

# Compass

Summer 2004

Armstrong State University

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3 Days for AASU  
a success

A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

# LEAVING NO CHILD BEHIND

Evelyn Dandy, former interim dean of the College of Education, rattles off an alphabet of acronyms encompassing many of the programs in place to assist local educators: TIP. GTAPP. P-16. PRISM. TEFEL.

Each is a part of the collaborative between the university and the public schools focused on preparing good teachers and raising the level of education in the community.

Teachers are recruited in several creative ways including the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program (GTAPP) for those holding non-education baccalaureate degrees; Troops to Teachers for those leaving the military; and Pathways to Teaching which, until recently, recruited minorities from non-teaching school-based jobs and supported successful applicants with scholarships.

The results of Pathways, as just one example, are impressive. Since 1993, a total of 92 former paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, and other non-certified school employees graduated the program. Of their ranks, 31 received master's degrees; five earned educational specialist degrees; one has earned a doctorate; six are pursuing doctorates; and two have earned national board certification.

Leslie Taylor, a Pathways graduate and teacher at Spencer Elementary School, said, "Since I was a para, I went in with the mindset, 'I can do this!' In reality, I had to deal with paperwork, grading, parent conferences, and home visits. AASU helped prepare me for all this." Taylor is a doctoral candidate at Georgia Southern University.

"Working conditions," Dandy says, "are the number one challenge. More courses should be offered at the school



*Over 130 kindergartners from Georgetown Elementary School learned about basic biological concepts during a field trip to the AASU Science Center. Their visit was part of the new PRISM program.*

site. Accountability has put a lot of pressure on teachers. Most people are not aware of all the numerous complicated issues in an urban school district."

To this end, the college has developed a new course to be taught at Hubert Middle School in Savannah. The course grew out of an imperative identified by the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education to prepare college students to teach in high need public schools. An AASU professor and a principal will team teach both education majors and working teachers in the inner city middle school setting.

Taylor recalls taking similar courses. "Armstrong Atlantic allowed retired teachers and principals to teach courses, and they gave us the 'real deal.' Sometimes you are not prepared for what you will find in the classroom. (The university) equipped us to teach kids in the inner city."

"We have to be willing to come down from our ivory tower and go into the real world to prepare teachers to work in that real world," Dandy said.

Another educational administrator in the College of Education, Maryellen Cosgrove, has been at the forefront of the P-16 Council for southeast Georgia. P-16 refers to grades pre-kindergarten through the senior year in college. The program sought to improve education through collaboration with the business

community, establishing partnership schools, and applying the latest research methods to teaching.

"P-16 was formed to bring all students to a higher level," Cosgrove explains. The program's approach recognizes that all children in all classrooms are not on a level playing field. Therefore strategies are developed to bring each child up from wherever he or she is.

One of these approaches is Standard Based Education (SBE). The College of Education faculty teaches SBE to its students and the Savannah-Chatham County school district has



*Teachers spot an alligator during a TEFEI field trip. AASU and International Paper have been sponsoring the science program for 21 years.*



adopted the approach. In the fall of 2003, nearly 17,000 students in grades three through eight were administered the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). The average Savannah-Chatham third, fourth, and fifth grader earned a composite score that exceeded the national average. Compared to the results of the spring 2003 ITBS, system scores rose at every grade level and in every subject area.

PRISM (Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics), a \$5.8 million program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) is another program based on SBE. Under the NSF grant—part of a larger \$34.6 million grant to the University System of Georgia—AASU and

Coastal Georgia Community College are working with the Chatham, Bryan, Camden, and Glynn county school districts on improving student achievement in science and mathematics.

“PRISM seeks to ensure that all P-12 students... are taught science and mathematics by highly qualified teachers,” said John O’Sullivan, Jr., superintendent of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. “The program also aims to ensure that students successfully complete challenging science and mathematics courses, developing an in-depth understanding of the major concepts presented in the courses.”

Underwritten by International Paper, more than 500 teachers and their 120,000 students have benefited from TEFEI.

This summer, 21 high achieving high school students in math and science explored engineering careers during a weeklong academy at AASU. Ten local engineers served as activity leaders with support from four technology teachers.

The genesis was a meeting of the Jenkins High School Business Advisory Board when members asked a fellow board member, Letty Shearer, if Armstrong Atlantic could play a part in forming an engineering academy. Shearer, AASU director of economic development, assumed a lead role in pulling together a coalition of engineers and educational institutions to craft the event.

Delivering educational support is an ongoing combined effort of the many resources available through Armstrong Atlantic State University and its community partners. ■■



*Engineering Academy students prepare to race their solar powered cars.*

Perhaps the granddaddy of science programs at AASU is the Teachers Environment and Free Enterprise Institute (TEFEI) Each summer, for the past 21 years, 25 teachers have spent a month slogging through the marshes and swamps of southeast Georgia learning about the science and economics of the state’s paper industry.

## Profile in Leadership Teresa Winterhalter



The mid-afternoon sun streams into Teresa Winterhalter's second floor office illuminating a long wall of crammed bookcases. Lots of books. The books are an important insight into her philosophy of leadership.

She tells her students that leadership begins with critical thinking, effective speaking, careful reading, and knowing how to listen. Winterhalter, an associate professor of English and coordinator of the women's studies program, believes that a real leader is formed "through the kind of academic immersion that is gained by pursuing courses that demand intellectual rigor across the liberal arts curriculum." She tells her students, "You have to see the challenging core courses as offering you the skills you need to master if you are to be successful in any discipline and not simply as classes you need to get through."

