For some GPC employees, Georgia Perimeter College is a family affair.

GPC (then DeKalb College) is no stranger to the Weatherly household. Travis Weatherly, Jr.’s 26 years at GPC combined with his father’s 20 years, make the Weatherly family affiliation with GPC one of the longest of all college employees.

In 1966 Travis Weatherly, Sr., started as assistant director of the DeKalb Technical School, then part of the college. He retired 20 years later as vice president of administration. Meanwhile, in 1972, Weatherly, Jr., enrolled in DeKalb College, graduating in 1974. He would return in 1979 as plant manager at the Dunwoody Campus. Today Weatherly, Jr., is associate vice president for facilities.

“Did my dad influence my decision to come to GPC? Well, yes and no,” says Weatherly. “My dad spoke highly of the college, but expected me to make my own decision. One thing for sure, Dad had very high standards, and for me they were even higher. He said if you’re going to work here, you’ve got to be the best!”

Peggy Curney Davis, coordinator in educational affairs, was in grade school when her father, Jessie Curney, Sr., started working as a custodian at then DeKalb College during its inaugural year. “He always said, ‘It’s a great community college. It’s a wonderful thing that they’ve done here in DeKalb County,’” Davis recalls of her father who worked for the college for 19 years. “I remember Dad saying that to me from when I was six years old.”

So strong was his praise of Georgia Perimeter that Davis and her three siblings attended the college. Davis graduated in 1978, but that did not end her affiliation with the college. Instead she parlayed her student work-study assignment into a full-time position. Today Davis is a 28-year-employee of GPC. She, like her father, is continuing the family legacy at the college. Her daughter Lokiri graduated from Georgia Perimeter in May 2005.

For Weatherly and Davis, Georgia Perimeter is more than a workplace. It’s a place of family memories.
When it comes to faculty, Georgia Perimeter brings quality to the table. Our faculty are recognized regionally, nationally and internationally for their excellence in teaching and research. Over the years more than 30 GPC faculty members have received the National Institute for Organizational Development Teaching Excellence Award for extraordinary service to their students, college and their community. Among our ranks have been 27 Governor’s Teaching Fellows. This represents the largest number of Governor’s Fellows from any institution in Georgia. We also have had two prestigious American Council on Education Fellows, a winner of the 2005 International Exemplary Leadership Award and a Georgia Writer of the Year, to name just a few of our faculty’s awards for excellence. Nearly one third of the faculty members hold a doctorate degree; more than 80 percent hold a master’s degree. Fifty-five percent of our full-time teachers are tenured. GPC faculty have taught abroad, presented at state and regional conferences and have been lauded for “Best Practices” in their fields. Look for GPC faculty among those published in leading journals, including The Supermolecular Chemistry Journal, the Journal of the American Medical Association, The Negro Educational Review and The Chronicle of Higher Education. They’ve written fiction and nonfiction and published research on a myriad of subjects. Georgia Perimeter has honored its own with annual awards to outstanding faculty and staff and has honored highest faculty honors through the President’s Athena Award, the Cole Fellow and the President’s Distinguished Faculty Award. Georgia Perimeter’s faculty stay abreast of developments and contribute to professionalism in education. They represent the college well – raising the bar and bringing home the prize.
For 40 years, Georgia Perimeter College and the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra have made beautiful music together. From its beginnings in 1964 as a community service of then DeKalb College to today’s recognition as one of metro Atlanta’s oldest, largest and most active community orchestras, the symphony has called GPC’s Clarkston Campus its home. Since 1979, the DSO has been under the artistic direction of conductor Dr. Thomas J. Anderson, long-time chairman of the fine arts department and a GPC retiree. Today, the DSO holds the distinction of being Georgia Perimeter’s orchestra in residence and is considered a model throughout the nation for the mutual benefit of orchestras and colleges. Like most community orchestras, the DeKalb Symphony is comprised of avocational and professional musicians—all of whom have excellent credentials. The orchestra performs 13 to 15 concerts each year, on the road and at the Marvin Cole Auditorium on the Clarkston Campus. In addition to showcasing community musicians, the DSO invites nationally known virtuosos to perform. The symphony’s 2004-2005 season features guest performers such as pianist William Rasimus, soprano Young Sook Oh, and trumpeter Larry Black. Dedicated to reaching a broad spectrum of music aficionados, the orchestra hosts free community concerts of light classics and popular music. It reaches younger audiences through its widely popular performance of Prokofiev’s “Peter and the Wolf” professionally narrated and filled with dance by the Atlanta Danceworks. The language of the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra fills the halls of Clarkston’s fine arts building—a relationship steeped in goodwill and tradition. Georgia Perimeter is pleased to be a place where music from the DSO flows.