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$1

Deputy-involved skirmish has people talking

FACEBOOK VIDEO VIEWS IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

Christian McKearney
The Baldwin Bulletin

Videos from an incident involving a Baldwin County Sheriff's Office deputy and a suspect at a southside convenience store have now been viewed on Facebook more than 300,000 times.

In the videos, Deputy Joseph Harker is seen punching the suspect, Calvin Brown, multiple times while Brown's back is on the pavement. Brown ultimately turned the tables, pinning the deputy to the ground before punching and kicking him.

Harker was suspended "pending a Georgia Bureau of Investigation review," while Brown was arrested and charged with aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer and felony

MORE **SKIRMISH** >> **A3**

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY IS

ON QUITE A ROLL

Christian McKearney
The Baldwin Bulletin

Downtown Milledgeville once again is awake, its annual summer snooze over, as classes resumed this week at Georgia College & State University.

Right around 1,850 freshmen are enrolled this semester, setting the school record, one that dates back 135 years. Fulton is the county most represented among the freshman class, followed in order by Forsyth, Cobb, Gwinnett and Dekalb. For several decades, Gwinnett was always the leader in the clubhouse. That streak was broken in 2008, when Fulton took the top spot. In the late '90s, GCSU recruiters began more aggressively recruiting north Fulton and Cobb, while putting fewer resources into recruiting Gwinnett. Later came Forsyth County, which has grown from a Census population of 44,083 in 2000 (about the same as Baldwin County) to 282,905 in 2025 (nearly as big as Bibb and Houston counties, combined).

MORE **GCSU** >> **A2**

Kristina Brooks
BCSD Superintendent

Eighth grade math scores dismal

Christian McKearney
The Baldwin Bulletin

A new round of standardized tests scores recently were released for school districts around Georgia, and the some of the math scores for the Baldwin County School District were dismal.

There's no way of sugarcoating it.

At the eighth grade level, 17 percent of the BCSD students tested were "proficient or above," essentially meaning that the other 83 percent of students were "below grade level." As another way of putting it, out of the 180 Georgia city and county districts in the data, the BCSD ranked 168th, which equates the

The average SAT and ACT scores for Georgia College & State University freshmen are much higher than they once were, and apparently the beds in the dorm rooms are also much higher than they once were.

GCSU

CONTINUED FROM >>**A1**

In recent years, at least, 70-something percent of GCSU students have hailed from the 29-county Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area.

GCSU's transition from "commuter college" to "smart college" has been complete for a number of years now. The average ACT score for this year's incoming freshmen was 25, while the average SAT score was 1178. The Class of 2030's average high school GPA, meanwhile, was 3.8. GCSU is one of the three "most qualified" colleges and universities in the 25-member University System of Georgia, trailing only Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia, according to Amanda Respess, GCSU's director of news & media relations.

"We remain one of the state's three 'selective' institutions, along with Georgia Tech and UGA. The top three schools set more rigorous admissions criteria, and they rank number 1, 2 and 3 for the most academically qualified students, in terms of their entering GPAs and test scores," she said.

Two events set GCSU up to become a "smart college." First was the HOPE Scholarship in 1993, which made the parents of high-achieving high schoolers in Georgia think twice before sending their kids off to out-of-state colleges. Then came the big one, when the Board of Regents officially named GCSU as "Georgia's designated public liberal arts institution." This meant more resources and more backing from the Board of Regents. That was in 1996, the same year that "& State University" was added after "Georgia College."

The new designation allowed GCSU to hire more talented faculty and lower its class sizes. Thirty years later, the 17:1 class size ratio is perhaps the university's biggest calling card. More than 10,000 high school seniors applied to GCSU during the most recent cycle, the most ever.

In other words, GCSU is on a roll.