

# Compass

Spring 2004

Armstrong State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong-compass>

---

## Recommended Citation

Armstrong State University, "Compass" (2004). *Compass*. 5.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong-compass/5>

This magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Armstrong News & Featured Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Compass by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# c mpass

spring 2 0 0 4



**AASU on  
the move!**  
See story on page 3.

## INSIDE

2

Propst honored  
New life for  
Hawes and Solms

5

To Russia  
with love

6

ArmstrongFest 2004

A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

# Propst receives honorary doctorate

The university bestowed an honorary doctor of letters on one of its most dedicated supporters, H. Dean Propst. A respected and highly effective academic leader, Propst was both visible and accessible to students and faculty during a distinguished career that spanned 34 years.

In 1969, Propst joined Armstrong State College as academic dean and professor of English. He progressed to the position of vice president and dean of faculty in 1976. The faculty knew first hand the deep respect that Propst had for teaching. For ten years, Armstrong was his very large classroom in which he taught by word and example.

The degree was awarded in December during the commencement ceremony for fall graduates.

Honorary degrees are awarded by institutions of higher learning as a way to recognize worthy individuals who, during their careers, have given outstanding service to these institutions, their profession, and the community. The awarding of this degree is the highest distinction Armstrong Atlantic can bestow upon someone.

President Thomas Z. Jones said, "Propst provided valuable leadership during a period of great institutional change. He actively supported the development of new programs at Armstrong, most notably the college's designation as a Regional Health Professions Education Center."

After leaving Armstrong State College in 1979, Propst continued his distinguished career with the University System of Georgia (USG) for the next 14 years. He served as vice chancellor for academic affairs and executive vice chancellor before being appointed the system's eighth chancellor in 1985.



Several major initiatives took place during Propst's tenure as chancellor. The Georgia State Legislature approved full funding of the system's "Formula for Excellence" — the first time in the Board of Regents' history that the formula had received 100 percent support.

Under his leadership, USG goals included upgrading teacher education in Georgia, strengthening the core curriculum, and improving minority recruitment and retention. With Propst at the helm, the regents placed an emphasis on institutional cooperation and forming working agreements with other state agencies. They worked with the Georgia Board of Education to raise admission standards for students entering USG institutions by requiring them to complete a college-preparatory curriculum in high school.

The regents also worked to offer associate degree programs to students seeking technical careers. Differential admission standards were introduced at the junior-college level that distinguished between students primarily seeking vocation/technical training and those pursuing degrees transferable to senior institutions. Propst retired from the University System of Georgia in 1993.

---

## New life for Hawes and Solms halls



*Representatives of the Hawes and Solms families join university leaders to rededicate Hawes and Solms halls.*

Last fall a ceremony was held to rededicate two of its newly refurbished academic buildings — Solms and Hawes halls. Hawes, originally built in 1966, was named for Foreman M. Hawes, former president of Armstrong Junior College and Armstrong College from 1944 to 1964.

Solms, built in 1968, was named after Annie Lee Solms, mother of Anthony Solms, a member of the Georgia Board of Regents who was instrumental in advancing the university.

Annie Lee Solms' son, William, spoke on behalf of the Solms family, several of whom were in attendance. Arthur Gignilliat, a 1953 graduate of Armstrong College and former member of the Georgia Board of Regents, spoke on behalf of the Hawes family.

The buildings include state-of-the-art computing labs, tiered lecture halls, and more open and spacious classrooms.



## ON THE MOVE

### AASU applies innovative and creative solutions to accommodate growing enrollment

Rising record enrollments and academic facilities that do not meet increasing space needs were dynamically addressed in a mid-February announcement.

Steve Green, president of the Educational Properties, Inc. (EPI), revealed that Armstrong Atlantic has expanded its campus to include 18 acres of land located adjacent to the university. The property will provide much needed space for academic classrooms, academic support offices, and a facility for the expanding professional and continuing education program.

EPI, a sister entity to the AASU Foundation, purchased the land for \$7.5 million. The site includes Publix and Shops at the Savannah Mall. After appropriate renovation, EPI will lease the shopping center to the university.

"It can take 10 years or more for a university to get a new building through the state's funding and construction process," Green explained before the announcement. "This purchase provides the fast-growing university with a creative solution to meet its critical need for space."

