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March 2005

Armstrong Atlantic State University

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eARMSTRONG

A newsletter for Armstrong Atlantic State University faculty & staff

March 2005

AASU's center for regional analysis announces results of a Tourism Study conducted for the CVB

In January, the AASU Center for Regional Analysis (CRA) announced the results of a recent study analyzing current trends in tourism contacts and Savannah Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)-related tourism activity in the Savannah Metropolitan Area.

The study explored several factors that are shaping CVB activity and local tourism, including the demographics of visitors: ages, incomes, education levels, spending patterns while vacationing, primary destination for travel, reasons for visiting, and others. It also looks at the Internet as a factor that motivates visits to Savannah and reports on how tourist activity is changing as a result of Internet use.

CRA conducted the study by mailing 2,000 surveys to individuals who requested information from the CVB from May 2003-April 2004. This year's study compares the results of a similar study conducted in 2000.

The study co-authors were **Mike Toma**, director of the Center for Regional Analysis, and **Rick McGrath**, both in the Department of Economics.

Oink if you hate diabetes

Dean Barry Eckert, health professions, our own "Professor Pig," is one of the featured fundraisers for this year's Kiss-A-Pig competition to benefit the American Diabetes Association. Eckert and campaign managers **Joseph Hodges**, registrar/admissions, and **Kathleen Durham**, Justice For All, Inc., will be developing a variety of ways in which the campus can support his candidacy. When one of them calls on you for your help or a donation, please consider lending your support.

On February 22, Professor Pig graduated the longtime smoochin' sow Reba from the program and welcomed a still unnamed boar to the main campaign. If you would like to see Eckert plant one on the piglet in May, please answer the call when he asks for your support.

Tri Sigma Sorority initiates founding members

Sigma Sigma Sigma, a national women's sorority with 90,000 members, formally installed its new chapter at AASU January 21-23. During the weekend, sorority officials held a ceremony to initiate the nearly 30 founding members into the sisterhood.

Weaver named director of AASU-Liberty Center

Joseph G. Weaver, interim director of the Liberty Center in Hinesville, has been named permanently to that position. He began teaching at the center in 1999 and was promoted to the interim position in October 2004.

Weaver has taught at numerous colleges and universities throughout Georgia including AASU, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Clayton College and State University, Georgia College and State University, and Brewton-Parker College.

He is the author of a novel, *The Sculptor's Painting*, and a college text, *Aspects of Critical Thinking*. Weaver earned an A.B. and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia where he won the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1994.

AASU on display

You may have noticed a series of ads with various members of the community making statements about ways in which they benefit from AASU's many resources. These ads will run through June on the first and third Mondays in the *Business Report & Journal* and on the second and fourth Sundays in the *Savannah Morning News Exchange* section. Talking about their relationship with Armstrong Atlantic will be several businessmen, the heads of nonprofit agencies, an author, a middle school principal, and a retired chemical engineer.

Sign up now for AASU state license plates

The Office of Alumni Relations is coordinating an effort to establish an official Georgia license plate for AASU. Approval of the final design is pending from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Applications and fees must be collected and submitted to the DMV in Atlanta by July 2005. For information, or to purchase a tag, contact **Patty Parker** at 921.2343 or parkerpa@mail.armstrong.edu.

Anyone interested in obtaining a tag should submit a completed application form (MV-9C) and mail it to Parker along with a \$25 check, made payable to the AASU Foundation. A link to the form is available at www.external-affairs.armstrong.edu/alumni.htm.

Welcome Aboard

William Joshua Allen, Plant Operations

Third annual ArmstrongFest starts this month

The third annual ArmstrongFest will begin March 28 and run through April 3.

Back again are such popular events as the Invitational Alumni Art Exhibition, Organization Quiz Bowl, the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon (with a live mariachi band!), the Alumni Golf Tournament, the annual President's Symposium on Teaching and Learning, International Night (this year, to be held in the International Garden), the 5K Fun Run/Walk, the Annual Alumni Meeting, and Pirates baseball.

New events will include a 70th Anniversary Birthday Party, The Cast of the Dave Chappelle Show Comedy Tour, a Faculty Lecture on Duke Ellington, a pre-game Parade and Tailgate Party, and the Kappa Sigma and Buccaneer Region Sports Car Club of America Solo II Autocross.

A complete calendar of events will be distributed to all staff and faculty soon.

A weeklong series of events, Savannah Reads Gaines, will take place in April.

Many events will honor Ernest Gaines, author of *A Lesson Before Dying*.

All week: Special Collections Exhibit, Lane Library. AASU's Lane Library will showcase a collection of rare books and artifacts.

April 4

Across-the-Curriculum Discussion, noon, University Hall, room 158. Faculty from various disciplines will lead a discussion about approaching the novel from alternative viewpoints.

