

Compass

Summer 2005

Armstrong State University

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*See what's
cooking with
"A Family
Affair"*

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a makeover, new name

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New faces on AASU
Foundation Board

A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

Administration building renamed for President Burnett

On September 23, Armstrong Atlantic will honor its fifth president, Robert Adair Burnett, by dedicating the Administration Building as Burnett Hall.

Throughout his fifteen years of leadership (1984-1999), President Burnett successfully guided the college through periods of both great challenge and attainment. The school's endowment skyrocketed, two new buildings rose, twenty-five academic majors were born, and ground was broken for the Science Center and the first on-campus student residence. Burnett died June 19, 2004.

A highlight of the dedication ceremony will be the unveiling of a portrait of Burnett commissioned for this occasion. The portrait will be hung in the reception hall next to the corridor leading to the newly remodeled east wing where Burnett led the university for so many years.



Sandra T. Colquitt, a Savannah portrait artist who attended Armstrong on the downtown campus, will execute the painting. The award-winning artist has completed portraits of such prominent Georgians as former Savannah Mayor Malcolm MacLean and Superior Court Judge Winebert D. Flexer.

The Administration Building was one of the first eight buildings destined for the new campus designed by architect Oscar Hansen. Ground was broken July 29, 1964 on the 250-acre south-side tract donated by banker Mills B. Lane. Additions to the building's two wings were constructed in 1970. ❖

Above: This photograph of President Burnett will be rendered as an oil portrait in the newly-dedicated administration building.

Below: Architects 1965 rendering of the Administration Building



To honor the establishment of its 182nd chapter on the Armstrong Atlantic campus, the Sigma Sigma Sigma Foundation presented \$1,000 to the Lane Library. Tri Sigma Executive Council member Linda Manley-Kuiti presented a check for the Lane Library to President Jones and his wife, Joyce Jones (right), an alumna of Tri Sigma Sorority's Alpha Kappa chapter at Fairmont State College in West Virginia.



Workmen move part of the library's huge collection.

Lane Library relocates for renovation

What do you do with more than 200,000 books, 18,000 audiovisuals and 1,000 journals when the library building closes for a year? Answer: You find another building.

The move from the Lane Library began June 1 with the arrival of the work crews not far behind. Until summer 2006, the library will be temporarily housed in the recently completed site of the future Student Recreation Center on Library Drive.

The move was accomplished in several phases. Throughout the first week of June, the library's first floor—with its public computers, journal and reference collections, and reference services—remained open to the public while the entire second floor was moved to its temporary location. A week later the first floor moved to the recreation center and the library resumed services the third week of the month. All of this was accomplished without disruption of online library resources, including GALILEO and other databases and the electronic reserves.

Can there be any wonder then, that President Thomas Z. Jones awarded the library staff with the President's Citation for the marvelous resource they are to the entire campus? ❖

Collaboratives advance university and community

In his 2001 inaugural address, President Thomas Z. Jones said, “The intellectual talents of our faculty, staff, and students will be focused on collaborating with our partners (in education and business) in addressing the educational, research, and service needs of our region.”

The past several months have seen many rich examples of how the resources of Armstrong Atlantic, combined with those of community organizations, have emboldened a variety of initiatives that have been beneficial to students, the university, and the region. A few of those partnerships are described here.

Health care

In an effort to address workforce shortages in the health professions throughout the region, Armstrong Atlantic State University has, for many years, been forging strong and dynamic partnerships with area healthcare systems.

One of the driving forces propelling these healthcare collaborations has been grants from ICAPP (Intellectual Capital Partnership Program). ICAPP is an economic development initiative of the University System of Georgia (USG).

In 2002, with ICAPP support, AASU worked with Memorial Health University Medical Center and St. Joseph’s/Candler to sustain a fast-track program for nurses. Barry Eckert, dean of the College of Health Professions, said this was accomplished “without compromising academic integrity while still maintaining the required student/teacher ratio.”

At the same time, AASU worked with ICAPP and the Medical College of Georgia on a venture to increase the number of medical technologists statewide.

The College of Health Professions hosted a statewide healthcare workforce workshop in April to find answers to healthcare personnel shortages in Georgia.



In 2004, the fast-track nursing and medical technology programs were renewed while sonography and nuclear medicine were added. Memorial Health, St. Joseph’s/Candler, and Southeast Georgia Health System in Brunswick provided \$1.2 million in support of these programs.

At the time, President Jones said, “This collaboration showcases the value of synergizing public and private sector resources in the interest of offering health education that will meet the labor needs of health facilities in southeast Georgia.”

Eckert describes the agreement as the beginning of an exciting four-way partnership. “It brings together three major healthcare systems in Coastal Georgia with AASU’s College of Health Professions. These combined resources are having a significant impact on health care in the region by addressing workforce shortages.”

More recently, in April 2005 the College of Health Professions hosted a statewide healthcare workforce workshop. The overall goal of the effort was to develop a set of strategies for Georgia that will enable the state to address healthcare workforce needs for the next decade. In the coming months, AASU will join forces with area hospitals, government health care agencies, and leading research universities to form recommendations. Also participating are the Georgia Hospital Association, the University

System of Georgia central office, the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Department of Labor.

Public education

The many ways in which the College of Education works with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools are a veritable alphabet of acronyms: GTAPP. P-16. PRISM. TEFEL.

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

Non-traditional teachers are recruited each spring through GTAPP (Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program) for those holding non-education baccalaureate degrees. During the 2004-2005 academic year, the college had a 97 percent retention rate for GTAPP teachers—the highest in the state.

The P-16 Council for southeast Georgia brings university expertise into the classroom. P-16 refers to grades pre-kindergarten through the senior year in college. The program seeks to improve education through collaboration with the business community, establishing partnership schools, and applying the latest research methods to teaching. Currently, the program maintains a dozen partnerships with Savannah-Chatham County public schools.

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Collaboratives *(continued from page 3)*

PRISM (Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics), a \$5.8 million program funded by the National Science Foundation, is part of a larger \$34.6 million grant to the University System of Georgia. AASU and Coastal Georgia Community College are collaborating with the Chatham, Bryan, Camden, and Glynn county school districts on improving student achievement in science and mathematics. The program aims to ensure that students successfully complete challenging science and mathematics courses, developing an in-depth understanding of the major concepts presented in the courses.

