



Headlines @the Met

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Atlanta Metropolitan College Awarded "State College" Status

The Board of Regents voted to change the institutional mission of Atlanta Metropolitan College, from a two-year college of the University System of Georgia (USG), to that of "state college."

Atlanta Metropolitan College will offer its first bachelor of science with a major in the biological sciences in the Fall of 2012. This degree is specifically designed to increase the pipeline of students who earn degrees in STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It will also prepare students for professional schools in the health sciences such as Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

While the program as approved by the Board does not include a teacher certification component, college officials have future plans to add this. Program graduates will have entry-level opportunities for immediate employment and offer the foundation for those students who seek a master's or higher-level degrees.

"The Board's actions reflect the evolving role of access institutions as we identify specific job related and economic development needs

throughout the state," said Rob Watts, chief operating officer for the USG.

"Officials at these institutions have made a strong and data-driven case to the Board for the mission change and for the needs in these communities for specific baccalaureate degree programs."

The state college sector was established in 1998 and categorizes two-year, associate-degree granting institutions that have been authorized by the Board to offer a limited number of four-year baccalaureate degree programs.

The University System's other institutional categories are: research universities, regional universities, state universities, and two-year colleges. With today's actions, there are now 12 USG institutions in the state college sector.

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Congratulations President McGaha!!!!

Project GRAD Atlanta Board of Directors recently named AMC President Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D the new Board Chairman for Project Grad Atlanta.

Benjamin J. Tarbutton, III 2011 Founder's Day Speaker



President McGaha Presents, The Thompson Award to BOR Chair Tarbutton.

Benjamin "Ben" J. Tarbutton, III, chairman of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia delivered the address during the Atlanta Metropolitan College Founders Day Convocation held on October 13, 2011. The theme for the occasion was, "Blazing New Trails in Academic Excellence."

Chairman Tarbutton was originally appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue as the Twelfth Congressional District Representative to the Board of Regent. Regent Tarbutton resides in Sandersville, Georgia where he and his family are active members of the community.

Tarbutton is the Assistant Vice President of the Sandersville Railroad Company, where he oversees daily operations. He serves on the board of directors for Sandersville Technical College, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Trustees for Leadership Georgia. Chairman Tarbutton is a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology.

Chancellor Hank M. Huckaby's Campus Visit

Chancellor Hank M. Huckaby, the newly selected leader of the University System of Georgia (USG), paid his first official visit as chancellor to the campus of Atlanta Metropolitan College on September 1.

Huckaby toured the campus and met with the President's cabinet, faculty, and student leaders.

During the visit, Huckaby spoke of his goals and plans regarding the recent increases in tuition fees and changes made to HOPE last spring.

Prior to being named chancellor, Huckaby served as director of Georgia's Office of Planning and Budget from 1991-1995, and he served as the senior vice president of Finance and Administration at the University of Georgia from 2000-2006.



Chancellor Huckaby and AMC President McGaha



Members of the AMC basketball team and Chancellor Huckaby during his visit to Atlanta Metropolitan College



(AMC) students pose with Chancellor Huckaby after the students one on one meeting

Hightower Named Director for Upward Bound

Jesse Hightower, Jr. became the Executive Director of the Federal TRiO programs in the Division of Student Affairs at Atlanta Metropolitan College on May 2, 2011. A native of Houston, TX., Dr. Hightower received his bachelor degree from Fisk University and his master's , specialist degree, and doctorate of education from Tennessee State University.

Dr. Hightower brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from the private, public, and non-profit sectors of education working for organizations including Fisk University, The New Teacher Project-Atlanta Public Schools, Bearing Point Inc., and Clark Atlanta University, (CAU).

Prior to joining AMC, Dr. Hightower served CAU as a senior grants analyst, where he ensured compliance for a portfolio of grants, contracts and cooperative agreements from federal, state and privately funded entities such as National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Department of Education (DOE), The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Georgia Department of Labor.

Dr. Hightower's previous experience in higher education has also afforded him the opportunity to serve in key positions in both student affairs and fiscal affairs in the following areas: residential life, financial aid, and student accounts. Hightower has also worked as a functional consultant with a firm that focused on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementations for institutions of higher education, upgrading from legacy information systems to SCT Banner and PeopleSoft.