April 5

A Lesson Before Dying, Film Showing and Discussion, 7 p.m., University Hall, room 156. Enjoy light refreshments and engaging conversation as you view this film version of Gaines' novel.

April 6

Morning: Student-led Community Book Club discussion, noon, University Hall, room 156. Join in the book club craze by sharing in this conversation with the other students and community members reading the book. Evening: Stage production of *A Lesson Before Dying*, 7 p.m., University Dining Room, Memorial College Center.

April 7

Morning: Gaines with Schools.
Evening: Ernest Gaines himself, presentation and reception, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium. Ernest Gaines will read from his novel and discuss his experiences. He will be available for a signing and reception following the event. Community Read website: www.faculty.armstrong.edu/read.htm.

Events

Through March 18

AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents the Student Juried Art Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays. Admission is free. Call 927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for information.

March 4

The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents Kris Britt, baritone, in graduation recital at 2:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free. Call 927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for information.

March 5

The National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association will host a Bowl-A-Thon. It will be held from 1-4 p.m. at AMF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. Tickets are \$20 per person (covers two hours of unlimited bowling and the fee for shoes). The proceeds will benefit the National Organization of Rare Diseases. For more information call **Kimberly Cohen** at 695.5460.

March 5

High school students who want to expand their knowledge of computer science are invited to attend the third annual Computer Science Quiz Bowl. The first 100 registered participants will receive a free commemorative t-shirt. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and will be followed by two rounds beginning at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., and an awards ceremony that will begin at noon. Pizza will be served at the awards ceremony. The event is free and open to the public. Call 921.5600 for more information.

March 8

The Savannah Winds, Wind Ensemble in residence at AASU, perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. General admission only \$5. Call 927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for ticketing information.

March 9

The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents a gallery reception for the AASU Student Juried Art Exhibition at noon in the Fine Arts Gallery. Admission is free. For more information, call 927.5381.

March 10

Dean **Ray Greenlaw**, computing, will speak on his recent successful ascent of Vinson Massif in Antarctica during a presentation at 12:15 p.m. in University Hall, room 156.

March 23

The AASU Career Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Alumni Arena. All students, alumni, and the general public are encouraged to attend. Job seekers should come prepared to meet and greet employers representing education, arts and sciences, health professions, computing, and engineering professions.

March 25

Faculty Lecture: **Teresa Winterhalter**, languages, literature & philosophy, will present "Risking Who One is: Feminism and Public Spaces." The event will be held at 12:15 p.m. in University Hall, room 156. It is free and open to the public.

March 28

The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents the AASU Invitational Alumni Art Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays. Admission is free. Call 927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for more information.

April 1

Faculty Lecture: **Randall Reese**, art, music & theatre, will present "The Legacy of Duke Ellington." The event will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Hall, room 132. It is free and open to the public.

April 2

Campus Open House will be held for prospective students and family members in University Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call **Melanie Mirande** at 927.5232.

April 19-26

Student Scholarship Symposium. Research posters will be on display in the University Hall atrium.

April 27

Student Scholarship Symposium luncheon. Awards will be presented to the winners of the Research Poster Competition and the Writing Showcase. All AASU students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend this awards luncheon.

May 3

Sones de Mexico, a Chicago ensemble, will visit the campus. A music education workshop is scheduled for noon followed by an evening concert, which is free and open to the public. The events are supported by a grant from the City of Savannah Cultural Affairs Department. For more information, call **Melody Ortiz** at 921.7337.

Kudos

The senior students in the respiratory therapy program have all passed their standardized exit exam and are currently eligible to sit for their credentialing board exams. Seven students have earned their CRT credential by passing the CRT Entry Level Exam on their first attempt. Two students have completed both parts of their Registry Exam and are now RRTs. Congratulations to **Natalie Moorhead** and **Heidi Tolley** for earning their registry credentials. In order for a candidate to earn the RRT credential, they must pass three board exams.

AASU won a Gold Addy Award last month from the Savannah Advertising Federation. The winning entry was a brochure for the Faculty Lecture Series. **Anna Y. de la Paz**, graphic artist/photographer in the Office of University Relations, created the brochure and accepted the award on behalf of the university.

Mike Toma and **Rick McGrath**, economics, have been awarded a grant from the Chatham-Effingham Tobacco Use Prevention Coalition to study "Tobacco Use Among Savannah's College Level Students, 2004." The grant supports a survey of college level students in Savannah to obtain baseline data on tobacco use to evaluate the effectiveness of cessation activities at institutions of higher education in Savannah. Fourteen hundred students at AASU, SCAD, and Savannah State University were surveyed in January 2004. Topics addressed will be tobacco usage, motivation and willingness to quit, perceptions about smoking regulation enforcement and smoker friendliness of campus environment, and student demographics.

