Cayton
- Krissy Anne Chance
- Elizabeth Ann Chirico
- Ashley Anna Cole
- Scott Alan Collum
- Amy Cheri Conn
- Christie Michelle Cooper
- David Slater Cordle
- William Alton Costley
- William Mayfield Cox
- Jessica Leigh Crabtree
- Davia Leann Cranshaw
- Joshua Steven Davis
- Kimberly Nicole Davis
- Matthew C. Davis
- • Steven Michael Davis
- Cory Alexander Day
- Savannah T. DeGrosky
- Calleen Nicole DeHaven
- Jonathan Alexander Dixon
- Jeff A. Dollar
- Lindsay Ellen Dover
- • Luke Jasper Dowell
- Amanda Lynn Duncan
- Kaitlin Marie Ealy
- • Tamatha Leighanna Early
- Garrett Reed Eaton
- Andrew Joseph Edenfield
- Sadadra Tekoea Edmondson
- Justin Spencer Evans
- • Daniel Jonathan Fabry
- Joshua Lee Fair
- Gerardo Reyes Felipe
- • Kum Soon Fletcher
- Catherine Elizabeth Forrister
- Jason Travis Forsyth
- Shana Leigh Fortson
- Shaun Thomas Brian Foster
- Christopher C. Fowler
- Richard Allen Fox
- Jamarra Fraley
- Lyndsay Alyse Franklin
- Laura Jacquelin Gamez
- Kelly Ann Gantek
- Kelly Ann Gaona
- Amy L. Garrett
- Jannipher Lorraine Glass
- Alvaro Lopez Gonzalez
- • Dustin Bradley Graham
- Sarah Elizabeth Gray
- Amanda Suzanne Greco
- Arloa Ann Green
- Joseph Brian Green
- Skye Ann Green

- Sarah Elizabeth Greenley
- Brooke Michelle Hale
- Emma Florence Hale
- Megan Catherine Hall
- Abigayle Hannah Hanger
- Zachary Marshall Hanger
- Courtney Danielle Hann
- Wendy Lynn Harp
- Hillary Christina Harris
- Eric Jamar Hayes
- Thomas Middleton Haygood
- Brandon Lee Heath
- Joseph Carl Hickman
- Steven Matthew Hickom
- Micah Banister Hicks
- Sarah Christen Hicks
- Sandra Jean Himes
- Raymond P. Hines
- ● Chandra LaRae Holbert
- Avery Lea Holcombe
- Robert Smith Holder
- ● Cindy Lori Holman
- Monique C Horton
- Jennifer Nicole Hudgins
- Joshua Travis Hufham
- Amber Nicole Hufstetler
- Amber Breanne Hulsey
- Bonnie Renee Hykes
- ● Maggie Renee Jackson
- Trenton Abrie Jackson
- Sean Thomas Jepson
- Jessica Amanda Johnstone
- Burton Tyler Jones
- Rashida J. Jones
- ● Debra L. Kaferly
- Leslie Allison Kanis
- Chelsea Layne Katt
- Gerald Wayne Keasler
- Jeffrey Charles Keith
- Stacy Lee Kirby
- Michael Kisor
- Kayleigh Ann Klein
- Kelly M. Korzonowski
- ● Brian P. Landenberger
- Bryn Furman Lee
- Jennifer Michelle Lee
- Troy Lynn Lee
- ● Sandra E. Lewis
- Kimberly Cassie Little
- Heather Marie Long
- Daisy Lopez
- Maritza Maciel
- Alexander Lewis Marks

**Associate of Science, Continued**

- Erin E. Mason
- Michael Keith Mathis
- Ashleigh Brooke Maxwell
- Crystal Dawn Mayben
- Corey Scott McCafferty
- Kayla Nicole McCarthy
- Kayla Nicole McCarthy
- • Donna Renee McCloud
- Alicia Ann McElhannon
- Dustin Glen McHann
- Victoria Ashlea McMahan
- Lauren Brooke Meade
- Rachael Danielle Messer
- Brittany Nicole Messex
- Chester Bernard Mitchell
- James David Mitchell
- Jessica Elizabeth Mitchell
- Jeana Ruth Monroe
- Ashley Nichole Montford
- Lashala N. Moore
- Shakeala Teleisa Moreen
- Paige D. Morgan
- • Alisha Ann Morris
- Theresa Ann Morris
- Steven Russell Morrow
- Lori A. Morse
- Zneta Davon Mostella
- Megan Christine Murphy
- Alexis Marie Muster
- Louis Mitchell Nazro
- Chukwuemeka I. Nwokike
- Levi Lincoln O'Banion
- Promise Ogali
- Lanea Tate O'Neal
- Lauren Drew Orebaugh
- LaReesa Lynn Orton
- Jauvanie Hopeton Page
- Mae Hwa Pak
- Cynthia Jeanette Palacios
- Savanna Hope Parson
- Sharon Lynnette Paschal
- Cory Michael Pass

