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FALL 2011

Armstrong



READY FOR NEW CHALLENGES

Trisha McCulloch —
from Chinook
crew chief to Doctor
of Physical Therapy

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This issue of *Armstrong Magazine* introduces readers to an array of stories about the diverse range of students Armstrong serves and helps to set on the path to their future, whether they are first-time freshmen or experienced professionals returning to college to prepare for a new career. As you take an inside look at our graduates' stories, you will see a common theme: their high regard for the quality of the education they received at Armstrong.



Armstrong is fully committed to continue creating an environment that fosters success.

As we plan for the future, we are all challenged to work both harder and smarter. Being in tune with the region's workforce needs has never been more vital. Therefore, strengthening the ties that Armstrong has to the region is one of our five strategic goals.

To this end, Armstrong sponsored a community summit in late September to discuss programs and strategies that would provide our graduates with job opportunities and regional employers with talented and well-trained professionals. Leaders from Savannah and

Hinesville, the military, our school systems, business and industry came together to help

us brainstorm not only new academic programs we might consider, but also how to deliver them. The need for enhanced online programming and institutional efforts to serve our military and their families were identified as important priorities. In addition, Armstrong will broaden partnerships in areas of critical need—from health care to coastal preservation to education. I will continue to report on our progress toward these goals on my website at armstrong.edu.

On October 21, we were pleased to host our second annual Notable Alumni event to honor 27 alumni of all ages for their accomplishments as leaders and distinguished members of their communities. They joined last year's Notables for a celebration of truly noteworthy accomplishments. We especially would like to thank Notable Earnest Murphy '51, an American tenor and Grammy Award winner who performed for our art, music and theatre alumni the prior evening. We are proud of the role Armstrong has played in the success of our 2011 Notable Alumni and our inaugural group of 75th Notables in 2010. We are honored that they continue their connection to our Armstrong family.

I hope this issue of the magazine reminds you of your time at Armstrong and that you will continue to stay in touch and share the news of your successes with us.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda M. Bleicken". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Linda Bleicken
President

Campus News



Armstrong is a Major Partner in **NATIONAL LATINO STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE**

Armstrong Atlantic State University recently received more than \$1.4 million in funding from two foundations to attract and support Latino students on campus.

Lumina Foundation for Education recently selected Armstrong for a national collaborative partnership focused on the success of Latino students, awarding \$600,000 for a four-year project. In addition, The Goizueta Foundation awarded Armstrong an \$870,000 grant to continue to support a comprehensive Latino outreach, recruitment and support initiative.

As part of the Lumina Foundation award, Armstrong will serve as one of 12 institutions across the country—and the only one in Georgia—to lead regional partnerships that will leverage the critical connection between the educational achievements of Latinos and the future of the national economy.

Armstrong will lead a collaborative in Southeast Georgia dedicated to increasing the percentage of Latino students enrolling in the area's three public colleges/universities—Armstrong, Savannah State University and Savannah Technical College—from the current 3.2 percent to 6.4 percent by 2015. Additional partners include Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, Migrant Education Agency of Georgia, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Coastal Empire, Junior Achievement of Savannah, Goodwill GoodGuides Mentors of Savannah, YMCA branches of Coastal Georgia and Wells Fargo.

“Through these generous grants, Armstrong is able to work effectively with our community partners in a national effort to enhance success of Latinos in higher education,” said Armstrong President Linda Bleicken. “We are honored that Lumina Foundation chose to select Armstrong for this vital initiative, and we look forward to continuing this work that ultimately changes lives and creates a positive impact on our region.”

The Goizueta Foundation grant, announced in May, will enable Armstrong to continue providing need-based scholarship assistance to Hispanic students through the university's Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong (HOLA) program. The grant will also support a pilot program dedicated to boosting Latino graduation rates and add a bilingual outreach and retention coordinator on campus. This is the third grant awarded to Armstrong by The Goizueta Foundation, bringing the total support to \$1,974,205.

“Since 2003, Armstrong has embraced a comprehensive Latino outreach, recruitment, progression and graduation initiative on campus, and as a result of that, we have seen a continued growth of Latino enrollment on campus,” said Melody Rodriguez, founder and director of the HOLA program. “The generous, ongoing support from The Goizueta Foundation is a testament to our commitment to helping Latinos attain a college education.”

Latino student enrollment has grown 122 percent at Armstrong since 2003.

Common Read Holds Campus Events

The 2011-2012 Armstrong Common Read is studying *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, a work of nonfiction by Rebecca Skloot. Throughout the academic year the university is hosting lectures and events that address questions raised in the book. It narrates the life of Henrietta Lacks, an African-American mother of five who died of cancer in 1951, but not before doctors removed some of her tissue without her consent. Lacks' cells were cultured to create an immortal cell line for medical research. "The book addresses the topics of ethics, equality and fairness of medical treatments," said Lauren Camille Mason, Armstrong assistant professor of English. "It presents an opportunity for our students, faculty, staff and community members to learn about this extraordinary story and debate its implications for our society." Additional events are being planned for fall and spring. For further information on the Common Read, please contact Marsha Moore at Marsha.Moore@armstrong.edu.

Mary Ann Bowman Beil, vice president of ethics and compliance at Memorial University Medical Center, gave a lecture and led a discussion on campus to kick off the Common Read program.



Top 10 Cadet

Army ROTC cadet Michael Wayne Holly placed number 10 on the national Order of Merit List (OML), which ranks all Army ROTC graduating cadets—there were more than 5,600 this year. The top 20 percent of cadets earn the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate. Col. Roger L. Cloutier, deputy commanding general of the Third Infantry Division at nearby Fort Stewart, met Holly on campus to congratulate him. "This is the best that America has to offer," Cloutier said. "That excites me. Here's a young man who came from humble beginnings, enlisted in the army, deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, comes back with ROTC and is ranked in the top ten of 5,600 cadets across America." Cadets are ranked based on grade point average, performance in the Army's physical fitness test, college athletics participation and leadership skills.

A veteran who served with the Army in Afghanistan and later with the National Guard in Iraq and Kuwait, Holly is majoring in liberal studies.

New Economics Track

The Department of Economics is offering a new track under its bachelor of arts program that is an addition to the general and international economics tracks. This fall, a new business economics track started providing students a foundation in economics, while emphasizing business applications and entrepreneurship. The track allows students to fulfill the prerequisites for most MBA programs. In addition to the economics and business applications, the business economics track requires related courses from fields such as communications, writing, health management or psychology.

"It is a liberal arts economics degree that replaces a portion of the economic theory with business applications and related courses," said Richard McGrath, professor of economics. For additional information, contact the Department of Economics at 912.344.2539.

Growing Ties

Armstrong's growing relationship with China took another step forward with the recent establishment of formal ties with Jiujiang University. The agreement was marked by a July visit to Armstrong by Jiujiang University officials, including President Gan Xiaoqing. The partnership will send Armstrong students and faculty members to China in fall 2012 in what will be the first educational exchange program with Jiujiang University.

"It is clear that we need to cultivate and grow these relationships because they present not only great educational opportunities for our students and faculty, but also open up a larger dialog that could bring economic opportunities to our region," said Anne Thompson, Armstrong interim vice president for academic affairs.

The university also signed an agreement with Nanchang University in China's Jiangxi province to begin offering scholarships to Armstrong students in spring 2012.

Armstrong has had a presence in China via study abroad programs in Beijing and Shanghai organized by the College of Health Professions to teach students about traditional Chinese medicine. Other study abroad programs in recent years have taken students to Beijing, Chengdu, Pudong, Xi'an and the ancient Silk Road in trips that have emphasized China's history, culture and economy.



