

Compass

Spring 2003

Armstrong State University

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compass

spring 2003

A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

Science Center dedicated

In November, the university dedicated its new Science Center — two buildings joined by a glass sky bridge — housing the School of Computing and the chemistry, biology, physics, and psychology departments.

The Science Center, measuring 126,056 square feet, anchors the southeast corner of the campus and represents the largest single increase in instructional space since the initial construction of the campus in 1966.

Speakers included Armstrong Atlantic President Thomas Z. Jones; Raymond Greenlaw, dean of the School of Computing; Ed R. Wheeler, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Forrest Lott, principal, Lott + Barber Architects; and John R. Butler, executive secretary and director of the Construction Division of the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission.

A Foucault pendulum went on permanent display in the tower of the Science Center. The pendulum was a former science exhibit at the Savannah Science Museum. After closing its doors in 1997, the museum's board of trustees donated the pendulum to Armstrong Atlantic.

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Gift honors Nick Mamalakis, enhances AASU's Emerging Leaders Program

The university has received a generous donation to expand its Emerging Leaders Program. Emerging Leaders has a ten year history of offering a highly successful,

interactive program featuring mini-lectures, skill building workshops, and hands-on exercises that prepare students for leadership positions.

involvement in the Savannah community and the national and local Greek Orthodox Church. The program will be renamed the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leaders Program.



Nick Mamalakis addresses Emerging Leaders students.

The donation was made through AASU's Leadership Institute, which provides programs designed for the development of today's leaders within the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Cliff McCurry, president of HRH Insurance, made the donation in honor of Nick Mamalakis, whom he describes as "the epitome of a community leader." Mamalakis, retired president of Mercer Insurance and Realty Company, is well known for his extensive

"The gift has allowed the university to expand the program's offerings and give participants more individualized attention," said Joseph Buck, vice president of AASU's Division of Student Affairs.

A new focus for emerging leaders is increased student interaction with Savannah's community leaders. Mamalakis, McCurry, and other leaders will be involved in directing some of the program's small group discussions on ethics, change, integrity, and coalition building.

continued on back cover



President Jones congratulates Mary Burnett.

Burnetts receive honorary doctorates

Armstrong Atlantic State University bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Letters on two of its most tireless supporters, Robert A. Burnett, fifth president of the university, and his wife, Mary V. Burnett. The Burnetts were recognized for their nearly twenty-five years of dedicated service to the university.

President Thomas Z. Jones awarded the degrees — the highest honor Armstrong Atlantic can bestow — to the Burnetts during the commencement ceremony for fall graduates in December.

President Jones said, “Dr. Burnett provided strong leadership for Armstrong Atlantic State University during his presidency. By his side during these years was Mrs. Burnett, who not only provided her special grace and talent to the university, but served our community in remarkable ways through her active participation in many community-based organizations. We are honored to recognize their many contributions through the awarding of the honorary doctor of letters degree to each of them.”

Burnett joined Armstrong State College in 1978 as a professor of history and rapidly

progressed through the ranks. In 1984, he was appointed president, a position he held until his retirement in 1999.

His vision for Armstrong State College was of a vibrant urban institution of higher education with an atmosphere of open communication, strong faculty governance, and superlative planning and assessment.

Burnett’s complement, his wife Mary, is a community leader and professional woman. Gifted with sound judgment and a charming presence, Mary Burnett played a crucial role in the success of her husband’s presidency. Both worked tirelessly on the university’s behalf.



Former President Robert A. Burnett receives his honorary hood from Edward Thompson III, vice president, academic affairs and dean of faculty.

During the Burnett presidency, Armstrong Atlantic’s enrollment more than doubled to nearly 5,700 students, with significant growth in the number of students from outside of Chatham County and from historically underrepresented groups. By the fall of 1998, thirty percent of the student body came from minority backgrounds.

To attract students of exceptional academic ability, the Honors Program was reinvigorated. He strengthened the athletics program to offer additional resources for students. The first exchange agreements with foreign universities were negotiated, and an International Programs Office was created to encourage students and faculty to study abroad and to assist international scholars during their stay at Armstrong Atlantic.