Enrollment growth is expected to continue at a rate of nine percent per year over the balance of this decade. With this rate of growth, the university expects an enrollment of well over 10,000 students by the year 2010.

Ray Gaster, president of the AASU Foundation, commented on the growth saying, Armstrong Atlantic "is fast-becoming a major urban university in the state of Georgia."

"This additional space will allow Armstrong Atlantic to better serve its students, the city of Savannah, and southeast Georgia," said AASU President Thomas Z. Jones. "This expansion will provide much needed instructional space for the campus, and a professional and continuing education conference center on the Southside."

Thomas C. Meredith, chancellor of the University System of Georgia, also addressed the news conference which included both reporters and community leaders. He characterized AASU by saying, "This institution is alive and on the move."

"Growth is upon us," Meredith said, "and we need to find a way to respond to it. The acquisition of this space is the epitome of partnerships."

Regent Timothy J. Shelnut, who represents the twelfth district which includes Chatham County, commented on the partnership saying, "What I particularly appreciate is that you've avoided all the red tape (you would have experienced) if you had gone through us."

The 65,000 square-foot building, currently occupied by Publix, will feature academic classrooms, academic support space, technology labs, and a professional and continuing education conference center that will include a mid-sized auditorium, ballroom, and multiple meeting rooms. The building also will include a facility for plant operations. The remaining space at the shopping center will become available for development by AASU as the leases of the retail center's existing tenants expire.

The university plans to significantly expand educational programs and offer a broad array of community-based services. "The new facility fits in with Armstrong Atlantic's strategic mission of becoming a total community resource," said Leary Bell, vice president of external affairs at AASU. "It will provide a dedicated home for the delivery of these programs and services."

EPI will grant AASU a 25-year lease for the shopping center and will give all properties to Armstrong Atlantic and the University System of Georgia at the end of the lease.

*Pictured above (left to right): Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith talks with EPI President Steve Green; President Thomas Z. Jones explains how the new facilities will be used; AASU Foundation President Ray Gaster, Chancellor Meredith, and Regent Timothy Shelnut enjoy a light moment.*

## Profile in Leadership — James Brawner

**J**im Brawner is an unusual mathematician. As an undergraduate at Williams College, he enjoyed both his mathematics and English professors. Because he wanted to continue taking courses with them, he consequently ended up with a double major.

From this beginning springs an energetic and articulate leader.

Brawner arrived at Armstrong Atlantic in 1993 after six years at St. John's University. For the past three years he has been interim head of the mathematics department.

Ed Wheeler, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is full of praise for the man who followed him in the mathematics leadership position. Wheeler said Brawner "is highly organized and handles highly charged situations in a way that is beneficial to all. He is very concerned about the well being of the people he leads."

The warm fuzzies are mutual. Brawner said, "The help I got from Ed Wheeler was invaluable." Like a true leader, Brawner is quick to recognize the worth of the people around him. "I've learned from the accumulated wisdom of our faculty," Brawner offers enthusiastically. "Our department is blessed to have a group of folks who work well together. The relationship with my colleagues hasn't changed too much."

Brawner says he still gets to play tennis with his fellow faculty members and enjoys informal discussions with them on how to improve teaching.

Wheeler ticks off a long list of responsibilities Brawner has managed well: member of the statewide committee of department heads of which he was recently elected chairman; active in the state and national P-16 initiative that forges relationships between universities and public schools; and service on AASU's retention task force.

Student evaluations of Brawner tend to glow. "He is very caring and always makes sure that we have a clear understanding of the course matter," writes one. "His teaching ability is amazing. I hope to have him for another math class," enthuses another.

Part of his popularity and success is probably due to his double major. "When you have students explain in words what they are doing, there is an opportunity for deeper understanding," Brawner explained.

For the past two-and-a-half years, he has been active in the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Coastal Georgia (IHN), first as president and currently as secretary of the board. The IHN assists homeless families by housing them in participating



churches and assisting them to find jobs and permanent homes.

Speaking for himself and his wife, Aubrey, in a recent *Savannah Morning News* interview, Brawner said, "This is a way we can give back a little bit, and I think we both feel that, the more fortunate we are, the more responsibility we have to share with others who are not as fortunate."

