

# Compass

Spring 2006

Armstrong State University

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Award winning

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AASU on  
security watch

A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

# Building **BOOM** on campus

The 2005-2006 academic year has been marked by the cacophony of construction as older facilities are remodeled and new ones rise from their concrete launching pads. With the approach of summer, a variety of services will be “open for business” in enhanced surroundings.

## Armstrong Center

A group of AASU staff members tour the Armstrong Center construction site. The \$6.9 million, 65,000 square-foot former Publix supermarket is being converted into space for small to medium conferences. It will house a tiered auditorium, ballroom, and multiple meeting rooms. The space will also include a computer lab and academic classrooms. A 17,300 square-foot second floor is being added for administrative and academic support offices including external affairs and university relations. A portion of the center will contain facilities for plant operations. The center is projected to open in late summer 2006.

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## University Terrace

Two new residence halls are under construction at University Terrace. The facilities will accommodate an additional 96 students in 24 four-bedroom/four-bathroom units. The new apartments will be open in time to welcome students for the fall semester.

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## Health Professions clinics

Space for two health professions clinics is being constructed at Savannah Mall. The mall is located across Abercorn Street from the university. The 14,500 square-foot site will house both the dental and communicative disorders clinics. The remodeled space will also include classrooms and faculty offices. The clinics, which will be operational in the fall, will provide easy public access with ample free parking right outside the front door.

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## Lane Library

The Lane Library has undergone an extensive \$5 million rehabilitation. At press time, the library was scheduled to reopen in June. It will now feature more inviting public areas, additional computers, more comfortable furniture, and wireless access for students using their own laptop computers.

For the past year, library services have been temporarily located in the facility originally built as a student recreation center. The building will undergo some minor renovations in June and reopen in August as a dedicated student recreation center.



Sarah Bohn '05 talks to the animals. She doesn't parle en pachyderm or jabber in giraffe, but when she speaks, the magnificent beasts listen.

"Missy, foot. Good foot, Missy. Missy, steady. Steady. Good Missy."

Bohn is putting Missy, a 37-year-old 9,500 pound, eight-foot tall female elephant through her daily exercises and health examination. Missy, the dominant cow, and the three other elephants in her care at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, tower massively over the slightly built biology major, but they heed her every command with obvious intelligence.

When Bohn first entered Armstrong Atlantic, she was looking forward to a career in obstetrics. In time, she came under the mentorship of Jennifer Zettler and Bob Lessnau who taught electives in mammalogy and primatology. Lessnau introduced her to the nature sanctuary on St. Catherine's Island where she spent a weekend following the lemurs around and sharpening her observational skills.

With her interest in zoology heightened, Bohn turned to Oatland Island, a wildlife sanctuary just east of Savannah and operated by Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. There, she served a two-year internship conducting tours, helping with the care and feeding of the animals, and teaching children in summer camp. In her senior year, Bohn began volunteering on weekends at the Jacksonville Zoo.

Upon graduation in May 2005, the zoo hired her as an apprentice mammal

### AASU a tradition for the Bohn family

Mom, **Rochelle Bohn '92** graduated from Armstrong State with a degree in nursing. Brother, **Eric Bohn '09**, is currently a freshman at AASU.



Sarah Bohn'05 and Brett Smith perform daily maintenance on four enormous African elephants.

## ALUMINARIES

### Talking to the animals

keeper. Most zoos would require three to five years of experience to fill this position, but her volunteering paid off. She started by helping with the giraffes, rhinos, tapirs, and howler monkeys. In August, she was assigned to working fulltime with the zoo's small herd of African elephants.

Under the tutelage of Brett Smith, elephant program manager, she is learning to care for her huge charges. "I love training and enrichment," Bohn says. "They get excited and love playing with their toys."

Just like people, the elephants have a need to escape boredom. As part of their enrichment program, Bohn will hide their treats so they have to look for them. A dozen chocolate doughnuts sit in waiting on a nearby food cart. In the outside exercise yard, Bohn gifts them with branches to munch on and watches as they kick around 400 pound rubber balls and stomp on large plastic barrels.

Bohn spends two hours every morning training the elephants and providing first-level medical care. The daily inspections are conducted in an enclosed, heavily barred room with a

system of remote controlled sliding doors that allow the elephants to enter and leave one at a time. Remote control cameras track the whereabouts of the other animals.

While either Bohn or Smith steadies and rewards each animal with chunks of fruit and vegetables, the other is systematically checking their ears, skin, toes, and footpads for health problems. Bohn reports that her ponderous patients will "wince just like people do," when they get a shot. "They don't seem to like it when the vet comes in for a visit," Bohn said.

During the session, the animals will present the bottoms of their feet for inspection or a pedicure, turn around, kneel and salute with their trunks or, incredibly, lie down on their sides and roll around furiously like mammoth topsy-turvy dervishes.

In the yard outside, Sheena, at 23 the youngest of the herd, spots Bohn coming toward her and runs over to the fence, following the young keeper around the perimeter. At eight feet tall and 7,400 pounds, Sheena is Bohn's baby. Bohn is specifically

# Every blooming thing

To help readers enjoy the AASU Arboretum, *Compass* will bring you the blooming schedule for the current quarter and a guide to where to find each specimen. In this issue, a look forward to May, June, and July.