One of the oldest science collaboratives at AASU is TEFEL (Teachers Environment and Free Enterprise Institute). Each summer, for the past 21 years, 25 teachers have spent a month slogging through the marshes and swamps of southeast Georgia learning about the science and economics of the state's paper industry. Underwritten by International Paper, more than 500 teachers and their 120,000 students have benefited from TEFEL.

Savannah Friends of Music

The Savannah Friends of Music (SFM) has entered the second year of its three-year financial commitment to the Armstrong Atlantic Youth Orchestra program sponsored by the Department of Art, Music & Theatre.



Members of the Armstrong Atlantic Youth Orchestra await the conductor's instructions.

The current annual commitment of \$17,000, signed by SFM President Lynne Davis, supports operation of the orchestra for the 2005-2006 season.

The youth orchestra, founded by music instructor Lorraine Jones, is a university educational outreach program serving student musicians ranging from primary grades through college level. The program features three performing ensembles that match students of various musical abilities with other students of similar levels of accomplishment. The most advanced group, the Armstrong Atlantic Youth Orchestra, is a full-scale symphonic orchestra in which AASU music students may play for course credit.

On the intermediate level, the Atlantic Chamber Orchestra is also a full symphonic orchestra, and is believed to be the only full orchestra at this level in Georgia.

The Lyric Strings Ensemble is a beginning level string orchestra that introduces many young musicians to the world of ensemble playing, particularly those students whose schools don't maintain an orchestra.

The Armstrong Atlantic Youth Orchestra program fulfills a substantial void in the cultural life of young Savannah musicians created by the dissolution of the Savannah Symphony Orchestra and its youth orchestra.

Savannah State University

Armstrong Atlantic and Savannah state universities are two of six institutions in three targeted areas of the state that received a University System of Georgia pilot grant in 2004 to help increase enrollment and retention of African-American



Chris Schuberth (right) leads a PRISM field trip to Graves Mountain to teach public school science educators a class on geology.

males at the state's 34 public colleges and universities. The grant required a collaborative approach between sister institutions in the designated regions and the participation of a civic partner that works with African-American males. This year, the universities partnered with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

One of the most visible results of this collaboration was an African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) conference in April. The two-day program, held on the campus of Savannah State, included various solution-oriented speakers who addressed successful models that have worked to bridge the gap and focus students on education.

Sessions were also targeted to 200 male elementary, middle, and high school students from Savannah-Chatham County public schools.

Engineering community

For the second year, AASU partnered with the engineering and manufacturing sectors of the community to host the Savannah Engineering Academy.

Forty area public high school students interested in engineering were given



the opportunity to spend a week working with engineers, doing hands-on engineering activities and touring engineering facilities.

During the five-day academy, professionals from major engineering disciplines, including civil, electrical, mechanical, manufacturing, environmental, and computer science conducted hands on activities related to their fields. The students also toured various engineering related locations such as Gulfstream Aerospace and JCB Construction Equipment.

"Last year's academy was a great success and we are very pleased to offer it again to the next generation of engineers" said Bill Lovett, chairman of the academy and chief operating officer for Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung Consulting Engineers.

Collaborators on the academy are Armstrong Atlantic, Coastal Business, Education & Technology Alliance, The Advanced Technology Development Center-Savannah, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Georgia Institute of Technology-Savannah, Gulfstream Aerospace, Coastal Empire Boy Scouts of America-Learning for Life, Savannah State University, Chatham County, The City of Savannah, Georgia Ports Authority, The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Savannah Technical College, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, Weyerhaeuser, Thomas & Hutton Engineering Company, Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, and JCB. Student transportation was provided by the Savannah College of Art and Design.

The Creative Coast

The Creative Coast is a not-for-profit, private/public partnership that helps

knowledge-based businesses (KBBs) successfully relocate or expand in Savannah. This year, the group worked with the School of Computing to stage Regional TechFest 2005, a gathering of more than 100 creative and technical local college students and 12 area knowledge-based businesses.

The brain-child of the Computer Science Department's Chris McCarthy, Tech Fest was an exciting opportunity for Savannah area students to strengthen relationships with knowledge-based businesses. Students from AASU, Georgia Southern University, Georgia Tech-Savannah, Savannah State University, and South University networked with project managers, owners, and CEOs from local KBBs.



A student demonstrates his dexterity behind the controls of a piece of JCB equipment.

The first half of TechFest spotlighted student projects, via computer software demos, motion graphic resumes, and working product displays. The second half featured KBB representatives providing five-minute overviews of their companies and job hunting tips.

"This was an invaluable networking opportunity for freshmen and seniors alike," said Chris Miller, executive director of The Creative Coast. "Local businesses [were able] to get their message out to local students and area

schools. These businesses need talent and Savannah has plenty of that."

InfraGard

The job of building an e-commerce web site never stops, as the web site and the technology constantly evolve. As e-commerce web sites are positioned on the net, and, as the technology used by these sites becomes obsolete, security risks also change. Currently, organizations are finding that they need to keep pace with the increasing risks of conducting business on the Internet.

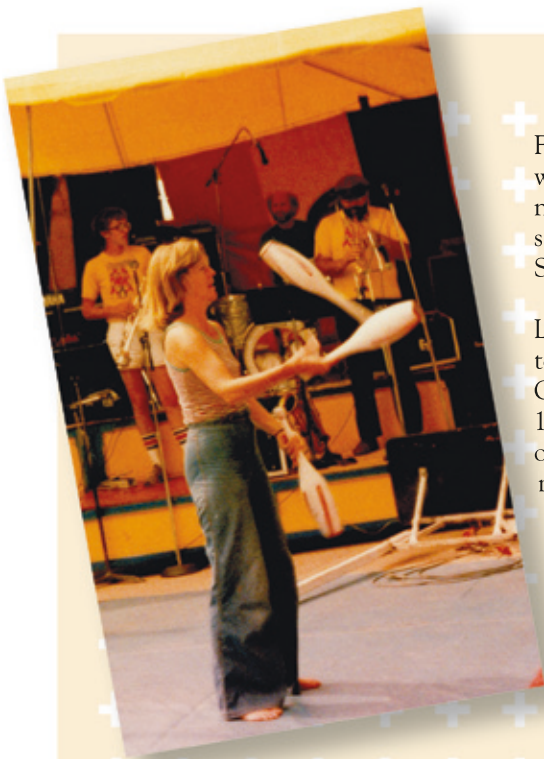
In an effort to address these and related topics, AASU joined with InfraGard Coastal Empire to host the seventh Science in Savannah

Symposium, "Securing E-Commerce: Applications, Technology, and Legal Issues."

