

MGA Model African Union Trip

A group of six GAMES students went on a trip to Washington, DC to be ambassadors on behalf of Namibia for the National Model African Union. This year The National Model African Union was held on February 20th-23rd. Namibia's officers, who were Austin Jones, Michaela Yip, Adelia Fish, Ethan Roberts, Braden Gilleland, and Newton Strickland, held meetings, negotiated, and debated as Namibian delegates. They represented the interests of the Namibian government on separate committees covering different topics. The committees were the Technical Committee on Economic Matters, Technical Committee on Social Matters, Committee on Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights, Technical Committee on Regional Economic Communities, Peace and Security Committee, and the Executive Council. The purpose of the African Union simulation was for the students to learn the role, structure, and performance of the African Union. More specifically the GAMiES learned the cooperation and conflicts involved in the intra-African diplomacy that are influenced economically, socially, and politically.

The team had to calculate the determinants, capabilities, and constraints of their member state in relevance to the other member states. In Economic Matters, they had to discuss agriculture, water resources, G8 debt relief, energy, development, and food security. Included in the discussion of Social Matters was the strategy to fight HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria along with the problems of gender equality, refugee situations, education, information, and technology. The Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights committee had to focus on the human rights strategy and the importance of justice and anti-corruption. The Committee on Regional Economic Communities aspects was about integration, strengthening and unity, and the Peace and Security Committee focused on conflict management and resolution.

Our team accomplished the goal of passing all of their resolutions. The team had the opportunity to meet many phenomenal people including those who had actually lived in many of the African countries represented in the summit.

For fun the GAMiES met with one former GAMES student; Timberly Thompson. Along with going to a different state and meeting new people, the team also had the opportunity to try many new foods. Unanimously it was decided that the best aspect of the trip was the food. The popular places of culinary interests were Café Mozart and Basil Thai. The worst parts of the trip were the traffic and the early morning schedules. It seems, however, that the food, lasting experiences, and meeting the variety of new people made up for the flaws.

Midterms

In what seems like a minute amount of time, the semester has reached its half way point. And with this arrival comes midterms. The week after Spring Break will be comprised of students panicking and stressing over papers and tests that many feel they are ill prepared for. This lack of preparation is mainly due to the two snow storms that interrupted and prohibited classes for two weeks. While the unexpected breaks were gladly welcomed, they put many if not all classes in a time crunch. Many class schedules were set back due to the missed days. In order to compensate for this, some professors have moved up deadlines for class assignments and have reduced the number of tests to be taken for the rest of the semester (which can be good or bad, depending on the class). Consequently, this has led back to the feeling of lack of preparation.

Fortunately, to my knowledge, the majority of midterms will be taken after the break. Though many students find the idea of studying during a break to be annoying and a hindrance to their plans, it is the most logical way to prepare for any midterms they will take. For those who had midterms before Spring Break, like myself, the best thing would have been to review a little of the subject each night leading up to the day of the test. Stressing out and cramming information the night before will do little to relieve anxieties about midterms. Though midterms do hold weight of their own, they serve as an eye opener for students, a reality check. Midterms mark the midpoint of the semester. This entails that another half of the semester lies ahead. If you are not doing as well as you would like to be, midterms give you a general view of how you are doing and the progress you need to make. Bottom line: don't stress about midterms too much. Focus on progressing and achieving the grade you want in the class.

Caitlynn Schneider



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Special upcoming events:

- Yearbook Pictures!! March 17-20. See Jai.
- "The Roaring Twentie's" Prom March 29
- Recognition Ceremony- April 5



Find the gauntlet for a great sense of self-satisfaction!

During the middle ages, countless numbers of “alchemists” have endeavored to create gold out of diverse items by unconventional means. The most known method of manifesting matter into gold is to utilize human urine. An alchemist by the name of Henning Brandt, a Hamburg scientist, attempted to do such only to accidentally discover element fifteen on the periodic table, Phosphorus.

Although, it is now known that gold is an element and cannot be created from other elements or compounds, the concept of using a completely different good to make another still baffles.

