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The World of International Education

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A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University



Profile in Leadership James Anderson

Don't cry for Jim Anderson. He plays the piano and clarinet. He's a music educator. And, through a series of serendipitous meetings, he practically commutes to Argentina.

With a doctorate in music education from the University of Texas-Austin, the Missourian was just a few years out of college when he became director of bands at Louisiana College. He couldn't know when he took a group of students on a three-week tour of Europe that he was foreshadowing a radical change in his career.

In 1985 he came to Armstrong State College as head of the art and music department. Under his leadership, theater was added in 1998.

Then he met Lucho Pacini, a Colombian living in Hilton Head. Pacini became a mentor, teaching Anderson how to set up cultural exchanges, plan complex itineraries, cultivate contacts, and raise money. In the late '80s, Anderson arranged five exchanges in two-and-a-half years. "With grants and free and reduced

airline tickets, it didn't cost Armstrong anything," Anderson recalls proudly.

The trips started small and grew continually. In 1989 Anderson organized jazz concerts

in Colombia with fellow AASU musician Randall Reese and two well-known Savannahians, Ben Tucker and Teddy Adams. The next year, he returned to Colombia with 14 musicians. "Those experiences opened doors," Anderson said.

At this time, the few international contacts the college had were primarily through London trips arranged by the late Roger Warlick, former head of the Department of History.

When the Republic of Georgia invited the City of Savannah to discuss cultural exchanges, Anderson took part in the Tbilisi talks that led to a sister city relationship between Savannah and the Georgian seacoast city of Batumi. The arrangement brought 15 European students to Armstrong for a summer arts camp.

By now, Anderson was working with Joseph Adams, his predecessor in the Office of International Education, to actively seek out and develop new opportunities for students. The mid-'90s saw a flurry of trips building on his earlier contacts in Argentina.

In 1999, Anderson and interim AASU president Frank Butler flew to Argentina to meet the Chase Foundation president, Duncan Chase. Within hours of their first meeting, the men had mapped out an exchange for the next summer involving a visit by AASU jazz musicians to work with students and musicians in the Province of Cordoba.

In 2001 Anderson succeeded Adams as special assistant to the vice president for international education. Anderson credits Adams for his support in providing funds for his early travels and with building a strong foundation upon which to expand the program.

He started his new job by taking a personal study abroad trip. He and his wife, Carol, spent a month in Cordoba, Argentina, living with Chase and his wife, Susan, immersing themselves in the Spanish language.

With an introduction from Chase, the Andersons spent a few days with a family in the small town of Marcos Juarez. Anderson recalls, "On a cold summer Sunday in July, I visited the community band building. The musicians eyed me suspiciously, until one mentioned he would like to have the sheet music for *Pomp and Circumstance*."

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Profile in Leadership seeks members of the Armstrong Atlantic community who have demonstrated effective leadership skills, broadly defined. Those recognized must be knowledgeable, thoughtful, and will have demonstrated the ability to put leadership values into practice. *Compass* especially seeks to identify unsung heroes among AASU students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and supporters who have made a positive difference in the community.

To nominate someone, contact Leary Bell, vice president for external affairs, at belllear@mail.armstrong.edu or mail your nomination to: AASU Leadership Initiative, Office of External Affairs, Armstrong Atlantic State University, 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31419.

THE WORLD OF International Education



Students climb the pyramids of Mexico. A resident of Shanghai displays her calligraphy skills at a campus festival. Teachers visit a world-class game preserve in South Africa. A student spends his weekends exploring the Australian Outback. On the wind-swept slopes of Ecuador's tallest volcano, a Savannah media executive completes an arduous climb.

These are all voyagers in the world of international education at Armstrong Atlantic.

Study abroad

Most students participating in the Study Abroad program spend two or three weeks during the summer exploring the world. They may study Spanish in Spain, history in Greece, education in Belize, nursing in Guyana, art in Ireland, computers in the Czech Republic, or any number of other options.

Front cover: (From top to bottom) Education majors Stacy Haskell, Kim Kirby, and Debra Puckett climb the Mayan Temple in Lamanai, Belize.

Above: Art major Kim Massey enjoys a pensive moment at the land's end in Ireland.

At right: Stacy Haskell, an early childhood education major, teaches a weeklong practicum at St. Mary's Anglican School in Belize City, Belize.

According to James Anderson, special assistant to the vice president for international studies, participation during the academic year was up 32 percent. One hundred eighteen AASU students attended university-sponsored summer programs in 11 nations in Europe, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Others studied in 10 University System of Georgia (USG) programs in Europe, Central and South America, Asia, and Australia.

Some students stay in one city living in a hotel, college dormitory, or with a host family. Others, like the

Ecuador group (see page four), may explore a nation from end to end by airplane, bus, boat, and train.

The time spent abroad also varies. Most programs last two to three weeks, some as long as five or six weeks. Some are only eight or nine days long.

Derek Bentley, an AASU history major, has made five trips abroad over the past three summers. In 2002 and 2003, he spent two weeks studying Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The first year he stayed in a dormitory, but in 2003, he lived in total language immersion with a Mexican family. Derek said the experience of living with a non-English speaking family really helped him polish his skills.

Bentley has taken three AASU-sponsored trips with Michael Hall, an associate professor of history. In 2002, it was to Peru where the group visited the fabled Inca archeological site of Machu Picchu. In 2003, he returned to South America for two-and-a-half weeks in Ecuador. Three weeks during the summer of 2004 were spent in Brazil.

In most instances financial help may be available. Some colleges provide institutional aid. The Georgia HOPE scholarship can be used for course credit hours, but not for the cost of transportation and other travel-related expenses.

"While they may be in class four to five hours a day," Anderson explained, "the rest of the time is spent soaking up the culture. They are learning about the economy, food, transportation system, and history."

