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A MAGAZINE OF ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

Armstrong

SPRING 2017



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Strong**
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Amazing Alumni
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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

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ABOUT THE COVER

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WELCOME

This issue marks my eighth spring on Armstrong's lush arboretum campus, which is currently in full bloom. As many of you know, this is also my final year as Armstrong's president, as I will retire from the University System of Georgia on June 30. It has been an incredible privilege to lead a university with a rich history and a powerful sense of family. What an honor it has been to know so many hard-working students, devoted faculty, talented staff and proud alumni.

As I reflect upon my years at Armstrong, so many memories come to mind. Every spring and fall, I value my conversations with students at our Treasure Savannah day of service. I love learning about undergraduate research projects at the Student Scholarship Symposium and celebrating each student who crosses the stage at commencement. I am extremely proud of the work our students do both in the classroom and in the community and of the contributions our alumni make each and every day.

One of my favorite experiences at Armstrong has been cheering for our student-athletes from the sidelines, along with my husband Carl, at countless sporting events. For the past 50 years, Pirate athletic teams have earned 13 national championships, 96 Peach Belt Conference championships, 139 NCAA Championship appearances and 296 All-Americans. What a proud history—my heart will always remain maroon and gold.

In this issue of *Armstrong* magazine, we celebrate eight decades of Armstrong, from our early days in downtown Savannah to our current homes on the southside and in downtown Hinesville.

Through the years, Armstrong's values of scholarship, leadership and stewardship have guided us. I am hopeful that our commitment to supporting student success will deepen and strengthen as we chart a brave new path for the future.

Always a Pirate,

Linda M. Bleicken
President

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Dorothy Kempson Named Director of Armstrong Liberty Center

Dorothy "Dot" Kempson was named director of Armstrong Liberty Center. Kempson has worked at the Liberty Center for more than 15 years and served as interim director during the 2015-16 academic year. Overseeing the move to a state-of-the-art facility in downtown Hinesville, Kempson also drove a successful enrollment campaign, resulting in more than 20 percent growth for fall 2016. Her retention efforts included an expansion of student support services and serving as advisor to the newly formed Liberty Center Student Council, which promotes student engagement and inclusion in activities, events and student government.

Kempson holds four degrees from Armstrong, including a M.Ed. in Adult Education, a M.A. in Professional Communication and Leadership, a B.A. in Criminal Justice and an Associate of Arts.

Professors Awarded \$330,000 Math & Science Partnerships Grant

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded a \$330,000 grant to Armstrong Senior Physics Lecturer Donna Mullenax, Math Lecturer Janel Smith, Ph.D. and Childhood and Exceptional Student Education Lecturer Elizabeth Williams. The two-year grant is funded by the Mathematics and Science Partnerships federal program and supports STEM education in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS).

Mullenax, Smith and Williams are collaborating with SCCPSS personnel to provide professional development for elementary and middle school math and science teachers. Together, they will implement the Content and Instructional Practices Project, which focuses on content instruction and instructional training to strengthen the classroom experience for students.

Delana Gajdosik-Nivens Promoted to Dean of College of Science & Technology

Delana Gajdosik-Nivens, Ph.D., was promoted to the position of dean of the College of Science and Technology and began her new role Jan. 1, 2017. She acted as interim dean during the second half of 2016.

In her new role, Gajdosik-Nivens serves as the chief academic and fiscal officer for the College of Science and Technology. She also lends support to faculty in teaching, scholarship, service and professional development, in addition to maintaining productive partnerships with sister University System of Georgia institutions.

Gajdosik-Nivens holds a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of South Carolina and a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory's Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering in Washington, D.C.



Tom Cato Receives Georgia Art Education Distinguished Service Award

Art, Music and Theatre Department Head Tom L. Cato, Ed.D., received the Georgia Art Education Association (GAEA) Distinguished Service within the Profession Award. This award recognizes an outstanding GAEA member for exemplary contributions,

service and achievement at the state level and was

presented at the annual convention in Gainesville, Ga.

Cato, who has been a professor at Armstrong since 2003, earned an Ed.D. in Art Education from the University of Georgia, as well as a M.Ed. in Administration/Supervision and a B.F.A. in Art from Valdosta State University.

Kathleen Platt Promoted to Registrar

Kathleen "Kathy" Platt has been promoted to the position of registrar, overseeing the operations of the Office of the Registrar, including curriculum, registration, transcripts and degree completion.

Platt has more than 12 years of experience, having served in a variety of roles, including interim registrar during the 2015-16 academic year. During that time, she spearheaded a number of important process improvements, including the implementation of electronic transcripts and upgrades on student information systems. Prior to that, Platt served as assistant registrar and was responsible for organizing university commencement ceremonies and overseeing operational functions of the registrar's office.

Platt earned a B.S. in Psychology and a M.Ed. in Adult Education and Community Leadership from Armstrong.





Armstrong Holds Ribbon Cutting for New Student Success Center

In January, Armstrong hosted a ribbon cutting for the new Student Success Center, which is located on the main campus between the Pirate Athletic Center and Alumni Arena.

In development since August 2014, the center serves as a centralized location for academic advisement. The venue also houses the First-Year Experience Program, which helps first-year students successfully navigate the transition from high school to college.



Otis S. Johnson to Speak at 2017 Spring Commencement

Former Savannah Mayor Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D., '64 will serve as Armstrong's 2017 Spring Commencement speaker. Johnson, the first African-American student admitted to Armstrong, became Savannah's 64th mayor, serving two consecutive terms from 2004 to 2012. His newly released memoir, *From the 'N Word' to Mr. Mayor: Experiencing the American Dream*, recalls his life throughout the Civil Rights movement in Savannah and beyond.



Armstrong Ranks Fourth in the Nation in 2017 Military Times: Best for Vets

Military Times honored Armstrong, ranking the institution fourth in the nation on its Best for Vets: Four-Year Universities 2017 list. This year marks the third consecutive year Armstrong has been included on the prestigious list.

The ranking is a result of *Military Times'* comprehensive school-by-school survey of veteran and military student offerings and rates of academic achievement. Colleges and universities are asked to document the array of services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to students with military ties and to describe aspects of veteran culture on campus. Awarded institutions were evaluated in several categories, with university culture and academic outcomes bearing the most weight.



Consul General of Mexico Provides Scholarships to HOLA

Consul General of Mexico Javier Díaz de Leó visited Armstrong State University to sign a memorandum of understanding with Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken. The Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong program is a recipient of the Mexican Consulate's 2016-2017 IME-Becas Scholarship Program, which benefits Mexican and Mexican-American students.

The scholarship program provides \$10,000 and will be matched by the Armstrong Foundation, totaling \$20,000. Since 2003, Armstrong has provided \$2.6 million in support of scholarships and grants for Latino student success.

College of Education Earns National Rankings

The College of Education received two national rankings in 2016. GradSource.com named Armstrong seventh in the nation for Best Online Master's Program in Education. In addition, Teacher.org reviewed 425 colleges and ranked Armstrong's Early Childhood Education degree program the 17th best in the country.