## African Bush-daisy

(*Gamolepis chrysanthemoides*)

This mounding, three-foot tall, herbaceous perennial displays yellow daisy-like flowers beginning in the spring and through most of the growing season. This plant can be found growing in front of Victor Hall.

## Jerusalem Thorn

(*Parkinsonia aculeate*)

Jerusalem Thorn makes a small tree with peculiar straplike, twice compound leaves that look like long, feathery streamers. A display of yellow pea-like flowers in the spring covers these heat and drought tolerant plants. A specimen is located in front of Solms Hall.

## Knockout Shrub Rose

(*Rosa* "Knockout")

A landscape rose that is totally resistant to blackspot, this easy to care for ornamental will reach three feet in height and is available with pink or red flowers. A pink variety grows on the northwest corner of Lane Library.

## Pomegranate

(*Punica granatum* 'Wonderful')

A large multi-stemmed shrub producing numerous beautiful orange-red flowers with ruffled petals, Pomegranate grows along the front of Burnett Hall.

## Scrambling Sky Flower

(*Thunbergia battiscombei*)

This scrambling perennial vine with brilliant blue-purple flowers will mound upon itself or lean on nearby plants for support. You can see them in front of Hawes Hall.

## Sweet Almond

(*Aloysia virgata*)

This tall, deciduous perennial creates sweetly fragrant spikes of white flowers. Find it in the White Garden behind Burnett Hall.



*Tecoma stans*

## Chitalpa

(*Chitalpa tashkentensis*)

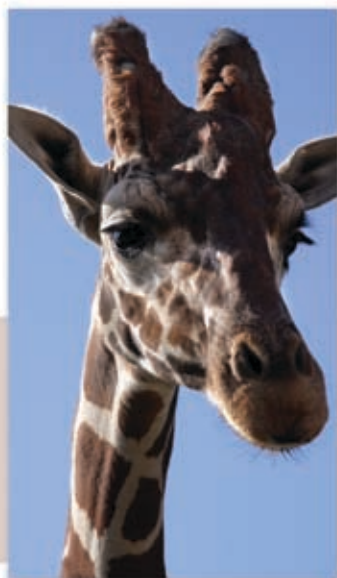
An unusual hybrid between two different genera, this small to medium sized tree produces orchid-like pink flowers at the ends of its branches. An example can be found in front of Gamble Hall.

## Yellowbells

(*Tecoma stans*) Pictured

This multi-stemmed shrub or small tree provides huge quantities of bright yellow, bell shaped flowers. Yellowbells grow in front of Hawes Hall.

To schedule a tour of the arboretum, e-mail [schretph@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:schretph@mail.armstrong.edu) or call 912.927.5329. Information for "Every blooming thing" was provided by Philip Schretter, grounds superintendent.



## Talking to the animals

(continued from page 3)

tasked with Sheena's training and the two of them obviously share a special bond. "The elephants know the trainers and their names," Bohn explains. "They have very large personalities. ♦"

## The spring of the GIRAFFES

In Spring 2006, towering giraffes, in a yard opposite the elephants, will become part of Sara Bohn's responsibility. Asked if giraffes were as trainable as the highly intelligent elephants, she flashed her wide smile and said with easy confidence, "All animals are trainable."



## Profile in Leadership: **TOM CATO**

**T**om Cato doesn't have much time to pursue his private passion for art. He starts his day teaching potential art educators, heads to his office where he is greeted by his desk piled high with administrative paperwork, and may finish his day at a gallery reception, Masquers play, or musical event. "I don't think I'm ready to get up at 4 a.m. for my art," he laughs.

What he does find the time for is advocating for the three artistic programs he leads—art, music, and theatre—and finding ways to assist his faculty and staff to excel at what they do. The entire team does just that: excel, with more than 100 gallery showings, plays, and concerts each year.

Cato has been department head of art, music & theatre since 2001 when he was named to the interim position. His permanent appointment came a year later.

The Valdosta native came to Armstrong State in 1993 just as he was completing his doctorate in art education at the University of Georgia. He primarily taught art education and computer art in addition to art appreciation. "At first," he recalled, "the computer lab was literally in a janitor's closet. They finally knocked out a wall and we were in a bigger janitor's closet." Now the lab is housed in a beautiful state-of-the-art facility.

Cato also taught the methodology classes for education majors, which helped students apply their studio lessons to the realities of a grade school classroom.

While he was running his two programs and supervising student teachers, Cato also worked as an advocate for the arts with the Georgia

Art Education Association (GAEA). Serving as president-elect, president, and past president from 1997-2003, he communicated with state legislators and educators advocating for the importance of keeping the arts in the public schools.



During his GAEA presidency (1999-2001), Cato noted, "There was a danger that we were going to lose art, music, and theater in the public schools due to the Education Reform Act passed by the Georgia Legislature." He worked with other arts organizations that were part of the Georgia Coalition for the Arts to advocate keeping the arts in public education.

Cato is well suited as an advocate for the arts. His wife, Milne, is a dance educator and two of his three sons, Chris and Michael, are both musicians. An artist himself, this diversity at home serves him well in managing a department that spans almost all the arts.