- Kaleigh Nicole Patterson
- • Karla Maritza Payan  
Andrew Robert Perry  
Regina Franklin Phillips
- Stephanie Eugenia Phillips  
Adam Taylor Piatt  
Tyler Justin Pickelsimer
- Preston Ryan Pike  
Jonathan David Plaut
- Jessica Diane Pope  
Chelsea Nicole Poskus
- • Michael Caleb Powell
- Lindsey Kathleen Pruitt  
Cory Daniel Puckett  
Ray Austin Rains  
Megan Rebecca Rapp  
Bethany Bridgette Raybon  
Heather Elizabeth Richards
- Meghan Angeleen Richardson  
Kimberly Ann Riggins  
Durrand Auburn Robinson  
Breanna Lynne Rogers
- Justin Dwayne Rogers
- • Jem Marie Rogich
- Jennifer Dawn Rosie
- James Andrew Ruiz  
David Michael Sadler  
Daun Angelo Sanders
- Stephen Darryl Sanders  
Carol Lynn Schwager  
Meredith Diane Seabolt  
Allison Bennett Seagle
- Elham Sedigh-Sarvestani
- Amelia Elizabeth Sellears
- • Jaretta Alise Shaw  
Jessica Marie Shaw  
Brittany Allie Shepard
- • Vance Frederick Sherman  
Miranda Lane Shortnacy
- Scott Anthony Simon
- Angela Johnston Sligh
- Randi Kaitlin Sloan

**Continued**

- Ashley B. Smith
- Ashley Nicole Smith
- Jahmel Ahmad Spikes
- Brandon Eric Stanley
- Jodi Christian Stewart
- ■ Katelin E. Stokes
- ■ David Chase Striblin
- Adam Bradley Strom
- Cassie Walraven Sullivan
- Rachael Moore Sutton
- Dreanna Alisha Taylor
- David Lee Thomas
- ■ Tiffany E. Towslee
- John Theodus Traylor
- Jannette Honey Turner
- Sarah Ashley Vandegrift
- Joey Paul Veltri
- Whelma J.G. Villaester
- Hanna Elizabeth Vinson
- Dwane Emmanuel Vital
- ■ Linda Trang Vu
- Rebekah Dianne Walker
- Chris Eugene Wallace
- Stephanie Renee Wallace
- Michael Allen Ward
- Courtney Leann Watkins
- Ervin Watkins
- ■ Kristin Janell Waymon
- David Worth Weaver
- ■ Elizabeth Hope Weaver
- ■ Kelly Yvonne Weaver
- Carey Ellis Whitman
- Rachael Michelle Wilkin
- Anne Barrington Williams
- Erica Jasmine Williams
- Nicholas Scott Williams
- Shantel Nicole Williams
- Brittany Lee Wimpey
- James Kenneth Wiseman
- Lisa Ann Wright
- Alyssa Bryn Yarbrough
- Patrick Neal Yates
- Amy Patricia Zamora

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## Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene

- Erika Lynn Brussee
- Chassity Acacia Callison
- Leslie Gomez

- Jessica Bailey McRae**  
 • **Christy M. McStotts**  
**Christine Marie Mitchell**

- Ashlyn Renee Smalling
- Kristen D. Thomas

Associate of Applied Science in Business

- Larry W. Brock
- Terra Elizabeth Mann
- Alexandria Natasha Nicholson



Associate of Applied Science in Human Services

- Christina Mae Blair

■ Tamara Lynn Campbell

■ • Satin Shvonne Cochran

Kathy Marlene Coley
- Elizabeth Dawn Early

■ Leigh Osborne Folds

Dana Ashley Jones

■ Jennifer Dianne Logan
- Lea Erica Perez

• Ashley Law Ward

• Sherry Lynn Wheeler

Britny Meschelle Wilson



Associate of Applied Science in Health

Jordon Patrick Compton



Georgia Highlands College Alumni Association

Today, you become a member of the GHCA Alumni Association. You will be able to connect with fellow alumni, stay informed about the college's future and take advantage of a host of events and benefits that are explained in the letter you receive today. Any person who attended FC/GHC and has taken one academic course is eligible for a free membership in the alumni association. Get connected today!

