

# Compass

Fall 2006

Armstrong State University

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Award winning

# compass

fall 2006



A quarterly publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

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**nine** A life in stages

**twelve** 2006-2007 Faculty Lecture Series



## Whitford new vice president and dean of faculty

Ellen V. Whitford, a veteran academic administrator from New England, assumed her new duties as vice president and dean of faculty in July.

She comes to Armstrong Atlantic from Central Connecticut State University, where she had been professor and interim provost and vice president for academic affairs since

November 2004. She has been with the 12,315-enrollment public university since 2000, when she joined the faculty as professor and dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies.

Whitford said, "I am thrilled and honored to join Armstrong Atlantic State University. From the beautiful arboretum campus to the excellent faculty, dedicated students, and quality academic programs, AASU makes a significant

contribution to the region and enjoys a wonderful reputation far beyond the region. This is a dynamic university and I look forward to working with the faculty and staff as AASU continues to develop its promise as a leading academic and cultural center in Savannah."

In her new role, Whitford will serve as the university's chief academic officer and assume responsibility for the leadership and supervision of the faculty and academic units of the university.

Whitford holds a Doctor of Education from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, majoring in educational theory, policy, and administration. She earned a Master of Education from Arcadia University in Philadelphia, majoring in reading, and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Delaware as an English major.



**Good checkup.** Vernice Rackett, President Thomas Z. Jones, and Padgett Mixon celebrate the results of this year's 3 Days for AASU campaign.

## Three Days raises more than \$200,000

The third annual 3 Days for AASU campaign in April exceeded its \$200,000 goal, raising \$210,468 in investments from the business community for the university.

Vernice Rackett, membership director for Savannah Quarters Country Club and co-chair of last year's successful campaign, chaired this year's drive. Padgett Mixon, vice president of Wachovia Wealth Management, was co-chair of the 2006 campaign and will chair 3 Days for AASU in 2007.

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## Center for Justice Administration Wins National Award

Wynn Sullivan (left), director of the Center for Justice Administration, accepted an award for her department from Lisa Godbey Wood, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

The award recognized the center for "Exemplary Local Training Program" at the Project Safe Neighborhoods national conference held in Denver.

# A Katrina diary

In March and May, AASU's ongoing Give for the Gulf campaign and Savannah-based Pickin' Up the Pieces sent volunteers to Hancock County, MS to help rebuild communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. What follows are excerpts from the personal journal of L.E. Rich, an assistant professor of public health in the Department of Health Sciences.

Saturday, March 11,  
2006  
Camp Coastal Outpost  
Kiln, MS.

We are in Mississippi, and I have slithered into my sleeping bag for the night. Horizontal feels good, especially after the 10-hour drive in the jalopy-esque AASU bus. I am showered, I am fed, I am warm. And, yet, I cannot sleep. Inside the makeshift Camp Coastal bunkhouse we are to call home for the week, the world seems right. Outside, however, there is nothing but piles of pieces—of trees and buildings, of furniture and futures.

Houses have imploded and folded in on themselves, sometimes crushing cars (and what else?) underneath. Or they have vanished, leaving floating front stoops gravely marking all that once was. One red structure stands upturned on edge, like a die balanced on its corner refusing to settle one way or the other. The buildings made of brick seem strangely untouched, but they are merely shells, molded and rotting on an invisible level. They will have to be gutted and cleaned of every impurity—irradiated like a cancer patient—before life can begin again.

People point to water lines as they would scars from illness or war. In this part of the Gulf, it was the storm surge, as much as Katrina herself, that is to blame. Estimates top 30 feet in some places. Residents recall climbing to second stories, attics, and even roofs to escape the swells. Stopped clocks in the local elementary school—12 to 14 cinderblocks high—mark both elevation and event for posterity.

Is it really six months later?

The initial panic has dissipated, as have the interim communities that served basic necessities in strip mall parking lots. Where once bustle and commotion marked the months after Katrina's landfall in late August, there is now little more than mirage.

Otherworldly desertion overshadows

the modest progress that's been made in Waveland, Kiln, Pass Christian, and Pearlinton. It was dusk when we first drove through these small Mississippi towns, the pall of night and an impending storm softening the destruction. Even with this natural pink gel, as if Hancock County were a vintage Hollywood production, my initial thought was that pictures don't do it justice. Neither do words.

Like my co-team leaders and the 18 students with us on this trip, silence has washed over me. And I'm certain it will leave a residue when it recedes.

Monday, March 13,  
2006  
Jesse Dickens' Home  
Pearlington, MS.

We left Savannah with many expectations but few answers. In the Gulf, one learns quickly to embrace flexibility as friend and not foe. Rarely do things go according to plan and there's always a deficit of tools, time, and skill. If any one individual can be said to be in charge, it must be Murphy of "Murphy's Law" fame.

Regardless, two days into our spring break trip, we have settled into what amounts for routine: Arise around six, rouse late-sleeping students by seven, eat breakfast in the Camp Coastal dining tent, pack a sack lunch for the day. In between, wash face, brush teeth, throw on clothes—likely the ones from the day before—and await marching orders the team leaders scrape together last minute.

Today, we are headed to Pearlinton, a small town about 20 miles from Kiln and 10 miles from the coast. We are going to gut a house and, as usual, that's about all we know. Details will come into focus only when there's no turning back. Still, the students are boisterous and spirits are high.

But morning conversations halt when we reach the job site.

This phenomenon is one that, despite its arrival at the inauguration of every



Hallie Mobley, a theatre major, strips nails from studs during the March trip.

project, will never feel familiar. An overwhelming rush of doubt dampens even the most positive among us. In addition to the disgusting and dismal conditions, our task seems insurmountable, and I think of eating an elephant with a spoon.

The trick is not addressing the looming pachyderm in the middle of the room, but merely finding a job and focusing in. Our heartier students don masks and goggles and other protective gear and head inside the house to sledge-hammer walls and scoop out insulation. The toxicity of the structure demands frequent breaks—though the open air offers nothing but steamy temperatures

*continued on page 4*





Volunteers started out each day fixing their breakfasts and packing lunches in the makeshift kitchen of Camp Coastal. The kitchen is a flood-damaged house where the signatures of volunteers cover the walls. The line running below the ceiling shows where the water level once stood.

*Pictured: Back table (clockwise) Tammy King, Ebony Robertson, Christina Rickey, and Esha Ramey. Front table (from the left) Christina Roberson and the author, L.E. Rich.*

I absently scratch the myriad insect bites now swelling into pustules on my arms, but I already know: This is my best day in the Gulf.