Painting and photography are his personal choices of expression. He has also begun to work with digital photography—mostly with an environmental base—and computer art as well. By way of explanation, he says with a smile, "Unlike painting, with

digital photography, I don't have to clean up afterward."

He leans toward abstract paintings and realistic photography. Some of his paintings—large colorful fields of geometric shapes—brighten his office.

High on Cato's agenda is building scholarships for students and making his programs more visible while attracting more attention to the university. Toward this end, he introduced a fine arts festival during this year's ArmstrongFest and promoted the slogan, "Savannah's Cultural Center on the Southside," created by his arts marketing director, Mario Incorvaia.

What must be satisfying to Cato is the recognition his hard work has garnered. Last year, he received the Distinguished Faculty Service to the Community Award for his involvement with the Telfair Museum, the National Art Education Association, and the Georgia Art Education Association. This year, the GAEA named him its Georgia Art Educator of the Year. ♦

### Seven achievements on Tom Cato's watch

- establishment of a bachelor of fine arts in visual art
- acquisition of additional academic/studio space
- opening of new computer labs
- foundation of the Black Box Theater for smaller, more intimate plays
- expanded faculty
- inauguration of a summer children's arts camp
- reaccreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music

## AASU to publish new leadership journal

In June, Armstrong Atlantic State University will publish the first issue of *Latitudes*, a journal designed to articulate the leadership values of a liberal arts education. By providing multiple perspectives on critical topics of the day, *Latitudes* will provide a seminar in print for readers on and beyond the campus. The inaugural issue features a conversation between Grace Paley, the prize-winning author and social activist, and Leslie King-Hammond, noted African-American art historian and critic. Paley and King-Hammond conducted the conversation before an appreciative crowd at the fourth annual women's conference, Realizing Women's Leadership: The Art of the Possible.

*Latitudes* will be mailed to alumni and other interested members of the community. It will also be available on the AASU web site. To become a subscriber to the print version of this free publication, e-mail [latitudes@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:latitudes@mail.armstrong.edu).



## Economic Monitor online

The Center for Regional Analysis electronically publishes the *Economic Monitor*. The *Monitor* reports the Coastal Empire Economic Indicators that provide quarterly snapshots of the Savannah Metropolitan Statistical Area economy. The coincident index measures the current economic heartbeat of the region. The leading index provides a short term forecast of the region's economic activity in six to nine months.

Together, these economic indicators offer readers an informational tool that can be used to adjust to changes in regional demand conditions. The informational signals provided by the indicators may be used to control inventory, optimize staffing, adjust marketing or pricing strategies, forecast revenue, or capitalize on other opportunities in the regional economy.

To preview the *Economic Monitor*, go to: [www.econ.armstrong.edu/cra/monitor.htm](http://www.econ.armstrong.edu/cra/monitor.htm).

To be placed on the subscription list, e-mail Michael Toma to [tomamich@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:tomamich@mail.armstrong.edu).

## Change will secure Social Security numbers

Starting this summer, the Social Security numbers of employees, faculty, staff, and alumni will no longer be used as Campus Identification Numbers. According to Chief Information Officer John McGuthry, random numbers will be assigned for use on most forms and in most circumstances connected with the university.

Current employees and students will soon be notified as to how to access their new number. New employees and students will be issued their personal numbers during the hiring or registration process.

The new change will reduce:

- The use of Social Security numbers on personnel documents
- The usage of Social Security numbers in the university's computer system
- The number of times a Social Security number needs to be shared



## Four named to foundation board positions



Jerry Barton

Robert Colvin

Drew Ernst

Ann Purcell

Four trustees of the AASU Foundation have been named officers.

**Jerry Barton**, chairman, is city president of Sea Island Bank. He started his banking career with the Savannah Bank and Trust company in 1970.

Barton also serves on the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and Union Mission boards of directors and is a member of Savannah Rotary West. He graduated from the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.

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

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

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

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

**Ann Purcell**, secretary, is the office manager for Radiation Therapy Associates, P.C. She is a former teacher and Realtor who served in the Georgia State House of Representatives from January 1991 until January 2005. Among her many public service activities, she serves on the Georgia Board of Technical and Adult Education, the Effingham County Adult Literacy Advisory Committee, the Georgia Art Commission Policy Committee, and the Effingham YMCA Board of Directors.

Purcell was nominated for *Who's Who of American Women* in 2003, *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare* in 2004, and *Who's Who in America* in 2003 and 2005. Her biography will appear in *Who's Who of American Women* 2006. She received her bachelor's in education from Georgia Southern College.

## Three join board of trustees

Three new members have been added to the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

**James B. Benton, M.D.** is a radiation oncologist from Douglasville, GA. He is a frequent contributor to many national publications in his field and has made numerous presentations to national and international professional meetings. Benton graduated from Armstrong State College and the Morehouse School of Medicine. He did his internal residency at the Medical College of Virginia and completed his radiation oncology residency at Emory University.



