

# GOVIE GAZETTE



## STAFF

### CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Jacqueline Tobin • Emily Babb

### SENIOR EDITORS

Palak Trivedi • Kylie Fletcher

### REPORTERS

Chase Turner • Selen Berkman • Anna Kulangara • Vince Ylagan

### LAYOUT

Karan Sah • Willy Li • Shane Ragusa

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## Hall Murals

by Jacqueline Tobin



Each year, a mural is painted on each of the residence halls. This year, all floors on girls' side and one floor on boys' side finished their murals in October.

Second floor girls finished their mural first, which was designed by Seniors Clare DuVal and Crystal Carpenter. They were inspired by artist Keith Haring and chose to model his work because of its bold, distinguishable qualities.

Girls' side third floor is still in the process of painting their Lilo and Stitch themed mural. The mural depicts the dancing scene from Lilo and Stitch. The older, taller girls on the back row represent the seniors on the hall, and the younger girls represent the juniors. None of the girls look alike, depicting the wide spectrum of personalities on their hall. They chose this theme because they felt that even though they are all different, in the end, they are united. Along the bottom of the mural is the quote that brings it all together, "Ohana means family, and family means no one gets left behind."

Fourth floor girls painted a bookshelf, filled with each hall member's favorite book. They were trying to move away from the cartoon theme that existed throughout their floor's murals. However, they have kept one element the same every year: in each mural there is an ant. Last year he stuck out of someone's pocket, and this year he peeks around a book on the shelf. Beside the bookshelf is a quote from Lisa Kleypas, "A well read woman is a dangerous creature." Senior Mikayla Drost sketched the mural, and a group of both seniors and juniors stayed up late on a Saturday night to paint, which was a bonding experience for all.

Only one hall on guys' side has finished their mural. Second floor's painting is a rendition of Star Wars. They featured faces of GSSM on the characters, including Mr. Staples as The Emperor, Dr. Brockman as Yoda, RA Artur as "Artur-D2," RA Jordan as C3PO, RLC Tre as Anakin Skywalker, and former RLC Maurice as Obi-Wan Kenobi.



# Teacher Feature

*by* **Kylie Fletcher**

Dr. Jason Martin is the new biology teacher on campus here at GSSM. Dr. Martin is originally from Poughkeepsie, NY and earned his PhD in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida. Previously, he lived in New York State and taught classes in Ithaca, NY, worked as Post Doctorate Research Coordinator at Cornell, and was a wildlife biologist at The NY State Department of Wildlife Conservation. His wife works as a research scientist at Cornell University. In his free time, Dr. Martin enjoys reading, hiking, birdwatching, and watching movies and sports, particularly science fiction movies and baseball.

Dr. Martin is excited to be working at GSSM and says that the students here are his favorite part. He gets to teach, but also learn at the same time. The interesting questions that students ask

allow him to continue thinking and learning as a teacher.

His advice for students is to “Never forget to have fun in what you are doing.” Much is expected out of the students here, and Dr. Martin advises to not let the stress keep them from enjoying their work inside the class and their life outside of the class. He encourages students to go outside often and take a walk or simply enjoy nature. If you want to know more about Dr. Martin, he says that he is always open to students coming by his office just to talk or learn.

## Halloween Dance

*by* **Selen Berkman**

On Saturday, October 17, GSSM held its annual Halloween Dance. Govies had a spooky, fun time. Students came to the dance dressed in a variety of costumes, ranging from witches to hot dogs. Halfway through the dance, students competed in a costume contest. Victoria Young, Mariana Obando, Daniel Patino, and Matthew Magee won for their amazing costumes. Victoria dressed as a Weeping Angel from Doctor Who, and Mariana as Señora. Daniel and Matthew were Pedro and Napoleon from Napoleon Dynamite. After the contest, students continued to dance along to classic line dances, popular hits, and spooky tunes. Thank you to Jake Bhoi and the SAB for organizing this great event.



## Sports Update

*by* **Jacqueline Tobin**

The Lady Eagles Volleyball Team won the first round of playoffs on Wednesday, October 28th against Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School. They played a good match against Brashier Middle College on November 2nd, but lost in three sets, ending their post-season play. They finished their season as Region Champs. Senior Volleyball player Leland Hartzog was awarded Region Player of the Year and was recognized as an All-State player.

The girls' tennis team will play their first round of playoffs on November 4th and are also Region Champs. Cross Country runners Caleb Rummel and Julia Ladson were voted Region Cross Country Runners of the Year. Way to go Eagles!



# Meet Artur!

by Anna Kulangara

Artur Cabral joined the GSSM Residence Life staff this year as a Residence Assistant on 3rd Floor.

Q: How long have you been at Coker/ what year are you in?