Burnett’s ability to think strategically, coupled with his keen understanding of the legislative process, led to a marked increase in funding for AASU. The university’s total budget more than quadrupled to \$44.7 million, and funding was obtained for half-a-million square feet of new academic space. During his tenure, an institutional advancement office was established and the university’s total

endowment skyrocketed from less than \$200,000 to \$5.4 million. At this time, the university received a \$1.3 million bequest, the largest gift in AASU history.

The Burnett presidency brought an infusion of technology across the campus. As the first institution in the University System of Georgia to integrate a fiber optics network, the institution became a technological leader.

More than twenty-five academic majors were developed during the Burnett years and student access increased with the establishment of centers in Brunswick and Liberty counties.

Burnett took great interest in the physical development of AASU. Under his leadership, two new buildings emerged at AASU: the Sports Center and University Hall. In 1998, the university received approval for a new science center and student residence community, both of which were completed in 2002.

Elizabeth Solana Weeks honored by Alumni Association

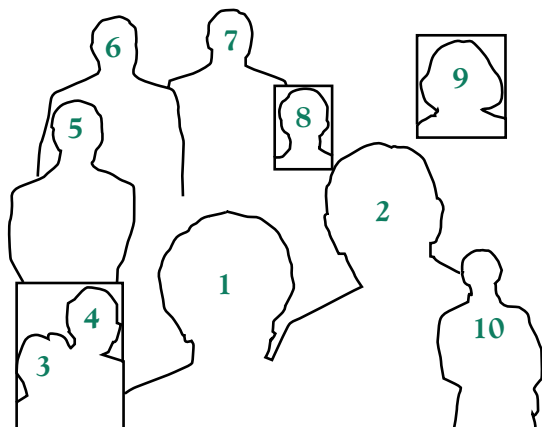
The alumni association recently honored the memory of long-time board member, Elizabeth Solana Weeks '40, with the establishment of a memorial scholarship in her name. Elizabeth, Beth to her friends, graduated from Armstrong Junior College and was an enthusiastic advocate and supporter following her graduation. After serving two terms on the alumni association board of directors, she continued to give generously of both her time and resources, often influencing decisions from behind the scenes.



Three of her four children attended Armstrong State College, as did three of her grandchildren. She was very proud that three generations of her family were connected to the university. Her son Carl now teaches in the Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy.

Her family likes to say that she persisted with four major interests her entire life: family, church, the widow's society foundation, and Armstrong Atlantic. When her term on the alumni association board was nearing completion, she turned to her son Jim as the person to take over in her place. Jim has been serving as a director for the past two years.

The alumni association has established the scholarship and welcomes gifts to build it into an endowed scholarship. Contributions may be made to the AASU Foundation, designated for the Elizabeth Solana Weeks Scholarship. They can be mailed to the Foundation at 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31419. Memorial notifications will be sent to the Weeks family for all donations to this fund.



Three generations of the Weeks family at AASU

1. Elizabeth Solana Weeks '40 *First generation*
2. Stephen Elmo Weeks, Sr.
3. Holly Weeks Geriner '93 *Third generation*
4. William C. Geriner (attended 1992-94)
5. James Matthew Weeks, Jr. (attended 1995-96) *Third generation*
6. James Matthew Weeks, Sr. '68 *Second generation*
7. Stephen Elmo Weeks, Jr. (attended 1963-64) *Second generation*
8. Stephen Elmo Weeks III (attended 1995) *Third generation*
9. Elizabeth Weeks Sellers (attended 1973) *Second generation*
10. Carl S. Weeks, adjunct faculty member in English *Second generation*

class notes

'50s

Mary Norman Stone '51 is retired and living in New York. She and her husband, Charles, both retired educators, are real "snow birds," enjoying New York in the summer and exploring the continent in their R.V. during the cold months. They have now visited all fifty of the United States, all of the Canadian Provinces except the Maritimes, and seventeen of the Mexican states.

Joseph L. Conners '57, a Marine and Korean War veteran, was honored on Veterans Day, November 11, 2002, by being named this year's parade marshal.

'60s

Otis Johnson '64 announced his intention to run for mayor of Savannah.

