WELCOME

This season, as azaleas, magnolias and dogwoods begin to bloom in the Armstrong Arboretum, I’m reminded of the cycle of campus life. Spring is a season of renewal and rebirth, but it also offers the opportunity to reflect on the past and to look ahead to the future.

By any measure, it’s an exciting time to be a Pirate. Over the past year, we’ve won awards for being one of America’s best universities for military veterans, for our College of Health Professions’ commitment to excellence, for our exceptional STEM programs and for our multiple athletic championships. I hope you enjoy learning about the exciting activities taking place in the classroom and beyond.

The latest issue of Armstrong magazine has a special focus on the College of Health Professions. Please take the time to learn about how our College of Health Professions gives back to the community and to meet some of Armstrong’s exceptional students, faculty, staff and alumni.

We’re proud of the academic excellence that defines Armstrong, with our small classes, undergraduate research opportunities and supportive network of accomplished faculty. We’ve been developing leaders since 1935 and are honored to continue our tradition of supporting student success.

I truly believe the best is yet to come. Whether you’re a current student, an accomplished alum, a dedicated faculty or staff member or a community member, we appreciate your support.

Thank you for being part of the Armstrong family!

Sincerely,

Linda M. Bleicken
President

about the cover

Alexis Mercer, a senior earning a B.S. in rehabilitation science, is a top athlete for the Armstrong softball squad, which swept this year’s NCAA Southeast Super Regional and was ranked fifth in the nation by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She’s also a proud graduate of South Effingham High School. Her plans for the future include an internship and an occupational therapy degree.

Cover photograph by Katherine Arntzen.
LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

We’d love your feedback on this issue, as well as what you’d like to see in upcoming issues of Armstrong. Please email allison.hersh@armstrong.edu or call 912.344.2971.

To change your mailing address, call 912.344.3229 or email alumni@armstrong.edu.

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Joanne Landers Hired as Director of Admissions

Armstrong recently hired Joanne Landers as the new director of admissions. She brings more than 14 years of experience in enrollment and recruitment management at a range of institutions of higher education to her new position, and is responsible for the strategy, execution and management of the university's admissions and recruitment process.

Before joining Armstrong, Landers served as the director of admissions for the Cleveland Institute of Art in Cleveland, Ohio. She previously worked as the associate director of financial aid at Chancellor University in Seven Hills, Ohio, where she monitored standards of academic progress, counseled students on federal loan opportunities and trained staff about financial aid policies.

University Ranks 12th on Prestigious Best for Vets List

Military Times ranked Armstrong State University 12th among four-year schools on its Best for Vets: Colleges 2015 list. Now in its fifth year, the annual rankings stand apart as the most comprehensive school-by-school assessment of veteran and military students' success rates. This year marks the first time Armstrong has been included on the prestigious list.

The rankings were first published in Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times. Best for Vets: Colleges 2015 evaluates the factors that make a college or university a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families. The survey-based ranking requires schools to document an array of services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to military and veteran students and to describe the various aspects of veteran culture on a campus.

Georgia Power Donates $20,000 to Support STEM Education at Armstrong

Cathy Hill, vice president of Georgia Power’s Coastal Region, recently presented Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken with a check for $20,000 from the Georgia Power Foundation to benefit the university’s College of Science & Technology and ongoing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives.

“Georgia Power is proud to support STEM initiatives at Armstrong, which prepare students for high-demand jobs,” said Hill, who also served as past chair of the Armstrong Foundation.

Armstrong has a deep commitment to STEM education. The university was one of 123 nationwide to be named to the 2015 STEM Jobs Approved Colleges list by Victory Media and was featured in the Winter 2015 issue of STEM Jobs magazine.
Armstrong Arboretum Wins Savannah Tree Foundation Award

The Savannah Tree Foundation presented the 2014 Lynda Beam Award to the Armstrong State University Arboretum, recognizing the institution’s commitment to fostering the awareness of the positive impact of trees through the campus-wide Arboretum. Philip Schretter, Armstrong’s grounds superintendent, accepted the award at the Savannah Tree Foundation Gala at Ships of the Sea Museum in October.

The Arboretum encompasses Armstrong’s 268-acre campus on Savannah’s southside and features a wide variety of native trees, shrubs and other woody plants. Natural areas of campus contain plants found in Georgia’s coastal broadleaf evergreen forests such as live oak, Southern magnolia, red bay, horse sugar and sparkleberry.

Marketing Department Wins CASE Grand Award for Best Branding/Identity Campaign

Armstrong won the Grand Award for Best Branding/Identity Campaign, in recognition of the university’s Start Strong campaign, at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Southeast District III Conference in Orlando, Fla. Armstrong graphic designer Michael Lowe accepted the award on behalf of the university at a special awards banquet on Feb. 17.

The Start Strong campaign was developed by Brenda Forbis, Armstrong’s former director of marketing, in conjunction with the university’s marketing team and Metaleap in Atlanta. Armstrong also earned a second-place Award of Excellence for Outstanding Ad Campaign at the CASE Awards Banquet.

“It’s humbling to earn this level of recognition for our Start Strong marketing campaign,” said Armstrong President Linda M. Bleicken. “We recognize the importance of having a consistent brand and work hard to share our marketing messages with target audiences, from prospective students to alumni.”

CASE is a professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement professionals who work on their behalf in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas.

Christopher Corrigan Joins Armstrong as Vice President for Business and Finance

Armstrong has hired Christopher Corrigan, a senior-level financial and operations professional, as vice president for business and finance.

Before joining Armstrong, Corrigan served as CFO for the Arthritis Foundation in Atlanta, where he managed $100 million in annual revenue, in addition to $90 million in foundation investments. Prior to that, he was the CFO for Emory College, preparing and executing a $200 million-plus operating budget for the institution’s largest academic unit.

Earlier in his career, Corrigan served as CFO for Andrew College and as an executive at a startup technology company in Silicon Valley, helping to grow Sun Microsystems into a Fortune 500 company. A former captain in the U.S. Navy and naval aviator, Corrigan earned a B.S. from Notre Dame University and an MBA with a concentration in finance from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.
Healthcare HEROES

College of Health Professions Students, Faculty Give Back to the Community

BY BRITTANY D. McCLURE
For Armstrong student Pamela Denson, pursuing a degree in respiratory therapy is more than just a career path. It’s an opportunity to make a difference.

In August of 2014, she helped perform asthma screenings in her hometown of Albany, Ga., through the Georgia Asthma Coalition, a nonprofit led by the head of Armstrong’s respiratory therapy program, Douglas Masini, and founded by board-certified allergist/immunologist Tracy Bridges and registered nurse Jon Ramsey. The coalition seeks to improve asthma education in Georgia by hosting free asthma screenings in daycares, schools, faith-based organizations and more.

