

Compass

Summer 2007

Armstrong State University

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Award winning

summer 2007

compass



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AASU wins four communications awards

Armstrong Atlantic has earned four awards in two recent peer competitions.

The university won three awards from the Savannah Advertising Federation. The undergraduate viewbook won a Silver Addy and an Outstanding Achievement Award, one of the federation's four special Addy Awards.

Melanie Mirande and Joe Crain, formerly in the Office of Recruiting, wrote the viewbook. It was designed by Anna de la Paz and photographed by Katherine Arntzen in the Office of University Relations. The publication provides information to prospective students on all aspects of the university.

Compass Interactive (www.ci.armstrong.edu), the university's broadband channel of streaming video, also won a Silver Addy. Bruce Habersham, in the Office of Computer and Information Services, produces Compass Interactive.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education presented an Award of Excellence for the university's external newsletter, *Compass*. Competition was open to all colleges and universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Compass reaches more than 24,000 AASU alumni and friends of the university. The newsletter is produced in the Office of University Relations. Barry Ostrow is the editor and principal writer. The publication is designed by Joan Lehon and photographed by Katherine Arntzen.



University co-hosts leading author

Armstrong Atlantic and Memorial Health brought Richard Florida, best-selling author of *The Rise of the Creative Class* and *The Flight of the Creative Class*, to Savannah to commemorate the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce's 200th anniversary. He spoke to a packed audience at the Lucas Theater.

Florida is considered one of the most influential leaders in modern economic development and social planning. He is the Hirst Professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University.

In *The Rise of the Creative Class*, Florida conducted an extensive study on the impact of artists, musicians, scientists, educators, and other creative professions. Florida introduced his 3 Ts of economic engagement—technology, talent, and tolerance.

Team wins moot court national championship

In what may be a first for any college or university in the University System of Georgia, an Armstrong Atlantic team brought home the 2007 American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship.

Seniors Brian Dotson and Adam Morrison, both political science majors, defeated 63 other moot court teams from across the nation. Regent University Law School in Virginia Beach, VA hosted the event in January.

The AASU team dethroned two-time consecutive national champion Patrick Henry College, a private Christian school in Virginia.

A second AASU team, composed of Mary Melton and Melissa Williams, remained in competition through three elimination rounds.

Faculty coaches included John Kearnes, associate professor of political science and originator of the moot court program at AASU; Liz Desnoyers-Colas, assistant professor of speech/communication; and Becky da Cruz, assistant professor of criminal justice.

The Savannah-based law firm of Hunter Maclean Exley & Dunn, P.C. provided coaching and financial support to the moot court program. Other members of the legal community serving as coaches included: Judge Michael Barker, Chatham County Magistrate Court, and Joe Steffen with Miltiades & Steffen.

(From left to right)
Former U.S.
Attorney General
John Ashcroft,
Adam Morrison, Liz
Desnoyers-Colas,
Brian Dotson,
and Dean Jeffrey
Brauch of the Regent
University Law
School.



Accentuating the positive



Armstrong Atlantic has joined with the Friends of Johnny Mercer (FJM) to perpetuate the memory of native Savannahian and national treasure, John Herndon Mercer (November 18, 1909-June 25, 1976).

Johnny Mercer was primarily a lyricist who occasionally wrote his own music. Beginning in the mid-1930s he wrote the lyrics to more than 1,000 songs heard in movies, on radio, television, and records, and in Broadway shows. He received 19 Academy Award nominations and took Oscar home for such hits as *In the Cool*, *Cool, Cool of the Evening*, *On the Acheson, Topeka and the Santa Fe*, *Moon River*, and *Days of Wine and Roses*.

The Lane Library, working with FJM, has begun to assemble materials related to the songwriter. Periodically, elements from the Mercer



Family Collection go on display in the Lane Library lobby. Most recently, visitors had the opportunity to view a variety of letters written by Mercer, related memorabilia of his era, and videotapes of his film and television appearances.

