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TEACHING & TECHNOLOGY

RITECARE CENTER

ALUMNI LIFE CHANGERS

Armstrong

SPRING 2012



BEHIND
THE
MASQUERS

75 Years of Theatre Legacy

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Do you know a Proud Pirate Parent (P³)? Subscribe to the Armstrong parent newsletter at armstrong.edu/parents.

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Let us hear from you!

We'd love your feedback on this issue, as well as what you'd like to see in upcoming issues of *Armstrong*. Please email Brenda.Forbis@armstrong.edu or call 912.344.2904.



Find Armstrong at
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On the cover: The Armstrong Masquers' *Drowsy Chaperone*, November 3, 2011



Creating an environment that fosters student success and transformative learning experiences inside and outside the classroom is Armstrong's most important strategic goal. Simply translated, it is the reason each of us—our faculty, staff and administration—comes to work every day. It is our motivation, our inspiration, and at the end of the day as students leave us to pursue their careers, it is our reward.

In this issue you will see many Armstrong students in their element, whether in a traditional classroom or high-tech research lab, collaborating virtually on a Dabbleboard, performing on stage at a world-class music festival or cheering a child who has learned a new word or made a new sound.

You will also meet a number of extraordinary professors who take students on their intellectual journey—who serve as the link between the student and the experience, between the classroom and a career. In addition, you will meet Armstrong alumni who have made their mark in their professions and their communities.

Armstrong celebrated an exciting "first" this semester and continued to honor our rich history in Savannah. Our Savannah Winds community orchestra performed for the first time at the Savannah Music Festival, which draws visitors from near and far. At the same time, our Masquers theatre program, which began as the Savannah Playhouse, marked its 75th anniversary. In addition, more than 300 students, faculty, staff and alumni turned out for one of our new traditions, Treasure Savannah day of service, which represents more than 3,200 hours of service to the community since the program began.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Armstrong* magazine. I invite you to see more student stories at ArmstrongExperience.com and to share your successes with us.

Warm Regards,



CAMPUS News

Students Swoon over Famous Authors

Spring semester at Armstrong was punctuated by a series of famous authors.

A group of 20 students won a writing competition for a chance to see the king of horror himself—Stephen King—before he gave the closing address at the Savannah Book Festival.

Coinciding with the festival, Melissa Fay Greene, author of *Praying for Sheetrock*, came to campus and lectured to more than 100 people on the topic “Capturing Georgia History: Incredible True Tales Are All Around Us.” On the same day, author Jamie Ford held a small seminar with a group of five English communications students. Ford led a writing workshop with the students, and two received a critique of their work from the author.

“I think it’s so important for students to see real writers and to know that it is possible to become a writer,” assistant professor of English Monica Rausch said. “I also think these writers can talk about the industry as it is right now and how it operates. The publishing world is changing rapidly, particularly with e-publishing, and recently published authors can share their insights on these changes.”

Pirates to Breathe Easier This Fall

Armstrong will officially become a tobacco-free campus as of August 2012.

The new policy—which bans cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco and other tobacco products—will be implemented at the beginning of the fall 2012 semester. In the past, Armstrong has allowed smoking in designated areas on campus.

A collaborative group of faculty, staff and students, led by health sciences professor Sara Plaspohl, comprise the Tobacco Policy Implementation Team. “We’re delighted to introduce this important new policy, which supports the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff,” said Armstrong President Linda Bleicken. “The decision to make Armstrong a tobacco-free campus was made after careful consideration and after listening to a range of voices in the university community.”

Armstrong is the 16th university in Georgia to go 100 percent tobacco-free and will join the American Lung Association’s list of more than 250 schools that are already tobacco-free. Armstrong’s new policy supports the City of Savannah Smoke-Free Air

Ordinance of 2010, which is already in effect throughout the Savannah area. President Bleicken formally presented the smoke-free initiative to City Council members February 9, 2012.

Armstrong will institute a campus-wide education program to raise awareness about the new tobacco-free policy and to encourage tobacco cessation initiatives.

Treasure Savannah Takes it to the Streets

For the fourth time in as many semesters, more than 300 students, faculty, staff and alumni turned out in a sea of green t-shirts early on a Saturday morning in March for Treasure Savannah, Armstrong’s day of service. After photos and cheers of enthusiasm, groups dispersed to nonprofit organizations across town. More than 130 Armstrong volunteers arrived in Johnson Square to help the City of Savannah launch of the Great American Spring Clean-Up on Bull and Broughton streets. Other teams painted, organized and readied gardens for spring plantings at the West Broad YMCA, Union Mission, Hunter Army Airfield and on Armstrong’s campus.

“Armstrong was founded in 1935 by the city of Savannah, and today is an opportunity for us to give back to the city. What’s more, it’s actually a way that we can give back to each other as we go out to make better the place that we call home — both our campus and our community,” President Linda Bleicken said.

Anne Thompson, interim vice president for academic affairs, summed it up perfectly: “Treasure Savannah days of service have provided more than 3,200 hours of service to our community. That’s a great source of pride for Armstrong!”





Savannah Winds at World-Famous Festival

Loyal patrons and fans flocked to the Lucas Theater to take in the Savannah Winds' debut performance at the Savannah Music Festival. The highlight of the American Band Classics evening was internationally renowned composer Philip Sparke's *A Savannah Symphony*, which was commissioned to mark Armstrong's 75th anniversary. Approximately 630 people attended and over \$3,400 was raised to send more than 100 students to the event.

Armstrong Hosts Georgia Science Bowl, Sponsored by Siemens Industry, Inc.

Siemens Industry, Inc., the global powerhouse in electronics and electrical engineering, sponsored the 2012 Georgia Science Bowl. The event was coordinated by Armstrong Atlantic State University physics professor Donna Mullenax and hosted on the Armstrong campus.

"Thanks to Siemens, the best scientific minds in Georgia's schools came to Armstrong to compete in a rigorous, academic atmosphere," Mullenax said. "The industry support had a huge impact on this competition."

The annual high school science bowl featured subregional and state-level competitions at Armstrong before students headed to the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C.



Opening the Doors to Reading

In February, the College of Education kicked off the Teens for Literacy program at East Broad K-8 School with a pep rally dedicated to all things reading.

Teens for Literacy is a partnership between East Broad and Armstrong, aimed at promoting literacy for inner city children. The program, funded through a grant received by Armstrong assistant professor Jaime Berry and instructor Allen Berger, empowers East Broad's student leaders to help them strategize and develop novel ideas to inspire other students to read.

"We are so excited to launch this new program," Berry said. "Promoting literacy in middle and elementary schools lays a solid educational foundation for their future. We have an opportunity here to make a great difference in the lives of these children."

Several members of the community attended the launch of the program, including John Hobe, department head of childhood and exceptional student education, professors Berry and Berger, as well as several Armstrong volunteers. In addition, Christy Divine, foundation manager of Live Oak Public Libraries, came with her counterpart and library mascot Twigs, and "Lil G" of E93 radio entertained the young crowd along with a DJ.

"With this program, we are teaching our students that reading is not just an academic task, but something they should enjoy," said Amber Swain, East Broad teacher and coordinator of Teens for Literacy. "We want to help the kids increase their reading scores, and we can do that by promoting self worth, showing them that they can read and by making it fun."

Campus Changes Expand Services and Accessibility

Gamble Hall was built in 1965 as one of the original buildings on Armstrong's campus. Now the aging building will receive a facelift, as renovations are set to begin in summer 2012. The project's focus will be to bring the building into full code compliance, upgrade systems, modernize the interior and provide better technology for today's learning processes. The anticipated completion date is summer 2013.

In addition, Lane Library is expanding this spring and Information Technology Services (ITS) is moving across campus. This two-phase project will first renovate suites at the Armstrong Center for use as the new consolidated campus data center. Once phase one is completed this spring, the current ITS facility, located across from Lane Library, will be vacated and phase two will begin. The ITS facility will be repurposed as a 13,083 square foot satellite addition to Lane Library.

"The proximity of the ITS building to the Student Union and Lane Library makes it a perfect location for the new Learning Commons area that will allow an extension of both space and library services," said Vice President for Business and Finance David Carson. "With these projects, we are better serving our students and providing them with facilities that will enhance their learning experiences on campus."

Further renovations at the Armstrong Center will include classrooms and office space for Armstrong's ROTC program.

Paying it Forward

HOW ONE SMALL ARMSTRONG CLINIC IS MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE

by KOLBY HARRELL

Maybe it was the replica Woody doll he carried and his bright red Buzz Lightyear t-shirt. Or, perhaps, it was his wide smile and unwavering energy. When 10-year-old Kevin Valente walked into Armstrong's RiteCare Center for Communication Disorders, he looked like Andy from Disney and Pixar's *Toy Story*. But don't call him Andy, or even Kevin for that matter, because he prefers to share a name with his favorite character, Buzz.

