

Compass

Winter 2006

Armstrong State University

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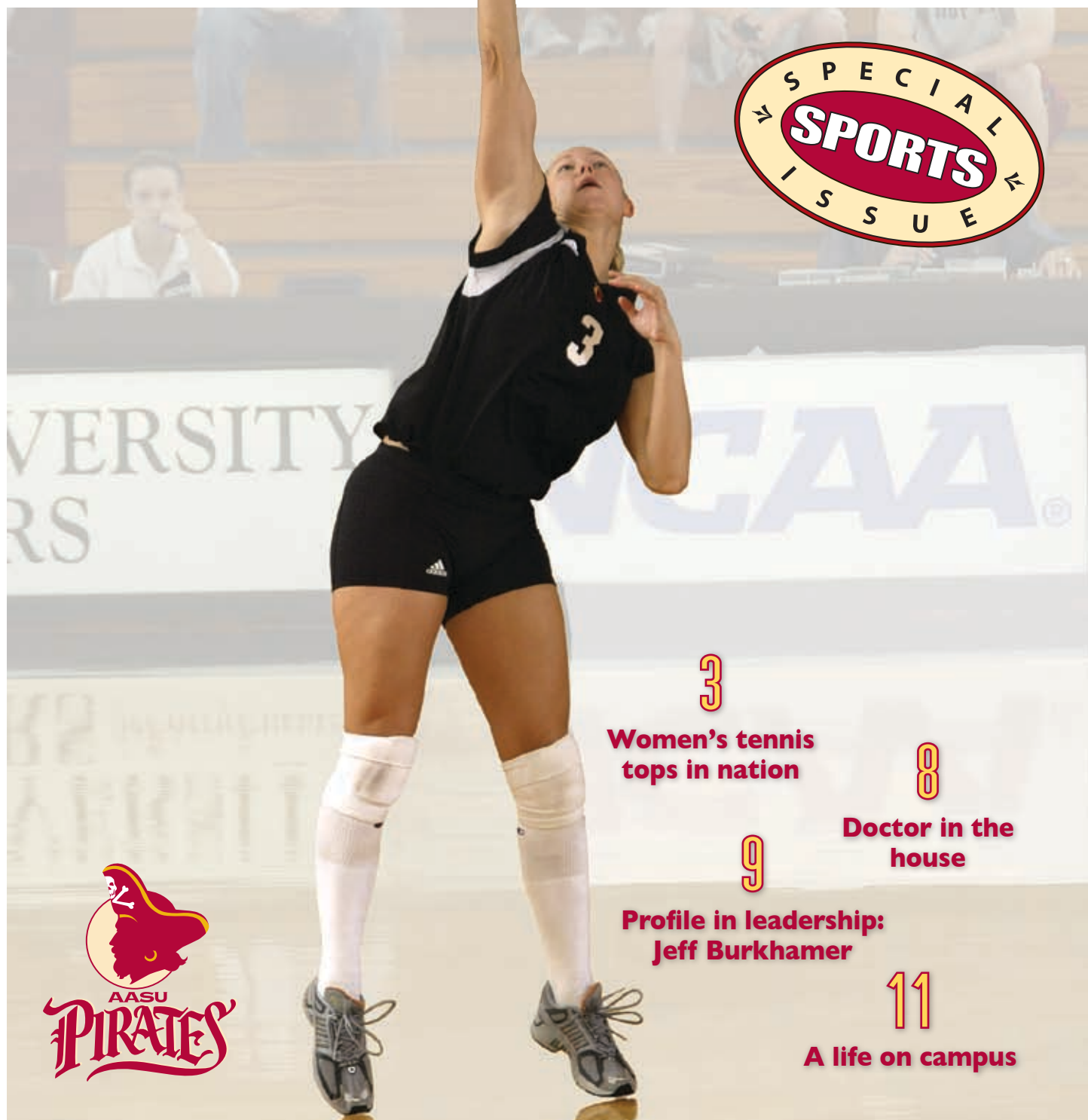
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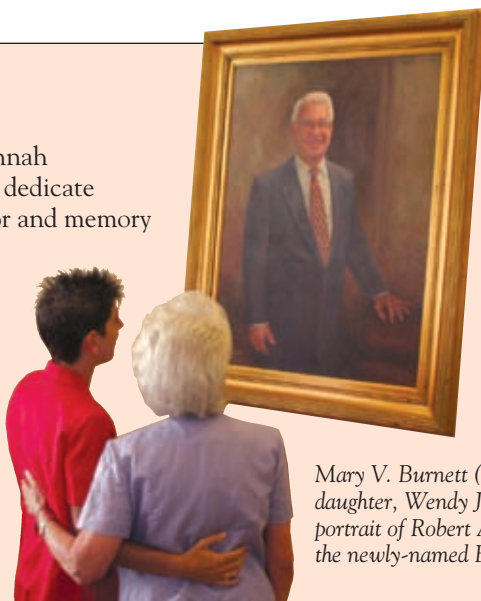


A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

President Burnett honored

Hundreds of members of the Armstrong Atlantic and Savannah communities gathered on Friday, September 23, to formally dedicate the AASU administration building as Burnett Hall in honor and memory of the university's fifth president, Robert Adair Burnett.

The crowd that overflowed the front lawn onto Burnett Boulevard heard remarks by President Thomas Z. Jones, Board of Regents Chairman J. Timothy Shelnut, and the late president's wife, Mary. The celebration then moved into the building's entrance hall for the unveiling of Burnett's portrait by Savannah artist Sandra T. Colquitt. The throng then enjoyed a hearty reception and much good conversation about the honoree.



Mary V. Burnett (right) and her daughter, Wendy Jo, admire the portrait of Robert A. Burnett in the newly-named Burnett Hall.

Watch Us Grow

The International Garden, with the theme Watch Us Grow, was officially opened in November as part of International Week.

President Thomas Z. Jones and Brian R. Foster, president of the Armstrong Foundation Board of Trustees and CEO of First Chatham Bank, made presentations during the opening ceremony. Tom Coghill, Savannah President of Wachovia Bank, accepted an award from the university on behalf of the Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation. The foundation made a significant financial contribution that enabled the development of the International Garden.

Philip Schretter, university horticulturist and grounds superintendent, was recognized for his vision and leadership in making the garden a reality.

The garden features plazas representing the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America. Last spring, Schretter and his staff began planting trees, shrubs, and ornamentals native to each continent represented in the garden. Currently, there are 105 species of plants in the garden. Now open for tours, the garden's expected completion date is the spring of 2007.