Interdisciplinary studies is central to Winterhalter's philosophy of leader-

ship and a solid intellectual foundation. "To know only one field," she avers, "is to limit oneself to one approach to understanding human experience." She suspects we are more complicated and that real leaders suspect that as well.

The year 2002 was pivotal for women's studies at Armstrong Atlantic. That year, a minor and a graduate certificate in women's studies were introduced. Winterhalter explains that for years, she and other professors in varied disciplines had been teaching the issues related to gender and human rights.

"We'd heard for a long time a desire from the students to learn about how gender marks us as human beings. We also heard our students ask to examine how things are changing in this new

century. In a sense, we developed our program from the groundwater up out of the needs and interests in addressing gender issues that were already there in our students' questions.

"All I did was to tap into that. It was a heck of a lot of work, but it emerged naturally out of a shared vision from both students and professors, which is to my mind the most legitimate kind of leadership. The leaders I admire are those who can facilitate the emergence of a shared vision, not those who follow a top down style of levying directives."

The addition of the minor and certificate, according to Winterhalter, helped in the development of that shared vision. "It allowed faculty, who frequently were sequestered within their own departments, to work collaboratively. Our program is building a larger foundation of intellectual capital within the university at large."

That shared vision also led to the first women's studies conference, "Visions and Perspectives" in 2002. Subsequently, two more annual conferences have been held, each bigger than the last. In 2004, "Feminist Locations," produced with Georgia Southern

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

To nominate someone, contact Leary Bell, vice president for external affairs, at [belllear@mail.armstrong.edu](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.

University, boasted an international faculty and big name speakers including Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women.

Two years, three conferences, and three core academic offerings later, Winterhalter has emerged as the regional go-to woman in her field. Quite modestly, she affirms, “Everyone was my equal. I wasn’t a boss. *I hate that word.* There was only mutual respect.”

Of the last conference, she says, “People with a world view were committed to sharing knowledge across disciplines and across nations.”

Winterhalter stresses the conference was not only about Western feminism, but a place to discuss issues globally. It is important, she notes, to recognize the approaches of other cultures and find a common vocabulary through which to talk about the challenges that face us all.

Perhaps these sorts of visionary programs account for the program’s rapid growth. Space for students—an increasing number of them are men—in the women’s studies classes is maxed out. Those enrolled are surprised at the rigors of the classes. A lot of students sign up thinking it would be a gripe session about their personal issues. They soon come to understand that women’s studies requires understanding of numerous disciplinary methodologies and philosophies: “core class times five.”

Winterhalter says that in order to respond to the challenges of contemporary society, students must think critically about today’s social issues and the historical events that led up to them. They must intelligently analyze how issues emblazoned across today’s headlines will, in the long term, affect future events and their own future lives. She concludes, “Only that sort of vision can make a twenty-first century leader.” ■

## Armstrong’s attic

Just as families save those precious photos of vacations, baby pictures, and birth certificates, Armstrong Atlantic’s Lane Library strives to save those irreplaceable memories from its past with its Special Collections

repositories. Managed by Caroline Hopkinson, Special Collections aims to preserve the history of the university and community by collecting, cataloging, and archiving historical books, memorabilia, presidential records, photographs, and other documents.

These preserved memories include copies of the student newspaper, *The Inkwell*, and the former yearbook, *The Geechee*, as well as a bound scrapbook created by students from 1939 through 1941 on the lives and homes of the citizens of Savannah. This scrapbook, originally a class project called *Living in Savannah*, has proven so fascinating that the photos have been digitized and added to the collection’s website, <http://library.armstrong.edu/AboutLane/DigColl.htm>. In addition, the collections also include 1939 alumna Carolyn Ball’s school jacket on which she embroidered the signatures of her professors and classmates. Given the wide variety of collectibles archived, it has proven necessary to sort according to subject matter.

The Minus Room contains bound books, including many first editions by Flannery O’Connor and Conrad Aiken, original fire insurance maps of Savannah’s downtown, as well as other historical books on Savannah. The other facility, called the University Archives, houses the documents from former presidents, old *Inkwell*s, photographs from play productions, and much more. Lane Library’s upcoming renovations will improve the storage conditions for these irreplaceable items as well as provide badly needed additional archive space.

Special Collections is currently seeking donations from alumni. Donations can be memorabilia such as a registration card from the 1930s, old identification cards, letters, diaries, and, of course, photographs. Special Collections would also welcome monetary donations (through the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation) that would be used to buy equipment to convert media for easier storage as well as help cover the cost of mounting exhibits. For more information, call Caroline Hopkinson at 912.921.5478 or [hopkinca@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:hopkinca@mail.armstrong.edu).





From student scholarships,  
to lab technology upgrades,  
to the Leadership Initiative,  
Armstrong Atlantic is on the move  
to improve its resources for students  
and the Savannah community.

## Three Days for AASU raises \$97,981

From March 30 to April 1, as part of a new campaign called “3 Days for AASU,” volunteers from the campus and the community visited businesses throughout Metro Savannah to obtain financial support for the university.

Headed by chair Brian Foster, president of First Chatham Bank, and vice chair Diana Morrison, president of Advertising Specialty Services, the campaign was a great success with some \$97,981 raised.