Both GradSource.com and Teacher.org based rankings on factors such as affordability, student success and flexibility.



Armstrong Launches Childcare Tuition Assistance Program for Students

In partnership with Atlanta-based nonprofit Quality Care for Children, Armstrong recently launched a program called Boost, which provides financial assistance for quality childcare to parents who are pursuing a four-year college degree.

The Boost program enables four full-time Armstrong students to receive up to \$125 weekly to pay tuition for a local Quality Rated childcare program, as designated by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Participants must be in good academic standing with at least 60 credit hours and have at least one child between the ages of 0 and 4.

Great Dane's Hammond for Hope Foundation Awards Two Scholarships

Armstrong received a three-year commitment from the Hammond for Hope Foundation—founded by Great Dane—to fund two scholarships, beginning in fall 2017. One \$10,000 scholarship and one \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to students working toward graduate degrees in Armstrong's Communication Sciences and Disorders program.

In addition to the scholarships, the foundation made a one-time \$15,000 donation to Armstrong's Communication Sciences and Disorders Department for a teaching-resources kit.



Armstrong Recognized for Support of National Guard and Reserve Members

In December, Ret. U.S. Air Force Col. Ed Wexler from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an office of the U.S. Department of Defense, presented Patriot Awards to College of Science and Technology Dean Delana Gajdosik-Nivens and Chief of Police Wayne Willcox. U.S. Congressman Earl L. "Buddy" Carter attended the ceremony and addressed the audience.

The ESGR advocates for working Guard members and Reservists and educates employers, particularly when service members are called upon to defend their country during deployments. Scott Scheidt, director of Armstrong's Center for Applied Cyber Education and a lieutenant colonel in the Georgia Army National Guard, nominated Nivens and Willcox for demonstrating unwavering support and outstanding dedication to the military community at Armstrong.

Wexler also invited Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken to sign an official Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve, demonstrating the university's continued advocacy for employee participation in the military.

Armstrong Renews, Expands Study Abroad Partnership with Dante Alighieri University in Siena, Italy

Following the success of its spring 2017 semester-long residency program, Armstrong has expanded its longtime study abroad partnership with the Dante Alighieri Institute in Siena, Italy. Up to 25 students will now be able to study and live in Siena during the spring 2018 semester. The expanded opportunity will allow students to earn college credit, pursue potential internships with the City of Siena and enroll in classes at a partner institution, University of Siena. Immersion in the Italian language, access to the cities of Siena and Florence to study art, music and culture, and the opportunity to travel throughout Europe are all part of the curriculum.

"This partnership offers our students the opportunity to learn Italian, expand their horizons and gain insight into the culture of a fascinating country," said Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken. "Students are able to broaden their worldview and to gain the confidence that results from living and learning in another culture."



Online Criminal Justice Program Ranks #41 in U.S. News & World Report

Armstrong placed #41 on the *U.S. News & World Report* 2017 Best Online Criminal Justice Programs list. Armstrong is the only institution in Georgia to be included in the national rankings.

U.S. News analyzed universities using five categories, including student engagement, faculty credentials, student services and technology, admissions selectivity and peer reputation.



The Inkwell staff in 1948

Since 1935, Armstrong has inspired generations of students who have gone on to serve in a wide range of fields, from education and healthcare to business and academia. Pirates carry maroon and gold in their hearts for a lifetime, which is why we pulled photos from our archives celebrating Pirate spirit through the decades.



Council on Foreign Relations student group in 1940



Pirate Strong

A look at Armstrong through the years

1960s-'70s



Cheerleaders at the Armstrong House in 1948



1937 Swim Team practice at the DeSoto Hilton



1960s College of Education classroom



An afternoon of campus athletics



Armstrong's Great Books Society in 1948



The 1937 Literary Society

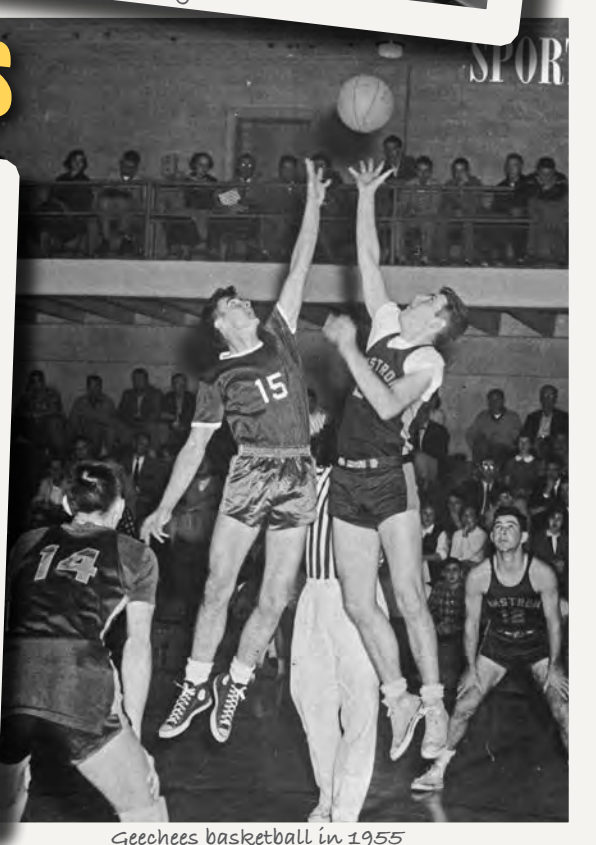


Campus markers point to new Southside campus in 1965.

1930s-'50s



Armstrong's Aviation Club prepared students for World War II deployment in 1940.



Geechees basketball in 1955



Students cheering on Pirates



1973-74 All-American Ike Williams



Residential life on campus



1985 Quiz Bowl Champs



Students march in Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade.



Treasure Savannah, Armstrong's biannual community service event

2000s - '10s

1980s - '90s



Armstrong Band



Professor Wayne Johnson developing a biodynamic glove



Men's and women's tennis teams earn NCAA Division II national titles in 2012.



Art professor John Jensen mentors a student.



Armstrong hosts its first Athletic Hall Of Fame Induction in 1995



Ribbon cutting in Hinesville at Armstrong Liberty Center in 2016



Latino Heritage Month celebrating diversity on campus

JACOB BAXTER '18

Folkston, Georgia
HEALTH AND
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*Recipient of a Beverly
and Josephus Thomas Jr.
Scholarship*

The choice to study Physical Education at Armstrong was natural for Jacob Baxter, a rising senior who hails from a household of physical education teachers.

"Growing up, I wanted to be just like my parents," he recalls. "I want to be around children in order to love and support them as much as my parents did for me."

While Baxter's affinity for fitness, health and competition grew into a lifelong goal of mentoring students, he has another milestone in sight first.

"I want to help educate students and serve our country at the same time," he explains. "My goal is to become an officer in the Army and teach physical education after I complete my service."

An active member of Armstrong's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Baxter has learned how to be a strong leader and team player while fostering his love for fitness.

"I know that by completing the program here at Armstrong, I will build my dream of becoming a successful military officer while getting a quality education," he notes.

