

Compass

Spring 2005

Armstrong State University

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A sign of the
times

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3 Days
2005 launched

A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University



Miller to deliver inaugural leadership lecture

Zell Miller will deliver the inaugural AASU Leadership Lecture on Friday, May 6 at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. The speech will be presented by the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation and the Colonel Charles L. and Mary G. Collins ROTC Leadership Fund.

Miller is an out-spoken U.S. senator, nationally-acclaimed governor, best-selling author, university professor, and U.S. Marine sergeant. His speeches are a unique mixture of analysis, history, humor, scripture, faith, family, patriotism, and straight talk common sense.

The former Georgia governor is credited with creating the HOPE Scholarship Program that provides free college tuition for every high school graduate with a B average and a voluntary statewide pre-kindergarten program for all four year olds.

This program is free and open to the public. Tickets are required and may be obtained by phone, 921.5967, or e-mail, aasursvp@mail.armstrong.edu.

AASU + community = good economics

It's a good economic formula. Take a flourishing economics program, bring in experts from the business community, and everyone benefits.

Yassaman Saadatmand, head of the economics department, speaks very highly of the ten members of her department's advisory board. "Whenever we invite them in, they are there," she says.

That invitation may be to advise on new courses, lecture to classes, or to take her students as interns for a semester.

The business team has been invaluable in the development of new courses. For instance, when a course in entrepreneurial economics was brought to the board, members made numerous suggestions that were folded into the design of the lectures.

Rick McGrath, an associate professor of economics, says, "Each semester, the Economics Advisory Board comes to lunch and gives us a practical perspective on an issue of our choosing. This is particularly valuable when we are developing or altering a program. Board members point out key areas that we might want to address, and often provide needed confirmation that we are on the right track. Either way, it gives us more confidence to move forward realizing that we will have most of the bases covered."

"Most of all," Saadatmand adds, "I appreciate the board's relationships with our students."

Those relationships take on many forms. For some it may be an internship. Last year, one

of the many students who have interned with the Savannah Economic Development Authority graduated and, using the knowledge he had acquired during his internship, took a job with Creative Coast, a dynamic new force that is promoting the growth of high tech industry in Chatham County.

McGrath talked about a unique experience made possible by board member Dale Lewis of CSX:

"For my labor economics course, Lewis wrote a case study on a current issue faced by CSX and provided background research from a professional association. The students formed groups to work on the case study and then competed for the opportunity to present their case studies to a panel of experts at his corporate office in Jacksonville. Two groups of students earned the privilege of giving a professional presentation, followed by a tour of CSX and a business lunch."

Most students interact with members of the advisory board when the business people offer experiential learning opportunities and lecture on various topics ranging from international banking and trade to contemporary labor issues. Saadatmand says that board members have shown a readiness to come any time faculty members think they can be of value to their classes.

"One of the intangible benefits of having such a good group of advisors," Saadatmand points out, "is that they get to see how engaged and intelligent the students are in class and then speak highly of them and the economics program in the community." ■

Economics Advisory Board members

Michael Brown
Manager, Market Research
Gulfstream Aerospace
Corporation

Jimmy Burnsed
Branch Manager
Bryan Bank and Trust

Patrick S. Graham
Executive Director
Savannah Airport
Commission

Robert B. Briscoe
Chief Financial Officer
The Savannah Bancorp, Inc.

Iris Dayoub, Ph.D.
President
Alpha Financial Management

Tina Bonifacio
Vice President, Workforce
and Economic Development
Savannah Area Chamber of
Commerce

Robert E. Lee
President
Beacon Allied Resources, Inc.

Lee Grimes
Director, Research and
Established Business
Initiatives
Savannah Economic
Development Authority

Dale B. Lewis
Vice President, Finance
CSX Transportation

Barbara Myrick
President
Export Link

INSIDE THE Honors Program

In 1995, Mark Finlay, a young history professor, was recruited by College of Arts and Science Dean Ed Wheeler (who was, at the time, head of the mathematics department) to become director of the recently formed Honors Program. Wheeler probably did not envision that it would become one of the fastest-growing programs on campus.

In 1995, the total enrollment in all Honors courses was 37 students, mostly freshmen and sophomores who tended to drift off in their last two years to concentrate on their majors or transfer to other colleges. With 50 new freshmen in fall 2004, the program's enrollment is at a record high of 200 students and a record number of graduates is expected this academic year.

Wheeler observed, "Mark was the founding director and did all the grubby work. His achievement has been exceptional."

Many students who enter Honors are truly exceptional. Thirty-five percent of Honors students carry a grade point average of 3.7 or above. To graduate from the Honors Program, a student completes four courses designated as "Honors" with a grade of "B" or better. These are smaller, more interactive academic experiences. In addition, each program graduate completes a senior project in the major, many of which lead to graduate work and professional opportunities. These have spanned a wide spectrum of subjects from a book written for Chatham County school children to *Degradation of Chromosomal and Plasmid DNA and the Potential for Transformation of Competent Cells*.

Many Honors students have collaborated on research and scholarship with professors. The Honors bulletin board is covered with journal publications by Honors grads in fields such as psychology and economics. A current student is studying music in Hungary and several are in the science center labs collaborating on nanotechnology research.

Finlay believed in the development of the total student. To do this, he organized lectures by faculty and

who joined the program in 2002 as assistant director. In 2004, she succeeded Finlay as director.

With Miller on board, the program could now offer more opportunities for students. Finlay credits her with increasing the programs to at least one a week. A growing number of faculty members delivered lectures on topics ranging from sea turtle research and nanotechnology to the Harlem Renaissance. Local field trips increased and included visits to such diverse venues as a mosque, a synagogue, a production of *Carmen*, and Washington, D.C.

