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

*PROCESSIONAL
Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 in D Major, Op. 39 ........................................ Elgar
Mace Bearer: Mr. Brent Griffin, Associate Professor of Mathematics

WELCOME
David Hannah, President, Phi Theta Kappa, Cartersville

GREETING FROM THE BOARD OF REGENTS, THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
Mr. Willis Potts, Regent, 11th Congressional District

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna, Interim Chief Academic Officer & Executive Vice Chancellor,
Office of Academic Affairs, The University System of Georgia

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL AWARDS
Dr. J. Randy Pierce
PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE
Paul and Marjorie Battles
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
Mr. Steven D. White, President

CLOSING
Hannah Smith, President, Phi Theta Kappa, Rome

*RECESSINAL
Psalm XIX ........................................ 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
Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna

Beheruz N. Sethna is president of the University of West Georgia and interim executive vice chancellor for academic and fiscal affairs for the University System of Georgia. Both the Senate of the Georgia General Assembly and the Board of Regents have honored him with resolutions of commendation. He has twice been named one of the 100 most influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine. Sethna holds the distinction of being the first Asian Indian to serve as a college president in the United States.

He has remained active in the classroom throughout his career, advising student research teams that have won national awards, including the National Social Sciences Competition. The research of his students has also received recognition from the National Collegiate Honors Council and the National Council for Undergraduate Research.

Sethna holds a degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, India, where he was designated a distinguished alumnus. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, India, and two graduate degrees—a Master of Philosophy and a Doctor of Philosophy—from Columbia University in New York. He later added post-doctoral qualifications from Harvard and Indiana Universities.

PRESIDENT'S MERITORIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Pierce chose two tireless supporters of education and community in general and Georgia Highlands in particular to receive this year’s Meritorious Service Award. Paul and Marjorn Battles have been leaders in the Bartow/Cartersville community their entire lives. Paul was asked to be part of the GHF Foundation Board and has done much heavy lifting while working on the Major Gifts Campaign.

Paul devotes much of his time to the Cartersville Chamber of Commerce and has served as chairman and member of the board. He received the 2007 Chamber President’s Award. In addition to his service to Georgia Highlands and the Chamber, Paul has served on the board of directors for the Etowah Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club as well as on the Community Foundation and the North Metro Technical College Foundation. He is senior vice president and business development officer for Crescent Bank.

Marjor is assistant vice principal for Cartersville Middle School. Her dedication to fostering a love of learning in students has earned her numerous awards including Bartow County History Teacher of the Year, two Star Teacher awards and a Students’ Choice award.

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 Sash) – 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

PTK 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

- Abra Suzanne Gordon
- Steven Daniel Houston (2 A.A. degrees)
- David Craig Johnson
- Michael Alexander Jones
- Ashley Renee Mason
- Ashley Kristina Morris
- Sterling S. Peace
- Kanika Aisha Reeves
- Shemika Michelle Roberts
- Lori Amanda Sparks
- Kelly Elyse Stanford
- Camden David Wallace
- Thomas Justin Webb
- Erin Ashley Will

Associate of Science

- Nathan Kirk Alford
- Ellen Chapman Anderson
- Norma Jean Anderson
- Sally Regina Anderson
- Andrew Joseph Ayers
- Stephanie Paige Ayers
- Hilary Chelan Balliew
- Brandi Ann Barden
- Amy Grace Barker
- Amy Etta Bell
- Bonnie M. Bell
- Lauren Alyssa Best
- Amanda Jo Betts
- Elizabeth Cecilia Bing
- Erin Marie Bingham
- Rebecca Suzanne Black
- Kathy S. Blythe
- Elisabeth K. Clark
- Cassandra Martina Colquitt
- Chad Thomas Cook
- Allison Latrice Cooper
- Amanda Jane Cordle
- Casey Ryan Cornwall
- Erin Meredith Corner
- Amber LeAnn Casey
- Britany Ann Cranford
- Jamie Jean Crocker
- Deanna Michelle Darby
- Jennifer Lynn Davis
- Stephanie L. Davis
- Jessele Andrew Day
- Hayley R. Deering
- Heather Brooke Deteding
- Amanda Elizabeth Diggs
- Nicole Burnmaster Duck
Associate of Applied Science in Business
Christina N. Burkhardt
Cynthia Anne Cridler
Daniel Dewitt Davis
Jeffrey Tyler Davis
Sherry M. Echevarria
Scarlett Ruth Everett
Pricilla Faulkner
Donna J. Jacks-Moore
Melody T. Moore
Lou Beckman Phillips
Lauren Leigh Rigas
Ashley Lynee Rogers
Eugenia Marie Rogers
Erica Lynn Sims
Patricia Diane Storey
Diane Jeanette Vidlar
Nicholas Ryan Wilson

Associate of Applied Science in Health
Courtney Elizabeth Buckler
Tiffany Nikole Burkhalter

Associate of Applied Science in Humanities
Lashika Nicole Campbell
Courtney Holcombe Clay
Stacy M. Crowe
Gloria J. Dean
Trista Cindy Gillespie
Miranda Lyette Johnson
Anna Marie Mull
Mauricia Anita Pledger
Cynthia D. Smith
Stephanie Williams
Maxine Carolyn Wood

Associate of Applied Science in Technology
Randall Keith Cumbee
Matthew Paul D'Amore
Jason Douglas Mathis
Joshua W. Reed
Patricia Elizabeth Taylor

Georgia Highlands College Alumni Association
As a member of the Alumni Association, you have an opportunity to connect with fellow alumni, stay informed of the college’s future and take advantage of a host of benefits. Any person who attended GHC and has taken one academic course is eligible for a free membership in the alumni association.

GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE FOUNDATION
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Philip Bridges
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Gay P. Dellinger
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James Jarrett
Steve McDaniel
Faye McCord
Tommy Strickland

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Julia Quigg Dodd
Sam Doss, Jr.
Jo Heyman
Murray Stein
Julia N. Maddox
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

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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 officer 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 HGT in the following days and times:

Monday 16 May
11:00 a.m. Pinning
2:00 p.m. Graduation

Tuesday 17 May
11:00 a.m. Graduation
2:00 p.m. Pinning

Wednesday 16 May
11:00 a.m. Pinning
2:00 p.m. Graduation

Wednesday 23 May
11:00 a.m. Graduation
2:00 p.m. Pinning

Thursday 22 May
11:00 a.m. Pinning
2:00 p.m. Graduation

Saturday 19 May and Sunday 20 May
8:30 a.m. Graduation
10:30 a.m. Pinning
12:30 p.m. Graduation
3:00 p.m. Pinning
5:00 p.m. Graduation
6:00 p.m. Pinning

Saturday 26 May and Sunday 27 May
8:30 a.m. Pinning
10:30 a.m. Graduation
12:30 p.m. Pinning
3:00 p.m. Graduation
5:00 p.m. Pinning
7:00 p.m. Graduation

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 Act, 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 (Cedar turnout 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 expanded our flagship nursing program to Acworth. A class of 25 nursing students began 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.

As fall semester 2005 began, the college dedicated its 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 2,000 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.