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006**  
Residential Lot  
(blocks from the beach)  
Waveland, MS.

Our last day here, but the disbelief arrives on schedule: Can we clear a residential lot with a hand truck, some shovels, two wheelbarrows, and our meager feminine muscles? We have only a fraction of our group. Most of the men are erecting a kitchen tent in Pearlinton and others are working at a distribution center in North Hancock County. That leaves seven women, one working chainsaw and Toby Aldrich, a writer and Katrina survivor who had been living in Waveland. Toby has since moved to Savannah but returned with us to the region to help with the relief.

Like lots we can see in every direction, this one has no house or standing structure of any kind. Mere blocks from the coast, Waveland is leveled. Only debris, downed trees, and a post-apocalyptic ambiance remain. We are to clear the land of all three, so the owner—a man in his 70s—can finally receive a FEMA trailer. We have no idea where he's been living or how he has survived.

*continued on page 6*

## A Katrina diary (continued from page 3)

and swarms of sand gnats. Those of us working outside swat feverishly and ineffectually, as we pile rotting furniture and other debris into trucks and salvage wood and windows from the exterior.

I long for a long-sleeved shirt even as I mop buckets of sweat from my brow.

And, yet, this very well may be the greatest show on earth. By all accounts, it's a three-ring circus. Our Armstrong Atlantic team works despite aptitude and language barriers alongside a group from Texas and another from South Korea. Strangers coordinate efforts and smoothly swap tasks and tools as if on the trapeze. And slowly, but steadily, the elephant is tamed.

At the center of it all is ringmaster Ken Short, a man who lost everything in the storm. Though he and wife Cathi are in the midst of rebuilding their own house in the lot next door, Ken directs us as we gut the home of their 87-year-old neighbor, Jesse Dickens.

"Not everybody knows how to build a house," Ken tells me in an effort to explain why he's working on Mr. Dickens'

home instead of his own. Many of the residents in Pearlinton are elderly and still living in FEMA trailers.

Mr. Dickens fits this bill. Retired from NASA, he stayed in a tent for three weeks after Katrina and now lives part-time with neighbors and part-time in the trailer.

"That will sleep eight," Mr. Dickens quietly points to the white vehicle parked on his lawn. And counting him, his neighbors and their five children, it sometimes does.

Unlike Ken, who speaks in-depth about Katrina and her aftermath, Mr. Dickens says little, only that he wants "to forget it all, if I can." I feel guilty for prodding him into an interview and stirring memories of surviving the storm, first in the attic and then on the roof.

By the end of the day, however, our efforts have not only transformed the house but Mr. Dickens as well. Stripped to a skeleton, the structure can be power washed and rebuilding can begin.

Hope appears in Mr. Dickens' eyes. "I hadn't been wanting to go in there at all."

*A first grader at Charles B. Murphy Elementary School in Pearlinton, MS beams as Michael Edwards, co-founder of Pickin' Up the Pieces, delivers one of 79 spring baskets to her school. AASU students, staff, and faculty contributed a dozen of the baskets.*



## Profile in Leadership: ALICE ADAMS

Alice Adams remembers exactly where she was and what she was doing when the idea first hit her. It was August 31. Two days earlier, Hurricane Katrina had smashed into the coast of southeast Louisiana with devastating fury.

"By Monday," the assistant professor of health sciences recalled, "no one understood the full extent of the devastation yet because it took news crews a few days to get into the more rural areas to see what had happened. I went home after teaching my class and turned on CNN. [After seeing what was happening,] I felt that as a university community and as a coastal community, we should be mounting some kind of response."

Adams also felt a personal connection to the unfolding tragedy as she had earned her MBA in New Orleans at Tulane.

She continued, "I knew there would be a public health emergency and thought our department should be a part of this. Students would want to get involved, but they didn't necessarily have the funds to make a monetary contribution. I wanted to find a way for students to participate emotionally and psychologically."

Around midnight, she sent an e-mail to President Thomas Z. Jones and then Vice President for Student Affairs Joseph A. Buck volunteering to join any relief effort that might develop on campus. Jones' response was that there was no relief effort yet, but he asked her if she would get one going.

Adams pulled together a group consisting of health sciences faculty members Leigh Rich and Michael Mink, and students Laura Green Smith and Rick Little. Collectively, they envisioned a long-term commitment beginning with a campus-wide meeting.

From the beginning, they wanted to create a coordinating group, not a top down effort. An e-mail to staff, students, and faculty drew some 150 people to an organizational meeting. Adams recalls, "The meeting was filled with energy and enthusiasm." They were on their way to building a truly collaborative effort.

Soon there was a coordinating committee that handled issues ranging from fundraising events to resettling evacuees

in the community and on the campus. Give for the Gulf was born. A student, Kierra Jackson, came up with the title and the logo was created by Angela Ryczkowski, an assistant professor in art, music & theatre.

Adams modestly shares the credit with everyone else participating in the effort. "The spotlight shined on me a lot, but it's been a team effort," she said. As an example, she credits the Campus Union Board with successfully staging a cookout which anchored the kickoff event. Other student groups sponsored activities that brought the kickoff proceeds to \$6,000.

A major piece of the effort evolved when a student suggested that Valentine's Day boxes be assembled for the children of the Gulf Coast. One hundred thirty-three boxes were filled with school supplies, personal toiletries, candy, and toys. Upon investigation, using a national relief agency to transport the boxes to the Gulf would have been prohibitively expensive. Enter Pickin' Up the Pieces Relief Corps.

The Savannah group, founded by an Armstrong State graduate, Linda Edwards, and her husband Michael Edwards had already established a pipeline of assistance to the Gulf including trucks to move building materials. "It was serendipity the day we learned about them," Adams enthuses. The Edwardses transported the boxes to the Gulf and a partnership was formed.

Early in 2006, Adams had begun exploring the possibility of taking a group of students to the Gulf to help in the rehabilitation of the region. She had the questions, but the answers were hard to come by. When the Edwardses entered her life, all of her concerns were addressed. After numerous trips to the Gulf, Pickin' Up the Pieces had a firm handle on the infrastructure and logistics of the relief effort. The university group took its first Gulf trip with Pickin' Up the Pieces during spring break (See *A Katrina Diary* on page 3). Thirteen students traveled to Pearlinton, MS along with Adams; L.E. Rich, an assistant professor of public health; Sean Eastman, an assistant professor of mathematics; and the Edwardses.



*For her leadership role in Give for the Gulf, Alice Adams received the President's Citation in appreciation of her outstanding service to the university.*

Adams, Rich, and James Brawner, an associate professor of mathematics, returned to Mississippi in May.