Armstrong's Anne Thompson received a porcelain plate on behalf of the university from Jiujiang University President Gan Xiaoqing during a visit in China.

Armstrong Treasures Savannah

The fall 2011 Treasure Savannah Day on October 22 harnessed the power of more than 500 Armstrong volunteers who canvassed charity organizations across the region to offer a helping hand. Alumni, students, faculty and staff helped with painting, trash pickup, grounds maintenance, planting of winter crops, sorting food donations and even helping to wash emergency response vehicles. The biannual event, now in its second year, began during President Linda Bleicken's inauguration celebration in fall 2010. "Armstrong shares a long and rich history with the city, and the region and Treasure Savannah Day of Service is a wonderful opportunity for our students, faculty, staff and alumni to celebrate that history and help us build stronger relationships with our community partners," said Bleicken.



New Electronic Parent Newsletter

The new Office of Parent Services in the Division of Student Affairs, established to help enhance dialogue between the university and the parents of Armstrong students, is producing an electronic newsletter. Intended for distribution by email two or three times per semester, the letter includes reminders about financial aid deadlines, important academic information and tips for parents to support student success. Diana Anderson serves as director of the office and produces the newsletter. "I serve as an advocate for parents," said Anderson. "If they call with a question and I don't know the answer, I will find out for them." To be added to the newsletter distribution list, please email Parent.Services@armstrong.edu or call 912.344.2890.

GPB Now Broadcasting from Armstrong

In August, Georgia Public Broadcasting relocated its Savannah radio station, WSVH/91.1 FM, to the Armstrong campus. Programs produced and aired on WSVH are also heard on GPB's Brunswick station WWIO/88.9 FM. "We are excited to be a part of the university community," said GPB Vice President of Radio Jon Hoban.

"With our new location, we will also have more access to university faculty and experts, and it will provide more visibility for our student internship program."

WSVH/91.1 FM moved into a newly built studio in the Armstrong Center. Armstrong President Linda Bleicken hosted a reception on campus in September to welcome the station's staff. "This partnership strengthens Armstrong ties to the community and presents additional opportunities for engaging students and enhancing educational experiences," said Bleicken.



Eric Nauert is WSVH station manager

Betts Named Vice President for Student Affairs

Keith Betts was appointed vice president for the Division of Student Affairs. He will oversee housing and residence life, Student Union and activities, career services, disability services, multicultural affairs, student health center and university counseling services, among others. His 14 years of extensive executive leadership include serving as vice president of student services at Buena Vista University. He holds a doctorate degree in higher education administration from The George Washington University.



Keith Betts

A Website for Sharing Experiences

Over the summer, the university launched a new website, The Armstrong Experience (www.armstrongexperience.com), that features the accomplishments of alumni, students and faculty. The site is a compilation of short essays, photography and video, highlighting personal, academic and community-based efforts. "We saw this as an opportunity to go beyond our regular armstrong.edu website and focus on the work and efforts that our students, alumni and faculty have undertaken in recent months," said Brenda Forbis, Armstrong director of marketing and communications. The site is searchable and allows for the submission of profile ideas. Please visit www.armstrongexperience.com and share your experience.

GEARING UP

for NEW CHALLENGES

BY BETTY DARBY

Time to hit the “reset” button on your career? You’ll find plenty of company. At Armstrong Atlantic State University, mid-career adults retooling their skills for a new approach are a growing group of students. Meet a sample of that diverse group here: a helicopter mechanic turning physical therapist, an engineer with a call to the classroom, an optometrist eyeing advancing his military career.



TRISHA McCULLOCH

Three weeks after her high school graduation, Trisha McCulloch embarked on a seven-year military career that would take her from her native Kansas to South Korea and two tours of duty in Iraq, along with various stateside postings.

Trisha became crew chief on a Chinook helicopter, the Army’s heavy load-lifter. She picked the role when military aptitude testing suggested either aviation or communication. “I didn’t want communication because I’m stubborn and I like working with my hands. I like being active and doing things, not sitting behind a desk,” she said.

The Army made it possible for Trisha to earn an associate’s degree while she was enlisted. But she had decided that fixing helicopters was not her life’s work.

She kept remembering a high school injury, and how simply a little physical therapy had gotten her back to normal.

“I know it sounds kind of funny, going from fixing helicopters to fixing people. But when I was injured, I saw what could be done with just exercises, tape and ice. I was very surprised they didn’t have to do surgery or anything drastic, and I was fine,” she recalled.

Intent on becoming a physical therapist, Trisha left the military with the rank of staff sergeant. Her final posting was Savannah – and just a few miles from the Hunter Army Airfield’s gate, Armstrong had the degree program she was looking for.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation science, she segued into Armstrong’s doctoral program in physical therapy.

Advancements in physical therapy have driven the profession’s standards higher, Trisha explained. The gold standard has moved beyond a bachelor’s degree and now even master’s degree programs are phasing out in favor of doctoral ones, she said. She expects to graduate in May from Armstrong’s program, which takes an enrolling cohort of about 20 students through three years of year-round studies. Now 30, she’ll spend this academic year devoted almost exclusively to clinical rotations.

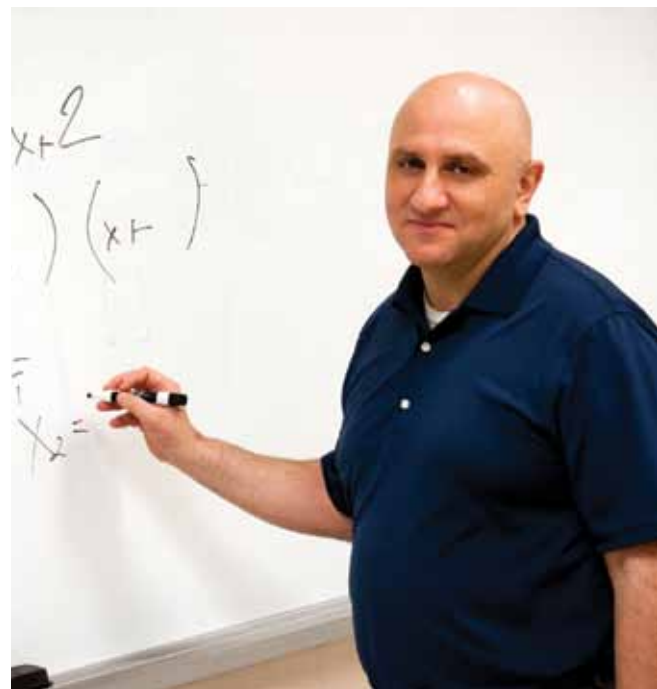
What’s next for this retooled helicopter mechanic? Upon graduation, she’ll be eligible to sit for her new profession’s demanding licensure board

exam. But she has her sights set higher still, planning to apply to Duke University and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for advanced study in the new subspecialty of women’s health, working predominantly on pelvic floor and abdominal rehabilitation.

RICHARD SIOUFI

After some 20 years in engineering, Richard Sioufi found himself back in the classroom just as his oldest child was launching his own university experience elsewhere. “Over the first semester, we had many opportunities to compare notes on how we were doing,” he remembered.

Flexibility has been a necessity in Sioufi’s life. He and his parents left his homeland for Montreal in 1976, fleeing a civil war that would wrack Lebanon over 14 years. In his new country, he learned to speak and write in French, but by college age, he knew his language skills were not sufficient



to pursue the legal degree he originally desired. Instead, he majored in engineering at Polytechnic of Montreal. He worked in the mass transit, automotive and aerospace industries until an opportunity at Gulfstream Aerospace brought him to Savannah.