“It was an eye-opening experience,” Denson reflects. “They have singled out communities in Georgia that have the highest rates of asthma sufferers and asthma-related deaths.”

During her first screening experience, Denson provided asthma education and performed pulmonary function tests, which measure lung capacity. The free asthma screening attracted children and a large population of adults between ages 50 and 60. Once the testing was complete, participants took their results to specialists, who made recommendations.

“It was really rewarding because we were reaching out to people who may not have thought to go to an asthma specialist or who couldn’t afford it because they didn’t have insurance,” Denson explains. “We could have very well saved a life that day.”

Denson enjoyed the opportunity to apply lessons learned in the classroom at Armstrong to the medical field. She is one of a growing number of students and faculty in the College of Health Professions who improve the quality of life of thousands of area residents through a wide variety of healthcare-related outreach programs.

“We believe in giving back to the community and are committed to providing high-quality healthcare for those in need, from children to seniors,” explains Anne Thompson, interim dean of the College of Health Professions.

Breaking Down Barriers
In 2012, Janet Buelow, associate professor of health services administration, started the Patient Advocates program to provide a way for Armstrong Health Professions students to help area residents in need.

Funded by a nursing grant for interprofessional collaborative care at St. Mary’s Clinic, the program listens to patients and helps them with whatever barriers are blocking them from reaching their health goals.

Buelow’s students help patients apply for food stamps, Medicaid and Medicare and provide health prevention coaching that includes early detection of cancer, diabetes management and more. Students in the Patient Advocates program work three hours per week at St. Mary’s Clinic, St. Mary’s Community Center, Community Health Mission, the Coastal Health Department, the Good Samaritan Clinic or the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer Center.

“Placing students in clinical settings with underserved populations is a critical part of the program, not just because of the educational benefit to the students, but also because of the benefit to our own community,” Buelow explains. “Studies of similar patient advocate programs in larger cities have shown a decrease in unnecessary emergency room visits, as well as decreased re-hospitalization of patients—and that is certainly our goal here in Savannah.”

Opening Lines of Communication
The RiteCare Center at Armstrong—a speech, language and hearing clinic supported by the Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Savannah Valley Masons—serves individuals in the community who have communication disorders.

The center provides speech language assessments, hearing screenings and aural rehabilitation and offers programs for children, adults and individuals with diagnosed disorders.
The facility also provides individually tailored plans in the areas of social communication, speech, language, hearing and cognition.

Staffed by graduate students in the communication sciences and disorders program who are supervised by professors and speech language pathologists, the center also travels to public schools in Savannah-Chatham to conduct hearing screenings.

“Last academic year, students performed 2,600 screenings at nine different schools,” explains associate professor of communication sciences and disorders and RiteCare Center coordinator April Garrity. “Over the last two years, more than 4,500 screenings have been conducted.”

New Lease on Life
In addition to running the RiteCare Center, Garrity is also the founder of Communication Help for Adults after Stroke (CHATS).

“I started the program in 2009, and it is funded by a grant in part with the Savannah Speech and Hearing Center,” she says. “The focus is on facilitating functional communication skills in individuals who have had a stroke.”

The therapy performed in the service-learning project is performed by graduate students in the communication sciences and disorders program and comes at no cost to the stroke survivors. The cost for the same type of services at a hospital can run $100 per hour or more.

“The students are out there interacting in a positive way with people who need to have hope about their futures and need to feel like their lives are still worth something,” Garrity explains. “It’s a rewarding experience for everyone involved.”

Building a Better Future
While many of the programs associated with the College of Health Professions address patients with pre-existing problems, the Promoting Academics through Language-Literacy Skills (PALS) program focuses on prevention.

“This is a service-learning project to foster a sense of advocacy for children at risk for communication disorders,” says Maya Clark, associate professor of communication science disorders. “What we want to do is prevent issues before they begin.”

Every spring semester for 12-week intervals since 2008, communication sciences and disorders graduate students work at the St. Mary’s Community Center in Savannah. Through this program, the students develop and present caregiver-training modules for parents and teachers of children at risk for speech and language delays. In addition to working with caregivers, students also interact with the children, facilitating communication, social interaction and literacy skills directly.

“What we are helping to do is educate a community of people who can in turn carve out a better life, starting with a better education,” Clark explains. “We directly impact families by giving them resources they can continue to use long after we’re gone.”

Learning Beyond the Classroom
The College of Health Professions also participates in a number of fundraisers, the most notable being the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Light the Night walk held annually in Forsyth Park. For the last 11 years, Armstrong’s nursing team has been the education group which raised the most money to fight blood cancers.

The College of Health Professions has also been recognized for its civic-mindedness, most recently when the college was honored with the Georgia Medical Society’s Institution/Organization Award at the 14th annual Health Care Heroes Awards Banquet in November. This award recognizes organizations that have taken healthcare initiatives outside the confines of their own institutions and into the community at large, making demonstrable improvements in the quality of life for area residents.

“Armstrong’s College of Health Professions has a reputation for rigorous academics, but learning doesn’t stop in the classroom,” Thompson explains. “Giving back to the community is a positive experience for our students and faculty. We’re proud to make a positive impact on the community at large and to contribute to quality healthcare in Georgia.”

➤ LEARN MORE: Visit Armstrong’s YouTube channel and type in “Healthcare Hero” to watch a related video.
For respiratory therapy junior Amber Dixon, the chance to share her knowledge and skills with state legislators at Armstrong Day at the Capitol in Atlanta on Jan. 29 was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“It’s exciting to show legislators what I’m learning at Armstrong,” she raves. “They have a genuine interest and want to listen to what we have to say. I’m thankful to have this opportunity to showcase our skills.”

Dixon was one of a dozen College of Health Professions students who traveled to Atlanta—along with various deans, department heads and administrators—to showcase Armstrong’s interprofessional approach to healthcare education. The South Rotunda was filled with Pirate pride as students and faculty dressed in maroon for the second annual event.

The contingent also emphasized the university’s need for a new state-of-the-art College of Health Professions building. Armstrong graduates more undergraduate healthcare professionals than any University System of Georgia institution, yet the university turns away more than 300 qualified applicants each year due to capacity issues. The university successfully appealed to state legislators to approve $1.8 million in design funding for the proposed new building, which will emphasize interprofessional education and collaborative learning.

