

eARMSTRONG

A newsletter for Armstrong Atlantic State University faculty & staff

FEBRUARY 2007

AASU Names New Vice President of Student Affairs



Vicki L. McNeil has joined AASU as vice president of Student Affairs. She assumed office January 16. McNeil filled a position left vacant by Joe Buck, who retired from Armstrong Atlantic last spring after serving for 38 years.

McNeil's career spans nearly 30 years in all areas of student affairs. She has been fortunate to work directly with students in such areas as orientation, advisement, counseling, residential life, and leadership.

Her career began at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 1978 as a graduate research associate in the Office of Teacher Education, where she counseled students regarding education programs and teacher certification requirements.

In the early 1980s, she joined the University of Oklahoma's main campus in Norman, where she served as career counselor in the Career Planning and Placement Office and as adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Communications.

From 1982 to 1987, McNeil served as director of the Student Assistance Center at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

In 1988, McNeil accepted a position at Loyola University in New Orleans as assistant vice president for student affairs. In 1994, Loyola promoted McNeil to associate vice president for student affairs.

McNeil directed the extraordinary effort, with the eyes of the nation fixed on New Orleans, of evacuating Loyola students before the fateful Monday of August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast crippling the city and shutting down the campus for the entire fall semester.

AASU Team Wins Moot Court National Championship

In what amounts to be a first for any college or university in the University System of Georgia, a team from Armstrong Atlantic has brought home the 2007 American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship.

Seniors Brian Dotson of Pooler, GA and Adam Morrison of Savannah, both political science majors, defeated 63 other moot court teams from across the nation to claim the championship. Regent University Law School in Virginia Beach, VA hosted the event January 19-20.



The AASU team dethroned top-seeded, two-time consecutive national champion Patrick Henry College, a private Christian school in Virginia that fielded eight teams, the maximum allowed.

Among the judges and lawyers serving as judges in the competition was former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. In the final round, Dotson and Morrison argued in before Ashcroft who served as the chief justice of the round.

AASU fielded a second team, composed of Mary Melton and Melissa Williams, who finished in the round of sixteen.

John Kearnes, associate professor of political science and originator of the moot court program at AASU was one of the faculty coaches. Faculty members Liz Desnoyers-Colas, assistant professor of speech/communication, and Becky da Cruz, assistant professor of criminal justice, also served as faculty coaches.

The Savannah-based law firm of Hunter Maclean Exley & Dunn, P.C. has provided coaching and financial support to the moot court program. Other members of the legal community who have served as coaches include: Judge Michael Barker, Chatham County Magistrate Court, and Joe Steffen with Miltiades & Steffen.

Agreement Signed with Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick

The Federal Law Enforcement Center (FLETC) and Armstrong Atlantic (AASU) entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement after two years of extensive planning. FLETC Director Connie Patrick met with AASU Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives William Megathlin in December for the official signing of the agreement.

FLETC's Computer and Financial Investigations Division and the School of Computing will undertake a joint training delivery and evaluation project to determine the feasibility of including certain educational components of computer science and information technology security fundamentals in law enforcement-oriented computer forensics training programs. This program will foster the development of investigative methodologies and tools relevant to Internet investigations, computer forensics, and cyber security.

Savannah-Ogeechee Regional Science and Engineer Fair to be Held at AASU

Armstrong Atlantic will host the Savannah-Ogeechee Regional Science and Engineering Fair on February 20-22 in the Sports Center.

Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to participate. The event is open to public and private schools in Chatham, Candler, Bryan, Bulloch, Effingham, Evans, Liberty, Long, Screven, Tattnall, and Toombs counties.

This year, more than 150 students from 35 schools will participate. They will compete in several project categories, including engineering, environmental science, and chemistry.

The fair provides a forum for teachers and academics to encourage students to investigate science and engineering problems and ways to solve them. Through their projects, students learn organizational and logistical approaches to solving complex problems.

Students performing in the top 10th percentile will go on to represent the region at the March 2007 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair in Athens. Two students will be selected to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in May in Albuquerque, NM.