Innovator Sir James Dyson, a modern Thomas Edison and the creator of Dyson brand vacuums, creates “elegant, but easy to use” products that people appreciate on a daily basis. He asked himself who would have a passion for vacuuming as vacuuming is a loud, and messy ordeal and used his frustration over vacuuming to create his first vacuum cleaners.

Dyson’s novelty and work had not gone unnoticed as many other innovators tried with much effort to imitate Dyson’s genius.

In an interview by *Forbes*, Sir James Dyson gives the audience an insight to how he was inspired to be an inventor:

“It all happened rather late... I studied classics at school, but I had a love of painting on the side. It was only at London’s Royal College of Art that I stumbled across engineering, accidentally attending a lecture on architecture and structural engineering. After graduating, I was hired by my first mentor, Jeremy Fry. Under him, I worked on a high speed landing craft – the Seatruck. Starting with a plank of wood as a hull, I had to turn the concept into an actual working boat. It wasn’t easy! But Jeremy taught me an Edisonian approach to design; making prototype after prototype until I got it just right”.

As with most inventors, Dyson did not start off as the perfect innovator with everything planned out. He had his own flaws and issues; however, the amount of effort he put into sharpening his skills paid off in the end:

“I encourage people to make mistakes. I like to put the graduates we hire in positions where they must make decisions early on. They don’t get everything right the first time, but people learn to think, rather than follow. It is far better to show interest and creativity from day one than to let yourself be trapped under the dead hand of corporatism” (*Forbes*).

Many would expect that someone as successful and renowned as Dyson would have a role model. In reality, Dyson had none as many other vacuum cleaner companies mocked his design for a bag-less vacuum cleaner. Even if his vacuum cleaner was revolutionary, the companies would still reject his design due to their support for the market for vacuum cleaner bags.

“It took one Japanese company to take a chance on me to prove to the industry this was an idea worth investing in.”, Dyson stated.

That was the one chance that changed Dyson’s life forever. Now with a company supporting Dyson’s vacuum projects, he now had the chance to share his ideas to the scientific community as well as the rest of the world. Dyson proves that although, the stakes are high, through trials and tribulations, one can aspire to create something greater than what currently exists.



Men’s Basketball Sophomore Knight

Bailey Caldwell

On Tuesday, February 25th, the Middle Georgia State College men’s basketball team played their last home game of the season. Before the game, there was a ceremony honoring the four sophomores on the team. Javaris Hooks, Rashard Flint, Roshaun Milline, and Jalen Brown were all honored as they played their last home game in Morris Gymnasium. Each had very successful careers here at MGSC, and they all started for the team this year. After the festivities, the boys tipped off against South Georgia State. The score stayed close for majority of the game, but the Knights eventually pulled out the win 76-70. Our leading scorer was Roshaun Milline, who had 26 points. Kyle Johnson added 14 off the bench, and Jalen Brown had a big impact on the defensive end with 3 blocks. The Knights’ final game is on February 27th in Barnesville, Georgia against Gordon State.



Coach Moe with sophomores (left to right) Jalen Brown, Javaris Hooks (kneeling), Rashard Flint, and Roshaun Milline.

Missing

What is the point of a body? It keeps us alive, yeah, but there is a double standard. Some bodies are good for looking at and some aren't. Why? It is literally a sack of skin with gross stuff inside. Seriously, everyone (generally) has the same set of organs, muscles, and tissues, so why are some skin sacks pretty and others ugly? It is really just weird to think about. I mean, where do these standards even come from? What does pretty or ugly even mean? Everyone is gross on the inside, so it doesn't matter, but really! IT IS A SACK. Some people have bigger sacks. Some people have smaller sacks. Some sacks are longer than others. They are all sacks. Why do people obsess over what they can't change about themselves? It is because it is so ingrained in their brain that they aren't good enough that they actually start to believe it. People who judge others based on their sack are disgusting. Not in the everyone is a sack aspect but the you have a disgusting mind and just leave people alone aspect. Maybe if people weren't so focused on making others feel horrible about themselves, we could actually do something good to boost people's self esteem for once. Let's be honest here, I like everyone's sack, and if anyone EVER tries to tell you otherwise, I personally give you permission to dump a bowl of ice cream on them like an epic eighties movie. You're welcome.