Armstrong representatives mingled with legislators as teams of students took turns working on “Chuck,” a healthcare mannequin playing the role of a 68-year-old man injured in a car accident. Health professions students donned blue gloves and demonstrated hands-on techniques as part of a coordinated simulation of medical treatment.

“It’s important for all Georgians to understand the quality of work going on at Armstrong.”

— David Ward, interim provost and vice president of academic affairs
Jerris Sensabaugh describes enrolling in Armstrong’s accredited respiratory therapy program as one of the easiest decisions he’s ever made.

Jerris plans to use his Respiratory Therapy degree as a pathway to medical school at Emory University in Atlanta. He recently visited Atlanta with a group of Health Professions’ students and faculty to participate in the second annual Armstrong Day at the Capitol.

“It’s cool to transition from the knowledge you learn in class and apply that in the real world,” he says. “It’s surreal almost, and it’s so rewarding at the same time.”

He’s currently completing pediatric rotations at Memorial University Medical Center and is a member of the university’s Biology and Psychology Clubs. He’s also an avid intramural soccer and volleyball player.

With hands-on experience in the classroom and at the hospital, Jerris is confident Armstrong has prepared him for a promising future in the medical field.

“I love how diverse my education has been at Armstrong,” he raves. “And I love being able to take all of that knowledge and combine it and apply it toward my goal of becoming a doctor.”
Kayla Martinez’s husband chose to be stationed at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Ga., because of its proximity to Armstrong. As a nursing student at Louisiana Tech University, Kayla was well aware of Armstrong’s reputation.

“The university’s nursing program is well-known and stands apart as one of the best in the area,” she says. “I just knew that it was where I wanted to complete my degree.”

Kayla was awarded a Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation Scholarship, which helped make Armstrong even more affordable. Since transferring to the university in 2012, she has gained significant experience in trauma, her area of choice. She currently works as a patient care tech at Memorial University Medical Center, where she gets hands-on experience in the Emergency Department and in the Neuro-Intensive Care Unit.

“I’m confident that I can go into my nursing career after graduation without any surprises,” she explains. “Armstrong has given me everything I need to succeed.”
Ashlee Wilcox majored in elementary education at the University of South Carolina, but she decided to pursue a graduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders after working with autistic children as a student-teacher.

“I had two autistic boys in my class who went to speech therapy every week,” she recalls. “I ended up shadowing the speech therapist at the school and fell in love with the field.”

Ashlee chose to pursue her graduate education at Armstrong, in part due to the impressive reputation of the university’s communication sciences and disorders program.

“For the Praxis, our national certification test, Armstrong’s communication sciences and disorders students had a 100 percent pass rate, which is excellent,” she explains.

This hard-working student was also attracted to the small class size, quality learning experiences and hands-on internships at Armstrong. The recipient of a Thomas Spencer McCormick Presidential Scholarship, Ashlee enjoys working with practicing clinicians at the RiteCare Center on Armstrong’s campus, providing speech therapy services to area residents.

After graduation, this South Carolina native plans to practice speech-language pathology in Savannah.

“I’m looking for jobs right now,” she says. “Ideally, I’d like to work in a medical setting helping adults recover after a stroke. Armstrong’s College of Health Professions has definitely prepared me for success.”
Freda Fosu has come a long way from home to study nursing. Born and raised in Kumasi, Ghana, this dedicated student has found the inspiration she needed at Armstrong to pursue her dreams.

“The nursing program at Armstrong gives hope to students like myself,” she says.

Fosu came to Armstrong in May of 2014 with impressive accomplishments under her belt. In 2012, she, her twin sister and several friends founded ASEMPAkids, a charity in her home country that donates school supplies to children in rural villages and collects gently used clothing and shoes to provide to orphanages in the area.

“ASEMPA means ‘good news’ in Twi, the dialect spoken in Ghana,” she explains. “We come to bring good news to children.”

After graduation, Fosu plans to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and then travel to Ghana with ASEMPAkids for a month before she returns to the U.S. to work as a registered nurse. In the long-term, she hopes to return to Armstrong to complete her master’s degree and become a nurse practitioner.

“I can’t wait to take what I have learned in class and apply it in the clinical field,” she says. “Armstrong has made me confident that I am definitely pursuing the right path in life.”
Delia Singleton, a senior majoring in chemistry, carefully measures white fluorine powder into round-bottom glass flasks as part of an ongoing biochemistry experiment in a second-floor biochemistry lab at the Science Center.

“It’s one thing to hear about a chemical reaction in class,” she says with a smile. “But it’s more meaningful to do it in person and to understand the chemistry behind it.”

Delia, who plans to attend medical school after graduation, is one of eight students working with Armstrong biochemistry professor Brent Feske as part of the university’s Biocatalysis Group. Working together and in small groups, they experiment with three different classes of enzymes and observe how they react with different substrates or molecules. Armstrong’s Biocatalysis Group is collaborating with the Center for Pharmaceutical Development at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, conducting cutting-edge experiments that could have a tremendous impact on the pharmaceutical industry.

“We’re trying to make enzymes that create pharmaceutically relevant compounds,” Feske explains. “We’re developing brand new ways to make these type of molecules, which could potentially be used as active pharmaceutical ingredients.”

Chemistry major Yanairie Caraballo, a junior, sprinkles organic molecules called chalcones into a series of identical glass flasks and inserts the tray into an incubating shaker, a meticulously calibrated machine that agitates and oxygenates the mixture at a stable temperature of 37 degrees Celsius for three days. Along the way, she adds various chemicals, extracts cells, records her findings and keeps a close eye on the experiment.

“It’s a greener way of synthesizing molecules,” she says of the chalcone experiment. “It doesn’t produce as many toxic by-products.”

For Stephen Kennedy, a senior majoring in biochemistry, the opportunity to get real-world lab time at Armstrong is priceless.

“It’s exciting to get hands-on experience in a field I’m passionate about,” he says.

Blair Weaver, a senior majoring in biochemistry, agrees. He’s particularly excited about the creativity and freedom the biocatalysis lab provides.

“You take what you’ve learned in class, and you can build the molecule you want, from the ground up,” he says. “It’s a lot of fun.”
Armstrong students can now explore the human body using new advanced medical technology

BY BRITTANY D. MCCLURE
Armstrong’s College of Health Professions is taking hands-on learning to another level: the third dimension.

With the recent acquisition of two pieces of highly advanced medical equipment, classrooms across campus are now learning about the human body in ways that were once possible only inside an operating room.

In the summer of 2014, Armstrong became the first school in the state of Georgia to purchase Anatomage, an interactive virtual anatomy dissection table. To date, the Anatomage Table is the most technologically advanced anatomy visualization system for anatomy education and is being adopted by many of the world’s leading medical schools and institutions.