Honor Society Inducts 39 New Members

The AASU's Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society inducted 39 new members during a recent ceremony on the campus. Among the new inductees were Christopher Baker, languages, literature & philosophy, Helen Taggart, nursing, Dean Raymond Greenlaw, School of Computing, and Melanie Mirande, enrollment services.



Currently there are more than 226,000 members representing 311 Circles of Omicron Delta Kappa in institutions of higher learning nationwide. Membership in the society is a mark of highest distinction and honor. Membership is open only to junior and senior students who rank in the top 35 percent of their class, and faculty and staff. All applicants must demonstrate leadership in one of five areas: scholarship and academics, athletics, campus and community service, creative and performing arts, and journalism, mass media, and speech.

Center for Regional Analysis Gauges Savannah's Economy in 3rd Quarter

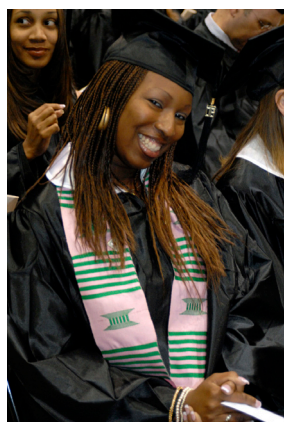
The 2006 third quarter issue of *The Coastal Empire Economic Monitor* is now available at www.econ.armstrong.edu/cra/monitor.htm.

The *Economic Monitor*, published by the Center for Regional Analysis, presents quarterly economic trends and short-term economic forecasts for Savannah's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The findings for the third quarter bode well for the local economy.

"The regional economy continues to expand at a pace substantially faster than the rest of the state," said Michael Toma, director of the Center for Regional Analysis. "The economic strength was widespread, with particular strength in manufacturing, tourism, and port activity."

College of Education Celebrates December 2006 Graduation



On Saturday, December 9, Dean Jane McHaney hosted a reception for the families and friends of students graduating from each department in the College of Education. More than 200 graduates and family members attended the reception in the University Hall atrium. The reception preceded the afternoon graduation ceremony in the Alumni Arena. Faculty members from each of the departments interacted with the family and friends of the graduates. Each graduate received a College of Education alumni pin from the individual department faculty members. Dean McHaney congratulated the graduates and expressed her thanks to the family and friends in attendance.

*Simbi Animashaun, Bachelor of Science
in Middle Grades Education*

Southern Management Hired as AASU's New Custodial Service

On February 1, Southern Management began full service custodial operations on the AASU campus.

Southern Management has a number of large universities and colleges as their clients including: Lehigh University, University of California at Irvine, and Auburn University.

Should there be any concerns about custodial service, contact David Roberts in Plant Operations at 927.5329 or robertda@mail.armstrong.edu.

Welcome Aboard

Jeffrey Burroughs, Computer & Information Services

Matthew Chao, Student Affairs

Sherry Cortes, College of Arts & Sciences

Jessica Davis, Financial Services

April Garrity, Communication Sciences & Disorders

Walter Vernon Gray, Education Technology Training Center

Kristy Kirkland, Student Affairs

Vicki McNeil, Vice President of Student Affairs

Kenneth Price, Middle & Secondary Education (GaTapp)

Cammie Ramos, Computer & Information Services

Emory Randolph, University Police

Jeremiah Rusiewicz, Bookstore

Kewanda Walker, Computer & Information Services

Kudos

Four former faculty members and two former administrators were recently granted emeritus status. **Marian Conway**, professor of nursing, **Deanna Cross**, professor of nursing, **Keith Douglass**, professor of psychology, and **Kenneth Relyea**, professor of biology, were recognized by AASU President Thomas Z. Jones and other colleagues during a luncheon on campus. Two former administrators were recognized earlier in the year with emeritus status: **Joseph Buck**, vice president for student affairs, and **William Megathlin**, assistant to the president for strategic initiatives.

Each fall and spring the university bestows emeritus status on distinguished faculty members who have served for at least 10 years before their retirement. The recognition brings with it certain lifetime benefits granted by the university such as inclusion in important campus activities and events, parking privileges, and continued teaching opportunities.

