



# The Covington News

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## Stairway to learning

Newton's GPC  
Campus on track  
for June opening

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Georgia Perimeter College is set to open the doors of its Newton Campus in June in what looks to be the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship with Newton County.

The 104,000-square-foot academic building is three and a half stories tall, and will be officially open for summer classes on June 4. When it opens, the campus will serve students from eight counties: Newton, Rockdale, Henry, Walton, Jasper, Morgan, Butts and Putnam.

"It's going great," said Dr. Sallie Paschal, Chief Operating Officer of the Rockdale/Newton campus, adding that work is more than halfway completed on the building.

According to Paschal, the finished building will have a Borders-type bookstore for students on the lower floor, 35 general classrooms, 10 computer classrooms and six science labs.

The \$24 million building will also feature a student services one-stop-shop area, as well as a three-story tower with a grand staircase and a commons area for student life activities.

"There will be lots of places for students to study, play and hang out," Paschal said.

GPC's newly appointed president, Anthony Tricoli, calls the building, "beautiful."

"The community has embraced GPC with both arms. We aren't going to let them down. We're going to provide the absolute best education that we possibly can," Tricoli said.

Plans for a second building on the Newton Campus are already in place and funded, said Paschal, adding that the college expects the second building to be finished by February 2009. There are plans for a total of seven major buildings to be built in coming years.

The second building will primarily serve as a student support building, according to Paschal. Once the second building is finished, the cam-



Mandi Singer/The Covington News

**Framework:** Moises Benitez, a contractor with Tuxedo Glass, works below the grand staircase in the three-story steel and metal-framed building that will eventually serve as Georgia Perimeter College's entrance and main lobby when the Newton Campus opens.

pus library will be moved into it, as well as the student center, tutoring center and other student services.

"The rest of the build-out over time will be based on student need, enrollment and resources available," Paschal said.

A four-lane parkway with a median into the campus is also under construction.

Paschal said that construction on the facility began a year ago, but some people still don't know about it because they can not see the building going up from the road on Ga. Highway

11 or from Interstate 20.

The spring semester will be the last semester for classes at the Rockdale campus in Conyers. "We'll move out of the facility after that," Paschal said.

See GPC page 2A



*Submitted Graphic*

**A look into the future:** The above is a rendering, provided by Georgia Perimeter College, of what the finished Newton Campus will look like once construction is complete.

## GPC: Rockdale Campus overloaded

*From front page*

According to Paschal, the Rockdale campus is "bursting at the seams."

"It is cramped there," agreed first year GPC student Liza Harper, a Covington resident who is taking her core classes at the Rockdale campus.

Constructed in 1993, the Rockdale campus originally had an enrollment of 375 students. Today it has an enrollment of 1,700 and only 200 parking spaces.

"There's not really any place for labs, so I think this new school will offer more things," Harper said, adding that she is looking forward to the new campus opening as it will be closer to her home.

GPC is the third largest college institution in the university system of Georgia and accounts for 40 percent of all transfer students in Georgia, according to Tricoli. GPC is the largest

feeder school for three of the major universities in the state:

UGA, Georgia State and Georgia Tech.