Baxter is especially grateful for assistance from both the ROTC program and a Beverly and Josephus Thomas Jr. Scholarship fund for easing his financial burden.

"Armstrong has taught me how to become successful as a teacher, as a soldier and as a person," he reveals. "There is no secret recipe. You must work hard."

BETENIA NYANGANI '20

Harare, Zimbabwe
CHEMISTRY

*Recipient of a Melaver
Family Scholarship*

Many obstacles kept Betenia Nyangani from reaching her goals, but the Melaver Family Scholarship provided her with what she needed to overcome them.

"My family comes from Zimbabwe and my parents have worked hard from the time they were teenagers to ensure a decent life for themselves and their children," she says. "My family is proof that an education can take you anywhere you want to go and enable you to be whoever you want to be."

A first-generation college student, Nyangani began this year at Armstrong

as a chemistry major with plans to follow through on a dream.

"I want to become a gastroenterologist," she says. "I have been interested in the digestive system and medicine since the eighth grade."

Nyangani is also eager to get involved with the Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong program and aims to become a Navigate leader so she can introduce students to the university's academic and social life that she cherishes.

"I think it's wonderful that Armstrong strives to not only reach out to get students to come," she notes, "but that

they also encourage you to stay in school while making good grades, good friends and good life decisions."

She credits the Melaver Family Scholarship with helping her succeed.

"I can worry less about how I am going to pay for college and more about how to get an A in calculus," says Nyangani. "I am grateful and humbled to be selected for the scholarship. I hope the donors know they are helping to improve the lives of not just the individuals receiving the scholarships but their families and communities as well."



SHELBY OGDEN '17

Jesup, Georgia
NURSING

*Recipient of a Bhatia Foundation
Scholarship in Nursing*

After earning an associate degree in dental hygiene and starting a career in health professions, Shelby Ogden decided to return to school to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.

"I was drawn to nursing school to expand my abilities in helping people, which is my true passion," she says. "I now have the opportunity to be a part of a career that impacts a person's whole being. Bringing light into a person's darkest day is my hope for my career in nursing."

Armstrong's stellar reputation in the medical field made the university an easy choice for Ogden. However, as a nontraditional student, the decision to return to school full-time presented financial challenges. As a recipient of a Bhatia Foundation Scholarship in Nursing, she can now focus on her studies and professional plans.

"My future goals are to become a family nurse practitioner and help people from young to old get back to health," she explains. "I also plan to volunteer my skills by doing mission work."

Once Ogden walks across the stage at commencement this spring, she will pursue her dream of serving in a critical-care unit or emergency room before beginning graduate studies in nursing.

"My nursing professors at Armstrong have taken the time to get to know me," she explains. "I feel very honored to say I will have graduated from Armstrong State University, where professors truly do care and guide you to do your very best."

RYLAND P. FOX '19

Savannah, Georgia
MUSIC
PERFORMANCE &
BUSINESS
ECONOMICS

*Recipient of a
L. Pauline Gooch
Scholarship*



When Ryland P. Fox was accepted to Armstrong, he wasn't sure which major would be right for him. His passion for music was met with an equal desire to study business. He decided to double-major and pursue both goals.

"I knew I wanted to play music for the remainder of my life and that a successful musician has to be business-savvy," Fox notes. "After much consideration, I decided that I could take on the commitment and pursue both degrees."

At Armstrong, Fox balances a full-course load, two part-time jobs and involvement in the Baptist Collegiate

Ministry. He participates in five different bands and ensembles.

"I have been playing drums and percussion for eight years," he says. "After I finish practicing or performing, my mind feels refreshed and relaxed. I also enjoy the community and companionships that music delivers."

His rigorous schedule isn't easy to maintain, but with strong time management skills and financial assistance, Fox continues to make strides towards his goals as a L. Pauline Gooch Scholarship recipient.

"This scholarship has made it possible for me to focus less on how to afford college and more on my

studies," Fox says. "I can now breathe a sigh of relief knowing that a large portion of tuition for the year has been covered."

Fox also plans to attend graduate school and is still choosing which master's degree to pursue. Whatever he decides, he's confident Armstrong is the right place to prepare him for his future.

"Armstrong has the perfect blend of well-trained professors and small class sizes," he notes. "In my opinion, Armstrong inspires and motivates its students to learn and excel in their career choice."

IN THE FIELD

MOBILE APP-TITUDE:

Armstrong Computer Science Students Collaborate with Gulfstream

BY JACKIE ZANTOW

During the fall 2016 semester, final projects in Handheld and Ubiquitous Computing, a class taught by Hong Zhang, Ph.D., were anything but ordinary.

In partnership with Gulfstream Aerospace, Zhang, who is Armstrong's Computer Science and Information Technology department head, challenged his upper-level students to develop a mobile app for the world's most technologically advanced business jet aircraft company.

"With a project like this, there's a purpose," says Zhang. "All of the elements that we learn in class are used in the project."

Students broke into groups to develop competing handheld Apple iOS applications that would facilitate Gulfstream's Agile Software development collaboration process, which would be used to corral information during multi-member meetings with clients.

"We saw this as an opportunity to engage with local students and to raise awareness about the types of careers that are possible at Gulfstream," notes Drew Dixon, manager of Enterprise Mobile Solutions at Gulfstream. "With Armstrong being so close, it was an easy decision to move forward and see what we could accomplish."

Prior to the partnership with Gulfstream, Zhang's course focused on Android open-source methods of mobile app development, but the growing relevance of iOS development made the addition of Apple's latest programming language, Swift, an invaluable learning tool for his students.

"We made sure that we followed all of the essential phases of the application development life cycle, like requirement gathering, development, integration, unit testing and integration testing," notes Muthumeena Muthiah, a graduate Computer and Information Science student at Armstrong. "We planned and split our work, then iteratively developed, integrated and tested the app."

Gulfstream is already brainstorming future projects with Armstrong, such as a potential IT course collaboration.

"It's challenging to find a project that is a good candidate for this type of initiative each semester," explains Dixon, "but I certainly want to stay engaged with Armstrong as we consider future initiatives."



"We saw this as an opportunity to engage with local students and to raise awareness about the types of careers that are possible at Gulfstream."

— Drew Dixon, manager of Enterprise Mobile Solutions at Gulfstream

phenomenal faculty



Jennifer Zettler, Ph.D.

Biology Professor and Entomology Curator

Teaching at Armstrong since: 2002

Best part of my job: "I love interaction with the students."

Armstrong Biology professor and Entomology Curator Jennifer Zettler, Ph.D., loves insects. Touting the role the six-legged creatures play in the food chain, pollination and decomposition, as well as their impact on human and animal medical studies, she takes pride in making the world of insects more accessible—and interesting—to sometimes squeamish students.

"I like to turn a subject that might be considered dry and make it come alive," notes Zettler. "A lot of students who've taken entomology were scared of insects, but they all come out of it really enjoying the experience."

Armstrong's size allows Zettler, who earned a B.S. in Entomology at the University of Florida and two graduate degrees at Clemson University, to interact with students in engaging ways.

"I enjoyed my experience at a larger university, but I really like the feel of the small campus," she says. "When I was looking for a job, this was the type of school I was looking for."