Almost a year after the hurricane, and with more than \$17,000 raised, Adams is looking forward to new challenges. As *Compass* was going to press, organizers were looking into a one-year Katrina anniversary fundraiser and an October return to the Gulf with Pickin' Up the Pieces to rejoin the rebuilding effort.

Adams' vision doesn't end with putting the Gulf Coast back together. "One of the things we would ultimately like to see come out of Give for the Gulf is an ongoing, formalized volunteer effort on campus supported by the faculty, staff, and students. We'd like to see volunteer activities that will benefit the Savannah community, as well as other communities, become more integrated into campus life."

If anyone can make that happen, it is Alice Adams and her fellow volunteers. 🌸

*For more information about how you can help Give for the Gulf, contact Alice Adams at 912.921.7346 or [adamsali@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:adamsali@mail.armstrong.edu). The website for Give for the Gulf is [www.Katrina.armstrong.edu](http://www.Katrina.armstrong.edu). Pickin' Up the Pieces has a website at [www.pickinupthepieces.org](http://www.pickinupthepieces.org).*



## A year of giving for the Gulf

### SEPTEMBER

- Give For The Gulf (GFTG) Kickoff Students, faculty, and staff, with the support of 38 area businesses, participated in the kickoff event. Meals were served, raffles were held, and clothing, books, toys, and diabetic supplies were collected.
- The Tau Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta staged a variety show.
- The Student Government Association sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive.
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity held a penny drive.

### OCTOBER

- Celebrate AASU Day The departments of Art, Music & Theatre, History, Mathematics, and the student dental hygiene organization held a variety of events.
- A group of Honors students coordinated a yard sale.
- The College of Education staged a book sale.

### NOVEMBER

- United Way campaign donations were designated for the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and America's Second Harvest.

### FEBRUARY

- More than 130 Valentine's Day boxes were assembled for children from infants to 18 years of age. Included were personal hygiene items, school supplies, toys, games, and hair accessories. The boxes were delivered to Gulfport, MS.
- The Association for Computing Machinery coordinated a Sweetheart 5K Run.

### MARCH

- A group of students, faculty, and Pickin' Up The Pieces volunteers traveled to Hancock County, MS during spring break where they spent five days cleaning up debris and gutting houses.

### MAY

- Spring cleaning baskets were assembled to include such items as small household tools, small appliances, and other goods.
- The staff of the student newspaper, *The Inkwell*, coordinated a toy collection.
- A group of faculty and Pickin' Up The Pieces volunteers returned to work in Hancock County, MS.

To date, \$17,000 has been raised.

## A Katrina diary (continued from page 4)

I push this thought aside and begin moving dishes and tiles and plumbing and wire—and a whole host of unrecognizable fractions of things—to the street, where the Army Corps of Engineers eventually will pick them up. Toby sets about buzzing the chainsaw through portions of trees so large they span the spread of the lot and beyond.

It's slow going, but soon the students and Linda [Edwards, cofounder of Pickin' Up the Pieces], Alice [Adams, health sciences, one of the trip organizers] and I develop a routine. A feminist by nature and training, I am quick to appreciate our teamwork and accomplishments—and

the coastal breeze mercifully keeping the sand gnats in flight. We wrestle a cast-iron tub onto the hand truck and down into the street, silently praying the wheels (and our arms) hold out a few minutes more. We carry freshly cut stumps of trees as well as bricks, cinderblocks, and other debris to the mounds growing along the road.

The men are impressed when they arrive, though they, too, suffer the incipient shock, primarily because of the trees that remain. But they have brought a second chainsaw and a second wind. There may just be a cleared lot in sight.

When hopes diminish as the alternate chainsaw promptly poops out, we resort to handsaws and sheer will.

Still, our progress is incontestable, and perhaps another team—in the not-too-distant future—will finish what we cannot.

Sunday, May 21,  
2006

Camp Coastal Outpost  
Kiln, MS.

It is clear sheer will is what it will take to rebuild.

On my second trip to the Gulf, I quickly note progress is slow and bureaucracy's setting in. Mr. Dickens' house still stands in skeletal form—even when one can afford it, skilled labor is scarce—and two months later the Waveland lot has no trailer.

Even the distribution center, where residents come for donated food and household supplies, is defending itself from inaccurate press and political plots, and there are whispers the board of supervisors might shut it down.

Nevertheless, transformations (however tiny) are taking place, most notably at Camp Coastal.

It's good to see the volunteer camp thriving, so the not-so-hearty like me can contribute without creating additional demands on the community. In the early days after Katrina, volunteers had to be self-sufficient.

"In the beginning, that was a reasonable approach," Camp Coastal cofounder Mike Sweeney of Marietta, GA, explains. Eventually, however, many weren't even given a place to pitch a tent. "That's sort of what brought on Camp Coastal"—the brainchild of four individuals who self-dispatched to the disaster zone mere days after the storm.

What began as a "visualization of a need" and an "if you build it, they will come" mentality is now full-blown reality. The now air-conditioned bunkhouses, complete with indoor plumbing and hot showers, will serve a summer influx of 300 to 400 volunteers at a time. The camp also offers three squares a day—all for \$15 a night. The fee helps pay for basic utilities, the camp's recent expansion, and houses that will be built for residents in need.

When asked how long Camp Coastal's pioneers will stay, Sweeney answers unequivocally: "for the duration."



Last spring, anyone within reach of a newspaper, magazine, radio, or television set had heard the remarkable story of Trista Wright. The Armstrong Atlantic State University freshman, while removing sheetrock in a closet of a hurricane-ravaged home in Arabi, near New Orleans, came across a six-inch high cache of \$100 bills believed to total more than \$33,000.

"I was shocked," Wright said. "I thought it was Monopoly money."

It wasn't. The money is thought to have been stashed away by the owner's father during a period stretching from the 1960s through the 1970s.

Trista and her classmates were on a volunteer spring break field trip organized by the Baptist Student Union.

The Associated Press, National Public Radio, CNN, CBS, CNBC, the BBC, and, locally, the *Savannah Morning News*, WTOG-TV, WSAV-TV, and WJCL-TV interviewed Trista, and fellow rehabber and AASU student Haley Barton. Other radio and television stations and newspapers from Macon to Las Vegas, and Canada to New Zealand also carried the heartwarming story that Trista calls "a miracle."

According to the Rev. Marty Youngblood, who accompanied the students to New Orleans, the found money story received the most hits on Yahoo on March 21.