George E. Shinhoster '66 was the keynote speaker in January at Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church in Metter, GA, during the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. Shinhoster is the public relations director of Dowd YMCA in Charlotte, NC. He is recognized as a national trainer and motivational speaker in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia.

'70s

Henry M. Eason '70 is the owner and operator of Eason Communications LLC, with a West Coast office in the San Francisco Bay area, and a new East Coast office in Princeton Junction, NJ.

Randall L. Exley '71 was promoted in July 2002 to assistant auditor general for research, development, and acquisition audits in the Naval Audit Service in Washington, DC. Randall has worked in federal government civil service for thirty-one years.

William W. Scarborough '75, '77, associate chief accountant in the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, was recently awarded the Director's Award by the commission. The award was presented in recognition of Scarborough's outstanding contribution to the enforcement of federal securities laws.

Rebecca Holloway Prosser '78 completed a master's in education *cum laude* from the University of Charleston in 1994. She is teaching first grade in Summerville, SC. Rebecca and her husband, Wayne, have two sons, Justin and Greg.

Jesus Jose Ortiz '78, '81 attended medical school in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and completed his residency in psychiatry at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. He is now the director of the Behavioral Medicine Department for the A.G. Holley State Tuberculosis Hospital near West Palm Beach, FL. He is also an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Peter K. Harris '79 and wife **Jessica Elizabeth Waldrop Harris '74, '79** are living in Beaverton, OR. Peter added a chemical engineering degree to his Armstrong State chemistry degree and is working for General Electric as a chemical engineer. Elizabeth taught biology for many years to help Peter finish his education, but is now a stay-at-home mom.

'80s

Janice Hayslip Cahill '80 has lived in South Carolina, the District of Columbia, and Texas while working in human resources. She is now the senior director of human resources for Bally Total Fitness Corporation with more than 400 health clubs across the U.S.

Victoria Boswell Couse '81 spent eighteen years in the Atlanta area as a programmer for a small mini-computer manufacturer. Since 2001, she has been a contract administrator for a software company. She married another Armstrong State alumnus, **Douglas Couse '74**; they have two children.

Jeffrey C. Golden '81 is a defense contractor for Northrop Grumman at Langley Air Force Base.

Robert White '86, a computer systems engineer, has recently joined the Blue Water Technology Group.

Jesse Albright '88 is starting his own contracting business, I.E. (Informational Electric) Systems.

'90s

Kathryn Haines Fernandez '95 worked for the U.S. Customs Lab, but is now a stay-at-home mom. *See births.*

Joshua Daniel Walker '95 is practicing law with the firm of Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg, and Shawe.

John Auston Henry '97 completed a law degree at John Marshall School of Law in Atlanta. He is the local government services coordinator for the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center in Brunswick.

Cheryl Ann Borden '98 is a clinical nurse specialist for critical care services at Loudoun Healthcare, Inc., in Leesburg, VA.

David W. Metzger '98 is living and working in South Carolina as a technical field engineer for a medical device company.

Heather M. Cathcart '99 completed her master's in biology in May 2002 and is now enrolled at the Medical College of Georgia in the biomedical science Ph.D. program.

Ginger Croegaert Evans '99 is a nurse and lives in Illinois.

Alison R. Herrington '99 is a flight nurse for the LifeStarOne emergency helicopter service at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Blair G. Walker '99 is the director of financial aid for Atlanta Christian College.

'00s

Dawn Hostetler MacMillan '00, a speech language pathology graduate, received a master's in audiology from the University of North Texas in 2002. She and her husband, Roy then relocated to Jacksonville, FL, where Dawn is employed as an audiologist in a private medical practice.

Iris Mae Tavares-Ling '00 and her husband, Danny, took a honeymoon cruise to the West Caribbean, Key West, and Cozumel, Mexico, in October. The newlyweds have moved to Cleveland, GA, where Iris is beginning her job search.