Two concurrent sessions were offered with networking opportunities throughout the day. A wide range of topics related to the security of e-commerce web sites were covered. These included information sharing; content delivery and security; e-commerce and convergent media; Internet protocols; mobile commerce security, intrusion, and detection; security on open wireless network systems; and protocol

for involving law enforcement.

LTC Clifton H. Poole, professor of systems management at National Defense University, gave the keynote address on wireless security. Other remarks were made by Blake Ellis, president of Color Maria; Lisa Godbey Wood, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Georgia; Demery Bishop, CrimeStoppers, and interim president of InfraGard Coastal Empire; and Randy Grubb of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. ♦



Circus lady

Harrison Ford was a carpenter. Bob Hope started out as a boxer. But students in Domenica Devine's biology classes would scarcely guess her beginnings, among other things, as the "TAH DAH" lady in a circus.

Following high school, this native Californian ran a tailor shop with her sister. Starting her studies at Golden West College, Devine parlayed her tailoring skills into a work-study stint sewing in the costume shop of the school's drama department. She also sewed costumes at Knotts Berry Farm, a theme park near Los Angeles.

Pictured above: Domenica Devine practices her juggling skills.

From there, she quit college and went to work for Transworld International, producers of the television series *Battle of the Network Stars*.

Later, at the South Coast Repertory Theater in Orange County, CA, she made costumes for about 150 shows including the *Merchant of Venice* and *Amadeus*. After moving to San Francisco, she ran into an old high school friend, a jazz pianist for the Pickle Family Circus, a one-ring affair plying the West Coast. "I love jazz," Devine said, "so I would go to see the show and then started to follow them around the San Francisco area."

Then came the fateful day that many have dreamed of, but so few have actually seized. An opening for a stage manager occurred and Devine ran off to join the circus.

She remembers, "I went to see the head clown—he really was a clown—and he hired me. Because it was so small (25 people and no animals), everybody had to do everything." Devine road managed, worked as a roustabout, sewed costumes, and performed as a "web sitter." A web sitter, she explained, is the person who holds the rope for the trapeze artists as they climb to their precarious perch high above the ring. "I was the TAH DAH girl," she said as she made a grand flourish, arm extended toward an imaginary rope as though pointing to the trapeze artists.

Devine traveled with the circus for four years. "You're on the road, you're with the others, so what are you going to do?" She used her time learning to juggle and walk the tightrope, although she never performed in public. She was

primarily the stage manager, but does admit to hamming it up a bit in a gorilla suit.



She left the circus after a weld broke on a trampoline, crushing her hand. She could still sew though, and she went to work for a haute couture designer sewing beaded gowns and dresses for the opera.

Returning to college at California State-Long Beach, Devine took biochemistry in pursuit of a career in landscape architecture. When she took her first plant biology course, she "went bonkers" for it. "Wow, I needed to know more," she recalls with enthusiasm and changed her major to biology. With her bachelor's in hand, she entered the UCLA Ph.D. program in microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics. Due to an illness, she had to drop out of the program, but not before completing her master's.

Asked if she missed the roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd*, she talks about all she learned under the big top. She lists qualities such as human nature, acceptance, and diversity "where everyone brings something to the table."

"I learned a lot about myself and what kind of person I am. I learned that I was capable of doing anything and that is a very empowering feeling." ♦

*Thanks to the late Anthony Newley.

April at Armstrong Atlantic

ArmstrongFest

The third annual ArmstrongFest built on the successes of previous years and even appended a few new events to its weeklong calendar of fun and excitement. In addition to the alumni, art, theatre, academic, athletic, and musical events of previous years, the 2005 homecoming included a 70th birthday party for the university and a Solo II Autocross competition. The stars came out to shine during the week. International Night featured Jorge Moreno, winner of the best new artist award at the 2003 Latin Grammy Awards. The Cast of the Dave Chappelle Show Comedy Tour brought an evening of hilarious stand up and sketch comedy.



Vernice Rackett, 3 Days coordinator Gail Rountree, and Jerry Barton show off a check at the victory celebration as pledges were still coming in.

3 Days for AASU

AASU held a victory celebration to announce the results of its "3 Days for AASU" community campaign. Volunteers from the university and the community attained more than 182 corporate and business investments, totaling \$154,000. The funds will support existing student scholarships and the university's leadership initiatives. Campaign volunteers worked under the leadership of Chairman Jerry Barton, president of Sea Island Bank, and Co-Chairman Vernice Rackett, director of membership, Savannah Quarters Country Club.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia met in regular session for two days in the new meeting suite of the Armstrong Center. The regents leave Atlanta periodically to meet on the campuses of the 34 institutions in the system. During their Savannah sojourn they had the opportunity to tour the campus and Ossabaw Island, and relax at a Ford's Plantation reception.



The university hosted a week-long event, Savannah Reads Gaines, focusing on fiction writer Ernest J. Gaines and his book, *A Lesson Before Dying*. There were college and community discussion groups, a special collections exhibit, the showing of the 1999 film adaptation, and a stage production of the book. Highlighting the week were personal appearances by the author in the AASU Fine Arts Auditorium and at Savannah High School.



President Thomas Z. Jones (center) and Vice President Joseph Buck (right) join students in cutting the AASU 70th anniversary cake.



The Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon was a colorful fiesta with dancers, piñatas, and South of the Border cooking.