Student exposure to the world around them runs the gamut from viewing a silent film made by African American filmmaker Oscar Micheaux to hearing a lecture by one of Nader's Raiders, James Fallows. All is not accelerated academics and the students share many lighter moments such as the popular Restaurant Hop where they make the rounds of several down-

town restaurants sampling appetizers at each one.

Finlay and Miller have also developed several semester-long, interdisciplinary courses. These have included debates on the global impact of Charles Darwin co-taught by professors representing five different disciplines including art and world religions. In addition, AASU was the only university in the United States to offer an entire course studying the G-8 world economic summit taking place in this region.

Another component of the program is community service. Among the many



(Left to right) Dean Ed Wheeler, Mark Finlay, and Jill Miller in the Honors Program classroom.

community experts, and other events that fostered the intellectual, social, and physical development of the Honors students. Excursions have included canoe trips through the Okefenokee Swamp, to the symphony, and to Tallahassee where they witnessed the restoration of a Vietnam-era helicopter. By the end of his second year, he had more than doubled the number of participating students.

As the program began to grow, and more faculty members began contributing to it, Finlay sought assistance. That assistance came with the addition of Jill Miller, an art professor

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STUDENTS: The *heart* of Honors



At the heart of the Honors Program is its students; bright, motivated students from all over the United States and the world. These students lead by their academic excellence and by their dedication to projects that affect the university and the community.

Juan Aragon '05

During the summer of 2004, Juan, a native of Colombia, attended the 10-week Undergraduate Research Program at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, one of the world's leading institutions dedicated to research in the biological sciences. Over 500 applications are received every year and only 25 are selected. For almost 50 years, students from all over the world have gathered there to work on research projects under the supervision of world-class scientists. Juan's project was "Mapping of the Interaction of the 5' end of the siRNA with Argonaute."

He found himself in heady company with students from Harvard, Cornell, Cal Tech, UCLA, Duke, Princeton, Amherst, and Columbia. Cambridge and Oxford lead the list of foreign universities that also included leading institutions in Canada, Israel, South Korea, and Poland.

"AASU is not known to be a research institution," Juan said, "but being part of the Honors Program helped me develop a mentality that pushed me to look beyond what we are offered."

"When I got back I felt more confident in lecture and laboratory courses."

Sharon Bowling '05

Sharon Bowling's senior Honors project involved working with a group of cancer out-patients. Together, they created simple memory boxes that reflected personal feelings that were expressed both inside and outside the boxes. The overall project, designed by Sharon and Jennifer Curran of Memorial Health, incorporated Sharon's interest in art therapy—a blend of her interest in art and psychology. The project is a part of her yearlong volunteer experience at The Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

Bowling said, "Since I've been at Armstrong, I've found the faculty and staff very encouraging and extremely supportive."

She adds that the public presentation she did on her project in March is a reflection of her experience at Armstrong Atlantic and in Savannah.

Bowling is a native of Euclid, OH.

Nancy Urcuhuaranga '06

Nancy, a student from Peru, took great inspiration from one particular Honors field trip. Here are some of her observations:

"I feel that the Honors Program really thinks about and cares for the students. One example of that was our trip to Washington D.C. It was very academic, and it also gave us a chance to relax and to be together."

"As a foreign student, I feel blessed to be in this wonderful country and I am really thankful for the opportunities that Armstrong Atlantic is giving me to accomplish my personal and educational goals. I think the monuments and museums in Washington, D.C. reflect pride and patriotism. It is amazing how most Americans have valued their heroes and history through the years."

"The National Museum of the American Indian is so valuable because it shows us the richness of our cultures. It gathers the diversity of cultures of all America. The Peruvian heritage exhibitions gave me the chance to share my roots, something very special for me, with the group. It was so exciting to see part of my heritage displayed there. This touched me in a very personal way."

Nancy also commented, "Without the scholarship from the Honors Program I would not have been able to continue my education here at Armstrong Atlantic."



*Pictured above:
Juan Aragon,
Sharon Bowling, and
Nancy Urcuhuaranga*



Gretchen Stewart '05

Within weeks of joining the Honors Program, Gretchen Stewart, a freshman from Hinesville, successfully ran for Honors president and won. Since then, she has built a college resume that reads like a primer on leadership.

During her tenure as Honors president, Gretchen skillfully promoted the program among all of its constituents—faculty, parents, administrators, community leaders, and especially among her fellow students. The result was an impressive growth in the program's size, an improvement in its quality, in its programming, and in its connections with the student body.

Gretchen has contributed to the culture of AASU in dozens of ways outside of the Honors Program. Last fall, as Student Government Association president, she worked with student presidents from universities all over the state, meeting privately with Governor Purdue to oppose a mid-year university system tuition hike. She carried to Atlanta the signatures of hundreds of AASU students who felt the same.

She has been a CHAOS student orientation leader, chapter president of Sigma Delta Pi (the National Hispanic Honor Society), served as Campus Union Board student director, an Armstrong Atlantic Ambassador for the Office of Recruiting, a member of the University Chorale, and as a community assistant in the student housing facilities. She has volunteered as a reading tutor for disadvantaged students in a local elementary school and recently worked with campus administrators to redefine the mission statement of the university. ■

Honors *(continued from page 3)*

projects undertaken, the students have supported Hope House—a safe shelter for single mothers and their children—Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, and the children's cancer ward at St. Joseph's/Candler. The annual Armstrong Angels Project raises money to provide two needy families with Christmas presents.

Miller notes that the list of individuals contributing to the success of the Honors program is a long one that includes the registrar's office, external affairs, and a dedicated faculty advisory board. "Other pivotal individuals have been virtually every Armstrong Atlantic administrator, each allocating already scarce resources to the program, notably Dean Ed Wheeler," Miller said.