Access to year-round field sites in the coastal region is also an enormous plus for her coursework.

"Armstrong has an ideal location," she says. "I can hop in a van and take a group of students down the road for field projects in the salt marsh. If you can get students outside and see what they've studied in textbooks, it's a transformative experience."

Zettler has also led students through the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest and Andes Mountains and co-hosts upper-level science class trips to the Florida Keys every other year.

This summer she'll partner with Physics lecturer Donna Mullenax and Science Education professor Rebecca Wells to walk students through the North Georgia Mountains, coastal barrier islands and South Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp.

"Some students have never left the Savannah area, so to sample for organisms in mountain streams and to actually see a waterfall, rather than just pictures of it, is important," says Zettler. "We'll look at all types of factors that might influence the different habitats we're studying."

However, nothing excites Zettler more than working with undergraduate research students. For years, she has taken students to South Florida's Big Cypress eco-region to study invasive pests of rare orchids. Currently, students are classifying and organizing a teaching insect collection with the goal of creating permanent databases for public research use.

"Research is what students have to have in their pocket to go to graduate school," she says. "Our department really encourages it. It's a valuable resource."



David Bringman, DPT

Rehabilitation Sciences Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor

Teaching at Armstrong since: 2009

Best part of my job: "I am fortunate to see in my students a moment of clarity when they encounter a patient and classroom content is solidified."

Inspired since childhood to help those in need, Armstrong Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences David Bringman, DPT, finds joy in developing and guiding Armstrong's budding physical therapists.

A proud Pirate alum, Bringman earned both a B.S. and M.S. in Physical Therapy from Armstrong, while working at St. Joseph's/Candler for over eight years, where he provided acute care and in-patient rehabilitation. By then, returning to school to pursue teaching was a goal he thought was out of reach.

"I was a healthcare professional," he says. "I didn't really think about academia, but the faculty here knew that I had expressed an interest in wanting to teach at some point. I thought that ship had sailed, but a professor remembered and called one Saturday. That's one of those awesome things about Armstrong. There are a lot of great professors on this campus."

Bringman's extensive field experience and familiarity with Armstrong made for a smooth transition from clinician to professor, which is a job he enjoys immensely.

"When students figure out that it's better to understand the material and be able to use it, rather than just pass a test, that's one of my favorite moments," he explains. "The idea that this program started on graduating the best clinician is, I think, paramount to what we do at Armstrong. You can graduate the smartest individual, but they might not be the best clinician. It's refining those soft skills that's important to me."

A service-focused mantra helps Bringman shape passionate caregivers who emphasize the human side of healthcare, making graduates of Armstrong's physical therapy program stand out next to their counterparts. The ability to inspire different therapists who go on to do exemplary work is a big part of what makes teaching so rewarding for Bringman.

"I love every day of it," he beams. "Just knowing that I can help create 36 or so physical therapists every year and that they can do a whole lot more to change people's lives than I can just as one physical therapist is a neat way to look at it."

Bringman is an enthusiastic advisor to a diverse body of students. He serves as the Rehabilitation Sciences program coordinator, is president-elect of Faculty Senate, volunteers with Armstrong's orientation program, Navigate, and is a member of numerous committees in various departments.

"You can find your joy in everybody else's successes," he says with a smile. "And I think that happens a lot on Armstrong's campus."

COLLEGIATE 100 AT ARMSTRONG

Service, Community and Excellence



Armstrong's Collegiate 100 chapter, which is affiliated with 100 Black Men of Savannah, supports male African-American college students with social, emotional and educational development. Members also "pay it forward" by mentoring area youth in support of the next generation of college students.

"Since coming to Armstrong and working with Collegiate 100, I have become the individual that I have always wanted to be," says Collegiate 100 President Terelle Norman. "I have confronted the stereotypes and statistics of the black man, challenging myself each day to be a better version of myself than the previous day. With that, I have decided to bring more young men with me."

In 2009, a group of students created Armstrong's Collegiate 100 chapter to address the lack of programming for African-American men on campus.

"The model that we have is, 'What they see is who they will be,'" explains Kwame Phillips, coordinator of Armstrong's Department of Multicultural Affairs and Collegiate 100 chapter. "We translate that message through acts of mentoring, and then we break mentoring down into

components of education, economic empowerment and health and wellness."

With an induction of 33 members, the group received wide support from Chatham County Commissioner James "Jay" Jones and Armstrong administrators, particularly Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken.

“Since coming to Armstrong and working with Collegiate 100, I have become the individual that I have always wanted to be.”

— Terelle Norman

"Students find resources and individuals who do not look like them, but who support them, such as Dr. Bleicken and senior leadership," explains Phillips. "They always come to pageants and galas. When African-American men see that, they feel supported and stay to graduate."

Named National Chapter of the Year in 2012, the Collegiate

100 today holds a strong presence across campus, participating in Navigate, Housing and Residential Life, the Student Government Association and the Campus Union Board, among others. In addition, the chapter hosts scholarship fundraisers and provides financial support to the Men of Vision and Excellence (M.O.V.E.) program they founded, which is aimed at supporting first-year African-American students with mentorships from upperclassmen.



College of Health Professions Gets \$22 Million Boost for Construction Funding

Armstrong's College of Health Professions got a recent boost from Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, who earmarked \$22 million in his proposed 2018 fiscal budget for construction funding of the new healthcare education center. The vibrant complex will combine a renovated Ashmore Hall with a new, state-of-the-art interprofessional center.

"The College of Health Professions facility will serve as the model for healthcare leadership training in the region," notes Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken. "The center will be designed to encourage collaboration and interdisciplinary learning, while addressing the community's evolving health and wellness needs."

The College of Health Professions, which graduates more undergraduate health professionals than any university in Georgia, offers a range of academic programs that prepare students for careers in nursing, public health, health administration and the allied health professions.

In the new center, students will make use of the latest technologies in the healthcare field through team learning, simulation, clinical practice, laboratories, research spaces and continuing professional education.

"This exciting new facility at Armstrong will serve to further advance the university's commitment of improving the health and wellness of our communities," says Paul Hinchey, president and CEO of St. Joseph's/Candler. "Such an advanced training and educational facility will enhance the healthcare quality of our citizens both locally and throughout our state."

Design and planning for the 75,000-square-foot structure was approved by the Board of Regents and the State legislature, as recommended by Governor Deal in 2015.

"As Georgia's population continues to grow and age, Georgia hospital leaders are concerned that our state's healthcare delivery system will not have enough nurses and allied health professionals to meet the needs of our patients and communities," says Georgia Hospital Association President and CEO Earl V. Rogers. "Investing in Armstrong's College of Health Professions' building will place our state in a much better position to meet these demands."



CONSOLIDATION UPDATE

Learn more about major changes and potential opportunities affecting the Armstrong community.

On January 11, 2017, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted to consolidate Armstrong State University and Georgia Southern University, ultimately creating a new Georgia Southern University with three campus locations in Savannah, Hinesville and Statesboro. The consolidated university will be led by Georgia Southern President Jaimie L. Hebert.