The next 12 years he described as “truly blessed.” As he worked his way up, he had the opportunity to implement the latest 3D data management systems.

“The change was sudden and unexpected, as it always is,” Sioufi recalled. “Although we had seen many waves of layoffs during 2008-2009, I had thought that being on the new projects, we were going to be spared, but I was wrong. So, in May 2009, with a little severance package, I started to examine my choices. It was either move to another city where I could find a job in the same industry, or change my career path and stay here.”

Then in his early 40s, Sioufi opted for Savannah. “I remember saying that something radical had to happen if I were to stay. So I spoke with friends, took many career quizzes and surveys, and I prayed,” he said. “Surprisingly, things started to point to the education field. Like a compass pointing north, one thing after another started to line up. I spoke to a friend of a friend who had retired from AT&T and had recently joined the school system as an educator.”

Sioufi’s only teaching experience had been in church programs, after-school tutoring and junior achievement programs. Now, he not only embraced teaching, but chose to pursue a master’s degree in special education from Armstrong. He said his experiences as a foreigner and an outsider during his adolescence in Montreal made him want to help children who face hardships.

MATTHEW GEIMAN

Maj. Matthew Geiman, 32, is an optometrist six years into a military career he intends to continue. Knowing his career will call for administrative skills in addition to his clinical ones, he has enrolled in the



Master of Health Services Administration program at Armstrong, expecting to graduate in May 2013.

“I deployed for 15 months with the 24th Medical Detachment to Iraq, and there I had a bit of an administrative role. I was a detachment commander,” Geiman said. “A lot of it was just dealing with moving our assets around so soldiers would not have to come to us. The thing is, there were only eight of us throughout the theater. For a soldier to come flying to us, it took quite a bit of an effort, so we moved around a lot.”

“The interesting thing in going back to school, I’m kind of fine-tuning my experiences. I think I have a better perspective in the classroom because of my experience—I can see how it applies,” he said.

Geiman works at Fort Stewart’s hospital on a limited basis. “I’m a full-time student but I’m still on active duty orders. I still see patients. I fill in when they need help. I try to work maybe one day a week,” he said.

His MHSA degree will prepare him for advancement in his military career, as well as diversifying his skill set. “I think I’d get bored if I did the same thing all the time,” he said.

In tough times, **CAREER SERVICES** *can help*

The Office of Career Services is charged with helping students decide on their majors, preparing graduating students for that first job search, assisting alumni in the job market and connecting employers with applicants and interns. To this list, add helping midlife career-changers retool for a fresh set of challenges.

“That’s a minority of our population, but it is growing,” said Liz Wilson, director of career services. “They’re from a pretty wide range of ages, from the late 20s and the 30s up to 60. They’re not like the traditional student just out of high school, because they’re also dealing with bills, a mortgage, and a family. They have to ask themselves, ‘How much longer will I use this degree?’”

While this group varies widely, one trait they usually share is significant work experience, she said. These career-changers might not need the traditional services of her office—mock interviews for those who have never applied for jobs, for instance—but other services are in demand. “We could help them find a part-time job in their field, we could help them obtain an internship or volunteer work in their field.”

Many of those who fall into the “retooling” category are pursuing careers with clearly defined degree and certification requirements, so their course of study is clear from the beginning, she pointed out. And because of Savannah’s location, many returning students come from the military, seeking either career changes or the certification required to continue their careers as civilians.

To contact the Office of Career Services, call 912.344.2563 or visit www.armstrong.edu/career_services.



“I was able to get a lot of hands-on experience which has been great. There are some great jobs out there and Armstrong really helps prepare you for success.”

— Robert May '11, Respiratory Therapy

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Through internships, students gain valuable experience and full-time employment.

For many students, internships provide opportunities to test the water and gain professional experience before they commit to a specific career track. These opportunities also often lead to full-time jobs and, in many cases, become transformational experiences. Armstrong requires most students to complete at least one internship prior to graduation to enhance their classroom experience and help them gain a better understanding of their professional options.

“Internships provide students a transition from being students into the workplace,” said Monica Rausch, assistant professor of English in the Department of Languages, Literature & Philosophy. “Students learn the culture of working in an office, the responsibilities of a 9-5 job and being accountable to a boss and not a professor.” She added that through internships, students can explore their options, gain entry into a certain industry and reap networking opportunities. Rausch’s students are required to complete an internship “because we feel that the experience they gain is something that is difficult to teach in a classroom.” Several of her former students have secured jobs at companies where they interned. Helena Fodera '11, *Skirt!* magazine associate editor, Kara Hooper Ford '09, team member at Abshire Public Relations, and Lora Chance, '10, WTOC-TV producer, are among them.



Cara Gregoire '12 (second from left) hosted Archbishop Desmond Tutu during her internship at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Rondee Wood, a junior pursuing a B.S. in psychology, joined the Public Defenders’ Office this fall as part of her required internship. “I’m involved in a statistical report that is collecting data on the effects of forensic social workers’ intervention on criminal re-offense,” she said. “It is allowing me to gain practical and applied experience that will help me stand out in my application to graduate school.”

Psychology majors in the B.A. track are required to complete one internship and take a course tailored to that experience. Wendy Wolfe, assistant professor of psychology, said many students in the B.A. track who are not required to intern, choose to do so anyway. “Many students want an internship to put into practice skills they’ve learned in class,” said

Wolfe. Partnerships between the psychology department and community organizations help provide opportunities for students. Partners include the Rape Crisis Center, Goodwill Industries, Union Mission, Recovery Place and the District Attorney's Office. Thirty percent of students who complete internships go on to enroll in graduate degree programs, according to Wolfe.

Some students like Cara Gregoire '12 are determined to find the perfect internship for what they feel most passionate about. A political science major who was inspired by a speech given by President Barack Obama, Gregoire researched on her own organizations and think tanks devoted to nuclear disarmament. She found the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in Santa Barbara, Calif., and with the strong support of two of her professors, William Daugherty and Jose de Arimateia da Cruz, was able to secure an internship in 2011. She served on the foundation's editorial team and wrote several articles on nuclear issues for the foundation's blog. She also hosted Archbishop Desmond Tutu at a charity event. "In addition to the Archbishop, I had the pleasure of meeting internationally recognized trial lawyer and author, Gerry Spence, and Professor Emeritus of International Law and Practice at Princeton University, Richard Falk. While it was wonderful to be in the presence of such respected figures, the most rewarding part of the internship was the lesson I learned about taking action and standing up for what I believe in," wrote Gregoire for a profile she submitted to armstrongexperience.com.

Robert May '11, a former lifeguard who has struggled with asthma throughout his life, is starting his career as a respiratory therapist. In fall 2010, he completed a medical rotation at the Medical University of South Carolina, and he followed that with a respiratory therapy internship at Memorial University Medical Center. That internship led to a full-time job with Memorial.

"I was able to get a lot of hands-on experience which has been great. There are some great jobs out there and Armstrong really helps prepare you for success."

PIRATE'S TREASURE

BY LISA SWEANY
athletic director



As I embark on my first full academic year as athletic director at Armstrong Atlantic State University, I am excited to be associated with the rich tradition of Pirate Athletics and the possibilities that lie ahead. That tradition begins in the classroom, where last year 63 percent of Armstrong student-athletes achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher, with 11 earning a perfect 4.0. The tradition continues on the courts, fields and courses, where the Pirates finished third in the Peach Belt Conference Commissioner's Cup, the all-sports trophy for all conference institutions.