Amanda Adcock Crosby '01 is a nurse at the Backus Children's Hospital at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Cristina Pasa '01, has been tracking West Nile virus in Savannah. She recently left her job as a Chatham County Health Department epidemiologist for an infection control job with Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Mark Ryder '01 is director of special services for the District #61 public schools in Maine. He has responsibility for more than 500 students in the communities of Bridgton, Naples, Casco, and Sebago.

Carla A. DePina Tavares '02 is a truancy initiative coordinator for the Bowdoin Street Health Center in Boston. She works with the Boston public schools in combatting truancy through counseling and referral services.

Anita L. Taylor '02 began her Pre-K teaching career at White Bluff Elementary School in Savannah last fall.

Lexie Martin Taylor '02 is an exercise physiologist at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, FL. Her husband, Andrew, is in flight school to become a commercial pilot. In her spare time, Lexie is a referee for little girls basketball.

marriages

Anthony (Tony) H. Crow '80 to Caroline Reid, September 28, 2002
Joshua Daniel Walker '95 to wed Karen Glenn Bradley on May 17, 2003.
Angelisa M. Savage '96 to wed Dr. Vernon T. Bryant on May 1, 2003.
Pamela George '97 to Stefano Maqliulo, October 19, 2002
Vyvyan Lorraine Hughes '97 to Roswell Andrew Hathaway III, December 14, 2002
Ginger Croegaert Evans '99 to Brian Evans, January 21, 2000
Monfre' M. Harris '00 to wed Maurice Judkins '00 on May 25, 2003.
Eric Michael Homansky '00 to wed Kristy Rebecca Andrews in May 2003.
Dawn Hostetler '00 to Roy P. MacMillan, June 24, 2000
Lauren Deal '01 to wed Troy Butler on July 12, 2003.
Shenita Colson Johnson '01 to Mahreon D. Johnson '03, April 20, 2002
Amanda Dawn Jones '01 to Kevin G. Whitecross, February 2, 2002
Lexie Lynn Martin '02 to Andrew Kennan Taylor, September 7, 2002
Iris Mae Tavares '02 to Danny Ling, October 12, 2002

births

Joseph Keith Purvis '92 and his wife, Jennifer: Joseph Keith Purvis, Jr., April 17, 2002
Kathryn Haines Fernandez '95 and her husband, George: William, November 28, 2001
Samantha Hodges Henry '97 and **John Auston Henry '97**: Abigail Elizabeth, January 2001.
Ginger Croegaert Evans '99 and her husband, Brian: Parker, January 21, 2000
Amanda Adcock Crosby '01 and **Jason Crosby '97**: Emma Jane, October 15, 2002
Anita L. Taylor '02 and her husband, Keenan: Quincy Elijah, September 27, 2002

anniversaries

Elizabeth Crumbley Waldrop '40 and **Charles M. Waldrop '39** celebrated their sixtieth anniversary on January 1, 2003.

Mary Norman Stone '51 and her husband Charles Stone, Jr will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary June 20, 2003.

Anita L. Taylor '02 and her husband Keenan celebrated their tenth anniversary in November 2002.

in memoriam

Mary Louise Lockwood Cope '37, November 26, 2002
Henry C. Smith '37, '38, December 1, 2002
Dorothy Newton Robertson '40, October 23, 2002
Margaret Jean Browne '46, December 2, 2002
Lorenzo Carroll Russell '49, January 14, 2003
Jerry B. Mock '53, December 24, 2002
Jack F. Starkey '68, January 3, 2002
Kathleen Ann McDonough '71, January 13, 2003
Larry Walker '72, October 16, 2002
James Edward "Eddie" Campbell '73, January 5, 2003
Horace Magwood, Jr. '75, October 18, 2002
Regina Chapman Langston '87, November 28, 2002
Stephen Navarez '93, October 18, 2002 in a Navy aircraft crash while conducting routine training.
Stacy Keach, Sr., February 13, 2003 Faculty member, Armstrong Junior College
See story on next page.
William Smith, Jr., January 17, 2003 Director of clinical education, College of Health Professions

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www.armstrong.edu

Armstrong loses a popular pioneer

On February 13, Armstrong Atlantic State University lost one of its first family members with the death of Stacy Keach, Sr., in Burbank, CA, at the age of eighty-eight.