**Mark Cary Clayton, D.D.S.** practices in Hinesville, GA. His memberships include the Georgia Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, the American Dental Association, the National Dental Association, the Georgia Dental Association, the Georgia Dental Society, the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, the Savannah Dental Society, the Southeastern Dental Society and the American Academy of Implant Dentistry. He holds a B.S. in zoology from Howard University and obtained his D.D.S. from Howard University College of Dentistry. He also completed a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Howard University Hospital. During a four-year stint in the U.S. Army, he was stationed at Fort Stewart where he served as chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery at Winn Army Community Hospital.



**Mary E. Vernick** is a retired IBM executive and a current resident of The Landings. She serves as board president of The Landings Association and on the board of The Landings Company. She is also a founding member of the Skidaway Community Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating educational and cultural activities for island residents. Vernick graduated from Immaculata College with a bachelor's in math and received her MBA from Winona State University.



# AASU ON SECURITY WATCH

## Center for Justice Administration

Wynn Sullivan's computer is her connection to a network she has built containing thousands of law enforcement professionals throughout the United States and many U.S. embassies abroad. While she is keeping them apprised of what is going on in the world of homeland security and law enforcement intelligence, she is plugged into information incoming from a wide variety of sources including the FBI, U.S. military, Homeland Security, and police departments from New York to Los Angeles.

This cross-pollination of information is all in a day's work for Sullivan as director of the Center for Justice Administration. The center was established in 2004 as law enforcement education programs in the Department of Professional and Continuing Education were burgeoning and the number of grants supporting the mission of law enforcement was growing.

"As programs continued to grow," Sullivan said, "we needed to bring them all together under one dedicated umbrella."

The seeds for the center were planted during Sullivan's work directing the AASU Basic Law Enforcement Program. AASU was approached by the U.S. Attorney's Office to be its training partner. Through that relationship, the Department of Justice provided grants for regional anti-terrorism training from 2000 to 2004.

Since the center's founding, the majority of its projects have been with the U.S. Attorney's Office and Project Safe Neighborhoods. Sullivan explains, "This project is to remove felons with firearms from our streets using existing laws."

Many of Sullivan's programs are low profile, but play an important part in the security of the region. One such event dealt with port security awareness and was presented in collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Control, U.S. Marshall's Office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Ports Authority, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The campus faculty and staff barely experience the tip of the iceberg of the security information she shares through e-mails since most of what she handles is law enforcement sensitive. Her broader exchange network prompted one California law enforcement officer to comment that she had one of the largest in the country. She said, "There's a lot of information out there that really makes you say, 'Wow!' Law enforcement does an incredible job preventing potential threats to our nation."

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### SHORT CUTS

Thanks to an arrangement between the Center for Justice Administration and the Department of Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science, busy law enforcement officers can now take a complete Criminal Justice course in just one week.

## THE SULLIVAN FILE



- Name:** Wynn Sullivan  
**Title:** Director, Center for Justice Administration  
**Education:**
- Armstrong Atlantic State University, bachelor's in criminal justice
  - Columbus State University, master's in public administration
  - Certified law enforcement officer
- Experience:** Assistant director of the Law Enforcement Training Center since 1989
- Memberships:** (partial)
- Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
  - American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers
  - International Association of Chiefs of Police
  - U.S. Department of Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Task Force
  - U.S. Department of Justice Anti-Terrorism Steering Committee
  - Board member, CrimeStoppers of Savannah/Chatham County

# AASU ON SECURITY WATCH

## Cyber Security Education and Training Center

After spending an hour with Randy Grubb, director of Armstrong Atlantic's new Cyber Security Education and Training Center (CSETC), one takes away the vague feeling that an alphabet soup of international spy agencies has you in their sites.

Grubb spoke to *Compass* only a few weeks into his tenure and he already had a plate full of gee whiz projects as current as today's headlines. "They are broken down into three areas," he explained. "Academic, cyber security, and special projects." Sure enough, his To Do white board is divided up into those target areas.

Under "academics" is a road map for creating a bachelor of science in cyber security tentatively planned for introduction in the fall of 2007. The new degree would be ideal for those working as system administrators, security professionals, or informational technology experts. "The technology-based program will be ideal for professionals now working in these fields or wishing to enter them," Grubb said. Courses will be rich in risk analysis, risk mitigation, and legal issues.

"Some professionals install a firewall and say, 'life is good,'" he said with a smile. "This degree will take them beyond that."

Part of the degree program will include an internship at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick. The center's top people in computer and finance investigation will mentor the students.

The second column on his chart is headed "cyber security." Grubb talks about an extensive list of seminars being planned from terrorist financing and legal classes to computer forensics. The latter involves pulling

data out of computers, reconstructing deleted files, data analysis, and collecting data live while the "bad guys" are entering their keystrokes.

To support the degree program and seminar projects, a state of the art computer classroom will be developed with its own independent network separate from the university's. This will allow students to access criminal web sites without compromising the integrity of the university.

There is only one entry under the "projects" column, but it may be the most important one of all: The iNET project.

Not long ago, Grubb and some engineers from Operations Security International (OSI) sat in a Cracker Barrel restaurant drawing diagrams on a stack of paper napkins that Grubb still has. Those napkins are now being

translated into iNET, a collaborative effort between Armstrong Atlantic, OSI, the Ginn Group, Mantech, and NORTEL. iNET is creating a secure working environment in which the communications channels for first responders—such as police, firefighters, and ambulance services—can be linked together.