The Brawners live on Isle of Hope with their two sons, 10-year-old Jimmy and eight-year-old Will.

Wheeler and Brawner recently had their book, *Discrete Mathematics for Teachers*, published by Houghton Mifflin.

The dean credits Brawner as a man of scholarly interest having written papers on both pure mathematics and computer science. Wheeler points out that Brawner is one of the departmental leaders in integrating technology into instruction, using cooperating learning groups, and requiring students to do writing in the discipline.

In 2001, Brawner won the Carl B. Allendoerfer Award for expository writing in mathematics based on his paper, "Dinner, Dancing, and Tennis Anyone?," published in *Mathematics Magazine*. Now, that sounds like something written by someone with a double major.

*Leadership Profile* features a member of the Armstrong Atlantic community who has 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](mailto: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.

# To Russia with love

Drop by The Midtown Deli & Bread Bakery in the Chatham Plaza Shopping Center any day of the week and you are likely to hear a conversation in Russian taking place behind the counter. In fact, in the kitchen where the deli's signature homemade baked goods are made, only Russian is spoken. The person responsible for this cosmopolitan experience in southside Savannah is Armstrong Atlantic alumnus, Michael Kaplan.

Kaplan has a Russian heritage and speaks the language fluently. He is retired from the military where he served in Soviet Special Operations and as a Russian linguist. His family brought him back to Savannah where he opened his successful restaurant and bakery. Russian friends help with the work behind the counter and in the kitchen. Kaplan travels to Russia regularly and will soon be importing a special line of Russian mineral water that will be sold at the deli.

Fortunately for AASU, Kaplan has also chosen to share his love of eastern Europe with students interested in a study abroad experience. He has established the Kaplan Study Abroad Scholarship for Russian and Eastern European studies. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to a political science, economics, or history student wishing to spend a semester in Russia or Estonia. AASU presently offers study abroad programs in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tartu, Estonia. Michael hopes to encourage interest in the region he loves by making this opportunity available to Armstrong Atlantic students.

Ironically, this generosity was prompted by a personal disappointment. When Kaplan was a student at Armstrong Atlantic, he wanted to spend a year studying in Estonia. He received support from the college faculty and received permission to follow this course. However, just days before his intended departure, he discovered he was \$2,000 short of the amount required to make the trip. Unable to raise the funds in such a short period of time, he had to cancel his plans and never did have his year in Estonia. From this experience, he vowed that he never wanted finances to stop anyone else from pursuing the dream of international study. After becoming a successful businessman, he contacted AASU's director of international education, James Anderson, to set up a scholarship. Kaplan advertises the scholarship in his delicatessen and invites contributions to the fund from his customers.



*Michael Kaplan (left) receives thanks from President Thomas Z. Jones for establishing a foreign studies scholarship.*

Thanks to Michael Kaplan's dedication to international education and his support of Armstrong Atlantic, students for years to come will have the opportunity to experience studying and living in another country. Any student interested in additional information about this program should contact the AASU Department of International Education.



## About the scholarship

The Kaplan Study Abroad Scholarship for Russian and Eastern European Studies will be awarded annually to a deserving student majoring in political science, economics, or history. The university will award the scholarship each fall in the amount of \$2,500. Optional full semester, Maymester, and summer programs are available.

Applicants must complete 45 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.2 in the major, and an overall average of 3.2. Those selected will be required to give an oral presentation at the conclusion of their trip abroad.

For more information about the scholarship, contact the Office of International Education at 912.921.5671. To make a donation to the scholarship fund, contact Michael Kaplan at 912.355.8717, Clint Nessmith, director of development, at 912.921.5415, or stop by Midtown Deli in Chatham Plaza.

# ArmstrongFest

April 12 - 18

## Monday, April 12

### AASU Invitational Alumni Art Exhibition (April 12-28)

Art department graduates return for the annual AASU Invitational Alumni Art Exhibition.

Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre

Solms Hall Conference Room Gallery  
9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays

Admission is free.

Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for information.

### Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition (April 12-28)

The artwork of the inaugural bachelor of fine arts degree candidates will be on display in AASU's first BFA exhibition.

Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre

Fine Arts Gallery

9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays

Admission is free.

Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for information.