"The International Garden is designed to be an outdoor gathering place for members of the Armstrong Atlantic community," said Schretter. "We also encourage school children and community groups to visit our campus to learn more about plants from around the world."



Give for the Gulf raises over \$6,000 for Katrina causes

Students, staff, and faculty, with the support of 38 area businesses, kicked off a yearlong Give for the Gulf initiative on September 21. The event raised \$6,086.38.

Departments, the Campus Union Board, Student Government Association, professional clubs, and Greek organizations all pitched in for this urgent cause. Meals were sold; clothing, books, toys, and diabetic supplies were collected; a raffle was held; and participants could test their skills to win donated prizes.

For more information about upcoming Give for the Gulf events, visit www.armstrong.edu/katrina/index.html.

Cover photo: Candice Modlinski attacks a ball during the 2004 South Regional in Miami Shores, FL.

Women's tennis tops in the nation

To
be
the
best,
you
have
to
beat
the
best.

When the Armstrong Atlantic women's tennis team matched up with Brigham Young University (BYU)-Hawaii in the 2005 NCAA Division II Women's Tennis Championship Match in May, they faced a formidable team. BYU had won an NCAA-record 130 consecutive matches over four years, and had knocked the Lady Pirates out of the last three NCAA Championships.

Few expected the Lady Pirates to win, even when they won two of three doubles matches to take a 2-1 lead. But when freshman Johanna Dahlback picked up a 6-3, 6-1 singles win over Tetyana Bula—the match that clinched the title—the Lady Pirates celebrated their third NCAA Division II women's tennis title and first since 1996.

Even better is that now, with AASU finishing the season with a perfect 30-0 record, the Lady Pirates assume the longest consecutive winning streak in Division II women's tennis.

Head coach Simon Earnshaw, who has led the AASU tennis teams since 2000, told the NCAA News that the national championship match loss to BYU-Hawaii in 2004 served to motivate his team this season to expect nothing less than the title. "From that one loss, they could see—even though it was a hard loss to take—what it was going to take for us to beat them," Earnshaw said.

That loss is now the only blemish on the Lady Pirates' record over the last two years. The undefeated 2005 season was one of just 10 registered



Junior Caroline Grage

by schools competing in the NCAA, regardless of sport or division.

Every starter—except for Laura Peaty—is back for the 2006 season, including Sofia Haggstrom (Taby, Sweden) and Savannah native Kristen Kelly. The lineup is strengthened by the presence of sophomore Iuliia Stupak (Kiev, Ukraine), who captured the 2005 Fall ITA Mid-Atlantic Region singles title.

"I'm sure there will be pressure because now that we finally got here, I'm sure we're not going to want to give it away," Earnshaw told the NCAA News. "I think the main thing is that they keep trying to improve and they don't just stand still."

Although it's hard to improve on an undefeated season and an NCAA National Championship, you can expect the Lady Pirates to try their best now that they can be considered the best. 🍷 — Chad Jackson

Five reasons the Lady Pirates tennis team is gunning to be best in the U.S.

1

All six starters on the squad earned All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

2

Junior Luisa Cowper (Sutton Coldfield, England) finished the year as the No. 3-ranked singles player in the nation and was named the Peach Belt Conference's Player of the Year.

3

Sophomore Dziyana Nazaruk (Minsk, Belarus) was the No. 8-ranked singles player and was named the ITA's Player to Watch in 2005.

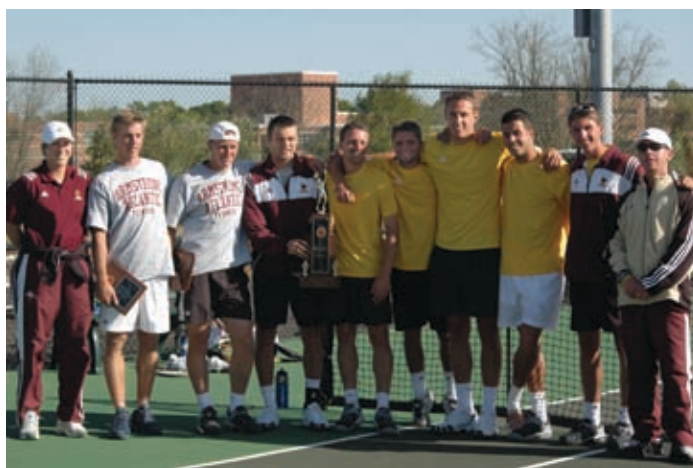
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Freshman Johanna Dahlback (Hasselby, Sweden), who won the clinching match in the national championship victory, finished as the No. 9-ranked singles player in the nation.

5

Juniors Caroline Grage (Hamburg, Germany) and Manuela Emmrich (Magdeburg, Germany) teamed to make up the No. 8-ranked doubles team in the nation, while senior Laura Peaty (Loughborough, England) teamed with Cowper to make up the No. 3-ranked doubles team in the nation.

Men's tennis team plays its finest season



The Pirates finished the season as the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's No. 2 ranked team. From the left: Assistant Coach Zsafia Golopencza, Davor Zink, Peter Dedik, Dale White, Jeremy Mastnak, Ross Hopper, Robert Jendelund, David Secker, Taavo Roos, and Head Coach Simon Earnshaw.

Not to be outdone by the women's national championship tennis team, the Armstrong Atlantic men's tennis team fashioned its finest season to date. But it took a mid-season turnaround for the Pirates to even get into the NCAA Division II Men's Tennis Championships.

In late March 2005, the Pirates lost a key 5-4 match to conference rival USC-Upstate Spartans—the fifth loss in the last six matches for No. 13-ranked AASU. Something was needed for the Pirates to snap out of their funk if they were to challenge for the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) title and possibly continue a string of 10 straight NCAA Championships appearances.

Twelve straight wins later, the Pirates found themselves playing for a berth in the NCAA National Championships match.

The late-season streak by the Pirates helped them achieve their best season ever, finishing the 2005 campaign as an NCAA Men's Tennis semifinalist, the

best team performance in school history, and a final No. 2 national ranking by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). It was the best-ever ranking for the squad.

Tying with USC-Upstate for the PBC's regular season title, the Pirates swept through the PBC Championships, avenging that loss to the Spartans with a 5-3 win in the final match, and earning AASU its first-ever PBC Tournament title. AASU then breezed through the NCAA regional and knocked off Nebraska-Kearney and UC-San Diego to make it to the final four, where they succumbed to eventual national champion West Florida, 5-1.

The performance was a testament to the outstanding depth of the team as the Pirates finished the season ranked second as a team despite having just one player—senior Dale White, who ended his AASU career at No. 46—ranked among the nation's top 50 Division II singles players.