Kevin was born in Russia with bilateral cleft lip and palate, and soon after the Valente family adopted him, he received intensive corrective surgery.

A large part of Kevin's uphill battle has been speech development, which is what brought him to Armstrong's RiteCare Center. Cleft is known to cause problems within the entire ear, nose and throat cavity, and hearing is a critical part of learning to speak clearly. As if ongoing medical procedures and weekly speech therapy sessions weren't taxing enough, Kevin was diagnosed with autism when he was seven.

"The center is a valuable teaching tool and a great resource."

"Speech is just one part of everything going on with him," said his mother, Sharon. "But, by helping with his speech, it has accentuated his positive improvements in other areas."

Kevin is just one of many clients at Armstrong's RiteCare Center. Every year, graduate students in Armstrong's communication sciences and disorders department who work as speech pathologists at the center, perform free hearing assessments to as many as 1,600 kids from 10 different schools.

Julie Burch, a speech and language pathologist in pediatric rehabilitation at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, is also a clinical instructor at the Armstrong RiteCare Center. Burch has been at Memorial for 15 years and has been impressed with the quality of students in Armstrong's program.

"The student clinicians at the center hit the ground running when they arrive, and they are so engaged with the patients," said Burch. "The center is a valuable teaching tool and a great resource for clients in the Savannah area who come here to get treatment from eager minds who are interested in excelling."



Founded in 1998, the Armstrong RiteCare Center is supported by annual donations from the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Savannah Valley—which is where RiteCare gets its name. Their benefaction assists with faculty development, provides test and therapy materials and helps the clinic expand its services.

"The Scottish Rite has been incredibly generous," said Donna Brooks, interim dean of Armstrong's College of Health Professions. "Their charity is focused on supporting children, but because we are an academic unit, they don't restrict us from purchasing materials that can also help with adults."

Enter Tommie McCormick.

McCormick became a client at the RiteCare Center following a stroke in 2004. Common in stroke victims, he had a condition called aphasia, which impairs language ability. Thanks to Armstrong's RiteCare Center, McCormick was able to speak again during what ended up being the last year of his life.

Shortly after McCormick passed away in 2005, his wife Jeanne endowed a scholarship in his memory.

The Thomas Spencer McCormick Presidential Scholarship is awarded each spring to two graduate students in Armstrong's communication sciences and disorders program—allowing more Armstrong students to become professionals in their field like those who helped Jeanne's husband.

"Just to have one conversation is huge in life," said Jenny Dixon, a current graduate student in the program. "Not being able to communicate effectively is very isolating, and I want to do whatever I can to help people get there."

Perhaps young Kevin Valente put it best as he sat in one of the four therapy rooms at the RiteCare Center, working with his clinician, Armstrong graduate student Chelsea Shoop, when he started singing lines from *Toy Story: The Musical*.

"To infinity and beyond! To infinity and beyond!"

"Buzz" wasn't just singing lines from his favorite movie, he was also echoing the hopes of Armstrong students at the RiteCare Center who want to have a bigger impact in their community and help people communicate effectively.

If you are interested in giving to Armstrong's RiteCare Center, please contact the Office of Advancement at 912.344.2541 or advancement@armstrong.edu.

Above: Armstrong graduate student Chelsea Shoop with "Buzz" at the university's RiteCare Center.

Left: Cara Leigh Brumit performing a hearing assessment on Nathan Hunt in the RiteCare Center.





Armstrong chemistry major
Ramon Hartage with professor
Suzanne Carpenter in a high-tech
lab on campus.

*From digital teaching tools
to hands-on experience in
the chemistry lab, Armstrong
students enjoy access to
new technologies and new
ways of learning.*

Move over chalk and chalkboards. Say hello to interactive smart boards, collaborative software, high-tech lab equipment, social media, haptics and online learning.

At Armstrong, technology plays an increasingly important role in teaching and learning, both inside and outside the classroom. As part of the university's mission, faculty members in fields ranging from the arts to the sciences are preparing students to use technology as a critical tool for collaboration, communication and creativity.

"There's a real commitment at Armstrong to embrace technology and to provide education through a range of delivery formats," said Director of Online and Blended Learning Kristen Betts. "In order to engage and retain students, it's important for our faculty to integrate technology into their classes."



TEACHING & TECHNOLOGY

by ALLISON HERSH

BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE IN THE LAB

Ramon Hartage, a junior majoring in chemistry at Armstrong, relishes the unique opportunity to work with delicate Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy instruments, which are used to determine the structure of molecules.

“What I enjoy most about working with the NMR is the opportunity to use such advanced equipment,” he said. “These instruments can help to identify the chemical structure and properties of unknown compounds. This data can give information about a compound’s chemistry that would be otherwise unattainable.”

Working side by side with associate professor of chemistry Suzanne Carpenter, Hartage is working to develop the best protocol for using NMR instruments in organic chemistry labs. “We are trying to find ways to make some of the equipment, such as the NMR, more user-friendly so that hopefully they can be used even more frequently by the students,” Carpenter explained.

“Students who take organic chemistry at most universities in the United States are not even allowed to touch an NMR,” she explained. “Many universities think the instruments are too expensive to let sophomores handle, but I’ve always felt that touching and using the instruments helps you better understand the data you get from the them.”

For this winner of Armstrong’s prestigious H. Dean Propst Award, hands-on experience in the lab with state-of-the-art equipment is an important way for students to learn. Even more important is encouraging students to tap into the joys of chemistry.

“Organic chemistry is tremendously fascinating,” she said. “I love helping students access the magic of the subject. Once they do that, they’re willing to work. The students really get into it.”

21ST CENTURY TEACHING TOOLS

Linda Wright, professor of health sciences at Armstrong, incorporates the latest teaching tools in her courses on campus, as well as her online learning classes.

She gets student feedback in real time in the classroom on Twitter, encourages undergraduates to collaborate on projects through Dabbleboard interactive whiteboard software and edits student white papers on Google Docs.

“I’m not afraid to try new technology in and out of the classroom,” she said. “It’s all about engaging students and helping them learn in different ways. This technology makes it very easy to communicate synchronously or asynchronously with students.”

In her introduction to health professions research class, Wright encourages students to use Dabbleboard technology to analyze the various components of articles. “Students can literally move these pieces around and see how they affect the outcome of the study,” she explained. “Introducing students to creative ways to use technology in their studies helps them develop skills they’ll be using for the rest of their lives.”

Wendy Marshall, director of the Educational Technology Training Center at Armstrong, agrees. “Technology is an effective way to engage students,” she said. “There are so many high-tech tools at teachers’ disposal today. The key is learning how to successfully harness the power of those tools.”

The center has trained thousands of teachers from across the region over the past decade and also helped procure more than \$3 million in educational grants for area schools to bring the latest technology to local classrooms. The center also trains pre-service teachers at Armstrong to master new classroom technology.

“Our students leave here prepared to use the latest technology,” Marshall explained, “making them highly desirable in today’s marketplace.”

Jessica Roche, senior, art education, working in the Student Interactive Media and Research program

ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Jessica Roche, a senior majoring in art education, recently collaborated with ten other fine arts students to develop “Wo(Men),” an experimental play that uses technology to explore gender roles.