Community abroad

Study Abroad adventures are open to everyone. Participants have included a gardener, school teachers, a dog sitter, university staff members, and even a judge. To get involved, one must formally enroll in the course, attend all the required classes, and finish all of the assignments that may include completing a reading list, book reports, or keeping a journal.

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HOLA Ecuador: a Study Abroad Odyssey

The dinghy closed the mile gap through the choppy water between the cruise ship and the volcanic island in less than 20 minutes. The welcoming committee to Isla Isabella included a scampering crew of bright orange Sally lightfoot crabs, a flightless cormorant drying its stubby wings in the early morning sun, and several lethargic sea lions lolling on the stone path.

This was the second day of cruising the Galapagos Islands for 27 Armstrong Atlantic students and their professor, Michael Hall. Divided into two groups, they made a dry landing on a spit of rock protruding from the island.

Making their way up the rocky grade, past weathered graffiti left by seamen of bygone eras, they climbed the highest peak on the island for magnificent views of Darwin's Lagoon, several volcanoes, and Tagus Cove where their ship, the Ambassador I, was anchored.

After a two-week odyssey that took them from a pristine nature preserve near the Colombian border, trekking through the Avenue of the Volcanoes, to the Pacific port of Guayaquil, only a few days remained in Ecuador.

Their journey began at the Polilepis Lodge in the northern highlands. Named for its forest of 200-300 year-old paper trees, the five acre tract was purchased in 2000 by Ferdinand Acosta in one man's

attempt to preserve a small part of Ecuador's slowly vanishing natural history heritage.

The lodge is a rustic affair powered by a constantly running truck. What it lacks in amenities, it more than makes up for in charm and its dramatic setting.

The essentially undeveloped property proved to be a little more "Indiana Jones" than some in the group had bargained for. Unimproved trails led through the paper trees, across narrow streams on rough log bridges—sometimes, on just loose logs and

rocks—and steeply upward through high bunch grass and jutting rocks. In the cold thin air, at an altitude in excess of 11,000 feet, the hike was challenging for the group that had left Savannah's muggy sea level two days before.

The rewards, however, were great. Wild horses grazed among the trees. The rugged trail took them beside a lovely waterfall. From above the timberline, they could look across the green valley below and watch the setting sun glinting in shades of rose and gold off the Andean peaks beyond.

The next day, the group piled back on their bus. Each student had an assigned responsibility. For some, the day started early, collecting baggage and loading it onto the bus. Then came the "water boys," passing out the bottled water needed to maintain hydration at high altitudes.

Moving south, they stopped at crafts villages and the colorful artisans' marketplace of Otovalo. The students, many bargaining expertly in Spanish, did their part to support the local economy, hauling off bulging bags of ponchos, tapestries, alpaca sweaters, and other regional products.

Nathan Brown, an AASU economics major, said, "I found it a whole lot easier to tackle my Spanish class having been to a country where Spanish was the native language."



Study Abroad students straddle the hemispheres at the *Mitad del Mundo* (Center of the World) monument.

As the bus passed between mountain slopes where century plants clung in profusion, the students made copious entries in their obligatory journals or worked on one of the three required book reports. Their book list included Charles Darwin's *The Voyage of the Beagle* and *The Origin of Species*. Throughout the trip, all were continually engaged in these extensive writing assignments.

For the second time in as many days, they re-crossed the equator into the Southern Hemisphere and the capital city of Quito with its Old City, a World Heritage Site.



Michael Hall delivers a shipboard lecture.

After a day of exploring the beautiful plazas and cathedrals of Quito and the Mitad del Mundo equatorial monument, it was on to Volcan Cotopaxi. At 12,200 feet, Cotopaxi is the tallest active volcano in Ecuador and clearly visible from the capital. It rises majestically, a perfect cone, above the Limpiobungo Plain.

The plain is a vast, barren dry riverbed strewn with massive volcanic rocks. On the hardscrabble floor of the plain, delicate yellow and purple wild flowers struggle to survive. The constant wind blowing across the plain has stunted the low grasses creating a tundra like effect. Fast running streams and the low vegetation support bands of wild horses, one of which swept past the hikers.

The students spread out across this moonscape. They scrambled up a steep grassy hill to explore the Salutera archeological site, a double walled Inca fortress dating back to the 16th century.

Throughout the trip, the students experienced those wonderful interactions with the Ecuadorians that are not part of any itinerary. En route from Cotopaxi to Baños, the bus rolled into the tiny Andean village of Patate. A group of pre-teen boys was enjoying an evening pick-up game of soccer in the town square. Into their midst charged two Armstrong

Atlantic students intent on joining the game. The niños toyed with the Americans—still in need of some latitude adjustment—by expertly controlling the ball. After a few minutes of spirited fun, the AASU “hospitality committee” treated the children to gifts of pens and candy. The exchange will probably long be remembered in Patate as the night the gringos came to town. It will certainly be a contact

with the “real” Ecuador that the students will never forget.

The resort town of Baños was a welcome respite from the cold winds of the Limpiobungo Plain. Baños, located in a temperate valley at the gateway to Ecuador’s Amazon basin, is named for the mineral baths fed by Volcan Tungurahua.

In and around Baños, the group explored three towering waterfalls and took a hair-raising excursion across the deep Pastaza River gorge on a creaky, ancient cable car. Definitely an E-ticket ride.

Accommodations near Baños were at the sprawling Hacienda Leito. Late one evening, the affable host, Don Carlos Leito, quietly hauled out several wooden fruit baskets and began removing the newspaper-wrapped contents. As casually as setting a table, he lined up several rows of priceless pre-Columbian clay figurines with origins dating back a thousand years. For the rest of the evening, he left the breathtaking collection lying unguarded on a counter.

At 20,700 feet, Chimborazo is one big rock! From its parking lot, a hardy band of about 20 students set out to climb to the shelter at the 16,300 foot level. At a distance of only 800 feet, it’s not a particularly long climb except for the cold, wind, and altitude. An hour later, only seven had completed the climb and four of them were over 45 years of age.

