New President Hits the Campus Running

During July, our new AASU President Linda M. Bleicken could be seen everywhere. From her office (top left) with its elegant touch of fresh flowers, she reached out to many of the activities on campus. Bright and early on a Saturday morning, she welcomed entering freshmen and their parents to a session of Navigate Armstrong (middle left). She met with the group of staff and faculty planning October’s campus campaign (bottom left). Entering freshmen in the STEP undergraduate research program also enjoyed a visit from her in the Science Center labs (below).
Barrett Assumes Liberal Arts Leadership

In July, Laura Barrett became dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Barrett has been chair of Fine Arts, Humanities and Selected Social Sciences in the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Jupiter for the past four years. She has served on the FAU faculty since 1998 as a charter member of the Wilkes Honors College faculty.

She holds a Ph.D. in nineteenth and twentieth century American literature with emphasis in American romance, postmodernism, literature and photography from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. While at Stony Brook she was a postdoctoral fellow. She earned her master’s in English literature from Columbia University in New York City. She received her bachelor’s degree in English summa cum laude from Long Island University (LIU), Brooklyn Campus.

Before moving to FAU, she served five years as assistant/associate director of the university Honors Program on the LIU Brooklyn Campus where she had also been an adjunct professor.

Barrett has written numerous articles and delivered many conference presentations and lectures on works of literature ranging from “Moby Dick” and “Ragtime” to “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” and “The Great Gatsby.”
Fulbright-Hayes travelers pose at a hotel in Debrecen, Hungary. (l-r)
Row 1: Sandra Trujillo (GA College & State University), Jim Anderson (AASU), Yassaman Saadatmand (AASU), Carmela Aliffi (St. Vincent's Academy, Savannah), Felix Hamza Lup (AASU)
Row 2: Sarah Spradley (Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools), Gretchen Davenport (DeRenne Middle School, Savannah), Sharon Thomas (Richmond Hill Middle School)
Row 3: Neil Thompson (Fulton County Public Schools), Michael Toma (AASU), Charles Neidlinger (Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools), Ed Davis (AASU), Bruce Spradley (Coastal Middle School, Savannah), Ron Wirt (Columbus State University), Pat Thomas (AASU)

AASU Sponsors Fulbright-Hayes Overseas Seminar in the Czech Republic and Hungary

Patrick Thomas (education), Michael Toma (economics), Yasman Saadatmand (economics), Felix Hamza-Lup (computer science) and Ed Davis (education) joined Jim Anderson (international education) on a 30-day Fulbright Hayes faculty development seminar in the Czech Republic and Hungary. The group visited Prague, Ceske Budejovice and Terezin in the Czech Republic and Budapest, Pecs and Debrecen in Hungary during June.

Also participating in the seminar were an additional nine faculty members and K-12 teachers from other University System of Georgia institutions, the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and other area schools.

In addition to attending 25 lectures on politics, history, economics, culture, arts, education and music in both countries and visiting historic, cultural and UNESCO sites, the participants met with faculty members and administrators at the University of South Bohemia (AASU’s partner university), the University of Debrecen and the University of Pecs. Participants will work this summer and fall to incorporate some aspects of these countries into their course syllabi and/or teaching units for the K-12 schools as well as sharing their resource materials with colleagues and students.

The Office of International Education received a grant from the Fulbright-Hayes Commission to sponsor this overseas seminar. This project serves as a part of the initiative to internationalize the curriculum. Anderson served as director of the project and the overseas portion.
Inaugural Common Read Program in Motion for Fall Semester

Armstrong Atlantic’s new First-Year Experience (FYE) Resource Center will launch its inaugural Common Read program this fall, with Julie Otsuka’s novel *When the Emperor Was Divine* as its selection. The supporting activities for the semester will culminate with a November 11-12 visit from the author.

Set in the United States during World War II, the novel tells the story from the perspective of five family members—primarily from the children’s point of view—of a Japanese-American family living in California whose father is arrested by the FBI and whose mother and two children are sent to an internment camp in the Utah desert.

All entering traditional freshmen have received a copy of the novel and are expected to complete reading it before arriving in August. A stage adaptation of the novel by Pete Mellen, theatre department head, will be presented by the Masquers November 12-15.

Designed to provide a common learning experience for all first-year students, the Common Read aims to engage them in academic development while simultaneously integrating them into campus culture. Mary Ann Brock, one of the FYE team members said, “The Common Read activities will emphasize interdisciplinary conversation and introduce them to spaces where academic and intellectual pursuits transcend academic disciplines and even the classroom itself.”

The FYE Resource Center team—Brock, Bonnie Emerick and Jane Rago, all English instructors—has been working throughout the summer with a Common Read team comprised of faculty from all four colleges. In addition to their planning of many co-curricular activities to support the read, this team has identified and developed ideas, suggestions and resources for faculty from across colleges and disciplines to incorporate the novel in some way into their fall semester courses. Resource materials are available through the FYE Resource Center as well as the Lane Library website.