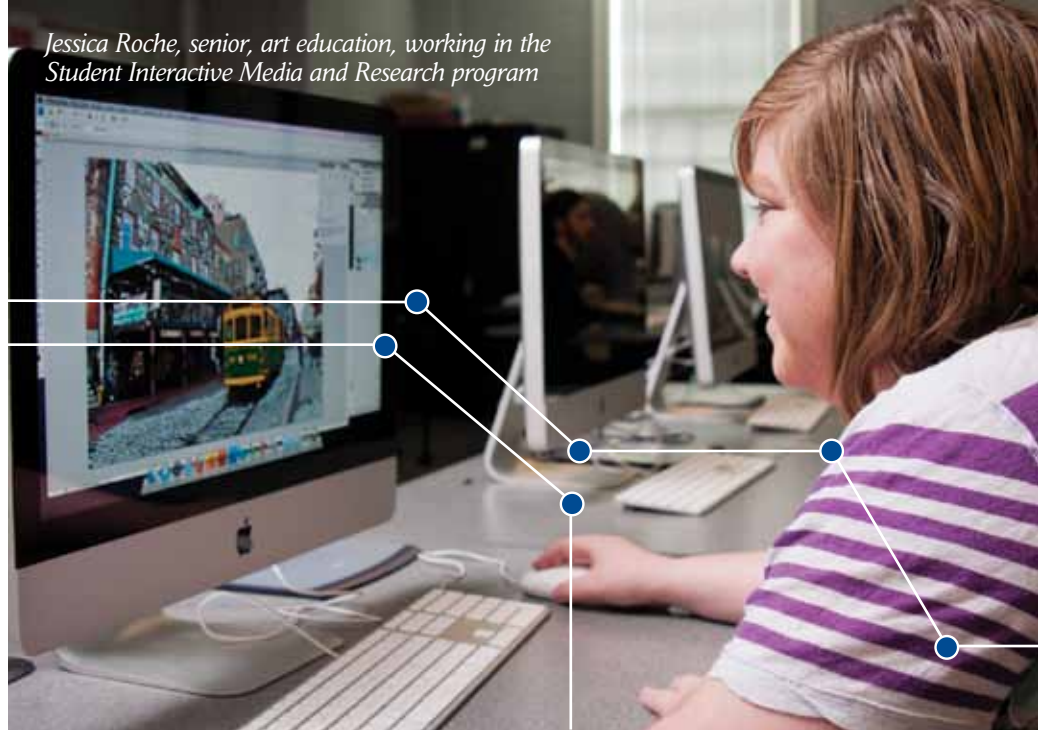
Roche’s group project is part of a landmark new collaboration among fine arts faculty members called SIMR, which stands for Student Interactive Media and Research. During the spring 2012 semester, students in four different fine arts classes at Armstrong—the computer in art, fabric design, scene design and acting for the camera—joined forces to work together in groups. Each group used technology to develop performances that offer different perspectives on local 19th century arts patron Mary Telfair.

“Technology is integrated into each project in different ways,” Roche explained. “For instance, some students created digital paintings that each group will project as backdrops.”

The students presented their plays at the Women and Arts Symposium at Armstrong on March 22. “Students are learning professional skills,” said Angela Horne, assistant professor of fine arts. “They’re learning how to collaborate with people outside their immediate discipline and using technology in creative ways during the process.”

Horne believes technology serves as an important tool for artists-in-training at Armstrong. In her class, the computer in art, she emphasizes the connection between technology and creativity.

“A major goal is for students to see or recognize the computer as another tool for artmaking, similar to paint, graphite or other



“...TECHNOLOGY AND CREATIVITY AR

traditional media,” she explained. “We also integrate traditional media with new media.”

Horne exposes Armstrong students to developing trends in contemporary art, emphasizing the way technology is changing the playing field on the most fundamental levels. She considers digital technology to be a major revolution in the art world, one which is dissolving traditional boundaries and conventional categories. “There’s no question that technology and creativity are completely interdependent,” she noted.



ONLINE SPEAKER SERIES BRINGS GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

A campus-wide collaboration and a new tool called Collaborate will bring monthly lectures from abroad to Armstrong classrooms. The effort was spearheaded by Kristen Betts, director of the Office of Online and Blended Learning, and James Anderson, assistant to the vice president and director of International Education.

The program kicked off in February with a lecture from the Czech Republic’s Dagmar Skovoda Parmova, an international marketing expert who addressed professor Yassaman Saadatmand’s multinational economic enterprises class. Betts and Anderson agree this series has tremendous value.

“These classes will broaden the cultural experience of our students, expose them to new ways of life and prepare them to leave Armstrong ready to work in the global setting,” Anderson explained.

“I’m really excited about Armstrong’s commitment to globalization and accessibility,” Betts added. “It’s critical that students be exposed to an exceptional education in every delivery format at Armstrong.”



“E COMPLETELY INTERDEPENDENT”

HIGH-TECH HAPTICS RESEARCH

Ben Page, a graduate student who recently completed his M.S. in Computer Science, used the university’s NEWS (Network Enabled Work Spaces) laboratory to develop interactive three-dimensional simulations to teach physics.

“My favorite thing about working in the NEWS lab is the energy that comes from working with a group,” he said. “I think that one of the best ways to learn something is to teach it to others.”

Under the guidance of NEWS laboratory director Felix Hamza-Lup, an associate professor of computer science and information technology, Page and 30 other graduate and undergraduate students have collaborated on a range of training and simulation projects since the lab’s founding in 2006. Students have also co-authored a number of research papers, which have been published in leading scientific journals.

Some of the most exciting work involves haptics, which uses tactile feedback and hand-held devices to manipulate virtual objects in space. “This technology has many applications in the medical training and e-learning fields,” Hamza-Lup explained. “This is the next frontier of learning and training.”

The NEWS laboratory recently partnered with the Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando to develop 3D Radiation Therapy Treatment (3DRTT), a patented simulation software system that enhances treatment plans for cancer patients and improves their safety. The facility has also partnered with the Mercer University School of Medicine on Neuro Pathways, a three-dimensional neuro-anatomy simulator that helps medical students more readily comprehend complex neurological concepts.

“There is a huge market for simulation and training in the medical field to improve patient treatment and medical personnel skills,” said Hamza-Lup. “There is also a vast potential for haptics integration into e-learning systems.”

Local High School Students GET ANIMATED WITH ALICE

Alice is not, as many would expect, a Lewis Carroll character lost in Wonderland. Instead, Alice is an introductory programming experience at Windsor Forest High School to teach students the basics of computer animation programming.

Alice came to Windsor Forest thanks to a 2009 AT&T Foundation grant of \$75,000 given to the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation. The grant supports Let the Games Begin!, an educational outreach program designed by Armstrong’s College of Education and the Educational Technology Training Center (ETTC) to help 60 at-risk high school students develop introductory computer programming skills.

The collaboration with Armstrong allowed instructor Bill Harris, an expert in the Alice language, to work with the Windsor Forest students and to pass on his skill set to Windsor Forest teacher Cameron Turner.

“These kids have developed a good idea of how technology works and how to use technology in many different areas,” Turner explained.

An advantage of students using Alice is that the concepts learned are directly applicable to using languages such as Java to write programs. Students become prepared not just for college-level work, but also gain highly valuable technical skills for the professional world.

“If the results we’ve seen so far are any indication, I think you will see better graduation rates of at-risk high school students who are engaged with technology, take ownership of their education, and learn at their own pace,” said Kaylyn Padgett, AT&T Georgia’s regional director of southeast Georgia external affairs. Since the program started at Windsor Forest, several students went on to college with expressed interest in computer careers. The current class is even more inspired.

“I’ve already applied to Armstrong, Savannah State, Albany and the University of North Carolina,” senior Okechukwu Ezech said. “No matter where I go, I’m definitely going to do something with computers.”

The Armstrong Experience

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

Laura Gonzalez '11 BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Laura Gonzalez earned the prestigious Goizueta Foundation Scholarship, which rewards outstanding Latino students, for five consecutive years at Armstrong. "I really needed a scholarship that would cover my tuition, and I am very thankful that I obtained the Goizueta Foundation Scholarship," she said. "Otherwise it would

have been impossible for me to attend college."

Gonzalez was a first generation college student in Armstrong's Honors Program, and she also served as the vice president of the Hispanic Outreach and Leadership at Armstrong (HOLA) club and volunteered at the Community Health Mission. Her involvement on campus was matched by her excellence in the classroom. She won Armstrong's Nursing Class Outstanding Clinician Award in 2011, which is the highest honor in the university's nursing department and was named a 2012 Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

The Colombia native decided to pursue a degree in nursing because she wanted to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

"I wanted to become a nurse because I know that nursing is a caring and compassionate career in which I can provide my skills to help people," she explained. "I have always loved science and wanted to go into the medical field."

She attended the six-week Nurse Extern Program at Memorial University Medical Center in the summer of 2011, working with a registered nurse (R.N.) to strengthen her assessment and clinical skills. She is now studying for the R.N. licensing exam.

"I want to work in a pediatric unit and then eventually come back to Armstrong to become a nurse practitioner," she said. "All my professors were great mentors. They were helpful, knowledgeable and cared about my success."

Gonzalez credits Armstrong for its ongoing commitment to diversity. "I believe that our diversity has increased thanks to different organizations, Dr. Bleicken's support and the student body and faculty," she said. "The university definitely has made me and other Latino students feel at home."



Kelli Bahr '11 MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN

Kelli Bahr was ready to play college soccer from the moment she stepped on campus.

After all, in her four years at Middleton High School in Middleton, Wis., she helped lead her team to a state title

and became one of the top recruits in the state. Despite many accolades that came her way during a stellar high school career, she claims that if it weren't for her sister's involvement in soccer she may have never played.