"I am truly excited about joining AMC and being afforded the opportunity to serve in multiple capacities in the division of student affairs. The TRiO programs at AMC are amongst the longest standing in the southeast region and my goal is to continue building on the foundation established, and work tirelessly to secure future funding in order to serve over 2000 participants".



Jesse Hightower, Jr., Ph. D

Culminating the AMC Reaffirmation of Accreditation

On October 25-27, 2011, a ten member, visiting team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), finalized the two-year reaffirmation review process for Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC). The SACS Team visit to AMC included three activities: (1) review of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a reaffirmation requirement of all institutions by SACS outlining a five-year plan on how the College will improve student learning (2) collection of information resolving any outstanding non-compliance issues remaining from an earlier report submitted by the College for evaluation by an off-site SACS Team, and (3) evaluation AMC's programs and services based on federal standards and guidelines.

Over the two day campus visit, the Team engaged in a variety of events including interviewing unit and division leaders, reviewing faculty and staff transcripts and credentials, evaluating College documents, participating in focus groups consisting of faculty, staff, and students, meeting with Board of Regents representatives, and assessing the College's academic programs. The Team also appraised AMC's institutional effectiveness process, our fiscal stability, and our physical facilities and resources. The Team concluded its review process by conducting a thorough evaluation of AMC's instructional site located at 34 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA.

At the Conference Interview, the culminating event where the Team informed the College of its findings, Atlanta Metropolitan College was highly complemented and rated highly in all aspects of the Team's visit and reaffirmation evaluation. The College received only one recommendation in the SACS accreditation standards, relating to improving its institutional effectiveness process of planning and assessment, which is also the most commonly received recommendation by college's undergoing reaffirmation of accreditation. The Team noted the exceptional hospitality and cooperation of AMC, both for on-campus and multiple pre-visit data requests.

Dr. Mark Cunningham, the College's SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation Director, indicated that an enormous amount of data and information had been provided to the Committee prior to their campus visit, and that SACS visiting teams do much of their work before arriving to campus. Dr. Cunningham went on to say, "We could not have achieved this level of success without the collective and dedicated hard work of the College and most importantly the outstanding visionary leadership of Dr. Gary A. McGaha, the AMC's President."

Atlanta Metropolitan College Partners with Pepsi to Launch Dream Machine Recycling Initiative

Atlanta Metropolitan College and Pepsi rolled out the PepsiCo Dream Machine recycling program that will provide students, faculty and staff with a convenient and rewarding way to recycle their bottles and cans while on-the-go.

The Dream Machine recycling initiative, created by PepsiCo (NYSE: PEP) in partnership with Waste Management (NYSE: WM), is introducing thousands of recycling bins and kiosks at popular public locations across North America. Dream Machine kiosks are computerized receptacles that include a personal reward system, powered by Greenopolis, which allows users to earn points for every bottle or can they recycle in the kiosk and redeem those points for local discounts on entertainment, dining and travel at www.greenopolis.com.

Additionally, the more bottles and cans people recycle in a Dream Machine at Atlanta Metropolitan College, and in Dream Machine kiosks and bins across the nation, the more support PepsiCo will provide to the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV), a national program offering free experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 U.S. veterans with disabilities.

“We are so pleased that Atlanta Metropolitan College has partnered with the Dream Machine program to make Dream Machines available to students and faculty,” said Jeremy Cage, Senior Vice President of Innovation and Insights at PepsiCo and head of the Dream Machine recycling initiative. “By recycling in a Dream Machine, students, faculty and staff can earn rewards and help make a real difference for our planet and in the lives of disabled U.S. veterans.”

“We are very excited about our partnership with PepsiCo and introducing the new Dream Machine recycling program on campus,” said President McGaha. “By recycling a bottle or can, students, faculty and staff can help make a difference for our planet.”



AMC Student using the Dream Machine as Pepsi Representative Robert Corcimiglia looks on.

Phi Theta Kappa: Building Leadership Capacity and New Membership



Phi Theta Kappa's Fall Induction Ceremony 2011

Phi Theta Kappa's Fall Induction Ceremony for new members was held October 14th. AMC's PTK Chapter, Beta Beta Tau welcomed 40 new students into the International Honor Society. College President, Dr. Gary McGaha encouraged new inductees, as well as all students to continue their pursuit of academic excellence. Ms. Cynthia Evers, Vice President of Student Affairs also made comments. The guest speaker for the evening was Ms. Cynthia Harrington, Georgia Regional PTK President and President of Georgia Highlands College PTK Chapter President. Beta Beta Tau's next formal induction will be Spring Semester 2012.

