

# The Phi Beta Lambda Newsletter

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Jill Dollar, Advisor  
Phyllis Jackson, President  
Vicky Robinson, Vice-President

## From the President

Dear PBL Members and Friends,

We are quickly approaching 2006, and our agenda over the next few months should be a busy one. I am very proud of all the hard work and cooperation shown by our group over the past few months, and I look forward to a very successful year.

Our March of Dimes fundraising activities will soon be in full force. This charity is our organization's local, state and national project for the year. In 2005, West Georgia Technical College Phi Beta Lambda led the nation in donating funds to the March of Dimes. I know you are looking forward to meeting and exceeding this benchmark.

In addition to the March of Dimes project, we are currently preparing for competitive events at upcoming conferences and are making progress toward achieving our chapter goals.

I am honored to have each of you working with me in Phi Beta Lambda.

Thank you,  
Phyllis Jackson



Phyllis Jackson, President  
WGTC Phi Beta Lambda

## Georgia Fall Leadership Conference 2005

The Georgia Fall Leadership Conference was held at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta November 18 - 20. The theme for this year was "Work Ethics in Action." Members and advisors of PBL, SkillsUSA, SGA, SNAILS, RADS, and NTHS—37 people in all—represented WGTC at this professional development conference.

The conference began with the Postsecondary Student Organization Meetings. PBL members from around the state had the opportunity to meet the State officers and discuss the Georgia PBL Goals for 2006.  
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## Patrick Crews speaks at PBL Meeting



*PBL secretary Linda Clements presents Mr. Crews with a gift.*

In honor of American Free Enterprise Day, Mr. Patrick Crews agreed to speak at our November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. He gave a very interesting presentation on the many resources that are available to anyone who has or may be considering opening a small business in Troup County.

Aside from being the President of Charter Bank, Mr. Crews is also the chairperson of the Small Business Committee at the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce. He shared with us the mission of the Small Business Committee, which is to serve the needs of small business of LaGrange and Troup County. "LaGrange," he stated, "is an entrepreneur friendly city."

Mr. Crews concluded with some helpful advice on what one should do before starting a new business:

- Research the type of business in which one is interested
- Obtain all necessary business licenses
- Acquire insurance
- Develop a five-year business plan

The meeting concluded with delicious finger food provided by PBL members, and Mr. Crews was presented with a gift in appreciation for his time.

## Small Business Surveys

PBL members volunteered their time to help the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce survey many of the small businesses in our area. Members visited businesses throughout the area to conduct a survey put together by the Chamber. Its purpose was not only to collect statistics, but also to gather feedback from local business owners on how the county could better serve them. The seven page survey asked questions in the following categories:

- Business Description
- Entrepreneur/Owner
- Future Plans
- Workforce
- Marketing/Sales
- Community Support

By assisting with these surveys, PBL members had the opportunity to meet many of the business owners in the area and find out first hand what it is really like to own one's own business.

## Upcoming Events

- January 13 - Presidents' Council Meeting in Macon, GA
- February 3 - North District Competition, Atlanta Technical College
- February 13-18 - FBLA-PBL Week / National Vocational Education Week
- February 15 - PBL Adviser Appreciation Day
- February 16 - March of Dimes Kick-Off Luncheon



## Extraordinary People Celebrating Birthdays this Quarter

### November 22

**Peggy Wilson** is a graduate from Southern Union, Auburn University, and the University of West Georgia. She is a long-time faculty member of West Georgia Technical College in the Accounting Department.

**Abigail Smith Adams** (1744), wife of John Adams, second President of the United States, is perhaps best known for her request that the Continental Congress consider the needs and rights of women in forming the new country.

### November 30

**Alida Boynton** is a BOT student at WGTC, and a member of both Phi Beta Lambda and the National Technical Honor Society.

**Sir Winston Churchill** (1874) is generally regarded as one of the most important leaders in British and world history. He won the Nobel Prize for literature.