Bahr has been a staple on the Armstrong back line since her arrival on campus in 2007. In 2010, she earned not only All-America honors on the field for helping the Pirates become Peach Belt Conference champions, but she was also named a prestigious Scholar All-America from the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America.

In a career that has had many high points, the one that stands out to Bahr was a thrilling 3-2 overtime win against the defending national champions, University of Tampa, on their home field in 2007. "There is nothing better than beating a great team on the road," Bahr said. Another important win that is close to Kelli's heart is the 2010 victory over Columbus State University. "After years of falling short, going into that game we knew it was our time," she explained.

As an active member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Bahr also helps give more than 150 student-athletes at Armstrong a voice within the athletic department and the campus in general.

Though playing soccer is her passion, Bahr knows there is life after the game. In May 2011, she earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and is currently pursuing her master's in education. She recently was awarded the 2012 College of Education's Dean's Award and the Exchange Club of Savannah's President's Cup Award. After graduation, she wants to help kids develop good study habits and get them interested in learning at a young age.



Kevin O'Donnell '08 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

He talks about his business, suave confidence in one hand, double shot skim milk latte with hazelnut and caramel in the other. Moments later, Armstrong alumnus Kevin O'Donnell, owner of Soldi Crema LLC, and operator of a Jittery Joe's Coffee café franchise, dashes away to greet a guest standing at the gleaming

black counter.

O'Donnell's café is located inside Savannah's Ex Libris bookstore, a place frequented by guests who range from a *Vogue* editor to the average Joe. When Ex Libris and the café closed for renovations in the summer of 2011, he made his move and bought the franchise.

Before owning his own business and serving steaming cups of caffeine to notable photographers and movie stars, O'Donnell was a politically charged Pirate active in Armstrong's first Moot Court competitions. "Like any university, you get out of it what you put in. And for what Armstrong has available to its students, it's remarkable how much you can get out of it," he said.

O'Donnell joined Armstrong's first Moot Court team in 2004 and won first place at the Southeast Moot Court Association Regional Tournament. But his faculty relationships on campus are what he credits with his current success.

"What I really gained from Armstrong, I credit to a couple of professors. John Kearnes, who is retired now, and William Daughtery were my favorite professors. Daughtery is unbelievably notable, and Kearnes was one of the most challenging professors I've ever had," he said.

While O'Donnell continues to grab opportunity by the mug full, with plans to open a second Jittery Joe's Coffee franchise in the next few years, the former Pirate keeps in touch with his alma mater, noting a twinge of envy when he looks back.

"Armstrong is growing at such an exponential rate. There's so much more going on, that it sounds like more fun and more like a community than it was even just five years ago," he said. "I'm almost jealous that I was there then and not now."



Phung-Hoang Nguyen '12 BIENHOA, VIETNAM

In the movie *Coming to America*, Eddie Murphy came to America to find a wife, but senior Phung-Hoang Nguyen came for the education. She dealt with language barriers and culture shock,

but she has found a love for chemistry and a home at Armstrong.

In 2005, Nguyen's entire family moved from Bienhoa, Vietnam to Savannah. "The language really shocked me," she said. "Even though I had studied English back in my country, it was not enough for me to be able to understand what people said."

But not having a full grasp on the language did not stop her from working hard. She completed high school in 2008, finishing a year earlier than her classmates because of her English reading comprehension skills. "When I read a book, I can understand more, even if I can't understand every word," she said.

This is the same technique Nguyen employs now at Armstrong. She smashes through the language barrier by reading and questioning, and continues to excel in school. "I made the dean's list every semester, and the president's list last year," she said. She also won the 2012 Outstanding Chemistry Senior for Academic Achievement Award.

Since spring 2010, she has also contributed to a computational chemistry research project spearheaded by assistant professor of chemistry Cliff Padgett. Nguyen is helping to develop a methodology that will allow pharmacists to correctly predict the three-dimensional shape of molecules in pharmaceutical products.

"I like the American culture and especially the school system. Armstrong has given me a lot of opportunity and freedom," Nguyen said. "The interaction between teacher and student is more engaged, not like back in my country where students are afraid to talk to the teacher."

After her graduation in 2012, Nguyen plans to enroll in either graduate school or pharmacy school. "With my Ph.D., I want to do more research, and I also want to be a pharmacist in the Savannah area. I definitely want to stay here."



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

Behind the MASQUERS

by ERICA ARCHANGEL

Meet the directors of the Armstrong Masquers, the men and woman who created a 75-year-old theatre legacy intertwined with national and local history.

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

— William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*

The directors behind the Armstrong Masquers have responded to national and global issues for the last 75 years, using the world to set the stage in Jenkins Hall. From poignant productions to a theatre conference that challenged the societal norms of the day, all were influenced, in some way or another, by the history swirling around them.

In the days of Armstrong Junior College, the theatre's first director arrived fresh as a newly minted penny in the fall of 1936. Stacy Keach, bright with a vision of theatre that

combined the talent of the college and the community, created the Savannah Playhouse. The troop's first audience took their seats on February 4, 1937, at the original downtown Jenkins Theatre to perform *Three Cornered Moon*, marking the beginning of a Savannah entertainment staple.

The Savannah Playhouse drew regular crowds and plenty of publicity in the subsequent years. Local newspapers frequently reported on casting, set construction and costume creation. But by September 1939, a war began brewing in Europe, one so large that it would affect even a fledgling college nestled in the Deep South.

Keach responded to World War II's beginnings with his production of *Paths of Glory*, a play based on Humphrey Cobb's novel about World War I soldiers who mutiny their glory-seeking general after falling under fire. "I know of nothing we could do that is more timely than *Paths of Glory*," Keach told the *Savannah Morning News* in 1940.



Three Cornered Moon, 1937



Paths of Glory, 1940



Othello, 1954



Chicago, 1968



Purlie Victorious, 1975

"I don't believe Savannah audiences have ever seen anything quite like it, its dramatic punch, its human appeal, the way it reveals the base motives behind the action of men gripped with the 'glory' fever."

In 1941, the theatre went dark as America stepped onto the battlefield. Stacy Keach left the university, and the Savannah Playhouse went on a six-year wartime hiatus.

In August 1947, Armstrong's theatre program was revived. But by 1949, the program downsized due to limited college finances, and lights dimmed on the Savannah Playhouse. When spotlights flicked on and velvet curtains rose again in fall 1950, the Armstrong Masquers took the stage.

AHEAD OF THE TIMES

Enter stage left Jack Porter, who took over Armstrong's Masquers in 1952. Little did he know that being a theatre director could mean being a creator of local history.

According to Porter's memoir, "Savannah, bastion of the Old South, got itself racially integrated...two years before Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus in Montgomery." Porter, in rather naïve fashion, volunteered to host the 1954 Southeastern Theatre Conference, an integrated event, in Savannah. He recalled the difficulties of finding accommodations for the racially mixed conference luncheon, finally securing St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church on Bull Street as the venue, after being turned down by other organizations.

He also chose to produce Shakespeare's *Othello* as the conference showcase piece, with faculty member Joseph Killorin in the lead role. "I really was not quite conscious that we were out on the cutting edge of a momentous issue," he said. "There was never any doubt in my mind, or, I am sure, in Shakespeare's, that Othello was a black man."

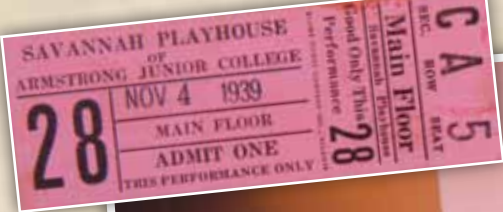
The performance highlighted racial tensions in 1954, the year of Brown vs. Board of Education, and inevitably caused social pressure for the Foreman Hawes administration at Armstrong. But the telling question came from one of Porter's conference colleagues: "What color is your Othello?" Porter replied that Killorin's makeup changed with each presentation, but he realized that the real question addressed not the color of the skin but the way in which the character was portrayed. How black could and should Othello be?

At the close of the event, which went off without a hitch, Porter deemed the entire conference a success. He recalled one conferee's congratulations: "Do you realize what you did here, Jack? You had a racially-integrated public performance in your theatre in Savannah, Georgia!" Porter replied, "And we integrated more than that, didn't we?" Porter stayed with the college until 1955.

A STATEMENT PIECE

When Armstrong moved to its new campus in 1966, Frank Chew came on the scene. Looking more like a student than a director, Chew brought with him a knack for modernizing classic theatre pieces and connecting with the college-age community. He presented what he called "our unique production of *The Bacchae* by Euripides." In keeping with the anti-establishment and pro-rock-n-roll sentiments of the 60's, Chew substituted hippies for Dionysus' worshippers, used psychedelic lighting techniques and replaced choral odes with electric guitars.