## Student's spring break find captures international attention



Trista Wright works on a home in New Orleans.

Photo by Jessie Holmes

### A Katrina diary (continued from page 6)

That's easier said than done. Working in the Gulf (even for the invigorating two weeks I'll have clocked in) is physically and emotionally draining.

But it's leaving, as I know from the first trip, that's the worst part of the week. Depression builds with each mile home and returning to day-to-day life requires mental and emotional gymnastics.

Fortunately, when the sadness subsides like surge waters seeking lower ground, there are lessons in selfless giving and opportunities to recreate one's own com-

munity while rebuilding another. For all her horrific blustering, Katrina has offered both Armstrong Atlantic and me worthwhile causes, priceless connections, and new friends and neighbors, some several states away.

In times like these, "the doers meet each other," as Sweeney puts it, and volunteers working in the Gulf always "find indefinable things."

"And they take it back to where they came from. Life is a whole lot better that way." ❀

For more information, visit [www.Katrina.armstrong.edu](http://www.Katrina.armstrong.edu), [www.pickupthepieces.org](http://www.pickupthepieces.org), or [www.campcoastaloutpost.org](http://www.campcoastaloutpost.org).

**Cover:** In May, *Pickin' Up the Pieces* volunteer Robbie Fulcher of Savannah, dismantled a hardware store in Kiln, MS for usable lumber.

Photography for this article by Alice Adams.



*Some of Ben Lee's staff and colleagues remember him:*

Ben Lee was fond of using aphorisms to express management principles and life lessons he had learned. For example, over the course of many years of library service, he learned the truth of an adage that he frequently quoted: 'Timing is everything.'

Ben's well known love of food might be the reason he frequently employed restaurant metaphors for library issues: 'The menu must offer the full range of options, and speedy service; we are in the service business!' Technical services was the kitchen of the library. Perhaps Ben saw himself as the chef, overseeing preparations and exhorting the sous-chefs to serve up the library while it was hot!

Ben positively influenced young people. He gave many young librarians their professional start.

Ben's constant desire for Lane Library to provide the best possible resources made him a master of the deal, especially when working with sales people. His staff sometimes marveled at the deals he struck and felt badly for the unfortunate salesman who somehow promised what he could barely deliver.

Ben took care of his staff as a caring, supportive, disciplined parent would. He saw the library as a family and encouraged us to take care of one another.

Ben would have been so excited to see the beautifully renovated Lane Library. That was Ben's dream and his work. He suspected that he might not get there with us, but the renovation of the current building and the planned expansion to a university level library facility for Armstrong was Ben Lee's Promised Land.



## Ben Lee remembered

*by Caroline Hopkinson*

*Editor's note: Ben Lee, AASU's dean of library services, died on May 20, 2006.*

With Ben Lee's death, Armstrong Atlantic lost a tenacious and savvy advocate for the best in library services, collections, and facilities. His friends lost a good-humored and energetic colleague, golfing buddy, and sometimes sparring partner! The librarians lost a mentor, who nurtured librarians, staff, and students with a fatherly concern. The profession lost a wise leader, with vision for library services and education, the will to make it happen, and the ability to take advantage of opportunity. But Ben would not stand for many

fancy words of praise. Forgive us, Ben, if we take a moment to remember you.

Ben Lee served Armstrong for 25 years, first as head of technical services of the Lane Library and, starting in January 1991, as library director. This was a period of growth for Armstrong and for the Lane Library under Ben's leadership. In 2006 he was named dean of library services, overseeing a \$1.8 million budget and a staff of 20.

Ben's career spanned 46 years and began as a student assistant at the University of Wisconsin libraries. A native of South Korea, Ben received a bachelor's degree in international politics from Yon Sei University in Seoul. When he immigrated to the United States, his sister Soong Yi, a librarian in the Skokie Public Library System, recommended the profession. Ben received his master's in library and information science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the late 1960s.

He remembered that time and place fondly; amused and intrigued by what must have been a new and very different culture. Ben had an immigrant's regard for our country's values and opportunities. His first long term professional experience was as assistant librarian and cataloger at the Cleveland State Community College in Tennessee. At about that time Ben married June, his college sweetheart from Seoul and they settled in Tennessee. They have a son, Eugene. It was from Tennessee that Ben headed south to Savannah and joined Armstrong State College in 1981.



acting from Keach, and was soon acting in productions of the college's fledgling Savannah Playhouse.

On a late June afternoon, Wray sat in the living room of her neat Kensington Park home reminiscing about the early days of theater in Savannah with her husband Walt and Patty Parker, director of alumni relations. The three old friends pored over the contents of a box full of photos and theater programs spread over a card table.

Here is a photo of her in *Charley's Aunt* as Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, "From Brazil where the nuts come from," she quotes from the play with a wry smile. There is one of her as Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew*. She settles on a program for the 1949 Savannah Theatre Festival in the original Jenkins Theater. She notes that the festival is one of the things of which she is most proud: *Green Grow the Lilacs*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Angel Street*, all done in repertory. The festival was conceived and directed by Carlson Thomas, then-Playhouse director, who had been hired to revive the Playhouse after the war.

It was during the run of *Green Grow the Lilacs* that Wray Potter met her future husband. Walt often worked behind the scenes, and in this show Wray sang in the chorus and designed the lighting. Now, *Green Grow the Lilacs* is a straight play upon which Rogers and Hammerstein based their musical *Oklahoma!* A visitor asks Walt how music found its way into the play. With a chuckle, he explains, "*Oklahoma!* had just closed and wasn't available for community theatre yet, so we just added some cowboy songs like 'Streets of Laredo' to the play."

Her next stage came in 1950 when the city decided it could no longer afford

to support the community involvement in Armstrong's theater program. That's when she got involved in the formation of the Little Theatre, Inc. of Savannah.

For the next fifty-six years, she played a pivotal role in keeping community theater alive in Savannah. For two years, the Little Theater staged plays at Remler's Club Royale on the site now occupied by the Skidaway Shopping Center. In 1952, for \$1 a year, they began a decade-long run at a building provided by the Savannah Gas Company.

While at the Gas Company, they established a summer theater at Barbee's Pavilion on Isle of Hope. When the gas company needed the building back for expansion, the Little Theatre bought the Savannah Golf Club and converted its ballroom into a theater in the round.

In 1976, Wray earned an English degree from Armstrong State with a minor in drama, graduating *cum laude*. During that time, she worked with the Masquers, playing lead roles in such productions as the *Potting Shed* and *The Good Woman of Szechwan*. She also did lighting and taught some of the younger students how to construct sets. Upon graduation, she went to work for the county library system. Patty Parker described her as "a nontraditional student embarking on a second career when other people were talking about retirement."