A: I've been here for almost two years and I'm a junior at Coker.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Okay, so here's my story. I started playing volleyball when I was 10. I decided to stick with volleyball when I was 13, and when I was 15 I got invited to play club volleyball in another state in the South. I was in the biggest club, and I was away from my family at 15. After graduating from high school at 18, I was invited to play pro volleyball, but my parents didn't want me to. They wanted me to stick with studying. So then I decided I wanted to come to the United States to look for schools and email coaches. I got a bunch of offers and then I chose Coker because of the scholarships and I wanted to start at a smaller school. I wanted to build my way up, start at a small school and build my way up to play volleyball.

Q: What is your major and what are your intended career goals?

A: My major is in computer science and my minor is in math. I have 2 options. My main goal is to play professionally after college. I want to live for volleyball. If it doesn't work after a year or two or three, then I will have a career in computer science.

Q: Why are you so interested in computer science?

A: I've always loved technology and my parents influenced me because they both have careers in computer science.

Q: How often do you visit your family in Brazil?

A: I go every summer for about 2 months. Sometimes my father and my little brother will come visit me. But, I try to go there and visit my mom because she hasn't come to see me yet.

Q: Why did you decide to come here and work at GSSM?

A: Oh, fun question. I didn't know what an RA was when I came here, but my RA during my first year at Coker was awesome. I said, "Oh I wanna be that guy!" But at Coker, you need to deal with a lot of drunk people, and much bigger issues. Here, I can help high schoolers and younger students, instead of trying to fix the older ones.

Q: How do you like it here so far?

A: I love it. I love the staff, the students, the food, my own dorm room... I just like everything. My favorite thing is the relationship with the students; it's just so close.

Q: Who's your favorite student?

A: Ooooooh, I cannot say that!!

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: I like seafood. Shrimp!

Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: I can dance to some Brazilian style music. I can't sing. I can cook! I can move my ears. I'm good at selling stuff and persuading.

Q: Do you have anything you want to tell the students?

A: Now that you know my story, if you read the entire story, my advice is to be independent. Learn to not depend on your parents as much.

I lived away from my parents at 15, and I had to grow up. You can learn to deal with your own problems because you won't always have your parents to solve your problems.

## Spotlight Hartsville: Pita Pit

by Vince Ylagan

A new addition to Hartsville, Pita Pit, offers a wide selection of—you guessed it—pitas. Healthy, unique cuisine is less than a 10-minute walk away from school; it's right next to the Golden Dragon. You can choose from pitas, with everything from buffalo chicken to Mediterranean-seasoned beef and lamb, and finish off your meal with one of their fresh smoothies. They even offer a breakfast menu, as well as a vegetarian menu with entrées including falafel and hummus. With a 10% discount for students and teachers, a filling meal at Pita Pit is well-worth the price.



## Scarowinds

by Chase Turner

Last Saturday on October 24, 2015, the students of GSSM put on their bravest faces and took on the spooky Scarowinds. A highly anticipated event, the buses departed the school at 5:00 p.m., loaded with around eighty eager and excited guys and ghouls. However, before arriving at the park, traffic lined the entrance of Carowinds for nearly an hour, so Govies were left to entertain themselves. Finally entering the park and energized by the wait, the Govies ran all through the park to tackle hair-raising thrill-rides and spine-tingling haunted houses. Besides the frightening rides, the park was shrouded in an ominous fog and populated by the living dead and blood-soaked witches and vampires adding to the spooey atmosphere. Unfortunately, the crowded park prevented many of the students from riding a multitude of roller coasters, but I heard one thing before leaving that each Govie should remind themselves: "At least we will always share this bad memory together."



# Mental Health 5k Race

by Emily Babb

On October 17, sixty people participated in the Mental Health 5k race organized by Kylie Fletcher. Teachers, students, and staff participated in the event, which attempted to raise awareness for mental illness as well as raise money for Mental Health America of Darlington County. The event is to become an annual occurrence, and it is Kylie's hope that it will grow each year.

The race started at 8am in front of GSSM, and it ran through the picturesque parts of Hartsville. The winner of the race was Josh Ladson with a time of 17 minutes and 2 seconds.

Kylie worked with Dr. Alison to make the race become a reality. She had the idea for the race while in the mental health interim with Dr. Alison. In the interim, they went to Columbia and saw hospitals, where it became apparent that there is an underfunding for mental illness treatments. The most rewarding part of the experience for Kylie was raising over \$1800 to help patients. The check was presented at the Mental Health Dance, as the money went towards helping the same people who participate in the dance.

The race took months of planning, and it was particularly challenging to organize since it was a new event. She was, however, familiar with 5k races from cross-country, which is where she got the idea for the race. She has been doing 5k races since 9th grade, and saw it as a good way to raise awareness and funds. Additionally, she recognized the physical activity also helps treat mental illnesses. Kylie reminds everyone to "treat [mental illness] as as much of a disease as a physical disease."