While *The Bacchae* broke boundaries, Chew's greatest controversy came with a production of Sam Shepard's *Chicago*. The play pushed hard against the edge of Savannah community standards. Parents and local legislators protested the profanity and one particularly suggestive scene. Chew scrubbed out the



Iron Mistress, 2011
Pamela Sears



A Raisin in the Sun, 2009



“IT’S THROUGH DRAMA THAT WE LIVE OUR EXPERIENCES.”

profanity but retained the controversial scene in which the male lead stood with low-slung jeans while his stage wife knelt and bestowed a kiss upon his navel.

After the production, an *Inkwell* reporter overheard one student ask, “I really liked it, but where was the pornography?” Another asked, “Now, Mr. Chew, that the Jordan River has been crossed, what lies ahead for the Masquers and for the whole of Armstrong State College?”

The answer came with John Suchower in 1969, who provided the Masquers with more than twenty years of theatre direction. Suchower was joined by Joe Mydell from 1974 to 1976, at a time when every aspect of life at Armstrong confronted issues of race and the legacy of southern racism. Mydell brought to the campus and to the Masquers the perspective of an African-American theatre director, especially with the production of Ossie Davis’ *Purlie Victorious*. Mydell told the *Inkwell*, “If black and white societies can look at the problem [racism] and laugh, and at the same time realize that they are the problem, then communication barriers can be eliminated.”

BETTER WITH AGE

With the arrivals of Pete Mellen in 1993, Roger Miller in 1996 and Pamela Sears (Armstrong’s first female theatre faculty member) in 2005, the Masquers and Armstrong’s theatre program skyrocketed to new heights, appropriate for a university-level institution.

Miller retired in 2009, leaving Mellen and Sears to carry forward the tradition of guiding Armstrong students to rethink their views on current events and allow history to engage the university. “We do a lot of shows that raise social issues,” Mellen said. “And one of the things that I find interesting is that a lot of these plays are not necessarily new.”

From the discovery of the “gay gene” in *The Twilight of the Gods*, an issue that coincides with a national battle on gay rights, to the struggle of race and dreams deferred in *A Raisin in the Sun*, the Masquers’ repertoire continues to explore both contemporary and traditional plays that resonate today. “This is one of the reasons why theatre is such a powerful force in our lives,” Mellen said. “It’s through drama that we live our experiences.”

MASQUERS’ directors

Stacey Keach
1937-1941

Ross Durfee
1950-52 & 1955-69

Al Gordon
1960-1962

Frank Chew
1966-1969

Joe Mydell
1974-1976

Roger Miller
1996-2009

Carlson Thomas
1947-1950

Jack Porter
1952-1955

William Starrs
1963-1966

John Suchower
1969-1992

Pete Mellen
1993-present

Pamela Sears
2005-present



3200

Service hours to the community by students, faculty, staff and alumni who have participated in Treasure Savannah day of service

49%

New undergraduate students in 2011 from OUTSIDE of our local area



NOTABLE NUMBERS

1389

students living on campus

\$2.5 million

Grants to support Latino students from Lumina Foundation and the Goizueta Foundation

#1

The place captured in written competition by Armstrong's Moot Court team in the American Moot Court Association National Tournament in 2011

Pass rate of our Doctorate of Physical Therapy class on National Physical Therapy Examination

100%

82%

Armstrong students who depend on some kind of financial aid



8

National championships captured by our men's and women's tennis teams

85

Student clubs and organizations with hundreds of opportunities for leadership, activity and engagement



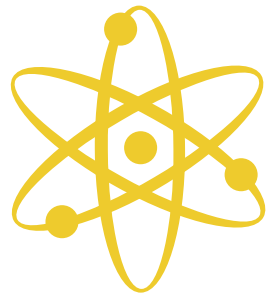
69

Countries represented by our student population

1.2

million

Grants received from the National Science Foundation since 2003 to fund research and learning in the College of Science and Technology



1284

Graduates in the 2010-2011 academic year

7493

TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN FALL 2011



\$201.2 MILLION

Armstrong's economic impact on the region

phenomenal FACULTY

Ask Armstrong graduates what they loved most about their time at Armstrong and in almost every instance, they will tell you a story of a professor who had an impact on their lives. A few shining examples are the faculty members whose diverse talents and contributions were recognized with special awards in 2011.

by ALLISON HERSH

ZAPHON WILSON

Department Head
Criminal Justice, Social & Political Science

Zaphon R. Wilson, the department head of Armstrong's Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science Department, believes in the power of giving back.



The recipient of the university's prestigious Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Community, Wilson has spent much of his professional life making Savannah a better place for everyone. Originally from western North Carolina, he has served as vice president of 100 Black Men of Savannah, overseeing a successful pen pal program and connecting local business leaders with students in public schools.

"It's important to me to feel invested in the community," he said. "We all have the power to uplift the community and to help move it forward."

Over the years, Wilson has served on the Mayor's Crime Task Force, participated in the job fairs program at DeRenne

Middle School, contributed to the volunteer reading program at West Broad Elementary and chaired the African-American Male Initiative at Armstrong in 2004. This dedicated community volunteer currently serves as a board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry, the Rape Crisis Center and ClearChannel Radio.

"I became a teacher because I wanted to be of service to others. In my opinion, part of being an educator is committing yourself to provide a service to the community you live in," he said.

Wilson teaches courses at Armstrong in southern politics, African-American political behavior and ethics and morals in government. Sharing his passion for service, he has inspired students to work in county and city government, sign up for the Peace Corps, volunteer at juvenile delinquent center offices and to read to students in public schools.

"A community service component is a very important part of any education," he said. "You learn more outside of the classroom because you link theory to practice. It's important for students to be linked back to the community they live in."

TRACI NESS

Assistant Professor of Biology

For assistant professor of biology Traci Ness, research is not just part of her curriculum, it's her passion.

Ness is currently working with three students as part of a special collaboration with the Mercer University School of Medicine in Savannah, studying how the body recognizes pathogens. Using the yeast *Candida* as a model pathogen, students examine how cells in the mouth identify pathogens and initiate an immune response.

"The research gets the students into trying techniques with broad applications,"

she said. "No matter which field they choose to go into, it's great experience."

Ness also conducts ongoing research with undergraduate students to learn more about the immune system of sea turtles. She and a group of students have worked to identify receptors for pathogens present in the turtles' DNA.

"I like sharing my interest in the subject matter with students, particularly in the lab," she said, "where students get to do hands-on science."

As the director of Armstrong's Science and Technology Expansion Program (STEP), Ness encourages incoming freshmen to do serious scientific research. "If we engage students early as pre-freshmen, they will be more likely to succeed and will be better prepared for college," she explained, adding that Armstrong received a \$1 million grant to support STEP student research.

Over the years, her students have gone on to become doctors, nurses and



Traci Ness (standing)

research lab scientists. "In the College of Science and Technology, we're trying hard to build a strong research culture," she said. "STEP has been key to developing that culture with faculty and students."

Winner of Armstrong's 2011 Kristina Brockmeier Faculty Teaching and Service Award, Ness brings courses like virology, immunology and medical microbiology to life in the classroom. "I have a lot of

energy in the classroom," she said. "In order to engage students, you have to have charisma when you teach. When you show students your passion, it engages them in a more meaningful way."

KEVIN HAMPTON

Professor of Music

Armstrong music professor Kevin Hampton first discovered the magic of the piano as an eight-year-old growing up in Missouri, and his life was never the same.

"I love the sound of the piano," he said. "For me, music allows me to transcend the three-dimensional aspect of life and move into an ethereal or spiritual realm."



Equally comfortable as a soloist or collaborative performer, Hampton is a founding member of Trio Savannah and a member of the Forsyth Ensemble. His research interests have centered on piano music by African-American composers as well as twentieth century works for piano four-hands. Additionally, he has published articles and given presentations on teaching students with joint laxity.

In classes like music appreciation, music theory, piano literature and keyboard harmony, he strives to bring his instruction to life, engaging students in the mechanics as well as the magic of music.

"I enjoy collaborating with colleagues and students at Armstrong and teaching the 'nuts and bolts' to students," he said. "I

like to explore how we use our bodies as this fixed instrument and make it produce all these colors that speak to the emotions of the audience."

A longtime member of the Georgia Music Teachers Association and the Georgia Music Educators Association, Hampton also encourages students in his piano pedagogy class to work with local instructors as part of a special music mentor program.

"Ultimately, I want my students to become their own teachers and to understand the discipline of the art," he said. "I hope they will feel free to express their own musical ideas within the parameters of accepted performance practices and share their love of making music with others."