### December 2

**Pam Hawkins** is a graduate from Southern Union and Auburn University. She is currently a member of WGTC in the Business Office Technology Department, Georgia PBL Executive Director, and an accomplished pianist.

**Charles Ringling** (1863) organized his siblings to form what would eventually become "The Greatest Show on Earth."

### December 28

**Vicky Robinson** is a BOT student at WGTC and Vice President of PBL.

**Earl "Fatha" Hines** (1905) recorded with Louie Armstrong, songs that are regarded as some of the most important jazz records of the late 1920s.

*Facts about historic figures found at:*  
<http://www.reference.com/thisday/>

## Leadership in Action

It was the first night of the Georgia Fall Leadership Conference. In the Hambersham Room of the Renaissance Waverly Hotel, servers were stocking the buffets with pizza, the DJ was playing dance music, and conference attendees were mulling around—wondering what to do.

Suddenly, students and advisors from West Georgia Technical College came on the scene and exercised their leadership skills. Donning tied-dyed T-shirts, they took to the floor and danced to every tune. Eventually others joined in, and everyone enjoyed an evening of music, laughter, and fellowship.



## Conference (continued from page 1).

Officer Training Sessions began at 9:00 Saturday morning. The objective was to provide officers with a basic understanding of their particular offices and give them the tools to perform their duties successfully. At 12:15 p.m. leadership training began. *Fun and Excitement in Leadership* was one of the seminars offered, in addition to lectures that focused on work ethics such as appearance, communication, and team work.

All sessions concluded by 5:00 p.m., just in time for those who wished to participate in the March of Quarters Mini Walk-America. Many found the walk in the crisp November air invigorating after a full afternoon of classes. With this one event, PBL raised over \$2500.

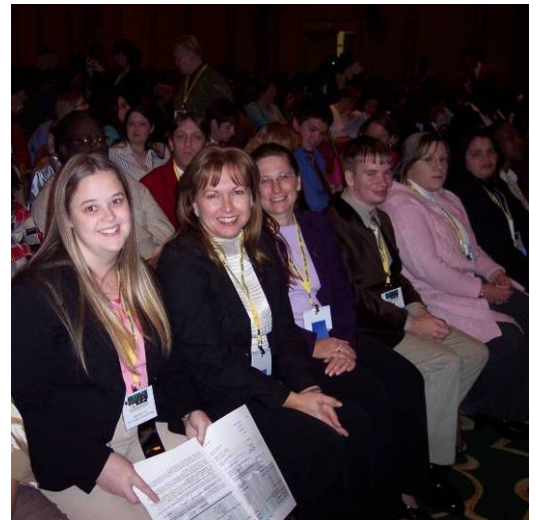
The conference was also an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with students from technical colleges all over Georgia. On Friday night there was a Pizza Party / Dance (see related article, *Leadership in Action*) and on Saturday the group played Bingo, the proceeds of which went to the March of Dimes.

Sunday morning brought the end of the conference. Mr. Michael Vollmer, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Technical Adult Education, was one of the many remarkable people that spoke at the conference. He offered words of encouragement and praise to everyone who pursues higher education. Back on campus, everyone expressed how much they enjoyed the weekend, and how they were looking forward to attending next year.

This report would not be complete without recognizing the efforts of Ms. Stephanie Acey of Student Services. She alone coordinated transportation, hotel reservations, and conference registration for all who attended. Thank you, Ms. Acey!



Pictured above, Phyllis Jackson is joined by LaGrange's Mayor, Jeff Lukken (left), and WGTC's President, Dr. Daryl Gilley (right), in the signing of a proclamation for American Enterprise Day. Mayors from Franklin, West Point, and Roanoke also signed the proclamation.



### ΦΒΛ

Do not let our Greek name deceive you. PBL is not a social fraternity or sorority. Social events are certainly a part of PBL activities, but the focus is business and leadership development.

**We are on the Web!**

<http://cisweb.westgatech.edu/jill/pbl/index.html>