The Pirates had another tremendously successful year nationally. Women's soccer advanced to its first NCAA region championship match, while the men's and women's tennis teams advanced to the NCAA Round of 16, with the Lady Pirates earning a third-place finish. Further exciting news came in August, when women's tennis standout Alida Müller-Wehlau was selected as one of the 30 finalists for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. This award encompasses all three divisions within the NCAA and included 500 nominees from across the country. Not only is this a first for Armstrong, but Alida was also the first Peach Belt Conference nominee to be selected as one of the finalists.

As we are in the midst of a new academic year, we are excited about the direction the Pirates are heading. Our volleyball team, which achieved its highest ever national ranking of 15th, is 35-2 and won the Peach Belt regular season title. Armstrong also made its fourth consecutive NCAA Championship appearance. Our women's soccer team (16-2-3), ranked 7th nationally, is also sharing in the fall success as the Pirates captured not only the regular season Peach Belt title but the tournament title as well. The Pirates also hosted the NCAA 1st and 2nd rounds for a second straight year. In addition to our women's teams, our men's cross country team recently completed its third season as a reinstated varsity program and continues to show great strides in its overall times and team finishes.

We are now into our men's and women's basketball seasons. Both teams have prepared hard this fall to take to the court and are excited about the upcoming season.

We plan to celebrate 35 years of women's athletics at Armstrong in February. Please be sure your information is updated with our Alumni Association so that we can include you in the festivities. Visit www.armstrong.edu/alumni or call 912.344.2730.

Our student-athletes are working hard to represent Armstrong, and their competitiveness on the court or field is impressive. I hope to see you soon at a Pirate home event. To learn more about the Armstrong Pirates or about giving opportunities that will support our deserving student-athletes, please contact me at 912.344.2730 or Lisa.Sweany@armstrong.edu. Go Pirates!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

BY ALLISON HERSH

Armstrong serves students of all backgrounds, providing support to meet their needs and inspiration to fulfill their goals.

Dialo-Rudolph Brown worked as a licensed physical therapist in Jamaica, but decided to pursue a master's degree in Sports Medicine at Armstrong to expand his career opportunities. This second-year graduate student, originally from Kingston, enjoys being part of the Armstrong community.

"I've made a lot of friends here," he said. "I like the classes and enjoy my program."

An active member of the African Caribbean Student Organization, Brown believes international students broaden cultural horizons and enrich life on campus. "There's a fascination with meeting students from other countries. It makes for a richer experience for everyone," he said.

Brown is one of approximately 300 international students who are part of an increasingly diverse community of students with a wide range of life experiences.

"Having international students is important because it allows other students to live and socialize with people from other countries," said James Anderson, Armstrong director of international education. "Students learn so much about other cultures in these types of settings."

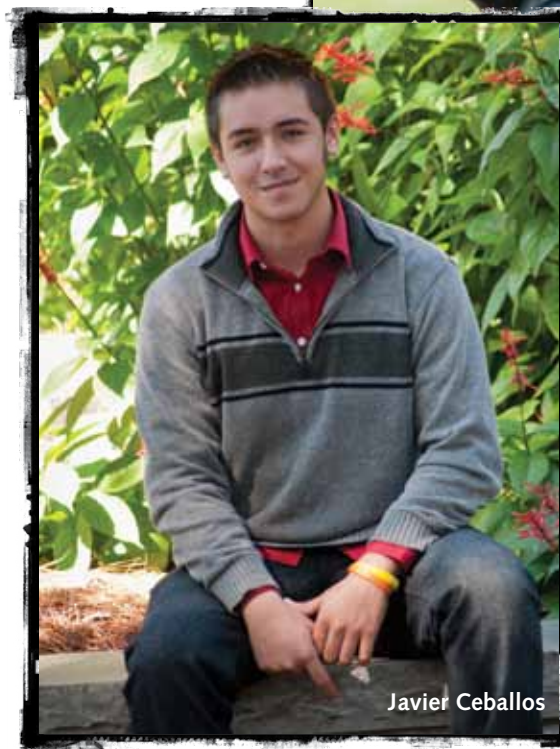
The Office of International Education focuses on assisting foreign students, from the minute they arrive on campus until graduation. The goal is to provide a broad network of support to make the transition to Armstrong easier and help students become successful.

LATINO OUTREACH AND RETENTION

Javier Ceballos, a sophomore from Bogotá, Colombia, credits Armstrong with helping him to fulfill his dream of becoming an electrical engineer. Javier moved to the United States at the age of 10 and graduated from high school with a high GPA and strong SAT scores. Armstrong invited him to participate in the university's Science and Technology Expansion Program (STEP) funded by the National Science Foundation. The initiative places high achieving freshmen on a track to science and research careers.



Dialo-Rudolph Brown



Javier Ceballos

"Armstrong is very welcoming," Ceballos said. "The student body is amazing, and the faculty have been extremely supportive."

He is now taking core classes and introductory science and engineering courses, and plans to transfer to Georgia Tech in Atlanta as an upperclassman. "Thanks to Armstrong, I feel a lot more organized and more knowledgeable about my options," he said.

Melody Rodriguez '00, '03, the director and founder of Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong (HOLA), provides strong support for Latino students like Javier, who at 400 strong now account for 5.8 percent of the student population.

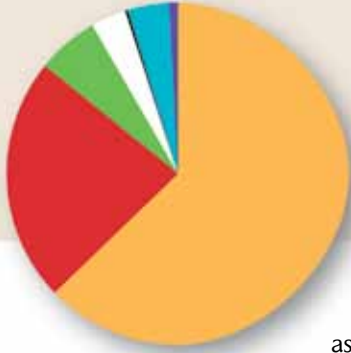
"We are definitely aware of the cultural differences and language differences in Latin American countries and in students of Hispanic descent," said Rodriguez, who moved to the U.S. from Venezuela in 1992.

FOSTERING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

In addition to supporting a diverse pool of students, the university is focused on academic success, and the Honors Program on campus brings out the best in approximately 300 high-achieving students by giving them opportunities to take accelerated classes and pursue special projects in their field of concentration.

Enrollment by the Numbers

White/Caucasian	62.74%
Black/African American	23.22%
Hispanic	5.81%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.26%
Native American	0.35%
Multiracial	3.87%
Unreported	0.76%



“We want to provide students with experiences you might associate with a smaller school with smaller classes that are more in-depth,” said Jonathan Roberts, director of the Honors Program and associate professor of psychology. “The honors program gives students an opportunity to work closely with a mentor, which helps them make the transition from being a student to being a professional.” The goal is to inspire the most gifted students to connect their education to their life experiences through hands-on learning, interdisciplinary courses and community-based activities. One such student is Dustin Workinger, who earned an Armstrong degree in rehabilitation science in 2011.

He is now applying to the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program and working at St. Joseph’s/Candler as a physical therapy aide. His interest in physical therapy started while serving with the U.S. Army Rangers.

“My first experience with a physical therapist was in the military when my leg was getting numb,” he says. “The physical therapist told me I had an impingement and should do certain stretches. I did the exercises and the problem went away.”

WELCOMING VETERANS

Like Workinger, who is both an Honors student and a veteran, there are another 335 military veterans currently enrolled, who represent another distinct student population on campus. Laura Pallini, veterans affairs coordinator, helps provide a network of support for veterans, active duty soldiers, military spouses and reservists.

“We offer a variety of majors they can choose from to best suit their career goals,” she said. “Our students are exposed to various educational resources, different cultures, age groups, and ways of doing things. Many times in the military they are directed by their superiors to complete their tasks, whereas here they learn personal responsibility.”

Through the university’s Liberty Center in Hinesville, Ga., the university extends that commitment to providing opportunities for members of the military and their families. Opened in 1996, this regional center also opens doors to higher education opportunities to the entire Hinesville community (see sidebar at right).