**Film Festival**

A Common Read Film Festival, open to all students, faculty and staff, will run August 24-28. Each of the films is related to the events surrounding the time frame of Otsuka’s book.

**August 24**

noon-1 p.m., SC 1405

“A Time of Fear” is about the process of rounding up all Japanese-American citizens on the West Coast and sending them to seven camps.

**August 25**

2:30-4 p.m., UH 157

“Most Honorable Son” is about Ben Kurocki, a Japanese-American soldier from Nebraska who became a decorated war hero even while the internment camps were at their height.
August 27
2:30-4 p.m., UH 157
“A Tradition of Honor” is about the 442nd Regiment, an all Japanese-American unit in World War II

August 28
7 p.m., UH 156
“Passing Poston” is a documentary about four internees recalling their experiences in the Poston camp.

Nursing Grant Brings Electronic Records System Online

In July 2007, Anita Nivins, an associate professor of nursing, secured a $1.4 million, five-year grant for the Department of Nursing from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The purpose of the grant was to expand a pilot nurse-managed health center to provide primary healthcare services to uninsured adults who live or work in Chatham County.

One of the goals was to establish an electronic medical record (EMR) at St. Mary’s Community Center in Cuyler-Brownville and the Community Health Mission’s Eisenhower Drive site. Activated in July 2009, the EMR streamlines record keeping, reduces errors and enhances treatment for patients at both sites.

Nivens said, “The EMR system being implemented at both clinical sites has great capacity to allow healthcare providers to efficiently document clinical care. The EMR also promotes continuity and safety in patient care. HRSA grant funding and collaboration has allowed us to obtain a state of the art EMR system and our patients and health professions students will benefit.”

Nivens anticipates improved functionality and capacity with the EMR in areas such as electronic prescribing. A variety of nursing and other health professions students will continue to be educated at the health centers and to be exposed to the electronic medical record in the remaining two years of the grant.

Calendar

August 3-4
Final exams (Session B)
Final exams (Session D)

August 7
Final grades due at 9 a.m. for sessions B & D

August 10
Faculty return to campus
Final grades due at 9 a.m. for sessions B, D, Q

August 11
Academic assistance registration from 1 to 6 p.m.
Navigate for both freshman and transfer nontraditional students begins with check-in at 8 a.m. and the program starting at 9 a.m. at the Armstrong Center.
College of Health Professions Opening of College Fall Faculty Meeting at 2 p.m. in Ashmore 119.
August 14-15
Move in day at residence halls

August 17
First day of classes (Sessions 1 & 2)

August 17-September 4
A guest artist exhibit, Reading Between the Lines, featuring the work of Julie Brook Alexander. Fine Arts Gallery. Admission is free.

August 24
“Time of Fear,” part of the Common Read Film Festival, at noon in SC 1405

August 25
“Most Honorable Son,” part of the Common Read Film Festival, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in UH 157

August 26
Gallery reception for guest artist Julie Brook Alexander in the Fine Arts Gallery at noon

August 27
Guest artist recital featuring Jason Moon, baritone, and Quynn Shannon, piano, at 2:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free.
“A Tradition of Honor,” part of the Common Read Film Festival, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in UH 157

August 28
“Passing Poston,” part of the Common Read Film Festival from 7 to 9 p.m. in UH 156

Kudos
AASU received a National Science Foundation - Major Research Instrumentation grant of $308,000 to fund a Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometer - Time of Flight. This instrument will be used for a variety of projects in the chemistry and physics department, biology department and by one faculty from the Savannah State chemistry department. Brent Feske (chemistry & physics) is the principal investigator (PI). Co-PIs include Richard Wallace, Delana Nivens and Will Lynch (all chemistry & physics), Alex Collier and Scott Mateer (both biology) and Karla-Sue Marriott (chemistry at Savannah State)

Mark Budden (mathematics) and George Shields (College of Science & Technology) represented Armstrong Atlantic at the annual meeting of the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) business meeting at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. Budden is a councilor for the mathematics & computer sciences division and Shields is a councilor for the chemistry division of CUR.

Becky da Cruz (criminal justice) was awarded the International Services Volunteer of the Year Award by the American Red Cross Savannah Chapter in recognition of her outstanding contribution to improving the Red Cross international programs in the community.

Cebula presented a paper, “The Tiebout Hypothesis Recast,” at the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association in Milwaukee. He also served as a discussant on “Regional Convergence and the Mid-Continent Region,” at the conference where he was elected to the association’s executive committee. Additionally, he was voted onto the editorial board of the *Journal of Housing Research*.

Kalenda Eaton (languages, literature & philosophy) received a Cannon Fellowship from the Emory University Manuscript Archives, and Rare Book Library to undertake research on a project, “Nineteenth Century Mobility Among Free African Americans.”