The Consolidation Implementation Committee, Functional Area co-chairs and Operational Working Groups uniting Armstrong and Georgia Southern faculty and staff are currently in the process of examining and working through all aspects of the consolidation.

The timeline for a consolidation to be completed is usually 12 to 18 months. The prospectus for the new university will be submitted to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) in early fall 2017. If approved at the SACSCOC meeting in December 2017, the prospectus will be submitted for final Board of Regents' review. Should the consolidation follow this timeline, the effective date will likely be January 2018. The tentative timeline for the first entering class of the new Georgia Southern University will be in fall of 2018.

Learn more at consolidation.georgiasouthern.edu.



ABOUT GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 119 degree programs serving 20,673 students. Through eight colleges, the university offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

In November 2011, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) adopted six "Principles for Consolidation" that have been used by University System staff to assess the potential for campus consolidations.

Seven consolidations involving 14 USG institutions have been approved and completed to date. The USG's consolidation of institutions has been focused on serving students better by expanding access, broadening programs and reinvesting savings into academics to improve student success.

Consolidating Armstrong and Georgia Southern will create one institution with expanded regional presence and tailored degree programs for the coastal region.

Consolidating Armstrong and Georgia Southern:

- ▶ Creates an institution of more than 27,000 students, making it the fourth largest public university in Georgia.
- ▶ Develops a more comprehensive university that serves the needs of the region with a range of degree programs for high-demand careers, such as engineering and healthcare.
- ▶ Offers opportunities for raising graduation rates for students.
- ▶ Reinvests savings from administrative efficiencies into programs that support student success.

Q. What are the benefits of the consolidation between Armstrong and Georgia Southern?

A. Creating the new Georgia Southern University will combine the best of both institutions, which are located an hour apart and serve many of the same students. Georgia Southern is already the #1 transfer choice for Armstrong students, and both institutions are among top destinations for students seeking public higher education from Bryan, Chatham, Effingham and Liberty counties. The principal goal is to create increased opportunities and expanded options for students, while increasing efficiency and boosting economic development in the region.

Q. Which academic programs will be offered in Statesboro, Savannah and Hinesville?

A. A major responsibility of the Consolidation Implementation Committee is to determine the right mix of programs to best serve students and the region. However, all academic programs currently offered at campuses in Savannah, Hinesville and Statesboro will remain in place through the spring of 2022 at the earliest, allowing current students the opportunity to complete their degrees at the campus of their choice.

Q. Will any faculty members at Armstrong lose their jobs? And what about staff layoffs?

A. Faculty members will be needed to provide quality instruction in Statesboro, Savannah and Hinesville. Certain administrative functions will be combined, resulting in the need for fewer positions over time.

Q. Will students accepted to Armstrong have to reapply to Georgia Southern?

A. No. Armstrong and Georgia Southern will be a part of the new Georgia Southern. The acceptance status of students who have already applied to either institution will not change.

Q. To what extent will programs and departments be involved in the decision-making process?

A. Programs and departments at both institutions are already involved in the decision-making process. A number of Operational Working Groups (OWG) pair Georgia Southern and Armstrong counterparts to determine the most strategic ways to combine strengths. All units will have the opportunity to

offer input throughout the consolidation process. OWG recommendations are being submitted to the Consolidation Implementation Committee for review.

Q. What happens to Armstrong students who are residents of Alabama, Florida and South Carolina receiving out-of-state tuition waivers?

A. Students from Alabama, Florida and South Carolina who are currently receiving out-of-state tuition waivers to attend Armstrong will continue to receive those waivers.

Q. How will the consolidation affect tuition rates and fees? Will there be an increase in tuition for current Armstrong students?

A. The University System of Georgia is committed to college affordability. In previous consolidations, the University System has worked closely with both institutions to determine the appropriate tuition and fees for the new institution with an emphasis on affordability. In the development of the new university, the University System will maintain college affordability as a guiding principle in the development of the appropriate tuition and fee structure.

Q. Will the consolidation and the loss of the name make Armstrong State University's degrees meaningless?

A. Absolutely not. Armstrong degrees will retain their value throughout the consolidation process and beyond. As an accredited university, Armstrong grants degrees to students who have met high academic standards.

Q. How much money is expected to be saved by this consolidation?

A. The exact amount of money to be saved by this consolidation is unknown at this time, but any funds saved will be reallocated to support student success within the new university.

Q. How will the history of Armstrong be preserved for future students after the consolidation?

A. On March 3, the Consolidation Implementation Committee supported a recommendation to name the Armstrong Campus in Savannah and the Liberty Campus in Hinesville. Additional recommendations will be made by Operational Working Groups in the coming months.

F A Q

FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS

amazing ALUMNI



Kelley Boyd '99

Director of Savannah Yoga Center

B.A. in Art

As a native of southside Savannah, Kelley Boyd, who is the founder and director of the Savannah Yoga Center, recalls fond memories of growing up in Armstrong's backyard. As a child, she climbed campus trees and roamed throughout the natural beauty of the arboretum.

"To me, that's what is southside," says Boyd. "Armstrong has always been a part of my life."

When it was time to choose a university, staying close to home was an easy decision.

"My time at Armstrong was a very positive experience," she recalls. "I always loved going because it was one of the most peaceful parts of my life."

After graduating with a B.A. in Art, Boyd worked as a muralist and faux finisher. However, after a VHS-tape introduction to yoga, she was hooked and soon rented a downtown space to start the Savannah Yoga Center.

The first of its kind in the city, the center's jewel-toned studio walls nod to Boyd's creative background, which continues to influence all aspects of her personal and professional life.

Community involvement is also a key element of her practice. With the Savannah Yoga Center Community Partner Program, she has donated over \$12,000 to local charities since 2010. In addition, Boyd works with Armstrong's Recreation and Wellness team and serves as a client for an economic consulting course.

"I am determined not to let my community down," she says, "which is why I work so hard to make sure that the business is viable and sustainable."

As such, Armstrong named Boyd a 2016 Notable Alumni last October. She was touched to be honored by the university that means so much to her.

"I have great memories from Armstrong," she remembers. "I would go back again in a heartbeat."

Mill Lawson '01

Systems Engineer at Georgia Ports Authority

B.S. in Computer Science

When Mill Lawson attended Armstrong State University in 1993, Computer Science held a minor presence in the Department of Mathematics, so he was happy to see the program expand during his time here.

"It was exciting to be a part of it during those years and witness its growth first-hand," remembers Lawson. "I'm proud to see that it is still a strong offering for today's students."

Lawson is now a systems engineer for Georgia Ports Authority, which operates all port facilities in the state. He also leads several efforts to design the technology components for expansion projects and new facilities.

As a former student worker and programmer for Armstrong's Department of Computer Information Systems, he credits Armstrong for paving the way to his success.

"It was my first IT job, and it gave me an opportunity to see both sides of the work," says Lawson. "I was a programmer, but as a student, I was also a user at the same time. It was a unique perspective."

A part-time, nontraditional student, Lawson remembers that Armstrong's tight-knit campus played an important role in his education.