### Lasertag

The lasertag arena provides all the obstacles, fog, specialty lighting, and targets to make this a competition you won't soon forget.



International night 2003

Sponsored by the Campus Union Board  
Memorial College Center Lawn at the  
corner of Science and Library drives.

noon-4 p.m.

912.927.5300

### College and Organization Quiz Bowl

Witness the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat as aspiring AASU intellectuals flex those muscles between their ears.

This year's competition will feature teams fielded by student organizations in lightning round competitions. Be there to cheer your favorite scholars on. It's cum laude or don't come at all!

Memorial College Center Cafeteria • noon  
912.927.5300

## Tuesday, April 13

### Annual Student Scholarship Symposium (April 13-15)

The Student Scholarship Symposium combines the Student Research and Scholarship Exhibition and the Student Writing Contest. Students compete for cash awards and panels featuring their work will be on display.

Memorial College Center • 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

### Faculty and Staff Appreciation BBQ

Enjoy an hour of good food and good company during the second annual faculty

and staff appreciation BBQ. To minimize buffet lines, please attend during the times shown below.  
Library lawn • 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (names beginning with A to M)  
12:30-1:30 p.m. (names beginning with N to Z)  
912.921.2369, merricsh@mail.armstrong.edu

### Nursing Alumni Reception

Department of Nursing  
Ashmore Hall, room 254  
5:30-7 p.m.  
912.921.5311

### Slam Poet Kirk Nugent "The People's Poet"

Public speaker, activist, and poet Kirk Nugent of Kingston, Jamaica uses his writing abilities and the microphone to convey messages of empowerment and as a platform for speaking out against social injustice. He is the 1999 Gram Slam Champion and author of *The Unpopular Truth*.

Sponsored by the Campus Union Board  
University Hall, room 156 • 7 p.m.

912.927.5300, [www.ironicworld.com](http://www.ironicworld.com)

### AASU Jazz Combo and Percussion Ensemble Joint Concert

The AASU Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Combo share the spotlight in a joint concert. Led by Stephen Primatic and Frank Gordon, respectively, each group will perform half of a dynamic program. The new AASU Indoor Drumline is scheduled to make a special guest appearance on this program.

Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre

Fine Arts Auditorium • 7:30 p.m.

Call 912. 927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for ticketing information.

## Wednesday, April 14

### Baseball vs. Pfeiffer

Pirate Field • 2 p.m.

[www.athletics.armstrong.edu](http://www.athletics.armstrong.edu)

### International Night in the Courtyard

Enjoy the evening breeze mixed with the Caribbean beat of the Grammy Award-winning Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The band, considered a pioneer of steel band music, will perform songs from their native calypso reggae style to modern, classical, and rock. Since 1942, the band has won numerous awards including the Medal of Merit from former president Ronald Reagan and induction into the Motown Hall of Fame.

Complimentary samples of international desserts will be available while you dance the night away. Don't forget your lawn chairs and picnic blankets.

Sponsored by the Campus Union Board and the Office of International Education  
Compass Point Courtyard • 7 p.m.

## Thursday, April 15

### Week of the Young Child Conference

"Tapestry" — Two storytellers from two cultures — Arab and Jewish — weaving together stories, poetry, and songs as a step toward peace. B.J. Abraham and Audrey Galex offer their alternative way to stop the war raging between their two peoples. Sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education  
University Hall, room 157, for parents and children • 4 p.m.  
912.927.5281

### 2004 AASU Awards Convocation

Each year the campus comes together to celebrate the achievements of our best and brightest students. The accomplishments of AASU's scholars are remarkable and often inspirational. Don't miss this impressive event. Fine Arts Auditorium • 7 p.m.  
912.927.5300

### The Mad Woman of Chaillot

The AASU Masquers present the French farce *The Mad Woman of Chaillot* by Jean Giraudoux.  
Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre  
Jenkins Theater • 7:30 p.m.  
Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for ticketing information.

## Friday, April 16

### Week of the Young Child Conference

Conference registration and keynote speakers  
Sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education  
University Hall, room 156  
Registration 8 a.m.

"Tapestry" — Two storytellers from two cultures offer their alternative way to stop the war raging between their two peoples. University Hall, room 156, for conference attendees • 9 a.m.