Finlay and Miller attribute several other factors to the growth of the Honors Program beginning with the students themselves. As more and more joined and remained in the program through graduation, they became a cadre of personal ambassadors at Open House recruiting events, in the community, and among the general student population.

A number of external factors were also noted by the two professors including the completion of an Honors suite in Solms Hall with a roundtable style classroom, modern computer lab, and office for the program director. Also high on their list is the improved reputation of the university, the increased recruitment of students from all over the United States and the world, and the introduction of on-campus student residences. ■

Right: Amanda Chapman cuddles a child at Hope House. Students have adopted the shelter for indigent, homeless mothers as one of their service projects.



Below: Students study marsh ecology up close during a kayaking trip near Brunswick.



Jill Miller passed away as this issue of Compass was going to press. Please see page 14 for an article about Miller.

Thomas and Hutton: investing in education

It's a win-win situation.

Danny E. Stanley, president and chief executive officer of Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. says, "We support the education community because we look to the universities to send us good people. For a long time we had to go to Atlanta or out of state to find engineers. It's nice that students can now stay at home, get a good education, and find a good job right here in Savannah."

As a part of its outreach to local colleges and universities, Thomas & Hutton has made a three-year commitment to support Armstrong Atlantic's Annual Fund.

In addition they have financially supported individual student projects such as a two-seater hovercraft being built this year by a team of AASU engineering majors.

When completed, according to Cristy L. Lawrence, a Thomas & Hutton engineer, the craft will run over land and water at speeds exceeding 30 miles per hour.

Stanley takes great pride that his company's contribution will assist the

Engineering studies students ready a hovercraft they have built with the partial assistance of a gift from Thomas & Hutton.



students in reaching their goal. He looks forward to seeing the corporate logo displayed on the vehicle. In fact, he hopes it will make its debut run on the lake near Thomas & Hutton's headquarters during a company picnic.



Danny E. Stanley

Lawrence is also one of the coordinators for AASU's Engineering Academy. The academy was created last June and will be repeated this summer. It is open to high achieving rising juniors and seniors in area high schools with good grades in mathematics, engineering, technology, and science.

Another way of serving area colleges while filling professional openings in civil engineering, information technology, and computer assisted drawing, is through an aggressive program of summer internships supervised by Lawrence.

Thomas & Hutton likes to interview students in their freshman and sophomore years. Six to eight interns are accepted each year with the opportunity to work each summer until they graduate. At that time, many are offered full-time positions.

"The community has been good to us," Stanley said. "This is our opportunity to show our appreciation."

Some of the projects the company has contributed to include the Crossroads Business Center, the parking lot expansion and student recreation center at AASU, the Pooler Parkway/I-16 Interchange, and the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. ■

Student recreation center rising on Library Drive

The new 38,500 square-foot student recreation center, now under construction, is a response to the phenomenal growth of the campus over the past five years. With a student population now exceeding 7,000 and almost 700 students now living in on-campus student residences, the need for expanded recreation facilities grew exponentially.

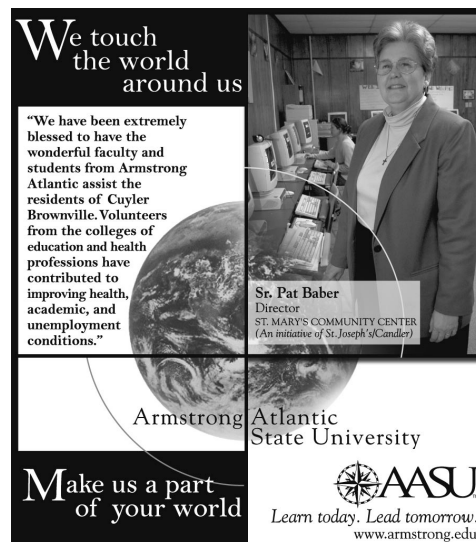
A creative public-private venture made it possible to build the center in a timely manner. Educational Properties Inc. (EPI) is funding the \$4,084,500 project on property leased from the university. AASU students voted to retire the EPI financing with a \$30 per semester recreation fee. EPI's funding will be paid off in 2034 at which time the center will revert to university ownership.

Once the facility is complete in June, it will begin its life as a temporary home for Lane Library's staff and collections. The library, in the meantime, will be renovated and by fall 2006 its staff and collections will be moved back.

Then the student recreation center will go through about 60-90 days of renovation updating the finishes and preparing it for its end use. Remarkably, only an eight-foot section of wall will have to be installed along with athletic flooring and equipment, and mirrored walls in the exercise rooms.



Spreading the news



We touch the world around us

"We have been extremely blessed to have the wonderful faculty and students from Armstrong Atlantic assist the residents of Cuyler Brownville. Volunteers from the colleges of education and health professions have contributed to improving health, academic, and unemployment conditions."

Sr. Pat Baber
Director
ST. MARY'S COMMUNITY CENTER
(An initiative of St. Joseph's/Candler)

Armstrong Atlantic State University

AASU
Learn today. Lead tomorrow.
www.armstrong.edu

It all began with a conversation.

In the spring of 2004, AASU President Thomas Z. Jones told a *Compass* writer, "Remember, we are a public university with public responsibilities. We are in the business of serving people, supporting the economic development, and increasing the intellectual growth of our community."