Hampton is also known for his impressive service to the university. He received Armstrong's 2010-11 Distinguished Faculty Service to the University Award in recognition of his contribution to the launch of the Faculty Senate on campus and service on its Strategic Planning and Resource Council.

MARK FINLAY

Professor of History and Assistant Dean,
College of Liberal Arts

History professor Mark R. Finlay, the recipient of Armstrong's Alumni Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Academic Discipline, has a strong commitment to teaching and research.

An accomplished historian who also serves as an assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts, Finlay is the author of *Growing American Rubber: Strategic Plants and the Politics of National Security* (Rutgers University Press), which was named in the Agricultural History Society as the best book in the field in 2009. He also serves as the book review editor for the journal *Agricultural History*, and has authored over 15 scholarly articles, written nearly 70 book reviews and presented dozens of papers at academic conferences.

"I care very much about research," he said. "I think it helps my teaching and increases my credibility as a professor."

A member of the Armstrong faculty since 1992, Finlay was the founding director of the university's Honors Program and teaches classes on environmental history, the history

of technology and German history. He has been honored for his distinguished teaching in 1995, 1999 and 2000, and earned the Georgia Board of Regents' Teaching Excellence Award in 1999.

The recipient of numerous research grants, he recently served as a consultant for the renovation of Thomas Edison's



laboratory in Fort Myers, Florida, along with Armstrong chemistry professor Richard Wallace. "It was an honor to be in the same room and read thousands of the same documents that Edison wrote and read," he said.

"I find history to be exciting and also pertinent," he explained. "History offers connections to contemporary issues that are still relevant today."

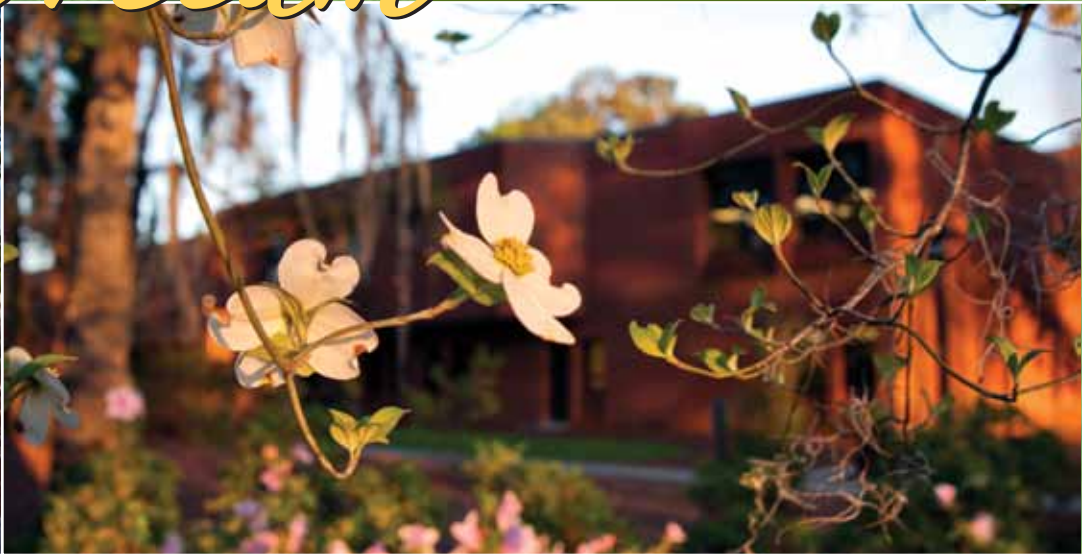
Scholars in other fields seem to agree, as Finlay has been invited to speak before professional organizations of chemists, plant pathologists, industrial ecologists and rubber scientists.

He is already working on his next book, which explores the environmental history of the Georgia sea islands.

Honored by the Student Government Association with the 2011 H. Dean Propst award for outstanding teaching, associate professor of chemistry Suzanne Carpenter is featured in the article on teaching and technology on page 6.

ARMSTRONG'S

Arboretum



- ☞ *The arboretum spans Armstrong's 268-acre campus and includes seven major collections: the camellia, conifer, fern, ginger, international, primitive and white gardens.*
- ☞ *Depending on the season, 3500-4000 species thrive here.*
- ☞ *960 hours a month are spent maintaining the grounds.*

Photos by Katherine Arntzen and Vincent Haines

PIRATE'S TREASURE

by LISA SWEANY, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

WOW, what a fall!

Armstrong Athletics had arguably its best fall season ever, and I couldn't be more proud of our student-athletes. The Pirate volleyball team recorded a school-best 31-0 start on its way to a 36-3 overall record. The Pirates won the regular season Peach Belt Conference (PBC) title and qualified for the NCAA Southeast Regional Tournament for the fourth straight year. Junior Brittany Wolf was named the 2011 Peach Belt Conference Player of the Year and Third Team AVCA All-American, while head coach Will Condon shared PBC Coach of the Year honors.



Stars on the Field and in the Classroom

The women's soccer team rounded out a phenomenal fall season with numerous firsts for the program. The Pirate soccer team was crowned the regular season and tournament champions for the PBC, finishing with an 18-3-3 overall record. They clinched Armstrong's first NCAA Southeast Regional title and made the first appearance in the NCAA DII National Tournament. The Pirates were ousted from the semifinal match by eventual national champion, College of St. Rose, in a hard-fought 2-0 match. The Pirates were led by junior Kristina Pascutti, PBC Co-Player of the Year and Second Team NSCAA All-American; senior Kelli Bahr, PBC First Team All-Conference and NSCAA Honorable Mention All-American; and head coach Eric Faulconer, PBC and NSCAA Southeast Region Coach of the Year. Equally as impressive as these young ladies' athletic talent is their ability to get it done in the classroom. The women's soccer team finished with a department-best 3.265 overall team GPA and FIVE perfect 4.0 GPAs. Outstanding.

The effort by our fall sports players landed Armstrong in the top 25 in the fall rankings of the 2011-12 Learfield Sports Director's Cup for the best overall NCAA DII Athletics Department, all while

maintaining a department-wide GPA of 3.023.

We closed out a busy winter season with our basketball teams continuing to show improvement and gaining ground in a very tough Peach Belt Conference.

Celebrating History

In February the athletic department welcomed back more than 100 former women athletes in celebration of the 35th anniversary of women's athletics. A great time was had by all in attendance, and I want to personally thank each attendee for making this such a memorable event. Once a Pirate, always a Pirate!

Springing to the Top

Our spring sports season is well underway and all of our teams are competing at a top level. All Pirate squads are in contention for postseason play with men's and women's tennis, softball and men's golf looking to return to the NCAA postseason. This spring the NCAA is hosting a spring festival for all spring national championships in Louisville, Ky., on May 15-19, 2012, which encompasses all of the Pirate spring sports except baseball (which will compete in Cary, N.C.). The Pirates look to make a splash in Louisville. Keep an eye on armstrongpirates.com to follow the progress of our teams.

We ask a lot of our student-athletes in both the classroom and in their sports, but they all find time to give back as well. Several of our teams participated in Celebrate Armstrong and Treasure Savannah, as well as other community service projects. Our coaches and student-athletes understand the importance of giving back, and they do so with great pride and professionalism. I am extremely proud of what these young men and women are doing while representing Armstrong Athletics.

I hope to see you at an upcoming home competition so you, too, can enjoy Pirate Athletics. Go Pirates!



HALL of FAME

The Armstrong Atlantic State University Athletic Department inducted the 2011-12 Athletic Hall of Fame class in a ceremony on March 29 at the Armstrong Center. Six new inductees, plus a service citation award winner, bring the total members of the Hall of Fame to 57, since the inaugural class was inducted in 1995.

This year's class includes: women's tennis player Luisa Cowper, who was a three-time ITA All-American and the No. 1 ranked singles player in the nation from 2004-06; men's golfer Chris Epperson, a Savannah native who was a GCAA All-American during his three seasons in 2002-05; women's cross country/track runner Nikki Garland, who was the most decorated Armstrong women's cross country and track athlete in school history from 1997-2001; volleyball player Sarah Haynes, Armstrong's only three-time AVCA All-Region honoree from 1999-2002; softball player Annie Sells, Armstrong's best two-way player, who was a two-time NFCA All-American from 1999-02 and men's tennis player Christian Witt, who was a two-time ITA All-American and No. 1 singles player from 1998-99.

Former university president Thomas Z. Jones was honored with a service citation award for his efforts in expanding the Armstrong athletic department during his tenure as president from 2000-09.

"Our Hall of Fame has a strong tradition of inducting deserving student-athletes, and this class is no exception," Armstrong director of athletics Lisa Sweany said. "I commend the committee on an excellent job on their selections for this year's class."