Kathy McCollister, an early childhood consultant for Georgia Public Broadcasting, presents "Children and Television: What Every Teacher Should Know" and "Leading the Way to Literacy with Between the Lions." Sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education  
University Hall, room 156, for conference attendees • 1 p.m.  
912.927.5281

### Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

One of Homecoming's most popular events, the golf tournament benefits the AASU Scholarship Fund. Come out for a good cause, prizes, a delicious box lunch, and a lot of fun. Registration fee: \$60 per player. For a downloadable registration form, point your browser to [www.armstrong.edu/armstrongfest04/golfregistration.pdf](http://www.armstrong.edu/armstrongfest04/golfregistration.pdf)

Southbridge Golf Club  
415 Southbridge Boulevard  
11 a.m. Registration  
11:30 a.m. Complimentary golf clinic  
noon Shotgun Start  
912.921.2369, [merricsh@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:merricsh@mail.armstrong.edu)

### Faculty Lecture — Raku Pottery: From Completion to Inception

John Jensen, AASU art professor, presents a fascinating lecture/demonstration as a part of the Robert Ingram Strozier Faculty Lecture Series.  
Admission is free.  
Fine Arts Hall, room 102 • 12:15 p.m.  
912.927.5381 or 912.927.5325

### BFA Exhibition Reception

Join inaugural bachelor of fine arts degree candidates in a gallery reception for the Spring 2004 BFA exhibition.  
Admission is free.  
Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre  
Fine Arts Gallery • 6 p.m.  
Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for information.

### Chamber Light

"Chamber Light" is a very special faculty, alumni, and friends chamber music recital featuring Scott Joplin rags, a Jamaican rumba, popular musical theater numbers, and more.  
Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre  
Fine Arts Auditorium • 7:30 p.m.  
Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for ticketing information.

### The Mad Woman of Chaillot

The AASU Masquers present the French farce *The Mad Woman of Chaillot* by Jean Giraudoux.  
Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre  
Jenkins Theater • 7:30 p.m.  
Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for ticketing information.

## Saturday, April 17

### 5K Run/Walk

Arrive early for warm-ups. Complimentary 5K Run T-shirts for all entrants. This annual event is open to alumni, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends.  
No entry fee.  
Aquatic Center — front door • 9 a.m.  
912. 921.5841  
[aasurec@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:aasurec@mail.armstrong.edu)

### Alumni Association Annual Meeting

Science Center, room 1405 • 5 p.m.  
Call 912.921.7487 to RSVP.

### Faculty recital by Stephen Primatic

Assistant Professor Stephen Primatic presents a preview of his doctoral recital program. Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre  
Fine Arts Auditorium • 7:30 p.m.  
Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, for ticketing information.

### The Mad Woman of Chaillot

The AASU Masquers present the French farce *The Mad Woman of Chaillot* by Jean Giraudoux.  
Sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre  
Jenkins Theater • 7:30 p.m.  
Call 912.927.5381 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays for ticketing information.

## Sunday, April 18

### Georgia Music Teachers Association Spring Recital

The public is invited to attend this free studio recital presented by the members of the Savannah Chapter of the Georgia Music Teachers Association.  
Fine Arts Hall, room 206 • 1 p.m.  
912.921.5496

### MACAS Awards

The Minority Academic Achievement Scholars (MACAS) Program highlights the academic achievements of ethnic minority students. Students earning a 3.0 grade point average or better and completing 12 hours of study will receive recognition to honor their achievement. Evelyn Dandy, interim dean of the College of Education, will be the guest speaker.  
Sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs.  
Fine Arts Auditorium • 5 p.m.  
912.927.5271

# class notes

## '60s

**Ronald Boatright '64** was a candidate for a seat on the Springfield (GA) City Council in the November 2003 elections.

**Frank Harkins '68** recently retired from the Savannah Police Department where he was personnel coordinator for the police officers.

## '70s

**James Brotherton, Jr. '71** has been named the fiftieth recipient of the PGA Golf Professional of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed by the PGA of America on a PGA professional.

**Edna Jackson '74** was honored at a reception October 15, 2003 for her years of service as an alderwoman-at-large for the City of Savannah. Jackson was also reelected in the November 2003 election.