Dustin Workinger

Hinesville’s LIBERTY CENTER

Armstrong is devoted to serving the community and offering the military, their families and all residents in Liberty County convenient access to higher education.

Established as part of a community initiative involving the Hinesville City Council, the mayor’s office and Armstrong, the center now enrolls between 300 and 400 students who pursue two- or four-year degrees in areas such as liberal studies, criminal justice or pre-nursing.

“Our focus has been the community as a whole and we serve students who want to have the full university experience,” said Anne Thompson, interim vice president for academic affairs. “Students may take classes here for two years and then move to the main campus. They can expect the same quality education whether they are here or in Savannah.”

Take the example of Hinesville resident Levi Deese, who completed 24 college credits of advanced placement classes at the Liberty Center while still attending high school. In addition, he now has earned several scholarships that will cover his full tuition. This spring he will transition to the main campus to pursue an economics degree. “I wanted to get as many credits as I could out of the way while still in high school,” Deese said.

Additionally, military and veterans find that Armstrong is part of a network of universities that guarantee transferability of credits for military students, provide in-state tuition for soldiers and their families, and offer college credit for military experience. Many students at the Liberty Center are military veterans interested in what Thompson calls “an encore career,” and active duty soldiers and their families.

“We try to prepare soldiers and veterans for success in the civilian arena,” Thompson said. “We also provide all residents the opportunity to pursue a college education.”

For more information about the Liberty Center, call 912.877.1906 or visit www.libertyctr.armstrong.edu.

THE WORLD of JENSEN

An anonymous gift comes at a perfect time to continue to support the ceramics program and provide finishing touches to its new facility.

BY FRANCISCO DUQUE

A \$20,000 anonymous gift is helping to put some much needed finishing touches on a newly remodeled facility on campus that now houses Professor John Jensen's ceramics program. The gift will fund in part the purchase of special equipment, the improvement of outdoor work space utilized by faculty and students and the implementation of a small wood shop to help meet materials needs. The donor, someone who is familiar with Jensen's work as an artist and teacher, wanted to honor the long-time Armstrong professor with the gift.

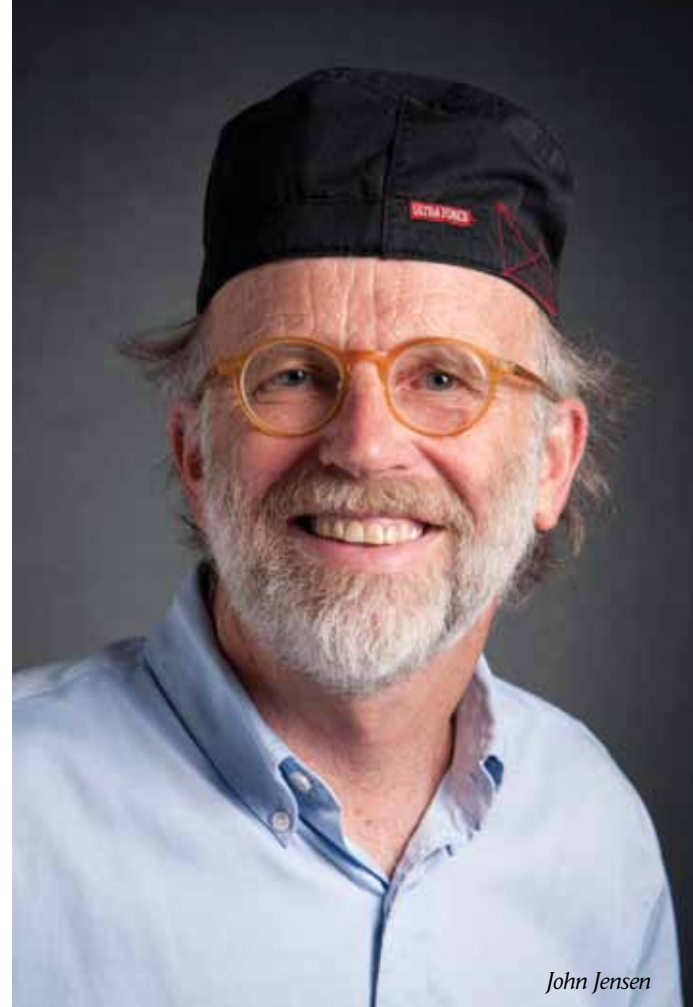
"The donor is generous to a fault and we're very grateful for the gift because it will further enhance the learning experiences of our students," said Jensen.

For years tucked away in a corner of the Fine Arts building, the ceramics program moved last spring into its new home in the Annex II building formerly occupied by Plant Operations. Existing space was renovated to accommodate two ceramics studios and a glazing studio, a kiln yard and a ceramics courtyard.

Additionally, space was reconfigured to provide a lobby that works as a showcase area. "I'm not used to this," said Jensen, pointing to his new faculty office, which is now just big enough to accommodate a couple of his human-figure sculptures.

A member of the Armstrong faculty for 25 years, Jensen has seen the program grow from having a handful of students and two full-time faculty members to today's 275 art majors and 10 faculty members in the Department of Art, Music & Theatre.

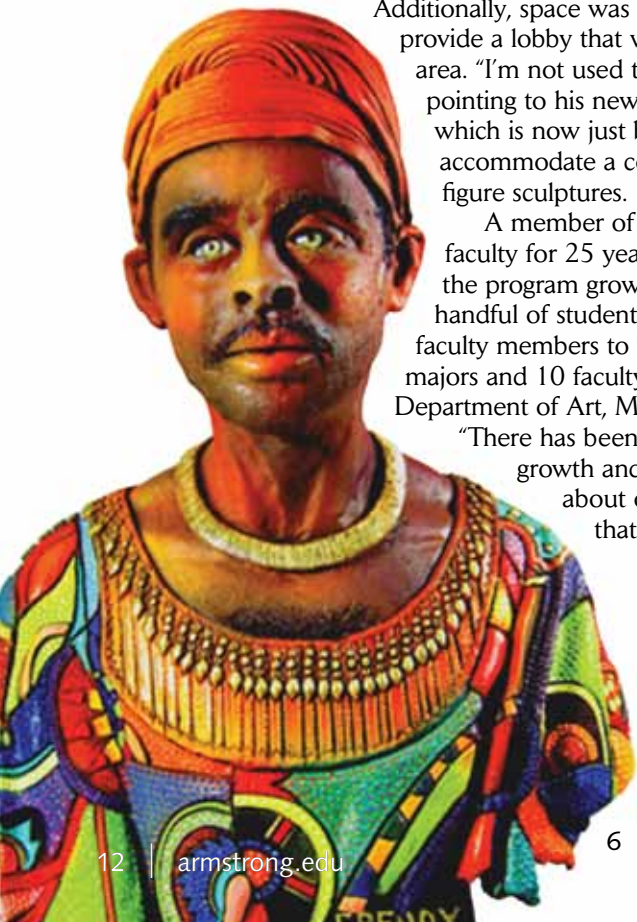
"There has been phenomenal growth and what's unique about our program is that we have very



John Jensen

positive, hard working faculty who get along very well and outstanding students who work hard to put themselves through school." The new space allows the department to offer not two, but four ceramics classes per semester to help meet student demand.

For as many years as he's been at Armstrong, Jensen has hosted a "Raku Pizza-Sushi Night" once every semester, giving students an informal forum to share their artwork. The event also serves as an opportunity to host friends and supporters from the community who enjoy spending an evening with faculty and students and watching the firing of the Raku kilns used in the curing of the pottery. Jensen also takes his teaching and art to the community



by presenting workshops at places such as The Landings on Skidaway Island, Gallery S.P.A.C.E in Savannah and Savannah Arts Academy.