The Mercer Family Collection was formally introduced during a reception at the Armstrong Center and the library. Guests had the opportunity to see six original Mercer watercolors at the center. By hopping the *Acheson, Topeka and the Santa Fe* trolley shuttling between the center and the library, they could view the collection and an oil portrait of the lyricist done by Cornelia McIntire Rivers that was used for the cover of Gene Lees' 2004 biography, *Portrait of Johnny*. Ted Eldridge, a local expert on Mercer lore, shared little known stories in his role as the conductor.

During the Savannah Music Festival, the university and FJM jointly sponsored an award for the best vocalist performing a Johnny Mercer song. This year's inaugural winner was Sean Anderson of Akron, OH.

Graphic art and photography students have also been involved in maintaining the memory of Mercer. Nineteen competed in a poster contest to promote the Mercer Family Collection. Many had never heard of Mercer before, but all fell under the spell of the pied piper of Savannah. Jamie Almond, a junior working toward his Bachelor of Fine Arts, received an award from FJM for his poster design.

Regularly, throughout the year, AASU's Elderhostel offers a program about Johnny Mercer where participants can visit the songwriter's Savannah haunts. These sessions often end with a concert of Mercer music by Savannah songstress Kim Polote.

Kim Polote (above left) belts out a Johnny Mercer song accompanied by David and Alisha Duckworth. The three are entertaining a group of Elderhostel students at Trinity United Methodist Church in Savannah.

Conductor Ted Eldridge (top right) welcomes partygoers aboard the "*Acheson, Topeka, and the Santa Fe*."

Junior Jamie Almond's award-winning Johnny Mercer poster.

Cover: Johnny Mercer at age six in June 1915. Photo courtesy of the Mercer Family Collection.

ZORA

The Big Read-Savannah continues a tradition

On the late afternoon of Saturday, April 14, the last of the book enthusiasts ambled away from Savannah's Daffin Park. They had just enjoyed two hours discussing Zora Neale Hurston's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and a concert by the Howard Paul Quintet. The fourth Armstrong Atlantic community-wide read had come to a close.

This year's event differed significantly from the previous community reads beginning in 2004. For starters, the event came with a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), marking the first time that government dollars funded the four-year-old event.

In addition, the read this year grew to involve not only AASU, but other community partners: Live Oak Public Libraries, the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs, the 18th annual Black Heritage Festival, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

The history of AASU's read began in 2004 when Assistant Professor Beth Howells, who'd recently arrived from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro—where she was first exposed to community reads—decided to inject a similar event into the Armstrong Atlantic culture.

"I thought it would be a good addition to Savannah," said Howells, now director of composition in the Department of Languages, Literature & Philosophy.

Howells' initiative and enthusiasm blossomed into the first campus-wide reading program in 2004, a grassroots effort focusing on Flannery O'Connor's first short story collection, *A Good Man is Hard to Find* and other stories.

In addition to being a Savannah native, O'Connor had a more immediate connection to the campus. Her childhood home in Savannah had been purchased some 20 years earlier by the late President Robert A. Burnett, Robert I. Strozier, then-English professor, and Hugh Brown, a former professor of English. Faculty members have lead day trips to both her childhood home and to her Milledgeville farm, Andalusia, O'Connor's home in her later years.

The campus reads in 2005 and 2006 brought authors Ernest Gaines and Richard Seltzer to campus. Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying* and Seltzer's *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery* were the focus of the reads. Both reads attracted an ever-larger number of students and Savannah residents.

"The idea about community reads is to create common ground for people to come together and talk," said Howells.

Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson was among the community "leaders as readers" who read the book and supported The Big Read.



Storyteller Constance Andrews entertains young readers as part of the Live Oak Public Libraries' celebration of Zora Neale Hurston and her works. Photo by Wendy Cooper.

Community reading programs have, for the most part, been a grassroots initiative. For years, communities across the country have been quietly selecting books and coming together to discuss them. More recently, the Library of Congress has fueled the growth of read programs by posting information online.

