

Floyd  
College

Folks &  
Features

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSLETTER

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## Floyd Becomes Georgia Highlands

President of Floyd College **J. Randy Pierce** announced on March 23 that he would submit the name Georgia Highlands College for approval at the next Board of Regents meeting, scheduled for April 19 and 20. If approved, the name will permanently and officially become Georgia Highlands on August 1. The college first submitted the name Etowah, but withdrew it because of a request by organizations with similar names in Cartersville, as well as public reaction to the name from some community members in Rome.

"The challenge has been to find another name that resonates throughout the region we serve," said college President J. Randy Pierce. "Highlands does represent the broad area we cover."

The Highlands region is considered one of four travel regions of the state - the others being Coastal, Piedmont and Plains. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources also divides the state into five physiographic regions based on physical geography. The college is located in the Ridge and Valley Province, which consists of a series of parallel valleys separated by ridges. Elevations range from 700 to 1,600 feet above sea level. The Ridge and Valley Province abuts both the Blue Ridge Province to the Northeast and the Appalachian Plateau in the Northwestern corner of the state. The Highlands travel region incorporates all the upland regions featuring rolling hills, mountains and valleys.

Floyd has been exploring the possibility of a name change for two years because of an increasing demand in our extended region outside Floyd County for accessible higher education. Since last summer, the administration has met personally with community leaders within our service area to seek their ideas and opinions about the future direction of the institution. Floyd also conducted a series of focus groups composed of key constituencies such as students, faculty, community leaders and retirees. Most recently, the college invited the communities it serves to make suggestions.

In his address regarding the new name, Pierce said, "We have received many comments from community members, which we appreciated and valued. However, we also learned that many Floyd County citizens believe that the county and state funds this institution. Actually, state tax payers fund all institutions within the

University System of Georgia. Each Georgian contributes to the University System through individual and corporate state taxes. But Floyd County as an entity does not fund Floyd College."

Pierce also said that Bartow County went through the same process several years ago that Floyd County did originally to fund the infrastructure and provide the property for its campus, now nearly completed on Route 20 in Cartersville. "We want this institution to reflect the hard work and contributions of everyone, in every community, who is helping this college grow and meet the needs of Northwest Georgia," Pierce said.

GEORGIA  
HIGHLANDS  
COLLEGE



Floyd College's enrollment has continued to rise steadily in the last four years, from just over 2,000 to about 3,500 during spring semester 2005. According to a statewide assessment commissioned by the University System in 2003, enrollment in Georgia institutions is expected to

continue rising dramatically - especially in the northern part of the state - through 2020. Because of the anticipated population growth and the demand resulting from it, especially in Atlanta's outlying areas, the college has responded by building the new Bartow campus, which is expected to open this summer and accommodate 2,500 students in the first of several planned buildings. The college has also added courses at its Floyd sites and offered a curriculum at North Metro Technical College in Acworth. On June 6, Floyd will begin offering classes at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta and plans are underway to expand into Cherokee County in the near future. Floyd currently draws students from 10 counties to its four sites, which include Heritage Hall in Rome. More than 80 percent of the student body comes from five of those counties:

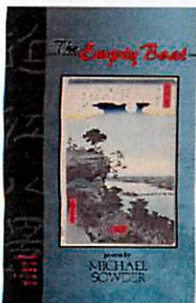
- Floyd - 29 percent
- Cobb - 16 percent
- Cherokee - seven percent
- Bartow - 20 percent
- Polk - 10 percent

Neither the name change nor the new Bartow campus will affect the location of the administrative offices, which will remain on the founding campus on Cedartown Highway in Rome.

4/8/05



## AWARD WINNING POET VISITS FLOYD



**Michael Sowder** recently returned to Floyd County and made a stop at the college to share some excerpts from his book of poems titled *The Empty Boat*. Sowder got his start in poetry by winning a local contest in Rome. He said he worked on the publication for thirteen years, devoting a major part of his life to the work.