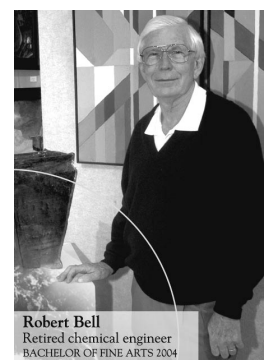
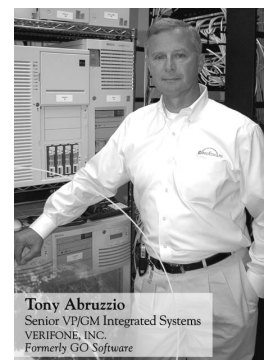
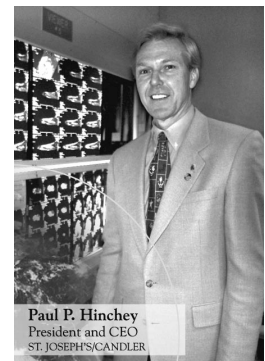
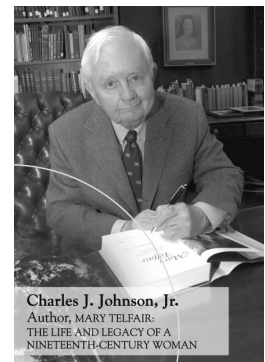
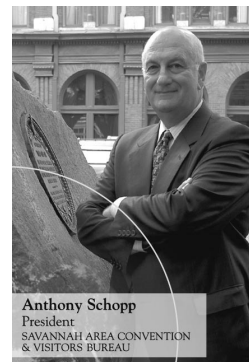
"It is important that the community understands what we are and what we do. It must buy into the university as a valuable resource."

The president's thoughts sparked a modest advertising campaign in the *Savannah Morning News* Sunday Exchange and the *Business Report & Journal* that, over its course, will demonstrate many of the facets of the university that contribute to the growth of the businesses, schools, non-profit agencies, and individuals.

The Office of University Relations contacted deans, department heads, faculty, and staff members to discuss community constituencies they served and to solicit recommendations.

From January to June 2005, 10 individuals will be featured in the campaign making statements about how the university has been an important resource. They will share their individual perspectives on the importance of AASU in providing well-prepared employees, willing volunteers, varied research capabilities, and individual educational opportunities.

Some of those participating in the series are Robert Colvin, president and CEO, Memorial Health University Medical Center; Paul Hinchey, president and CEO, St. Joseph's/Candler; Anthony Schopp, president, Savannah Area Convention and Visitors Bureau; Alfred Howard, principal, Coastal Middle School; Tony Abruzzio, senior vice president and general manager integrated systems, VeriFone, Inc.; Charles Johnson, Jr., author, *Mary Telfair, The Life and Legacy of a Nineteenth-Century Woman*; Sister Pat Baber, director, St. Mary's Community Center; Carol Kirchner, co-owner, Foot EFX; and Robert Bell, a retired chemical engineer. ■





Profile in Leadership Helen Taggart

Nursing students bring health care to the mean streets of Georgetown in Guyana. A young man discovers nursing as a career. Graduate students sharpen their writing skills. In each of these scenarios, Helen Taggart played a leadership role.

One of the several hats worn by Taggart, an associate professor of nursing, is student services coordinator. Since accepting that role in 2000, she has organized a student governance structure, developed a formal orientation for new students, and created a formal recognition for nursing students on the Friday preceding each graduation. Currently, she is implementing computerized practice testing on nationally normed tests required of nursing students prior to graduation.

Camille Stern, nursing department head, said, "Always a student advocate, Dr. Taggart constantly searches for the means of improving the processes of teaching and student learning."

Taggart enjoys thinking outside the proverbial box. She is now working with an interdisciplinary group on campus to incorporate non-Western approaches to medicine into the nursing curriculum. Her list includes acupuncture, herbology, reflexology, movement therapy, and meditation.

"If we are successful in introducing these modalities into the curriculum, it will bring us more in line with the broadened medical approaches of the area hospitals," Taggart explained.

Non-Western therapy is not new to Taggart who did her doctoral thesis on Chinese tai chi and its benefits for older women. Since then, she established tai chi classes on campus for two semesters and introduced it to the residents of Magnolia Manor, a retirement community in Richmond Hill. Taggart periodically returns to Magnolia Manor where she talks about issues such as balance and exercise.

In 2002, she flew to Guyana where she sought a Savannah physician, Carmen Gannon, who had started a clinic there in the '80s. She later returned with another associate professor, Anita Nivens, and several nurse practitioner students from the graduate school to assist at the clinic. Subsequent trips have been led by Nivens, assistant professor Rose Powell, and professor Marcella Hart. This past spring, the program grew to include nine undergraduate students.

Taggart hopes to expand these study abroad opportunities to England, Ireland, and Germany.

"Each of these countries offers the students a look at different kinds of healthcare delivery systems," Taggart said.

Last fall, Taggart was a member of the university's Leaders Among Us class. Of her personal leadership style, Taggart says, "I consider leadership a set of opportunities to serve and to invite others to share a vision."

In talking with other leaders from across the spectrum of faculty and staff, she discovered that there was a perceived weakness in the writing skills of many graduate students. She brought the concern to the AASU Writing Center where strategies to address the problem are being introduced.

"Dr. Taggart is an exceptional role model for students and faculty," Stern said. "Her approach to education and nursing inspire enthusiasm in our students, and dedication from our faculty. She is a serious scholar and encourages graduate nursing students in their first scholarly efforts." ■



Photo by Wayne Parham, *Georgia Trend*

Vernice Rackett and Jerry Barton

3 Days 2005 launched

In April, the Office of External Affairs, members of the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, and a committee of community and alumni volunteers conducted the second annual 3 Days for AASU.

During Phase I, visits were made by committee members to secure lead gifts from past donors who contribute \$500 and above annually.

“These gifts encourage other businesses, corporations, and individuals to also make a pledge,” said Gail Rountree, director of annual giving.

Lead donors were invited to the kickoff luncheon held April 4. This event was generously sponsored by Hilb Rogal & Hobbs in honor of Nick Mamalakakis.

Past donors who contributed under \$500 received a CD during Phase II giving them a virtual campus tour and a look at what their donation meant to the life of the university in 2004. They were invited to make a lead gift this year.

