Greetings GaTA Members,

As the incoming President of the Georgia Tutoring Association (GaTA), I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you! I am delighted that you have chosen to be a part of our organization. I am eager to get to know you and to support you in your endeavors to work towards our mission, to foster the recognition and importance of tutoring to enhance student academic success and retention throughout the state of Georgia.

I am the Director of the Student Success & Learning Support Center at Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC). I have been a member of GaTA since 2005 and have served as Vice President and President-Elect for the organization. I am very passionate about GaTA because it provides a means for me to share ideas, information and best practices in the world of tutoring and learning assistance programs.

I want to thank the attendees, presenters and sponsors for attending the 14th Annual GaTA Conference on October 22, 2016, at Middle Georgia State University. Our goal was to provide a network through which current trends in tutoring could be identified and innovations disseminated. It was amazing to see tutors and administrators come together to present and learn about the tutoring craft in a casual, relaxed, and friendly professional development setting. Your participation helped us achieve our goal. Your comments and suggestions will help us make future conferences and events even more successful.

I would like to take this moment to thank our past President, Mary Hamilton, and our Board Members for their hard work and commitment over the past year. I am honored to work with such talented and dedicated individuals. To all of our members, stay connected with us through our newsletter, our webpage, our mailing list, and through social media. We welcome new board members or volunteers, so if you would like to join us, please contact me or any board member with comments or suggestions. Make plans to attend our Train-the-Trainer event in February 2017 and the 15th Annual GaTA Conference in October 2017.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for 2016-2017. Happy Holidays!

Kimberley Sloan
GaTA President
The 14th Annual GaTA Conference “Next Generation Tutoring,” held on October 22, 2016, at Middle Georgia State University, was a great success! Eighty-six tutors and thirty-two administrators from fifteen Georgia colleges and universities joined GaTA membership.

Here is what a few participants said about their experience:

It was inspiring for me to be submerged not only in a pool of tutors but also in the culture of academia. It was refreshing to witness such successful professors and doctors invest their time in students who are striving to reach similar academic goals. The session presenters were experienced and well-rounded, and I learned so much about tutoring as well as education as a whole. It was just the push I needed to finish this semester and get excited about the rest of my schooling! –Ginger Orton, Tutor, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

After attending the conference, I definitely have a different outlook on the whole role of a campus tutor. I really enjoyed hearing the different sessions. Of course, some had a greater influence on me than others, but it was nice to hear tips and comments on being the best tutor I can be from people outside of my college. Some of the speakers at the conference helped me see my role as a tutor from a new perspective I had never considered. I highly recommend attending a tutor conference to any college-based tutor. It’s a great place to reflect back on our own progress not just as a tutor but as a college student in general. –Alan Valdiviezo, Tutor, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

The GaTA Conference allows tutors and administrators to come together to present and learn about the tutoring craft in a casual, relaxed, and friendly professional development setting. –Kimberley Sloan, Director of the Student Success & Learning Support Center, Georgia Piedmont Technical College

I loved the conference. It was very well organized. I learned a large amount from the presenters. Very worth my time!

Excellent Day!

Thanks for such a great conference this year! I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Certification is inspiring! –Various Attendees
President
Kimberley Sloan has been a member of GaTA since 2005. Kimberley came to Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) in 2001 as an adjunct instructor in the Early Child Care and Education Department. She became the Director of the Student Success & Learning Support Center in 2003 and currently directs three GPTC tutoring Centers and serves as the Coordinator for the Rick Perkins Award for Excellence. Kimberley received her B.A. in Elementary Education and her M. Ed. in Special Education from North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC. In 2005, she received certification in Developmental Education from the Kellogg Institute at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.

President-Elect
Nancy McDaniel is the Program Manager of the Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus Learning & Tutoring Center (LTC) at Georgia State University. Along with four full-time administrators and some sixty tutors, the Dunwoody LTC provides tutoring and learning resources to thousands of students each semester. Nancy joined the LTC as the Writing Center Supervisor in 2005.

Former President, 2015–2016
Mary Hamilton is the Associate Director of Academic Support and Outreach in the Student Success department at Georgia State University (post consolidation of GSU and Georgia Perimeter College). With her great team of admins, she supervises all six locations of Perimeter College’s (formerly GPC) Learning and Tutoring Center, Supplemental Instruction programs at the Atlanta Campus and PC, and GSU’s five TRIO Student Support Services programs. Mary began her career at GPC twenty-three years ago as a math tutor.

Vice President
Paul Johnson is the Macon Student Success Center Coordinator at Middle Georgia State University. The Macon SSC focuses on science tutoring at Middle Georgia State. Paul began working at Macon State College in 2004 in the Academic Resource Center as a part-time staff tutor (both institution and tutoring center names have changed in recent years). Paul has attended nine GaTA conferences since 2005. Paul’s boss for many years was Tim Vick, who served GaTA in many roles including President and Conference Chair. Paul finished his B.A. from Thomas Edison State College in 2003 and his M.B.A. from Georgia College and State University in 2008.

Treasurer
Cheryl Pharr is an academic advisor at Georgia State University. Prior to being an advisor, she worked in the Learning & Tutoring Center. She is passionate about working with students and has worked in higher education for over thirteen years. She grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles, California, lived in Texas briefly, and moved to Georgia in 2000. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Business from Kennesaw State University. Her free time is spent with her many nieces and nephews and listening to non-fiction audiobooks.
Social Media Coordinator
Rebecca Cofer currently works at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, GA. She largely serves as the coordinator of tutoring services for the college but also works with undeclared advising and facilitates Safe Zone trainings on her campus. Rebecca is a graduate of Virginia Tech for both her undergrad and graduate degrees. She has worked as a tutor in Virginia Tech’s writing center and then moved on to coordinate tutoring services for Texas Tech’s TECHniques Center. Rebecca is an active member of GaTA, CRLA and NACADA and holds multiple offices in some of these organizations. Her research interests lie in the benefits of tutoring for the tutor and also the physical space of learning centers. She lives in Tifton with her husband who serves as an Assistant VP at ABAC and their two energetic schnauzers, Fitzgerald and Franny.

Secretary
Tamar Perla is the Assistant Director of Mercer University’s Academic Resource Center. She manages the Macon campus peer tutoring program, conducts peer tutor training workshops to facilitate individual CRLA tutor certification, teaches College Study Skills courses, conducts and schedules study skills workshops, and monitors the Online Writing Lab’s daily operations. Prior to joining Mercer, Tamar taught college writing for eleven years in Southern California and Georgia.

Save the Date
The 15th Annual GaTA Conference
Saturday, October 21, 2017
9:00am – 4:00pm
Middle Georgia State University
Macon, Georgia

A full day of events for tutors, administrators, and anyone involved in student success. Call for proposals and registration opening soon. http://georgiatutoringassociation.org/
See you in October!