All of the plaques honoring the Armstrong Hall of Famers can be seen in the lobby of the Armstrong Sports Center.

alumni LIFE CHANGERS

Julie Anderson Paul '01

Last summer, Candler Hospital pediatric nurse Julie Anderson Paul (top) planned to spend her day off relaxing on Tybee Island's North Beach with family and friends.

She never expected she would save a life.

Just after taking a walk down the beach looking for shells with her son, Paul noticed a chaotic scene by the shoreline. "I heard people screaming and saw them dragging a child up from the shore," she recalled. "I dropped everything and took off running towards them."

Bystanders were performing CPR on a lifeless toddler who had been swept underwater by a powerful wave, but this experienced R.N. knew the technique they were using was more appropriate for adults, not children. As the child's distraught mother pleaded for help, Paul took over the rescue, observing that the three-year-old boy was in tough shape.

"He was just lifeless and blue," she said, explaining that time stood still as she breathed into the toddler's mouth, over and over again. "I kept praying that he would start breathing. Eventually, he opened his eyes. He gradually came around and the lifeguards brought oxygen and took him to an ambulance at a nearby parking lot."

All that night and the next day, Paul couldn't help but wonder how the boy was doing. She called around to nurses at area emergency rooms and found out that his condition was stable. One nurse put her on the line with the child's mother, who tearfully thanked Paul for saving her son's life.

Then, Paul had the opportunity to speak with the rescued toddler. "He told me that he loved me," she said. "That was incredible."

Although she doesn't consider herself a hero, this dedicated pediatric nurse credits Armstrong with helping her save a child's life on a hot summer day on Tybee Island.

"Armstrong prepared me for my job, and my job prepared me for that moment," she explained. "You never know what life has in store."



These two Armstrong alumnae have saved lives and changed lives thanks to their experiences at Armstrong. Their stories brightly illustrate how being at the right place at the right time can make all the difference.



Elena Santamaria '10

A bout with breast cancer interrupted Armstrong alumna Elena Santamaria's dreams of going to college, but surviving left her determined to help other victims and accomplish her goals.

Born in Cuba and raised in Miami, Santamaria put off college after she got married and started a family. Yet the thought of pursuing higher education never left her mind.

She began taking classes at Armstrong in 1997, but postponed college again after her husband's job prompted a move to Atlanta. Shortly after, doctors diagnosed her with breast cancer.

"It is horrifying to hear that you have breast cancer. I was frightened, angry, in despair and overwhelmed," she said. "You go through a grieving period that is very difficult and painful, just as if you have lost a loved one. Eventually, over time, you come to terms with what has happened, and then you start healing."

In 2005, Santamaria moved back to the Low Country cancer-free, and upon her arrival turned her thoughts to others as she noticed a need for interpreters at the local hospitals.

Armed with extensive research notes and data, she convinced Memorial University Medical Center's management team to open an interpretation department, where she now serves as coordinator for interpretation services. The program has been running strongly for six years, and the hospital continues to support her and her cause.

"We provide not only interpretation services, but emotional support to the growing number of Hispanics that we have here in Savannah and in the surrounding areas," Santamaria said. "I feel it's not a job. I feel I'm doing a service."

Santamaria soon returned to unfinished business after starting the interpretation department at Memorial. She re-enrolled at Armstrong, as determined as ever to complete her degree. Santamaria graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Spanish program in 2010.

Donning her cap and gown was the culmination of years of struggle and success for the Latina cancer survivor.

"I graduated at the age of 58. That has been one of the proudest moments of my life, getting that diploma," she said.

Santamaria plans to continue supporting other breast cancer victims by sharing her story of survival and continuing to reach out to the local Latino community through her work at Memorial.

CLASS *notes*

'50s

Ernest Murphy, '51 world-class tenor and two-time Grammy Award winner performed at Armstrong last October and has had a very distinguished career. He has toured three continents as a member of the New York Pro Musica.

'70s

John R. Rogers, Jr. '72 has written two novels and is working on a third. Since retiring, he is fulfilling a long-delayed itch to write fiction. Both works are historical thrillers involving foreign intrigue. For details visit www.authorjrrogers.com.

William Scarborough '75, '77 recently completed the professional examination for the Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) professional designation and certification. He has also completed certified public accountant (CPA), certified fraud examiner (CFE), certified internal auditor (CIA) and certified management accountant (CMA) certifications. He is employed as an associate chief accountant in the enforcement division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission located in Washington, D.C., and is on the adjunct accounting faculty at George Washington University.

Art Gnann '77 was honored as a health care hero by the Georgia Medical Society. The Georgia Medical Center bestowed this honor at their annual Health Care Hero dinner in the Health Care Innovation Category. Gnann serves as vice president of finance at Hospice Savannah and heads their Veteran Initiative.

Z. Franklin Moore, Jr. '77 is the broker/owner of Frank Moore & Company LLC, a real estate services company specializing in property management and homeowner association management in the greater Savannah area since 1999.

'80s

Steve Bradshaw '80 is a candidate for a seat on the DeKalb County Commission.

Mary Lynn Glisson Zittrouer '86 graduated from Armstrong with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She is employed at Memorial University Medical Center in labor and delivery, where she has worked since graduation. Zittrouer is now a nurse practitioner in Savannah and has three Pirates in her house. Her son, Christopher Zittrouer is a junior and is the starting first baseman for the Armstrong Pirates' baseball team. Her daughters, Kayla and Kelsey Zittrouer, are freshmen. Her family is continuing the Pirate tradition!

'90s

Betty E. Clarke '90 started in January 2012 as an adjunct English instructor at Georgia Highlands College at the Douglasville campus.

Joseph (Chip) Lane '91 started his own business, First City Films LLC, in 2008 to create and promote films and media that use Savannah as a backdrop or focal point. "My mission is to make films about this area and to promote local actors and their endeavors," he said. His latest project is *Untouched*, a full-length feature film that started filming in October 2011. A crew of about 40 has been hired to do the filming, and the cast includes seven local actors. In addition to hiring locals for the filming, First City is also promoting local businesses in the film.

Susan D. Stewart '96 has worked in the pulp and paper industry for Rayonier, Abitibowater and GP. Her positions have included process chemist, lab supervisor, shift supervisor, product development and quality manager. Stewart has four children and four grandchildren. Two of her children, Ericka and Gretchen, have also graduated from Armstrong.

Clay Chappell '97 has acted in three movies in five months. Chappell plays a city councilman in the recent box office hit *Footloose*, and a 1960s barber in the film *Jayne Mansfield's Car*. Later this spring, look for Chappell as the prosecutor in *Savannah*, the true story of Ward Allen, a white aristocrat and his relationship with a freed slave in the early 1900s.

'00s

Audrey Gregory '01 has been appointed chief operating officer at Saint Francis Hospital-Memphis effective October 24, 2011. Gregory is a registered nurse, holds master's degrees in nursing and health care administration from Armstrong and obtained her Ph.D. in corporate and organizational management from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla. She was recently honored by *Success* magazine as one of South Florida's 25 Most Distinguished and Influential Black Women of 2010.

Adam W. Lee '02 received a bachelor of science degree from Armstrong and became a police officer for the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police. In 2006, he joined Edward Jones as a financial advisor. Lee is also actively involved in numerous community organizations and holds life and health insurance licenses. He currently lives in Savannah with his wife Mary Margaret and son Edward.

David A. Newcomer '02, '05, '10 has been promoted to director of pulmonary services at Albemarle Hospital.

Jennifer C. White '03 was recently recognized as one of the Next Gen Power 25 by Aquatics International.

Patrick Riley '04 is a home inspector with National Property Inspections, responsible for residential and commercial property inspections for buyers and sellers, including thermal imaging scanning, carbon monoxide testing, combustible gas leak testing and pool inspections.

2011-12 Savannah-Chatham County TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the following alumni who were named Savannah-Chatham County 2011-12 Teachers of the Year:

Tiffany R. Aliotta '88, '05, Jacob G. Smith Elementary School
Beverly B. Godbee '88, '04, Bartow Elementary School
Patricia T. Ryan '90, '01, Pulaski Elementary School
Aida E. Avendano '92, Marshpoint Elementary School
Mayme L. Bostic '95, East Broad Elementary School
Catherine A. Moore '95, Carrie E. Gould Elementary School
Angela Cuyler-Hunter '98, Spencer Elementary School
Elizabeth A. Ewbank '02, Sol C. Johnson High School
Channil N. Scott '02, '04, '05, Myers Middle School
Kathryn H. Whitney '03, Esther F. Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts
Selena Travis '04, Bartlett Middle School
Vernita M. Quarterman '05, Southwest Elementary School
Patra Rickman '06, Charles Ellis Montessori Academy
Patrick Lapollo '07, Mercer Middle School
Angella W. McCoy '07, Robert W. Gadsden Elementary School
Kimberly G. Green '08, Port Wentworth Elementary School



Darcey Krug '05 is a business consultant with Mercuri Urval, based in Arlington, Va. She has a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Armstrong and spent time studying abroad in South America and China

with the women's volleyball team. She joined Mercuri Urval in 2011, and is experienced in business strategy, recruitment and selection, executive coaching, management team development, capability review and organizational change.