Randall Reese (art, music & theatre) performed with the Spivey Hall Children’s Choir (affiliated with Clayton State University) in China. The choir sang two of his arrangements and he was saxophone soloist for *Georgia On My Mind*. The performances included a concert at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a joint concert with the Children’s & Young Women’s Choir of the Beijing Orchestra.

William Deaver (languages, literature & philosophy) published an article, “Diario de Irak: A Just War or Just War?,” in the July issue of *Theory in Action*.

Bradley Sturz (psychology) and a colleague have published “Encoding of relative enclosure size in a dynamic three-dimensional virtual environment by humans” in *Behavioral Processes*.

Sungkon Chang (mathematics) had his paper “Quadratic twists of elliptic curves with small Selmer rank” accepted for publication by *Acta Arithmetica*.

Richard McGrath (economics) was a guest lecturer at Renmin University, Beijing, addressing philosophy graduate students on “Agent Problem in the American Mortgage Market” while traveling with a group of AASU students in China.

Michael Toma (economics) participated in a Study Abroad trip to Germany with six students.

Toma and McGrath co-authored with James Payne a paper, “Hotel Receipts and the Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil,” that was published in *Applied Economic Letters*.

**AASU in the News**

Following are some of the top stories appearing in print and broadcast media in July. For more details on these and other stories, contact Francisco Duque in Marketing & Communications at 344.2971, or Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.

7/1 AASU breaks ground for new residence hall
*Savannah Morning News*

7/2 Michael Toma’s (economics) Economic Report is focus of front-page story
*Savannah Morning News*
Also, *Savannah Business Journal* 7/1; WTOC-TV 6/30 and 7/1

7/2 College of Science & Technology $1 million NSF STEP grant is featured
WTOC-TV
Also, WTVM-ABC (Columbus, GA) 7/3 and *Savannah Morning News* 7/18

7/2 Richard Cebula’s (economics) biweekly column is published
*Savannah Morning News*
7/7 Richard Cebula (economics) interviewed regarding impact of recession on U.S. mobility
MSNBC.com

7/8 Randy Grubb (cyber security) interviewed about transnational cyber attacks.
WSAV-TV

7/11 Anita Nivens (nursing) leads a switch to electronic records for patients at two community health centers in Savannah.
Savannah Morning News

7/12 Michael Toma (economics) quoted regarding regional job market.
Augusta Chronicle

7/15 Michael Toma (economics) quoted in story about impact of unemployment
Coastal Courier

7/15 AASU nursing camp funded by HHS grant attracts 35 high school students
Savannah Morning News

7/15 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority charters new chapter at AASU
Savannah Morning News

7/16 Michael Toma (economics) quoted in business story about unemployment rates
Savannah Morning News

7/16 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed on Mid Morning Live about regional economy
WTOC-TV

7/16 Richard Cebula’s (economics) biweekly column is published
Savannah Morning News

7/16 AASU University Police conduct joint training exercises with FBI, GBI bomb squads
WTOC-TV and WJCL-TV

7/23 President Linda Bleicken shares her impressions about her first weeks AASU.
WTOC-TV

7/24 Laura Barrett is new dean of the College of Liberal Arts
Savannah Morning News
Also WJCL/Fox 7/21

7/29 Michael Toma (economics) writes column, “Learning the Anatomy of a Recession.”

7/30 Richard Cebula’s (economics) biweekly column is published
Savannah Morning News
Unrestricted AASU Foundation Funds Monthly Report

The Office of External Affairs reports the expenditure of unrestricted AASU Foundation funds requested by administration, faculty, staff and community partners for various programs and projects that qualify for such support. Due to the extraordinary economic times, many unrestricted expenditures have been eliminated and are fully expected to be permanent reductions. Expenditures listed below involved funds for which obligations were encumbered prior to the need to redirect unrestricted funds to scholarship commitments.

**June 2009**

Indulge Catering at AASU  
Farewell reception for President Jones $6,219.40  
At the request of the Office of Human Resources

AASU Foundation Board of Trustees meeting $125.50  
At the request of the Office of External Affairs

Presidential Search – Lunches with Academic Council $588.45  
President’s meeting $35.00  
At the request of the President’s Office

First City Club $119.00  
Organizational monthly dues  
At the request of the Office of External Affairs

Coca-Cola Bottling Company $85.25  
Supplies for Burnett Hall  
At the request of the President’s Office

Rotary Club of Skidaway $30.00  
Monthly dues  
At the request of Zaphon Wilson

Total $7,202.60

University System of Georgia Electronic News

For news of both the university system office and individual campuses, read the monthly System Supplement: [www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/](http://www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/).

The submission deadline for the September issue of eARMSTRONG is August 14.

Please send submissions to AASU.news@armstrong.edu.

For more information contact Barry Ostrow in Marketing & Communications at 344.2876.