The following day was divided between two completely different and widely separated epochs. In the pre-dawn hours, the group boarded its own private railroad car at Riobamba and took the exciting ride through the mountains and around the hairpin curve known as La Nariz del Diablo—the Devil’s Nose. Most of the students rode—Ecuadorian style—on the roof of the car.

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Jonathan and Lauren L'Hommedieux come face to face with the iguanas of the Galapagos Islands.

Ecuador (continued from page 5)

The day ended beneath a rainbow arching over the misty ruins of Ingapirca, a 16th century archeological site. While not as grand as Machu Picchu, Ingapirca remains silent witness to the territorial reach of the once mighty Incas.

Not far from Ingapirca is the colonial city of Cuenca with its central square, colorful flower market, and gem of a museum, the Museo de las Culturas Aborígenes.

Venturing into the hills outside the city the students visited two more crafts villages: Chordeleg, noted for its silver jewelry and Sigsig, renown for its Panama hats. At the Association of Panama Hat Weavers, a painting on the outside of the building and a shrine in the courtyard depict a Virgin and Child, each topped off with a jaunty Panama hat.

En route to Guayaquil on the coast, they descended through cloud forests and passed miles of agricultural fields. Hall delivered a lecture on the economy using the best of all visual aids as the bus passed between fields of sugar cane, bananas, cacao, and coffee.

The pride of Guayaquil is its Malecon 2000, a river walk on the west side of the Rio Guayos. It includes monuments, a Moorish clock tower,

shopping arcades, gardens, playgrounds, and restaurants. Every few yards, large solar collectors trap some of the energy used to power Malecon enterprises.

Prepared by Hall's earlier history lesson, the students sought out The Rotunda. The monument features statues of Simon Bolivar and José de San Martín who, in 1822, met nearby to settle the future and leadership of Ecuador after the ouster of Spain.

Guayaquil is the jumping off point for the flight to Isla Baltra in the Galapagos Islands. From the Baltra waterfront, the students were transported by dinghy to their cruise ship.

Over the next four days there were both wet and dry landings on six more of the archipelago's 17 islands. At first they appeared alike: barren volcanic islands, sparsely covered with lava cactus and other exotic vegetation, all in dramatic contrast to the deep blue-green of the Pacific. Later, subtle differences, such as sand color, became apparent.

Most of the animal species live in close harmony. Some islands shelter large colonies of sea lions, or dense collections of black lava iguanas crawling over one another's backs. From the beaches, one could fleetingly spy diving penguins and the heads of giant sea turtles.

Led by biologists from the boat, the students learned about the differences in the animals—tortoises, finches, and others—and how they started Charles Darwin thinking



Selithia Wilson stands at the base of Volcan Cotopaxi.

about their origins during his 1835 sojourn in the archipelago.

Selethia Wilson, an AASU criminal justice major, commented, "The individuality of the islands and the animals broadened my perception of life."

At every opportunity, the students snorkeled in the cold water amidst schools of fish and the occasional curious sea lion or sea turtle.

On Puerto Ayora on Isla Santa Cruz, the ambiance is more like the South Pacific with lush, imported palms and acacias. The islands' largest town is home to Charles Darwin Station where a concerted effort is being made to preserve the giant Galapagos tortoises. The visitors, somewhat in awe of the venerable tortoises living at the institute, enjoyed posing for pictures with them in their pens.

As their last day in the islands waned, the students boarded the dinghies shuttling back to the ship, Puerto Ayora silhouetted against the Pacific sky now streaked in bands of deep blue, rose, and gold. ■■



Nathan Brown gets to know the Galapagos turtles at the Darwin Institute.

Students and professors serve communities abroad

Ask English major Chris McCormick what he liked most about summer school, and you'll be surprised by his answer. He toured Mexican pyramids at Teotihuacan, Cholula, and Cacaxtla. He viewed Ireland's Book of Kells and the Neolithic tombs of the Boyne Valley. But the most lasting impression on McCormick came from playing with children and hammering nails. As part of his studies abroad, McCormick learned from community service as well as from his college courses. "You learn more than you could in any museum," he said. "It's hands-on learning."

McCormick's experience is one example of how the Regents Global Ambassador Travel Grant provides students with financial assistance for studies abroad. Each participating university must match University System of Georgia funds. Another stipulation of the grant is that students perform community service in the countries where they study.

McCormick participated in two study abroad courses over the summer semester. While traveling with Bill Deaver in May for Spanish classes in Cuernavaca, Mexico—McCormick volunteered at the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage. "I feel sort of guilty because it didn't feel like work," McCormick said. "I had so much fun playing with those kids."

During two weeks in June, as a student in Jill Miller's art history class, McCormick helped construct a house in Belfast, Northern Ireland, for Habitat for Humanity. "It's different from what you see in the rest of Ireland," McCormick said. "They try to take Catholic and Protestant volunteers to work at the same site. These are people who may have in the past thrown pipe bombs at each other. To me this was not just any Habitat for Humanity project. We were bridging religious differences."



Chris McCormick (right) takes a break with his Belfast Habitat for Humanity supervisor, Rab Branney.

McCormick and Miller also visited the Peace Wall, a corrugated metal wall constructed to separate Catholics and Protestants. Over the years, citizens of Belfast have covered the wall with murals and messages of peace. The wall demonstrated to them the healing power of art.

"It reminded you of prison or the Berlin Wall and the

Volleyball team in China



Traci Knuth shows the Chinese her own Great Leap Forward.

The Great Wall. The Forbidden City. Tiananmen Square. All exotic locales in one of the most ancient and mysterious countries in the world: China.

The Armstrong Atlantic volleyball squad experienced it all in July, flying to China for a two-week preseason tour. Head coach Alan Segal's squad played five scrimmage matches against Chinese teams in Beijing and Shanghai during the tour.

This was the first overseas tour for any AASU squad since the men's basketball team took a preseason trip to the French West Indies in 1982.