“It’s going to allow us to teach everything below the skin in new and creative ways,” says Anne Thompson, interim dean of Armstrong’s College of Health Professions.

The digital anatomy table features a visualization screen that spans 81 inches long and 22 inches wide, and has been featured in the TED Talks Conference, PBS, Fuji TV and numerous journals for its innovative approach to anatomy education.

“It looks like a giant iPad, and, like any touch screen device, we can drag a finger across it and do sectional anatomy,” Thompson explains.

Developed at Stanford University, the Anatomage Table has an interactive display system using an infrared touch center shooting light rays that sense where the user is touching. The table simulates an operation table and allows for full body, three-dimensional renderings. This equipment is the only virtual system that can display human gross anatomy in life-size. The interactive display system strengthens Armstrong’s collaborative learning environment, as several students may gather around the table or connect the device to a projector for a greater depth of view.

Users interact with the displays by flipping them and rotating them or by using a scalpel tool to “dissect” and reveal certain areas of the body. Students can remove layers such as skin and muscle tissue to reveal bone and organ renderings. The table even allows for users to load their own images from CT scans and radiographs. The data used to create the models come from real patient scans or cadavers, which makes the simulations highly accurate.

“The possibility here for teaching students in health professions, science and technology, forensics in criminal justice, neuroanatomy in the College of Health Professions and more is just endless,” says Thompson. “The ability to teach across disciplines is just phenomenal.”

Interestingly, the Anatomage Table is not the only piece of technology on campus with advanced, one-of-a-kind capabilities. In the spring of 2013, Armstrong became the only school in the region to purchase the Simbionix ANGIO Mentor, a simulation system that provides hands-on experience with procedures performed under fluoroscopy in the cath lab, an interventional radiology suite or an operating room. All procedures are conducted in a simulated, virtual reality environment.

“This device allows you to utilize the device as a patient and insert different wires, catheters and stents, perform diagnostic procedures on patients, deploy stents and more,” explains Esma Campbell, Armstrong’s Cardiovascular Interventional Science program coordinator.

The system has been featured on the award-winning, medical drama television series Grey’s Anatomy, as well as the syndicated daily talk show The Doctors, for its innovative technology enabling realistic visualization of the anatomy and instrument activity.

“It allows a student to simulate finding a problem and then correcting it, all while using the same equipment that would be available as if it were really happening in a real environment,” says Campbell. “Students can experience these things in the classroom, and make mistakes in a safe, simulated setting which, in turn, creates a more patient-safety, focused environment.”

“Our students are getting exposure on the same equipment as physicians who are practicing in real hospitals.”

— Esma Campbell, program coordinator, Cardiovascular Interventional Science track
Q&A
with Anita Nivens, Ph.D., RN, FNP-BC

Anita Nivens, professor of nursing, has a passion for delivering quality healthcare. She’s also committed to helping Armstrong students become compassionate healthcare providers and oversees Armstrong’s graduate nursing department.

This talented faculty member recently spoke with Armstrong Magazine about her commitment to students, the appeal of the university’s newest graduate nursing program and her love of gardening.

Why did you decide to go into nursing?  
Nursing has been my lifelong ambition. As a child, I knew I wanted to be a nurse. I never considered anything else. I have been a nurse now for 42 years and a nurse practitioner for 32 years. It’s been great. I have absolutely no regrets about making that decision at a very young age.

What is the best part of your job at Armstrong?  
Helping students to really be the best they can be. I enjoy exposing them to the quality that I think we need to have in nursing and instilling those values. Nursing isn’t just a job. It needs to be a calling.

Armstrong recently launched a new family nurse practitioner graduate track. Why is this such a hot field?  
The timing is very good. I think there are a lot of factors in healthcare that are changing. With healthcare reform, so many more people are insured and have access to healthcare. There is a large primary care shortage in terms of doctors and nurse practitioners can help meet those needs. They are a good fit in clinics, private practices and virtually in every setting.

What do you love most about working with students?  
The challenge and opportunity to be able to guide them into advanced practice nursing. I do recruit some, but primarily I work with nurse practitioner-track graduate students. I recognize the opportunity and responsibility of being a nurse practitioner. I literally have the ability to motivate and enhance people’s health and care.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?  
I love to garden. I live west of Savannah on a small farm. This time of year, I start looking at seed catalogues. When it’s the last frost, I get out in the yard. I also have two grandchildren in this area and three in Germany. I love being with all of them! I really enjoy everything from the outdoors to reading to being with family and friends.
phenomenal faculty

BOB LeFAVI
Health Science Professor, Strength and Conditioning Certificate Program Coordinator, Interim Department Head
Teaching at Armstrong since: 1993
Best part of my job: “Mentoring students and watching them succeed long after graduation.”

A noted expert in the fields of health, nutrition, sports medicine and strength and conditioning, health science professor Bob LeFavi has published more than 500 articles and established himself as a go-to source for The New York Times, USA Today, Parade and CNN.

“I believe that, for students, practical experiences are gold,” he says. “If students have not had the opportunity to attain real-world experience in their field, they are leaving college less than fully prepared and placing themselves at a competitive disadvantage in the job marketplace.”

With a B.S. in Health Education from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. from the Department of Health and Human Performance at Auburn University, LeFavi has expanded this practical approach to health and fitness education by developing business-related courses in human performance, so that students who graduate have pragmatic skills to start and manage their own fitness companies.

In that regard, he begins mentoring students by asking about their passions, motivations and positive attributes.

“I think in a deeper sense, that’s what academics look to do,” he notes. “Students should learn that the things they can count on are the things that are within them.”

As the co-owner of a CrossFit franchise in Effingham County and a previous owner of a Gold’s Gym for 15 years, he discusses fitness entrepreneurship with his students, keeping field lessons tangible and fun.

Earlier this year, LeFavi helped arrange an important research study on 14-year-old weightlifting sensation C.J. Cummings, who broke one of the longest-standing records in U.S. weightlifting history. With technology constructed by colleague Bryan Riemann, LeFavi’s study used 13 high-speed cameras to track the athlete’s every movement at Armstrong’s Biodynamics and Human Performance Center.

He presented the findings to a packed house at the National Youth Weightlifting Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla., in June and is currently working on further presentations. The study drew attention from The Washington Post and Inside Edition.

“Armstrong is an amazing place,” he raves. “I love working with my colleagues to inspire students and help them succeed. Inspiration can occur in a lab or at a field experience, not just in the classroom.”
DID YOU KNOW?