"Most of us knew each other," he recalls. "I don't have a favorite memory, but I remember the energy on campus. It always seemed like such a positive environment."

Valued faculty members, like retired Armstrong Computer Science Professor Charles Shipley, Ph.D., who prepped Lawson for a competitive workforce, also contributed to his experience.

"The Computer Science program at Armstrong was rigorous," he says. "As the program grew, high standards remained and challenged us constantly."



Frances Mercado '13 '16

Respiratory Therapist at Memorial University Medical Center

B.S. in Respiratory Therapy
M.Ed. in Adult Education and
Community Leadership

As the child of a U.S. Air Force member, Frances Mercado grew up around the world. So when it came time to choose a university, her decision was not only well informed, but strategic.

"I have friends who graduated from Armstrong and are successful," says Mercado. "Armstrong has a proven track record."

Once integrated on campus, Mercado greatly appreciated the university's faculty members. Favorites included Douglas Masini, Ph.D., Rhonda Bevis, Ph.D., Christi Moore, Ph.D. and Patricia Holt, Ph.D.

"These four individuals challenged me, respected me and supported my educational process, as well as my family's well-being," she says. "They were always accessible and made sure I felt comfortable reaching out to them. They truly wanted me to succeed."

The hands-on training she received at Armstrong helps Mercado today in her career as a respiratory therapist at Memorial University Medical Center. She works in adult critical care and manages patients on life support who suffer from respiratory and heart conditions. As an English-Spanish bilingual, she frequently serves as a translator for patients and doctors in high-stress settings.

Mercado is also working towards a Doctorate of Health Science in Organizational and Behavior Leadership from A.T. Still University. In addition, she is an adjunct professor in the Respiratory Therapy program at Armstrong and is currently teaching students at the hospital in connection with their externships.

A proud Pirate, she is thrilled to remain active with the university.

"You are part of the Armstrong family for life," she says. "Armstrong looks out for their alumni and offers continuous opportunities and support."

Jermaine Whirl, Ed.D. '10

Vice President of Economic Development and Corporate Training at Greenville Technical College

M.Ed. in Adult Education/Human Resource Development

Jermaine Whirl, Ed.D. credits Armstrong's Adult Education Department for accelerating his candidacy for administrative roles in higher education.

"Through my education at Armstrong, I was immediately a frontrunner for the dean of adult education position at Savannah Technical College," notes Whirl. "This was not only because of the value of the degree itself, but also the connection the Adult Education Department had with Savannah Technical College."

Whirl correlated much of that success to groundwork laid by Armstrong Secondary, Adult and Physical Education Professor Kathie Fabrikant, Ed.D.

"The degree in Adult Education tremendously helped me become a better college professor," he says. "I was able to facilitate knowledge to adult learners and create academic assessments to better measure students' learning."

Currently, Whirl is vice president of Greenville Technical College's Economic Development and Corporate Training division, which provides professional training and workforce skills solutions to the community. He also recruits companies to Greenville County with economic development activities.

Yet, as a proud Pirate and former Armstrong Alumni Board member, he continues to tout his alma mater's strengths.

"What makes me most proud of Armstrong is the regional impact the institution has in terms of providing the workforce for healthcare services, K-12 teachers, criminal justice professionals and businessmen and women who serve the region superbly," he says. "The institution does this while holding true to its liberal arts core."



Donor SPOTLIGHT

Bettye Anne Battiste Award for Excellence in Education Research

Armstrong's former Early Childhood Education Department Head Bettye Anne Battiste, Ed.D., was known for her sharp mind, curiosity, quick wit and exceeding generosity. She also had the unique ability to bring people from different backgrounds together and inspire each of them.

"She demanded excellence in faculty and friends," notes Susan White, M.Ed., a retired Special Education professor who worked at Armstrong for almost four decades. "She always wanted you to be your best and she wasn't afraid to debate about it. I think she mentored everyone she came into contact with. That's what I most admired about her."

Following a prolific career as a teacher, researcher, author and local leader in higher education and on the Savannah-Chatham County Public School Board, Battiste retired in 2007. Throughout her life, she was an active member of Leadership Georgia and the National Council of Negro Women, among many other groups.

"Dr. Battiste believed in setting the bar high, but she was always fair and willing to work with students to ensure their academic success," remembers Joyce Bergin, Ed. D., a retired Special Education professor and assistant dean for Armstrong's



Bettye Anne Battiste, Ed.D.

“Dr. Battiste believed in setting the bar high, but she was always fair and willing to work with students to ensure their academic success.”

— Joyce Bergin, Ed. D.



Donna Brooks, Susan White, Joyce Bergin (l-r)

College of Education. "She expected students to grow intellectually. Dr. Battiste demonstrated this aspect of personal growth by continued study to develop her own mind and spirit."

When Battiste unexpectedly passed away in 2012 at the age of 64, White, Bergin and Donna Brooks, Ph.D., Armstrong's associate provost for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies, established the Bettye Anne Battiste Award for Excellence in Education Research.

"We wanted to honor her intellect and inspire students of the future," says Bergin. "We thought this would be a wonderful way to keep her memory alive."

The \$500 scholarship is given to one student each academic year in the field of education research. As well, the professor whose student receives the award is honored with a letter of commendation from the dean of the College of Education.

As a personal tribute, White, Bergin and Brooks meet for lunch once a month, just as they used to do with their dear friend. "Bettye Anne was the one who kept us together," says Brooks. "Once she passed we continued to do that. So again, it goes back to her bringing people together and helping people find their commonalities."

star staffer

Jason Salzer

Associate Director
Recreation and Wellness

Working at Armstrong since: 2013

Best part of my job: "I enjoy helping young people realize and pursue their dreams."

Armstrong's Recreation and Wellness Associate Director Jason Salzer is an accomplished singer-songwriter who has released several albums and shared the stage with Lady Antebellum, Little Big Town and Steve Earle during a 15-year career in Nashville. To offset the chaos of the entertainment industry, he mentored underprivileged and special-needs youth at the YMCA. Unbeknownst to him, his time there would lead him down a different professional path.

"That experience was very valuable," says Salzer. "It's an underserved population. You not only begin to understand the needs of the kids but of the parents too."

One afternoon during rounds in the gym, he saw a wheelchair-bound boy shooting basketball hoops alone. Salzer joined in and later maneuvered into a wheelchair so that the two could play on even ground. The routine became a weekly one, and over time they invented their own passes, drills and games. This experience not only transformed the child, but Salzer as well.

"To see a kid who is underserved show up at a place just for this, it's a magical feeling," he remembers. "It's one of the most satisfying things I've been a part of."

YMCA Management took notice too. They approached Salzer and asked him to join as director of teen programming. Welcoming a break from the music scene, he accepted. Within two years, he was executive director of the Full Circle Program, which assists individuals with special needs, overseeing six YMCA centers throughout Middle Tennessee.

When his wife, Emily, was tapped to lead Savannah's Whole Foods store in 2013, he looked to transfer within the YMCA family. However, after seeing an opening at Armstrong's Recreation and Wellness Center, he visited the campus. "I've always liked college athletics and wellness," he notes. "I quickly fell in love with Armstrong and saw growth potential."