Eight players represented the Pirates in China, including 2004 AVCA South Region freshman of the year Traci Knuth and All-PBC players Candice Modlinski and Darcey Krug. Senior Ashley Lavender, sophomore Lauren Good and freshmen Amber Stewart and Stacia McCoy also represented the Pirates. They were accompanied by assistant coach Jen Michael.

While in Beijing, the AASU players visited The Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, Tienemen Square, the Hutong district and the Temple of Heaven. It quickly turned out that the Pirates were considered a tourist attraction. Everywhere they went, Chinese families and tourists wanted to take pictures with the tall visitors from the United States.

fact that it was still standing was sobering," Miller said. "There's some healing going on, but it's still very painful." The two added their inscriptions to the wall.

Inspired by his experience, McCormick said, "We've talked about getting the Honors Program involved in Habitat for Humanity (in Savannah). Or even going back to Belfast. It's a great cause."

McCormick says the community services activities during his studies abroad are "the best thing I've ever done."

Information about the University System of Georgia's financial assistance programs for studies abroad can be found at www.usg.edu/oie/catalog/scholarships.phtml. ■■





Remembering Bob

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. He urged the college on to a level of growth and recognition.

Perhaps it was the twinkle in his eyes. Or maybe it was his warm smile and voice. Whatever the chemistry, you always knew that Bob Burnett was a man who was sincere, interested in what you had to say, and willing to help if he could.

When Robert Adair Burnett died on June 19, 2004, at age 70, his distinguished career had spanned nearly 40 years.

Barbara Fertig, an associate professor of history, remembers Burnett's humanity. "I thought of him more as a companion in our efforts to educate," Fertig said. "Always approachable, never distant, he seemed to know us all for who we were."

He began his academic career at Pfeiffer College as an assistant professor of history, then spent 12 years at the University of Louisville, serving in the capacities of assistant professor, associate professor, professor, chairman of the history department, and university ombudsman.

Burnett arrived at Armstrong State College in 1978 as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and a professor of history. He later progressed to vice president and dean of faculty, and then acting president. In 1984, he was appointed the fifth president of the institution, a position he held until his retirement in 1999.

underrepresented groups. By the fall of 1998, 30 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.

Joseph Adams, dean of arts and sciences emeritus, remembers, "A number of faculty and several of us who served as administrators appreciated the fact that Dr. Burnett helped carve out funds in the university budget to support the (international) program. He also took a personal interest in its development and growth."



Bob and Mary Burnett.

Burnett enjoyed frequent contact with students and kept himself keenly aware of their needs and concerns. As a result, student services were significantly expanded.

“He had a tremendous vision of what this university could be,” said Joseph Buck, vice president for student affairs. “He drove us toward our goals, ensuring that the most important consideration in our minds was taking care of the students before anything else.”

His 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, the university’s total endowment skyrocketed from less than \$200,000 to \$5.4 million.

Burnett established an institutional advancement office to oversee programs and services in alumni affairs and development. The number of active alumni increased significantly, and private financial support soared. Foundation assets grew from \$200,000 to \$2.8 million. At this time, the university received a \$1.3 million bequest, the largest gift in AASU history.

The Burnett presidency brought student computer labs, distance learning programs and facilities, and an infusion of technology across campus. As the first to integrate a fiber optics network in the University System of Georgia, the institution became a technological leader. Web-based instruction was introduced and hardware and software were upgraded.

More than 25 academic majors were developed during Burnett’s presidency. The institution regained autonomy—absent for several years—to offer graduate studies, and several master’s level programs were introduced.

“He performed a difficult job during a difficult time and he performed gracefully, fluently, and expressively, while making the business look like fun,” said Frank Clancy, an assistant professor of English.

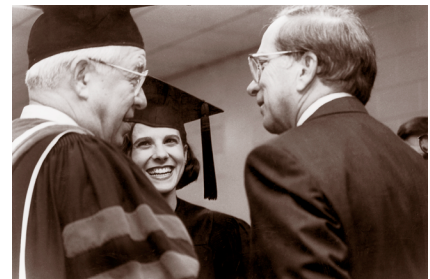
Academic quality was enhanced as admissions standards rose, and student achievement on state, regional, and national tests remained well above the average. In a rare commendation, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools lauded Armstrong Atlantic for its strong faculty governance. Excellent scholars were recruited, and faculty development became a priority.

Armstrong Atlantic remained a strong teaching institution, but research and scholarship expanded under Burnett’s guidance, with the total value of university grant and contract awards increasing significantly to \$2.1 million in 1998.

“Bob encouraged his academic deans and department heads to be willing to compete within the state and outside the state with our academic programs,” recalled Emma Simon, formerly head of the dental hygiene and health science programs and dean of the School of Graduate Studies emerita.

Burnett took great interest in the physical development of AASU. A comprehensive, long-range facilities master plan was created to guide the university’s growth. 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 complex.

President Burnett and his wife, Mary, fostered the ideals of public and community service. They served on many nonprofit boards and made the university more responsive to regional needs. He founded the Public Service Center in 1991 to help Georgia communities identify and resolve complex urban and regional issues.



*Above (top to bottom):
1980s — Burnett joins in at a student dance.
1994 — Burnett, student leader Kelly Swain, and former Senator Sam Nunn talk after graduation.
1999 — Burnett signs off on the construction plans for the Science Center.*

President Burnett and his wife, Mary, each received an Honorary Doctor of Letters at the university’s fall graduation ceremony, December 14, 2002.

He earned a bachelor of arts in economics from Wofford College and a master of arts and Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. ■■



Larry Collins: Serving With Distinction

Lieutenant Colonel Larry Collins has dedicated his life to serving his country. This decorated veteran has been a leader throughout his military career and into retirement. He recently made a most generous gift of \$200,000 to Armstrong Atlantic State University. The gift will be used to endow the Charles L. and Mary G. Collins Leadership Lecture Series that hopefully will inspire others to similar service and leadership in their chosen fields.