Phase III introduced a new facet to the campaign. Teams were formed under the leadership of alumni to write letters and make visits on behalf of AASU. These teams targeted such key groups as physicians, dentists, architects, certified public accountants, and automobile dealers.

For three days beginning April 5, some 40 community volunteers paid Phase IV visits to potential new donors. The volunteers worked closely with Padgett Mixon of Wachovia Bank and Diana Morrison, co-chair of the 2004 campaign, of Advertising Specialty Services.

The chairman for 3 Days for AASU 2005 was Jerry Barton, president of Sea Island Bank. Vernice Rackett, membership director of the Savannah Quarters Country Club, was co-chair.

Other 3 Days for AASU committee members were Wachovia’s Mixon, Advertising Specialty Services’ Morrison, Gail Toler of HRH Insurance, and Brian Foster, chairman of 3 Days for AASU 2004 and president of First Chatham Bank. Representing AASU on the committee were Leary Bell, vice president of external affairs; Ken Kenton, executive director of leadership development; and Rountree.

Following an exciting week of community contact and growing support, the volunteers and donors enjoyed a bagel breakfast victory party and heard the results of this year’s campaign. Outstanding team members and donors received special recognition. ■■

**Editor’s note: Compass went to press before the campaign period ended. A financial report on the campaign will appear in the next issue.*



New master's degrees introduced

Two new master's degrees have been introduced this academic year that epitomize the slogan of the School of Graduate Studies: "When You're Ready for the Next Step." The two new programs are the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and the Master of Arts in Liberal and Professional Studies.

For educators interested in personal development and professional advancement, the new Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction may be just the step toward professional development and advancement they are looking for. This 30-hour program is designed for teachers who hold initial certification in English, mathematics, history, science, art, music, Spanish, or physical education. The degree is aligned with National Board Certification.

Ambitious, intellectually curious goal-seekers who value the journey as much as the destination will find the new Master of Arts in Liberal and Professional Studies a rewarding course of study. Students pursuing the degree have three challenging tracks to choose from: Gender and Women's Studies, International Studies, and Leadership Studies.

For more information about these and other graduate degrees, contact the School of Graduate Studies at 912.927.5377 or on the web at www.gs.armstrong.edu.

Liberty Center reorganized



Workers install a Liberty Center sign at the facility's new Hinesville location.

The Liberty Center was formed in 1998 to bring higher education opportunities to the residents of Hinesville and the Liberty County area and to Ft. Stewart military personnel and their spouses. Originally, the center was a consortium of five area colleges and universities working in partnership with the Department of the Army, City of Hinesville, Liberty County Board of Commissioners, Liberty County Development Authority, and the Liberty County Board of Education.

This year dawned with AASU launching the spring semester in new quarters and partnering with Waycross College. At the head of the enterprise is Joseph Weaver, an educator with extensive teaching credentials at institutions throughout the state who was promoted from the interim directorship.

The center now offers associate's degrees in applied science and criminal justice, and bachelor's degrees in general studies and criminal justice, each of which may be earned at the Hinesville location.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, Waycross College will join AASU to deliver learning support classes in math, reading, and English as well as core courses in English and mathematics.

AASU supports the CDC with online degree

A student studies his computer screen and attacks an online quiz. Another examines the day's lesson on her laptop. What makes them notable is that the first is in China and the second is on a military base in Missouri. The instructor is in Savannah.

Both are enrolled in an online Master of Public Health (MPH) program begun during the summer of 2003 in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Both students were part of the original group of 12 students that will graduate this spring.

The program was opened to the general public last summer and now totals 17 degree-seeking students.

Jacquie Fraser, who along with David Adams, is one of the two main instructors for the program, said, "Being in such a military-intensive area, the online degree gives us the opportunity to offer the degree to a lot of people who otherwise couldn't take it."

Students can access PowerPoint presentations and reading assignments at any time. They can also post commentary and questions on a bulletin board and take quizzes online. There is no face-to-face time except for final exams. The CDC provides on-site proctors for its employees while others may be proctored at a local university.

Early feedback from students who had started the MPH elsewhere indicates that AASU's online program is far more demanding.

Eventually, Fraser and Adams would like to determine if there is a difference in the performance of practitioners prepared online as opposed to those who earn the degree in a traditional classroom setting.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

William Boswell, M.D.

No regrets. Even though he is talking about having spent 15 years of his life in college, medical school, and pursuing postgraduate medical education, he states “no regrets” with satisfied conviction.

Meet William Boswell, a pediatric surgeon at Memorial Health University Medical Center.

An Armstrong State alum, Boswell '86, paid an afternoon visit to AASU recently, after seeing 25 patients that morning. He was on his way home, hoping to spend some time with his wife, Jane, and their two sons, William III, 14 and Bradley Austin, 10. But like other alums who return to the campus, he spent a little more time than originally scheduled in order to take in the many changes that had occurred since he was a student. The Science Center bridge and tower caught his attention. He was impressed that all of the science labs now numbered 58 as compared to when he was a student. A chemistry major, Boswell recalled Henry Harris and John Brewer as two of his favorite professors. He shared memories of those early mentors and said he recalled that they always made time to meet individually with students.

Boswell recalls he had early aspirations of working in the medical field, but needed a job that could help pay for his education and other expenses. Subsequently, he worked for Atlantic Towing Company as a deckhand. “In retrospect,” he said with a slight grin, “perhaps that was the other best job I ever had.” Even while working fulltime, he was disciplined enough to graduate *magna cum laude*.

All was going according to his plan until 1983 when he was involved in a serious automobile accident. He was under the care of Clifton Cannon, a neurosurgeon, and Daniel Deloach, a plastic surgeon. During this time he had four surgeries within six months. Boswell said during this time—with the fate of his health and his future in the hands of others—he became further convinced that he would indeed finish medical school. He maintains that these events made him even more determined and much more focused.