Enter the NEA

For 2007, Armstrong Atlantic received a \$20,000 NEA grant to orchestrate a community-wide read. The NEA's national initiative, The Big Read, grew out of concern generated by a 2002 report by the U.S. Census Bureau that showed a marked decline in literary reading in the nation.

The report showed that between 1982 and 2002, the percentage of adults reading literature dropped from 56.9 to 46.7 percent. The report also brought to light, according to NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, that reading is "not only declining among all groups, but the rate of decline has accelerated, especially among young readers."

Nationally, The Big Read involved 71 other communities.

“If there’s one kid who’s been inspired to read or write more as a result of this event, then it all will have been worth it.”

— Professor Dick Nordquist

Zora Neale Hurston

For the 2007 read, university organizers looked at the NEA’s list of eight approved novels and selected Zora Neale Hurston’s work, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

“We all have our own ideas in our heads about who Zora was,” said Dick Nordquist, director of Liberal Studies and Faculty Development and point man in organizing on-campus read events. He



Zora Neale Hurston’s biographer, Valerie Boyd, speaks on the author’s life at the Armstrong Center.

views her as a skillful novelist able to write in the style of Jane Austen in one paragraph and then move into poetic African-American dialect the next, capturing the sound of ordinary people around her. “She was self-determined, strong, and not a victim of anyone,” Nordquist said.

There was indeed an underlying tenacity to Hurston’s persona. Despite having lived in an era before the Civil

Rights movement and at a time when other leading African American writers were shunning her for her use of dialect, Hurston never wavered.

“She didn’t see any regret in her life and was never a self-pitying character,” Nordquist added.

Howells liked Hurston because, as an African-American female author, she would be an attractive choice for the largely female student population at AASU. Others like Barbara Fertig, professor of history, felt a deep connection to Hurston as an American folklorist and anthropologist.

Fertig’s first encounter with Hurston was through a portrait of the writer hanging in an office in the Library of Congress where Fertig worked while pursuing her Ph.D. in history.

“I knew Zora as a folklorist and was amazed to discover later that she was also a writer,” said Fertig.

Having grown up in Eatonville, FL in the early 1920s, Hurston studied anthropology at Howard University and later at Barnard College.

Perhaps one of Hurston’s biggest contributions as a folklorist was made during her involvement with the Federal Writers Project in Florida in the 1930s.

“She had a gift for expressing what folks were doing at the time and elevating that to a level above the ordinary,” said Fertig. “She became a major contributor to the portrait of American folklore and African American experience.”

Although best known for *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Hurston also wrote a number of essays, short stories, and a biography, and

compiled field recordings from her work as a folklorist. Many of those recordings are in song form.

And whether it is as writer, folklorist, or singer, Hurston represents many things to many people.

The Big Read officially ran from February 10 through April 14 with university events being held April 9-13. Campus presentations included a guest lecture by Hurston’s biographer and author of *Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*, Valerie Boyd. Faculty and students also offered presentations to illustrate the life and times of Hurston. Students led discussions of the book and the Masquers and Gospel Choir performed.

On April 14, the Big Read came to a close at Daffin Park with more than 150 attending eight book discussions about *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

“If there’s one kid who’s been inspired to read or write more as a result of this event, then it all will have been worth it,” Nordquist said. ☸

— Francisco Duque



Intense in tents. More than 150 book club members met in Daffin Park at the conclusion of The Big Read. Photo by Wendy Cooper.

His eyes were watching Eatonville

Just a few miles northeast of Orlando lies the tiny town of Eatonville, immortalized in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Armstrong Atlantic's Learotha Williams, an assistant professor of history, became an expert on this tiny historic community while researching his doctoral dissertation at Florida State University.

Working with the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs in the folklore section, he worked with a researcher who was gathering interviews from elderly women who were contemporaries of Hurston. He saw in their stories the same fierce independence that characterized Hurston's heroine, Janie Crawford.

Eatonville was formed from land sold to local Blacks by Josiah Eaton, one of the few Whites willing to do so in the years following the Emancipation Proclamation. In 1887, the tiny community was incorporated as what was probably the first African-American town in the nation. Williams said, "The town was a refuge from segregation. Blacks were in a position of power and they attracted others because they could hang on to what they accomplished."