Think of 9-11 or Hurricane Katrina, when first responders all fought separate battles against those respective tragedies. Think what it would have been like if they could have all communicated with one another.

The prototypes of iNET have already visited the AASU campus, housed in H2 and H3 Hummers. At about \$250,000 a copy, Grubb hopes to have one permanently in place on campus in about a year. "The equipment will

*continued on page 10*

### THE GRUBB FILE

<b>Name:</b>	Randall Grubb
<b>Title:</b>	Director, Cyber Security Education and Training Center
<b>Education:</b>	Virginia Commonwealth University, bachelor's in administration of justice
<b>Experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vice president for WetStone Technologies, Inc., Cortland, NY</li><li>• Senior instructor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Brunswick, GA</li><li>• Director, Law Enforcement Programs, ESP Group, Crystal City, VA</li><li>• Special agent, Naval Criminal Investigative Service</li><li>• Police officer, Virginia Beach, VA</li></ul>





**Project Ceasefire** An initiative of the safe neighborhoods' effort is Project Ceasefire directed at keeping guns out of the hands of felons. United States Attorney Lisa Godbey Wood said, "Armstrong Atlantic is a key partner in Project Ceasefire. (The university) provides valuable training to law enforcement officers enabling them to bring the perpetrators of gun crime to justice."

## Center for Justice Administration

(continued from page 8)

Pat Williams and Linda Hansen have both been added recently to the center's staff. Moving over from professional and continuing education, Williams coordinates paralegal and legal secretary classes, and professional courses for attorneys.

Linda Hansen, transferring from the Department of Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science, is using grant funds to develop new offerings such as a post blast class on what to do following an explosion and a seminar on auto theft with the National Insurance Crime Bureau. ♦

## Cyber Security Education and Training Center (continued from page 9)

not only be an important teaching classroom, but an invaluable resource for first responder in Savannah, southeast Georgia, and South Carolina," Grubb said.

Working closely with the Center for Justice Administration (see story on page 8), the CSETC



will soon become a major source of information for justice administration's broad international network

Attached to both the School of Computing and the Office of External Affairs, the CSETC is well on its way to becoming one of the few such full service centers in the country. ♦

## Varnedoe Scholarship to support art students

**S**tarting this fall, visual arts students with full-time status can lighten their financial load by applying for the newly-created Sam and Lilla Varnedoe Scholarship. The candidate who demonstrates the most outstanding artistic merit will receive an award of \$1,000. The endowed scholarship is renewable for up to four years, but candidates must reapply each year.

Hugh and Gena Tarbutton of Sandersville, GA, donated the funding for the scholarship in loving memory of their lifelong friends, Sam and Lilla Varnedoe, who were both prominent citizens of Savannah. Two of the Varnedoes' children and three grandchildren attended Armstrong. One of their sons, Kirk Varnedoe, became the curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The scholarship is being awarded through the Department of Art, Music & Theatre.

For more information, or to make a donation to new and existing scholarships, contact Gail Rountree at 912.927.5208 or e-mail her at [rourtrga@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:rourtrga@mail.armstrong.edu).

## About the Varnedoes

Sam Varnedoe, a successful investment banker, was an expert in the area of municipal bonds. During the forties he obtained the excellent ratings for the City of Savannah and Chatham County that are still in effect today. He is credited with pioneering the alternate route to the Islands via President Street. The bridge that crosses over the Intracoastal Waterway is named in Varnedoe's honor. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Lilla Varnedoe, a former chairman of the Department of Family and Children Services, was the first woman on the Savannah Board of Education and the Chatham County Grand Jury. During the forties she pioneered equal educational opportunities for all citizens. In recognition of this work, she received the Hillyer Award as the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, and the Exchange Club's "Golden Deeds Award" in 1949. She was the first woman elected to the Vestry of St. John's Church. She graduated from Smith College with a master's degree in English.

# Giving back

For the Dormineys, it's time to give back.

Gary and Barbara Dorminey met on the campus of Armstrong State College in the late '60s. He was a chemistry major and she was in the business program. Introduced by her brother-in-law, the two kept running into each other in classes and while working at Union Camp—he in the chemical division and she in the business division. They were married by the time he graduated in 1969.

Upon receiving his MBA from Auburn, the Dormineys moved to Americus, GA where he went to work with a rural electric utility. While they were there, Barbara earned her degree in accounting from Georgia Southwestern College.

"I started on my MBA with the idea of becoming a lab manager," Gary explained. "As I got into the (MBA) program, I decided I liked the business side more than the science side."

His career eventually took them to Carrollton, GA where he spent 15 years with Community First Bank, retiring in 2001 as president and CEO.

Barbara, meanwhile, speaks with great pride of a life raising three successful children. Carole Anne is at West Georgia Tech studying veterinary science; Brian received his electrical engineering degree from Auburn and is now a software engineer in Atlanta; and Patrick, a federal agent with the U.S. State Department, graduated from Auburn with a degree in criminal justice, and then earned his MBA from Troy University.

Gary recalls the challenges of being married and working his way through college. "I received a scholarship from the Jaycees that was very helpful. I decided that when I could, I would pay back that assistance."