Many nontraditional students, including some in the 62+ program, have found in Jensen's teaching a path to a new love for creating art and discovered talents they didn't know they had. One of his current students, Margie Bach, 47, a mother of two grown children, teacher's aide and high school volleyball coach, decided to return to school to give herself the gift of an art education to build on her self-taught skills. "I was looking for a more enriching and personal experience and I had heard about Jensen through other people," she said. After visiting other universities in the area, she decided to enroll at Armstrong, initially focusing on painting. But a ceramics core class she took shifted her thinking. "I fell in love with it. It was something that seemed a natural fit with my sensibilities and how I think about art. The environment in the new facility is very conducive to creativity."

Jensen's own work—he started as a painter before "I came to my senses"—has seen different periods, including traditional pottery, figure sculpting and the highly creative use of mixed media. Over the years it has increasingly gained notoriety among collectors and art aficionados. Chicago's Ann Nathan Gallery has shown and sold some of his works for five years. So has the Santa Fe Gallery in New Mexico. In 2010, a collector who had seen one of Jensen's pieces at the

Santa Fe Gallery called him and purchased two pieces, one of which he donated to the Arizona State Museum of Ceramic Art.

A father of two whose wife, Linda Jensen, teaches photography at Armstrong, Jensen is also a triathlete constantly in training and participating in races that include swimming, biking and running. Through it all, he continues to be thrilled about being a teacher and an artist. Tom Cato, head of the Department of Art, Music & Theatre, has worked with Jensen for 18 years.

"John has been instrumental in building and expanding the ceramics program," Cato said. "Having this new facility has been his dream for many years. Donations such as the one he just received will help to improve the space and provide additional resources for our students. The gift also reflects on John's good work, professionalism and the community support he enjoys."

To learn about giving opportunities to benefit the ceramics program or any other area of the university, please contact the Office of Advancement at 912.344.2541.

Pictured:

- 1 - Face Jug with Lumpy's Teeth
- 2 - Stephen Fekete, U.S. Army Ranger, was given leave to take classes at Armstrong
- 3 - portrait of the late Arthur C. Brannen, private collection
- 4 - John Jensen with student in ceramics studio
- 5 - Raku vase, wheel thrown, carved and raku fired, private collection
- 6 - Portrait of Freddy Olufemi, dancer with the Blue Man Group and Alvin Alley Dancers.



the *Armstrong* EXPERIENCE

Meet four Armstrong students who are making a difference and forging successful career paths.



ALIDA MÜLLER-WEHLAU '11

Alida Müller-Wehlau, a three-time NCAA Division II national champion for the Lady Pirates, was selected as one of the Top 30 honorees for the 2011 NCAA Woman of the Year award. She is the first nominee from Armstrong, as well as the Peach Belt Conference, to gain this distinction. The NCAA Woman of the Year Award, now in its 21st year, honors student-athletes who distinguish themselves through academic achievement, athletic excellence, community service and leadership.

"Alida Müller-Wehlau embodies the essence of what is best among student-athletes," Armstrong President Linda Bleicken said. "She is a gifted individual, both on the court and in the classroom. She approaches all that she does with a focus on excellence, and she inspires excellence in those around her. What an honor it is to recognize her as the first female athlete from both Armstrong and the Peach Belt Conference to win recognition among the Top 30 NCAA Woman of the Year honorees, and what a pleasure it is to know her as a human being."

A Hamburg, Germany native, Müller-Wehlau is a four-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-American in both singles and doubles and the 2011 Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year, as well as the 2010-11 Armstrong Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She capped her stellar career at Armstrong with her graduation in May 2011 with a degree in economics, but not before compiling a historic 130-21 overall singles and 156-19 overall doubles record.

RACHEL WALLER '15

Rachel Waller has a passion for engineering. "I always knew I wanted to be an engineer. In eighth grade, I went to an engineering conference where women engineers told me that it's not just a man's world and that I could do it, too," Waller said. Since that day, Waller has prepared herself for a career in aerospace engineering with everything she does. In high school, she took every math class available and also stayed busy with track and field, swimming and basketball.

As an incoming freshman in fall 2011, she conducted scientific research as a part of Armstrong's six-week Science and Technology Expansion Program (STEP) funded by the National Science Foundation. She received a weekly stipend for her work and lived on campus free of charge for the duration of the program. She faced challenges, however, when conducting research with engineering professor Cameron Coates to study bone repair plates in the forearm. "I hate medicine, the blood and the guts," Waller said. The research involved studying the healing process of forearm fractures, an injury common to athletes and children with weak bones. "I've done three virtual surgeries on the arm, and as much as I hate blood, when it's virtual, it is actually fun."

In the future, Waller would like to research and create blueprints of new aerospace technology for NASA or for the Air Force. "They always have advanced technology years before everyone else. Either that, or I'd like to try to figure out how close we are to flying cars and how we can take that idea even further."

But while at Armstrong, she is looking into fashion modeling and Greek life on campus. She also would like to be a Navigate leader next year and play intramural flag football. "I love being involved with other people, and I love the social environment," she said.



— Erica Archangel



FRANCISCO RESTO '11

Conducting an interview is a tough challenge. You must be prepared with engaging questions and be able to think on your feet. But imagine trying to conduct an interview entirely in German, and your interviewee is none other than Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany.

Francisco Resto, a graduate of Armstrong's English program, got to do just that. As part of his summer 2011 internship at the German Press Office through the Halle Foundation, he taped an interview with Chancellor Merkel about the hosting of the Women's World Cup in Berlin.

"My boss at the German Press Office, Herr Spindeldreier, called me into his office. I was convinced that I was in some kind of trouble, but far from it. He asked me if I'd be willing to interview the chancellor," Resto said. "He told me he would like an American to do the interview, since the U.S. and Germany are the two heavyweights in women's soccer."

Resto normally prepared reports and translated press releases for the German Press Office website as part of his internship. But the interview with Merkel topped it all. "Without a doubt, that has been the highlight of my trip so far," he said.

German-born Resto previously spent a semester studying abroad at Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg, Germany. He plans to continue his exploration of other countries' governments by taking an internship in Russia. "Being a foreigner in any country is thrilling and forces you to examine your own identity," he said.

Resto is currently working on his master's degree in international relations at Troy University and will graduate in December 2011. He plans to work as a foreign service officer for the U.S. State Department. "Everything I've been doing academically and professionally in the past few years has been geared to that purpose," Resto said.

— Erica Archangel

MATHEW GIGNILLIAT '12

For generations, the Gignilliat name has been a part of Armstrong's history, starting with Arthur Gignilliat Sr., who taught mathematics and education as part of Armstrong Junior College's first faculty in 1935. His son, Arthur Gignilliat Jr., Class of 1953, served on the Armstrong Board of Trustees and married Molly Gignilliat, also Class of 1953 and former SGA president. The third generation of the Gignilliat family saw Maggie Gignilliat, Class of 1992, who returned to school for a nursing degree. All four of her children took classes at Armstrong, including M. Michelle Gignilliat Harvey, who graduated in 1996. Maggie's son, Mathew Gignilliat, 26, is now enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, currently completing clinical rotations at Memorial University Medical Center and expecting to graduate in May 2012.

"So many of us have gone to Armstrong and the respect we have for the university has grown over the years," said Mathew. A product of Jenkins High School in Savannah, he grew up blocks away from his grandparents, Arthur Gignilliat Jr. and Molly Gignilliat, and family stories about the college have swirled at Sunday dinners for as long as he remembers.