Richard Cebula and **Mike Toma**, economics, have published a paper in collaboration with an AASU undergraduate, **Will Perry**. "Budget Deficits and Crowding Out," will appear in the *Indian Journal of Economics* (April, 2004 p. 587-596).

Several members of the biology department participated in the State of the Art in Biology meeting in Athens. **Kathryn Craven** presented two posters, one titled "Embryology and Egg Failure in the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) on the Georgia Coast," and another, "Socio-sexual Interactions of the Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin on the Coast of Tybee Island, Georgia," written in collaboration with student **Jennifer Perwizynk**.

Alex Collier and **Judy Awong-Taylor** presented a research poster with student **Leslie Bates** on "The Antimicrobial Properties Found on the Skin of Frogs." In addition, **Awong-Taylor** and **Jennifer Zettler** organized and chaired various sessions.

Kathryn S. Craven, biology, presented "Fatty Acid Composition in The Yolk of the Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia myda*," at the 25th International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. Collaborators included **Steve Taylor**, psychology, **Joe Parsons**, Cayman Turtle Farm, and **Dave Owens**, Grice Marine Lab, Charleston University.

Several of the mathematics faculty and students attended the AMS/MAA conference in Atlanta in January. **Lorrie Hoffman** presented a talk, "Being One's Own Experimental Unit in the Classroom," and December 2004 graduate, **Min-Jung (Jenny) Seo**, competed in a poster session of 123 student presenters. Her research was conducted under the supervision of **Selwyn Hollis** and concerned the mathematical modeling via differential equations of the destruction of southern pine trees by beetle infestation. She was one of about 35 to win top honors and \$100.

Jose A. da Cruz, criminal justice, social & political sciences, presented a paper, "Brazil's Rainbow Coalition Foreign Policy Under Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva," at the Southern Political Science Association 2005 Conference in New Orleans.

Jose A. and **Becky K. da Cruz**, criminal justice, social & political sciences, had their paper, "The Unrule of Law, Violence, and Society in Brazil: Challenges to Brazil's Fragile Democratic Consolidation," published in the *National Social Science Journal*, Vol. 23 #2 (2005).

Jose A. da Cruz presented the following papers at the 8th Annual Conference on the Americas, sponsored by the Americas Council and the University System of Georgia Office of International Education: "Brazil's Politics of AIDS: The Brazilian government's efforts to stop the pandemic in the Sleeping Giant of South America," **Jose A. da Cruz** and **Becky K. da Cruz** presented "The UnRule of Law, Violence and Society in Brazil."

Jose A. da Cruz also chaired a session, "Latin American Foreign Policy," a student panel presentation on papers addressing the foreign policy of several Latin American nations during the Cold War and in the post-Cold War international system.

Jose A. da Cruz published "Brazil's International Relations at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century," *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 47, No. 1 (Spring 2005) p. 115-122.

David Purvis, history graduate student, has been awarded the \$2,000 Roger K. Warlick Fellowship in recognition of his strong academic record and student research.

Students **David Angstadt**, **Gregory Avrett**, **Kristin Bellinger**, **Somi Benson-Jaja**, **Whitney Dasher**, **Amy Fountain**, **Kaitlen Fulp**, **Carmel Futrell**, **Zahnwe George**, **Keith Hagan**, **Jennifer Hinman**, **Brandon McCorkle**, **Amanda Moats**, **Hallie Mobley**, **Chris Nowicki**, **Salvador Ortega**, **Paige Sasser**, **Will Sherow**, **Scott Swinford**, **Harrison Wallace**, **Aaron Weeks**, **Laiken Williams**, **Shallon Williamson**, and **Lauren Zelinsky** have completed the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leader Program for the 2004-05 academic year.

Graduate students **Alfreda Allen**, **Lisa Anderson**, **David Anderson**, **Jaimee Campbell**, **Michelle Clagg**, **Jane Eason**, **Thomas Eason**, **Hensel Gustav**, **Kelly Hamilton**, **Amy Hamm**, **Kimberly Hollingsworth**, **Brandie Kinney**, **Christy Krasinski**, **Carol LaMonica**, **Julie Lemley**, **Tabitha Owens**, **Judy Perry**, **Tommy Powell**, **Teressa Sanders**, **Erica Sliger**, **Janice Stanford**, **Tricia Stephen**, **Kongdon Tift**, **Alfreida Walthour**, **Amanda Wilkinson**, and **Jodi Willis** have been named to the 2005-06 *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

The submission deadline
for the April issue of
eARMSTRONG
is March 15.

Please send submissions to
news@mail.armstrong.edu

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