Today, the Gary and Barbara Dorminey Scholarship Fund, established in 2003, provides financial support to deserving students who are enrolled at AASU and majoring in chemistry. Reflecting the history of the Dormineys, priority is given to students who are married and working full time.



To date, three students have received

Dorminey scholarships. One went on to medical school and the second is in graduate school studying chemistry. The third is about to graduate from Armstrong Atlantic. The Dormineys try to keep up with their namesake scholarship winners by corresponding throughout the year.

The couple now splits its time between homes in northern Georgia and Panama City Beach, FL. Both dabble in real estate investing and spend a whole lot of time looking after their grandchildren. ♦

*Individuals who would like to add to the Gary and Barbara Dorminey Scholarship Fund should call 912.927.5208 or go to [www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund](http://www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund).*



## Become a part of the legacy

Large or small, all gifts contribute to the continued success of AASU. Please make your pledge to the annual fund. Call 912.927.5208 or go to [www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund](http://www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund).



# class notes

## '50s

**Earnest W. Murphy '51** was in Savannah in November as a guest artist for First Baptist Church's choir program. After graduating from Armstrong Junior College, Murphy went to Stetson University where he earned a degree in voice. He later graduated from the Eastman School of Music. Murphy was a tenor soloist with the U.S. Army, and often sang at the White House during the Eisenhower administration. After a military career that took him around the world singing, he was a teacher for 21 years. Murphy's career was featured recently in the *Savannah Morning News*' Polly's People column.

## '60s

**Jane Warnock McIntosh '61** was hired by Consumer Counseling Services of Savannah. Prior to this, she was employed at Calvary Baptist Day School for 15 years, and sold real estate for 10 years. In 1988 she was honored as Realtor of the Year. McIntosh is the owner of McIntosh Enterprises in Savannah.

**Diane Duvall King '68, '82** became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2004. Now in her thirty-eighth year of teaching, she is a media specialist with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and has mentored three AASU students during their practicum.

## '70s

**Carol Russell '71, '81, '85**, the CEO and head administrator of Riverview Health and Rehabilitation Center, retired in December 2005.

**Don Cooper '73** specializes in listing and selling luxury homes for The Landings Company and Moppen-Stapen Realtors. He also owns Wonderful Things Inc., a luxury furnishing store and interior design studio.

**Larry Langford '73** has joined Atlantic Southern Bank as vice president and retail banking manager. Langford has been in banking since 1971, most recently as vice president/city executive with BB&T Bank of Savannah & Effingham County.

**Daniel Brantley '74** was appointed vice chairman of the board of trustees for Live Oak Public Libraries.

**Patrick S. Graham '78** received The Kitty Hawk Award, the highest honor given by the Federal Aviation Administration Southern Region. This award recognizes contributions to aviation by industry professional and FAA employees in the southeast region.

## '80s

**Dodie Gay '83**, is the owner of Enviro-Assets LLC, a waste management consulting firm.

**Michael S. Katz, DMD '84** recently placed in the top 25 in two events in the U.S. Masters Swimming National Short Course Championship in Ft. Lauderdale. This year, he hopes to compete in the FINA World Championships in Stanford, CA. Matz lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Ellen and sons Josh, 15, and Zach, 13. He is the founder and owner of the Elkins Park Dental Group.



**Making mouse memories.** Six dental hygiene graduates from the class of 1976 recently gathered for a four-day reunion at Disney World. Enjoying a meal at the Contemporary Hotel are (seated from the left) Debi Eaves Allie, Bitsy Dupree Owen, Rosalind Randall Jackson, and Pam Downing Lichlieter. Standing are Mary Sandy Davis (left) and Lisa Bonner Alderson.

The group plans to meet again next year in New York City. They will be joined by another classmate, Gay Waller, who lives in Sweden.



A group of Golden Graduates (1937-1956) met recently to tour the campus. Examining Leadership Pathway in the International Garden are, from the left: Al Schumann, Director of Alumni Relations Patty Parker, Jack Golden '53, Hannelore Porzio, Winifred Brown Schumann '43, John Porzio '52, Tom Scott '56, and Lloyd Adams '56.

**Mary Ann Dutcher Edens '85**, teaches in the Clarke County public schools. After graduating from Armstrong State, she earned her Master of Art Education from the University of Georgia. Her husband, **Larry R. Edens '76**, has retired from the Economic Development Institute at Georgia Institute of Technology. The couple lives in Athens.

**Ann O'Brien Fuller '88** was awarded the Graduate Realtor Institute designation by the Georgia and National Association of Realtors. She is employed by Realty Executives South Savannah.

**Jessie Petrea '89** has been appointed to serve as a healthcare representative of the elderly for the governor's Health Strategies Council.

## '90s

**Sharon LeAndra Hanbury Higginbotham '92** has received her Ph.D. in forensic toxicology and is working in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

**Noel L. Phipps '92** is a radiologist in Florence, SC. He received his M.D. in 1998 and completed a fellowship in musculoskeletal imaging at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 2004.

**Hope A. Lyon '94** has been practicing massage therapy since 1996. She owns AAhh! There's Hope Massage Therapy Services and is affiliated with Coastal Empire Plastic Surgery Center specializing in post-surgical care as a lymphatic drainage practitioner. She was accepted into the *Manchester Who's Who* in January 2006.