"In that area of one square mile," Williams explained, "there were about 12 churches. The two main institutions in the Black community were the churches and the schools." The transcripts relayed tales of the schools transitioning from segregation to desegregation.

Listen now to Annie Thacker, Thelma Frye, and Mae Bandy* as they remember Zora Neale Hurston. Tina Bucuvalas, a folklorist with the National Register section of the Florida Secretary of State's office, interviewed them.

BUCUVALAS: Now, do many of you know the work of Zora Neal Hurston at all? Did any of you know her when you were growing up?

FRYE: I knew her after she was grown.

BANDY: Miss Annie here, knew Hurston real well because she and her mother were good friends. And she played in some of the plays that Zora had, Annie did.

BUCUVALAS: Oh, when she was living here, she would put on plays?

FRYE: My daddy and her were good friends. I think that they went to school together. And she would come to my house.

BANDY: Tell her about the grass skirt.

THACKER: Well, she had these plays. She had the choral group from Winter Park and it was nobody left but me and Jeffrey Motes and he died. Everybody connected with me dies when I go hanging around with them. [Laughs]. We played here, and we played down to Mountain Lake. We made all of our costumes. Someone asked me, 'Did you have a script?' [Laughs]. Now I know what a script is, but back in them days I looked at her and said, 'What was that?' In those days Zora just told us what to do and you had to do what she said. Your mama would see why you don't do what she said do. That was the way that they raised you then. But we made all those costumes; the grass skirts, it was like the African things. She was strictly on that. And we played at Rollins College and all along here.

BUCUVALAS: Did she do material from Eatonville, like stories... in those plays too?

THACKER: No, she did her own idea of a story, but it was already drafted from where she lived.



Williams

BUCUVALAS: Did she use real people's names?

THACKER: Everyone that you see... and let's see, who else? Lawrence Thacker, that was my uncle. Any Thacker in there, back in them days, that's where I came from... and the Hamptons. Whatever she did, whatever she wrote, it came from her surroundings.

BUCUVALAS: Now I know that she had a lot of stories and sayings... in her book. Are things like that still around? Like Mrs. Aillee was telling me, she grew up with some of the Brer Rabbit stories.

THACKER: Well I didn't because I was already you know, retired, when she started.

BUCUVALAS: Are those kinds of stories still around?

THACKER: I don't know. Because see, you would have to get someone younger in the school system. Isn't that right? I mean I don't know when I been to a school to see what they do. When you don't have children you get away from it.

**The names of all Eatonville residents have been changed by request. Their quotes are accurate, but abridged for space.*

—Barry Ostrow

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

Vicki L. McNeil, *Armstrong Atlantic's* new vice president for student affairs, played a key role in evacuating 200 Loyola University students during Hurricane Katrina.

Tuesday, August 23, 2005, was a warm, late summer day in New Orleans.

Vicki L. McNeil, Loyola University's associate vice president for student affairs, and other administrators were preparing for the weekend's fall freshman orientation.

Far from the Big Easy, south of the Bahamas, Tropical Depression 12 was forming.

By Thursday, Tropical Storm Katrina's power began to wane as it made landfall over Florida.

On Friday, McNeil and her staff were busy helping some 1,000 of the school's 5,900 students move into campus housing. Around 5 p.m., McNeil was returning to her office from a convocation when she was alerted to Katrina's westerly loop back into the gulf. The storm was gathering strength.

As Saturday dawned, it was apparent that the university would need to activate its emergency plan. Katrina, now a Category 3 hurricane, was heading inexorably toward the coast of Mississippi and New Orleans.

McNeil remembers the parents still in town were leaving with their children. The on-campus population dropped to 300. The expectation was to provide them with safe shelter on campus. "We thought this was just going to be for the weekend," McNeil said.

On Sunday morning, those who remained behind awoke to bright sunny skies. The approaching storm was building toward a Category 5. Two hundred students, mostly foreign nationals and freshmen, still remained on campus.