Community leaders and businesses contributing to the inaugural campaign include:

A. T. Hun Art Gallery	Celebrity's/Name Droppers	Faber Restaurants	Lott + Barber Architects
Advertising Specialty Services	Chatham Steel	Fairmont Restaurant	MacAljon, Inc.
Curt and Elizabeth Anderson	Coastal Therapy	Finger & Associates, P.C.	Robert Magnus
Anonymous	Coastline Travel	First Chatham Bank	Shirley Marks
Ebenezer and Donnette Ansah	Coldwell Banker/Greater	Foot EFX	Matt's Convenience Store
Armstrong Apartments	Savannah Realty	Fuji Vegetable Oil, Inc.	McCaller Law Firm
Bill Austin	Colonial Group	Georgia Emergency Associates	Memorial Health University
Autolta	Colonial Life and Accident	Georgia Pediatrics, Inc.	Medical Center
Atlantic Coast Federal	Colony Bank	Go Software	Metalcrafts
Bank of America	Connect Savannah	Gulfstream	Mickey Rountree Insurance
Barkley's Florist	Corish & Company	Gary Hagan	Agency
Barr, Warner & Pine	James and Ann Crowder	Hugh Hale	Monroe Marketing
Bart Klein & Meyer, LLP	Cumulus Broadcasting	Hampton Inn, Midtown	Mouchet & Associates
Batteries Plus	The Curl Family Foundation	Island Health Care, Inc.	Robert Murphy
Bay Camera	Dabbs, Hickman, Hill &	Jack and Charlotte Hudson	National Bank of Commerce
Bernard Williams & Company	Cannon	J & M Oil Company	National Office Systems
BMW Architects	Darby Bank & Trust	J. C. Lewis Ford	National Welders Supply
Bob and Mary Burnett	David Byck Realty	Jackson Morgan, III, DDS	Company
Bouchillon Body Service	Company	Jackson Printing	Mr. and Mrs. John T. Neises
The Bradley Foundation	H. Clark Deriso, M.D., P.C.	Bob and Alice Jepson	Ney & Associates
Sylvan Byck, Jr.	Drs. Broderick, Vaught &	Jan Johnson	Oliver, Maner & Gray
Calloway, Braun, Riddle &	Duesek, P.C.	Josslove-Filson Advertising, Inc	Palmer & Cay
Hughes, P.C.	Ear, Nose & Throat Associates	The Julian Group, Inc.	Pep Boys
Carol's of Savannah	of Savannah, P.C.	Larry Lesser	PHRM Holdings
Carriage Trade PR	Dick and Judy Eckburg	Livingood's	The Pinyan Company
The Carson Company	Edano Systems, Inc.	Longhorn Steakhouse	Poppell Brothers Carpets

Pictured above (left to right) Clint Nessmith, former director of development; Gail Rountree, annual fund coordinator; C. Leary Bell, vice president, external affairs; President Thomas Z. Jones; Diana Morrison, president, Advertising Specialty Services; Ed Wheeler, dean, College of Arts and Sciences.

Andrea Powell  
The Print Shop of Savannah  
Punch & Judy  
Rep. Ann Purcell  
Riverview Health &  
Rehabilitation Center  
Rody's Music  
Rosser International  
Frank and Glenda Rossiter  
RWP Engineering  
Savannah Awards  
The Savannah Bank

Savannah Commons  
Savannah Concrete, Inc.  
Savannah Dental Society  
Savannah Electric  
Savannah Morning News  
Savannah Professional  
Maintenance  
Savannah Scene/  
Savannah.com  
Savannah Tennis  
Sea Island Bank  
Bill and Emma Simon

SizeMore Total Contract  
Services  
Philip Solomons, Sr.  
Southeast Contract Bond  
Service  
Southern Allergy & Asthma,  
PC  
SouthTrust Mortgage  
St. Joseph's/Candler  
Stage Front Presentation  
Systems  
SunTrust Bank

This Week At The Landings  
Tidal Construction Company  
J.T. Turner Construction  
Company, Inc.  
Tybee Island Realty  
Vaden Automotive Group  
Victor J. Tetreault, P.C.  
Mike Viers  
Wachovia Bank  
William S. Ray, Jr. DDS, PC  
WRHQ 105.3 Radio

## Cathryn Barnett Shriver: A Portrait of Leadership and Giving

Earning a college degree is not easy no matter what the discipline. For nursing students, however, the task is even more challenging. They must perform long clinical rotations in addition to classroom work. Textbooks are expensive and they must purchase their own uniforms, stethoscopes, and blood pressure cuffs. Add to this mix the responsibilities of a family and/or a part time job, and it could be a recipe for burn out. One remarkable lady who has experienced these challenges is making the path a little bit easier for others.

From the time she bandaged her dolls as a child, Cathy Shriver knew she wanted to be a nurse. It took her 14 years, but she accomplished her goal. Today she is a nurse, but no ordinary nurse.

The Florence Nightingale Pledge for Nurses requires a nurse to promise to "do all in my power to elevate the standard of my profession" and to "devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care." Shriver exemplifies this pledge. She not only received her associate's and bachelor's degrees in nursing, she also obtained a graduate degree in health science—all from Armstrong Atlantic. She then earned a master's degree in nursing from Georgia Southern University. Shriver has devoted her life to helping not only her patients, but also individuals who share her commitment to nursing. She became an invaluable member of the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing faculty and, for 11 years, generously shared her wisdom and enthusiasm with her students.