In ongoing efforts to build leadership within PTK and AMC, two members attended PTK's Georgia Regional Honors in Action Conference, which was hosted by the 2011 - 2012 Vice Presidential Chapter, Darton College, in Albany, Georgia. Beta Beta Tau was represented by student members, Michael Messinger, and Chris Johnson, and new Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, Professor Cedrick Daphney. They expressed their gratitude in being able to represent AMC and excitement in meeting other PTK members from across the Georgia Region. Attendees participated in workshops and other activities designed to improve team building and leadership skills. Special interest was also placed on how to develop Honors in Action projects.

Cassandra Johnson and Byron Simmons 2011 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars

Congratulations to Atlanta Metropolitan College students Cassandra Johnson and Byron Simmons. They were selected from over 1100 applicants as **2011 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars**.

The prestigious scholarship is designed to provide new Phi Theta Kappa members with financial resources to help defray educational expenses while enrolled in a two-year college while also encouraging participation in Society programs.



Students Cassandra Johnson & Byron Simmons

AMC Students Win KAGRO Scholarships

The Georgia Korean Grocers Association, Inc. (GA KAGRO) recognized and awarded scholarships to three AMC students. The students, Winston Gunter (Mathematics), Nicole Sivels (Chemistry) and Shannon Williams (Biology) received the award Sunday, December 11th in Doraville during the Association's 2011 Year-End Banquet and Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

Ms. Helen Choi, Scholarship Committee Chair, encouraged winners to continue their academic and professional pursuits, and applauded their volunteerism and vision for the future.

GA KAGRO has been providing scholarship opportunities since 1997. AMC students have been consistent awardees over the past several years. The Association has over 200,000 members nationally.

Ms. Gyuheui Choi, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Jack Morrell, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Dr. Zacharia Manare, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Department Head, and Mr. Curtis L. Todd, Assistant Professor of Social Work were also recognized at the event for their assistance to the Association.



Pictured from left to right: Nicole Sivels, Winston Gunter and Shannon Williams

AMC's Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society



The Atlanta-Milan Connection

Professoressa Galletti with students

Atlanta Metropolitan College's (AMC) chapter of Phi Theta Kappa has entered the international world through the benefit of the internet for its latest Honor's In Action (HIA) Service Project Component. This semester the honor society has teamed with approximately 25 students from ITT Artemisia Gentileschi, a high school in Milan, Italy.

In Italy, students can choose among various types of upper secondary schools. These students which total 47, ages 17-19, are taking English as a second language with a background in tourism and/or modern languages which, after passing a final exam, gives them access to college. One of their projects is to build a tour of the United States, including the number of days and costs. Our students will help them understand aspects of American culture particularly Georgia. In turn they will help AMC students gain insight on Italian history and culture. Professoressa (Prof.ssa) Galletti says that her students are very excited to exchange information with AMC students!

Prof.ssa Donatella Galletti may be reached at donatella.gallentti@istruzione.it For information on the school contact <http://www.gentileschi.it/>

For further information about the project please contact Professor Michelle Geisert at mgeisert@atlm.edu.

New Business School Dean Named



Dean Cheryl Barnes

There's a new face on campus. Cheryl Barnes joined AMC on June 27th, 2011 as Dean of the Division of Business and Computer Science. Ms. Barnes is a 1994 graduate of the Executive MBA Program at the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana. She also earned BA with a double major in journalism and psychology from Indiana University in 1982. Ms. Barnes' professional career spans public and private sectors. Prior to coming to AMC, Ms. Barnes was Chair of the Business, Computer and Information Technology Department at Front Range Community College, in Westminster, Colorado.

She also served as Chief Information Officer for Colorado Medicaid, in Denver, CO. Ms. Barnes spent several years working for Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company, in Kalamazoo, MI. She was also a television news reporter for the CBS affiliate in western Michigan. Ms. Barnes has owned several businesses, including a health communications firm and a modeling agency. Ms. Barnes hopes to bring vigor and excitement to AMC's business and entrepreneurial programs.