White finished his career with 60 dual-match singles wins. He also earned region Senior of the Year and sportsmanship awards from the ITA. He teamed with Robert Jendelund to earn ITA All-America honors in doubles after capturing the ITA's Division II National Doubles Championship in the fall. — Chad Jackson

AASU in Director's Cup top five

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) has ranked AASU's athletics program fifth in the NCAA Division II. The NACDA sponsors the Director's Cup, an annual ranking of the nation's NCAA Division II university athletic programs' overall success rate.

AASU's fifth place finish came behind Cal State-Chico, Grand Valley State (MI), Lynn (FL) and Nebraska-Omaha.

Points are awarded for NCAA finishes in each sport—100 points for a national championship, 90 points for second place, scaling down to points for qualifying for NCAA Championships. The standings are calculated on an aggregate basis, meaning programs that sponsor the largest number of sports have the best chance to win the cup. Using this methodology, Armstrong Atlantic measures up very well with the nation's best.

In 2003-04, AASU athletics ranked third behind Grand Valley State and Cal State-Chico. At the end of the 2002-03 season, AASU was again third in the nation behind Grand Valley State and Brigham Young University-Hawaii.



AASU hosts national golf championships

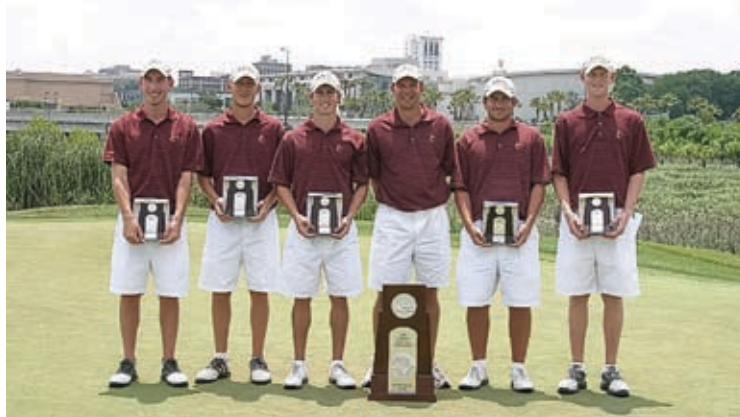
The nation's best Division II men's golf squads descended upon Savannah for the NCAA (DII) Men's Golf Championships, hosted by the Westin Savannah Golf Resort and Spa and the Club at Savannah Harbor golf course in May 2005.

Not only was it the first-ever NCAA National Championship to be decided in the Coastal Empire, but it also gave the Armstrong Atlantic men's golf team a home-field advantage in its quest to add that national championship trophy to its own case.

The Pirates were not the favorite in the tournament. The defending Division II national champion USC-Aiken Pacers held that distinction. But AASU was clearly the hometown favorite and set the stage for an exciting finish to the area's first-ever national championship event.

As Friday dawned on the Club at Savannah Harbor, the USC-Aiken Pacers were 18 holes away from their second straight NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship. With the threat of afternoon rain, players began the final round early with a 7 a.m. starting time.

USC-Aiken began the day with a four-stroke lead. They stretched that lead to as many as nine on the front nine. However, the race tightened up on the back nine as the Pirates closed to within two strokes when senior Ashley Loyd carded an eagle-two on the par-4, hole 14. With eight holes to play, that two-stroke edge continued to separate the two Peach Belt Conference schools, but the Pirates gave back three strokes over the next three holes, securing the Pacers' win.



The Pirates finished second at the NCAA Division II Men's Golf National Championships. From the left: Ashley Loyd, Tripp Coggins, Chris Epperson, Head Coach Michael Butler, Jason Fober, and Jonathan Cox.

"Our idea in hosting the NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championships wasn't just to showcase Armstrong Atlantic and the Savannah area to the nation," head coach Michael Butler said. "We thought it gave us the best chance to win a national title."

Still, a second-place national finish for a team whose sport was reinstated just five years previous sent a message throughout the collegiate golfing community that Armstrong Atlantic men's golf had arrived as a national power.

Hosting the NCAA Division II Men's Golf National Championships culminated a 16-month journey that began in January of 2004, when the NCAA awarded the championship to Armstrong Atlantic and the

Westin Savannah Golf Resort and Spa. The course, already host to the "Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf" event, drew rave reviews from the players, coaches, and fans throughout the event—especially at the flexibility and willingness of the tournament workers to deal with the many obstacles that presented themselves.

So much so that all parties have not ruled out a possible return visit by the NCAA.

"We'd also like to thank everyone from the university who volunteered for the tournament. We could not have done it without the outstanding support from our campus," said Eddie Aenchbacher, athletic director.

— Chad Jackson

"Even though the weather threw us a curveball, I'm proud of how our staff and volunteers responded to the NCAA's needs throughout the week. Everything we heard from the NCAA Men's Golf and Championships committees during and after the event proved it to be an outstanding success."

— Eddie Aenchbacher, Athletic Director

Volleyball squad Peach Belt champs

The Armstrong Atlantic volleyball squad has accomplished many firsts since head coach Alan Segal took over the program in 1999.

First NCAA Championships appearance. First national ranking. First Peach Belt Conference tournament title. But a regular season crown has eluded the Pirates in each of the last six seasons.

Until now.

The Pirates' 32-30, 30-13, 30-25 win over Lander University on November 5 gave the Armstrong Atlantic volleyball squad its first-ever Peach Belt Conference regular season title. The accomplishment caps a season of high expectations, as the Pirates were picked by the league's coaches in a preseason poll to win the title back in August.



AASU finished the regular season with an 11-1 record in the league, one game ahead of Francis Marion University in the standings.

Leading the charge for the Pirates this season was junior Traci Knuth. The three-time All-PBC player ranked among the league's leaders in hitting and blocking and already has accumulated 1,000 kills for her career—a plateau that takes most players four years to reach. The Columbus, Neb., native also is poised to become AASU's all-time leader in blocks and could become the first-ever Pirate to notch 500 blocks for her career.

Better news still for the Pirates is that they will lose just one player from this year's squad, returning 13 players for the 2006 season. 🍷 — Chad Jackson

Traci Knuth

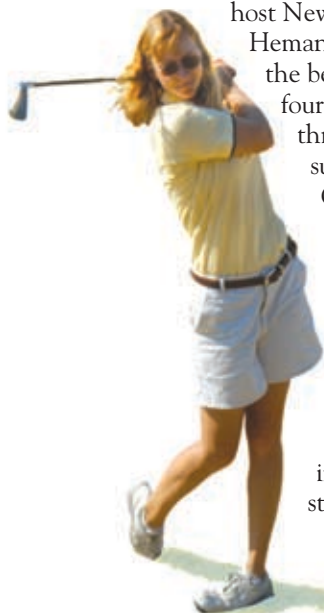
Two athletes to watch

Danielle Davis

In an outstanding debut, sophomore Danielle Davis earned medalist honors in the Lady Pirates' first-ever golf intercollegiate tournament.