As a nursing professor, Shriver was determined that her courses be "reality based." Accordingly, she continued to work in a hospital so that she could instruct her students in the practices and procedures that they would use on the job. She has worked as an operating room nurse, in orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, medical-surgical, and patient education. Her dedication to her students and her profession earned her the Academic Advisor of the Year honor at

Georgia Southern as well as the GSU Award for Excellence in Service.

Upon her retirement from teaching, Shriver thought long and hard about the best way to help nursing students. She had spent years juggling her classes with children's schedules and work, and she watched her nursing students do the same. These experiences prompted her to establish the Cathryn Barnett Shriver Nursing Scholarship at Armstrong Atlantic State University to assist nontraditional students in financing their nursing educations. Camille Stern, head of AASU's department of nursing, said, "The Department of Nursing is deeply appreciative to receive scholarship assistance to meet the special needs of students. This scholarship, designated for nontraditional students, will provide essential financial help."

Currently, Shriver works as a certified diabetes educator at Memorial Health University Medical Center. Of all her many achievements, she believes that in this position she has truly found her calling. In this capacity, she provides help with self-management for diabetic patients of all ages.

Shriver's generosity will assist nursing students for years to come. Perhaps, thanks to her, they also will find their calling and follow Florence Nightingale's promise to elevate the standards of their profession as Cathy Shriver has.

### About the scholarship

The Cathryn Barnett Shriver Nursing Scholarship is awarded annually in the amount of \$500. The scholarship is for a junior or senior nontraditional student enrolled in the nursing program. Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence and financial need.

For additional information or to apply, contact the Office of Financial Aid at 912.927.5272. ■





## D e l i v e r i

### **D**ear Friends of Armstrong Atlantic State University:

This past year has been very special for Armstrong Atlantic State University. Our fall enrollment set another record, up over 10 percent from fall 2003. The second phase of our student-housing complex, Compass Point, opened with full occupancy.

We celebrated the start of the 2003-2004 year by rededicating two of the campus' original academic buildings, Hawes and Solms halls, which have been completely renovated to better meet our students' needs.

Armstrong Atlantic's Educational Properties Foundation purchased 18 acres of land contiguous to the campus. This property will be of great benefit to the university as we continue to prepare for our future growth.

However, the year has not been without its challenges. We started the year with a budget reduction of five percent, yielding a state allocation at the same level as two years earlier, when we served a much smaller student body. Nevertheless, we have survived and even flourished during these challenging times. This has been possible because of the overwhelming dedication and commitment of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, and community friends. Collectively, they have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that Armstrong Atlantic continues its rich history of providing

exemplary educational services to the citizens of Savannah, Coastal Georgia, and beyond. I take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your wonderful support.

Space does not allow for a total recap of the many productive activities undertaken and realized during the past year, but allow me to provide a brief overview of some of them.

Elsewhere in this publication you will find more detailed articles illustrating how the collective efforts of AASU's community stakeholders (faculty, students, alumni, trustees and community friends) have contributed to the success of YOUR UNIVERSITY. For example, I refer you to several articles in this issue of *Compass*—*Alumni Association Elects New Board Members*, *Three Days for AASU raises \$97,981*, *Cathryn Barnett Shriver: A Portrait of Leadership and Giving*, and *Alumni Spotlight – W. Ray Persons*—which clearly demonstrate the importance of community stakeholders, alumni, and trustees in the future of Armstrong Atlantic State University.

We started the year off by inviting three alumni and foundation trustees to meet with our faculty to discuss their experiences at the university and their commitment to supporting the university's overarching theme of Leadership. Ray Gaster, current chair of the foundation, Steve Green, past foundation chair and chair of Armstrong Atlantic's Educational Properties Foundation, and Cliff McCurry, current member and past officer of the foundation, met with the AASU

faculty in an August workshop. They shared their experiences during their student days at the university, provided valuable insight on how those experiences benefited them in life and in their careers, advised us on the role that AASU should be playing in the preparation of tomorrow's leaders, and how the university can build on its leadership role in service to our region. Irving Victor, M.D., alumnus, chair of the Armstrong Commission, and foundation trustee, was also in attendance. His closing comments and testimonial of what the university has meant to him in his personal life and career captured what AASU is all about: people serving people.

### **Reviewing the plan**

In late fall, I reconvened the university's strategic planning committee for the purpose of conducting a mid-term review and update of the university's five-year strategic plan (2001-2006). The process involved the updating of the university's planning assumptions and modifying the plan to make sure of its currency and responsiveness to those the university serves.

The importance of having well-developed and timely planning assumptions is critical. It helps us to answer the question, "What is happening and going to happen around us?" What we are seeing are many changes in our community such as changes in demographics and changes in the business climate within our region and beyond.