McNeil and her staff began to implement the evacuation plan. Calling the Red Cross, she arranged for accommodations at a Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. "We cleared out all the food from our convenience store and had all the bottled water we would need," she said. Residence halls were searched to make sure no one was left behind.

Shortly after 11 a.m., a caravan of eleven 15-passenger university vans and 14 cars was heading north on I-10 toward Baton Rouge. Two hours later, Katrina had reached her peak sustained winds of 175 miles an hour.

Sitting in the lead van and stuck on a causeway in the massive outbound traffic jam, McNeil feared the hurricane would

hit before they reached the other side. Fortunately, the traffic picked up as the skies began to glow and they trekked the 70 miles to the capital in a snail-paced seven hours.



McNeil



Exodus. Vicki McNeil, her staff, and students were caught in traffic like this streaming out of New Orleans on August 28, 2005. Photo by Scott Threlkeld/The Times-Picayune.

"We were still expecting to return in a couple of days," McNeil said. "We didn't know what was happening. We'd sit in the vans listening to the news on the radio."

The news was not good. By Monday night, the levees had broken. "Hundreds of homes were lost that day," McNeil recalls. "We were all wondering what was happening to our homes."

Cell phone communication was out and landlines were spotty. Assisting one student to call home, McNeil came across a public pay phone. "When I finally found that pay phone," she said with a smile, "I had to read the directions because I hadn't used one in such a long time."

The New Orleans refugees were beginning to crowd the capital. It would soon become more untenable staying in

the Baton Rouge church shelter. The foreign students, some with missing passports, could not just jump on airplanes and go home. A plan was quickly formed to transport them to more stable venues in Houston, Dallas, and Chicago with student resident advisors driving them in the university vans.

McNeil admits, "After the students were gone, it was a bit of a let down. We were so focused on helping the students go home that we didn't think about ourselves" After living in seven different locations in 12 days, she finally reunited with her husband, Wayne. For the next three weeks, they lived with relatives in Texas and Oklahoma. When they finally returned on September 19, they found their home—only one foot above sea level—had been spared from flooding damage; power was on, but no potable water. The job of rebuilding began.

The rebuilding process began on campus, too. The faculty and staff were retained through the fall semester focusing on reconnecting with students who were now spread out across 400 institutions.

Staff fanned out to academic hubs around the nation. From New York, Seattle, Chicago, and elsewhere they began contacting Loyola students. Advising was set up on-line and information was e-mailed. McNeil admits there had been no emergency plans for this kind of drastic contingency. "We were making it up as we went along."

Loyola reopened in January 2006 with 91 percent of its students returning.

Looking back, McNeil asserted, "New Orleans will come back, but we don't know yet what it will be."

A year later, McNeil is now comfortably ensconced in her new office at AASU and working with others on a new emergency plan for the university. From the depth of her experience, she brings to the table a list of issues to be discussed. If a hurricane were to strike Savannah, how do you communicate with faculty, students, and staff? What data can be stored off campus? Where can students be evacuated to for an extended time?

McNeil says, firmly, "We must all remember it *can* happen here." ❁

— Barry Ostrow

Pirates' treasure

by Eddie Aenchbacher
Athletics Director

The 2006-07 athletic season has brought tremendous success to Armstrong Atlantic and all signs point to the Pirates heading in the right direction for another outstanding season on and off the field.

Our women's soccer team, in just its second season of competition, advanced to the NCAA Championships, earning a berth in the South Atlantic Regional—an outstanding testament to the players and head coach Eric Faulconer in their efforts to put Lady Pirate soccer on the map, regionally and nationally. Freshman forward Kristin Burton was not only the Peach Belt Conference's Freshman of the Year but was also the Player of the Year and earned NSCAA All-America honors, the only Peach Belt player named to the All-America team.