Armstrong State University in Savannah, Georgia, confers more Health Professions bachelor’s degrees than any other public institution in Georgia.

However, in the Fall of 2014, Armstrong had to turn away more than 300 qualified applicants due to lack of capacity.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH FOR SELECT PROGRAMS BY 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARMSTRONG PROGRAM</th>
<th>PROJECTED GROWTH</th>
<th>NEW JOBS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>+26%</td>
<td>712,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>+39%</td>
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<td>Med Lab Science</td>
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<td>Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>+19%</td>
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<td>Radiation Therapy</td>
<td>+20%</td>
<td>3,400</td>
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</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
CORINE ACKERSON-JONES, M.Ed.
Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention, College of Health Professions

Working at Armstrong since: 2006

Best part of my job: “When a student I saw as a freshman who was not doing well came back to see me three years later and graduated. To see that come to fruition is extremely rewarding for me.”

As the coordinator of recruitment and retention for Armstrong’s College of Health Professions, Corine Ackerson-Jones spends most of her time advising and working with freshmen in the Student Success Center.

Discussions about tutoring, programs and majors, time management and GPA-building skills are all in a day’s work, as is coordinating a learning community for young health professions majors who live together on the same floor in Windward Commons. In addition to providing these students with vital skills and tips, Ackerson-Jones also pairs them with faculty mentors within the college and encourages volunteer work in a field of interest.

Students open up to this seasoned professional about challenges they’re facing, which can include financial aid concerns, juggling multiple jobs or balancing parenthood with college work.

With undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from the University of Arkansas, Ackerson-Jones speaks to area high schools about Armstrong’s health professions programs and serves on the advisory board for the African-American Health Information and Resource Center, a division of St. Joseph’s/Candler Health Systems, as well as the Woodville Tompkins High School Healthcare Science Advisory Committee. She has served for six years as a community advisor to Gulfstream’s Student Leadership Program, which operates in partnership with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

As the director of Armstrong’s Health Careers Summer Camp, now in its third year, this dedicated staffer helps economically disadvantaged students participate in the weeklong enrichment opportunity held on campus. Walking through real-life simulations, the high school students mix and mingle with a network of undergraduates, faculty and staff and gain knowledge in key areas of healthcare.

“It does my heart good to think that we helped a student make the decision to study healthcare at Armstrong,” she says. “It’s exciting and rewarding to make a positive impact on the life of another person.”
Savannah native Richard “Dicky” Mopper is best known as a local real estate broker, community leader and longtime advocate of the city’s National Landmark Historic District. He’s the founder of the Downtown Business Association and the chairman of the Savannah Development and Renewal Authority.

Interestingly, Dicky’s passion for the commercial revitalization and urbanization of Broughton Street and the restoration of homes throughout downtown Savannah originally developed when he was a history major at Armstrong.

“I love Armstrong,” Dicky says of his alma mater. “I have great memories.”

With a focus on American history from the Revolution through the Civil War, the program guided him and fellow students toward a career in education, government, public or community service and business. Active on campus as president of his freshman class and a member of the tennis team, Dicky served as a social worker for the Division of Family and Children Services following graduation and eventually took a job with David Byck Realty.

Since that time, he has served two-term stints with the Historic Review Board and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. He has also served on the board of directors for the Savannah Arts Academy Foundation, as well as the Metropolitan Planning Commission/City of Savannah Downtown Master Plan Committee. He has run for mayor and volunteered with a variety of organizations, including the United Negro College Fund, the Downtown Neighborhood Association, Historic Savannah Foundation and the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum.

New to his roster, he will be serving as co-chair of a fundraising campaign for a much-needed, state-of-the-art tennis facility on Armstrong’s campus. Armstrong is home to one of the nation’s top tennis programs, having won 11 NCAA Division II Championships over the last two decades, and continues to attract some of the best players from around the world.

Full of Pirate pride, Dicky is eager to assist in any way he can and wants to see Armstrong host its own high-level competitions on campus, continuing its legacy as a home for championship collegiate tennis.

The reason? “I love the school,” he smiles. “Armstrong will always have a special place in my heart.”
Bynikini Frazier, the 2015 Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, has been inspiring students at Hodge Elementary School in Savannah for the past seven years.

“I really believe in being as energetic and exciting—and sometimes kooky and crazy—as possible,” she laughs. “I encourage the kids to take chances, to make mistakes and to get messy. I encourage them to be themselves and to learn in a way that they will remember.”

Children are truly at the center of Bynikini’s efforts in the classroom and beyond. A third-generation teacher, this Savannah native earned a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education at the University of Georgia before deciding to return home to enroll in the Master’s in Early Childhood Education program at Armstrong while teaching full-time at Hodge Elementary. She is confident that Armstrong played a key role in preparing her for her success in the classroom.

“Armstrong provided me with that platform of support and enrichment that I needed to strengthen my craft as a teacher,” she explains. “I’m still in contact with the professors I worked with during that time. They still mentor me as I’m working toward being a better educator.”

Bynikini says she was “beyond proud” to be recognized as the 2015 Teacher of the Year for the local school system.

“I feel like it was just yesterday that I was this skinny, little kid walking down the halls just like these students that I teach,” she smiles. “Now, I’m their teacher and the city’s top teacher. It is unbelievable. It’s such a humbling experience to be a positive voice for the thousands of teachers in our school district who work hard each and every day for the students of Chatham County.”

Ultimately, she’s proud to make a positive impact on the next generation of students and to serve as a role model for children. She understands the power a teacher has to affect the lives of children and to nurture their dreams.

“Teachers are the cornerstone of our society,” she says, “and being in this role has helped me to solidify that. Our children need us, more than ever before, to show them how to deal with conflict, to show them how to deal with life and how to open their doors to success.”
Kristin Burton, an award-winning soccer player at Armstrong, is proud to be a Pirate for life. She has been inducted into the Armstrong Athletics Hall of Fame and was recently named to the university’s 10th Anniversary Soccer Team. A talented athlete, Kristin decided to turn her passion for sports into a career helping others recover from injuries. She earned a B.S. in Rehabilitation Sciences and a Doctor of Physical Therapy at Armstrong and currently works as a physical therapist at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Savannah.

Kristin raves about Armstrong’s physical therapy program, particularly the accomplished faculty who helped her achieve her career goals.

“The professors have a wide array of experience that provide you a good, solid foundation to get you started on the way to developing a successful career,” she says. “You develop a personal relationship with all your professors, and they have your best interests in mind.”

Kristin, who helped lead the Lady Pirates to a championship in her senior year, enjoyed being a student-athlete at Armstrong and being part of a supportive community.