Davis, a native of St. Simons Island, bested the field at the Mid-Carolina Golf Invitational in September by firing rounds of 75 and 81 to capture the title by six strokes over host Newberry College's Stephanie Hemann. Her first-round 75 was easily the best round of the tournament by four strokes and she was one of only three golfers in the field to fire a sub-80 round at the Mid-Carolina Country Club's par-72, 6055-yard course.

Already a successful Georgian amateur golfer, Davis joined the first-year AASU golf program as a returning student after already receiving her associate's degree from AASU in the early 1990s. She is now studying criminal justice.



"I think her win sets the tone for the future of our women's golf program," head coach Michael Butler said. "Danielle is a very accomplished player and I would expect her to contend in many of the golf tournaments she plays in this season."

Matt Nalutka

Perfection is not an easy thing to achieve, especially on a baseball field.

For three months of the 2005 baseball season, however, Armstrong Atlantic junior pitcher Matt Nalutka was just that—perfect.

The relief pitcher for the AASU Pirates put together a record-setting streak in 2005 as he hurled 24 consecutive scoreless games to begin the season. From his first pitch, thrown against Felician College on February 6, to his first appearance against USC Aiken on May 6, nobody could touch the Langley, British Columbia native.

Nalutka finished the year giving up just one earned run, going 3-0 with an 0.30 ERA and a school-record 12 saves. His 24 consecutive



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New women's soccer opens season with 2-1 win over SCAD

Fourteen months after AASU announced it would add women's soccer to its sports lineup, a new era in Armstrong Atlantic State athletics began. In September 2005, the university hosted cross-town rival Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in the sport's first home match.

To remain affiliated with the NCAA and Division II, Armstrong Atlantic needed to bring its intercollegiate sports sponsorship up to 10 sports, and women's soccer was a natural fit for not only the school, but also the community.

"Women's soccer has gained the reputation of the fastest growing varsity sport in the nation and the Coastal Empire area has reflected that growth," said Athletic Director Eddie Aenchbacher. "We hope our new soccer program will contribute to that growth and become another regionally and nationally-competitive varsity sport at AASU."

If the first home match of the season was any indication, the Lady Pirates will have succeeded in becoming more than just competitive.

Eric Faulconer was hired in January 2005 to be the first women's soccer coach. He came from Thomas University, in Thomasville, GA, where he built that school's inaugural women's soccer program into one of the elite National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) teams in the nation. He was the National Soccer Coaches Association of America / Adidas 2003 South Region Coach of the Year as well as the NAIA Region 13 Coach of the Year. He led Thomas University to a 15-6-2 mark and a berth in the NAIA National Championships in Santa Barbara, CA, where

his Lady Night Hawks advanced to the second round.

Facing a similar task at AASU, Faulconer did not hesitate in bringing four players with him from Thomas University, including team captain Donna Cheyne and Hinesville native Jessica Chippile. Mixing the experienced talent of his players with several transfers

Roberts, an All-Coastal Empire player while at St. Vincent's Academy, is one of 13 freshmen on the squad.

Chippile headed Cheyne's corner into a SCAD defender, and Roberts put the deflection into the net for score, christening the university soccer field and giving AASU a 1-0 lead at intermission.



Freshman midfielder Maggie Kennedy chases down the ball in AASU's 2-1 win over SCAD.

The Bees weren't about to accommodate the Pirates, as SCAD would strike back in the second half to tie the contest at 1-all on Kelly Quinn's goal in the fifty-second minute. Another Thomas transfer, senior Claire McCombe, ended all fears of an unsuccessful Pirate debut, answering back with the eventual game-winning goal less than a minute later. A tense defensive effort by the Pirates during the final 37 minutes prevented the Bees from equalizing again and AASU had its first-ever home win.

After the match, Coach Faulconer said, "SCAD's coach, Andy Williamson, and I talked about wanting to play on a yearly basis to spotlight soccer in the Coastal Georgia area. With this being our first home game, we were excited to get a hard-earned victory, but equally as excited to see all of the local support present at the match."

from other schools and the young talent of the incoming freshmen gave Faulconer an early indication that this first home game—and the first season—might be a successful one.

SCAD—a team that appeared in the NAIA's national rankings this fall—pushed the Pirates early in the contest, and it appeared that the first half would end with neither team scoring a goal. With 14.3 seconds left, however, Savannah native Aubrie Roberts put the Pirates on the board with a ricochet from a corner kick.

Aenchbacher was also pleased to see the local support at the match. As the former head coach of AASU's men's soccer team from 1980 through 1987, he has a good idea of what it will take to put a successful program on the field. And now, with a first win under their belts, the Lady Pirates can continue the challenge of becoming one of the top women's soccer programs in the nation. 🍷 — Chad Jackson

Doctor *in the house*

The most impressive, rewarding aspect of being involved at AASU is getting to know these student-athletes. They consistently demonstrate unbelievable personal skills. They're just great kids. And over the years, the diversity of the athletes has been a positive. Kids from Africa, Europe, and South Georgia all mixed together in a potpourri of talented young people who bring a lot of positive energy to the program. — Spencer Wheeler, M.D.

Taking care of student-athletes' health at Armstrong Atlantic is more than a full-time job. Every athlete who competes for AASU needs to have experienced hands working on them before, during, and after competition. Luckily for the Pirates, those capable hands belong to Dr. Spencer Wheeler—a Savannah native and Armstrong Atlantic fixture for more than 15 years—who serves as the medical director and team physician.

A 1972 graduate of Windsor Forest High School, he attended Armstrong State College and took pre-med courses before transferring to the University of Georgia and receiving his degree in pharmacy in 1978. He continued his medical training at the Medical College of Georgia and graduated in 1984. In 1991, Wheeler returned to his hometown and began practicing orthopedic surgery.

In those days, Armstrong State did not have a trainer on staff. Wheeler was instrumental in developing the Armstrong athletic training program, and also helped with the set up and design of the athletic training room when the Sports Center was built in 1995. He still provides the same



services that he did back then: seeing athletes once a week on campus, as well as remaining available and accessible to AASU's athletic training staff 24 hours a day.

