Will Election Surprises Affect Floyd?
Chancellor, President Anticipate High Level of Support to Continue

In the November 5 election, Floyd College lost two political friends of the college.

Senator Richard Marable, who chaired the House Education Committee, was largely responsible for the State University of West Georgia and Southern Polytechnic State University bringing four-year baccalaureate programs to the Rome campus.

Speaker of the House Tom Murphy made Floyd College's Haralson site a reality in 1997 and has continued to express an interest in the college maintaining a site in that area.

Both Senator Marable and Speaker Murphy were defeated in the election by republican challengers. Representatives Buddy Childers, Paul Smith, Bill Cummings, Jeff Lewis and Barbara Mussey-Reece, and Senator Nathan Dean were all re-elected to office and will continue to serve our district.

In addition to changes in leadership in our service area, the new Governor, Sonny Perdue, is expected to replace many department heads and shift committee assignments in the Legislature.

Chancellor Thomas Meredith, speaking at a recent conference, stated that he expects the support for higher education to remain strong, since Mr. Perdue at one time served as chairman of the House Higher Education Committee. In addition, the Chancellor said that he has heard over and over that the new Governor "is a decent and honest man" and "with those qualities, we should be able to work well together."

Governor-elect Perdue made his first visit to a state department head's office when he met with the Presidents of the 34 colleges and universities in the system on November 19. According to Floyd College President Randy Pierce, who was in attendance, Mr. Perdue said that his visit to the Regent's office first reflects his level of interest in and support of the system.

Any support would be limited at this time by economic conditions. State agencies were requested in November to cut an additional 2 percent from their budgets--including instructional budgets. This latest cut is in addition to a previously announced 3 percent cut (which excluded instructional budgets) earlier this year.

With so much up in the air, it is even more important to maintain good relations with legislative delegations. Dr. Pierce plans to meet with each representative from Floyd College's service areas before the Legislative session begins in January.

The college has two budget items that require new or continued support: the $19 million Bartow Center, and a $5 million renovation of Heritage Hall which is included in the Board of Regents minor's list this year.

The Legislature included funding for the Bartow Center in the '02 budget; however, the bid package has yet to go out because the Attorney General's office has not completed the land transfer, and because infrastructure work has been delayed. President Pierce is hopeful that the bid package will go out soon.

The Heritage Hall project would renovate the entire building, including the entire electrical system, heating and air systems, and architectural enhancements, according to Doug Webb, director of Physical Plant.

All-in-all, it should be a very interesting year at the Capitol. The Floyd College community will be kept informed through the Legislative Update, a weekly newsletter prepared by the University System Office.

Sandy M. Briscar, editor, P.O. Box 1864, Rome, Georgia 30162, 706/295-6366
Folks

Carolyn Parks, director of the Cartersville Center, served as a judge for the governor’s honor program at Cartersville High School and later in the week, was the lunch speaker for the Bartow County retired senior’s volunteer luncheon.

Virginia Carson, vice president for Academic Affairs, gave a report to the Board of Directors of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) at the 28th Annual Conference held in Phoenix from November 12-17. Dr. Carson is Editor of the AMATYC Review, the refereed journal of the organization.

Vera Brock and Christine Hicks, associate professors of Nursing, and Barbara Rees, chair, division of Health Sciences, co-authored an article titled "Fast Track" that was published in the November 11 edition of Advance for Nurses.

Welcome new employee Kelli Gorog, secretary in the Public Information Office.

Keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers: Martha Kirkpatrick, secretary in the Physical Education Department and Tammy Nicholson, secretary in the Social and Cultural Division upon the death of their husband and father, Fred Kirkpatrick, on November 24.

The last issue of Folks & Features announced the death of Elizabeth Browder, wife of longtime math professor Fred Browder. The item failed to mention that Mr. Browder preceded his wife in death by a number of years.

Announcements

Beginning December 2nd, FCTV will no longer be allowed to simulcast its signal on channel 10. Comcast cable company is making a channel realignment. Channel 10 will become QVC on December 2nd. FCTV will air on Channel 4 along with the Library, and the city and county governments.

The December Book Forum will feature Steve Head, assistant Librarian, discussing Mark Dunn's Blindness, at 12 noon in the Solarium. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Holiday Happenings

♦ Employees are asked to donate canned goods for the annual 11 Alive Can-a-thon. Cans will be collected through December 6. The departments collecting the most cans will receive a plaque from the Employee Ambassadors.
♦ A door-trimming contest will be held December 2-11. The winner of the best overall door will receive a $25 gift certificate from Outback Steak House. The best decorated department will have refreshments provided by the Employee Ambassadors.
♦ The employee Holiday Luncheon will be held Wednesday, December 11, from 11:30-1:30 a.m. in the Student Center. The HR committee is coordinating the event. Employees are asked to bring a covered dish of salad, bread, vegetables, or desserts.

Floyd College
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If you haven't made a $15 donation to the Employee Ambassadors Fund, please consider doing so this month. As you can see by the "Holiday Happenings," the Ambassadors contribute a lot to the charitable and family atmosphere of the college. Contributions can be made in the Business Office.

The Rome News-Tribune's Holiday Festival Basketball Tournament will again be held at Floyd and Shorter Colleges. Twenty-four teams (12 boys and 12 girls) will participate in the tournament which will run December 19, 20, 21, and 23 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday).

On December 19 and 20, four games will be played beginning at 4 p.m. On December 21 and 23, six games will be played beginning at 1 p.m. All semi-final and championship games will be played at Floyd College.

Volunteers are needed to work on the admissions table and in concessions. A portion of the proceeds from concessions goes to the Floyd College Foundation for scholarships. To volunteer, contact Ken Weatherman or Bridgette Stewart at 706.295.6353.