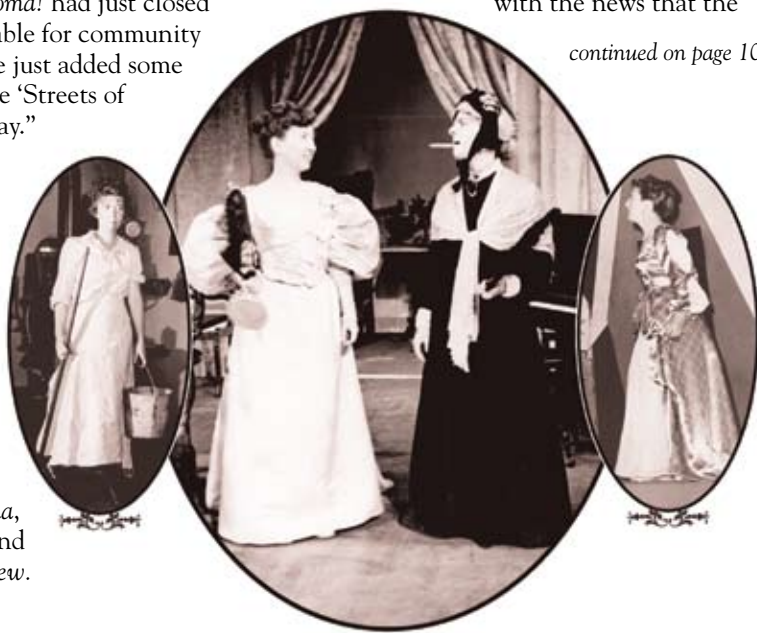
In 1979, the couple returned home from opening night for the George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* only to be awakened at two in the morning with the news that the

*continued on page 10*

For Wray Kessel, life has been a series of stages. Literally. Her first was a stage at Sacred Heart School in Savannah where she was first exposed to and developed her love of the theater. The second was at Pape School and the third came in 1937 when she fell under the spell of Stacy Keach, newly arrived at Armstrong Junior College.

Keach had been brought in to establish a drama program and community theater at the two-year old, city-owned college. Wray, who had just started working at Union Camp, signed up for night classes in lighting, set design, and

Wray Kessel in (from the left) *I Remember Mama*, *Charley's Aunt*, and *Taming of the Shrew*.





## A Life in Stages (continued from page 9)

theater was on fire. Undaunted—and in the spirit of “the show must go on”—the troupe accepted an offer to use the stage at Savannah Country Day School. Walt recalls that they scrambled to find French uniforms and ended up substituting Civil War uniforms instead!

After that, the Little Theatre “gypsied” around the city for two years, playing such varied venues as the Visitors Center and the Alee Temple. Eventually, they purchased the Savannah Theatre on Chippewa Square where they presented their shows for the next 11 years. In 2000, they sold the building to the Callen Trust and a new entrepreneur introduced a string of popular musical revues: *Lost in the Fifties*, *Jukebox Journey*, and *Broadway on Bull Street*.

Today, the Little Theatre operates out of an office at the Jewish Educational Alliance. From there, they produce plays and manage a summer drama camp and after school drama classes. Perhaps a child in one of those programs will catch the fire that Wray Kessel did in the '30s and introduce future generations to the magic world of the theater. ❀



Walt and Wray Kessel and Patty Parker pore over stage memories.

## ARMSTRONG THEATRE AT 70



The Importance of being Ernest was produced in 1948 (above) and in 2006.



Photo by Jennifer Incorvaia.

The curtain rose for the first time on the stage of the Savannah Playhouse at Armstrong Junior College on February 4, 1937. The performance was Gertrude Tonkonogy's *Three Corned Moon*. Over decades of evolution—stemming from original director Stacy Keach's first two-night production at the downtown Jenkins Theater—the Masquers, established in the 1950s, have blossomed into Georgia's most prolific university theatre performing troupe.

This year, AASU celebrates 70 years of distinguished theatrical history making campus thespians the university's oldest student organization. Now, presenting over twelve productions annually, the Masquers have scheduled mainstage productions of *Meshuggah-Nuns*, *Picnic*, *Antigone*, *You're A Good Man*,

*Charlie Brown*, and appropriately, this season's finale, *Three Corned Moon*. Additionally, Black Box Theatre productions, Video Showcase events, an emerging artist series, and theatre workshops accentuate this monumental season.

The Masquers extend a call to all alumni to participate in “Celebrate the Past, Celebrate the Future,” the university's 70th anniversary theatre season, beginning August 2006. For more information, contact Mario Incorvaia, arts marketing director, at 912.921.5496.

## Donors with a history

It is fitting that an annual scholarship in history would come from an organization sharing a long history with the university.

It was 1985. President Ronald Reagan met Mikhail Gorbachev for the first time. Nobel Prizes in literature went to Jean M. Auel, for *The Mammoth Hunters* and Lee Iacocca for his autobiography. Savannahians were flocking to see *Out of Africa*, the Best Picture Oscar winner. In baseball, the Kansas City Royals won the World Series.

It was also the year that the Savannah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) established the Hazelle B. Tuthill American History Scholarship Fund at Armstrong State College. Tuthill was a longtime history teacher at Savannah High School and a former national vice president of the DAR.

Mary Space, who helped establish the scholarship, recalls that chapter members wanted to honor Tuthill because of her positive influence on generations of Savannah students. Space said about structuring the scholarship, "We were looking for someone who loves history and is planning to teach or work in [the field of] history and provide guidance to others who would pursue American his-

tory." Space added, "If you don't understand history, you don't have anything."

Lisa White, an attorney with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explained that the chapter conducts fundraising activities among its members each year to perpetuate the \$1,500 scholarship. She said events have included both auctions and raffles at chapter meetings. Some of the money is raised through direct contributions.

Anyone may contribute to the DAR American History Scholarship fund. Call Gail Rountree at 912.927.5208 or go to [www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund](http://www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund).



(From left) Todd Allman, Lisa White, Barbara Victor, and Michael Hall, associate professor of history. Victor represented her father-in-law, the late Jules Victor, Jr., a scholarship benefactor.



information go to: [www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund](http://www.externalaffairs.armstrong.edu/development/annualfund).