Beyond just providing medical expertise, Wheeler has become a well-known friend of the Pirate athletic program and Armstrong Atlantic. While most people would feel sufficient by simply writing a donation check, Wheeler's volunteered service to the program has been incalculable. He is on his third term on the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees and, over the years, has joined Pirate athletes on trips around the country

and around the world. His Chatham Orthopedics Associates has sponsored numerous in-season tournaments for the volleyball and basketball teams and he has treated Pirate athletes to countless meals at his home.

One such occasion came during Thanksgiving in the mid-90s, when several of the Pirate athletes could not travel home for the holidays. Wheeler opened up his home and more than 70 came to share Thanksgiving dinner with his family. But that's not unusual for the man many at AASU simply call "Doc."

Wheeler has been involved in many changes over the last 15 years in AASU's athletic department, but one constant has been his belief that the coaches are the key to the positive success of the program.

"AASU has consistently hired the type of coaches that I would want my children to play for," Wheeler said. "Not only good coaches, but great people and leaders in our community. That's more important than wins and losses in the long run. That's what it's all about." 🍷 — Chad Jackson

Profile in Leadership: JEFF BURKHAMER

Armstrong Atlantic's head men's basketball coach, Jeff Burkhamer, has compiled a 50-38 record in three seasons and led the Pirates to the NCAA Championships in 2003-04. He's had a first-team All-Peach Belt Conference player honored in each of the last three years, a first for the men's basketball program.

With all of the success he has had on the court, however, it's his efforts off the court that really separate this West Virginia native from his coaching peers around the Southeast.

Since taking over the men's basketball program in June 2002, Burkhamer has made it a priority to take a leading role in the Coastal Empire community through public speaking engagements. In three short years, he has spoken to more than 4,000 children in and around Savannah promoting not only Armstrong Atlantic basketball, but the message of making the right decisions on the court and in life.

"I always talk to my players about being role models," Burkhamer said. "By talking to kids at the middle school level especially, it gives me an opportunity to show my role as a leader not only with my team, but also in the community."

His efforts aren't going unnoticed by the community. Last year, Burkhamer received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Army for his continued work in speaking to the children in the Bryan, Chatham, and Liberty counties. In a ceremony before a Francis Marion game in January 2004, he was awarded the certificate by Col. Michael W. Biering of Fort Stewart. Burkhamer was the first non-military person to ever receive the honor.

Burkhamer is also instrumental in bringing the youth of Savannah on campus. His "Shoot for the Stars" summer basketball camp has brought more than 600 boys and girls into Alumni Arena to experience first-hand what it's like to



"I tell my team that there are a couple of different ways you can lead. You can lead through positive actions or negative actions. This is a great way to show people how to lead through positive actions. If you work hard, good things will happen."

— Jeff Burkhamer
Men's Basketball
Coach

play hoops where the Pirates play. During each season, he also sponsors a ball handling club that performs during the halftime of selected games and a shooter's club, which teaches offensive basketball skills to players.

And as if that wasn't enough, Burkhamer teams with head coach Roger Hodge of the women's basketball program to sponsor the "Three Point Play for the United Way." This is a season-long charity fundraiser where people in the community pledge a certain amount of money for each three-pointer the Pirates and Lady Pirates make during the season. In two years, the program has raised more than \$1,300. This past year's donations are being given to the United Way's fund for victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"We can't expect people to come and see our program every night," Burkhamer said. "So we have to go out and bring our program to the community. We take our players to civic clubs and to schools. We've done mini-camps at middle schools that act as fund raisers for those kids. We teach our players that they have a responsibility to be a role model for the kids in our community."

With more than 20 years in the profession, Burkhamer has had several stops in his career. He's moved from the professional ranks with the Continental Basketball Association's Grand Rapids Hoops, to the junior college ranks with Santa Fe Community College—where he was named the National Junior College Coach of the Year in 1995-96—to the Division I level at schools such as Winthrop, Charleston Southern, and Marshall. He's coached players who have played in the NBA, but has also coached players who have gone on to become coaches, accountants, teachers, and business owners.

Even with all the time he puts in with the Pirates, Burkhamer still finds time to be with his family. His daughters Lindsey and Melissa both play youth basketball and Burkhamer traveled to Dayton, Ohio, to be with Melissa at a 13-and-under Amateur Athletic Union basketball tournament this summer.

"Home means being with your immediate family, not just your basketball family," Burkhamer said. 🍷 — Chad Jackson

Newest graduate program built on ancient tradition

Imagine a graduate program that responds to the diverse interests and needs of a social worker, an artist, a physician, an airport administrator, an athletic coach, a public relations specialist, and an electrical engineer. These are just some of the professions represented by this year's inaugural cohort of students in Armstrong Atlantic's newest graduate degree, the Master of Arts in Liberal and Professional Studies.

Popularly known as MALPS, this innovative program has been built upon an ancient tradition, one that reaches as far back as Plato and Aristotle. Steeped in the ethical and intellectual values of the liberal arts, MALPS has been designed to enhance the lives and help develop the careers of today's working professionals.

The guiding philosophy of the program is that to understand our world fully, one must take a multidisciplinary approach to graduate study. As a result, the MALPS faculty has been drawn from over a dozen disciplines, ranging from psychology and communications to political science and economics. At the core of the program are four seminars that focus on the values, research strategies, communication skills, and critical thinking skills required for personal growth and career advancement. In addition, students elect to follow one of three tracks based on their particular interests and goals.

While acknowledging the distinctive qualities of each track, Dick Nordquist, director of MALPS, observes that all students in the MALPS program are afforded opportunities to exercise and enhance their leadership skills. "It is the integration of practical skills with the passion and moral purpose of the liberal arts tradition that defines our new program," he says. "The comprehensive project that students

complete at the end of their two-year course of study provides just one of many opportunities to connect classroom learning with the issues that challenge us at home, at work, in the community, and in our increasingly interconnected world."

Because the MALPS program is designed for working professionals in both the public and private sectors,

most courses are scheduled in the evening. A total of thirty semester-hours of coursework is required, and the estimated time to complete the program is, on average, two years. Additional information about MALPS can be found at the program's web site: www.nt.armstrong.edu/MALPS.htm. You may contact Dick Nordquist at 912.921.5991, or by e-mail at nordqudi@mail.armstrong.edu. ♦



LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Leadership studies began enrolling students in January 2005. Over two-dozen students, several of whom already have advanced degrees, are pursuing this innovative track and helping to shape its future. According to Dick Nordquist, professor of English, director of the MALPS program, and coordinator of the leadership track, "Leadership studies serves those who want to develop the knowledge and abilities required to think strategically, manage change, communicate a vision, empower others, and advance in their profession."



GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

Teresa Winterhalter, associate professor of English and coordinator of AASU's Gender and Women's Studies (GWST) Program, serves as coordinator of the GWST track in MALPS. This track, she notes, is for those interested in "reinterpreting existing data and perspectives on women through interdisciplinary approaches to culture, society, social movements, and the arts." Course options in the gender and women's studies track include Perspectives in Feminist Theory, Women and Minority Health Issues, Art and Identity, and Topics in the History of Women and Gender.



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The track in international studies has been designed for those seeking a deeper understanding of various regions of the world and of international issues that affect the development of public policies and the global economy. According to William Daugherty, associate professor of political science and coordinator of the international studies track, the program is flexible enough to appeal to the needs of a variety of students, regardless of their undergraduate majors, and to adapt readily to changing political processes, institutions, and cultural trends throughout the world.

ALUMINARIES

A life on campus

The Dennis Pruitts do not often come our way. He has been a proud graduate of this institution for many years and never stops telling his Armstrong stories and relating to others about the influence this institution had on him.

— Joe Buck, Vice President, Student Affairs

Dennis Pruitt grew up a self-styled Navy brat. The family moved around the hemisphere as his dad—a Navy flier with the hurricane hunters—was reassigned. While his father was based at the then Glenco Naval Air Station, Pruitt spent his sophomore year at Glynn Academy in Brunswick. A high school athlete, he met Bill Alexander who was then athletic director and basketball coach at Armstrong State College (ASC).

In 1968, Alexander recruited Pruitt to play baseball and basketball for

the Pirates. His athletic career was distinguished.

On the field, Pruitt was a four-year letter winner. He pitched in 48 games and won 18, which still ranks among the top 10 athletic achievements at Armstrong. He pitched in 300 innings, the third-most in school history, and led the team in wins each year. In 1970, he received the Savannah Exchange Club's President's Cup as the student/athlete with the highest grade point average.

On the court, Pruitt played two seasons for the Pirates. In 26 games during the 1968-69 season, he averaged 6.6 points per contest. He also played in 14 games during the 1970-71 season and averaged 1.3 points per game.

Sports weren't all Pruitt excelled in. With then-Dean of Student Affairs Joe Buck as a mentor, he became president of the student government and won the prestigious Silver A as the outstanding senior for 1972.

A history and political science major, he studied under some of the era's exceptional professors: Orson Beecher, John Duncan, Bernard Comaskey, William Coyle, Virginia Ramsey, Robert Strozier, and K.C. Wu.

continued on page 12



Photo courtesy of the University of South Carolina

We had great professors.

*Orson Beecher was
so well prepared that*

*I was petrified
to attend his classes
for fear he would
ask me a question.*

*K.C. Wu [the former
mayor of Shanghai
and governor of Formosa]
wrote his class notes*

*in Chinese. Every once
in a while, as he
delivered a lecture,
he would switch*

*from English to
Chinese and we'd have to
remind him.*

— Dennis Pruitt



1971 Geechee photo



A life on campus

(continued from page 11)

Pruitt hoped to play baseball or coach after graduation, but President Henry Ashmore hired him as interim director of student activities. He later filled the position permanently.

"Armstrong State was a great training ground," Pruitt recalls. "Not only was there a great administration, but a great group of mentors. Joe Buck, George Hunnicutt [registrar], Jule Stanfield [comptroller], and Dean Propst [provost] taught me everything about administration."

After five years of employment at ASC, Pruitt went to East Tennessee State University as special assistant to the vice president for academic affairs. There, he designed and implemented an institutional program for student recruitment and retention. After earning his Ed.D. at the University of South Carolina (USC), he remained at the flagship university as the assistant vice president of student affairs. Over the next 25 years, he filled a variety of increasingly important positions. For the last 22 years, he's served as vice president for student affairs.

Pruitt has had a positive influence on almost every aspect of campus life: admissions, housing, health services, and many student-related units. He recently led efforts to build or renovate over \$200 million in university buildings. As interim vice president for advancement, he facilitated the completion of a \$500 million fund raising campaign.

Pruitt, a much in-demand public speaker, has received many awards for his service to education and was most recently presented with the Pillar of the Profession Award by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

In 1988, Pruitt received the first Armstrong State Distinguished Alumni Award.

Today, Pruitt keeps fit bicycling and playing golf. He still plays a little basketball with his son, Chris, a high school sophomore. He and his wife, Tricia, have three other children: Dennis, Jr., an engineer in Greenville; Matt who teaches high school English and coaches basketball and baseball in Athens; and Kaitlyn, a freshman who is studying pre-law at USC's prestigious South Carolina Honors College. ♦ — *Barry Ostrow*

Chad Jackson, director of sports communications, Caroline Hopkinson, reference librarian, and Carolinian magazine contributed to this article.



Left to right: Francine Wimbish, Dennis Pruitt, President Henry Ashmore. 1971 Geechee photo

Two named to foundation board

Two additional community leaders have been added to the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees.



John M. Mamalakis, a licensed insurance agent for 32 years, is program manager for Georgia Restaurant Mutual Captive Insurance

Company. He began his career with Mercer Insurance Agency in 1973 and continued with HRH Insurance (formerly Jones, Hill & Mercer) until 2003. Mamalakis attended Armstrong State College from 1966 to 1968 when he transferred to the University of Georgia and received his B.S. in chemistry in 1970.

Mamalakis is the son of Anna Mamalakos and her late husband Nick, a longtime community leader and supporter of Armstrong Atlantic.



Charles McMillan, Sr. is president of McMillan & Associates that specializes in management and performance improvement. He serves on the boards of Savannah Technical College (chairman), South University, Savannah Community Foundation, Wachovia Bank, and Coastal Georgia Historical Society. He is the past board chairman of Memorial Health University Medical Center. McMillan is a graduate of Savannah State College.



C L A S S N O T E S

'60s

Timothy Ansley '65, president and owner of Ansley-Sheppard-Burgess Company, has been appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to serve on the General Contractors Division of the State Licensing Board for residential and general contractors.

'70s

Spencer Hoynes '70 and wife **Sheila '75** sailed their new boat, the Nauti Times, on its maiden voyage up the Intercoastal Waterway from Ft. Lauderdale to Charleston. Hoynes is retired from the Georgia Department of Labor where he was assistant commissioner of labor.

Elizabeth Fogarty Larrimore '75 was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the State Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. She is currently completing requirements for a doctorate in educational administration.

Lung-Sing Wong '76 works as an engineer for Servidyne Systems, LLC, an engineering consulting firm in Atlanta. In 1976 he transferred to Georgia Tech where he earned both a bachelor's and master's in mechanical engineering.