As he read before a small crowd of students, he encouraged the aspiring young poets never to give up, "I waited for three years and faced a lot of rejections while trying to get my work published," says Sowder. Students listened intently as he explained his fascination with crows and how many of his poems are written with what he describes as the most intelligent of all birds in mind.

Sowder has a law degree and holds a doctorate in English from the University of Michigan. He currently teaches at Utah State University. To read Sowder's works, check out *The Empty Boat*, which was awarded the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry in 2004 and has been nominated for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in poetry.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Sheryl Ballenger, Rebecca Story and Wilma Maynard** attended the Georgia AHEAD annual spring conference in Savannah during spring break week. Story served as conference chair for the event, which drew hundreds of representatives from colleges in seven states. The focus of the conference was "The Practice-Balance and Professionalism in Disability Services." Ballenger served on the presentation team that led the pre-conference workshop in basic training for the practice.

**Dr. Virginia M. Carson**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, attended the third annual conference of the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs in New York City from March 4-6.

NACCTEP is a new organization that has been sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community Colleges and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Floyd College became a member of NACCTEP last year because of the information about NACCTEP learned from the people who supported Floyd in the Phi Theta Kappa grant we had in 2004 and 2005. The grant was Preparing Tomorrow's Science and Mathematics Teachers at Community Colleges.

According to Dr. Carson, the information at the NACCTEP conference in New York was extremely helpful to Floyd with respect to information about assessment of teacher education programs and innovative teacher education programs at other two-year institutions.

## WHO'S WHO THIS MONTH?

**Sue Munn**, associate professor of English, has been nominated for the second year as a Who's Who Among America's Teachers. According to Munn, "I love teaching and feel honored and humbled to know that my students think I have made a difference in their lives." Munn says she is still trying to figure out which student or students nominated her for the award. She has taught at Floyd since 1993.



Sue Munn

## FLOYD STUDENT CHOSEN TO REPRESENT COLLEGE

**Teresa Velzy-Bowers** has been selected as the student representative from Floyd for the Board of Regents 2005 Academic Recognition Day. Ms. Velzy-Bowers is a nursing student with a 4.0 grade point average. She will be honored by the Georgia General Assembly with House and Senate resolutions commending her on superb academic success. The legislature honors one student from each of the thirty-four college institutions. Ms. Velzy-Bowers was hand-picked by faculty at Floyd after writing an essay and meeting the proper requirements.

## TAP INTO ASSISTANCE

For Floyd College employees who are considering going back to the classroom as a student, check out the tuition assistance program. The federal government allows over \$5,000 annually in employer-provided educational assistance benefits, to be tax free to TAP participants. This program is available to full-time, benefits-eligible employees who have successfully completed at least six months of employment. To find out if you qualify or for more information log on:

<http://www.usg.edu/employment/benefits/tuition/faq.phtml>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April Book Forum

Tuesday, April 26, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m. Rome/Floyd County Library

*If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin  
Jon Hershey and Greg Shropshire, presenters  
Partnership with 100 Black Men of Rome

### Beach Blanket Bingo!

Food, games, music, and fun for everyone!

April 20, 2005, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Pavilion or Tower View in case of rain.

Please RSVP to **Joannie Baker** at [jbaker@floyd.edu](mailto:jbaker@floyd.edu).

This event will be hosted by the Floyd College Ambassadors and made possible by the generous donations of Faculty and Staff.

### Honor's Night

The 33rd annual Honors Night will be held the evening of Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 pm in the Lakeview Auditorium. Students, faculty and staff are all invited to attend. A reception in the Art Gallery will follow the awards ceremony. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 706-295-6363.

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An electronic version can be accessed at: [www.floyd.edu/floyd/news/floks/index.html](http://www.floyd.edu/floyd/news/floks/index.html)  
Information for inclusion can be e-mailed to: [ddavis@floyd.edu](mailto:ddavis@floyd.edu)

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Floyd College is accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees.

Floyd College - The University System of Georgia