**W. Ray Persons '75** was named to the Georgia Trend 2003 list of the Legal Elite. Persons, an attorney with King & Spalding, LLP in Atlanta, was cited for his work as a business litigator.

**Giselle White-Perry '75** has earned a Master of Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina, Columbia and is currently working there as an assistant professor and field coordinator for the university's Criminal Justice Department. She also received a master of arts in sociology from the University of Georgia, Athens.

**Rudolph Alexander '77** was guest speaker at Savannah State University in January when he addressed students on his experience as a young man with the criminal justice system. Since his 1967 experience, Alexander has focused his

attention on education, and ultimately earned a doctorate in social work from the University of Minnesota in 1989. He has published four books over the last four years: *Race and Justice* (2000); *To Ascend into the Shining World Again*, an autobiography (2001); *Understanding Legal Concepts that Influence Social Welfare Policy and Practice* (2002); and *Counseling, Treatment, and Invention Methods with Juvenile and Adult Offenders* (2003).

**Daniel J. Johnson '77** is working as an environmental director for Abbott Pharmaceutical in Virginia.

**Ted Michael Kinder '79** has been named athletics director for Transylvania University in Lexington, KY. Kinder will head an athletics program with 16 intercollegiate sports and about 250 student athletes.

## '80s

**Walter Crawford '80** was a candidate for mayor of Tybee Island in the November 2003 elections.

**Michael Barker '84** was appointed Chatham County Magistrate beginning December 1, 2003. He fills the unexpired term of his father Robert E. Barker who retired November 30, 2003.

**Patty Haselden '84**, a nursing graduate, has achieved Certified Diabetes Educator status.

## '90s

**Timothy A. Humphries, M.D. '92** has joined the professional staff of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

**Sharon Butler '94** runs a mobile x-ray company in the Atlanta area.

**Tony Thomas '94** was reelected as Savannah alderman for District 6 in the November 2003 election.

**Nathaniel Roper '95** is pursuing his master's in music at the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

**Lawrence Kelly Waters '95** was awarded a master of science in mathematical sciences from Clemson University in August 2003. His dissertation was *A Parallel Implementation of the Glowinski-Pironneau Algorithm for the Modified Stokes Problem*.

**Terri Ann Scott McCoy '96** is human resources manager for EMD Chemical, a specialty chemistry company in Pooler with about 170 employees. The company is a division of Merck. In addition to local responsibilities, McCoy is the compensation manager for the national operation of her division.

**Reese Browher '98** was a candidate for a seat on the Rincon City Council in the November 2003 elections.

**Brendan J. Buttimer '99** has been named a co-winner of the Center for Georgia Studies' James C. Bonner Master's Thesis Award for his work *New South, New Church: The Catholic Public Schools of Georgia, 1870-1917*.

**Jonathan Hendrix '99** is currently working as a Spanish teacher at Mount Paran Christian School in Kennesaw, GA.

## '00s

**Nathaniel Ball '00** is currently working on a master's in library and information science at the University of South Carolina.

**Virginia Sellers '00** was recently appointed Waycross College's part-time medical laboratory technology clinical coordinator.

**Stacy Caldwell '01** is a first grade teacher at Pinehurst Elementary in Pinehurst, NC.

**Sarah Dressel '02** is a nurse practitioner with the Hilton Head Heart Cardiology Group.

**Luciana Spracher '02** has released her new book, *A History of Thunderbolt*. The book, an adaptation of her master's thesis, was completed at the urging of the Thunderbolt Museum Society as a fundraiser and a means to raise awareness of the town's history.

**Lester Drawdy '03** has joined the Glynn County Public Schools Police Department as an officer. He is currently pursuing a M.Ed. with a concentration in criminal justice through Troy State University.

**Scott C. Scheidt '03** is attending the U.S. Army Chemical School in Missouri.

## engagements

**Meredith Clair Schuster '98** to wed Anthony Lee Harden on July 3, 2004.  
**Candice Segall '93** to wed Fredd Miller on March 28, 2004.  
**Felicia Douglas '01** to wed Derek Miller on June 22, 2004.