**Charlton Riegner '94** is the operational manager at Severn Trent Laboratories Inc.

**Gabrielle Hauck '95** participated in the Duathlon World Championships in Affoltern, Switzerland.

**Lorena Milani '96** graduated with a master's degree from Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia in Madison, TN.

**Robert Long '98** is in the Ph.D. program at Auburn University.

**Brandye A. Day-Michaels '99** has earned a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of New Hampshire. She is a senior scientist at the Wyeth Biopharmaceuticals in Andover, MA. Day-Michaels lives in Maine with her husband of two years, Joshua.

**Deborah A. Ehrstin '99** is now a member of the instructional staff for the associate degree in nursing program at Coastal Community College in Jacksonville, NC.

**Susan Fuentes '99** was named Teacher of the Year at Smiley Elementary School in Ludowici, GA.

## '00s

**Shannon Renee Lyon '02** is a Pharm.D. candidate in the inaugural class at the South University School of Pharmacy in Savannah.

**John Stone '02** is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. **Dena R. Bush '03** has relocated to Pensacola FL where she is employed as the museum education coordinator for West Florida Historic Preservation.

**Brian Dawsey '03, '05** was accepted to the Ph.D. program in higher education at Walden University in Higher Education.

**Natosha Crawford '03** has recently completed a bachelor's degree from South University in paralegal studies.

**Brian Helmly '03** is pursuing a medical degree at Mercer University. He is the recent recipient of two scholarships.

**Jeremy Olson '03** is in the Ph.D. program in medicinal chemistry at the State University of New York-Buffalo.

**Brandon Quillian '03** received the Kenneth W. Whitten Award for being the outstanding teaching assistant at the University of Georgia. A second year graduate student, he's been published in *Chemical Communications* and *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

**Darrick L. Smoke '03** is a seventh grade math teacher at Snelson Golden Middle School in Hinesville. He was featured recently in the Teacher Profile section of the *Coastal Courier* for the enthusiasm he brings to sharing his love for mathematics with his students.

**Elizabeth Baker '05** is working for LA Testing in Pasadena, CA.

**Ron Brister '05** relocated to Morrisville, NC in January with Stryker Medical as a field service technician.

**Nin Dingra '05** is a graduate student in biochemistry at the University of South Carolina. She is teaching three classes of general chemistry lab.

**Tawnya Gallagher '05** has been hired by Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Savannah as a data entry clerk.

*continued on page 14*

## engagements

Deborah A. Ehrstin '99 to wed Joseph Grippaldi, November 2006  
Kimberly Combs '02 to wed Brooks Butler, April 29, 2006  
Bobbie Jo Winslow '03 to wed David Powner '03 in 2007  
Shannon Walker '04 to wed Joseph David Sheahan, Jr.

## marriages

Michael J. Kilpatrick, Jr. '86 and Jane E. Manucy '89 married February 25, 2006  
Kevin S. Fischer '88 and Marguerite Dismukes '96 married in July 2005  
Veronica Morton '03 married Walter Kilpatrick in March 2006  
Lisa Lewis '97, '04 married Dan Carter, December 10, 2005  
Carl L. Meadows '97 married Jennifer Hudson, November 12, 2005  
Amy Renee Bacon '99 married Carroll Eugene Clifton III, April 8, 2006  
Morenike Tutt '00 married Johnny Mincey, November 26, 2005  
Jonathan Parker '02 married Meredith Vining, January 14, 2006  
Brian Helmlly '03 and Katie Kuyk '03 married in May 2005  
Jarrett Walsh '03 married Jessica Tuten '04, July 23, 2005  
Alison Marie Young '04 married Nicholas Ingersoll, January 28, 2006  
Sheri Schmitt '05 married Matthew Warde, November 19, 2005

## additions

Marquit'a C. Bullock-Warren '05:  
Saniya born in May 2005

## passings

Rachel Keever Lytjen '37, a member of the first graduating class, November 8, 2005  
Nedra Housholder Poppell '38, January 10, 2006  
Robert R. Hagan '42, November 3, 2005  
Lt. Col. Arthur Joseph "Joe" Klingon '40, October 7, 2005



Front row (seated): Herb Traub, Jr. '37; Patty Parker '92, '95, director of alumni relations; and Louise Mayhew '37. Second row: Richard Edwards '70; Craig Harney '82; Carol Russell '71, '81, '85; Crystal Taylor Cooper '90; Amy Massey '90; Patrick Burk '95; Judge David Elmore '40; Bette Jo Krapf '72; Harriet Konter '44; and Joan Schwartz '70, '74. Third row: Dodie Gay '83, president-elect; Mark Worsham '77, current president; Lee Meyer '59; Herbert Griffin '42; Allen Beall '48; Judge Michael Barker '84; Frances Arnsdorff; Michael Joyner '70; Tom Hux '73; and Kenneth Sellers '85. Not pictured: David Fritts '48.

## 68 years of AASU alumni leadership gather

Sixty-eight years of leadership in the Armstrong Atlantic State University Alumni Association gathered in December for the second annual holiday reunion luncheon. With 21 past presidents among the 52 attendees, it was the largest gathering of alumni presidents the university has ever hosted.