Boswell received his acceptance letter from the Medical College of Georgia one week after his marriage to Jane Green of Savannah. She was a career woman employed by Southern Bell at the time and willingly relocated to Augusta as the temporary breadwinner.

The physician pauses in his story to emphasize that he was not the only student from Armstrong to be accepted into the Medical College of Georgia. Also attending with him were Dale Daly, Chip Bryant, David Neilson, Mary Howell, and Karen Clark. Boswell recalls feeling affirmed in those early months of medical school that Armstrong had indeed prepared him for this endeavor.

He returned to Savannah and Memorial in 1990 as a surgical intern, then as a surgical resident, and in 1994 became the chief resident of general surgery.

The educational opportunities were not over yet. He received a fellowship in pediatric surgery from the Pediatric Surgery Department of the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Because of his specialty, he was asked by Memorial Health in 1997 to return to Savannah. He and Jane were both glad to be returning home, this time to raise their children in a climate milder than the Windy City's and to be around family members.

Boswell has been cited and has been published in numerous medical publications. He is now chair of the Department of Surgery at Memorial Health and continues to serve on the research committee of the Department of Pediatric Education.

Currently, Boswell averages 18 surgical cases per week. Much of his interaction is with health professionals in the hospital who are graduates of AASU's College of Health Professions. He is quick to point out that the university is graduating students who should make everyone proud. He feels confident when surrounded by well prepared Armstrong Atlantic graduates in the medical setting. He is especially impressed with the respiratory therapists and the nurses.

Boswell is no stranger to the teaching side of academics. He continues to serve as an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at Mercer University Medical School that maintains an academic presence at Memorial Health. He has offered to lecture to students in both biology and respiratory therapy classes.



Photo by Jane Green Boswell

continued on page 14

class notes

'50s

Henry Precht '51 has written a book, *A Diplomat's Progress*, which gives vivid insight into his job as a diplomat in Iran for the State Department when the Shah was overthrown in 1979. Precht, now retired, was a foreign service officer for more than 20 years and served during the famous 444-day hostage crisis. The book is a fictional account based on some facts. In it, Precht gives descriptions of his surroundings and compares them to his hometown of Savannah.

'70s

Anne Bleakley Jones '71 has retired from teaching after 31 years and has taken on a new career as a writer. In November 2004, she became a published author with her first book, *Gold Thunder*. It is the story of 1960 NASCAR Champion Rex White and his struggle to become champion by overcoming a physical handicap against overwhelming odds. She is now working on her second book about famous racing personalities. In between, she's managed to complete a serial killer mystery based on her Ph.D. dissertation.

Robert Mulling '71 has moved back to Savannah after 33 years away with IBM. He is still with IBM as a project manager, but says he hopes to be able to retire in a few years and enjoy some of the leisure time activities that he remembers enjoying growing up in Savannah.

Michael A. Sievers '71 is employed as a credit counselor at Consumer Credit Counseling Service in Savannah.

Joy N. Kleeman '72, a former English teacher at Savannah High School, and an alumni board member, was posthumously honored with the naming of a bike path along a stretch of U.S. Hwy 80. Nearly six years after her death, neighbors and friends still remember Joy for her dedication as a teacher and her loyalty to friends and family.

William Scarborough '75, '77, an associate chief accountant with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and a certified public accountant, was honored recently with the 2004 Director's Award for outstanding achievement in the enforcement of the federal securities laws. Scarborough previously won the award in both 2000 and 2002 in connection with financial fraud investigations of public companies.

Rudolph Alexander '77 has just completed his fifth book, *Racism, African Americans, and Social Justice*, which is due to be released in April 2005. Alexander is a professor and director of the bachelor of social work program at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

'80s

Dennis J. Lales '80 has been hired as the director of operations for Robin Restoration, LLC. He was previously the office manager for Chatham Home Builders.

Kathleen Curran Collins '88 serves as vice president on the board of the Downtown Business Association.

Tina Grile '88 has been promoted to director of dental services for Athens Technical College. She is program head for both the dental hygiene and dental assisting programs taught there. Additionally, she has been chosen as a consultant for the American Dental Association, the accrediting body for all dental programs and schools in the country.



David Dickey



W. Ray Persons

GeorgiaTrend

David H. Dickey '74 and **W. Ray Persons '75**, both AASU Foundation trustees, were named to *Georgia Trend's* special section, 2004 Georgia's Legal Elite, a listing of the state's most effective lawyers, selected by their peers.

Dickey specializes in taxes, estates, and trusts with the firm of Oliver, Maner & Gray LLP in Savannah. Persons is a personal injury attorney with King & Spalding in Atlanta.

'90s

Jared M. Campbell '91 has been hired by Coastal Atlantic Mortgage Company in Richmond Hill. He lived in north Florida for the past five years where he managed three mortgage branch offices.

Helen Dunn Schandolph '91 has been hired as an associate with the International Center for Leadership and Coaching. After completing her bachelor's in psychology at AASU, she earned a master's from the University of South Carolina. Since then she has had 10 years experience in the human services field, primarily as a clinical coordinator and program manager.

Glen Williams '92 is living in San Francisco and in the process of developing his own radio show that will feature interviews with unique and intriguing people.

Melissa Beaver '93, an educator for over 10 years, was recently recognized in the Liberty County Schools Teacher Profile. She is cited as a genuine and dedicated teacher who exerts great influence over her students and colleagues.

Stephen Mathis '93 has moved to West Palm Beach to assume his new position as national urology product manager with Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals Company.

Cristen West Younts '97 and her husband, James, have relocated from North Carolina to Virginia where she is employed as a technical support engineer for Verisign in Dulles, VA.