“I also loved the close-knit feeling that you have with a group of athletes, whether it be within your team or other sports as well,” she says. “The relationships you develop during your time as a student-athlete will last a lifetime.”

She also appreciates the fact that Armstrong—a three-time Commissioner’s Cup winner and two-time Presidents’ Award winner in the Peach Belt Conference—places a premium on academics.

“I like that there is an emphasis on being a student first at Armstrong,” she explains. “The athletic staff prides itself on high graduation rates and former athletes with successful careers.”

Kristin worked as a graduate assistant while earning her DPT, which gave her hands-on experience working with the Lady Pirates soccer team. Today, her job as a physical therapist offers incredible rewards on a daily basis, as she helps patients get back on their feet.

“The best part of my job is helping people get back to being themselves,” she says. “People end up on the rehab floor for a variety of reasons but the goal is always the same: to increase their function enough to allow them to return to where they were previously.”

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**KIRSTIN BURTON ‘10, ’13**

*Physical Therapist, St. Joseph’s Hospital*

*B.S. in Rehabilitation Sciences, Doctor of Physical Therapy*
John Henry, CEO, Effingham County Industrial Authority
B.A. in Economics

Being a member of Armstrong’s first graduating class in the Department of Economics held a distinct advantage, says John Henry, CEO of the Effingham County Industrial Authority.

Under the guidance of department head Yassaman Saadatmand and professors like Rick McGrath, both who are still with the university, John’s interest in economics grew. At the time, John was a nontraditional, 27-year-old student who was selling real estate full-time while attending Armstrong.

“I thought the economics program was great,” he recalls. Opting for a general economics track with courses in economic theory, econometrics and a senior thesis, “I got into it and really enjoyed it.”

Following graduation, John immediately went to law school in Atlanta and later, with two degrees under his belt, took a job with the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center in Brunswick, where he learned all about local government.

“I really applied a lot of Armstrong’s education and what I learned in economics to economic development,” he notes. “I was doing planning on a regional basis, and I used a culmination of all my training at that time.”

Ten years ago, this proud Armstrong alum started with the Effingham County Industrial Authority as a project manager but was promoted to lead the group just one year later. As a liaison between industry representatives and local government, John’s department is also charged with creating jobs and growing a tax base for one of the fastest growing regions in the country. He also oversees new business recruitment, expansion of existing businesses, increases to quality of life initiatives and development of property for industrial use.

John would like to see more people in his field receive the type of education and experience he did at Armstrong.

“I wish there were more economic developers with economics degrees,” he notes. “Our entire state would be better off.”
Attending Armstrong is a proud tradition for the Waters family.

Don Waters, the president and CEO of Brasseler USA, earned a BBA in Accounting at Armstrong in 1975, which helped kickstart his successful career in business. This dedicated entrepreneur, philanthropist, attorney and University System of Georgia Regent originally met his wife, Cindy, through the Greek system at Armstrong. A fellow business major, Cindy earned a BBA in Finance and a BBA in Management from the university in 1976.

"Armstrong launched me and my business," he explains. “Knowledge gained there helped me throughout my career.”

That’s why he enjoys supporting Armstrong’s Commitment Fund, which provides critical funding to help continuing students graduate, despite financial hardship. He’s also an advocate of Complete College Georgia, which encourages degree completion to create a more educated workforce to meet the needs of Peach State employers in the future.

"Armstrong is fundamental to that initiative," Don explains. “There are thousands of people in Georgia who are one or two semesters away from completing a college degree.”

Don and Cindy’s daughter, Anne Waters Jackson, an annual fund manager in Charleston, S.C., also believes in the power of a college education.

“Higher education is so important to career success,” she says. “It can make a tremendous difference. Education is important for a happy, healthy, successful life.”

Don agrees, adding: “Education is a centerpiece of what we support. It’s a proven game-changer in people’s lives. That’s why Armstrong is a key recipient of our support.”
ALEX SALGUEIRO

“For me it’s pretty simple,” says Alex Salguiero of his recent commitment to Armstrong as both a new Foundation Board member and sponsor of Paint The Town Maroon, an annual Armstrong community support pep rally. “Being an immigrant, I learned early on if you really want to get ahead in America, you have to have an education.”

Born in Havana, Cuba, Alex fled his home country in 1960 after his family was stripped of its century-old tobacco business under a fledgling communist state, arriving in the U.S. with little more than the clothes on his back.

“My father told us, if you want to get back everything you lost, you have to get educated in America,” he notes. “That’s what it’s going to take. To this day, I believe that's the case.”

Raised in Miami, Alex later attended Florida International University and worked his way through domestic and international management at Burger King. In 1986, he purchased five of the company’s franchises in Savannah and today owns 12 locations throughout southeast Georgia, under the auspices of his corporate entity, Savannah Restaurants Corp.

On “nothing but a steady diet of working with teenagers over the last 40 years,” Alex has seen his share of high school dropouts.

“Seeing them drop out like that, I knew their future was over,” he laments. “Many turn to drugs and crime. Education is a big piece in solving crime in America. You can’t break that poverty cycle unless you have an education. But you can if you do.”

One of the reasons Alex was eager to be involved with Armstrong is because of its active, ongoing connection to the Hispanic community through programs such as Hispanic Outreach & Leadership at Armstrong (HOLA), a student-focused initiative providing support services and cultural awareness programs to help increase Latino student recruitment and retention.

Latino college enrollment has increased by roughly 39 percent between 2006 and 2013, faster than any other group in the U.S. While there is already a strong core of Latino students on Armstrong’s campus, Salguiero hopes to see even more in the future.

“A lot of these kids are very bright,” he says. “Not to reach out to them would be missing the boat, but Armstrong is already taking a leadership role in supporting Latino students on campus.”

LETTIE PATE WHITEHEAD FOUNDATION

For nearly 20 years, the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation has helped shape the lives of 418 students in Armstrong’s College of Health Professions through a scholarship program with a focus on health education.

For many Armstrong scholarship recipients, their education would not be possible without the generosity of this foundation. The foundation’s commitment to Armstrong students is evident as they approach a combined giving total nearing $1 million.

“As a recipient of the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation scholarship, I see myself moving toward the direction of completing my education at the scheduled time, graduating in May of this year,” explains Armstrong nursing student Tamunoomie Fyneface. “I can now concentrate on my studies, rather than being worried about how my school fees will be paid.”

In addition to supporting Armstrong, the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation also serves more than 200 other institutions across nine Southeastern states. The foundation is dedicated to the support of deserving female students, with a significant number of the scholarship grants specifically targeting medical, nursing and allied health fields.