## AASU calling

AASU students will be reaching out to alumni from October 8 to November 5. Please greet them with a friendly word and respond as generously as possible with your annual gift. All gifts, large or small, are appreciated and are used to fill the immediate needs of the university. For more

### A Report to the Donors

A *Report to Donors* from The Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation was mailed during July 2006. The AASU Foundation would like to express gratitude for all gifts. In error, Julianna Williams was omitted from the report. The Melaver family and Dr. and Mrs. Donald C. Starr were incorrectly listed. If you have questions concerning this report, please call 912.927.5263.

## Don't cry for him, Argentina

This year's DAR scholarship winner, Todd Allman, said he was grateful to the organization because the scholarship enabled him to travel outside the country for the first time. Allman, a senior history major, took a Study Abroad trip to Argentina in August with one of his history professors, Michael Hall. Todd said that while preparing for the for-credit course, he took two preparatory classes: one on the history of Argentina, and one on the country's culture. Allman was presented with his check at the DAR Flag Day ceremony in May.

## Two-time winner

April Duffie, a single mother of two, won the DAR scholarship in 2003 and 2004. "I didn't

want to go into debt," she said, "so winning the scholarship was wonderful because

I didn't have to take a part-time job."

She adds that the late Dr. Jules Victor, Jr. was a big contributor to the scholarships she won.

She graduated in December 2005 and is now a graduate student in American history at Armstrong Atlantic. She is a graduate assistant at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.

Duffie is very appreciative of the DAR and its membership. "The ladies were very supportive and interested in what I am doing. It's nice when there's a big organization that is this interested in history."





# THE 2006-2007 ROBERT I. STROZIER FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2006**

**Genes, Memes, Evolution and the Technologies of Information**

*Jack Simmons, Philosophy*

In 1976, Richard Dawkins famously suggested that a new kind of gene had recently emerged, the cultural gene. He called the cultural gene a meme and described memes as units of cultural transmission. In this presentation, Simmons will discuss the contemporary work in memetic theory and its basis in Dawkins' gene's eye-view theory. In the gene's eye-view theory of natural selection, evolution occurs for the sake of the gene-line, not the organism or the species.

**OCTOBER 20, 2006**

**Are We Prepared for Pandemic Bird Flu?**  
*AASU Interdisciplinary Bird Flu Group\**

In 1997, 18 Hong Kong residents became infected with the H5N1 virus, creating the first documented outbreak of the highly pathogenic "bird flu" in humans. This sounded a global alarm. What will happen if H5N1 mutates into a form that can spread from person to person? Are we—as countries and communities—ready to combat the bird flu? How will a pandemic impact health care, schools, businesses, legal systems, and local and national economies? Many scholars predict this isn't a matter of "if" but a question of "when," and effective solutions most likely will be interdisciplinary in scope and implementation.

*\*David Adams, Rhonda Bevis, Kathryn Craven, Sean Eastman, Mark Finlay, Sabrina Hessinger, Frank Katz, Mike Mahan, Pam Mahan, Rod McAdams, L.E. Rich, Laura Greene Smith, and Helen Taggart. (A collaborative group involving all colleges and schools on campus.)*

**NOVEMBER 10, 2006**

**Impact of PRISM: Concrete results in our schools, for our teachers, on our campus & in our community**  
*Sabrina Hessinger, Mathematics*

Since its inception, PRISM (Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics) has involved 1,500 public school teachers

in 70 customized math and science professional development programs, connected over 1,000 teachers through learning communities, supported 27 teacher and faculty investigators through educational research grants, touched parent groups, and engaged with the community. In this presentation, the midpoint impact of PRISM will be shared by the participating teachers and faculty. Learn of results such as increased student achievement and newly formed cross-college collaboratives.

**JANUARY 19, 2007**

**Natural Disasters**

*Tom Howard, History*

A great theme of geography is the interaction of human society and natural environment. Nowhere is this interaction more dramatic than in "natural disasters." The very term is a misnomer: there are no purely natural disasters, or if there are, we never hear of them. The reason events like the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina grip our imaginations is because they have such an impact on human societies and because they reveal the frailties and follies of those societies in a way nothing else can. In this lecture Howard will revisit a few choice disasters and see what they can tell us.

**FEBRUARY 16, 2007**

**Marching as to War: Personal Narratives of African American Women's Gulf War Experiences**

*Liz Desnoyers-Colas, Art, Music & Theatre*

Since the American Revolutionary War, African-American women have served in every military conflict in the United States. Despite this patriotic feat, there is a dearth of published empirical research regarding African-American military servicewomen, especially about Gulf War service experiences.

This lecture features in-depth oral history interviews with 25-50 African-American women from all branches of the U.S. military who have served in the Gulf from Operation Desert Shield/Storm to the present Gulf conflict. These detailed narratives are part of a proposed

exploration through the African-American servicewomen's eyes of such issues as health and child care, sexism/sexual harassment, racism, religion, military promotions, career advancement, and views on serving in combat zones.

**MARCH 23, 2007**

**Communication Sciences and Disorders providing the RiteCare**

*Donna Brooks, Communication Sciences and Disorders*

The program in speech language pathology has been a part of Armstrong since 1971. Like the university, it has experienced growth, moving from the College of Education to the College of Health Professions. The department offers both bachelor's and master's degrees and is accredited by the American Speech Language Hearing Association. An integral component of the master's level training is the clinical education of students. Since 1998 the department has provided speech-language pathology services to the campus, Savannah/Chatham and surrounding communities. These services provide our students opportunities to apply theory to actual clients under the direction of licensed and certified clinicians.

**APRIL 13, 2007**

**Rolling the Bones: Using Risk and Intent to Determine Body Boundaries**  
*Leigh Rich, Health Sciences*

Innovations in biotechnology call into question what it means to be an individual. This "new biology" helps shape societal boundaries that delimit what is and is not "us" and determines what level of decision-making authority we have within the medical encounter. These are not simple answers, as the Terri Schiavo case demonstrated. Who decides when to "pull the plug?" Who has control over transplantable organs? What should be done with unused frozen embryos? Does genetic information belong to the individual? As bodies become more useful, the courts are often asked to decide when—and if—our bodies belong to us.

**ALL LECTURES WILL BE HELD IN UNIVERSITY HALL 156 AT 12:10 P.M.  
AND ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

# class notes

## '40s

**Norton M. Melaver '44** of Melaver, Inc. was recently awarded Southface Institute's prestigious Argon Award for visionary stewardship of the environment.

## '60s

**J. Daniel Falligant '63** was named a Georgia Super Lawyer in the March 2006 issue of *Atlanta Magazine*. Falligant has practiced law in Savannah since 1968, specializing primarily in the areas of commercial and residential real estate law. He served as a governor of the State Bar of Georgia for 24 years, and three years on the executive committee of the real estate section of the State Bar. As a lecturer for the real estate section, he has had portions of his materials published in a real estate paralegal textbook.