Lori A. Tummonds '98 took some time off from her job as a critical care nurse to become a patient herself. In July 2004, she underwent kidney transplant surgery with a donated kidney from her mother. Lori reports that everybody is feeling great and that she is looking forward to going back to work as an acute care nurse at Kentucky State University Hospital.

William C. Brown '99 is serving in the U.S. Army, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry at Fort Stewart. He is the operations officer and is scheduled to be deployed to Iraq.

An e-mail from Iraq

I just wanted to let everyone know an AASU alumnus is holding down security here in Iraq. I am now serving as the executive officer for 272 Chemical Company of the 42nd Infantry Division for the next year. I am now in Iraq and will be responsible for logistical planning and management for a 102-man unit as well as resourcing and allocating material and force protection for security for our base... it is a long way from being SGA president, but that helped my leadership skills tremendously for the task I am now doing. Happy Holidays and sleep well knowing AASU's Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow program is at work.

Scott C. Scheidt '03
HHB 42 Divarty, OIF III, FOB Summerall
APO AE 09393
e-mail: scott.c.scheidt@us.army.mil



'00s

Dawn Hostetler MacMillan '00 has relocated from Jacksonville to the Savannah area. She and her husband Roy have opened Coastal Audiology in Pooler, which specializes in hearing health care and protective devices for good hearing conservation.

Richard R. DiPirro '02 is the new service director for the First City Club of Savannah.

Ashlee Potts '02 has her own photography business, Phoenix Pets and Sports Photography. In her spare time, she works at the family business, Norwood Stables, where she has found time to take some action photos of equestrian events. Some of her work is on display on her website at www.phoenixphotographs.com.

Susan Spellman '02 is director of development for District of Columbia Primary Care Organization, a nonprofit healthcare organization. She had been executive director of the Community Healthcare Center in Savannah since it opened in 2001.

1Lt. Scott C. Scheidt '03 is serving as the executive officer in security operations in Iraq (see box below). While not working his day job, he is also working on his MBA in finance through Touro University in New York. He should complete both his degree and tour of duty at about the same time.

Robert Udinsky '04 is a technician for the Southern Company.

engagements

Renee Kimberly Bryce '99 to wed Bryan David Atkins, June 04, 2005

Jennifer Lynn Smith '01, '03 to wed Jeremy Zottola, April 23, 2005

Ashlee Potts '02 to wed Jason L. Barker when his military tour in Iraq is completed.

marriages

Jo-Anne Seymour '97 to Lars Gunnar Frey, June 18, 2005

Christy Hope Barfield '02 to Monte Negi on November 26, 2004

Catherine Jordan Compton '02 and Christopher M. Hyler, June 19, 2004

Kerri Melissa Kangeter '02 to David Randall Taylor, November 20, 2004

Amanda Leigh Archer '03 to Edward Andrew Ramirez, October 23, 2004

Julie S. Rollins '03 to Roman Ashley Salter, February 26, 2005

Crystal Taylor '85 to Hugh "Buster" Cooper, August 7, 2004

Ashley Ritter Weeks '03 to Timothy Alan Wilson, March 19, 2005

CORRECTION: The last issue of *Compass* incorrectly reported the marriage of **Nina Delk '87**. The marriage in the article was actually that of her daughter Jessica Nickerson.

births

Rusty Zittrauer '94 and his wife Kristen: Paulus Daniel, October 25, 2004
Cristen West Younts '97 and her husband Edward: Ashley Grace, October 26, 2004
Ellen Harris Wilson '00 and her husband Edward: Edward Wilson IV, November 4, 2004
Stephanie Hofmann '01 and her husband, Carl: Gretchen Nancy, August 9, 2004

anniversaries

Sharon Watson Best '96 and her husband Fred celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary November 10, 2004

in memoriam

Leo Van Exley '49, October 5, 2004
Arthur D. "Archie" Whitfield '49, February 2, 2005
Cyrus McCoy Adams '50, October 15, 2004
Sidney Joseph Daugherty '56, December 13, 2004
Patricia Ann Griffin '68, August 24, 2004
Leo George Beckmann '69, October 11, 2004
Robert Louis Shoemaker '72, October 18, 2004, Savannah
William Anthony Leonard '73, October 11, 2004
Nancy Bailey '97, September 21, 2004

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

(continued from page 11)

When asked what his advice is to those exploring medical school, Boswell avers that a very strong background in science is the most valuable approach. He says, "There is no time for catch up once you are in medical school."

Has there been sacrifice? "Yes," he admits. There has been less family time than he would have preferred and he credits Jane with keeping the family dynamics moving in the right direction. Any regrets? Again, "absolutely not." ■

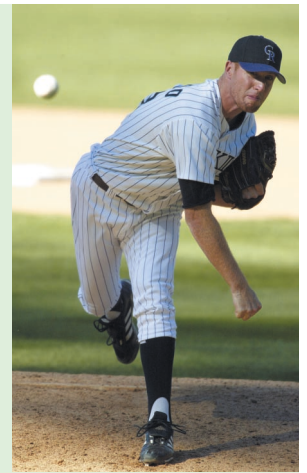
Jane Green Boswell '05 will graduate from AASU with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She has exhibited in "Evocations" curated by Jack Leigh, "Coastweeks," "The Art of Healing," and won the Lillian Spencer Award for first place in AASU's Calliope. She plans to pursue her master's degree.

Former AASU pitcher joins Braves spring training

Former AASU hurler Adam Bernero has accepted a spring training invite from the Atlanta Braves, giving the righthander a chance to win a spot on the staff of the National League East champions.

Bernero was invited with 15 other players to spring training for the Braves, which began in Orlando in February.

Bernero captured national attention when he became the second fastest player from the 1999 class of signees to reach the Major Leagues, making his debut with the Detroit Tigers in August of 2000. He is the first former Armstrong Atlantic baseball player to reach the major leagues.