Salzer, who earned a B.A. in Mass Communication and a minor in Music at Western Kentucky University, was offered a job and jumped on board. Within six months he became assistant director. Last year he was promoted to associate director and completed a M.A. in Professional Leadership and Communication at Armstrong. An active member of Staff Council, Salzer also serves as the coordinator for Armstrong's Emerging Leaders program.

But music has always stayed close to his heart. He's passed the torch on to his three children and is a regular on the Savannah Songwriters Series circuit. And when prompted to whip up a jingle to promote the university's fundraising campaign last year, he had a ball.

"I wrote the song and recruited some fellow Pirate musicians to be in the video," he says. "It was a lot of fun to work with so many talented Pirates."



CLASS NOTES

1960s

Joseph Lane '64 retired in 2000 and is a Professor Emeritus from Armstrong's Department of Psychology. He is enjoying retirement and traveling in the United States, Europe and South America.

1970s

Jim Daniel '70 was appointed director of Caribbean sales for Lanahan Lumber Company in 2016. He is also an associate broker with Cora Bett Thomas Realty and Associates where he has worked for four years.

Louis Dix '74 earned a M.A. in 1979 and a Ph.D. in 1987 from the University of Alabama. He worked as an administrator and a licensed psychologist, specializing in intellectual and developmental disability most of his career. Dix retired in 2016, but continues to work part-time. He has been married to Donna Dix for 39 years; they have three adult children and two granddaughters.

Randall Exley '71 retired as the Auditor General of the U.S. Army Audit Agency in 2016, after serving as a civil servant for more than 45 years in various positions with the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Army.

Georgie Rayner Grossman '79 retired from education in Texas. Currently, he is a principal at a bilingual, Islamic school in Kuwait.

Norman Luten Jr. '78 M.Ed. '10 works in community outreach and nonprofits in Savannah.

Bob Tatum '75 taught science and English for Avery County Schools in North Carolina for 30 years until retirement in 2010. He also worked closely with Appalachian State University Middle Grades Program as a guest instructor and facilitator during much of his career. In 2010, Tatum and his wife Patricia Kunze Tatum formed Sound Traveler Band. Together, they have performed more than 1,500 shows, including Armstrong's Alumni Gala in 2014 and a tour in Japan.

1980s

Diane Hall '80 is a bookkeeper with Stein Accounting in Savannah.

Louise Shannon Quigley '86 is a math specialist with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

Howard Spiva '80 has been honored by the American Association for Justice as a Trial Lawyers Care Award 2016 Finalist.

Kevin Stafford '86 lives in Savannah. He is a territory account manager for Relypsa Inc., a Vifor Pharma Company. His territory includes Dublin, Ga., to St. Augustine, Fla., and markets to hospitals, nephrologists and cardiologists.

1990s

Stacy Armstrong '91 '94 was recently promoted from nurse to director of aesthetics and spa services at Coastal Empire Plastic Surgery. Her daughter, Lauren Armstrong, is a second-year student at Armstrong majoring in criminal justice.

Claudia de la Cruz '97 received a M.A. in Liberal Studies from Duke University in 2016. She has worked in higher education since graduating from Armstrong and has served in the Visa Services Office at Duke since 2009, advising international students and scholars for various departments.

Gregory Deese '93 is a systems engineer for Systems Technology Forum, Ltd., based in Fredericksburg, Va.

Justice Dewart '95 has worked in the renewable energy sector in California since 2007. Currently, he is employed with a company that assists homeowners with consumer loans to install solar power.

Joseph Paul Maggioni '90 is a senior project manager with LG2 Environmental Solutions, Inc., in Savannah.

Rita Gibbs Roose '99 lives in Vidalia and has worked for Darby Dental Services for over 17 years.

Terry Samuels '93 '94 earned a Master of Professional Counseling from Grand Canyon University and a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State University. A licensed counselor, he is one year away from receiving a Ph.D. in Psychology with an emphasis in Performance Psychology. Samuels has four sons—Darrell, Maurice, Eran and Joshua—and is married to Tabitha Samuels.

Shannon Spofford '92 '97 is a senior sex offender specialist with the Virginia Department of Corrections.

Sammy Strode '96 is a manager/agent with Carter Thompson Inc. He is a certified insurance counselor, certified quality manager and certified quality auditor who received the Indiana Quality Award. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.

2000s

Jennifer Adams '04 is a human resources business partner with Phoebe Putney Health System in Albany, Ga. She is engaged to be married in Sept. 2017.

Marie Barney '07 is a senior consultant with Navin Haffty.

Dana Bostic '03 was named as one of the top five honorees on the American Society for Clinical Pathology's 40 Under 40 list in 2016. Based in Phoenix, she is a clinical coordinator for the Clinical Laboratory Science program at DeVry University.

Melinda Brooks '04 is a branch claim representative with Auto Owners Insurance in Macon.

Heather Cotton '04 is an account executive with H2O Creative Group in Brunswick.

Brian Dawsey '03 M.Ed. '05 has been promoted to director of admissions at Savannah State University. He previously served as assistant director of admissions for recruitment for six years.

Evan Diebold '10 is teaching economics at Savannah Early College, having previously worked in banking and finance.

Christina Collins Dover '01 M.Ed. '05 is a media specialist at Midway Middle School in Midway, Ga.

Audrey Gregory '01 made the list of "10 Hospital CEOs with Rounded-Out Educations" in *Becker Hospital Review*.

Anita Harrison '01 is an educator with the Bryan County Board of Education.

Leslie Harrison '02 '07 M.Ed. '10 is a training manager for Partners HealthCare in Boston.

Regina Hogan '00 works for Humana.

U.S. Army Col. Will Johnson MS '06 has been appointed executive director of Joining Forces, an initiative created by Michelle Obama and Jill Biden to assist service members, veterans and their families with education and employment opportunities.

Lauren Leasure '00 has been hired as the public relations and marketing coordinator for Tebo Dental Group in Atlanta.

Laminda Love-Oakes '08 '16 completed her second Armstrong degree in December. She is currently studying for the GRE and applying to graduate schools.

Karla Sapp '04 is a drug treatment specialist with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In spring 2017, she began as a part-time psychology faculty member at Armstrong's Liberty Center.

Anita Taylor '02 is a teacher in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

Charles Tyre '08 lives in Evans, Ga., and owns Bulldawg Roofing.

Anna Mach Walker '09 has been appointed assistant director of development at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Robert White '02 is a senior systems administrator with Speros in Savannah. He is also an information technology manager for Nurse Rosie Productions.

Jernell Williams '07 is the house manager and disabilities development professional with Coastal Home Care in Savannah.

2010s

Destinee Andrews '15 is in her second year at Savannah Law School, where she has been appointed a research assistant working in the area of Affirmative Action. She is also a law clerk with Beaufort County, S.C.

Lauren Bagnall '13 is a wellness coach at Provetus Health Strategies in Marietta, Ga.

Ashley Brooks '16 is a store manager at Smoothie King in Pooler.