Conkey Pate Whitehead formed the foundation as a memorial to his mother, Lettie Pate Whitehead, who was born in Bedford County, Va., in 1872. In 1895, she married Joseph Brown Whitehead and had two sons, Joseph B. Jr. and Conkey. In 1899, Joseph and an associate secured the exclusive contract to bottle and sell Coca-Cola through most of the United States. The family moved to Atlanta in 1903 to further develop the business.

She became one of the first women to serve on the board of directors of a major American corporation, serving as director of The Coca-Cola Co. for almost 20 years. This dedicated philanthropist felt a keen sense of duty to help those in need and, throughout her life, contributed to numerous charities and universities.

Even today, Lettie Pate Whitehead’s legacy continues to assist those in need who share her deep passion for service and healthcare.

“But I couldn’t do this alone. It was the work of so many others. I think of all the people who donated money to the foundation. I think of all the work of others.”

— Kimberly Fenton, 2014 Armstrong graduate
1960s
Peggy Roney ’65 is a retired training director at the DeKalb County Board of Health and president of the Southern Region of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association.

1970s
Daniel Berman ’79 has been appointed to the Jacksonville Community Foundation Committee on the Improvement of Mental Health in Jacksonville, Fla. He is CEO of the Center for Healthcare Thinking & Innovations and on the board of directors of the Florida Nurses Association. In 2014, he was named to the Top 100 Healthcare Leaders in the U.S. by International Top 100 Magazine.

Walter Campbell ’76 recently earned an Emmy Award from the Midsouth Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in the documentary/historical category for The Editor and the Dragon, which was produced by UNC-TV and broadcast on public television stations throughout the country.

J. Thomas Maddox ’79 published a book, Following the Mist (Crossing the River), with Tate Publishing. He shares stories people have told him about their near-death experiences.

Daniel W. Massey ’76 has been reappointed by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to the Georgia Superior Court Clerks Cooperative Authority. He is in his third term as clerk of superior court for Chatham County.

W. Ray Persons ’75 was spotlighted in “Minority Powerbrokers Q&A: King & Spalding’s Ray Persons” by Law360 in December.

William Scarborough ’75, ’77 received a “Special Act” award on Nov. 4 at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Headquarters in Washington, D.C., for his outstanding work in connection with a financial fraud investigation concerning software revenue recognition. He is an associate chief accountant in the SEC enforcement division and is in his second year of law school.

Joseph Taylor ’75 retired from Gulfstream Aerospace after a 36-year career in the corporate accounting department as a cost manager. He is enjoying retirement with his wife Janet.

Mike Tindall ’77 is a product manager with Johnson Controls Inc. He and wife Elizabeth live in Hedgesville, W. Va.

1980s
Leesa Bohler ’80 has been appointed to the Board of Susan G. Komen Coastal Georgia. She is an attorney with Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers in Savannah.

Chuck Brown ’83 is the CEO of Infinity Inc. He and wife Jill live in Savannah.

Sherry Gellatly Harriss ’82 has been appointed director of Crimestoppers of Savannah by Interim Chief of Police Julie Tolbert.

Stephanie Lowenthal Humphrey ’80 has worked as a nurse in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit at Candler Hospital for almost 20 years. She has been a registered nurse for more than 40 years. She is married to fellow Armstrong alumnus John David Humphrey, who majored in psychology and is now retired from a career in law enforcement.

Michael Matz ’83 won eighth place in the men’s 50-54 age group 50-meter backstroke event at the 2014 United States Masters Swimming Long Course Summer Nationals at the University of Maryland. He hopes to compete in the World Championships of the Maccabi Games in Israel in the near future. He is a dentist in Elkins Park, Penn.

Richard Wallace ’84 participated in a three-year restoration of Thomas Edison’s lab in Fort Myers, Fla. He is an organic chemistry professor at Armstrong.

1990s
Randall Ball ’95 is a high school English teacher at Lahore American School in Lahore, Pakistan.

Stacie O’Connor Court ’97 has been promoted to studio production director for the Learning Ally Athens Studio in Georgia.

Martha Farley ’98 works in Fort Stewart’s traumatic brain injury program, which she implemented in 2008.

Glenn Fischer ’97 had an exhibition at the Sara Nightingale Gallery in New York that was reviewed by Art Daily.

Betty Gray ’90 is a full-time English instructor at Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson, N.C. She previously served as an adjunct instructor at Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Ga. She completed her master’s degree in English from the University of West Georgia in 1990.

Roy “Eric” Heffner is a brigade executive officer in the U.S. Army at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Ga.

Barry Lollis ’98, ‘00, MEd ’02 has been named to the Governor of Georgia’s Education Advisory Board for school principals. He is the principal at Putnam County High School.

Michael Kleinpeter ’96, MHS ’99 has been appointed to the Georgia Board of Community Health by Gov. Nathan Deal. He is the CEO of Optim Healthcare.

Keith Nations ’96 works in guest services for the Sea Island Co.

Vanessa S. O’Neal ’93, ’94 recently had the third edition of her book Grant Me the Money! The Practical Guide To Successful Grant Writing Practice published by Crystal Spirit Inc.

Nikki Palamiotis ’97, MPH ’02 has been appointed assistant dean of the Graduate College and director of graduate admissions for the newly consolidated Kennesaw State University.
Alexander Roth ’93, ’99 recently earned first place as the Grand Champion of the 30th annual Austrian Mountain Climbing and Yodeling Championship in Salzburg, Austria. He was the first American citizen to do so.

2000s
Anita Taylor ’02 published an article, “In Their Own Words: Anita Taylor,” on 21stCenturySavannah.com about the value of after-school programs.

Kaitlen Fulp Boaen ’08, DPT ’11 is a physical therapist at Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Eva Whitehead Buckner ’06 completed a master’s degree in ecology from the University of Georgia in 2009 and completed her Ph.D. in entomology in 2014. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate in the Medical Entomology Laboratory at the Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. In June of 2010, she married fellow Armstrong alumnus Christopher Buckner ‘13.

Brian Cobb ’03 is engaged to Ansley Tharpe. The couple plans to marry in May of 2015 in Savannah.

Rena Dixon ’05, MPH ’08 has been appointed health services coordinator for the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Gordon “Sonny” Dukes is a CSA-1 for the Georgia State Patrol.

Tara Geracs ’07 completed an M.A. in Professional Communication and Leadership at Armstrong in December. She is engaged to marry Troy Fisher.