....and in May

Former U.S. Senator and Governor Zell Miller received wave after wave of enthusiastic applause during the inaugural AASU Leadership Lecture in the Fine Arts Auditorium.



The AASU Foundation and the Colonel Charles L. and Mary G. Collins ROTC Leadership Fund presented his speech.



A May graduate exudes the relief and joy of the 494 students who were graduated in Armstrong Atlantic's 108th graduation. In all, 999 students were graduated during the 2004-2005 academic year.



Profile in Leadership

Melody Ortiz

After receiving her undergraduate degree, Ortiz worked for Savannah State University as a minority recruiter, but switched to a recruiting position at her *alma mater*.

Her recruiting trips took her through much of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. “I saw a lot of Latino faces while I was out,” she says. “These students were saying they had money problems that kept them from going to school.”

Calling on her own experience as an Armstrong Atlantic student, she recalls, “There were perhaps three or four of us (from Latin America) and nothing was going on for Latino students.”

These two issues—lack of money and support on the college campus—concerned Ortiz. On a visit to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, she saw how federal funds in the migrant education program were being used to address these two problems. The first spark of HOLA (Hispanic Outreach & Leadership at Armstrong) had been ignited.

In 2003, she took action. Internet research led her to The Goizueta Foundation, established by the late Roberto C. Goizueta, chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of The Coca-Cola Company. Over the next five months, with the blessings of the top administration of the university, she worked with Dabney Townsend and Letty Shearer, both experienced grant writers in External Affairs, to develop a successful proposal for the foundation.

In May 2003, Goizueta began funding annual scholarships for five Hispanic students and underwriting the cost of

maintaining HOLA’s recruiting and support functions. Ortiz was hired to coordinate the program. Last year, the AASU Foundation funded an additional five student scholarships.

As it has matured under Ortiz’s leadership, HOLA became a community resource dispensing advice to organizations on how to market their services to the Hispanic community. She has done translations for the City of Savannah, insurance agencies, Realtors, and various non-profit groups. Many of her students have volunteered and found part-time work as translators. “I never expected HOLA to be a community outreach program, but that has become an important third pillar of the program (after scholarships and support).”

Two years later, Ortiz’s dream has grown with 209 Hispanic students now attending Armstrong Atlantic — a 41% increase in three years! “Retention has been great,” Ortiz beams.

Ortiz now has several goals for the program’s future. One is to start a summer program for eighth, tenth, and eleventh graders preparing them to take the SAT and the Georgia Graduation Test.

“Our students have worked hard to help improve the university and attract more Latino students,” Ortiz said. “One of the goals of the university is to develop leadership in the community and the Hispanic community needs leadership, too.”

Ortiz says leadership development would be an important step toward avoiding the problems that have plagued cities like Chicago and Los Angeles. “Post-secondary education and preparedness is the only way out for most Latinos,” she said. ♦

In *The Sound of Music*, the nuns of the abbey sing, “How do you solve a problem like Maria?” The priests who ran the private Catholic high school in Merida, Venezuela, might have sung a similar tune about the 17-year-old Christine Melody Rodriguez.

Rodriguez—now known by her married name, Ortiz—was voted the first female president of the high school, and the faculty wasn’t quite sure what to make of it. In a Latin culture, such an achievement was unusual at the time. “It was a struggle defending the fact women could take a leadership role,” Ortiz remembers.

The fact that her mother is an American born in Venezuela helps account for Ortiz’ unaccented English. Her father, a former Venezuelan broadcast entrepreneur, contributed to her own sense of entrepreneurship. At eight she was acting in films and radio commercials. At 15, she produced a radio program called Life.

In her junior year of high school, Ortiz moved to Lake Placid, FL. Following graduation she attended South Florida Community College. At the suggestion of a friend, she looked into Armstrong Atlantic and, in her junior year, transferred to AASU with a double major in Spanish and political science, and a minor in international studies. Later, she earned an undergraduate certificate in Latin American Studies and was one of the first to complete the master’s program in adult education.

ALUMINARIES

A family affair

What is the recipe for success? Take three Armstrong State College grads—all family members with different majors—add seasoning, blend, and what do you have? Chef Nick Mueller & Company.

Mueller '93, graduated with a bachelor's degree in general studies. How did he make the transition? "I cooked all my life," he explains. "I had my first restaurant job in 1982."

His mother, Suzanne Aiken '69, an English major, has a different perspective. She wryly remembers, "He started cooking when he was two, making awful awful stuff and leaving a terrible mess behind."

But cooking wasn't Mueller's first career choice. At first he thought about music. Then, while working as a program coordinator with Al Harris, director of student activities, he considered getting his master's in counseling. Mueller holds great respect for Harris and says, "If I had not been a chef, I would have ended up with a job like his."

While serving on the College Union Board, Mueller met his future wife, Tracy Barrenbrugge '93, a nursing major.

After graduation, Mueller committed himself to cooking and, in 1995, he completed an associate's degree in occupational studies in the culinary arts at the New England Culinary Institute. Meanwhile, Tracy had completed the high-risk perinatal pediatric residency at Memorial Medical Center and was working in the high-risk maternity ward. The two were married in June 1995.

The newlyweds rarely saw each other. Tracy was working the hospital night shift and Nick was cooking 80 hours

a week at the First City Club. Tracy says, "We thought about what we could do together." The solution was to launch their own catering business.

They started a legally operated home-based business out of the garage of their new home on Wilmington Island. After a year and a half, Tracy quit her job to work full time with Nick in the family business.



Tracy and Nick Mueller and Suzanne Aiken in their Effingham kitchen.

In 2003, the couple bought an historic farmhouse in Effingham County. The Kessler family—descendants of Salzburgers who settled in Georgia in the 1730s—built the main house in 1887. A portion of the house was added in 1926. Today, the Muellers buy many of the organic vegetables they use in the business from the Kesslers who still live on surrounding farms.

The Muellers began renovating the home and, in 2004, built an adjacent building—designed to resemble an old barn—to house their commercial

kitchen. The couple operates a full service business, catering everything from cocktail parties to weddings. They have done galas for 500 people and conducted cooking classes for two couples. They have taught classes to a group of 100 at The Landings, to Elderhostel travelers, and to busloads of eager cooking buffs descending on their compound from around the state. In September, they will cater the dedication of Burnett Hall (see story on page 2).