"They are very happy and supportive of my being at Armstrong," he said. After earning a business degree from the University of Georgia, Mathew realized that he wanted to pursue further studies in the medical field. "I didn't see myself sitting at a desk all day. I want to be able to move around and work helping people." He first learned about physical therapy as a patient—he played baseball for two years at Georgia College and State University. He's now looking at focusing his career in physical therapy in the area of sports or pediatrics. He served as vice president of the physical therapy club on campus.

"We were definitely raised to be good students, to put school first and to apply ourselves at school. I look forward to continuing the involvement and support of Armstrong that my family has shown over the years."



Visit www.armstrongexperience.com to read about other successful Armstrong students, faculty and alumni.

ARMSTRONG HONORS NOTABLE ALUMNI

Armstrong honored 27 alumni during the university's second annual Notable Alumni Reception on the Armstrong campus in October. The Notable Alumni recognition program was established in 2010 as part of Armstrong's 75th anniversary celebration.

Armstrong President Linda Bleicken hosted the event on a Friday evening that was part of Celebrate Armstrong Week. "It is an honor to be in the company of such a remarkable group of Armstrong alumni," said Bleicken. "We are proud that they are part of the history of this institution and tonight we celebrate them as individuals who have accomplished great things and continue to lead and inspire others."

The occasion honored notable alumni near and far, business and industry leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, authors and other successful professionals in a broad spectrum of fields.

"The Notable Alumni program gives us an opportunity to celebrate alumni who over the years have made an impact on their communities and who continue to honor the university through their accomplishments and service," said Scott Joyner, Armstrong vice president of advancement. "As we have witnessed during the first two years of the program, the event is a joyous occasion for alumni returning to the campus and greeting old classmates for the first time in years."

Janet Stone, Armstrong professor of history emerita and the author of *From the Mansion to the University: A History of Armstrong Atlantic State University 1935-2010* spoke at the ceremony. "Time and time again we see that they are people who work to influence, serve, and improve their society. We are pleased to recognize their work and feel that perhaps their college experience helped them do what they have done. But their achievement is theirs alone."

The 2011 Armstrong Alumni Notables were nominated by students, faculty and staff across the campus, as well as



by members of the Armstrong Alumni Association. To learn more about the Armstrong 2011 Notable Alumni, visit www.armstrong.edu.

Nominations for the 2012 Notable alumni are now being accepted. Please visit www.armstrong.edu to submit a nomination, email alumni@armstrong.edu or call 912.344.2541.

Top photo (l-r): Chris Nowicki, Veronikha Salazar, Melody Rodriguez-Ortiz, Anna Mach, Seth Walker

Bottom photo (standing l-r): Harry Hunter, Renee H. Connolly, Linden Accurso, Clinton Brooks, Paula Tillman, Katherine Chestnut Thomson, Ronald E. Ginsberg, Jerry Williams, Christina Bourgeois, Andrew B. Zeigler, Faye Kirschner, Steve Bradshaw, Jane Rockwell Tyler, James Brasfield, John "Toby" Browne, Sr., Melody Rodriguez-Ortiz, Earnest Murphy, Jr., President Linda Bleicken. Seated: Amanda Cannon, Patrick S. Graham, Jr., William S. Ray, Jr., Deborah Nelson. Not pictured: Prem L. Bhatia, Annet M. Bosch, John Chandler Griffin, Michael Kleinpeter, Dawn Hostetler MacMillan, Amber Gillis Tuten



Coming full circle AFTER 60 YEARS

A Grammy-winning tenor and member of the 2011 Notable Alumni, Earnest Murphy returned to campus in October to celebrate the 60th anniversary of a singing career he debuted at Armstrong in 1951.

In 1949, following his graduation from Savannah High School, Earnest Murphy entered Armstrong Junior College to pursue his interest in music and piano performance.

As a child, he took up the piano and developed a reputation around town as an accompanist. At Armstrong, he joined the Glee Club and enjoyed being in the company of his peers, including James Harry Persse, who later became a longtime faculty member at Armstrong and served as fine arts department head.

"Armstrong was not your typical two-year school," he said. "Everyone knew each other, the classes involved a lot of discussion and we had a pretty exceptional group of people who went on to have distinguished careers." Murphy remembers Hinckley Murphy, professor of English, and Joseph Killorin, who taught English and German and rose to academic dean. "The classes were small and you got to know the faculty very well."

Against this backdrop, in the spring of 1951, Nancy Page Smith, then instructor of music, decided that students would perform a musical rather than a spring concert. Needing some tenors and knowing that young Murphy sang in the choir, she asked him to audition. "So, I auditioned and next thing I know I'm doing the part of Nanki-Poo, which is the lead in the *Mikado* musical," said Murphy. That performance, in the campus auditorium behind the Armstrong House weeks before his graduation, changed the course of his life.

A SINGING DEBUT

"It was the first time that I ever was on stage as a singer and it sort of changed my whole thinking about what I wanted to do," Murphy said. That following summer, the Stetson University traveling choir stopped in Savannah for a performance at First Baptist Church. Murphy and Dwight Bruce, who at the time served as church organist and head of WTOC-AM-FM, were impressed by the musicianship and decided to talk to the choir director, Harold Giffin, after the concert. "Next thing I know, I'm auditioning for them and have accepted a scholarship in voice to come to Stetson

University. And everybody in Savannah was saying, well they must be crazy; he plays the piano. But I went to Stetson and became a voice major and as they say, the rest is history."



ON THE LEADING WORLD STAGES

His career as a soloist led Murphy to perform on leading stages and garnered him two Grammy Awards performing with the Abbey Singers and New York Pro Musica. He performed at Carnegie Hall as a soloist and toured the United States and Canada with the Robert Shaw Chorale. He was a member of the back-up quartet for Frankie Laine, which included a two-month engagement at the Waldorf Astoria's Empire Room. Murphy also appeared at the famous birthday party for President John F. Kennedy at the New York Coliseum, where Marilyn Monroe sang *Happy Birthday*. As a soloist with the United States Army Band in Washington,

D.C., he performed at the White House for President Eisenhower.

After retiring from touring in the early 1970s, he earned a professional diploma from Columbia University's Teachers College and taught music education in the Englewood, New Jersey Public School System for the following 21 years. In the early 1990s, he settled in Daytona Beach, Fla., where he was a trustee of Seaside Music Theatre and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Daytona Beach Symphony Society. He is a founding member of the Board of Advisors for the School of Music at Stetson University and a Stetson trustee.

Of his Armstrong years, he remembers mostly the caliber of the education he received. "I felt that the education we had received at Armstrong was exemplary, and it was even more spelled out when I went on, first to Stetson, and then the Eastman School of Music and then Columbia. Armstrong was a wonderful place to be."

Pictured: Earnest Murphy performing a selection from the Mikado Operetta during a visit to campus in October.

— Francisco Duque

CLASS *notes*

'70s

Thomas R. Swinford '72 has been a high school guidance counselor for 37 years working at Calvary Baptist Day School and Jenkins High School in Savannah and currently at Richmond Hill High School in Richmond Hill, Ga.

Harry Hunter Jr. '74, '75 graduated March 12, 2011 from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn. with a doctor of philosophy in industrial/organizational psychology. He is director of the Michigan Office of the State Employer/Employee Service Program in Lansing and serves as adjunct professor at Wayne State University's School of Social Work in Detroit.

Kathleen Huskisson Swinford '74 has been a high school English teacher for 37 years, currently teaching advanced 10th grade English at South Effingham High School in Guyton, Ga.