Gail Rountree, director of development, has received a Distinguished Service Award presented by the Georgia Education Advancement Council (GEAC). The award, given in November during GEAC's winter conference, recognizes leadership and service to the advancement of higher education in Georgia. GEAC is a statewide organization supporting professionals working in the areas of advancement, alumni, development, and public relations in higher education.

The College of Education announced three appointments effective January 1: **Mike Mahan**, department head, middle & secondary education; **Pat Thomas**, acting director of the Teacher Preparation Programs at the Brunswick Center; and **Laura Whitener**, director of the office of field experiences, clinical practice and partnerships.

Jim Todesca, history, presented “Queen Urraca (1109-1126) and the Preservations of Leon-Castile” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association in Oxford, MS.

Jose da Cruz, criminal justice, social and political science, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Savannah Council on World Affairs, and to the Toyin Falola Africa Book Award Committee at the November annual meeting of the Association of Third World Studies.

Clifford Padgett, chemistry & physics, published “STM, QCM, and the Windshield Wiper Effect: A Joint Theoretical-Experimental Study of Adsorbate Mobility and Lubrication at High Sliding Rates,” in the *Langmuir Journal*.

Brenda Logan, middle & secondary education, gave an inspirational presentation “Taking a Positive Path in Your Life,” at Savannah Country Day School in a course for adolescent girls called Guiding Lights in January. Logan was the guest speaker for 35 adolescent girls on “Handling Peer Pressure with Dignity,” at Shuman Middle School in December as part of a yearlong Saturday mentoring program.

Mark Budden, mathematics, is the recipient of the Gignilliat Award, a summer stipend of \$5,000. This will allow Budden time to extend his work in number theory, namely in rational reciprocity laws. His most recent publication in the area is with AASU student **Jeremiah Eisenmenger** and will appear in *Journal de Theorie des Nombres Bordeaux* in 2007.

Sungkon Chang, mathematics, recently published a paper on number theory in *Acts Arithmetica*, Vol. 124, Page(s): 371—389.

Daniel Liang, computer science, published *Introduction to C++ Programming*, comprehensive version and brief version, with Prentice Hall in December. Also, Liang and **Hong Zhang**, computer science, published *Computer Graphics Using Java 2D and 3D*, with Prentice Hall in November/December.

The AASU Staff Advisory Council announced that **Theresa Davis**, radiologic sciences, and **Carolyn Tabanico**, College of Education, were the recipients of the Spring Semester 2007 Staff Textbook Scholarships. Each recipient received a \$50 credit toward the purchase of course materials in the AASU Bookstore.

Wayne Johnson, engineering studies, mentored Andrew Stephenson, a freshman engineering student at Savannah State University. Stephenson went on to win first place in the math, engineering, and technology poster competition at the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation fall forum and research conference held in Marietta.

Felix Hamza-Lup, computer science, **Anand Santhanam** and **Jannick Rolland**, University of Central Florida, **Celina Imielinska**, Columbia University, and **Sanord Meeks**, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando, published “Distributed Augmented Reality with 3D Lung Dynamics – A Planning Tool Concept” in *Biomedicine*, Vol. 11 (1), Page(s): 40-46. Hamza-Lup, **Ivan Sopin**, **Dan Lipsa**, computer science, and **Omar Zeidan**, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando, will present “X3D in Radiation Therapy Procedure Planning” at the international conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies – WEBIST 2007, during March in Barcelona, Spain.

Richard Cebula, economics, was moderator and panelist at the national healthcare event, “The Future of Healthcare in the United States,” in November. He was also interviewed by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for an article on tourism in Savannah, published December 3. Cebula was also interviewed in December on healthcare issues in the United States, by WGCU-TV, Fort Myers, FL.

Patrick Hannigan, middle & secondary education, will present “Learning Centered Assessment” in February at the Georgia Middle School Association conference in Savannah.