The couple has been very active in supporting community causes. They've donated their services to help raise money for Second Harvest Food Bank, March of Dimes, Oatland Island, Savannah Friends of Music, and the Chocoholic Frolic for breast cancer. Nick serves on the board of Senior Citizens, Inc.

In May 2004 Nick's mom, Suzanne, left her job, after 24 years as a patient relations coordinator at Candler Hospital, to join the family business. "It felt like it was the right thing to do," she said. A handmade sign over the huge sinks in the kitchen reads, "Suzanne's new office."

Theirs' is a bustling business. Tracy recalls the time they did three weddings in one day. They controlled the mayhem by color coding each event with a different hue of Post-It note.

While they offer a variety of set menus, ninety to ninety-five percent are customized. A memorable Renaissance wedding featured lots of turkey legs, squash soup served in pumpkin shells, and rustic bread. In keeping with the theme, the hostess insisted that the dinner plates not be changed between courses.

From soup to nuts, Nick Mueller & Company is truly a family affair. ♦

Sharing a *Love* of Learning

Pay a visit to Lane Library and you may be lucky enough to meet Barbara Greener. Barbara is a spunky lady with short white hair who can answer almost any question you have about anything at the library. She is truly an amazing lady—an accomplished academic and respected professional. Most of all, she is a genuinely gracious, caring, and generous lady who constantly seeks ways to share her gifts and talents with others.

Barbara and her husband Bob retired to Savannah 16 years ago. Barbara had been a librarian at Queens College in Flushing, NY. She was an associate professor and the head of the music library. At the time she started in her position, the music library was a single room in the student cafeteria building. Through her efforts when she retired, the library was a suite of rooms in a music building and held a collection of more than 50,000 books and scores, 13,000 recordings, and an inventory of over 65,000 pieces of performance music. Among the students she assisted during her tenure at Queens were composer and conductor Marvin Hamlisch and JoAnn Falletta, now conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic.

One characteristic that most librarians possess is perseverance. Once a librarian starts looking for something, he or she will never give up until it's found. Barbara is no exception. She was undeterred even by Cold War politics. When her library needed some books and scores by Soviet authors and composers, she researched which universities in the Soviet Union had extensive music collections, found one, and established a book exchange. Barbara knows how to get things done.



Barbara brought this enthusiasm and determination to Armstrong State College in 1992. She is a true scholar with an insatiable curiosity and love of learning. She is definitely not inclined to the quiet lifestyle of a retiree. While taking an Elderhostel course with her husband at the Lane Library, the campus and library immediately caught her imagination. Bob recalls seeing the look on Barbara's face after she wandered around the building. "I think you've found a home," he told her. The campus, the landscaping, the size of the student body, and the overall ambience at Armstrong Atlantic reminded her of Queens College in 1950.

Barbara knew she had to be a part of the library. Using her librarian's tenacity, she contacted Ben Lee, the director of the library, and asked if he needed a volunteer. After seeing her resume, he jumped at the opportunity to put her skills to work. That was over 13 years ago. Her contributions during those years have been stunning. She has worked on a number of projects, including gifts and exchanges, and has played a vital role in developing the collection, particularly in the area of music.

Doug Frazier, head of technical services, is one of the many library staffers who has had the pleasure to work with Barbara. "She has often shared her insights on a broad range of library issues, and her general good humor and wit brighten the day for all of us," he commented.

In addition to volunteering her professional service to the library, Barbara has made another generous contribution to the university. Together with Bob, a decision was made to make a significant planned gift to Armstrong Atlantic. This gift of \$300,000 will fund scholarships in music and, of course, a scholarship for a student interested in pursuing graduate work in the field of library science.

Barbara notes that she was a recipient of scholarship assistance and remembers how meaningful that help was to her. Now, she in turn, is making that help available to others. Barbara has assisted countless students in the library. She enjoys their enthusiasm and the "pleasant and well-mannered fashion" in which they approach their scholastic challenges. The Greeners' generous gift ensures that Barbara will continue to help the students she admires for years to come. ♦



If you have made a planned gift to the university, please let us know so that we may recognize you and include you in future events honoring members of the Heritage Society, AASU's planned giving society. Contact Elizabeth Sams at 912. 921.2379 or at samseliz@mail.armstrong.edu for additional information.

Nine community leaders join the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation Board of Trustees



Bill Cathcart is the vice president and general manager of WTOG-TV in Savannah. He is an active member of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, including serving on the CEO Council and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Task Force that provided community support for area military installations. He also is a member of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Board of Trustees, the USO-Savannah Board, Rotary Club of Savannah, and other community organizations. Cathcart earned a master's and Ph.D. in broadcast communications from Ohio State University.



Matt Gignilliat is the director of economic development and regulatory affairs for Savannah Electric. His other work experience includes managing part of Georgia-Pacific's recycled paper mill in Effingham County and seven years with Union Carbide Corporation in manufacturing and engineering. Gignilliat earned an industrial engineering degree from Georgia Tech. He participates on the boards of Savannah Technical College, United Way of the Coastal Empire, and the Excellence Fund for Public Education.



John C. Howard, Jr., D.D.S., a native of Savannah, has practiced private dentistry locally since 1974. He earned an undergraduate degree in biology and his D.D.S. from Emory University. He has received numerous awards and honors from the American Dental Association and Georgia Dental Association. Additionally, Howard has served as treasurer of the French Society, chairman of the board for St. Andrews School, and Commodore of the Savannah Yacht Club.



Karen Panzitta, M.D. is a radiologist with Radiology Associates of Savannah. She practices primarily at Memorial Health where she is an associate professor with Mercer University School of Medicine and is actively involved in radiology resident instruction. Panzitta graduated from Armstrong State College summa cum laude with a major in biology. She was graduated from the Medical College of Georgia.