Pictures from the AMC 2nd Annual Golfing For Scholarships Classic



GA Power Golf Team



CBS Outdoor Golf Team



Board Member , Joe Jackson & Team with AMC President McGaha & Facilitator , Anita Hanshaw



AMC President McGaha & Hanshaw congratulate 1st Place Winners

Cruise For A Cause Fundraiser Pictures



Board Members John O'Callaghan, Sharmen Gowens, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement



Ms. Sharmen Gowens, AMC Foundation Member



AMC President McGaha and Mrs. McGaha



General Motors Partnership

Faculty & Staff Kudos

Tayo E. Penosen was awarded the Ph.D. degree in Political Science in August 2011 at Clark Atlanta University. "An Analysis of the Black Church in Atlanta Politics" is the title of Dr. Penosen's dissertation. Dr. Penosen serves as an adjunct instructor in political science in the Division of Social Sciences at Atlanta Metropolitan College.

Daphne M. Cooper, an Adjunct Political Science Instructor, was awarded her Ph.D. degree in Political Science in July 2011 at Clark Atlanta University. The title of Dr. Cooper's dissertation is "Persistent Poverty Among African Americans in the United States: The Impact of Public Policy." Dr. Cooper has been a member of the adjunct faculty in the Division of Social Sciences since Spring 2010.

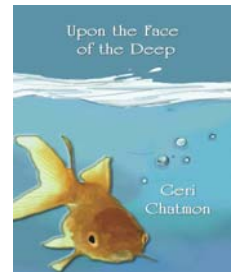


Mitchell

Lydia R. Mitchell, a native of Opelika, Alabama, was named the new Alumni Relations Coordinator. Lydia received a Bachelor's in Communication from Alabama State University.

Upon graduation, Ms. Mitchell established **E.M.B.R.A.C.E** (Empowering Myself By Respecting And Caring Enough). A self-empowerment program for high school students, which provides them with encouragement and assistance as they prepare for the next big step in their lives.

She is delighted to be a part of the AMC family.



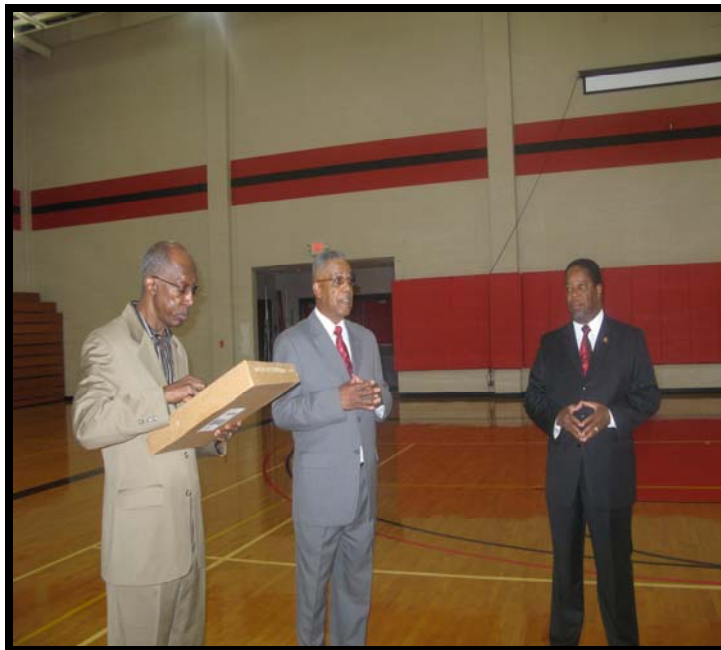
Upon The Face Of The Deep is a collection of poems chronicling the life of the writer, Geri Chatmon. From a large family growing up in the housing projects of Brooklyn, through her years as a foot soldier in the Civil Rights Movement, and ultimately to her adopting and raising the child of an old friend, Geri's path has carried her, and now us, through that Garden she calls 'Life'. In the chapter, **Dandelions**, Geri shares her childhood memories; **Clovers** talks of the Civil Rights Movement – a time that molded her life; **Roses** tells of love; **Palms** of faith, as the chapter called **Harvest** concludes the walk. All who have opened this book have found something that touched their hearts. Many have accepted her challenge to the readers to sit down and begin writing *their own wonderful stories*.

Geri's email address is glamar@atlm.edu





AMC 2010-2011 Basketball Team after receiving Conference Championship Rings



L to R : Vice President , Mr. Freddie Johnson, Coach Pritchett and President McGaha during Ring Ceremony.



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