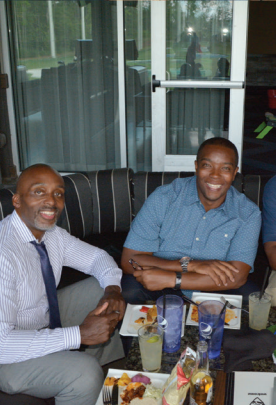




TAKE A SWING 2017



**GEORGIA  
PIEDMONT**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

**ISSUE 3**

OCTOBER 2017

**Dr. Jabari Simama**  
President  
Georgia Piedmont  
Technical College





# TAKE A SWING

Take a Swing for Scholarships, the GPTC Foundation's signature fundraiser, was held September 21st at Top Golf Midtown. Presenting sponsor NewLink/Hackney Real Estate Properties partnered with GPTC for the fun-filled event to raise money for students who are driven to succeed, but need and deserve additional financial support. Roby Hackney of Newlink said, "Our company manages the property where the South Dekalb campus is. We have had an opportunity to see first-hand the payback that the students get from attending GPTC and see what a great job the school is doing with the students." Attendees including teachers, staff, and administrators of GPTC, along with other sponsors and institution supporters engaged one another in conversation over delicious food and backswings overlooking the putting green.

## HERE ARE A FEW COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES:

"This is a wonderful event that raises scholarship funds for our students. If it were not for fundraising events like this, many students would not be able to continue their education. Completing your education is the very first step in becoming a part of the American Dream." *Dr. Jabari Simama, President of GPTC*

"I support this event because it's good for helping to provide scholarships for students, and also helps to provide employees for us as we look for technical employees to run our full-service engineering and contract facilities management business." *Val Bates, KHAFA and Former President of the GPTC Foundation*

"We are committed to young people getting into our industry [selling and servicing heating and air condition units], especially receiving the technical type training that they need for their career. Our entire workforce is made up of students like those who will be receiving these scholarships from GPTC." *Herb Brickhouse, Georgia TRANE*

"We've done a lot of work for GPTC. They are great people, we have enjoyed working with them and we are happy to sponsor them." *Jim, WTI & National Building Contractors*

"An event like this is very important for the college, especially for the students who need the financial help...this helps them be able to go in and get the extra help that they need. These types of events help money trickle through the college to the students, benefitting both the college and the students." *Mark White, Educator*

"CERM believes in the vision and mission of GPTC. The college is a pivotal workforce development partner that plays a crucial role in addressing quality of life and equity issues in our community. We are very proud of our association with the college and look forward to expanding this important partnership." *Albert G. Edwards, CERM*

*A special thank you to all of the Take A Swing Sponsors:*

## PRESENTING:

Newlink

## GOLD:

Gas South  
Banks Finely White  
Sibert Cisneros Shank  
Gordian Group  
Georgia Power

## SILVER:

Publix  
JOC Construction  
JJ Morley  
CERM  
CDCFCU  
KHAFA

## STUDENT:

Tabb & Tabb

## HOLE-IN-ONE:

McGraw-Hill  
Lisa White/Partners  
Trane  
WTI

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*Fall Fest & Fundraiser!*

Please join the GPTC Foundation and the GPTC-DT Alumni Association for this event in support of current GPTC students!

**FREE EVENT • GAMES • RAFFLES • FOOD • MUSIC**

**THURSDAY OCT 26 6-8PM @ REFUGE COFFEE CO.**  
4170 E. Ponce de Leon Ave • Clarkston, GA 30021

**REFUGE COFFEE CO.** **ANNUAL FUND**  
Serving Alumni of DeKalb Tech and Georgia Piedmont Technical College

## PARTNERSHIP with

*You do normal Grocery Shopping and GPTC gets Rewards!*

GPTC is pleased to announce a new partnership with Kroger grocery stores. We urge each of you to register your Kroger Plus card with GPTC as your designated charity at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com/](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/) using NPO number 34930. The money that the college receives is 'free money', and goes back into make GPTC a place that thrives, motivates, and inspires. You can be helping your school get available funds with each swipe. There is no better feeling than giving and knowing that you are in a position to help others. Help the GPTC Family grow and prosper...register TODAY!

**community rewards**



**Register Your Kroger Plus Card Today!**

[www.krogercommunityrewards.com/](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/)



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT .....

**Vannessa Brennan** began her college education in South Carolina back in 2010. Feeling uninspired, and as though she did not have the tools to thrive in that environment. You see, Ms. Brennan did not feel that the studying and learning skills she had developed in high school had prepared her for college. Despite graduating from high school with a 3.8 GPA, she wasn't prepared to do everything on her own, especially lacking support from her then foster family, so she walked away from college altogether.

That was then, this is now. Currently in her third semester at GPTC, Mrs. Brennan was recently named the recipient of the S.O.I.L. (Spearman Ovbije International Leadership) Foundation Scholarship. She was open and honest about suffering with financial anxiety in her scholarship application, which is something CNN Money says 28% of millennials suffer with. Excited to have been chosen, the scholarship will help to lessen her worries about being able to pay for school expenses.