Teaching at the spanking new Armstrong Junior College was Keach's first job following completion of his master's degree from Northwestern University.

He immediately formed the college's Savannah Playhouse — at the time, the only theater company in the city. On February 4, 1937, he presented the first Savannah Playhouse production, *Three Cornered Moon*, in the Jenkins Auditorium adjacent to the Armstrong mansion. It was a black tie affair for the 150 first nighters who attended.

Alva B. Lines '37, remembers that first production. He was a sophomore, only a year younger than Keach, and involved in the business aspects of the new theater company.

"He was well ahead of his time in the field of audio-visual productions," said Lines, the former business manager of the school's newspaper, *The Inkwell*, and yearbook, the *'Geechee*. "We were very fortunate to have the rich experience he brought to Armstrong."

Keach had a major impact on Lines who went on to start his own successful production company, Southeastern Films, with a G.I. Loan in 1946.

Keach's wife, Mary Peckham Keach, frequently pitched in by directing some of the plays at the junior college.

He made his Savannah acting debut in December 1938 playing a pivotal role in the classic mystery, *Night Must Fall*, directed by Mary. He continued to make acting appearances in productions such as 1940's *You Can't Take it With You*.

His attention to detail was well known. A notation in the 1941 *'Geechee* said, "So realistic are the sets that invariably audiences applaud on seeing them upon the first parting of the red velvet curtains."

In 1941, the always innovative Keach brought in the noted motion picture and stage actress, Gloria Stewart, to play a role in *Accent on Youth*. Stewart is most recently remembered as the elderly Rose in *Titanic*.

In 1941, Stacy and Mary had their first child, Stacy Keach, Jr. It was also to be the year they would move west to direct the famous Pasadena Playhouse. The elder Keach went on to make a name for himself in Hollywood, becoming an actor, director, and writer for Universal Studios and, later, a producer for RKO.



Three faces of Keach. (Right) Keach's 1937 *'Geechee* photo. (Left) A character part in 1940's *You Can't Take it With You*. (Foreground) c. 1987.

The senior Keach's movie credits included 1990's *Pretty Woman* and 1994's *Cobb*. He appeared in such television shows as *St. Elsewhere*, *Dynasty*, *Kojack*, *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *Bonanza*, *Maverick*, *77 Sunset Strip*, and several episodes of *The Lone Ranger*.

But Keach never forgot his Savannah roots and former students. He kept in touch with many of them over the decades, occasionally returning for visits, fishing trips, and 1987's fiftieth reunion.

When September 11 left A.J. Cohen '40 and his wife Kelly stranded in Los Angeles, Cohen, on a whim, called his old English teacher. Keach was delighted. He drove to the Cohens' hotel and spent several hours reminiscing with the couple.

Cohen, a *'Geechee* business manager and occasional college thespian, recalls, "He was an inspiration, a friend, and a good teacher. You felt good when you were around him."

Acting was embedded in the Keach family's genes. Stacy Keach, Jr. has had a notable acting career while his younger brother, James, also acted, but is better known for his directing. He is married to actress Jane Seymour.



The acting Keaches. Mary, James, Stacy, Jr., and Stacy, Sr.

Profile in Leadership — Evelyn B. Dandy

It was an early Christmas present for Evelyn B. Dandy.

Dandy, a tenured professor of education and director of the Pathways to Teaching program at AASU, was named the Georgia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

African American teachers, particularly males, in urban schools. She is recognized across the nation for this achievement as director of the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Pathways to Teaching Program. But to her Pathways Scholars, she's simply known as Mama Dandy.

The program is a collaborative grant that provides scholar-

of color," Dandy says. "Their performance is the most important accomplishment of the program."

The Pathways students are an impressive group. It is common for Pathways graduates, who have a collective GPA of 3.08, to win Teacher of the Year awards in their respective schools. In fall 2002, Jannis M. Glover, a 1997 graduate of the Pathways to Teaching Program, received a master's degree from Lincoln College at Oxford University in England.

"Teachers are preparing their students for the future," Dandy says, "so they themselves must become lifelong learners, constantly seeking knowledge and always providing a model for their students."