Volleyball enjoyed another successful year, advancing to its seventh straight Peach Belt Conference tournament title match. Leading the way was senior Traci Knuth, who finished her AASU career as the all-time leader in several categories, including games played, kills, and blocks. More impressively, though, Knuth became just the school's fourth ESPN: The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America honoree and the first female student-athlete from AASU to be recognized nationally by the organization.

We were also excited by the performance of the Pirate men's basketball team, earning its third NCAA Championships berth in the last four years, a feat never before accomplished in AASU history. The women had success on the court as well, especially playing a nationally-televised contest in February at Columbus State that spread the word about Armstrong Atlantic nationwide.

As many of you know, our spring sports traditionally have been strong and early indications are that those teams will continue, so jump aboard the Pirates' bandwagon! Come to a game or check us out on the Internet at www.athletics.armstrong.edu. Go Pirates!

New degree programs

Cardiovascular interventional program added



Beginning this summer, the College of Health Professions will begin offering a cardiovascular interventional track as an option in the radiologic sciences baccalaureate program. The new track will be an addition to the four existing tracks: radiography, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, and sonography.

The program has been in development over the last 14 months and is the result of cooperative agreements and financial support from St. Joseph's/Candler, Memorial Health, and the Southeast Georgia Health System in Brunswick, Georgia.

Jeff Bolch, M.D. leads an intricate vascular procedure at The Heart Hospital at St. Joseph's/Candler.

Gender and Women's Studies baccalaureate approved

AASU's program in Gender and Women's Studies has heretofore been offered as a minor and a certificate. Starting in the fall, AASU will become one of only three public universities in Georgia to offer a bachelor of arts in the field.

Gender and Women's Studies draws upon various perspectives of human experience in areas as diverse as literature, history, art, political science, sociology, and psychology. The demand for graduates with a background in the study of gender and women's issues is growing. Professionals in the field are required to develop and implement programs designed to address problems of violence against women, illiteracy, and inadequate health care.

Cox speaks at kickoff for new degree



Former Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox spoke during the "Major Event," a daylong kickoff of the university's new bachelor's degree in Gender and Women's Studies. Cox's keynote address was, "Women in Leadership: Can we talk... substance?"

Recalling the kickoff for her 2006 gubernatorial campaign, Cox told the audience that her speech was filled with substantive issues such as health care and taxes. Afterward, a breathless Atlanta reporter pushed through the crowd to ask her what color she would describe her dress and about the history of a brooch she was wearing.

Laughing, Cox said, "One day I hope when a woman candidate gets up to speak, they [reporters] will be more interested in what she has to say and not what she is wearing."

Cathy Cox (right) and Teresa Winterhalter at the "Major Event" celebrating the new major in Gender and Women's Studies.

New education master's debuts this summer

The College of Education will offer three new Master of Arts in Teaching degrees starting this summer. The new degrees will allow those with a bachelor's degree in a certifiable area of study to pursue a graduate degree and obtain initial teacher certification.

The 33 credit-hour programs are designed to be completed in as few as 15 months if enrolled on a full-time basis and will be offered by three departments: Early Childhood Education, Middle Grades Education, and Special Education.

The programs target teachers who currently have a non-renewable license as well as individuals seeking to change careers and enter the teaching profession.



Pirates' Day
Rocky X. Residence Education Coordinator Frank Twum-Barimah and Shana Neves slug it out during Pirate's Day. Students climbed the rock wall, tried the inflatable slide, and other fun challenges.



Casino Night
Bonded. Students dressed to the nines for Casino night. (From left to right) Rachel Caldas, Erik Reid, Kaitlen Fulp, and Sarah Manwaring. Photo by Calvin Miller/The Inkwell.

Scenes from the fourth annual Armstrong Fest March 26-April 1



5K Fun Run/Walk
Chris Batt crosses the finish line for the annual 5K run/walk in 18:44.



Outdoor Art Festival
Clockwise from left: Two visitors try their hands at weaving at the Outdoor Art Festival.

Art major Jennifer Ashley prepares a sidewalk 3-D chalk drawing during the Outdoor Art Festival.

Angela Fish, an adjunct professor in art, music & theatre, adds another painting to her display at the Outdoor Art Festival.



