

# Soviet Union, Georgia, continue Cold War conflict, attempt to find peaceful resolutions

BY MEGHAN HERSCH  
Reporter

Focused on the conflict in the Middle East, most people do not realize the lingering presence of the Cold War. Russia and western nations are still feuding over territory in the former Soviet ruled Georgia.

For the past eighteen years, since the end of the South Ossetian (northern region of Georgia) War in 1991-1992, Georgia has been on the brink of yet another bloody battle. After the 91-92, war South Ossetia claimed de facto (not by law) independence. Internationally, no country recognizes their independence; today the territory is still disputed.

Following the war, Georgia accused Russia of putting a puppet government in South Ossetia in order to control the region. Many ex-Russian officials began running the government, and Russia provided 2/3 of their budget. Currently, South Ossetia is home to 70,000 people, 90% of whom are of Russian descent and who carry Russian passports. Under the Russian constitution, citizens qualify for physical and political protection.

On Thursday, August 7, the ceasefire treaty between Georgia

and South Ossetia was allegedly broken by the South Ossetians; Georgia proceeded to launch an air and ground strike on the small Russian/Georgian territory. The next day Russia countered Georgia's invasion with a strike of its own meant to expel the Georgians out of the region.

Although this counterstrike by the Russians was controversial, the military push past South Ossetia and into the region of Gori drew international attention. Outraged, the United States and Georgia demanded that Russian troops retreat from Georgia.

On August 15, Georgia and Russia signed a preliminary ceasefire French President Nicolas Sarkozy introduced. According to the ceasefire Russia agreed to withdraw all troops in ten days. Although they did pull out the majority of its troops, Russia elected to keep "peace keeping" troops in Georgia. Russia claimed they do not want a repeat of August 8, allowing troops to remain there will help to maintain a strong military presence. Russia also continues to station troops in the key port of Poti, another disputed area of Georgia.

Leaving Georgia and its citizens devastated, this conflict



has already resulted in 30,000 of 70,000 people fleeing from South Ossetia to Russia in attempts to escape the bloody conflict. A total of 68,000 Georgians have fled their homes as a result of the battles.

Russia also received much criticism over the past couple days for their inaccurate death toll estimations. Early reports estimated the death toll of Georgians around 1,600, but so far ongoing investigations have located 133 names and bodies. Sixty-four Russian officials were killed, and 323 were wounded. Georgia reported 215 civilians and a further 1,400 were wounded.

After all the dust settled in the Georgian conflict, Russia was still not finished creating controversy. On August 26, the

Russian Parliament voted almost unanimously to recognize South Ossetia's independence. Furious about the declaration, western nations and Georgia called it "an annexation of Georgian territory."

Today the two nations have a six-point peace plan in effect to stop the violence and to return troops to the previously drawn territorially lines. The six points include:

1. No recourse to the use of force.
2. Definitive cessation of hostilities.
3. Free access to humanitarian aid.
4. The Armed Forces of Georgia must withdraw to their permanent positions.
5. The Armed Forces of the Russian Federation must withdraw to the line where they were sta-

tioned prior to the beginning of hostilities. Prior to the establishment of international mechanisms the Russian peace-keeping forces will take additional security measures.

6. An international debate on the future status of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and ways to ensure their lasting security will take place.

While the road to reparation between the two nations will be long and tedious, they are both making strides.

The international community wants Russia to leave South Ossetia to Georgia; however, Russia advocated for its independence. Although the two sides may never reach an agreement, at least the peace treaty will help cease the violence.

## New administrators join staff, use skills, experience, to create successful institution

BY MEGHAN HERSCH  
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New faces on campus did not just include freshmen and transfer students this August; four new administrators joined the team, including principal Anna Brady and assistant principals Charles H. Cockerham, Jr., Gregory R. Slate, and Misty Walker.

Brady previously served as principal of Weaver Academy. Her experience also included coaching and counseling. Some of her favorite moments in education came from her counseling position, in which she helped students discover the right track for a successful life.

Brady enjoys learning about the history and traditions of this historic institution and sees potential for all students to exceed. Her plans include making the campus a place where students can come to learn despite past failures.

"I need the student body to help me reach our vision," said Brady. "To work together, to work as a team, to transfer our school culture into a warm and inviting student center takes every single person."

Born in Jonesville, NC, assistant principal Cockerham received a BS in Health and

Physical Education, as well as an MS in Educational Leadership.

His duties as assistant principal include overseeing athletics, safety drills, and bus transportation. He also serves as freshmen adviser and assists in ISS-student intervention. He has no immediate plans to become the head principal in charge; he is pleased with his role.

"I think that it was meant to be," said Cockerham. "I have a strong feeling that there is a purpose and plan for me to be here at Grimsley."

Like Brady, his favorite aspect of the campus is its history and tradition.

However, Cockerham's least favorite feature of the school is the negative display of behavior that occurs during Page-Grimsley Week; otherwise, he is yet to identify any major weaknesses.

Cockerham wants students to view him as a tough but fair mentor and advisor. He plans to build strong relationships with the student body and fellow staff members.

"I am excited to be here, and I hope that I can make a difference and leave an everlasting positive impression with the students as well



As new principal, Anna Brady quickly embraces the entire Grimsley family. L-R: A.P.s Gregory Slate and Heather Hill, Anna Brady, A.P.s Misty Walker and Charles Cockerham. File photo

as the community," said Cockerham.

Assistant principal Slate received his post-high school education from Tulane University and High Point University. He earned a BA in History and Educational Licensure, as well as an M.Ed in Educational Leadership.

Past jobs included teaching and coaching in Lexington. Slate has also served as Curriculum Facilitator at Northwest High School, Curriculum Intervention Specialist at High

Point Central, and an assistant principal at Dudley.

"This was a great opportunity presented to me to work with a great team of administrators and teachers," said Slate. "I decided that I wanted to grow and work with this dedicated group of professionals to help the students of Grimsley become the leaders of Greensboro and the nation."

Slate recognizes the importance of history and tradition, but finds it a constant struggle to maintain the aging buildings

on campus. Despite this challenge, his plans transcend the physical campus by focusing on its inhabitants.

"I see Grimsley becoming not only more successful academically and athletically, but also becoming a place that develops great teacher leaders who inspire students to reach unthinkable heights," said Slate.

Like his fellow administrators, Slate looks forward to being a part of the Whirlie Community.