Paul Pressly is education coordinator for the Ossabaw Island Foundation in Savannah. The past-president of Savannah Country Day School, he has served on the boards of the University of Georgia Press Advisory Council, Georgia Historical Society, Telfair Museum of Art, Davenport House, Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, and the Cum Laude Society. Pressly earned a bachelor's in history from Princeton University, a master's of public administration from Harvard University, and doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University.



Vernice B. Rackett is membership director for the Savannah Quarters Country Club. She was previously membership director for the First City Club in Savannah. Rackett served earlier on the boards of the United Way of the Coastal Empire, Telfair Museum of Art, Historic Savannah Foundation, and Memorial Health's Backus Children's Hospital Board. She is a graduate of Leadership Savannah and served on the corporate committee for the 2005 Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament. She earned her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



William S. Ray, Jr., D.D.S., has practiced private dentistry in Savannah since 1965. He attended the L.D. Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education in Miami. He has been awarded fellowships in the academy of general dentistry, The Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Georgia Dental Association, the American College of Dentists, and the International College of Dentists. Ray attended Armstrong College and completed his pre-dental education at the University of Georgia. He graduated from Emory University's School of Dentistry, and later served in the U.S. Dental Corps in Charleston.



Bert Tenenbaum is president of Chatham Steel Corporation in Savannah. He has served on the boards of the Savannah Community Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Savannah Country Day School, and the North American Steel Alliance. He earned a bachelor's in psychology from Emory University.



Linda Zoller is an active volunteer in the Savannah community. She currently serves on the boards of Historic Savannah, Savannah-Chatham County Youth Futures Authority, Savannah Country Day School, and the Savannah Jewish Federation. She has served as president of the Junior League of Savannah, Ronald McDonald House of the Coastal Empire, Savannah/Chatham Commission on Children and Youth, and the Savannah Foundation. She also has served actively with the United Way and Second Harvest Food Bank. Zoller was a member of the 1988-1990 class of Leadership Savannah and the 1993 class of Leadership Georgia.



CLASS NOTES

'30s

Herbert Traub '37 received the Rotary Club's National Award for commitment to service from Rotary International President Glenn E. Estree, Sr. The award goes to Rotarians with 25 or more years of service, and "a record of unwavering support for the club and the ideals of Rotary."

'60s

Mayor Otis S. Johnson '64 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award presented by AASU's Alumni Association. (See story on page 15.)

J. Cliff McCurry '68 was this year's recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Service Award presented by AASU's Alumni Association. (See story on page 15.)

Georgia Thigpen Edwards '69, '78, '88 was recognized in March 2005 as Teacher of the Year for Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. She has taught in the school system for 34 years, and currently works as a facilitator with the SEARCH program for gifted students at Windsor Forest Elementary.

'70s

Karen E. Martin '70 works for United Community Bank as a mortgage loan originator.

Thomas Swinford '72 is in his thirty-first year as a high school counselor, while his wife, **Kathleen Huskisson Swinford '74** is an International Baccalaureate English teacher at Groves High School. They have two children: Meredith, who earned a master's in social work from the University of Georgia, and Scott, who is a freshman at AASU pursuing a degree in biology.

Ted Sharpe '74 is the director of human resources at Fort Gordon. He and his wife, **Susan Schwabe Sharpe '84**, are planning to return to Savannah when he retires in two years.

Stephen J. Smith '75, '86 is the new director of security for Memorial Health University Medical Center. He reports that Memorial Health plans to hire five sworn, certified police officers, as well as maintain more than 30 security personnel similar to positions on the AASU campus.

Patricia Singleton Reese '78 was reappointed to the board of directors of the Propeller Club of Savannah.

Frederick W. Worrill '79 and his wife Connie, reside in Crawfordville, FL with their two sons, Chase and Cody. Fred is a senior consultant with Keane Federal Systems and is assigned to an Oracle project with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee. Connie is a kindergarten teacher with the Wakulla County public school system.

'80s

Janice Waters Stanford '87, '05, was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She is employed as a programmer/analyst in computer information systems applications development at AASU and completed her master's in computer science in May 2005.

Sandra L. Riffin '88 has been notified that her book, *Forbidden Memories: A Journey of Healing*, has been nominated for the Georgia Author of the Year Award in the creative non-fiction memoir category.

'90s

Crystal Taylor Cooper '90 was promoted to chief of the Savannah Probation Office. She had been serving as assistant chief for the past five years.

David W. Metzger '98 and his wife **Laura Metzger '95** have recently relocated to Ackworth, GA where he has been promoted with Medtronic, Inc. as technical training manager for the southeastern United States.

Renee Yvette Mack '99 completed her master's in reading and literacy from Walden University in 2003 and is currently working on an Ed.D. in teacher leadership.

Patricia Scott-Durant '99 attends Norfolk State University in Virginia where she is pursuing a master's degree in special disabilities. She was recently nominated as an All-American Collegiate Scholar for achieving academic excellence in her discipline. Her name will appear in the nationally published yearbook for 2005.

'00s

Radha Narayanan '00, a graduate of AASU's Honors Program, graduated from the doctoral program in the Laser Dynamics Laboratory, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, at Georgia Institute of Technology in May 2005. Her research focuses on the size, shape, and surface characteristics of platinum nano-particles. She has been published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, Journal of Physical Chemistry, and Nano Letters,

Martha D. Stratton '00 has been awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. She distinguished herself by improving standards of care, and by serving as a role model, inspiring those around her to also aspire to higher standards. Stratton is the executive director of surgical services for the WellStar Health System in Marietta, GA.

Merilee Brigdon Cox '01, '04 is teaching the fourth grade in the Liberty County public schools.

Lester (Trey) Drawdy '03 was graduated from Troy State University in July 2004 with a master's in education and a minor in criminal justice. He is now a fulltime faculty member at Appalachian Technical College in Woodstock, GA.

Janelle Elias '03 is finishing up her master's in adult education and distance learning at the University of Phoenix. She is also working at the university as an instructional designer and curriculum development manager.

Elizabeth R. Gardner '03 became a grandmother for the first time in 2004. She visited her daughter in London, England over Thanksgiving to see her new grandchild, and plans another trip soon for the birth of a second grandchild.

Shelina Gwaduri '03 is working on her master's in international studies at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA, with plans to begin work on her Ph.D. in spring 2006.