Coastal Georgia is growing in population. Between now and 2020, the region is projected to be the fastest growing in the state outside of the Atlanta metropolitan area. Over the next few years, Georgia and Coastal Georgia will produce the largest number of high school graduates in its

By way of a generous gift from Cliff and Kathy McCurry honoring Nick Mamalakis, we have expanded an important leadership program for first year students and students new to AASU. Through a year-long program, the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leaders Program hones students'

is featured in an excellent article appearing in this publication, which expands on the women's studies program and its leadership theme. The university's core curriculum, required of all undergraduate students, is fully developed to explore each of the leadership components, providing

## n g o n t h e v i s i o n

history. Reflecting the national scene, our region has been moving from a base of hometown businesses to mega corporations, whose home offices are no longer located in Coastal Georgia. As a result, many hometown businesses have disappeared and are being replaced by national and international corporations with centers or branches serving our region. These trends and many others are important to understand as Armstrong Atlantic prepares for its future.

By spring, work on the up-dated plan was completed with two significant additions. First is the adoption of liberal arts as one of the four strategic directions for the university. The planning committee reinforced the importance of liberal arts as fundamental and basic to the university's educational mission.

### Leadership

The second change is inclusive in that it not only links to the liberal arts, but also to the other three strategic directions of the university—science and technology, teacher education, and health professions. It is the core theme of leadership. Leadership will become an integral part of the fabric of the university's culture.

Our integrative approach will be multi-faceted. First and foremost, it will be student-centered, consisting of a variety of educational and social experiences and activities, which are focused on preparing AASU students and graduates to become effective leaders. We are well on our way in making this happen.

leadership skills and connects them to our community through an active community advisory board.

We also are placing a greater emphasis on leadership within our existing student organizations, with more of our students participating in international learning opportunities, with the addition of new student groups, and with an expansion of community involvement activities for our students. Today, more and more Armstrong Atlantic students can be found in our community working with non-profit agencies, performing internships with businesses, and volunteering their time in support of many worthwhile social and community-building enterprises.

Another very important facet is the need to integrate leadership development into our curricula. Leadership must become a natural part of the liberal arts and professional programs offered by the university. Beginning next spring, the university will offer a new master of arts degree in liberal and professional studies with leadership studies, women's studies (emphasis on leadership development) and international education tracks. At that time, a new graduate certificate in leadership studies will also begin.

The university is currently offering an undergraduate minor and certificate in women's studies, which embrace the leadership theme. Teresa Winterhalter

the requisite knowledge, skills and perspectives to build from as our students enroll in their chosen fields of study at the university. In addition, several academic departments have



*Nick Mamalakis and President Thomas Z. Jones share a quiet moment during an Emerging Leaders luncheon.*

stepped to the front in their adoption of the leadership theme. The history department, through its public history emphasis, focuses on Coastal Georgia's rich heritage and burgeoning tourism industry by providing education and training programs and sponsoring graduate student research on regional history topics. The university's economics department promotes leadership through entrepreneurship and regional economic analyses. Our criminal justice, social and political science department has adopted the leadership theme of public service and with the aid of a dynamic community

*continued on page 10*

## Delivering on the vision (continued from page 9)

advisory committee, is providing our students with many educational opportunities.

In essence, all of Armstrong Atlantic's curricular offerings are designed to instill in students the requisite ethical, moral, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills that future leaders will need.

The culture of leadership, of course, must transcend our student body. As a university, our faculty and staff must model leadership to the fullest. They must "walk the talk" and demonstrate the capacity to provide leadership through a variety of scholarly and service enterprises. One way we are fostering this is through the new Leaders Among Us Program.

### Community engagement

Our faculty must be master teachers and scholars, and our staff must be

prepared to provide exemplary services to our stakeholders. The intellectual talents of our faculty, staff, and students need to be shared with the community.

There are many avenues by which this is being accomplished—applied research, cultural and intellectual enrichment programs, continuing and professional education, consultancies, and public-private partnerships are excellent examples of how the university engages our community and serves our region and state.

Examples of community engagement can be found everywhere across the Armstrong Atlantic community. A glimpse of the university's College of Education leadership services is provided in, *Leaving No Child Behind*, an article found in this edition of *Compass*. Another excellent example is the longstanding partnerships between and among AASU's College

of Health Professions and local and regional healthcare providers. These collaborations, in some cases with the support of several state-supported Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) health professionals initiative partnerships, have allowed the university to expand its nursing program, provide specialized training in medical technology, and, beginning this fall, will support the start up of two new academic specializations in our radiological science program: sonography and nuclear medicine. Earlier ICAPP Advantage grants supported the university's work with Georgia Tech in the development of curricula in electrical, mechanical, and computer engineering to meet specific local workforce needs.

Our School of Computing and criminal justice faculty are collaborating with several private sector partners to seek support for establishing a center for cyber security



Carol Russell (left) and Emma Simon were honored by the AASU Alumni Association.

## Outstanding alumnae honored

The AASU Alumni Association honored two of its outstanding alumnae—Carol Russell '71, '81, '85 and Emma Simon '75—as part of the university's 2004 leadership awards program.

Russell, immediate past president of the AASU Alumni Association Board of Directors and the CEO and administrator of River-view Health and Rehabilitation Center, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award recognizes an Armstrong graduate who has achieved distinction through community involvement and professional expertise. The award honors alumni who have used their Armstrong education to prepare for community leadership.

Simon, retired dean of AASU's School of Graduate Studies and a tireless volunteer for the American Cancer Society, received the Outstanding Alumnus Service Award. This award recognizes a graduate of Armstrong who has made significant contributions to the growth and development of the university through dedication and support of the institution and the alumni association.

on the Armstrong Atlantic campus. The art, music, and theatre department's leadership in re-establishing a youth orchestra in Savannah is an excellent recent example of another community partnership. All of these activities and many more are having a significant impact on Savannah and Coastal Georgia's quality of life and economic prosperity.

