May at Armstrong Atlantic

Classes might be over, but May was a busy month as AASU marked the wrap up of a distinguished career, a championship tennis season, the first class of doctoral candidates, and a backbreaking competition.

We are the champions. For the second consecutive year, the men’s and women’s tennis teams won the NCAA Division II national championships.

In the hood. Roman Cibirka, associate provost for academic affairs at the Medical College of Georgia, hoods Leslie LeSage for her Doctor of Physical Therapy. This year was the first year that doctorates have been awarded at AASU.

Old rockin’ chair’s got him. President Jones gets some advance practice toward retirement in the rocking chair presented to him by the AASU Alumni Association.

How low can you go? Megan Feasel, recreation center, easily won the limbo contest during the first Staff Springin’ into Summer Potluck Party.
Linda M. Bleicken, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Southern University, has been named AASU president by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia made the announcement on May 12.

Bleicken will take office July 1, succeeding Thomas Z. Jones, who announced last year that he is stepping down on June 30 after nine years as president.

“Chancellor Davis and the Board of Regents made a very wise selection,” said Jones. “I have known Dr. Bleicken for many years and believe she will do an outstanding job in leading Armstrong Atlantic State University. I wish her the very best.”

Bleicken received her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in management from Georgia State University. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in marketing from Georgia State University in 1984. Since 2005, she has served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Southern University, where she arrived in 1990 as assistant professor of management.

“I’m absolutely delighted and honored to be the next president of Armstrong Atlantic State University,” said Bleicken. “During my nearly nineteen years as a citizen of coastal Georgia, I have come to love this place and to understand the importance of its people and environment. AASU’s commitments to student success and to the development of our region, led so competently by President Tom Jones, are closely aligned with commitments that have guided my career for years.”

Bleicken becomes the seventh AASU president and the first woman to lead the institution.

As provost, chief academic officer and a member of the university’s management faculty, Bleicken’s service to Georgia Southern University includes administrative appointments as: acting provost and vice president for academic affairs from July 2004 to January 2005; vice president for student affairs and enrollment management from 2001 to 2004; associate provost for enrollment management and information technology from 2000 to 2001; acting provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1998 to 2000; associate dean of the College of Business Administration from 1995 to 1998; and acting chair of the Department of Management from 1994 to 1995.

In addition, she has served the University System of Georgia (USG) as a member of its Health Professions Task Force (2006), Core Curriculum Committee (2007-2008), Graduation Rate Task Force (2004), Tuition Rate Task Force (2004) and the Task Force to Develop eCore®, the USGs electronic core curriculum (2000).

“We are delighted that Dr. Bleicken has been selected to be Armstrong Atlantic’s next president,” said Anne Thompson, chair of the AASU Presidential Search Committee. “She impressed our committee at every phase of the search process, and we are confident that the university will be in good hands.”

“On behalf of the Faculty Senate, it is my pleasure and honor to welcome Dr. Bleicken to the university,” said Kevin Hampton, professor of music and faculty senate president. “We look forward to working with her as together, we begin a new era of leadership at our institution.”
Bleicken’s selection by the USG Board of Regents and her recommendation as a finalist by the AASU Presidential Search Committee resulted from an extensive and rigorous process that was launched in fall 2008. The AASU search committee included representatives from various areas of the campus, including academia, human resources, the student body, the Alumni Association and the AASU Foundation.

**Pirates Make it Two in a Row**
The men’s and women’s tennis teams have brought home the NCAA Division II National Championship for the second consecutive year, a feat accomplished only one time before in U.S. college tennis history. Playing in Altamonte Springs, FL, the men’s tennis team defeated Barry University (FL), 5-4. Not to be outdone, the Lady Pirates claimed a 5-2 win over Lynn University (FL).

*Tina Ronel competes during the NCAA Division II National Tennis Championship*

**Faculty Service and SGA Award Winners Named**
The winners of this year’s faculty awards were announced at the Leadership Awards ceremony in April.

**Helen Taggart** (nursing) received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Academic Discipline. **Anita Nivens** (nursing) was presented with the Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Community. **John Kraft** (psychology) was recipient of the Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the University.

**Pamela Sears** (theatre) took home the Brockmeier Award established to recognize an outstanding fulltime faculty member, with one to five years of service.

The Student Government Association (SGA) presented **Jonathan Roberts** (psychology) with the H. Dean Probst Award for outstanding support of student involvement in academic and co-curricular activities.