William Scarborough, '75, '77 has successfully completed the certified valuation analyst (CVA) professional examination. He also has the following professional designations: certified public accountant, certified management accountant, certified fraud examiner and certified internal auditor. He received a master's of professional accountancy and a master's of taxation from Georgia State University and is employed as an associate chief accountant in the enforcement division of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Eugenia D. Stevens-Cheatham '77 worked in the U.S. courts as a deputy clerk in Augusta, Ga., and Newport News, Va., before moving to Salinas, Calif., where she was a counselor/corrections officer at Soledad Prison. In San Jose, Calif., she worked as a security manager before moving to Richmond, Va., where she served as executive secretary for the Department of Corrections Parole Board. She was also employed at IBM in various capacities before earning a master's degree in educational administration at Pensacola Christian College. She has spent the past 10 years as a middle school teacher. She has a son who lives in Savannah and two daughters, one who graduated from Savannah State University in 2011 and another who attends Liberty University.

Chris Troedson '79 is married to Sandy Seidl of Savannah. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2011 and have five children and five grandchildren. After graduating from Armstrong, Chris was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and retired as a lieutenant commander in 1998. Since then, he has served as a Florida State Law Enforcement Officer in the Department of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Park Police.

'80s

Stephen R. Bradshaw '86 visited Armstrong in April 2011 to host a book signing and lecture for his book, *Dear Diane: Letters from the First Gulf War* (Night Flight Press, 2010).

'90s

Randall D. Ball '95 is a teacher and head of the English department at the American International School in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. His second daughter, Talula Meunier Ball was born October 12, 2010 in Abu Dhabi.

Charles Watson Smith Jr. '99 received his Ed.D. in educational administration from Georgia Southern University in May. He served as adjunct instructor in Armstrong's College of Education from 2004 until 2009.

'00s

Merilee J. Cox '01, '04 and her husband Steven celebrated their 12th anniversary in November 2010. They have 3 children, Susanna, 8, Aiden, 6, and Connor, 2. Merilee is a trainer and instruction manager with the New Teacher Project that works with the Georgia Teaching Fellows program to recruit, train, and prepare teachers for certification in high-needs schools in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

Stephen P. Gontz '04 worked for the GEO Group, Inc. as a captain at a prison in Southwest Louisiana. He earned a master's of forensic science from National University and served in Iraq in 2008 as a military police officer with the Louisiana National Guard. In fall 2011, he started a new career, teaching criminal justice at Central Louisiana Technical College in Oakdale. He is married and has three children: Nicole, 16, Brittany, 13, and Logan, 10.

Submit your class notes online at www.armstrong.edu, email alumni@armstrong.edu or call 912.344.2541.

CALLING ALL LADY PIRATES!

Save the dates of February 3 and 4!

As Armstrong celebrates 35 years of Women's Varsity Athletics, we ask you to update your contact information by visiting www.armstrong.edu/alumni or calling 912.344.2730. Let's celebrate this milestone together. Details to follow.





Darcey C. Krug '05 has joined Mercuri Urval as a business consultant. Previously, she worked in the financial services industry and in medical equipment sales. She has experience in business strategy,

recruitment and selection, executive coaching, management team development, capability review and organizational change.

Indya L. Graham '06 is a recreation coordinator and truly enjoys what she does. She credits her Armstrong degree in health sciences for giving her a great professional opportunity.

Monique L. McIntosh '08 graduated from Albany State in June 2011 with an education specialist degree in educational leadership.

Ronessa M. Strickland-Roberts '08 works for the Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Fla. She coordinates the replication, planning and activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's behavioral intervention program which targets young African American females. She is a former health science instructor and prevention manager for a community-based organization and has started her own nonprofit organization, Inspiration and Change, Inc. She earned a master's in public health in 2010 from Walden University and is currently working on her doctorate in public health with a specialization in epidemiology.

engagements

Anna Mach '09 to wed **Blair S. Walker '09** on March 31, 2012.

Katie M. Nichols '08 to wed **Christopher M. Murray '08** on November 12, 2011.

Lauren A. Ryle '10 to wed Gregory Jack Coleman in April 2012.

Carolyn A. Sutlive '11 to wed William Strawn Godfrey.

Gerbsch Joins Advancement

The Office of Advancement recently welcomed Armstrong alumna Julie Gerbsch as director of major and planned giving. Her experience includes serving as CEO of Parent & Child Development Services in Savannah and executive director of Ronald McDonald Children's Charities of St. Louis, Mo. She will create and direct programs to encourage alumni, businesses, foundations and friends of the university to provide financial support for Armstrong.

"Julie's experience will be an asset to this university as we continue to grow alumni engagement and develop relationships in support of Armstrong's strategic plan," said J. Scott Joyner, vice president of advancement.

She can be reached at 912.344.2600 or Julie.Gerbsch@armstrong.edu.



Julie Gerbsch

in memoriam

Jeanne Hipson Bedinger '39*, August 7, 2010
William O. Miller '39*, February 10, 2011
Judge David R. Elmore, Sr., '40*, July 27, 2011. He was past president of the Armstrong Alumni Association.
Nancy Cole Nash '40*, March 31, 2011
Marjorie A. Mosley '41*, September 15, 2011
Richard Donald Peveler '41*, June 3, 2011
Mary Foy Space '44*, May 25, 2011
Francis (Frank) Joseph Finocchiaro '46*, March 11, 2011
Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Kuhlke, '48*, July 18, 2011
Harris Slotin '48*, May 21, 2011
John Dominick Porzio III '52*, March 2, 2011
Sarah Louise Wade '52, August 31, 2011
Major James J. Kehoe Jr., Ph.D., '54, April 15, 2011
Martha Bishop Coolidge '68, October 16, 2011
James Ross Hartman '68, August 14, 2011
Mercedes Kenney Trudell '70, June 15, 2011
Mattie Louis Ellis Chavis '73, July 1, 2011
James Edward Estes Jr. '75, February 23, 2011
Patty M. Hahn '76, March 13, 2011
Dr. Sandra Helen Missroon '76, August 19, 2011

Marguerite Teeple Barbour Brass '80, April 30, 2011

Jennifer Roberson McIntyre '80, '85, May 9, 2011. She was a 2000 inductee to the Armstrong Athletic Hall of Fame (softball).

Sharon W. Kemper '82, '87, February 3, 2011

Rev. Erwin "Bubba" Keith Perdue Sr. '88, July 12, 2011

Verlonna Jewel (Belcher) Lowe, '03, '10, August 28, 2011

DeAnn Drake Neal '04, April 1, 2011

Gregory W. Oliver '04, April 16, 2011

Edgar L. Bolin, Jr., attendee (1948-1952) June 22, 2011.

Martha Surber Aliffi, attendee (1965-1980) July 16, 2011

Susan Strobhar Dulany, attendee (1974-1975) February 20, 2011

Francis (Frank) I. Barry, economics teacher at Armstrong State College, August 13, 2011

Joyce (LaTrelle) Sharp Rogers, retired and recipient of the 2000 Staff Member of Year Award, July 27, 2011.

**Golden Graduate (1937-1959)*

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For questions about admissions or to request an application, contact the Office of Admissions at 912.344.2503 or admissions.armstrong.edu.

Armstrong magazine is produced by Marketing & Communications with support from the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation.

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Let us hear from you

If you would like to comment on anything you read in *Armstrong* magazine, or if you have ideas for future stories, please email Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.



Your support changes lives.

Your contribution to the Armstrong Annual Fund will directly benefit deserving students who, with your help, will become the dedicated professionals serving and providing leadership in our community in the areas of health care, education and public service.

Please make a contribution today. Contact the Office of Advancement at 912.344.2541 or advancement@armstrong.edu.

Thank you.