Terry Cannon '11 is a staff attorney with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass and will be sworn in as a member of the Kentucky Bar Association in October.

Mikki Cheatham '15 was hired by Chatham Orthopaedics following graduation. She oversees quality assurance and quality control and recently re-enrolled at Armstrong to complete certification in Computed Tomography.

Zach Corliss '13 M.Ed. '15 was the full-time assistant men's basketball coach for Armstrong's 2016-2017 season.

Jose Cruz M.H.S.A. '16 has been hired as an analyst at Meadows Regional Medical Center in Vidalia, Ga., where he previously completed an internship.

José de Arimatéia da Cruz MS '12 M.A. '15, a political science professor at Armstrong, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Greater Savannah International Alliance by the Savannah City Council.

Breyana Davis M.P.H. '16 has been appointed as the Visibility Committee chair for Healthy Savannah. She is also president of the career development section of the Georgia Public Health Association and works as a community engagement specialist with HealthMPowers.

Becky Davis '12 is currently enrolled in Armstrong's Master of Education program.

Stephen Davis '14 is an agent with State Farm in the Atlanta area.

Amber Dyson '12 has joined the public relations and marketing team at The Borgen Project.

James Edge '16 is a buyer-in-training at CarMax in Savannah.

Matthew Espana '11 is a health and physical education teacher with Glynn County Schools.

Jarvis Evans '11 '13 has been appointed a human resource specialist at Liberty Regional Medical Center in Hinesville. He has worked in various positions there since 2010.

Thomas Gunn '15 began the M.S. in Computer Science program at Georgia Southwestern State University in January.

Kelsea Hampton '14 has been hired as a special education teacher with the Houston County Board of Education.

Kathleen Henry '12 has been promoted to manager of research and trade development at the World Trade Center Savannah.

DeAndre Hubbard '12 has been named company commander of the Headquarters Company, 4th Sustainment Command of the U.S. Army.

Justin C. Jackson '11 is a special education teacher at The Matthew Reardon Center for Autism.

Ramsha Khalid '11 is a commercial sales account manager with Rogers Communications in Canada.

Terry Kiser Jr. '11 M.A.T. '16 teaches American literature and International Baccalaureate Film at Johnson High School in Savannah.

Brittney Lumpkin '14 is in the M.S. for Marriage and Family Therapy program at Valdosta State University.

CLASS NOTES

Lindsay Martin '13 served three years in the U.S. Peace Corps in Zambia. She is now pursuing a Master of Public Health at the University of Glasgow.

Macy McNair '15 is in her second year at Morehouse School of Medicine. She is the class president, co-director for the MSM Health Equity for All Lives student-run clinic, student ambassador for the Family Medicine Interest Group and the co-fundraising chair for the local chapter of Student National Medical Association.

Ciara Miller '16 is a physical therapy aide at Upson Regional Medical Center in Thomaston, Ga.

Megan Minton '16 and her husband Michael moved to England after she graduated in December.

Shivani Naik '16 is a registered nurse at Memorial University Medical Center.

Trelanie Neville M.P.H. '14 is a community educator representative with CareSource in Augusta, Ga.

Chiding Okafor M.P.H. '16 is an HIV/HCV screening and research specialist with Memorial University Medical Center.

Deana Rausch '14 will complete a master's degree in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University in May.

Sherril Rawlinson MPH '15 has been assigned as postal platoon leader, 259th HR Company 25th Sustainment Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and is currently deployed to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Tirany Reeves '16 was hired as a graphic designer with *The Savannah Tribune* in December.

Miguel Rodriguez '16 is completing an internship with the Chatham County Juvenile Court.

DiAsia Rogers '16 was promoted to emerald specialist at Enterprise in December.

Terresha Smalls '11 is a medical technologist with Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Effingham Health System.

Cailey Sparks '14 is national sales coordinator for WTOC, where she also serves on the employee liaison committee.

Patrycja Strzepiek '16 is a purchasing administrator with Caesarstrone U.S. in Richmond Hill, Ga.

Janelle Thomas '14 has been accepted into the primary pediatric Doctorate of Nursing Practice program at the University of South Alabama.

Kayla Benifield Weaver '14 works for the University of Florida Disability Resource Center. She and husband **Blair Weaver '15** live in Gainesville, Fla.

Kenny Wilson '16 has been hired as a Near Peer advisor at Groves High School by Savannah Graduates.

Latoriya Young '14 M.A. '16 has accepted a position as a financial aid assistant at Armstrong. In 2017, she will complete a M.Ed. in Adult Education at Armstrong.

Ahna Zackery '16 works as a Near Peer advisor with Savannah Graduates at Windsor Forest High School.

MARRIAGES

Allედria Hurt '05 M.A. '08 married Charlie Grafton on January 13.

BIRTHS

Kaitlen Fulp Boan '08 DPT '11 and husband, Joey, welcomed a son, Eli Joseph, on July 13.

Aaron Eubank '09 and **Whitney Eubank '12 M.Ed. '14** welcomed a son, Christopher Maxwell "Max" Eubank, on January 16.

Shallon Mims '09 M.Ed. '11 and **Sheldon Mims '09** welcomed a daughter, Edia Mae TePring Mims, on August 30.

IN MEMORIAM

John Frank Adkins Jr. '77, November 12, 2016
 Larry Carl Brewer '92, October 20, 2016
 David Walter Brogan '75, October 4, 2016
 Walton Ewing Burns '73, October 29, 2016
 Elizabeth Marie Deegan Cashen '97, April 15, 2016
 John Stephen DeLorme '85, January 12, 2017
 Amelia Aldrich Wootton Dreese '39, December 29, 2016
 Christopher Slade Ellington '72, October 28, 2016
 Mildred Creamer Hitch '39, March 11, 2016
 Jeanine W. Jones '82, November 5, 2016
 Doyle Devon Kelley '70, September 30, 2016
 John Patrick Lingensfelder '70, October 7, 2016
 Lois Mallory Livingston '47, October 14, 2016

Amanda Lynn Wilkinson Lowery '04, November 10, 2016
 James Kenneth Lynn '48 '68, January 20, 2017
 James H. Nolan '80, January 26, 2016
 Laura Metcalf Olsen '78 '89, August 23, 2016
 Pamela Elizabeth Parker '84, October 8, 2016
 Katherine Blum Russell '84, October 14, 2016
 Leonard Michael Russell '75, September 28, 2016
 Charles William Schumann III '78, October 14, 2016
 Joey William Sikes '81 '92, December 16, 2016
 Gary L. Smith '85, November 28, 2016
 Fred Doyle Standard '59, October 3, 2016
 Henry Durant Dee Tullis Jr. '68, January 29, 2017
 Amber Welch '16, December 23, 2016

LOOK BACK

Armstrong cheerleaders enjoy an afternoon on the Savannah Riverfront, circa 1972.

Photo credit: Armstrong's 'Geechee yearbook



armstrong
flashback

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Concert presented by Armstrong State University, Department of Art, Music & Theatre. Will feature American favorites by John Philip Sousa, Irving Berlin, Henry Fillmore, Lee Greenwood and others.

\$12 – \$20 ADMISSION

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