In closing, it is important that all stakeholders understand what we are and what we do. Armstrong Atlantic is a \$110 million economic engine that educates people, helps to raise the standard of living, consumes area products and services, supports area businesses, agencies and institutions, and works to build a strong, vibrant community. With continued support from our faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees and community friends, we will continue to do what we do, only better! We have a vision, we have a plan, and we are delivering at a high level. I invite your continued support to help us realize our vision, implement our plan, and enhance our performance. ■■

— Thomas Z. Jones, president

*The department of nursing worked with a regional consortium of hospitals and healthcare professionals to recruit men to the nursing profession.*



*Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson joins the freshman class of Leaders Among Us.*

*Front row (left to right): Bernie Polite (facilitator), June Hopkins, Linda Hansen, Johnson, Lynn Roberts, and Ellen Blossman.*

*Back row (left to right): Hassan Aziz, Donna Brooks, Nikki Palamiotis, Sandy Brannen, Melanie Mirande, Pete Mastopoulos, and Lynn Stover.*

*Not pictured: R. David Brown, Sandra Brown, Jonnie Chandler, Reginald Cooper, Michael Cross, William Daugherty, Fern Illidge, Stephen Jodis, John Kraft, and Susan Norton.*

# ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH...

**Thomas Wenzka, RN, MSN**  
Assistant Professor  
Coastal Georgia  
Community College  
Kayaker

**Roger McCoy, RN, BSN**  
Lifestar One  
Memorial Health  
University Medical Center

**Sean DeMeyer, RN, BSN**  
**Tess DeMeyer**  
Memorial Health  
University Medical Center  
Youth League Soccer Coach

**Larry McCloud**  
Nursing Student  
AASU

**Michael Peterman, RN**  
St. Joseph's/Candler  
Motorcyclist

**Ted Tomter, Jr., RN, CWOCN**  
St. Joseph's/Candler  
Civil Air Patrol Pilot

# ...TO BE A NURSE?

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### W. Ray Persons

**A**s a student at Armstrong State College, Ray Persons '75 was an academic leader. He graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor of science in criminal justice before moving on to earn a J.D. from Ohio State University's College of Law in 1978. Today, he is a well-respected leader in the field of law and on the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees.

After working with many prestigious law firms over the years, Persons is now a partner with King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta, one of the largest and most respected law firms in the country. His practice focuses on complex litigation, including class actions and mass torts. He is also an accomplished speaker and has written numerous articles.

Persons is widely recognized as one of the best trial lawyers in the Southeast as evidenced by his election for membership in the International Society of Barristers, a law honor society with limited membership. He is one of the youngest members in the organization and the first African-American from a southern state to be so honored. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an organization comprised of the top one percent of lawyers in the nation. As a leader of the bar, he has taught the civil litigation segment of the Georgia bar orientation course for newly admitted lawyers. In addition, he is past chair of the Litigation Section of the Atlanta Bar Association and has served as president of the Board of Directors of the Federal

Defender Program for the Northern District of Georgia. For 10 years, he taught trial advocacy at Georgia State University College of Law. For the past eight years, he has been a Master in the Lamar Inn of Court at Emory University Law School.



When asked how his experiences at Armstrong affected his leadership ability, Persons replied, "Armstrong's size permitted me to become heavily involved in student government and to interact closely with the faculty and the administration. These experiences certainly helped me hone my leadership skills." He continued, "I learned a great deal from observing Bill Megathlin and Dean Propst, two individuals who personify leadership." He continues to draw upon those lessons today as a leader in the law firm, the Atlanta Bar, the State Bar of Georgia, and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

"The best advice I can offer any current or future students is to take as many difficult classes as possible, especially those which require critical thinking, like English, philosophy, and history. One of the most glaring deficiencies I see in today's students is in the areas of oral and written expression," Persons said.

Persons lives in Atlanta with his wife, Wendy. They have two children, Conrad and April. You can contact Persons by e-mailing him at [rpersons@kslaw.com](mailto:rpersons@kslaw.com). ■■

# class notes

## '70s

**Diana L. Meehan '72** is a commander and U.S. Navy chaplain. She has been serving as the group chaplain, Marine Aircraft Group-13, Yuma, AZ.

**Roderick L. Powell '72** received a M.A. from Georgia Southern University. He retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1998 as a captain with 20 years reserve service. During his 25 years working for the federal government, the highlight of his civilian career was working as a human resource director. Roderick is currently human resource director in Escambia County, FL.

**Roy P. Emory '74** is celebrating his twentieth anniversary as executive director of Gateway House in Greenville, SC. Gateway House is a psychiatric rehabilitation program for adults. He was recently appointed to the faculty and advisory council for the International Center for Clubhouse Development in New York.

**Patricia Singleton Reese '78** was appointed to the board of the Traffic Club of Savannah and reappointed to the board of the Propeller Club of Savannah.

**Russell T. McClelland III '79** was recently appointed State Court Judge of Forsyth County by Governor Sonny Perdue.

## '80s

**Vicky Lane Herring '80** is a mother of three and has been married for 21 years. She is currently working part-time in a dental practice in Snellville, GA.