Events

February 2

Faculty Forum, noon, Solms Hall 110

February 3

Coastal Georgia Soccer Certification course for coaches, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Science Center 1405

Georgia Music Educators High School District Honor Band concert, 11 a.m., Fine Arts Auditorium

February 4

Coastal Georgia Soccer Certification course for coaches, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Science Center 1405

Baseball vs. Mount Olive College, 11 a.m., Pirate Baseball Field

February 5

Executive Committee meeting, noon, University Hall 282

February 6

Philosophical Discussion Group movie, 7 p.m., Solms Hall 108

Chamber Ensemble recital, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium

February 7

Peachbelt Conference Doubleheader:

Women’s Basketball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University, 5:30 p.m., Alumni Arena

Men’s Basketball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University, 7:30 p.m., Alumni Arena

February 8

Health Careers Information Day, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Armstrong Center. For more information, contact Marilyn Buck at 927.5254 or Crystal Rivera at riveracr@mail.armstrong.edu.

Children and Youth with Disabilities, sponsored by The Alliance, 10 a.m.-noon, University Hall 157. The Alliance is a non-profit collective of professionals representing universities, public schools, private schools, and a clinic in Atlanta. For more information, contact Pam Harwood at 961.3066 or harwoodpa@mail.armstrong.edu.

February 9-10

Americas Conference, sponsored by AASU and the University System of Georgia's Office of International Education. More than 50 speakers from the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean will present lectures and lead panel discussions. Norma Gonzalez, executive director of the Fulbright Commission and Higher Education in Argentina, will present the keynote address. All sessions take place in Solms Hall. February 9, 12:30-6:30 p.m.; and February 10, 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Free to all members of the AASU community. For further information, contact Jim Anderson at 921.5410 or andersja@mail.armstrong.edu.

Baseball vs. Florida Tech University, 2 p.m., Pirate Baseball Field

Art, Music & Theatre hosts the PianoFest 2007 Guest Artist recital, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium

February 10

Gulfstream Aerospace Speech Contest, 7:30 a.m., Ashmore Hall Auditorium. For more information, contact Mario Incorvaia at 927.5325 or incorvma@mail.armstrong.edu.

Softball vs. Lander University, 1 p.m., Pirate Softball Field

Baseball vs. Wingate University, 2 p.m., Pirate Baseball Field

Peachbelt Conference Doubleheader:

Women's Basketball vs. Columbus State University, 2 p.m., Alumni Arena

Men's Basketball vs. Columbus State University, 4 p.m., Alumni Arena

Baseball vs. Wingate University, 2 p.m., Pirate Baseball Field

Art, Music & Theatre presents the PianoFest 2007 Competition Winners' recital, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium. Masterclasses and workshops occur throughout the day.

February 11

Baseball vs. Florida Tech University, 2 p.m., Pirate Baseball Field

February 12

Women's Pirate Invitational: February 12-13

Women's Golf, 9 a.m. shotgun start, Southbridge Golf Club

Faculty meeting, 12:10 p.m., University Hall 156

February 13

Student Government Association's sponsored American Red Cross blood drive, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Memorial College Center's lawn

Graduate Council meeting, 2:30 p.m., Solms Hall 110

February 16

Scholarship of Teaching Round Table, noon, Solms Hall 110

Baseball vs. Southern Connecticut State University, 2 p.m., Pirate Baseball Field

February 17

Peachbelt Conference Doubleheader:

Women's Basketball vs. University of South Carolina Upstate, 2 p.m., Alumni Arena

Men's Basketball vs. University of South Carolina Upstate, 4 p.m., Alumni Arena

Art, Music & Theatre presents the Sankofa Dance Theatre in performance, 8 p.m.,
Fine Arts Auditorium

February 18

Baseball vs. Southern Connecticut State University, noon, Pirate Baseball Field

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill support group meetings with workshops/
presentations from local professionals in the field, 2-6 p.m., Sports Center 223, 225
and 226. For more information, contact Charlie Parish at 921.5685 or parricha@mail.armstrong.edu.

Art, Music & Theatre presents the Sankofa Dance Theatre in performance, 8 p.m.,
Fine Arts Auditorium

February 20

Council of Deans, 10:30 a.m., TBA. For more information, contact Phyllis Panhorst at
927.5262 or panhorph@mail.armstrong.edu.