Cindy Hughes-Rochefort '79 has been promoted to vice president of Savannah Bancorp.

'80s

Raymond W. Bunger '80 is the store manager for Furniturebuzz in Savannah.

Michael F. O'Connor '80 has joined ReMax Savannah as a part of its real estate sales team.

Robin Mullins Boyd '82 has had one of her blogs (www.robinboyd.us) quoted by the Drudge Report and by Sean Hannity.

Pamela E. Parker '84 was promoted to senior vice president and East Georgia regional manager for SunTrust's Real Estate Finance Group. Her job focuses on providing financial solutions for residential and commercial builders and developers. She serves as a trustee on the AASU Alumni Association Board.

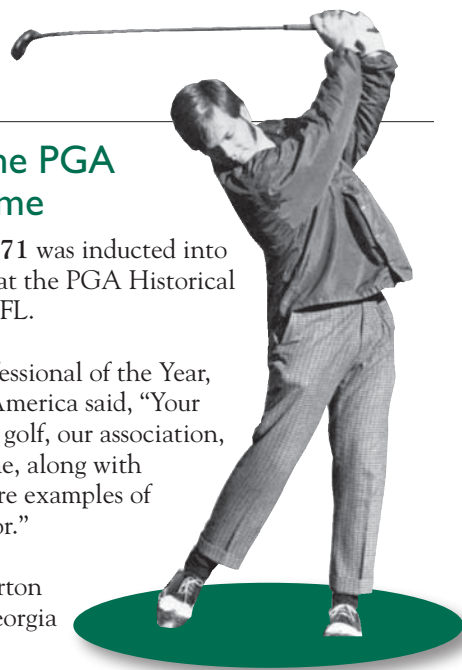
Tina Helmly Bonifacio '89, '97, was featured in the October issue of Georgia Trend as one of its Forty Under Forty - The Best and the Brightest. She is the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce's vice president for economic development. Her primary focus is Project Workforce which strives to develop and improve partnerships between business and education.

Brotherton inducted into the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame

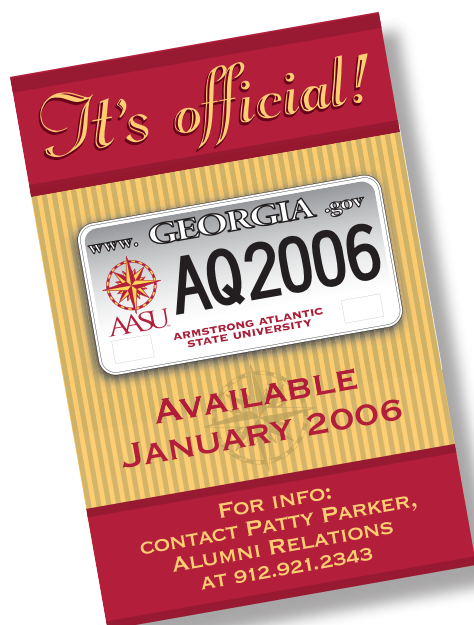
In September 2005, **Jim Brotherton, Jr. '71** was inducted into the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame at the PGA Historical Center at PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, FL.

In his letter to the former PGA Golf Professional of the Year, Roger Warren, president of the PGA of America said, "Your dedication to and passion for the game of golf, our association, and the people involved in this great game, along with your past service and accomplishments, are examples of why you are receiving this esteemed honor."

Brotherton, now the golf pro at Old Overton Club in Vestavia Hills, AL, made the Georgia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All Conference Team in 1969 and 1970.



1971 Geechee photo



'90s

Susan Griffith Warner '90 is working on her educational specialist degree through Walden University.

Deborah Nelson Willis '90 has been named president-elect of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the President's Council of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. She was recently named Super Lawyer by Washington Law & Politics Magazine for the third consecutive year. Willis was also picked as the best lawyer in Calallam County by a Peninsula Daily News readers poll. She is in solo practice in Port Angeles practicing personal injury, insurance litigation, and family law.

Catherine Elise Nelson Barrett '91 graduated in August 2005 from North Carolina State University with a doctorate in adult and higher education with a concentration in women's development and education. She is the literacy program coordinator and assistant clinical professor of literacy and middle school education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Diana Guyette '93 has moved to West Farmington, OH where she is the pastor of the West Farmington United Methodist Church. She has been selected to participate in the Pastors of Excellence program at Ashland Theological Seminary. Guyette is listed in Who's Who of American Women for 2004-2005.

Stephen A. Mathis '93 was on active duty with the Georgia Air National Guard in September, traveling to the Republic of Georgia as part of a United Nations military medical mission.

Alisha Lee Jolliffe '94 is a training and curriculum specialist for the Department of Defense in Bad Nauheim, Germany.

Steven M. Smith '94 is the new manager at Fort King George in McIntosh County.

James (John) Martin '97 works in research and development for Kemira Chemicals in Columbus, GA.

Heather Forrester NeSmith '97, earned a physician assistant degree in 2004 at the Medical College of Georgia. She is at Jefferson Hospital in Augusta where she works in rural medicine as a primary-care provider.

Ericka Nguyen Williams '97 is an eighth grade middle school teacher with the Department of Defense school system in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Alison R. Herrington '99 was inducted into the Manchester Who's Who Executive and Professional Registry. She was recognized for her unique expertise and experience in trauma/surgical and critical care as a flight nurse aboard Memorial Health University Medical Center's LifeStar One air ambulance.

Alexander Yang '99 earned his master of science in biomedical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania where he worked as a research specialist in the department of cardiology. Moving on, he conducted research at the University of Connecticut Health Center. He is currently enrolled as an M.D./Ph.D student at Louisiana State Medical School in New Orleans.

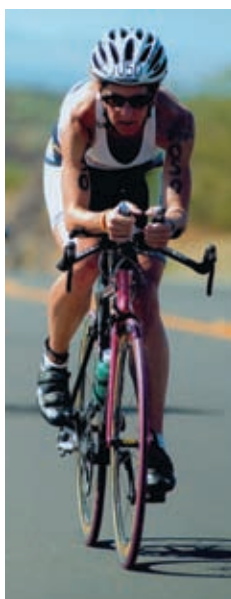
'00s

Carlos J. Rodriguez '01 was promoted to banking officer for SunTrust Bank's Real Estate Finance Group where he is responsible for client support and credit underwriting. Rodriguez has been with SunTrust since 2002.

Erin Woodford Foiles '02 taught fourth grade at Southwest Elementary in Savannah. When her husband, Eric, got out of the Army, they moved back home to Wisconsin where she has been teaching first grade in Chipewewa Falls. The couple has built a new home near Lake Wissota.