Art historian Jill Miller dies

Jill Miller, associate professor of art history and director of the Honors Program (see page three), died on March 25, 2005 just as this issue of *Compass* was going to press.

AASU's large contingent of part-time faculty. Each spring she hosted a city-wide "studio hop," introducing dozens of faculty to local artists and their works.

Miller, who came to Armstrong Atlantic in 1998, was the university's first full-time art historian and an expert on nineteenth century French art. She had traveled through 23 countries viewing many of the canonical images she lectured on. In recent years, she had taken many of her students abroad to view art in Ireland, Greece, and England.

She had delivered papers in the United States and abroad, and written numerous scholarly articles. Miller was preparing a paper for publication based on her research into gender and architecture.

For three years, Miller served on the Faculty Development Committee holding forums, workshops, and dinner sessions for



Ed Wheeler, dean of arts and sciences, said, "Shortly after becoming dean I cornered the assistant dean, a wise old chemist named Henry Harris, with this question, 'Henry, who are the young faculty members whom I should consider for leadership positions?' Henry's immediate response was, 'You need to watch Jill Miller.' It was a pleasure watching Jill Miller as she

joined colleagues in creating the BFA in visual arts and developing a substantial program in gender and women's studies. She accepted leadership roles in faculty development and the improvement of our fine Honors Program. In each case, she threw herself into the task at hand with joy and energy and compassion."

Alumni website in place

Armstrong Atlantic alumni now have an exciting new way to stay in touch with their school and each other, thanks to a dynamic online community created by the alumni office in conjunction with iModules.

With this new site, located at <http://armstrongalumni.iModules.com>, AASU has gained a powerful new tool that not only helps alumni keep in touch, but allows the university to more easily share information, plan events, and be more receptive to the needs of graduates.

Some of the exciting features of the new online community include: a searchable/updateable member directory, photo albums, real time chat rooms, event calendars, news, online secured giving, and an alumni networking center.

Access to the new website is through a unique number that the alumni office will provide to each alumnus to be used as a password. The unique number will be sent to alumni on every piece of mail they receive from the alumni office. It will appear above the alum's name on the address portion of the mailing label.

Director of Alumni Relations Patty Parker says, "Look for your number and be among the first to log on."

Sign of the times

In the spring of 2004, *Compass* reported that the Publix shopping center adjacent to the AASU campus had been purchased by Educational Properties Foundation, Inc., for use as academic classrooms and support offices, and a facility for the expanding professional and continuing education program.

A few months later, the Office of University Relations and the Office of Professional and Continuing Education pioneered the property when they moved into vacated space. The university relations move helped facilitate the construction of the new student recreation center (see page 6).

In March, work was completed on a 4,000 square-foot suite that has already been used for several meetings including the April session of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Also in March, the official sign identifying the Armstrong Center was installed (see cover).

Work will begin later this year on converting the 65,000 square-foot building, formerly occupied by the supermarket, into academic classrooms, academic support space, technology labs, and a professional and continuing education conference center that will include a mid-sized auditorium, ballroom, and multiple meeting rooms.

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

AASU working to establish official Georgia license plate

The Office of Alumni Relations is coordinating an effort to establish an official Georgia license plate for AASU. Approval of a tag design is pending Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) approval. Applications and fees must be collected and submitted to the DMV in Atlanta by July 2005. For information or to purchase a tag, contact Patty Parker at 912.921.2343 or parkerpa@mail.armstrong.edu.

Anyone interested in obtaining a tag should submit a completed application form (MV-9C) and send it to Patty Parker with a \$25 check, made payable to the AASU Foundation. Mail to AASU, 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31419. A link to the form is available online at www.external-affairs.armstrong.edu/alumni.htm. The form is also available through your local county tag office.

The first tags will be available in December 2005 for those whose tag renewal (birthday) falls in January 2006. Tags will be made available from all counties in Georgia and will be sent to the county of residence.



Four named to foundation board positions



Brian Foster

Four area businessmen have been named to leadership positions on the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Brian Foster, chairman, is president and CEO of First Chatham Bank. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and as treasurer of both the Savannah Economic Development Authority and Parent and Child Development Services. In addition to these board memberships, he is a board member of the Savannah Technical College Foundation, the Georgia Bankers Association, and the Savannah Rotary Club and an advisory board member for the Savannah Development & Renewal Authority.

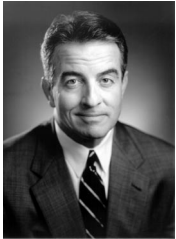
Foster earned his Bachelor of Business Administration at the University of Georgia and attended the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers.



Jerry Barton

Jerry Barton, vice chair, is president of Sea Island Bank. Previously he was city president for Wachovia bank for 29 years. He started his banking career with the Savannah Bank and Trust company in 1970.

Barton also serves on the Union Mission Board of Directors and is a member of Savannah Rotary West. He graduated from the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.



Robert Colvin

Drew Ernst, secretary, is a partner in the Savannah firm of Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C. He has over 28 years of experience in real estate development and environmental legal matters. Ernst has extensive experience with wetlands and federal and state regulations associated with development in coastal areas.

He is listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* for his environmental expertise and is a member of the Savannah Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the State Bar of Georgia.

Ernst received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Armstrong State College and his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Robert Colvin, treasurer, is president and CEO of Memorial Health University Medical Center (MHUMC). Under his leadership, MHUMC has been named a Distinguished Hospital by J. D. Power and Associates, one of *Fortune Magazine's* 100 Best Companies to Work for, one of *Hospitals & Health Network's* 100 Most Wired Hospitals, recipient of the American Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA Award, and one of *U. S. News & World Report's* Top Hospitals in orthopedics, endocrinology, and respiratory disorders. He has served as chairman of the Board of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

Colvin holds a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's in business administration from Idaho State University.

Compass is written and designed in the Office of University Relations.



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