**William Boyette, Jr. '87** has been working as a special education teacher and coach since 1990. He is also a certified police officer and, during his time off from teaching, works as deputy sheriff with the Chatham County Sheriff's Reserve Unit.

**Michael M. Cohen '88** was named head coach of the U.S. women's weightlifting team for the 2004 Olympics. Previously he served as the woman's coach at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Cohen coached 2000 Olympic bronze medalist Cheryl Haworth.

**Mark Sellers '88** has been the pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Griffin, GA since June 2002. Since leaving AASU, Sellers earned his Master of Divinity in 1994 and his Doctorate of Ministry in 2001 at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY. He is married to **Stacy Leigh Griffin Sellers '89**.

## '90s

**Thomas M. Tillman '90**, a 14 year veteran of the Chatham County Sheriff's Department, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Enforcement Bureau.

**Joseph Keith Purvis '92** was promoted to major in the U.S. Army in December 2003. He and his family moved to a new assignment in Twin Falls, ID in June 2004.

**Teresa Vincent Bradshaw '94** is married and has a three-year-old son, Payton.

**Seth Gaspin '94** won the GISA state baseball championship and coach of the year award in 2001. As a high school baseball coach, he had a career record of 147-47 with four region championship and five straight Final Four appearances, and three straight state final appearances. He is currently the head baseball coach at Jenkins High School in Savannah.

**Sharon W. Best '96**, teaches first grade in Augusta, GA. She is completing her master's in education from Troy State University.

**John F. Druchala '96** worked with the State of Georgia Board of Pardons from 1997 to 2001. He is currently employed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Division of Transportation Administration.

**Roland D. Whitener '96** is a senior medical student at Central America Health Science University in Belize City.

**Gerald Jones '98** is currently the corporate sales client services manager with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He is married and has a two-year old son, Jaden.

**Shannon Richards '98** is teaching mathematics at Martinez Middle School in Tampa, FL. She's been selected as a lead teacher at the school with a team of teachers and students under her wing. In addition, she helps new teachers throughout the year. This summer, she will start the process to become nationally board certified.

**Amy Goodwin '99** graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in May 2003 and passed the bar in October. She is currently practicing law with the Davidson County Public Defender in Nashville, TN.

**Heather L. Walker '97**, a mathematics instructor, has been chosen Savannah Technical College's 2004 Rick Perkins Award Winner. She will serve as an ambassador for technical education throughout the state.

## '00s

**Edward D. Banos '00** became chief executive officer of North Shore Medical Center, a 357-bed Miami hospital in 2004.

**Charles C. Manning '00** was promoted to captain in the U.S. Army in October 2003. He is assigned to the First Cavalry Division.

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**Steven Meguiar '00** is the senior pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Savannah.

**Kevin W. Selm '01** works for the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he conducts national security investigations and counterintelligence, and works espionage cases.

**Lisa M. Humrich '02** is a workforce development coordinator at the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. She is completing work on her MBA and plans to graduate in December 2004.

**Monica Wilson '03** works at Memorial Health University Medical Center. She is currently pursuing an education in accounting and computer information systems. Wilson is expecting the birth of her first child in September.

**Maria Alexandria R. Vargas '03** attends the architecture program at Southern Polytechnic University in Marietta, GA.

## engagements

**Joy L. Cafiero '91** to wed Sergeant George Robert Syring, Jr. on September 4, 2004.

**Lindsay Anne McCorkle '00** to wed Ryon Wesley Thompson on August 14, 2004.

**Emily M. Joost '03** to wed Jeffery Evans Goldman, Jr. on September 4, 2004.

**Pamela Summer McCarthy '03** to wed Stephen Lee Burgstiner August 02, 2004.

## marriages

**James Connor Lyles IV '97** to **Allison Leslie Richardson '98**, March 26, 2004

**Michael D. Morton '98** to **Valerie Lynne Carte '02**, June 12, 2004

**Antonio Vashawn Byrd '99** to **Bryce Lakesha Deneque Bell**, April 2004

**Adrienne Marie Garbe '02** to **Breton Foster Bell**, April 24, 2004

**Valerie Lynne Cartee '02** to **Michael David Morton '98**, June 12, 2004

**Heather C. Hewitt '03** to **Henry Russell Jenkins**, May 15, 2004

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

## births

**Joseph Keith Purvis '92** and his wife, **Jennifer: Jesse Kyle**, December 22, 2003

**Cheryl Andrews Bland '93** and her husband, **Scott: Callie McDaniel**, December 29, 2003

**Michael Joseph Miller '99** and his wife, **Mary: Lauren Regan**, February 6, 2003

## anniversaries

**Thomas E. Cone '45** and his wife, **Caroline Marshall Cone '43**, celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in June 2004.

**John Graddick '56** and his wife, **MaryAnn**, recently celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

**Beverly Suzanne Cail '97** and her husband, **Angelo**, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on May 17, 2004.

**Shannon Richards '98** and her husband, **Brian**, celebrated their second wedding anniversary.

**Charles C. Manning '00** and his wife, **Carol**, celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary in July 2003.