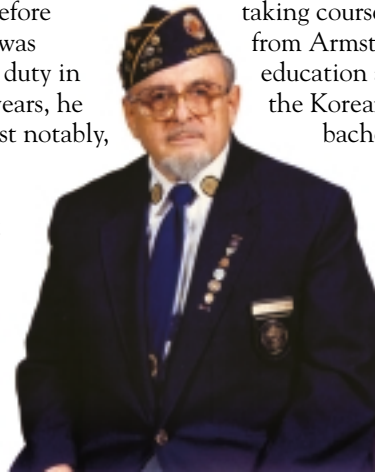
Collins first experience with military life began when, as a teenager, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943. He trained as a bombardier and was discharged just before Christmas 1945. He returned to service when he was commissioned in the Army Engineers in 1950 for duty in the Korean War. Over the course of the next 40 years, he served in a variety of capacities for the Army. Most notably, he was a pioneer in the field of computer science.

Because of his background in physics, he was sent to the Navy Mine Defense Laboratory at Panama City, FL where he developed an interest in computers and became a groundbreaking computer programmer. He created a program that enabled Navy ships to navigate from their berths and return with an accuracy of one meter. He was then sent to Marshall Space Flight Center where he used his programming skills to design the countdown and launch software for the Saturn rocket systems. His software successfully launched 30 Saturn rockets.

The colonel has remained devoted to the military in his retirement. He is a member of the American Legion and volunteers assisting fellow veterans. He also served as a member of the Madison County Alabama Military Commission where he was instrumental in establishing a memorial to honor the women veterans from that county.

During his brief hiatus from military service between 1945 and 1950, Collins found his way to Armstrong Junior College and enrolled as a member of the class of 1947. However, his first taste of Armstrong came while he was still a student at Savannah High School. At that time, he escorted his sister to college theater rehearsals at night. Famed Armstrong theater instructor Stacy Keach put him to work as a stagehand in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and he became an unofficial student.

After transferring to the University of Alabama and taking courses there, he finally received his diploma from Armstrong in 1950. He then continued his education at Alabama which was interrupted by the Korean War and ultimately received a bachelor's degree in physics.



Something very important happened to Colonel Collins while at Armstrong. He met his future wife, the former Mary Gnann, who was a member of the class of 1949. They were married for fifty-two years. The lecture series was established in her memory from the sale of a parcel of real estate he donated to the university. The lecture series will provide funds for

speakers to come to campus to speak on a variety of leadership topics.

When asked why he chose Armstrong Atlantic to be the beneficiary of his generosity, he said that he has always “had a soft spot” for this university. Armstrong Atlantic is certainly honored by his devotion and tremendously grateful for the wonderful educational opportunity that his endowment will offer the entire campus community. ■■

International Education *(continued from page 3)*

Semester abroad

Spending a semester abroad is growing increasingly popular. During 2004, students studied for a semester in Argentina, Australia, England, Estonia, and Japan. Next year, students will also study in Finland and Hungary. Anderson points out that students who normally live in university housing would find their overseas experience comparably priced to attending school in Savannah plus air fare. “They get to use their HOPE Scholarships for the tuition just as they do at AASU.” Anderson added.

The world comes to AASU

All AASU students are exposed to the foreign students who attend school here. They come from 72 countries and share their culture through campus clubs such as the International Students Organization and Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong, and events like Celebrate AASU Day, International Week, and International Night. ■■

For information about Study Abroad opportunities with the University System of Georgia, go to www.usg.edu/oie/catalog, and for Study Abroad opportunities with Armstrong Atlantic State University, go to www.intl.armstrong.edu.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The Futrell Family

In the Fall of 2001, Hugh Preston Futrell IV became the third generation of Hugh Preston Futrells to enter Armstrong Atlantic State University. Preston's father and grandfather both preceded him in 1948 and 1978, and young Preston



Hugh Preston Futrell, Jr.



James Alfred Dismukes

decided to follow the family tradition. Preston, however, is the third generation—twice over. His mother, Bonnie Dismukes Futrell and her father James Alfred Dismukes also graduated from Armstrong. In fact, grandfather Futrell and grandfather Dismukes both graduated in the class of 1948.

The grandfathers left a strong academic legacy

for their grandchildren to follow. After serving in World War II, Hugh, Jr. attended Armstrong Junior College (AJC) on the GI Bill. He graduated on the permanent deans list and applied to Emory Law School. Because of Armstrong's strong academic reputation, he was accepted into law school with only an associate's degree, graduating from Emory in 1950. He was a prominent practicing attorney in Savannah for 46 years until his death in 1996.

James Alfred Dismukes also graduated from AJC in 1948, and continued his education at Georgia Tech. In 1950, he graduated valedictorian of his class,

and went to work at Savannah Electric and Power Company for 40 years until his death in 1990.

Bonnie Futrell attended Armstrong State College (ASC) during the 1970s, but left to marry Hugh III and raise a family. Seventeen years later, when her fifth child entered elementary school, Bonnie returned to earn her bachelor's degree in history with a minor in historical archaeology. She was awarded the Phi Alpha Theta award for the highest average in history and was in demand as a teacher of archaeology to middle school students.

For 27 years, Hugh III has applied his ASC college background in biology, chemistry, and health sciences to work as a firefighting professional. He travels the U.S. teaching hazardous materials chemistry for the National Fire Academy, earned nationally registered EMT-intermediate status, serves as current president of the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, and is the assistant chief of the Southside Fire Department.

The five Futrell siblings of the latest generation have all taken their dual legacies seriously. At Herschel V. Jenkins High School (HVJ), all five were high honor roll students excelling in academics, sports, and music. This fall, two of Preston's younger sisters, Amanda and Carmel, enrolled at AASU. All three earned the Hope Scholarship.