Elmore Patterson '03 was featured recently in *Ebony Magazine's* "30 Leaders of the Future." Patterson distinguished himself in the healthcare administration field when he organized a volunteer speakers bureau that featured African-American speakers on healthcare issues. Because of this, he was noticed and hired by the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System where he is currently an acting department chief.

Agatha Terwilliger '03 is employed at East Georgia College in Swainsboro as an accounting clerk in the business office.

Jarrett E. Walsh '03, after receiving bachelor's degrees in both mathematics and chemistry at AASU, is now enrolled at the University of South Carolina at Charleston pursuing a doctorate of medicine.

David Roush '04, a sergeant in the U.S. Army First Ranger Battalion, joined the staff of South University earlier this year.

Rachelle Shelly Hudson '05 was recently promoted to director at the Center for Healthy Living. She has been employed with the organization since 1998 as an exercise physiologist for the cardiac rehabilitation center.

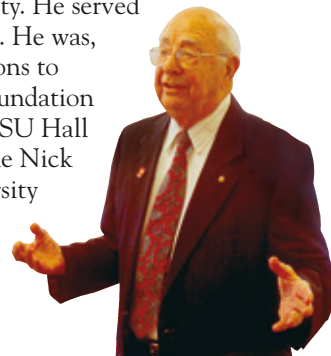
engagements

Daniel Floyd Smith '97 to wed **Lindsay Michelle Whitfield '97**, September 24, 2005

David C. Koncul '03 to wed **Lauren Jacqueline Sweeney**, November 2005

University booster, Mamalakis, dies

Nick Mamalakis, a prominent insurance executive, civic leader, and AASU booster died June 15. He was 91. Mamalakis had been a strong supporter of Armstrong Atlantic for many years. In the late 60s he was a founding member of the Big "A" Club in athletics. The alumni association named him Armstrong Citizen of the Year in 1985 for his service to the college and the community. He served as a trustee of the foundation board from 1993 to 1996. He was, again, recognized in 1999 for his significant contributions to and support of the athletic program and alumni and foundation development. This time, he was inducted into the AASU Hall of Fame. In 1997 he and his wife, Anna, established the Nick and Anna Mamalakis Scholarship. In 2003, the university received a generous donation from a Mamalakis protégé, J. Cliff McCurry, to expand the Emerging Leaders Program for freshmen and first-time students. The program was renamed in honor of Mamalakis.



marriages

Les Carter '69 married **Beth Mowry**, July 24, 2004

Kimberly Ann Burgstiner '93 married **Paul Carl Zellner**, November 6, 2004

Todd Michael Wirth '97 married **Allison Leigh Dostal**, March 5, 2005.

William G. Johnson '98 married **Robin Craft**, May 14, 2005.

Jonathan W. Hendrix '99 married **Kara Bassett**, February 26, 2005

Cynthia Marie Billac '00 married **F. Scott Arnsdorff**, June 18, 2005

Monica M. Walker '00 married **Howard Leon Brodie**, July 16, 2005

Bradley Reid Thompson '01 married **Jessica Leigh Young**, June 18, 2005

Ashley Patrice Robinson '04 married **Matthew Tuttle '03**, April 30, 2005

Jessica Shaun Tuten '04 married **Jarrett E. Walsh '03**, July 23, 2005

Jodi Pauline Willis '04 married **Donald Alan Clark**, May 7, 2005

Amanda Christine Brady '05 married **Jeffrey James Beversdorf, Jr.**, May 28, 2005.

additions

Tracie Wilson '00 and her husband **Gary: Dawson Marie**, born January 10, 2005.

Merilee Brigdon Cox '01,'04 and her husband **Steven: Aiden Barkley**, August 25, 2004.

Michael Kevin Heyman '04 and his wife **Michelle: Avi**, April 1, 2005

milestones

Walter J. Lowe '41 and **Lillian Heyman Lowe '45** celebrated their sixtieth anniversary March 11, 2005.

Robert T. Henderson '49 and his wife **Bobbie** celebrated their fiftieth anniversary December 18, 2004.

Peter and Jessica Harris '79 celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary June 18, 2005.

Dana Lynn Franklin '97 and his wife **Tiffany** celebrated their first wedding anniversary July 3, 2005.

Shane T. Sanders '03 and his wife **Amanda** celebrated their second wedding anniversary April 3, 2004.

passings

Jean Laird Paynter '39, November 22, 2004

Ruth Cargill Wood '41, April 1, 2003

Rosanne Dismukes Gardner Tindor '42, May 10, 2005

James Edward "Mac" McGowan, Sr. '59, April 30, 2005

Fred A.D. Sullivan '67, May 6, 2005

Mary B. Brown '72, May 20, 2005

Leonard Morgan "Bob" Barnes '73, February 2, 2005

Dale W. Ellis '76, January 7, 2005

Patrick A. Fogarty '95, February 9, 2005

Officers elected to alumni board

Four members of the alumni board have been elected to serve as officers.

H. Mark Worsham, esq '77, house counsel for Progressive Insurance Company, was elected president of the alumni board. He graduated from Armstrong State College with a degree in political science.



Dodie Gay '83, a consultant with Enviro Assets, LLC, will serve as president elect. She graduated from Armstrong State College with a degree in criminal justice.



Spencer Hoynes '70, retired assistant commissioner of labor for the Georgia Department of Labor, is the new board vice president. He graduated from Armstrong State College with a degree in business administration management and marketing.



Kevin Fitzmaurice '02, coordinator of lighting services for Savannah Electric and Power Company, was elected treasurer and recording secretary. He graduated from Armstrong Atlantic with a degree in computer science.



The greatest generation

Three Armstrong College graduates, all World War II veterans, review an exhibit of Armstrong war era memorabilia prepared by Caroline Hopkinson of the Lane Library, and Janet Stone, associate professor of history. The alumni are (from left to right) Jack L. Kiley '48, John L. Anchors '48, and Y. Allen Beall '48.