Audrey Gregory ’01, MHSA MSN ’01 has been named CEO of Placentia-Linda Hospital, a Tenet Healthcare Facility, in Placentia, Calif.

Michael Jordan MA ’06 released his latest film, Pirates of Savannah and Beyond, on Oct. 9.


Jeremy Olson ’03 is the head of the chemistry department at Judson College in Marion, Ala.

Keith Pynn ’03 is the work-study coordinator at Bethesda Academy in Savannah.

Craig Sherman ’09 has been named the varsity baseball coach at Bethesda Academy, where he also teaches high school history.

Kate Troisi ’08 curated an exhibition, “Beyond the Vernacular,” at Mammal Gallery in Atlanta on Oct. 17-Nov. 14.

Anna Mach Walker ’09 has been appointed corporate relations manager for the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

2010s
Eric Bradley ’10 has been accepted into Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Spartanburg, S.C. Wife Jill Carter Bradley ’10 is completing a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences and immunology at Georgia Regents University.

Amber Burleson ’14 and Nate Brattebo ’13 are engaged to be married on June 6.

Louis Clausi MA ’14 recently published a book, Spirits of Savannah.

Lisa Co ’14 had a solo exhibition, “Ghost,” at Art Rise in Savannah, Nov. 1-15. The show was highlighted in the Savannah Morning News on Oct. 25.

Whitney Cobb ’12 has been promoted to coordinator of the Senior Supplemental Assistance Program at Senior Citizens Inc. in Savannah. She also coordinates the Meals on Wheels program.

Erica Cooper ’12 is a forensic chemist with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency.

Karen Cooper ’11 published her autobiography, A Light Shining in the Darkness, with Outskirts Press in December. Her husband, fellow alumnus Thomas Cooper ’11, designed the cover.

Seana Corbett ’10 is an optometrist with Dr. Bruce E. Reid and Associates in Kennesaw, Ga.

Whitney Maxwell Eubank ’12 completed a Master of Education from Armstrong in December.

Joshua Felice ’10 has completed basic training as an honor graduate at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex. He is a U.S. Air Force airman.

Gabrielle Grubbs ’14 is a special education math and language arts teacher at Myers Middle School in Savannah.

Brandi Hebron ’11, MEd. ’12 has been named director of admissions and college and career coordinator at Bethesda Academy in Savannah.

Lamar Hill ’13 is a middle and high school science teacher at Bethesda Academy.

Nicole Neal ’12 has been accepted into the Mercer University School of Medicine.

David Newcomer ’05, MHS ’10 has been promoted to manager of respiratory care at Riverside Health System in Newport News, Va.

Christina Osborne ’12 has completed certification as a counselor from the University of Louisville.

Haylee Pearson ’14 is the management operations coordinator with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Bethesda, Md.
Kwame Phillips ’13 has been named a coordinator in Armstrong’s Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Denisia Holt Pope ’11 is a registered nurse at Liberty Regional Medical Center/Memorial University Medical Center.

Emily Rice ’14 has been named a legal assistant at The Bowen Law Group in Savannah.

Georgi Rumenov ’13 won four matches in straight sets in the qualifying rounds to make it to the International Tennis Federation Portugal F1 Future Tournament.

Kathleen Smith ’11 is a real estate agent with Remax Accent in Richmond Hill.

Sarah Keller White MPH ’13 is a graduate research assistant at the University of Florida, where she is working on respiratory pathogen diagnostics and influenza viruses, while pursuing her Ph.D. in environmental and global health.

Caralea Wilson ’12 is a graphic designer with Standard Register.

Sarah Zeigler ’10 earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of South Carolina in Columbia in August. She is currently working at the Jen Library at the Savannah College of Art and Design and interning with the Georgia Historical Society.

MARRIAGES

Anthony Paderewski ’05 married Mildred Aldaya on Tybee Island, Ga., on Nov. 7.

Ryan Burnside MHSA ’14 married Emily Snooks in Springfield, Ga., on Dec. 13.

Jamaal Hill ’09 married Amanda Robinson in Ponte Vedra, Fla., on Feb. 21.

IN MEMORIAM

Evella S. Brown ’72, November 20, 2014
Esther M. Carver ‘77, November 6, 2014
Richard A. Chambless ’78, December 14, 2014
Rozetta Chisholm ’92, November 1, 2014
Ann Goggins Davis ’73, ’68, ’82, August 10, 2014
Versie DuPont ’72, November 18, 2014
Joan Pratt Durrence ’48, November 7, 2014
Carolyn Wood Ernst ’81, December 1, 2014
Russell L. Frederich ’58, October 18, 2014
Julia Theus Groover ’75, November 14, 2014
Aaron Hathaway ’75, January 1, 2015
Robert T. Henderson ’49, November 15, 2014
Harry O. Jenkins, Sr., December 1, 2014
Gladys Dixon Kessler ’72, December 18, 2014
Megan A. Kessler ’07, ’13, September 6, 2014
Jacklynn Duff Lewis ’00, ’01, ’06, November 2, 2014
Carlene Womack Lindell ’73, January 31, 2015
Veronia Parrish-Lotson ’88, September 12, 2014
Albert Hugh Martin ’62, September 28, 2014
Charles W. McCall ’59, September 16, 2014
Mary McRae Mitchell ’73, January 14, 2015
Betty June Kelly Mixon ’72, November 25, 2014
Theodore Marvin Page ’39, October 13, 2014
Doris Bentley Peveler ’41, August 21, 2014
Donald R. Pomykala ’75, December 17, 2014
Dr. Robert A. Porter ’48, September 28, 2014
Claudia Baldwin Roberts ’88, May 8, 2014
Janice June Rice Shuhany ’48, January 31, 2015
Lottie Wilson Tolbert ’74, October 16, 2014
Bertha Alexander Usher ’70, ’73, November 10, 2014
Jeffrey Walden ’92, October 25, 2014
Elizabeth Crumbley Waldrop ’40, October 23, 2014
James Carl Veale ’72, September 16, 2014

BIRTHS

Jennifer Turner Burgess ’06 and husband Ed welcomed their second child, daughter Lily Paige, on Sept. 28.

Patrick Jarrett ’05 and his wife Andrea welcomed two baby girls, Anna Jane and Lela Katherine, on Oct. 15.
Did you know?

Since nursing’s inception at Armstrong in 1966, the College of Health Professions has recognized the profession as critical to the university’s success. By 1969, three local hospitals had phased out their nursing diploma programs, and all nursing education in Savannah was exclusively offered at Armstrong. Today, Armstrong offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing, as well as graduate certificates in a range of fields.
Celebrate Armstrong

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