[www.gahighlandsalumni.com](http://www.gahighlandsalumni.com)



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 Committee

Chairman.....

Treasurer .....

Executive Director, Secretary.....

David Caswell

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John Southwood

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Marijon Battles

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Joe Brice

Sarah Burkhalter

Melanie Collier

Carolyn Delamont

Greg Frisbee

James Jarrett

Mary Louise Lever

Faye McCord
- Steve Moore

Greg Patton

Dr. Randy Pierce

Randy Quick

Tony Samples

Sue Spivey

Robby Stweart

Holley Strawn

Tommy Strickland

Jeff Watkins

Mark Weaver

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 Office of College Advancement is diversifying its fund-raising activities, which support the many efforts of faculty and staff not funded by other means. 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 support the mission of GHC and embrace its vision.

# The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Kenneth R. Bernard, Jr.  
Larry R. Ellis  
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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, each of whom serve seven years. Today the Board of Regents is composed of 18 members, five of whom are appointed from the state-at-large and one from each of the 13 congressional districts. The board elects a chancellor who serves as its chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of the University System

## Georgia Highlands College Senior Administrators

**Dr. J. Randy Pierce**, President  
**Dr. Renva Watterson**, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
**Dr. Ronald D. Shade**, Vice President for Student Development  
**Mr. Robert Whitaker**, Vice President for Finance and Administration

## Georgia Highlands College Graduation Air Times

Both the graduation and the nurses' pinning/graduation ceremonies will be broadcast on GHTV,  
Comcast Cable Channel 4 in the Greater Rome area, on the following days and times:

**Monday, May 16**  
11:00 a.m.  
Pinning/Nursing  
Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Graduation

**Tuesday, May 17**  
11:00 a.m. Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Pinning/Nursing  
Graduation

**Wednesday, May 18**  
11:00 a.m.  
Pinning/Nursing  
Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Graduation

**Thursday, May 19**  
11:00 a.m. Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Pinning

**Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22**  
9:00 a.m. Graduation  
11:00 a.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Graduation  
3:00 p.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
5:00 pm. Graduation  
7:00 pm. Pinning/Nursing Graduation

**Monday, May 23**  
11:00 a.m. Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation

**Tuesday, May 24**  
11:00 a.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Graduation

**Wednesday, May 25**  
11:00 a.m. Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation

**Thursday, May 26**  
11:00 a.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Graduation

**Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29**  
9:00 a.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
11:00 a.m. Graduation  
1:00 p.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
3:00 p.m. Graduation  
5:00 p.m. Pinning/Nursing Graduation  
7:00 p.m. Graduation

# The History of Georgia Highlands College

In its 41-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 institution 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 5,300 students in transfer and career academic programs, Georgia Highlands College operates additional sites in Cartersville, Marietta, Dallas/Paulding County and Douglasville/Douglas County. The latter two sites operate as cooperative ventures with Kennesaw State University and the University of West Georgia, respectively. The college began offering classes in Marietta on the campus of Southern Polytechnic State University fall semester 2005, and the student body population at that site continues to grow.

GHC also pioneered cooperative programs with Coosa Valley Technical College (now Georgia Northwestern Technical College) as early as 1972. In 2006 the college expanded the flagship nursing program to Acworth, where it operated a site on the campus of North Metro Technical College. When the college closed that site, the nursing cohort was absorbed into the Marietta site. Other Acworth students went either to Cartersville or Marietta.

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 colleges 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 can 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.

As fall semester 2005 began, the college changed its name to Georgia Highlands College to reflect the more regional nature of its service area. It also dedicated the new campus and building in Cartersville, on Route 20, just west of I-75. Immediately, enrollment there jumped by 50 percent. The 100,000-square-foot facility, which houses a soaring library, biology and physics labs and the latest technological advances, can accommodate about 2,500, a capacity that has already been reached. A second academic building is scheduled for 2014.

In April 2011, GHC announced the establishment of competitive athletics, an initiative requested and voted on by students. In May, the Board of Regents approved the creation of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion program, making the institution a state college.

Georgia Highlands College, which has grown significantly during the past 10 years, continues to offer an advanced educational foundation to its expanding student body. On June 15, the college breaks ground on a student center on the Cartersville campus. The building is being funded through a public/private venture.