2005 CLUB DEBUTS

With May graduation only a few days away, a group of ten enthusiastic members of the Class of 2005 greeted the professors they chose to honor for lunch at the Compass Point student residence community. The luncheon was an enjoyable interlude for everyone after final exams; an opportunity for students and professors to enjoy fellowship outside of the classroom. More importantly, this group was starting a new tradition at Armstrong Atlantic: the 2005 Club.

The members of the 2005 club signified, by their enrollment, that they plan to become a part of the university's legacy. During the luncheon, President Thomas Z. Jones spoke on the value of maintaining a relationship with one's alma mater. The 2005 club members were encouraged to consider future leadership opportunities with the alumni association.

Brian Dawsey, a new club member, said, "When I heard about the 2005 Club, and how it is devoted to enhancing its relationship with new alums, I immediately knew I wanted to become involved and also give back to the university that has given me so much. Becoming part of this club gives me the opportunity to share with prospective graduates the importance and benefits of staying connected with the university even after graduating."

The 2005 Club members will have their names permanently displayed at Compass Point and enjoyed special recognition in the commencement program at graduation. The December '05 graduates will also receive invitations to join the 2005 Club. New clubs will be formed with each graduating class. For more information, contact Tracy Guilford at 912.921.7487 or Gail Rountree at 912.927.5208.

AASU Alumni Awards presented to Otis Johnson and Cliff McCurry

The Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) Alumni Association presented its annual alumni awards to Mayor **Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D.** and **J. Cliff McCurry**.



Johnson received the Distinguished Alumnus Award that recognizes a graduate who has achieved distinction through community involvement and professional expertise. He was the first African American to graduate from Armstrong State College in 1964 and became the first African American Savannahian to earn an undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia.

Johnson's professional career has always been focused on improving conditions for people in Savannah-Chatham County. He taught at Savannah State University, was elected to the Savannah City Council in 1982, and reelected in 1986. In 1988 he became executive director of the Youth Futures Authority. In 1998 he returned to Savannah State as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and was elected to the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education. He was elected Savannah's mayor in November 2003.



McCurry was presented with the Outstanding Alumnus Service Award that recognizes a former student who has made significant contributions to the growth and development of the university through dedication and support of the institution and the alumni association.

He served on the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees from 1995 to 1998, serving as president during his last year. In 2004, the current board asked him to return to service. McCurry has consistently supported the university's leadership initiative, most recently by expanding AASU's Emerging Leader Program in honor of his life-long mentor, the late Nick Mamalakis. The program now bears Mamalakis' name.

McCurry, chairman of Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs of Savannah, began his career with the Mercer Insurance Agency in 1970 and has remained with the company, through numerous mergers, for 35 years.

He is a past chairman of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), and the Candler Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the boards of SEDA, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and St. Joseph's/Candler.

Four faculty members recognized

This spring, four distinguished faculty members were recognized for their outstanding service to the university, the community, their disciplines, and to student life.

Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Discipline

Chris Baker, professor of English, has been a member of the Armstrong Atlantic faculty since 1994. He regularly makes presentations and often serves as session chair at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and similar events. He is the editor of *Absolutism and Scientific Revolution 1600-1720: A Biographical Dictionary*, published by Greenwood Press.



Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Community

Tom Cato, head of the Department of Art, Music & Theatre, has been a member of the Armstrong Atlantic faculty since 1993. He has served actively on the Education Advisory Committee for the Telfair Museum and as the Georgia delegate to the National Art Education Association. Cato has recently completed a multi-year term as president-elect and then president of the Georgia Art Education Association.



Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the University

Joyce Williams Bergin, professor of special education, has been a member of the AASU faculty since 1992. She has served on over 45 committees at the college and university levels, most recently as vice chair of the Faculty Executive Committee and a member of the university's steering committee for SACS accreditation. Four years ago, she developed the bachelor of science in cross-categorical special education.



H. Dean Propst Award

Tim McMillan, associate professor of mathematics, has been a full-time member of the Armstrong Atlantic faculty since the fall of 1990. He has been an active member of the Mathematics Association of America (MAA) since 1989 and currently serves as the departmental liaison with the Southeastern Section of the MAA. Members of the Student Government Association (SGA) have singled out McMillan's achievements as a tutor and as the math honors advisor.





Angela Everett named Staff Member of the Year

Each year, AASU faculty and staff are encouraged to nominate individuals for the Staff Member of the Year award. The award recognizes hourly, full-time

staff members for their valuable contributions to the university. This year's award went to Angela Everett, administrative assistant in the registrar's office.

Everett is known for her professionalism, integrity, and dedication to her job and the university. An important contact for students, she works with department heads in the creation of course schedules each semester and processes all schedule additions, cancellations, and revisions using the university's registration software. She also serves as a liaison with the faculty for verification of student attendance and submission of grades.

Nominators had a lot of good things to say about Everett. "Quietly, modestly, and without fanfare, she plays an important part in the operation of the university," said one. Another marveled, "Her ability to maintain her composure amidst the stress of working with many individuals across the campus is truly incomparable." Perhaps indicative of her importance to the campus, one nominator wrote, "I have her number on speed dial." ♦

Community leadership series to launch in September

AASU's Office of External Affairs will offer a yearlong Community Leadership & Engagement Series beginning in September. According to Robert DiBella, director of professional and continuing education, "The program has been created to address the dual goals of increasing civic responsibility, volunteerism, and philanthropy, and increasing participation rates in civic, non-profit, and governmental organizations."

Through a series of half-day workshops, held once a month for a year, participants in the program will have the opportunity to identify specific community leadership issues, gain understanding, seek solutions to problems, and then transform their knowledge into action and engagement in the community. The series will utilize workshop leaders from Savannah and around the country who are skilled in working with community leadership programs.

The 12 workshops in the series will address a wide range of topics including "A Community Approach to Leadership Development," "Leadership Roles in the Community," "Volunteer Organizations," and "Community Respect: Cross Cultural Communications Training." Other workshops will focus on "Community Decision Making and Problem Solving," "Leadership Frameworks: Practical Tools for Leaders and Facilitators," "Values in Community Leadership," and "Moving from Information to Community Action."

For additional information contact the Department of Professional & Continuing Education at 912.927.5215 or through e-mail at conted@mail.armstrong.edu.

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