Volunteers prepare Old Governor’s Mansion for holiday tours

Nearly 20 GCEC students, who traditionally decorate the mansion, participated in the annual tradition of decorating the Nursery of the Old Governor’s Mansion for the holidays. The tours resume after Thanksgiving from Dec. 1 through 23. For more information on the tours, please call 478-445-4545.

Nov. 25, 2014
Prepared by Office of University Communications

Students win cash prizes in the third annual Elevator Pitch Competition

In the crowded nursery of the Old Governor’s Mansion, a group of Georgia College Early College (GCEC) students carefully chose various decorative items ranging from gumdrops to brightly colored ribbons and even a few ornaments. For many, it was their first time volunteering at the Mansion, but for some like Baldwin County High senior Talyck Beckham, they’ve spent more than one holiday at the Mansion.

“I volunteered my freshman year and wanted to do it again,” said Beckham. “I was really interested in what Christmas looked like back then, and helping out the community is important to me.”

Nearly 20 GCEC students, who traditionally decorate the nursery every holiday season, joined Beckham. This year the students also had the special task of decorating the Sallie Ellis Davis House, and those decorations are from the Davis House. “This will be the second time we’ve decorated the Sallie Ellis Davis House, and those decorations are from the mid 1930s.”

The GCEC students and other volunteers from the campus community brought their pitches. Students prepared a 60-second video where they “pitched” their idea or a concept that tested their abilities.

“We get to watch our students learn how to use the challenge course as a tool to learn in a unique way,” said Watson. “They’ve had to encounter a mixture of nature and man-made items throughout the whole semester’s worth of information and challenge themselves to a potential employer. They had to summarize who they were, what they do and why they would be a perfect candidate for a job with the goal of exchanging business cards or setting a meeting with the person in the time span of an elevator ride.

More than 55 students entered the competition. Judges narrowed the videos down, and the top 12 finalists competed live, giving their pitches to local executive Walter Reynolds, in front of a live audience.

The winners were then evaluated based on reputation, selectivity, quality, student satisfaction, and three other areas: the organization’s certification examination pass rates. In ranking of the best online undergraduate nursing programs, SuperScholar only considered online nursing schools that are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The nursing school that met this initial accreditation criterion was then evaluated based on reputation, selectivity, and quality, student satisfaction, affordability and moral excellence and certification examination pass rates.

• The University of Phoenix-Rio Grande Valley—ninth place and $200
• The University of Phoenix—Kansas City—seventh place and $300
• Grand Canyon University—eighth place and $200
• Liberty University’s School of Education—ninth place and $200

The Georgia College Chemistry Club received the Outstanding Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS) for activities during its Fall 2013-2014 academic year. The university was one of only four chemistry departments in the nation to receive this award. The club was recognized for its innovative and successful educational outreach efforts. The students were able to work with the ACS, as well as other departments, in various ways to reach the community.

The Piping Rock Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering, promoting and supporting the development of the arts in the Greater New York area. The Piping Rock Foundation’s 2015 Young Artist Competition seeks to encourage young artists to explore their creative potential and showcase their work. The competition is open to all high school students in the New York metropolitan area. The winners will have their work displayed at the Piping Rock Gallery and will receive cash prizes.

The winners of the Piping Rock Foundation’s Young Artist Competition will be announced in December. The competition is open to all high school students in the New York metropolitan area. The winners will have their work displayed at the Piping Rock Gallery and will receive cash prizes.

For more information on prizes and prices, visit gcsu.edu/newsphia or call 478-445-4454.

Did You Know?

• The Thanksgiving break for students is Nov. 26 through 28. All Georgia College offices will be closed Nov. 27 and 28.
• Georgia College’s music department will present Holiday Concert Series December 5, presented by the following ensembles: Electronic Jazz Band, Jazz Band, Women’s Chorale, The Cat’s Meow, Men’s Quartet, University Chorus and Wind Symphony. The concerts will annually music department holiday concert, which was later established as a scholarship fundraiser, will give you exclusive scholarship opportunities to those who study their musical talents.
• SuperScholar’s annual recognized Georgia College, Vital Signs, the “Best Online Nursing Program 2015” for undergraduate, the 53 schools included in this program. Georgia College Nursing programs ranked third the largest. In ranking of the best online undergraduate nursing programs, SuperScholar only considered online nursing schools that are accredited by the National Commission of College-Directed Nursing Education (CNCC) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The nursing school that met this initial accreditation criterion was then evaluated based on reputation, selectivity, quality, student satisfaction, affordability and moral excellence and certification examination pass rates.

The Student Government of Pan Haga Phi Kappa—international chapter and leader in collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines—recently recognized the Georgia College chapter of Pan Haga Phi Kappa as a Chapter of Excellence, the highest commendation given by the society from the organization. The award is given to chapters that excel in recognizing and promoting academic excellence among all students in all fields of higher education and engaging the community of scholars in service to others. The Chapter of Excellence distinction is part of the society’s Chapter Recognition program, which acknowledged 53 chapters with recognition this year, including 49 Chapters of Excellence.

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When the history surrounding the Mansion is always intriguing, but Beckham says during the holiday, it makes it even more so. "Being close to history is important, but it makes it more interesting than just hearing someone speaking or reading it from a book," said Beckham. "Having this experience makes it all the more real."