Left to right from top: Bonnie Bartell Dismukes Futrell, Hugh Preston Futrell III, Carmel Futrell, Preston Futrell IV, Amanda Futrell, Victoria Futrell, and Lillian Futrell.

A chemistry major, Preston is a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and a U.S. Coast Guard reservist. Amanda is a physical education major with a desire to teach young children. Carmel, a national storytelling champion, participated in early enrollment at AASU while in high school and is leaning toward a career in the pharmaceutical industry.

The two youngest Futrell sisters, Lily and Tori, excel in high school soccer, softball, and academics. Lily takes advanced placement courses at HVJ and will become a joint enrollment student at the university next year. Lily and Tori both hope to continue their sports careers at Armstrong Atlantic. ■■

If yours is a multigenerational Armstrong family that would like to be featured in a future issue of Compass, call Patty Parker, director of alumni relations, at 912.921.2343 or e-mail her at parkerpa@mail.armstrong.edu.



class notes

'40s

Harriet Kanter Konter '44 has been selected by the Georgia Association of Realtors for the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of Realtors. This prestigious nomination is given to only one person each year and is chosen from 30,000 statewide members.

Col. Larry Collins '48 visited the campus for two days in October. Col. Collins visited with President Thomas Z. Jones, Vice President C. Leary Bell and Col. James Handley, head of the military science department. Col. Collins had lunch with cadets in the ROTC program and took a tour of the campus. He also spent time reviewing the university archives with archivist Caroline Hopkinson and hearing about upcoming Golden Graduates events from Patty Parker, director of alumni relations.

'60s

Jim Weeks '68 and wife Joyce were featured on the cover of the *TWATL* magazine after capturing first place in the husband and wife club championship held in June at the Landings Golf Club.

'70s

James (Buddy) Hardy III '70 has been coaching baseball at Windsor Forest High School for 27 years. He plans to retire at the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

Mark Sussman '73 was recognized at this year's AASU Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony with a Service Citation Award for his many years as the institution's volunteer business manager.

David H. Dickey '74, a partner with Oliver Maner & Gray LLP, is one of only three Savannah attorneys to be listed among "Georgia's 2003 Legal Elite" in *Georgia Trend* magazine. The listing included 178 of Georgia's most effective lawyers chosen from among their peers. Dickey was also included in *Atlanta*

Magazine's "Georgia Super Lawyers 2004, the ultimate guide to the top lawyers in Georgia." To further support his specialty in the field of trusts, taxes, and estate planning, Dickey is also a certified public accountant.

Daniel Massey '76 ran for Superior Court clerk in Chatham County. At press time, he was leading his challenger by 1,500 votes with 700 absentee ballots still to be counted.

'80s

Detra Thomas '84 was named to the AASU Athletic Hall of Fame in May 2004 for basketball.

Kenneth Sellers '85 has been named district manager for New England Financial. Sellers, with the firm since 2000, achieved agency builder qualification in 2002 and 2003, and top recruiter status from 2001-2003

Sandra Riggan '88 earned a master's in counseling from the University of Georgia, and obtained a professional counselor's license from the state of Georgia in 1999. In addition to her current practice as a counselor, she has recently written a book, *Forbidden Memories, a Journey of Healing*. Riggan has learned that writing down her own personal abuse experiences not only helps others to recover, but helps her as well.

'90s

Bradley T. Squibb '91 was named to the AASU Athletic Hall of Fame in May 2004 for baseball.

Renee Robbins '96, '00 is a full-time sales associate for Coldwell Banker Greater Savannah Realty in Savannah.

Jeanine Christian '97, an International student from Columbia and a three-time All-American women's tennis player, was named to the AASU Athletic Hall of Fame in May 2004.

Eric R. Filmer '97 was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in June 2004.

Jeremy G. Watkins '97 is a school counselor with the Clarke County schools in Athens, GA.

James R. Gauthier '98 has begun work on his master of arts in liberal studies at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

Marion Gotz Lee '98 has the distinction of being the first graduate of AASU's Honors Program in 1998. Since graduating, she completed her Ph.D. at Georgia Institute of Technology, and is currently completing a post doctorate at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Munich. Her work has been published in *Biological Chemistry* and in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*. Additionally, she and her colleagues have submitted two patent applications, based upon their discoveries of enzyme inhibitors that may be useful as antiparasitic agents.

Tracy Forman '99 is property manager for the Bosley Real Estate Group, LLC in Pooler.

George Carter Mobley '99 is the office and branch manager for Savannah Bank's Medical Arts office. As a licensed financial specialist, Mobley will be responsible for small business and consumer lending.

Cathy S. Norman '99 is branch manager for Sea Island Bank's first Savannah location. She also serves on the advisory board of South University's physician assistant program.

Michael Weeks '99, after completing a master's at AASU, moved to New York City to earn a second master's from St. John's University in risk management. Currently, he is a second year doctoral student in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He expects to graduate in 2006.

'00s

Sandra Cutchin '00, an Honors Program graduate, is now director of First Baptist School in Coral Springs, FL where children from 12 months to third grade are taught.

Radha Narayanan '00, an Honors Program graduate, is in the fourth year of her doctoral program at the Laser Dynamics Laboratory, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, at Georgia Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on the size, shape, and surface characteristics of platinum nano-particles. Narayanan had articles published in both the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

Laura Pell '00, an Honors Program graduate, has recently completed her master's in speech-language pathology at the University of Georgia.

Gregory A. Zapf '00, an Honors Program graduate, works as a programmer for International Paper in Memphis, TN. He is modifying his Delorean with an eyes-free vehicular personal computer that plays music, reads text files, and scans for wireless networks. He will speak on these modifications this fall at the PhreakNic convention in Nashville, TN.

Anne Stephanie Craig '01, an Honors Program graduate, is in the fourth year of her Ph.D. program in molecular genetics and microbiology at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on the genetics and regulation of virulence factors in the *Shigella* and *Vibrio* species of intestinal pathogens. These pathogens

are believed responsible for major epidemics of severe diarrheal disease in many developing countries.

