

## A PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

### Welcome to the 2016 Spring GaTA Newsletter!

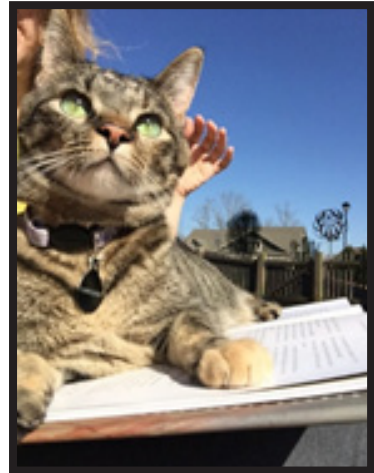
Spring in Georgia! Time to get outside, enjoy the sun, and read a book, at least until your cat decides to help. 2015 was a great renaissance year for GaTA with our new logo, webpage, newsletters, and the Train the Trainer event. 2016 brings the 14th annual Georgia Tutoring Association conference, October 22 in Macon. We have already started planning and this year's conference is going to be amazing! Mark your calendars to attend, to present, to connect, and to have a great day.

We want to expand the reach of GaTA in 2016, so send us names of people that should be on the GaTA mailing list. What areas in your school offer tutoring? The GaTA Newsletter is one of the many ways to let folks know what we are doing, so share it with your tutors and coworkers. Also, don't forget to like our Facebook page! Follow us on Twitter. Join us on LinkedIn. Bookmark the new GaTA webpage – [georgiatutoringassociation.org](http://georgiatutoringassociation.org).

If you have questions about GaTA, we want to hear from you. Please contact me ([mhamilton@gsu.edu](mailto:mhamilton@gsu.edu)) or any board member with ideas, thoughts, and suggestions for your GaTA. Together we make this a great organization!

Please consider submitting an article, idea, picture, etc. for the next GaTA Newsletter. We welcome your participation. Please send newsletter submissions to GaTA secretary, Rebecca Cofer ([rcofer@abac.edu](mailto:rcofer@abac.edu)).

Thank you and Happy Tutoring!  
Mary Hamilton  
2015-2016 GaTA President



## GaTA Member Profile

### Paul Johnson, Middle GA State University - GaTA Member Since 2005

I am the Macon Student Success Center Coordinator at Middle Georgia State University. My duties include hiring tutors, training tutors, managing the SSC budget, conducting study workshops, assisting students in the computer lab, coordinating website advertisement of other tutoring centers on campus, advising new students during Orientation events, streaming video for faculty, and tutoring students.

### Best moment you have had in the tutoring profession thus far?

One of my most memorable times in the tutoring profession is tutoring a non-traditional student from Taiwan through several math courses. I tu-



## TUTOR CONNECTIONS

tored her from college algebra to calculus and then she surpassed my knowledge and took more advanced classes. An international traveler, Suei speaks Taiwanese, Chinese, English, and Spanish. Unique things she has done include volunteering at an organic farm in the Northeast. She has authored 16 books in her own language and is a public speaker. Suei has been generous in her praise saying that I am a “buffet” as I could tutor “everything.” She also told me once that she mentioned me in one of her books!

### **Favorite thing about being a part of GaTA?**

About four to five years ago Robert Jordan was giving out door prizes at the GaTA conference lunch break in the PSC building at the then Macon State College. He was using an iron dinner bell and striker to announce each winner for the giveaways. Near the end of the prizes Robert announced that the triangle itself was the next door prize. Nick McMahon, one of my math tutors, had the winning number! Nick later gave the triangular dinner bell to me. I still have it in my office in the Student Success Center. I occasionally bring it out for tutors to ring once the SSC/Library doors are closed for a light-hearted moment, and the bell reminds me of the great door prizes at the conference (I still use a photo album prize from Bainbridge State College). On a more academic side, the GaTA conference has given me the opportunity to learn how other tutoring centers operate across Georgia. Tutors and tutoring center staff members have presented many helpful sessions. Atlanta, Tifton, Athens, Bainbridge, Brunswick, Milledgeville, Savannah, and other cities are often represented at the conference.

### **What would be your superhero power if you could have one?**

One of my hobbies is birding (ornithology). Being able to change locations quickly is a superhero power that would be nice to possess. Imagine all the birds one could see!



### **Interested in Becoming a Leader in GaTA?**

Be on the lookout for a call to run for GaTA offices coming soon to your email!

Current President, Mary Hamilton, will send out a detailed description of each office and its duties. GaTA officers make the association great so be a part of this fun, low commitment team.



GATA'S SOCIAL MEDIA

10  
22  
16

Save the Date

**The 14th Annual GaTA Conference**  
**“Next Generation Tutoring”**  
**Saturday, October 22, 2016**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Middle Georgia State University**  
**Macon, GA**

Call for proposals & registration opening soon.  
<http://georgiatutoringassociation.org/>



Professional tutoring staff and student  
tutors are welcomed!!

Registration Fees:

Students- \$35

Professionals/Staff- \$55

## Top 10 Reasons to Attend the GaTA 2016 Conference:

### Top 10 Reasons to Attend the GaTA 2016 Conference:

10. Macon is a fun place for a conference!
9. Professional development opportunities available for everyone!
8. Meet others in the field and make new tutoring center friends!
7. Did we mention a yummy lunch is included in registration?
6. Student tutors can present and get a chance to build their resumes a bit.
5. Opportunities to learn about what other schools are doing to improve their tutoring centers and how others can apply those ideas to their own centers.
4. It's on a Saturday so work will not be interrupted for the conference.
3. Witness what the Executive Board calls “The GaTA Renaissance” firsthand.
2. The price is right for both staff and student tutors!!
1. This offers a chance to refresh and recharge for the rest of the semester.

### Is the GaTA 2016 Conference just for tutoring administrators?

HECK NO!!

Help us get the word out to all those involved in student success programs. The conference sessions will offer topics relevant and useful to all professionals in higher education. If you're in the business of student success, then this is the conference for you! We welcome all professionals in higher education including housing staff, TRIO staff and club officers. We want your help spreading the word to your campus that this conference is for lots of people beyond tutoring professionals.

## A TUTOR'S PERSPECTIVE ON A GATA CONFERENCE

When I was first asked to attend the GaTA tutoring conference, I was a little hesitant to say yes. I've always thought, “I am a great tutor.” I wondered if my tutoring style would even change after this conference. However, after attending the conference, I can truly say that yes, my tutoring style changed.

When I first arrived to the conference, I was impressed at the number of other tutors and was excited about interacting with new people. The conference gave me a chance not only to meet with new tutors and learn their tips, but also to develop insightful conversations with tutors from my same college about the presentations we attended.

Before the conference, I had been so wrapped up in my own college's tutoring bubble that it was hard for me to see any room for improvement. There was such a wide variety of presentations that I felt that even the most advanced tutor could learn something new. I learned new strategies for tutoring “stressed-out students”, tutoring from a humanistic perspective, and how to become more efficient about asking leading questions.

Overall, I had a positive experience, and my tutoring improved noticeably. Anyone who is looking to sharpen their tutoring skills or who just wants to learn more about tutoring should attend.

- Clara Grace Coker, UGA Tutor