**Al Harris** (student activities) became the first person to win a second SGA Professional Staff Service Award. He was the very first winner of the award in 1989.

**Three Win Staff Awards**
Three staff members were presented with awards at the Leadership Awards ceremony in April. **Marilee Cain** (finance) was honored as Staff Member of the Year. **Frank Twum-Barimah** (student housing) received the Spirit of Armstrong Award. **Peter Mastopoulos** (Armstrong Center) was named the second winner of the Volunteer Service to the Community Award.

**Five Announced as New Emeriti Faculty**
Five former faculty members were announced emeriti faculty at the Leadership Awards ceremony in April. They are:

- **Marilyn Buck** (1974-2008) Professor Emerita of Nursing
- **Catharine Powell** (1991-2007) Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing
- **Evelyn Dandy** (1974-2006) Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Education
- **Bettye Anne Battiste** (1980-2007) Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Education
- **Patricia Brandt** (1995-2007) Associate Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Education
Calendar

June 1
Registration Day (all sessions)

June 2
First day of classes (Sessions A & C)
Late registration & Drop/Add
First day of classes (Session R)

June 3
Late registration & Drop/Add

June 8
Mid-term (Session P)

June 12
Navigate student orientation

June 15
Mid-Term (Session C)

June 18
First day of class (Session B)

June 23-30
Advance Advisement & Registration (fall 2009)

June 23
Mid-Term (Session R)

June 24-30
Advance Web Registration (fall 2009)

June 25-28
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents *Rumors* by Neil Simon to open its Summer of Murder Mysteries. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. only on June 28) in the Jenkins Hall Theater. General admission is $10. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for information.

June 25
Curriculum Inventory Report due to Registrar
Mid-Term (Session A)

June 28
In celebration of our independence, the Savannah Winds, community wind symphony in residence at AASU, honors America, her service men and women, and veterans of the U.S. armed forces with its highly popular annual Patriotic Concert in the Fine Arts Auditorium at 3 p.m. Advance general admission tickets are $12; advance AASU (with valid AASU I.D.) $8. Call 344.2801 for additional ticketing information.

June 29
Last day of classes (Session C)
Last day of classes (Session P)

June 30
Final exams (Session C)
Final exams (Session P)
Kudos

Ed Strauser (middle & secondary education) gave the keynote presentation at the Second International Scientific Conference on Language, Literature and American Studies in Kiev, Ukraine. He spoke on “Authentic Assessment and Graduate Portfolios in Education,” based on AASU’s Master of Arts in Teaching program. Strauser is in Ukraine on a Fulbright Scholarship.

LT Josh Corbin (Naval ROTC) was selected as the Naval Service Training Command Instructor of the Year.

George Shields (College of Science & Technology) presented a seminar, “Computational Design of a Small Peptide that Inhibits Breast Cancer,” last month at the University of South Carolina.

The Armstrong Problem Solvers, a group of AASU mathematics students and faculty, were acknowledged in the spring 2009 issue of the Pi Mu Epsilon Journal for solving five problems from the fall 2008 issue of the same journal. The problem solvers needed to utilize their knowledge of group isomorphisms from abstract algebra, Taylor series from calculus II and Fibonacci identities from number theory in order to arrive at the solutions.

Jose de Arimateia da Cruz (political science) and Becky Kohler da Cruz (criminal justice) have published “Transnational Crime in the 21st Century: Regulating Cyber Crime in a Global Society” in the Law Enforcement Executive Forum.

Will Lynch (chemistry & physics) was the co-organizer of a symposium at the 237th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Salt Lake City. He was a co-speaker at the conference on “Modeling quercetin 2,3-dioxygenase: A chemical and computational investigation” with Delana Nivens (chemistry & physics) and four undergraduate student co-authors.

Brenda Logan (middle & secondary education) presented “What Novice Teachers Need to Know about Classroom Management” last month at the 11th International Conference on Education in Athens, Greece.

Douglas Masini (respiratory therapy) was appointed clinical assistant professor, internal medicine, at the Mercer University College of Medicine in Savannah. He was also re-appointed to the international committee of the American Association for Respiratory Care 2009 Ventilator Capacity and Capability workgroup, dedicated to working within the community to assess the availability and classification of mechanical ventilators for pandemic, mass casualty or bioterrorism events.

Masini authored “Patient education: Over the counter cold medicines in pediatrics” in Focus Journal for Respiratory Care. He was also a moderator last month at the 2009 Focus Respiratory Care Conference in Orlando.