Danira Beckmann '06 was named membership coordinator at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.

Allison Hardy Cordero '06, '08 is employed by Premier Dental Designs as a dental hygienist.

Richard A. Wright '06 received his M.A. from Eastern Michigan University and is currently an M.F.A. candidate at MSU.

Constance (Connie) Hinely '07 is May Howard Elementary School's nominee for 2013 Teacher of the Year.

Megan Leggett '08 is owner and president of Sincere Shipping LLC, an international third-party logistics provider specializing in the shipment of cars to the Middle East and North Africa.



Ronessa M. Strickland-Roberts '08 works for the Orange County Health Department in Orlando, Fla., coordinating the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's

behavioral intervention program for African-American females. She earned a master's degree in public health in 2010 from Walden University and is currently working on her doctorate in public health with a specialization in epidemiology.

Javelle Johnson '09 is currently competing in the Miss South Florida USA regional pageant, "Miss Art Deco." She received a National Service Volunteer Award from the National Civilian Community Corps. She resides in South Florida, where she works with a nonprofit organization and plans to pursue her M.F.A. in film.

Luis A. Ris '09 was named the youth development coordinator at the YMCA of Coastal Georgia.

'10s

Landon D. Smith '11 began work January 30, 2012, as the business operations manager at Anderson Cancer Institute.

engagement

Matthew James Mercer '11 to wed Paige Alexis Mincey in April 2012.

Know any alumni who deserve recognition?

Nominate Armstrong Notable Alumni at armstrong.edu/alumni by June 1, 2012.



William S. Ray, Jr., D.D.S. **2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD WINNER**

Dr. William S. Ray, Jr., a successful Savannah dentist, only attended Armstrong for one year, but it proved to be a pivotal year in his life.

"Armstrong gave me a lot of confidence and helped me transition from high school to becoming a young adult," he said. "It was very important to me."

This Savannah native started as an undergraduate at Armstrong in 1957, before transferring to the University of Georgia to pursue his dream of becoming a dentist. After graduating from Emory University's dental school, he served in the U.S. Navy, developing his dentistry skills at the Charleston Naval Hospital.

A proud Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, the American College of Dentists, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Georgia Dental Association and the International College of Dentists, Dr. Ray served as a strong supporter of the former dental hygiene program at Armstrong for many years, offering a valuable clinical perspective.

This lifetime member of the Georgia Dental Association has a busy dental practice with offices in Savannah and Pooler, where he specializes in general and cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Ray served as a longtime member of the board of trustees for the Armstrong Foundation, always maximizing the opportunity to give back to the university through selfless acts of service.

Armstrong's Alumni Association honored him with the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award, which recognizes significant contributions to the growth and development of the university through dedication and support of the institution and the Armstrong Alumni Association. "I believe you should give of your time, your talents and your resources," he explained. "You do what you can and try to be a good alumnus."

Dr. Ray also believes in giving back to the community and supporting the next generation of dental professionals through his extensive volunteer work. "This community has really supported me," he said. "I love Savannah and want to give back as much as I can."

John "Toby" Browne 2011 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD WINNER

As a player, instructor and mentor, Toby Browne has made an indelible legacy on Peach State golf. That's why Armstrong presented him with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2011, in recognition of his notable community involvement, professional expertise and leadership skills.

In 1968, while attending Armstrong, Browne won the Georgia State Amateur Championship. After earning a B.B.A. in Management and Marketing from Armstrong in 1969, he went on to become a Class "A" member of the PGA and to pursue a career in the golf business.

In 1970, he became an assistant golf professional at Savannah Inn and Country Club. One year later, he was named the head golf professional and served in that capacity until 1979. After making his mark at Savannah Inn and Country Club, he took the head golf professional position at The Savannah Golf Club in 1979, and still serves in that role today.

Throughout his career, Browne has tirelessly served the Savannah golf community. He has served as president of the Georgia PGA East Chapter, a member of the board of directors of the Georgia PGA, president of the Savannah Junior Golf Association and a member of the board of directors for the Savannah Junior Golf Association. In 1996, he was officially inducted into the Armstrong Athletic Hall of Fame, in honor of his achievements both on and off the golf course.

This PGA professional first discovered golf as a seventh grader growing up in Savannah. "It grabbed me," he recalls. "I never stopped."

Over the years, he has been recognized as PGA Georgia Section Professional of the Year and served as the host PGA professional for the Georgia Open Championship, Georgia State Amateur Championship and the Georgia Senior Amateur Championship. He and his wife, Frances, an Armstrong graduate, have two grown children.

Browne particularly enjoys working with junior players and serving on the rules committee for Armstrong's golf tournaments. "Armstrong definitely helped prepare me for what I'm doing now," he said. "I'm proud to be a graduate of Armstrong. I believe in giving back."



in memoriam

Nell Blanton Buford '41*
November 5, 2011
Comer Hymes Gay '45*
October 2, 2011
James Carlton Kimberly '48*
November 3, 2011
John Joseph Piechocinski '55*
January 6, 2012
Lester Ray Kilpatrick '57*
November 11, 2011
James Larry (Jim) Miles, Sr. '60*
October 12, 2011
William D. Croom, Sr., '65, '75
February 19, 2012
Martha Bishop Coolidge '68
October 18, 2011
Patrick "Glenn" Mahany '69
February 17, 2012
Brenda Bankston Bryant '72
November 9, 2011
Imogene Aranda Hopkins '72
January 4, 2012

Marguerite R. Weethee '72
November 22, 2011
John Harris, Jr. '73
November 28, 2011
Gloria Jean Thomas Mims '73
November 30, 2011
Hal R. Kent '74
January 31, 2011
Angela Bright Williams '75
January 30, 2012
Jettie M. Adams '78
January 24, 2012
Fannie Mae Aaron Darnell '78
February 16, 2012
Thomas L. Fulton, Jr. '78
November 28, 2011
Cecil D. "Buddy" Cobb, Jr. '80
December 7, 2011
Nora Jean Kelly '80, '90
December 8, 2011
James S. Aliffi, Jr. '82,
November 9, 2011
Margie Ann Swain Williams '82
December 15, 2011

Lisa Dale Watson '83
October 14, 2011
Julius Angus "Jay" Smith '88
October 3, 2011
Helen "Dale" Wilkinson Sorrells '91
October 27, 2011
Wesley Dean Smith '93
September 16, 2011
Michelle Gignilliat Harvey '96
February 18, 2012
Terry Hughes Vangiller '00
November 27, 2011

James E. Griffiths
Distinguished Consultant in
Residence at Armstrong Atlantic
State University, 1987-1994
February 15, 2012

Raymond A. Lopez
Plant Operations, 1976-2000
November 11, 2011

Nasser Maleki
Associate Professor of
Medical Physics
January 6, 2012

Joan Weiner Epstein Schwartz
'70, '74
Assistant Professor in Early
Childhood Education,
1998-2012
March 5, 2012

Jane Brewer Williamson
Armstrong Assistant Professor
of Nursing Emerita, 1976-2000
December 11, 2011

Clarke Stewart "Stu" Worthington
Professor of Psychology Emeritus,
1967-1993
January 21, 2012

*Golden Graduate (1937-1962)

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

Armstrong

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IN MEMORIAM



PHILIP SOLOMONS, SR., '38*
November 26, 2011

Solomons and his wife Shirley endowed the Philip and Shirley Solomons Eminent Scholar Chair in the Department of Economics. In 2009, Armstrong recognized his life of service to the school and his community by bestowing an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree.

**Golden Graduate (1937-1962)*

To recommend a student for admission to Armstrong, send a note to the Office of Admissions at adm-info@armstrong.edu.

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



Your contributions can fill a critical gap.

Imagine the Armstrong campus full of students. Now imagine the campus if 82% of those students couldn't afford to attend. That's how many students depend on financial aid to help fill the gap between the cost of attendance and what families can afford. Your multi-year donation to the Armstrong Commitment Fund directly benefits our students, making it possible for them to achieve their academic goals and ultimately give back to the community that gave so much to them.

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

Armstrong