Julie M. Moore '02, '04 has been named director of human resources for the YWCA of San Diego County in her home state of California. She and her family—Carly and Riley—live in La Mesa.

Julie M. Diebolt '03 is manager of human resources for the law firm of Hunter Maclean Exley & Dunn in Savannah.



Iron woman finishes Ironman competition

In October, Gabi Hauck '95 competed in the 2005 Ford Ironman World Championships in Kona, HI. Now the head cross-country coach at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Hauck completed the grueling event in 11:21:44, in the top half of her age group. During that time, she had to run 26.2 miles, swim 2.4 miles, and bike 112 miles.

A liberal arts major, Hauck played college tennis and began running in her sophomore year. While earning her MBA at Georgia Southern University, she volunteered with the cross country program and trained with the team while competing in road races up to marathon distance. She started doing triathalons "to get a change from just running."

Peter R. Doliber '03, director of community development at Memorial Health University Medical Center, served as a panelist at an AASU forum discussing the implications of Hurricane Katrina.

Jennifer Griner-Daugherty '03 has joined Coldwell Banker Greater Savannah Realty.

David B. Raines '03 is living in Tallahassee where he is the executive officer at A-Co 3-124th Infantry for the Florida National Guard. He is a second year law student at Florida State University.

Brian C. Didlake '04 has been promoted by International Paper Company and relocated to their Tennessee office.

Sarah E. Bohn '05 has been hired as keeper of the Great Apes at the Jacksonville Zoo.

Donald R. Calabro '05 is a computer scientist for the Department of Defense at the Yuma Proving Grounds in Yuma, AZ.

Tarran Whitney Cofield '05 volunteers as a clinical hygienist at the Chatham County Public Health Department.

engagements

Alisha Lee Jolliffe '94 to wed Francesco Palermo of Castellanza, Italy in spring 2006

Robert W. Simpson '00 to wed Lenoir Louise Roux, April 8, 2006

Robert Udinsky '04 to wed Cynthia Thomas.

marriages

Ericka Nguyen Williams '97 married Jason Mitchell Zuboy, July 30, 2005

Heather M. Garman '99 married John W. Hack, May 21, 2005

John Warendak '01 married Lacy L. Ginn, May 21, 2005

David B. Raines '03 married Miranda Meserve, September 24, 2005

Deborah Suzanne Burnsed '04 married James Russell Payne, April 16, 2005



Former Pirates pitcher represented in Cooperstown

When **Sean Timmons '98** visits the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, he'll be able to see his jersey and cap on display.

Timmons has made a name for himself in the Alaskan Baseball League. A reliever for two seasons with the Pirates, Timmons pitched in 42 games and compiled a 10-2 record with a 3.85 ERA in 121.2 innings pitched.

Each summer, he returned to his hometown of Fairbanks to pitch for the Alaska Goldpanners. Despite being the three-time Most Valuable Pitcher in the league from 2002-2004 and holding the Goldpanners' career record for victories, he elected to skip 2005. Instead, he focused on his studies in the physician's assistant program at South University in Savannah.

A call to pitch against Omaha in the one hundredth annual Midnight Sun game in late June lured Timmons back to Alaska.

He started for the Goldpanners, hurling five innings of four-hit, one-run ball while striking out seven to capture the win in a 3-1 victory. Timmons (3-0) is now the winningest pitcher in the Midnight Sun game's history.

The hall of fame collected his No. 33 jersey and cap for an exhibit, "Today's Game."

additions

Col. Charles Larry Collins '50 announces the arrival of his first great-grandchild, Travis Alexander Scott born September 10, 2005. His granddaughter Charity Thomas Scott and husband Michael Scott are the proud new parents.

Hang T. Ta '03 and husband **Thomas Ngo '90**: Michelle Ngo, born March 1, 2004

Catherine Compton Hyler '02 and husband Christopher: Cayden James Hyler, born December 8, 2004.

milestones

Erin Woodford Foiles '02 and her husband Eric celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on June 10.

passings

Marguerite Doerner '45, a former professor of nursing at Armstrong State College, September 13, 2005
Anne Floyd Mayer '48, July 17, 2005
James Mason Cargill '59, August 9, 2005

L. Raf Biezenbos '61, June 16, 2005
Elizabeth Ogletree Hitt '61, July 16, 2005

Robert L. McCorkle, Jr. '68, August 10, 2005

John R. Hopkins '69, July 12, 2004
Billie F. McClanahan '70, a professor of English emerita (1980-1989), October 1, 2005

Phyllis A. Barr '79, December 2004
Charles L. Stewart III '80, June 23, 2005

Michael A. Woods '80, May 29, 2005
Herman Mitchell Sikes, Jr. '82, July 23, 2005

Reba Hutto '92, September 20, 2005
John Martin Ernest Schuster III '99, July 2, 2005



AASU wins three awards

Armstrong Atlantic and the Office of University Relations have received two awards from the Georgia School Public Relations Association for *Compass* and one for the faculty lecture series brochure.

The team that produces *Compass* was honored with a Gold Award for the issues released during 2004-2005.

Barry Ostrow is the editor and principal writer, Joan Lehon is the designer, and Anna de la Paz was the primary photographer for the issues produced that year. Elizabeth Sams in the Office of External Affairs wrote the donor profiles.


Ostrow's article, *Hola Ecuador: A Study Abroad Odyssey*, appeared in the quarterly's Fall 2004 issue and was singled out for a Gold Award for excellence in writing. This article followed an AASU study abroad group, in which he participated, as it traveled throughout Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

The 2004-2005 Robert Ingram Strozier Faculty Lecture Series brochure, which de la Paz designed, received a silver award for publication design. The publication earlier received a Gold Addy Award from the Savannah chapter of the Advertising Federation of America and a Silver Addy Award from the southeastern district of the federation.

Two athletes to watch (continued from page 6)

scoreless appearances are believed to be a Peach Belt Conference and NCAA Division II record. He was named a consensus All-America by the American Baseball Coaches' Association (ABCA) and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Association, becoming the first AASU reliever to earn All-America honors. Nalutka is also just the fourth pitcher to earn first-team All-America honors at AASU.

He joins Jon Doby (2003), Daryl Gavlick (1992), and Bill Gearhart (1988) as first-team All-America pitchers in the tradition-rich AASU baseball program. He is also the thirty-eighth ABCA All-America honoree for the AASU baseball program in the last 18 seasons.

Nalutka will be back in 2006 to close out games for the Pirates. 

— Chad Jackson

Edited and designed in the Office of University Relations.



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