Dandy's research measures the Pathways Scholars' performance from the time they take their first class and tracks their progress long after graduation. Her observations and findings fuel Pathway's success.

On three separate occasions Dandy has received faculty awards: the Distinguished Faculty Service Award for 2001-2002, the H. Dean Propst Outstanding Faculty Award for 1988-89, and the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Alumni Association in 1984. She has lectured at universities in Canada, Ireland, Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly a part of Russia), China, Hungary, and Turkey.

ships and supports activities for paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, and secretaries — primarily minority males — so that they can become certified teachers in urban environments.

"The Scholars' accomplishments document the fact that majority universities can successfully recruit, train, retain, and graduate students

The U.S. Professors of the Year awards program salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country — those who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students.

Dandy's recognition is richly deserved. She is winning a battle that many others have fought and lost. Her crusade: to increase the number of



What they are saying about Evelyn Dandy

"Your commitment, especially to minority students, is shaping the lives of tomorrow's leaders and scholars every day. You are a shining example of what our nation's educators should aspire to become."

*Congressman Jack Kingston
First District of Georgia*



"I was blessed to have been able to be with her, to be inspired by her, to serve with her, and to see her work during this life-changing time."

*Frank A. Butler
Vice Chancellor
University System of Georgia*



"More than anyone I have met in my professional life, Evelyn Dandy is my hero."

*Paul L. Beare
Dean, College of Education*



Evelyn B. Dandy was honored in January by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. From left to right, Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith, AASU President Thomas Z. Jones, Dandy, Vice Chancellor for Academics, Faculty, and Student Affairs Frank A. Butler, Board of Regents Chairman Joe Frank Harris, AASU College of Education Dean Paul L. Beare, and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academics and Fiscal Affairs Daniel Papp.

Colvin joins foundation board



Robert A. Colvin, president and CEO of Memorial Health University Medical Center, has been named to the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Colvin serves as chairman of the board of directors for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the board of directors for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the American

Heart Association of Savannah. Additionally, Colvin is a member of the board of governors for the Georgia Hospital Association.

Foundation officers include Raymond Gaster, Gaster Lumber and Hardware, president; Brian R. Foster, First Chatham Bank, vice president; Robert W. Groves III, Strachan Shipping Company, treasurer; and Millicent Melaver, Melaver, Inc., secretary.

Members also include the Honorable Thomas C. Bordeaux, Jr., Georgia state representative; David H. Dickey, Oliver, Maner & Gray, LLP; Thomas J. Dillon; Andrew H. Ernst, Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, PC; Stephen S. Green, Stephen Green Properties, Inc.; J. Paul Hansen, Hansen Architects; Howard J. Morrison, Jr., Lebanon Ventures; W. Ray Persons, King & Spalding; Francis P. Rossiter, Jr., M.D.; Phillip Solomons, Jr.; Don L. Waters, Brasseler, USA; Spencer M. Wheeler, M.D., Chatham Orthopaedic Associates; and S. Hart Williford, VeriSign Telecommunications Services–Wireless Solutions.

Ex-officio members include C. Leary Bell, AASU; Patrick L. Burk, Stevenson & Palmer; Thomas Z. Jones, AASU; Randy Rentz, New York Life; and Irving Victor, M.D., St. Joseph's Hospital, Inc.



Science Center *(continued from page 1)*

The center includes thirty-two chemistry, biology, and physics laboratories; twenty-six behavioral science labs; eight computer labs; seven general classrooms; three tiered lecture halls; and sixty-eight faculty offices.

Every classroom, lab, and lecture hall has “plug and play” capacity that allows students and faculty members to plug in their laptop computers for access to the Internet and other campus and state information services.

Mamalakis *(continued from page 1)*

McCurry says he designated the gift for Emerging Leaders because he knows the difference a mentor can make in a person's life. He worked for Mamalakis at Mercer during his freshman and sophomore years at Armstrong State College.

McCurry learned several guiding principles from Mamalakis, who encouraged him “to make a difference in business by getting to know people and getting involved in the community.” He describes Mamalakis as “a person genuinely motivated by a desire to share with others and not by money.”

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