Dominique Driessen '01 is employed by the Beaufort County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Department as a clinical counselor. Driessen is also working toward her Ph.D. from Capella University, focusing on human services with a specialization in criminal justice.

Christina Grass Serrano '01, an Honors Program graduate, works for the student learning center at the University of Georgia. Serrano will be presenting some of her research on the use of technology in teaching at an upcoming conference. She plans to enter graduate school.

Becky Bennetch '02, an Honors Program graduate, is finishing her master's degree in rhetoric and communications at the University of Saskatchewan. At a recent rhetoric conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she presented a paper, *The Gospel According to Glamour: A Rhetorical Analysis of Revolve: The Complete New Testament*.

Michael Cherry '02 is a sales associate with ERA Kelly & Fischer Real Estate in Savannah.

Tosha D Fowler '02, an Honors Program graduate, is finishing up a theater internship with the Actors Express Theatre Company in Atlanta. This past spring, she had a professional role in Spain. This fall, she will be performing in *Killer Joe*. While pursuing an acting career, she also works as a merchandiser at the Americas Mart.

Jessica Sabiston Mudd '02, an Honors Program graduate, is now employed at Memorial Health University Medical Center as a medical dosimetrist.

Marcus Scott IV '02 recently completed his master's in school administration at Cambridge College. He is teaching in the Liberty County school system, coaching basketball, and working toward his educational specialist in school administration.

Luciana Spracher '02 lectured on her latest book, *Lost Savannah*, at the Georgia Historical Society in August. The photographic history of former Savannah historical structures depicts such sites as Union Station and the Old City Exchange that were torn down to make way for progress. Spracher hopes to reinforce the importance of preservation so that other important buildings won't wind up being destroyed as well.

Brian White '02 is head coach of the Savannah Swim Team. White is part of a team that promotes life skills designed to have an enormous economic impact on the local community.

Jonathon Long '03 and **Jarrett Walsh '03**, both graduates of the Honors Program, have co-authored a paper with their mentors, **Delana Nivens** and **Will Lynch**, that is based on their senior project research that was published in the *Journal of Undergraduate Chemistry Research*.

Jennifer Calver White '03, an Honors Program graduate, was named chairman of the educational advisory panel of Starfish Aquatics, an organization that promotes aquatics education throughout the nation.

Karen J. Terrell '04 was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing in December 2003. She has plans to pursue her master's degree in nursing through an acute care and critical care internship at the University Medical Center at Duke University in Durham, NC.

engagements

Jaun A. Rooks '03 to wed Ryan Marshall Crouso, June 10, 2005

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Small world

As **Carolyn Leesch '87** and her husband, Jim, were riding a bus across the Australian Outback last August, the driver played a tape of music including *Georgia on My Mind*. As the song came on Carolyn started pointing to the speaker and gesturing to Jim. This caught the attention of **Barry Ostrow**, director of university relations, who was sitting right behind them. Ostrow asked if they were from Georgia. They explained they had lived in Savannah for many years and now resided in Reedley, CA, near Fresno.



(L-R) Bill Beaudry '84, Dawn Hostetler MacMillan '00, Alumni Director Patty Parker, and Dale Lewis '92.

New Alumni Club

Three Jacksonville alumni recently helped start the new Jacksonville Area Armstrong Club. The trio hosted a luncheon at the River City Brewing Company in June. President Thomas Z. Jones greeted alumni from the area. Dodie Gay, vice president of the alumni association, represented the board.

Lara Herrin Harrison '99 and her husband, Robert Harrison '98: Emma Nicole, July 21, 2004

anniversaries

Frederick W. Worrill '79 and his wife, Carolyn, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary April 14, 2004.

Karen Weir Smith '02 and her husband, Kirkland, celebrated their first anniversary on July 19, 2004.

marriages

Nina Delk '87 to Ralph L. Nickerson, August 1, 2004

Shelley Segall '95 to Gary Davis III, January 17, 2004

Andrea L. Kramer '96 to Ricky Thomas Stringer, October 25, 2003

Michell N. McComb '96 to Terrance Knight, July 3, 2004

Meredith Clair Schuster '98 to Anthony Lee Harden, July 03, 2004

Michele Dolores Street '01 to Captain John Edwin Cole, May 08, 2004

Brian S. VanHouten '01 to Kimberly Williams, September 18, 2004

Natalie Catherine Hankins '02 to Michael Anthony Ferland, October 16, 2004

Mary Anne Simmons '02 to Stephen Gary Middleton, June 19, 2004

Krista K. Van Hall '02 to William Wahl, June 26, 2004

Lauren Paige Bragg '03 to Jesse Brandon Butler, October 9, 2004

Nancy P. Collins '03 to Travis John Probst '04, June 5, 2004

Stacey M. Roby '03 to Benjamin Screven Wells IV, November 8, 2003

Angela R. Ward '03 to Jason Edward Millhouse, June 5, 2004

Lolisa Cole '04 to Patrick J. Boleman, July 4, 2004

in memoriam

Evie Laura W. Darling '37, July 01, 2004

John P. Skinner '75, July 21, 2004

Gregory Breton Foss '80, May 21, 2004

James Patrick Harte, Jr. '87, May 31, 2004

John F. O'Donovan '88, January 30, 2004

Robert Leon Davis '90, May 24, 2004

Deborah Fulmer Knight '94, May 25, 2004

Jerry W. Kimball '02, November 22, 2002

Robert Alan Kolodny, associate professor of chemistry, died August 1. He had served on the AASU faculty since 1991 and received the university's H. Dean Propst Award in 1996 for his prominent role in teaching, counseling, advising, and actively supporting student involvement at the university.

births

Kristi Seay Gauthier '01 and her husband, James R. Gauthier '98: Mason Cade, August 10, 2004

Elizabeth Rodgers Clarke '90, and her husband, Wyatt: Lillian Kathleen, February 12, 2004



International Garden begins to emerge

The International Garden, under development between Solms and Hawes halls, is beginning to take shape.