Christine Moore (respiratory therapy) was the regional site leader for a National Board for Respiratory Care validation study. The study allowed Armstrong Atlantic respiratory therapy students to take a national board examination and simulation.

Rhonda Bevis (respiratory therapy) was re-elected to the Georgia Society for Respiratory Care Board of Directors and will continue as a regional director, serving southeast Georgia practitioners. She is responsible for the 2009 Savannah meeting that will attract therapists from the Eastern Seaboard in August.

Richard Cebula (economics) published “Housing Prices and Tiebout Reconsidered” in the American Journal of Economics and Sociology.
Jonathan Roberts (psychology) and students Wendy Yoder, Elizabeth Greene and Matt Moyer presented “Sex Differences in Facial Affect Discrimination and Spatial Transformation Tasks” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in New Orleans.

Mirari Elcoro, John Kraft and Vann Scott (all psychology) sponsored five student presentations at the Carolinas Psychology Conference.

Brad Sturz (psychology) and colleagues published “Facilitation of learning spatial relations among locations by visual cues: Implications for theoretical accounts of spatial learning” in the Psychonomic Bulletin & Review.

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 expected to be permanent reductions. Expenditures listed below involved funds that were encumbered obligations prior to the realization of the need to redirect unrestricted funds to scholarship commitments.

April 2009
Armstrong Atlantic State University $1,760.00
STARS scholarship
At the request of the Office of International Education

Reimbursements for presidential candidate dinner Costs shared at the request of the vice president of business & finance
David Carson $222.46
Ellen V. Whitford $116.41
Ellen V. Whitford $114.30

The Print Shop $132.40
Printing for the BOR Gala Auction items
At the request of the Board of Regents

Supplies for Burnett Hall Costs at the request of the President’s Office
Coca-Cola Bottling Company $131.25
Melwood Springs Water $77.04

First City Club $119.00
Organizational monthly dues
At the request of the President’s Office

Gordon Varnedoe $73.89
Reimbursement for donor dinner
At the request of the Advancement Office

Laser Light Engraving $35.00
Yvonne English Scholarship 2009-2010 plaque
At the request of the Advancement Office

Savannah Awards $4.50
Faculty/staff award brass plate
At the request of the Advancement Office

Total: $2,786.25
AASU in the News

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

5/3 Newspaper editorial highlights Tom Jones’ contributions to AASU
Savannah Morning News

5/5 AASU spring enrollment rises
Savannah Morning News

5/6 Richard McGrath (economics) interviewed regarding rising gas prices
WTOC-TV

5/7 Richard Cebula (economics) publishes column
Savannah Morning News

5/7 Jeremy Luther takes over AASU basketball
Savannah Morning News
Also WTOC-TV 5/5 and WJCL/Fox 5/5

5/10 AASU holds spring commencement
Savannah Morning News
Also, WSAV-TV 5/9 and WTOC-TV 5/9

5/10 AASU Pirate tennis player Paul Bishop is profiled
Savannah Morning News

5/12 Linda M. Bleicken is named president of AASU. She takes office July 1.
WSAV-TV
Also, WTOC-TV 5/12; Savannah Morning News 5/13;
Augusta Chronicle 5/13; Morris News Service 5/13; Statesboro Herald 5/13;

5/17 Pirates Women’s and Men’s Tennis capture dual national championship for the second consecutive year
Savannah Morning News
Also, WTOC-TV 5/16, 5/17, 5/18; WSAV 5/16, 5/17, 5/18 and WTGS (Fox) 5/17

5/20 Linda Bleicken interviewed on Mid Morning Live
WTOC-TV

5/21 Richard Cebula (economics) publishes column
Savannah Morning News

5/21 AASU Career Center helps recent graduates alumni in job search
WTOC-TV

5/22 AASU Tennis National Champions are hosted on Mid Morning Live
WTOC-TV

5/26 Melody Rodriguez (HOLA) provides local Latino reaction to the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court
WSAV-TV

5/20 AASU’s Department of Nursing hosts Thai nursing educators
Savannah Daily News
Also, Savannah Morning News 5/27
University System Electronic News Sources
Take advantage of the range of informational publications published online by the University System of Georgia (USG).

- For news of both the university system office and individual campuses, read the monthly System Supplement: www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/.
- Value Added–USG Serves Georgia focuses on how the university system and its campuses are serving Georgia and local communities. To read this monthly publication, go to: www.usg.edu/pubs/value/.

The submission deadline for the July issue of eARMSTRONG is June 15.

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

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