**Daniel R. Sims '68** has affiliated with the First National Bank of Savannah as its new client relations officer.

## '70s

**Gary Cartee '74** is vice president of sales for Derst Baking Company.

**Patricia Singleton Reese '78** has been elected to a new three-year term on the board of directors of the Propeller Club of Savannah.

**Patricia (Patti) Thompson '78** is with Sea Island Bank on its commercial banking team. She serves as president of the Savannah Community Regional Capital Fund and as a board member of the Coastal Area District Development Authority.

## '80s

**Jesse Irene Pennington '81, '93** retired with the rank of major after 31 years with Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department in 2005. In June 2005 she began her new career as chief of police for the Town of Thunderbolt.

**Robin Anderson Boan '82**, after 20 years as a dental hygienist, has joined Keller Williams Realty as a full service real estate professional specializing in fine islands property. She is a member of the Georgia and National Board of Realtors and the Savannah Board of Realtors.

**Catherine Jarman '84** was featured in the *Savannah Morning News* for her sea shell collection that includes thousands of shells. She will be featured in Oprah Winfrey's magazine *O at Home* and has advised a variety of television shows.

**Michael S. Matz, DMD '84** recently placed in the top 25 in two events in the U.S. Masters Swimming National Short Course Championship in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. In 2006, 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.

**Karen Clark Panzitta, M.D. '84**, a practicing radiologist, has recently opened a new imaging practice in Savannah. Her practice is dedicated to breast imaging and bone density studies for women, and is called Breast Imaging of Savannah, LLC. Panzitta was previously affiliated with Radiologists of Savannah and with Memorial Health's radiology department.

**Shari Matz Welch '88** is the educational core director for the Boys & Girls Club in Boca Raton, FL. She graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. She is currently being represented by the Wilhemina Miami agency in the media division of TV, film, and print.

*continued on page 14*

## Taggart named Distinguished Alumnus for 2006

Savannah attorney Tom Taggart '69, a veteran of 34 years in the courtroom, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2006.

The award is presented annually by the AASU Alumni Association to the alumnus whose career and community achievements have brought honor and recognition to the university.

Taggart's collegiate career spans two different phases of the university's history. He began his studies in 1962, when Armstrong was a junior college. After a stint in the military and a year as a police officer, he resumed his studies at Armstrong State, which by then was a four-year college.

Taggart studied law at the University of Georgia School of Law and returned to Savannah to launch his legal career. He started out doing criminal defense work and moved on to civil litigation. He also served four years in the Georgia General Assembly.

He is board certified in civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, an Advocate with the American Board of Trial Advocacy, and a Diplomat with the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys. He is a member of the local, state and national bar associations and numerous other professional organizations, including the Melvin Belli Society.



Tom Taggart (left) receives his award from Mark Worsham, outgoing alumni president.



## '90s

**Michelle O'Donnell Aenchbacher '91**, '96 was named co-Teacher of the Year for Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools with **Heather Bloom Hernandez '00**.

**Jennifer Paige Conner Dickey '91** is the principal at Rincon Elementary School in Effingham County, effective June 2006. Following graduation from Armstrong State, she earned both a master's and a doctorate in education.

**Dana Boyd '94** is the owner and president of the International Center for Leadership and Coaching. She is also founder and board chair for the Millionaire Women's Club which is actively involved in community service, including Habitat for Humanity's project of a house being built by women.

**Chyrileen Kilcrease '97** was the featured speaker at Metter High School's Black History Month program in February 2006. She is a part-time staff nurse and supervisor at Candler County Hospital, an associate professor of nursing at Middle Georgia College, and serves as council member and mayor pro tem for the City of Metter.

**Tania Metzger Cole '99** owns and operates her own dance studio, Sassy Steps School of Dance and Baton, in Rincon, GA. While a student at Armstrong Atlantic, she was captain of the school's dance team and choreographed dances for their performances and competitions. Her website is [www.sassystepsschoolofdance.com](http://www.sassystepsschoolofdance.com).

## '00s

**Heather Bloom Hernandez '00** was named co-Teacher of the Year for Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools with **Michelle O'Donnell Aenchbacher '91**, '96.

**Irina M. Tedrick '00** completed her master's degree in 2003 from the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain. She teaches Spanish at Benedictine Military School and Savannah State University as an adjunct faculty member.

**Ying Ge Andrews '01** and her husband **Tim Andrews '01** had lunch recently with Alumni Director Patty Parker while she was on an AASU-sponsored trip to New York City. They are expecting a second child at the end of 2006. Ying works for Westchester County developing software applications to monitor the criminal activity of convicted offenders. Tim is a systems analyst at Central

National-Gottesman, Inc., an international marketer for pulp and paper.

**Mia Crumbley '01** has joined the staff of RE/Max Professionals.

**Amy Limpert '02** has taken an advertising job with Longwater & Company.

**Carla A. Tavares '02** is a high school teacher in Boston, MA. She is also seeking a master's in forensic psychology at American International College.

**Sarah Boisvert '04** is currently working on her Master's of Public Health at St. Louis University School of Public Health in Missouri. Additionally, she is working as a research assistant in infectious diseases at Washington University School of Medicine.

**Pat Riley '04** was promoted to project associate director of admissions at South University. He is responsible for the recruitment of new students, managing admissions, and advising students.

**LaTashia Thomas '04** has joined the sales team at Weichert Realtors-Prestige Properties.

**Daniela Salas '05** is working towards her Master's of Public Health at Georgia State University. She was awarded a graduate research assistantship and is assigned to CIFAL Atlanta. CIFAL is the North American affiliate of the Decentralized Cooperation Network of the United Nations Institute for training and research. She manages the City AIDS Americas program which is the HIV/AIDS initiative of CIFAL in Atlanta.

**Kristen VonWaldner '05** was promoted to showroom manager at La Belle Maison.

**Joel P. Worth '05** recently wrote an article, "A Mid-Life crisis, barefoot style," for *The Tybee News* detailing his decision to return to school as a nontraditional student. He had been working as a chef for more than 20 years before deciding he wanted something different. After much soul-searching, and the end of his unemployment insurance, he decided to go to college where he ended up as an English major in the Honors Program and graduated *magna cum laude*. Now 45, he is married and enjoying a new career as an elementary school teacher.