## in memoriam

**James Madison Chandler '38**, November 19, 2002

**Mary C. Lain '39**, January 8, 2004

**Virginia Bumann Wilson '39**, February 29, 2004

**Madeleine M. McCreery '40**, November 30, 2003

**Richard Vincent Pinckney '40**, February 23, 2004

**Kenneth W. Baker '42**, June 22, 2003

**John Robert Hester '42**, January 23, 2004

**Margaret Mary Byers Kessler '47**, April 9, 2004

**Robert M. Fuhrman '57**, January 21, 2004

**Freedra L. Brown Stanford '58**, October 18, 2003

**Lois T. Carrie '65**, February 1, 2004

**Edith B. Fountain '70**, March 02, 2004

**Mark Smith Daniel '75**, April 12, 2004

**Joseph T. Mooney, Jr. '75**, December 25, 2003

**Geraldine Saure Price '75**, February 27, 2004

**Marvin L. Reynolds '78**, March 7, 2004

**Dorothy Bedell '80**, September 14, 2003



### Professor noted for tie to Armstrong Bible dies

Jack Herbert Padgett, retired professor of mathematics and registrar, died on May 7, 2004.

Padgett came to Armstrong Junior College in January 1952 to teach mathematics. He became registrar of the junior college in June of 1957 and served in that position until 1969. Later, he became director of campus services for two years. Padgett taught mathematics until his retirement in 1980.

In 1965, when Armstrong State College moved from downtown Savannah to its present location, Padgett arranged with the Jaycees to donate a Bible and a display case to the college. Each day, he would change the page in the open book. Originally located where the bookstore now stands, a different display case and Bible can be found near Lane Library.



## Robert Adair Burnett

January 25, 1934 - June 19, 2004

Former AASU President Robert A. Burnett passed away as this issue of *Compass* was nearing completion. A retrospective on his life and dynamic contributions to Armstrong Atlantic will appear in the fall issue.

### Alvie tells what it's all about

In April, Alvie Smith '43 had his fourth book, *The Joys of Growing Old*, published. *Joys* is an upbeat, sometimes humorous account of how to successfully meet some of the tough challenges of growing old and how to do it with a "happy face."

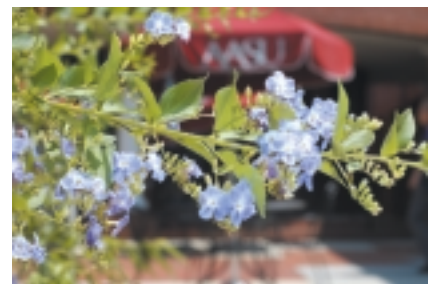
Smith, 80, retired director of corporate communications for General Motors, has survived six major surgeries and blindness. His book gives emphasis to the "signal flags" of ailments common to seniors and the many resources available to help live with these diseases. The book stresses the things that can improve the quality of life for seniors through more gratifying and enjoyable activities. "Help yourself by helping others" is a major theme.



Smith's other books include *Innovative Employee Communications—New Approaches to Improving Trust, Teamwork and Performance* (1991), *Reflections of An Innocent* (1992 with Lou Wilking), and his personal memoirs, *Hungry Eyes and Dirty Feet* (1996).

He is also chief editor of *The Wars of our Generation*, a collection of 85 stories of World War II and the Korean War, published in February 2004.

Smith and his wife of 55 years, "Jigger," have lived in Birmingham, MI since 1955. They have three children and four grandchildren.



### The AASU arboretum by the numbers:

**300** species of shrubs  
and other woody plants

**150** different species  
of trees from around  
the world

**6** currently established  
collections of plants

**23** varieties of  
native and non-native  
ferns featured in  
the fern collection

**224** hours a week spent  
by the seven crew members  
to maintain the grounds



Kevin Fitzmaurice



Donald Gruver



Charlie Parrish



Christina Pasa

## Alumni association elects new board members

The AASU Alumni Association elected four new members to its ranks at a meeting held April 26, 2004.

**KEVIN FITZMAURICE '99,'02** is coordinator of lighting services with Savannah Electric. He earned both an associate degree in arts in computer science and a bachelor of science in computer science in 2002. He also earned an AET degree in electronics engineering technology from Trident Technical College in 1983. Fitzmaurice is currently serving on the board of trustees for the Trident Technical College Alumni Association and is president of the Culinary Arts Accreditation Committee at Savannah Technical College. He also volunteers for the Savannah Swim Team, Tourism Leadership Council, Saint James Catholic School, and Saint James Catholic Church.

**DONALD GRUVER '70** is a Realtor in Savannah. He earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in management and marketing. He is a life member of Alpha Phi Omega and an Exhausted Rooster with the Jaycees. As a student at Armstrong State College, Gruver was active in Student Government and selected for *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.

**CHARLIE PARRISH '02** is director of facilities for the AASU Sports Center. He holds a bachelor of science in health and physical education. Through his position at Armstrong Atlantic, Parrish has worked with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill/Savannah, the U.S. Marshals Training Academy, the Georgia State Taekwondo Association, Team Savannah's Abilities Unlimited Program, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. His volunteer efforts are focused on working with non-profit organizations trying to help raise awareness about human rights violations in Latin America.

**CHRISTINA PASA '01** is an infection control practitioner at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. She earned her bachelors degree in biology/chemistry/pre-med at Immaculata University and a Master of Public Health at Armstrong Atlantic. Pasa is a member of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Georgia Infection Control Network, and the Master of Public Health Advisory Committee for AASU. As a student at AASU, she was president of the Health Science Graduate Student Association and was a SAFE Shelter volunteer.

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