## marriages

**Shelley Segall '95** to Gary Davis III, January 17, 2004  
**Elise Michelle Palefsky '96** to Brian Scott Bowen, September 27, 2003  
**Sarah Ray '99** to Todd Holdsclaw, October 11, 2003  
**Jillian Spates '00** to **Greg Favors '03**, December 29, 2002

## births

**Alan Sheppard '83** and wife Beverly: Phillip Alan, November 25, 2003

## anniversaries

**William C. Boswell '52** and his wife, Sarah, recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

## in memoriam

**John Robert "Bobby" Hester '41**, January 23, 2004

**Alice Zerman Oppenheim '42**, March 10, 2003

**Mary Louise Key Howkins '44**, December 13, 2003

**Jean D. Artega '48**, October 23, 2003

**David Eugene Brewton '50**, January 21, 2004

**Helen Aline Heitmann Cafiero '59**, November 6, 2003

**Lillian Tullis Parrott '60**, January 28, 2004

**Elaine Constantine Coleman '63**, December 29, 2003

**Luther Powell Gahagan '69**, November 3, 2003

**Laura Candice Jackson '70**, December 10, 2003

**Preston Royd Parrish, Sr. '70**, October 24, 2003

**Gwendolyn Henley Strickland '72**, December 28, 2003

**Barbara Ann Dowdy Montford '73**, November 29, 2003

**Frances B. Gresham '74**, October 13, 2003

**Steven Lewis McNeill '75**, December 10, 2003

**Victor O. Story '75**, November 3, 2003

**Homer L. Brown '76**, December 26, 2003

**Emily Louise Palmer Scott '82**, October 22, 2003

**James Bruce Vaughn '87**, December 8, 2003

**Dolores Dunbar Washington '96, '02**, November 04, 2003

**Ralph W. Snedeker '98**, October 20, 2003

## Top teachers

Seven graduates of the College of Education have recently earned national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Those completing the board's rigorous certification process are **Patricia Sullivan '73**, **Deborah K. Haile '77**, **Deborah Allmond '79**, **Nancy Cope '83**, **Catherine Long '87**, **Karen Nelson '93**, and **Lesley S. Taylor '97**.

NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization governed by a 63-member board of directors comprised primarily of classroom teachers. Its purpose is to improve student learning in America's schools by developing a system of advanced, voluntary certification for elementary, middle, and high school teachers.

National board certification is acknowledgment that a teacher is highly accomplished, having met challenging professional teaching standards as evidenced by performance-based assessments. Completion of the process is recognized as a valuable professional development experience.



## All in the family

Husband and wife **Cheryl** and **David Brown** were members of the fall graduating class as their son, **Jose '07** (center) cheered them on. Cheryl is a nursing educator at Memorial Health University Medical Center. David works in the cardiac care unit at St. Joseph's/Candler. Cheryl returned to AASU in January to begin work on her master's degree. They both plan to become nurse practitioners.

**Curtain up** on the Masquers Armstrong Club. Last fall, alumni of the Masquers theater group met for a reunion dinner at Taylor's Restaurant. Some of those attending included (left to right) **Jack Porter**, Masquers director (1952-1956); **Patricia Lott Downing '56**; **Patty Parker**, coordinator of alumni clubs; **Joyce Mincey Evans '56**; and **Elizabeth Morekis '54**. Affiliation with the Masquers Armstrong Club is open to all interested alumni.



## Many ways to support AASU



There are many ways for alumni and friends of AASU to support the university. One of these is through matching gifts. Many employers will match the charitable contributions of their employees. If you contribute to Armstrong Atlantic, you may want to inquire about matching gifts at your place of business.

Beginning April 1, 2004 the Coffee Club donor level has been replaced by the Paver Club donor level. If you contribute at least \$120 to the AASU Foundation you will be given the opportunity to place an engraved paver in the new International Garden between Hawes and Solms halls. These pavers are an excellent way to leave your permanent mark on the AASU campus. Pavers also make great memorials and gifts. For more information, go to [www.external-affairs.armstrong.edu/paver.htm](http://www.external-affairs.armstrong.edu/paver.htm) or call Gail Rountree at 912.927.5208.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Carol Mitchell Russell

**W**hen it comes to Armstrong Atlantic, Carol Mitchell Russell '71,'81,'85 has done it all. As a student she earned an associate's degree in dental hygiene, a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene education, and a master's degree in health science. She joined the dental hygiene department faculty in 1978 and taught until 1986. In the late '90s, Russell joined the Alumni Association Governing Board and this year is president of the Alumni Association. Armstrong Atlantic State University and Carol Russell have spent a lot of time together.