AASU Music Ensembles Showcase concert, 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium

February 21

University Curriculum Committee meeting, 3 p.m., University Hall 282

February 22

American Chemical Society – Coastal Georgia Section meeting, 6:05 p.m., University
Dining Room

February 23

Faculty Forum meeting, noon, Solms Hall 110

February 24

Savannah Music Teachers Association performance evaluations, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fine Arts
Auditorium

Baseball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University, noon, Pirate Baseball Field

February 25

Baseball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University, 1 p.m., Pirate Baseball Field

February 26

Last day of classes (Session 2)

AASU/Southbridge Pirate Invitational – February 26-27
Men's golf, 9 a.m. shotgun start, Southbridge Golf Club

Association for Computing Machinery meeting, 11:50 a.m., Science Center 1503B

February 27

Softball vs. Georgia Southwestern State University, 1 p.m., Pirate Softball Field

Academic Council meeting, 2:30 p.m., University Hall 157

AASU In the News

Following are some of the top stories appearing in print and broadcast media in December and January. For more details on these and other stories, contact Francisco Duque at 961.3173 or duquefra@mail.armstrong.edu.

- 12/1 AASU receives a \$604,205 grant from the Goizueta Foundation to expand Latino recruitment and retention efforts.
-*Savannah Morning News*
Also, WTGS-12/5; WJCL-12/6; *La Voz Latina*, December issue; *Savannah Tribune*, 12/6; *Business Report and Journal*, 12/18
- 12/4 AASU alumna Kelly Ryan, 28, is one of Savannah's youngest school principals.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 12/8 Freshman Kristin Burton was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division II Women's Soccer All-American First Team.
-*Savannah Morning News*
Also, WSAV and WTGS, 12/7; *Savannah Morning News*, 12/13
- 12/8 Juniors Brian Dotson and Adam Morison placed first in the third annual Southeast Undergraduate Moot Court Regional competition.
-*Coastal Family Magazine*
Also, *Savannah Morning News*, 12/11 and 12/14; *Coastal Family*, January 2007
- 12/9 More than 600 students received their degrees at fall commencement ceremonies held on Dec 9.
-WTOC, WSAV
Also, WTOC, 12/11; *Coastal Courier*, 12/1; *Savannah Morning News* -12/7; *La Voz Latina*, January 2007
- 12/12 William Daugherty and his book, "Executive Secrets: Covert Action & The Presidency" are topic of cover story.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 12/19 The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and AASU entered into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.
-*Savannah Morning News*, also *Coastal Courier*, 12/20; *Business Report & Journal*, 12/25
- 12/31 Mike Toma is interviewed following publication of *Economic Monitor*.
-*Savannah Morning News*, also *Business Report & Journal*, 1/8
- 1/1 AASU officials look ahead at first full year of operation of the Armstrong Center.
-*Savannah Magazine*, January issue.
- 1/1 Hispanic students at AASU benefit from Goizueta Foundation grant.
-*La Voz Latina*, January issue.
- 1/3 Biology major Jordan Gray is featured as a Person of Impact in Savannah.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 1/4 Pete Mastopoulos was inducted into the World Scout Foundation's Baden-Powell Fellowship.
-*Savannah Morning News*, also *Coastal Family (online)*, 12/27/06

- 1/17 Cover story features AASU helping Hispanic students live a better life.
-*Connect Savannah*
- 1/20 AASU's Lifelong Learning Institute is topic of cover story.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 1/21 Goizueta Foundation students at AASU give back to the community.
-*Savannah Morning News*

University system electronic news sources

Take advantage of the range of informational publications published online by the University System of Georgia (USG). The newest is an interactive monthly piece called *Linkages* that reports news of the university system and provides hot links to related source materials: www.usg.edu/linkages/.

During the legislative session, the USG keeps state university employees abreast of issues that affect them through the weekly *Legislative Update*: www.usg.edu/pubs/lu/.

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

The submission deadline for the March issue of

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is February 15.

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

For more information contact Barry Ostrow in the Office of University Relations at 927.5223 or ostrowba@mail.armstrong.edu.