As she works hard to maintain her 4.0 average in Business Administrative Technology, she is right on track to fulfill her goal of working as an administrator in the fields of education and government. She will graduate in the spring fully prepared with a flexible office skill set, having taken human resources and business management skill classes. Let's congratulate Vanessa Brennan!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT .....

Who is **Rose Flynn**? A whimsical anomaly, Mrs. Flynn is one of few who can boast about going from student to employee to retiree at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. She began her journey back when Georgia Piedmont was DeKalb Tech, and was a part of the '82 graduating class. Her degree in Computer Science allowed her to get into the field working as a computer programmer for Norell Corporation for a number of years. After starting her young family, she was still in such demand that the company made special provisions for her to be able to work from home! Transitioning into being a full-time stay-at-home mom, Mrs. Flynn took time away from the workforce to raise her two children.



Eventually, she attended Savannah College of Art and Design earning a degree in Fine Arts. The ever-changing landscape of technology presented an exciting way to merge her two degrees where Mrs. Flynn could, in her own way, help pioneer the world of computer graphics. She easily laughed about the days of black and white computer screens, modems, and dial-up internet while working at IBM full-time. An opportunity to get back into the technical college system presented itself through Georgia Quick Start, a program under the Department of Technical Education (DTE) system (later Technical College System of Georgia). It was there that she really honed the skills that would propel her into a flourishing career. Georgia Technical College later brought her on as their Creative Services Director until the then president of DeKalb Tech offered her a position as the school's first ever graphic designer and Creative Services Director.

For the first time, she was able to work, not only for, but also with the students of a school. This exciting opportunity was one that she welcomed with open arms. Rose spoke of fond memories throughout her career, however two in particular came from her days as a student at DeKalb Tech. She had two main professors, Robert Smith, now retired, and his brother Ron, who taught computer science courses and main subject courses respectively. Ron had a saying, "One step at a time," referencing a song from the 50's by Brenda Lee. Having an inside connect into the Nashville music circuit, Mrs. Flynn was able to get a personally autographed picture of the famed singer for Ron with those words signed on it.

His brother, Robert, introduced the stock market to the class on the first day of an accounting class. He gave them an allowance of \$100 worth of play money and used that to teach them how to follow the market. Of course, as a Computer Science major, Mrs. Flynn chose the company Intel to 'invest' in. The person who broke exactly even was awarded a Zero candy bar, the classmate who lost the most money received a Snickers candy bar, lastly, Mrs. Flynn who earned the most money received a Payday candy bar. Talk about making practical learning fun! Rose loved how motivated her instructors were to impart their book and field-experience knowledge, while also making students feel that they were capable of successfully completing their degrees at DeKalb Tech and moving on into the workforce prepared.

We would like to thank Mrs. Rose Flynn for her dedicated service to the GPTC family! There is evidence of her work on everything GPTC does from letter heads to billboards in the red, yellow, and blue swoop of the school's logo. We wish her many years of retirement enjoyment with her husband of 45 years as they travel the world and visit their two children and four grandchildren.

# FALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Financial assistance is a necessity for a growing number of students hoping to obtain 'The American Dream'. Although there is an increased need for scholarship funds, there is also an increased and more diverse opportunities for students to cut the cost of attending college. Thankfully at GPTC, there are a few chances for students to receive some of the help they need to continue their education, due in part to private gifts from alumni and friends of the college. We would like to acknowledge the following Fall 2017 Foundation Scholarship Award Recipients:

## KEYANNA DYER

*received the R. Pat Rogers HVAC Scholarship and the JTA Scholarship.*

## SHAREEN IAM

*received the Joan D. Lewis Single Parent Memorial Scholarship.*

## ANDEMARIAM NUGUS

*received the Georgia United Credit Union Scholarship.*

## FASIKA BISRAT

*received the Jack Erasmus Cummings Scholarship.*

## VANNESSA BRENNAN

*received the S.O.I.L. (Spearman Ovbije International Leadership) Foundation Scholarship.*



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# ANNUAL FUND



The GPTC Annual Fund is an annual 4-month long campaign that runs from September through December with a goal of raising \$100,000 in unrestricted income to support the College's students, academic programs, faculty and staff. As an institution that prides itself on providing metro Atlanta residents access to an affordable and quality education, private gifts are needed to help stretch what the school receives from the state of Georgia. As we go into the season of giving, consider what size private gift you are able to donate to help lower students' educational needs costs. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for making the effort to assist others in need. To make your gift in support of the GPTC Annual Fund, please visit [www.gptc.edu/give](http://www.gptc.edu/give) today!

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

\$89



1 credit hour for 1 student

\$200



1 book & a MARTA Breeze Pass

\$500



1 semester of books for 1 student

\$1,335



1 student's tuition for a 15-hour semester

\$2,000



1 full semester of tuition, books and transportation for 1 student

*Your gift – no matter the size – is important.*

**VISIT [GPTC.EDU/GIVE](http://GPTC.EDU/GIVE)** to make a gift in support of our students and the annual fund today!