In 1986 Carol left AASU to begin a new chapter in her life and career. She joined the staff at Riverview Health and Rehabilitation Center, Savannah's only non-profit long-term care facility. In 1996 she took the reigns of CEO and administrator at Riverview. Since then, there has been no looking back. Carol's leadership has kept Riverview Health at the top of its game. Recently she guided the facility to one of its best scores ever during the annual inspection by the Office of Regulatory Services. "Things are going great for us here, and while I cannot go public with any details yet, I am very excited to be overseeing many new and exciting projects that will make Riverview Health better than ever," Russell said.

When asked where she picked up her leadership skills, Russell responded, "While I was a student and faculty member, Armstrong really challenged me to think outside the box when implementing change and being creative.

Those experiences have made a big impact on me in my professional career."

As her one-year term as president of the Alumni Association comes to a close, Russell reflects on her experiences with the organization. "I have gotten a lot of satisfaction in watching the AASU Alumni Association grow," she said.

"We have a great time and I frequently see people from my past."



She is very excited about the Armstrong Clubs being formed around the Southeast. Under her watch, the Office of Alumni Relations and the AASU Alumni Association have formed the Armstrong Club Network. In less than a year of existence, Armstrong Clubs have been formed in Columbia, SC, Savannah, and Atlanta. A Masquers Armstrong Club has also been formed. "We have so much fun when we come together with these alumni groups. I am looking forward to going into new areas in the future," she commented.

When asked if she had any advice for current and future AASU students, Russell replied, "Always question what you don't understand, and make the most of your academic years both personally and professionally."

Russell resides in Savannah with her husband Joseph '70 whom she met while they were students at AASU. They have two sons, Russ and Brent, and two grandchildren, Rhett, four and Chambliss, two. You can contact Russell by e-mailing her at [riverviewhealth@aol.com](mailto:riverviewhealth@aol.com).



Clifton Kennedy    J. Cliff McCurry    Ann Purcell    O. C. Welch

## Four named to foundation board

Four new board members have been named to the AASU Foundation. Each will serve a three-year term.

**CLIFTON L. KENNEDY** is president and CEO of EMC Engineering Services, Inc. He is a professional engineer and holds a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology from Georgia Southern University. He serves on the board of directors for the Savannah Area USO and the foundation board for Savannah Technical College. Kennedy was appointed to the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Planning Commission in 1997 and served for six years, three of those as vice-chairman.

**J. CLIFF MCCURRY, CPCU**, is chairman of Hilb Rogal & Hobbs Company of Savannah. Among his extensive community service credits, he is a past chairman of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, past chair of the Candler Foundation, past president of the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, past chairman of the Savannah Economic Development Authority, and a founding director of Bank of the South. He is currently a board member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the St. Joseph's/Candler Board of Directors. McCurry attended Armstrong State College and graduated from the University of Georgia.

**THE HONORABLE ANN R. PURCELL** is the Georgia state representative for district 122, an office she has held since 1990. She is an appropriations committee member and chairman of appropriations for the higher education committee. Purcell is listed in *Who's Who of American Women for 2002*, *Who's Who in America*, and *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*. She was voted "One of the Top 10 Women of Effingham" by *The Herald*. She is a member of Rotary International, Exchange Club, and is the Effingham board member of the American Cancer Society.

**O. C. WELCH III** is owner of O. C. Welch Ford Lincoln Mercury in Beaufort, SC. He also is the owner of the O. C. Welch auto collection and O. C. Welch Motor Company. Born and raised in Savannah, he is a 1973 graduate of Benedictine Military School. Welch currently serves on the Lincoln Mercury Dealer Council and the Ford Motor Company Future Product Committee, an appointment he has held for over 10 years.

*Compass is written and designed in the Office of University Relations  
with assistance from the Office of External Affairs.*

---



Office of External Affairs  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
11935 Abercorn Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31419-1997  
[www.armstrong.edu](http://www.armstrong.edu)

---

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAVANNAH, GA  
PERMIT NO. 380

---

---

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

---