

TUTOR CONNECTIONS

JULY 2015 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



Pictures from the 2015 GaTA/GPC Conference

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Train the Trainer Conference
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
October 16, 2015
REGISTER TODAY

A PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2015 GaTA Newsletter!

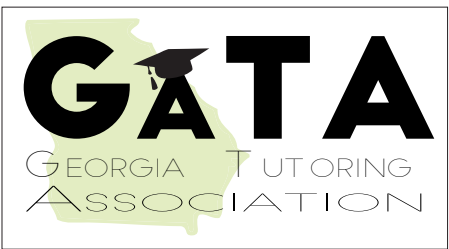
As the new President of GaTA, I am excited to help bring the Georgia Tutoring Association back to the forefront of tutoring in the state of Georgia. January 1993, I started as a math tutor in the Georgia Perimeter College, Learning and Tutoring Center, and January of this year I became the Interim Director of the LTCs. Over my 21+ years at GPC, I have been a part of the tutoring center and college's growth, expansion and development into the institution it is today. I am passionate about tutoring and excited to be a part of the Georgia Tutoring Association's 2015 renaissance!

The GaTA Newsletter is one of the many things we are doing. Make sure you are on our mailing list. Like our Facebook page! Follow us on Twitter. Bookmark the new GaTA webpage. Make plans to attend our Train-the-Trainer event October of this year, and the 14th annual GaTA conference October 2016!

If you have questions about GaTA, I want to hear from you. Please contact me (mary.hamilton@gpc.edu) or any board member with ideas, thoughts, and suggestions for your GaTA. Together we can make this great!

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).

Thank you and Happy Tutoring!
Mary Hamilton
GaTA President



A Sweet New Logo

As we begin this new chapter of GaTA, the officers decided a fresh logo would be a great way to rebrand our association and give the association a new look. Our new logo was designed, with input from the current GaTA officers, by Mr. Nicholas Urquhart at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Our new logo represents the role tutoring plays in higher education in the state of Georgia. We are excited for this new chapter of GaTA and thank Mr. Urquhart for his work in the design of our new logo.

Rebecca Cofer, GaTA Secretary
Coordinator of AAC, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

2015 CONFERENCE - TUTORING, LEARNING AND COLLABORATING

TUTOR CONNECTIONS

This year's GPC Learning & Tutoring Center's Tutor Training Conference was important for a few reasons. Not only was this an opportunity for tutors and administrators alike to learn more about topics in the profession, but it was also the beginning of the new Georgia Tutoring Association's (GaTA) re-organization.

The conference opened on March 11th with registration and a light, but delicious breakfast provided by GaTA in the morning. Following the refreshments, participants could attend sessions prior to lunch on topics ranging from Dr. Lee's "Approaches to Kinetics Problems" to Pieper and Mallard's "Tutors and Librarians, partners in a shared Mission". Sessions during each time slot varied in this same way, offering something for tutors in all fields. Each session was packed full with both peer tutors wanting to gain more knowledge in their tutoring specialty and tutoring administrators wanting a refresher for their centers.

The third time slot open for sessions also allowed administrators in the field to attend the GaTA Reorganization Meeting. During this meeting, officers were voted in, future conferences were set and bylaws were reviewed. The officers have begun to term this new era of GaTA as the "GaTA Renaissance", as they are all very excited for the changes occurring in the association.

The conference then provided participants with a free, yes you read that correctly, lunch. This was a chance for tutors to network with others at their school and in the USG. Following lunch was more sessions to attend. Topics like Ms. Novokshanova's "ESL Students: Issues and Options" and Smith, Fountain and Morgan's "Test Anxiety" were just two of the fantastic sessions covered. It is impossible to summarize each session's topic and relevance in this newsletter, but to say the conference was a success is an understatement.

This year's GPC/GaTA Tutoring Conference had the highest number of attendees yet with 159 attending from all over the state; this is a 51% increase from last year's conference. GaTA and GPC have already begun plans for next year's conferences, so be on the lookout for those events!



COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS: GATA'S 3RD ANNUAL TUTOR CONFERENCE

As tutors at colleges or universities, we can be isolated from the broader educational community. We may even be fairly isolated within our own schools, or within our tutoring centers. But this situation is unnecessary, thanks to the GaTA's recent tutor conference in March.

I am currently a student at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), and I was a student at GPC before I became a tutor. Much of what I have learned about tutoring is from other tutors. Sharing our experiences allows our community to flourish and grow. While at the tutor conference, I had the pleasure of sharing ideas, asking questions, and hearing the experiences of the speakers and of my peers.

Two examples of the conference's excellent training sessions include Justin Swisher's presentation on Supplemental Instruction, and Oronde Freeman's training on tutoring the refugee population. Swisher is GPC's SI Coordinator, and he discussed how the increase of the SI program in size and scope at GPC will provide students with even more resources for academic success. Freeman spoke eloquently on the importance of recognizing when an ESL student may be a refugee, and respecting the special issues he or she may have while pursuing a degree. Refugee students' determination to survive does not end the second they arrive in the United States; that journey continues as they progress in their education. As writing tutors, we are entrusted with stories that are, at times, intensely personal. Above all else, we must remain sensitive to the unique life experiences that students bring with them.

These presentations, along with many others, provided opportunities for discussion and cooperative learning. As a student and a tutor, I appreciate the sense of community and partnership I found at GaTA's third annual tutor conference. The work we do is so important. Many students do not come to college with all the tools they need to succeed, but bit by bit, we can help them do that. And along the way, we can help each other as well.

- Sarah A. Stephens

MEET YOUR NEW GATA OFFICERS

TUTOR CONNECTIONS



SOCIAL MEDIA COMES TO GATA

Be sure to add yourself, by clicking the pictures above, to the various social media groups so you can stay up to date on what's happening in GaTA.

Feel free to post pictures, announcements, questions and ideas. Social media is just another way we as an organization can communicate.

We Want to Hear From YOU!!

What do you think trainers want to be trained on in regards to their field?

Now is your chance to let GaTA know what topics you would like covered at the next Train the Trainer meeting!

Simply email Rebecca at rcofer@abac.edu

We want the training to be effective and useful for you, our GaTA membership, so let us know what info you want covered.

Topics can range from anything in the administrative realm of tutoring to practical training techniques in specific areas. The options are limitless, so let us know what you need discussed.

President – Mary Hamilton

School – Georgia Perimeter College (GPC)

Department – Learning and Tutoring Center– Interim Director

Time in Field– 21 years

Favorite Food– Does coffee count?



President Elect – Kimberley Sloan

School – Georgia Piedmont Technical College

Department – Student Success Center - Director

Time in Field –

Favorite Food – Food from West Africa since I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana

Vice President - Nancy McDaniel

School – Georgia Perimeter College (GPC)

Department – Writing Center Supervisor

Time in Field – 10 years

Favorite Food – Hard to narrow down, but I have trouble sleeping if there's anything in the house with frosting on it



Secretary - Rebecca Cofer

School – Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC)

Department – Academic Achievement Center - Coordinator

Time in Field – 10 years

Favorite Food – Sushi (currently, but I love food)

Treasurer - Cheryl Pharr

School – Georgia Perimeter College (GPC)

Department – Learning and Tutoring Center - Administrative Assistant

Time in Field – 10 years

Favorite Food – Pizza