### Mary Ellen Donatelli named Outstanding Staff Member of the Year

Mary Ellen Donatelli, senior secretary for the Department of Early Childhood Education, was selected the 2006 Outstanding Staff Member of the Year. The award is given annually to recognize full-time hourly staff members for their valuable contributions to the university.

In making the presentation, AASU President Thomas Z. Jones said, "According to the faculty and staff with whom she works, 'she is the glue that holds the department together.'"

Donatelli is instrumental in the planning and preparation of the annual Week of the Young Child, serves as chair of the College of Education Hospitality Committee, and helps organize the Coastal Georgia Center for Economic Education summer workshops.

Donatelli also serves on the Staff Orientation and Career Advancement Task Force, played an active role in the creation of the new employee welcome bags, and is a member of AASU's new employee welcome team.

## engagements

**Dondi Isbell '03** to wed Joel Mock  
**Elizabeth Hamilton '05** to wed Troy Funk, September 9, 2006  
**April N. Moye '05** to wed Stephen Perry Downing, November 18, 2006

## marriages

**Mary Byerly Nickens '04** married Charlie Robert Rice on December 3, 2005  
**Mary Wilborn '04** married Adam Lee '02 on February 18, 2006.  
**Stephanie Ogle '05** married John James Schuyler III on June 10, 2006.  
**Elizabeth Ernst '06** married Jeremy Davis on June 24, 2006.

## additions

**Rhonda Gordy Flathman '99** and husband Christian: Josie Grace born in 2005  
**Carla A. Tavares '02** and husband: Lucas, September 27, 2005  
**Kristan Ferguson Fretwell '05** and husband **Sean R. Fretwell '04**: Forrest Sean Gray, April 9, 2006

## anniversaries

**Ruth Klingon Barragan '40** and **Frank Barragan '38** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 10, 2006.  
**Marguerite Storer Redmond '45** and **Robert L. Redmond '47** celebrated

their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23, 2006. They met because of an article Robert read on Marguerite in an Armstrong alumni newsletter that said how much she liked to dance. Robert was so intrigued that he called and asked her out.

## passings

**Sheila Pierce Cobb '37**, February 17, 2006  
**Elizabeth Cobb Zirkle '37**, May 26, 2005  
**Mamie Guest Heery '38**, February 21, 2006  
**Irving Sklansky '42**, January 12, 2006  
**Shirley Fennel Eason '44**, February 7, 2006  
**Sister Betty Walsh '47** (Mildred Elizabeth Walsh) aka Sister M. Charlene, May 8, 2006  
**Jacqueline Cooke Sprole '54**, April 4, 2004  
**Alfred Thomas Baker, Jr. '56**, August 14, 2005  
**Jesse Ray Reese '58**, March 10, 2006  
**Richard "Ric" Newby '74**, August 3, 2005  
**Brenda Stevens '75**, April 2, 2006  
**Peggy Ann Ginn Tuten '79**, April 14, 2006  
**Robert Charles Galen '82**, May 29, 2006  
**Betsy H. Daniell '89**, March 19, 2005  
**Joyce Brannen Nettles '90**, April 17, 2006

## Alumni Association Elects Officers

The AASU Alumni Association elected officers for the 2006-2007 academic year at its annual meeting.

**Dodie Gay '83**, president, is a consultant with Enviro-Assets, LLC, a company that advises industry on environmental issues.



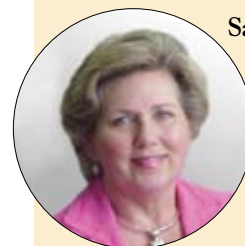
**Spencer Hoynes '70**, president-elect, is a retired assistant commissioner of labor for the Georgia Department of Labor.



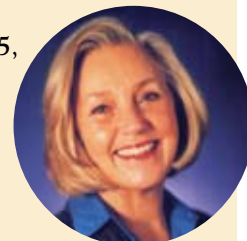
**Kevin Fitzmaurice '99, '02**, vice president, is a material analyst with Georgia Power.



**Sandra Jones '64, '98**, treasurer/recording secretary, is the human resources administrator for the City of Savannah.



**Patty Parker '92, '95**, corresponding secretary and director, is director of alumni relations at AASU.



## A health club for the brain

AASU is forming a Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) for Chatham County adult learners (ages 50 and older). The institute, part of a growing movement across North American college campuses, will incorporate the intellectual curiosity, experience, and vitality of the area's mature people. Offering lectures, discussion groups, seminars, special presentations, and cultural events, the LLI is directed by its students. A few of the classes that will be offered this fall are: The History of Savannah, Watercolor Painting, The Expressive Power of Great Music, and Bringing the Great Art Masterpieces to Life. Classes begin on October 3. For more information on the LLI, call the Office of Professional & Continuing Education at 912.927.5322.



# 2005-06 Faculty Service Awards presented

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



## **Alumni Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Academic Discipline**

**Elwin Tilson**, a professor of radiologic sciences, has been a member of the Armstrong faculty since 1982. During that time, he has served as a program director and clinical coordinator, held positions at local, state, and national levels for numerous academic organizations,

and served as a visiting professor at universities ranging from Los Angeles to Kuwait. In addition, he has published a major textbook, two national board review manuals, and nearly 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals.



## **Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the University**

**Dick Nordquist**, a professor of English and director of faculty development and liberal studies, has been a member of the Armstrong faculty since 1980. He has been instrumental in establishing a number of academic entities including the Writing Center, Liberty Center in Hinesville, Web-based instruction,

the Presidential Symposium on Teaching and Learning, the Teaching and Learning Center, the Master of Liberal and Professional Studies program, the 62-Plus program, the Academic Renewal program, and the weekend program.



## **Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Community**

**Catharine Powell**, an associate professor of nursing, has been a member of the Armstrong faculty since 1991. She has served on more than two dozen departmental, college, and university committees, and held positions on numerous community boards, including the board of the Chatham County Health Department.

For the past five years she's served on the Georgia Public Health Nursing Practice and Education Workgroup. Powell has also volunteered with the homeless clinic at Emmaus House, a site that serves as a service project for her community health nursing students.



## **H. Dean Propst Award**

**Nancy Remler**, an associate professor of English, has been a member of the Armstrong faculty since 1992. She has taught heavy loads of learning support composition and advised hundreds of students who required special academic support. She is a core faculty member in the Master of Liberal and Professional Studies program and served for several years as director of the

Coastal Georgia Writing Project. Most recently, she served as co-director of the Honors Program. In 2004, she was designated the Arthur M. Gignilliat, Jr. Professor of Teaching and Learning. In that position she has designed numerous service projects and initiatives not only for her own students but for students across the campus.



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