Among the attendees were Louise Mayhew and Herb Traub, Jr., two members of the class of 1937—the first graduating class of Armstrong Junior College. The distinguished group of alumni leaders included two judges, a well-known Realtor, a leading restaurateur, a noted architect, several educators, a broadcast executive, and various business leaders.

Beverly Ruth Holder Linderman '46, November 4, 2005  
Jules de Romand Bacot '48, November 30, 2005  
Joe Magee '48, January 18, 2006  
Judge James Emory Findley '49, May 16, 2004  
Walter E. Campbell '50, October 15, 2004  
Gene Minick Brodie '52, October 10, 2005  
Carolyn Tindol Barney '55, September 11, 2005  
Raymond L. Fountain, Sr. '58, January 8, 2006  
Clifford W. Goette, Jr. '58, February 4, 2006  
William Blun, Jr. '71, December 29, 2005

Grace Williams Burke '72 died December 10, 2005. She served as a director of the alumni association and received the Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 1997.  
Charles Kiene, Jr. '73, November 23, 2005  
Betty Meachum Smith '74, November 4, 2005  
John "Jack" M. Parr '75, December 31, 2005  
Vernon "Dean" Stewart '77, October 15, 2005  
Zell Moore Lanier '83, October 14, 2005  
Christopher J. Foster '93, August 25, 2005  
DaVida P. Wallace-Patton '95, December 18, 2005  
Robert C. Reeder '02, December 14, 2005

## Armstrong students past and present teach pre-schoolers SPANISH

The sound of “Cascabeles” rose sweet and strong from the semicircle of three- and four- year-olds sitting around their two visitors. The pair of volunteers—an alumna of Armstrong State College teamed up with a current student at Armstrong Atlantic State University—was leading them in the Spanish version of “Jingle Bells.”

**Myrtle Kimball '69**, has been volunteering at the Southern Montessori Academy for the past year. Once a week she assists the academy staff by teaching Spanish. She is proud of the fact that the children have already learned the words for colors and numbers.

**Nancy Urcuhuavanga**, a current senior Spanish major from Peru, assisted Kimball by reinforcing earlier lessons with songs in Spanish.

*Pictured: Nancy Urcuhuavanga (center, left) and Myrtle Kimball (center, right), lead children at the Southern Montessori Academy in singing “Jingle Bells” in Spanish. Joining in are Jessica Lowery and Garrett Counselman (background), and Ashlyn Floyd and Davis Robinson (foreground).*



## Thank you from the Gulf

I received in the mail this week the winter 2006 issue of *Compass*. (Getting mail delivery is still a minor miracle in this part of the country.) The article on Hurricane Katrina compels me to write. I have seen and felt the destruction in New Orleans and many of the surrounding communities. I know people who lost everything they own. I know people killed by this storm. Hurricane Katrina is forever tattooed on the hearts and souls of those of us who survived.

As an Armstrong alumnus, I read with great pride and appreciation of the Armstrong community's efforts to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Your efforts are still very much needed. Thank you for caring and acting. May blessings abound in your lives for the generosity and humanity so well expressed through your good work.

Paul Forbes '77  
Director, Professional Development  
Institute & Elmwood Campus  
University College  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA



**T**his October, join the alumni vacation trip to historic, scenic England, Scotland, and Wales. Spend nine wonderful days hosted by one of the nation's leading travel companies, Collette Tours. For further information contact Patty Parker, director of alumni relations, at [parkerpa@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:parkerpa@mail.armstrong.edu) or call her at 912.921.2343.

# Law and Society on the docket for fall

**S**tarting this fall, AASU will offer a new bachelor's degree for students interested in careers in public service, or in graduate education in the humanities or social sciences. Designed to foster skills in community leadership, Law and Society will emphasize the way legal institutions broadly interact with other social organizations to form a society.

The only interdisciplinary bachelor's degree of its kind in the southeast United States, Law and Society integrates legal studies with a broader social perspective including courses in political science, criminal justice, sociology, economics, psychology, philosophy, women's studies, and history. While not intended to be a pre-law major, the program will offer three tracks in government and judicial studies, human behavior and law, and social theory and philosophy.



Bill Daugherty

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**JOAN LEHON**

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Principal photographer

**PATRICIA REESE**

Editorial assistance

"More and more the government is getting involved in shaping how human services organizations assist in solving societal problems," said Bill Daugherty, associate professor of political science. "Now more than ever it is critically important that civil servants have the skills to interpret and apply laws in the shaping of public policy."

Ideal for individuals seeking careers as civil servants, this degree can give graduates a competitive edge for gaining employment and advancement within governmental agencies. The degree also has broad application for those interested in working for human services organizations.

Degree seekers will gain experience in interpreting court decisions, which is fast becoming a vital necessity for those interested in moving into management for the government.

For more information, call the Department of Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science at 912.927.5296 or go to [www.cjsocpols.armstrong.edu/programs.htm](http://www.cjsocpols.armstrong.edu/programs.htm).

***Fast  
Fact***

In June 2006, AASU will offer a Doctor of Physical Therapy in a consortium with the Medical College of Georgia and North Georgia College and State University.



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