The garden's centerpiece, the amphitheater of the European Plaza, progressed in October with the emergence of the curved, concrete retaining walls and the brick performance area. It is expected that the installation of drain lines, irrigation system, hand rails, and bermuda sod will complete the amphitheater by the end of the fall semester.

Planting was begun in two sections of the International Garden on the south end of the site. In the Australia section, over 20 species of *Eucalyptus* have been planted as well as species of *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Brachychiton*, *Callistemon*, and *Grevillea*. In the South American section, numerous flowering perennials were planted including South American species of *Lantana*, *Pavonia*, *Aloysia*, *Ruellia*, and *Dicliptera*. More planting in the Australian and South American sections will occur this winter on the backside of the amphitheater as the berm is graded into its finished shape.

With completion of the European Plaza this winter, work will begin in the Asian section with the construction of a teahouse and rock garden.



Deaver honored by Cuernavaca City Council

In June, The City Council of Cuernavaca, Mexico recognized William Deaver, associate professor of Spanish, for his distinguished contribution to “the promotion and strengthening of our city.”

Deaver has taken students to the Kukulcan Institute in Cuernavaca for the last four years. In addition, his students completed a service project at the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Orphanage this year. Deaver also visited the Institute for Women, a shelter located next to the school.

This popular study abroad program averages 23 students each year.



Daugherty's latest book torn from the headlines

In *Executive Secrets: Covert Action and the Presidency*, William J. Daugherty, a 17-year veteran operations officer with the Central Intelligence Agency, addresses the perceptions about covert action that have seeped into the public consciousness.

Daugherty explained, “What I’ve seen for years is that those who oppose covert action base their opinions on flawed information. All I wanted to do was to correct the record.”

Daugherty cites congressional investigations, declassified documents, and his own experiences in covert action policy and oversight to show convincingly that the CIA’s covert programs were conducted specifically at presidential behest from the agency’s founding in 1947.

His writing was, however, not without some challenges. “For the most part,” Daugherty said, “I was not allowed by the CIA or NSC to cite newspaper articles as an only source on programs that had not yet been declassified. Their thinking was that my merely discussing an article on a still classified

program would somehow constitute ‘official’ confirmation of that program.”

Nevertheless, Daugherty provides an overview of the nature and proper use of covert action as a tool of presidential statecraft and discusses its role in transforming presidential foreign policy into reality.



“While Iraq may be controversial, Daugherty said, “it’s hard to imagine anyone presenting a seriously argued position against using covert action methods—be it paramilitary, political action, or propaganda—in the war against Al-Qaeda and terrorists.”

Daugherty’s first tour with the CIA was in Iran, where he was one of 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days during the Carter administration. He combines unique inside perspectives with sober objectivity in judging the true nature and scope of CIA covert actions during the last half century.

Daugherty is an associate professor of government. He is also the author of *In the Shadow of the Ayatollah: A CIA Hostage in Iran*. ■■

James Anderson

(continued from page 2)

Anderson promised he could arrange that and the ice was broken. The next summer, he brought an AASU jazz quartet to Marcos Juarez. They did workshops for 3,500 students and jazz musicians and performed half a dozen concerts. “They just poured their hearts out to take care of us,” Anderson said.

Sitting in his office, surrounded by exotic foreign musical instruments and other memorabilia from his travels, Anderson talks about expanding study abroad opportunities. In four years he’s seen destinations added from Belize to Kazakhstan. During the last two years, student participation has grown by 39% and 32% respectively. Next year the program will include new opportunities in Brazil, the Czech Republic, and Chile.

He is also working to vary the educational experience. Once the domain of history and Spanish majors, study abroad programs have been created for students in education, economics, geology, and other subjects.

In 2003, Anderson spearheaded a successful grant proposal for a Fulbright-Hays grant to support general studies in Argentina by public school teachers and college professors. This was repeated in the summer of 2004 with a grant to study in South Africa. Consideration is being given to applying for a third Fulbright-Hays grant for Poland, the Baltic states, or Brazil.

At this point in his interview, Anderson had to excuse himself. He had a plane to catch. ■■



Kenton Named Executive Director of Leadership Development

Ken Kenton has been named executive director of leadership development. In that position, he works with community leaders, in coordination with AASU faculty

and staff, to enhance and further the university's leadership initiative through resource development, program development, and community initiatives.

Leary Bell, vice president for external affairs, said, "Armstrong Atlantic is fortunate to have someone of Ken Kenton's broad experience to lead the university in its vision of leadership both within the institution and in the community. At this time of significant growth, it is critical to foster dynamic leadership among AASU's faculty and staff, its students, and the community."

Kenton's extensive career in institutional development began at Sweet Briar College where he spent five years as director of planned giving. Next, he led the \$50 million capital campaign for the business college at Emory University. His next post was as executive vice president of the Northside Hospital Foundation in Atlanta where he was subsequently promoted to president and CEO of the foundation. Later, he was named senior director of development for the DuPree College of Management at Georgia Tech where he raised more than \$5 million. Most recently, he was tapped by Zoo Atlanta as senior vice president and chief development officer. Kenton raised over \$6 million in new money during his tenure at Zoo Atlanta.



Ward Joins AASU Foundation

Dalton (D.) R. Ward has joined the Armstrong Atlantic State University Educational Properties Foundation as financial advisor.

AASU President Thomas Z. Jones said, "D. Ward is a solid addition to the foundation and university team. He brings invaluable financial acumen to the foundation at a time when it is rapidly building an infrastructure to support the university's accelerating enrollment."

Following a 30-year career in banking, Ward retired as the city president of Bank of America. He has served as chairman of the YMCA of Coastal Georgia and the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Small Business Assistance Corporation. He has been a member of the boards of the United Way of the Coastal Empire, and the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation.

Contributing writers to this issue:
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