-The Pendulum

Do you have any questions, comments, or topics you want to me to talk about? Email me at thependulumscross@gmail.com!

Audience Opinion

Have Some Pun

This Issue's Question:

What is your favorite video game series?

Submit your answers to the poll box on the Welch Center Desk!

If the Silver Surfer and Iron Man team up, they'd be alloys.

Last Issue's Poll Results:

Who is your favorite professor?

- I. Dr. Dan Guerrant
- II. Dr. Norman Clark
- III. Mrs. Margaret Bell
- IV. Mr. Joseph Garrison & Dr. Thomas Caldwell
- V. Dr. Mingzhi Xuan



The Autonomous Cars of the Present and the Future

DeJuan McBurnie

Since the invention of the automobile, science fiction has played with the idea of people relaxing in the driver's seat of their vehicle in a way comparable to that of driving a horse carriage. With the use of autonomous control systems aided by radar, lidar, and GPS navigation tools, cars will one day be able to traverse highways and roads without even needing a passenger in the car. Though the mass production of completely driverless cars is currently not a viable idea for any car manufacturer, many engineers working on such vehicles are optimistic that in the coming decades many factors that govern the viability of this possibility will change in favor of the sale of their rapidly developing products.

Engineers face many challenges when incorporating autonomous control systems into a car's design. Google, an information technology company, has become the leader in autonomous driving by having created a fleet of operational driverless cars that are currently being road tested. Other companies accredit Google's ability to do this first with the fact that the company is not a car manufacturer. Google is able to mount their bulky autonomous control systems to the top of cars they buy from automakers, allowing them to focus on the computer aided navigation side of autonomous driving technology. By sacrificing the aerodynamic benefits of their vehicle's design, Google is able to outfit their driverless cars with extremely effective navigation tools. This in turn allows their driverless vehicles to perform very well in many situations, when compared to the technology of other companies. With currently no plans to commercialize this technology, many people agree that the public should look to car manufacturers for insight on what the near future holds for autonomous car technology.

Though driverless taxis and school buses are still far in the future, many car manufacturers are giving the public a glimpse of what is to come, by showing the technology they are currently developing for their vehicles. The first fully autonomous vehicles will be extremely expensive so many people are looking to luxury car manufacturers for an idea of what the first partially autonomous vehicles will look like. BMW has already made a prototype of the partially autonomous vehicle they hope to sell in the near future, and Mercedes-Benz is releasing their Mercedes S Class vehicles that come equipped with autonomous driving features. Cars in the BMW 5 series will come equipped with an autonomous control system that will allow for autonomous driving while on the highway. This is why vehicles near the Mercedes S Class release will utilize radars and cameras to follow vehicles at a safe distance.

Google's fleet of autonomous cars will remain the most advanced vehicles on the road for sometime as car manufacturers try to solve the commercialization issues associated with designing and manufacturing vehicles with autonomous control systems. Many people are quick to dismiss Google as being a viable competitor in the race to create a safe and reliable autonomous driving system, but it is obvious that this is the very reason Google poses a large threat to car manufacturers that are dragging their feet in developing this technology. Sadly, Manufacturing autonomous control systems and designing cars that can utilize them, while performing and looking acceptable, is a massive challenge automakers have to overcome. We should be patient about owning autonomous vehicles of our own because the life changing technology that we are expecting is still many years away.

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|-----------------|----------------|
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This Week's Brain Teaser:

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| 7 | | | | | 8 | 5 | | 6 |
| 3 | | | | 5 | 9 | | | |
| | | | 2 | 7 | | | 1 | |

Email a picture of your completed puzzle to yipm@mgc.edu. The first completed puzzle gets food.