International Night in the Garden
Indian students entertain in a swirl of colorful silks.



SEMPER FI

Winifred Case Karnosky is as American as the Fourth of July. A sixth generation Midwesterner, she has the blood of Revolutionary and Civil war patriots coursing through her veins. Her life has touched on many vignettes of post-war Europe. And soon, she will touch the lives of future Armstrong Atlantic students.

The diminutive, white haired octogenarian grew up in East Alton, IL. She had hoped to enter nursing, but instead took a bookkeeping job following graduation from high school. But her life was about to change direction.

In March 1943, Congress approved the formation of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. The following month, Karnosky enlisted in the corps in the vanguard of the new organization. Among the first thousand or so enlistees, she reported to boot camp at New York's Hunter College.

"I had been in the drum and bugle corps back home and I knew how to march, so they made me a drill sergeant," Karnosky recalls. Mindful of the image of military drill instructors, she added with a smile, "I was a nice drill sergeant."

A year later, on the first anniversary of the founding of the reserve, she was one of four lady Marines to escort First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt who spoke at the celebration.



Winifred Case Karnosky appears on the December 1943 cover of The Westerner. Prior to her enlistment, she worked for Western Cartridge Company in her hometown of East Alton, IL.

While Karnosky never served in a war zone, she was to later become an eyewitness to many of the events that unfolded in post-war Europe. This chapter of her life began when her brother, Jack Case (see box), introduced her to a fellow National Guardsman, Benedict "Ben" Karnosky.

Ben Karnosky proved to be a real up and comer. A corporal when he met Winifred, he was sent to the Pacific theater where he soon became a sergeant and then received a battlefield commission to second lieutenant.

During 1952-55, Winifred accompanied her now-husband, Major Ben Karnosky, on a posting to Italy. It was there that she witnessed, firsthand, demonstrations by the emerging Communist Party. Being caught up in one of the marches was an unsettling experience for her.

On May 15, 1955, the Karnoskys were in Vienna as the American and Soviet occupying powers returned independence to Austria. Winifred can still hear the sound of the Austrians booing as the Soviet flag was being lowered.

From 1960 to 1963 Ben, who was fluent in Spanish, served at the American Embassy in Madrid, Spain. From the balcony of their apartment, Winifred recalls watching Generalissimo Francisco Franco passing below her under the watchful eye of the heavily armed Guardia Civil. She flashes back to the crowd, arms upraised, chanting, "Franco, Franco, Franco." She said everything just reverberated from the sound of his ardent followers.

In 1967, Ben was posted to Ft. Stewart, not Winifred's favorite assignment. When, a year later, Colonel Karnosky was tapped to be the post commander for Hunter Army Airfield, Winifred was thrilled. "I told him I would strap every stick of furniture on my back and walk to get to Savannah," she said.

Winifred happily settled into Savannah life, serving on the board of the USO, volunteering with the Red Cross and the Pink Ladies at Memorial Health,




taking courses with AASU's professional and continuing education program, and playing golf. For 10 years she volunteered with the American Cancer Society's Reach for Recovery Program.

This January, according to Winifred, now widowed, "I woke up in the middle of the night and thought, 'I would like to endow a nursing scholarship.'" In high school she had eyed nursing as a possible career and thought this would be an appropriate way to help others reach for their dreams.

After making some inquiries, she contacted the development office at AASU and established a nursing scholarship. The only proviso is that the recipient must be an American citizen. A member of the AASU Heritage Society, Karnosky has named the university in her will.

Winifred Karnosky has enjoyed a rich journey through life and her legacy will help set future generations of Armstrong Atlantic nursing graduates on their own journey.

For information on establishing a scholarship or a legacy gift, contact Gail Rountree at 912.927.5208 or Gail.Rountree@armstrong.edu. 

— Barry Ostrow

Brother also touched history

Winifred Case Karnosky's brother, Jack Case, also played a part in World War II. He was the manager of Union Carbide's Y 12 plant in Oak Ridge, TN that housed 1,152 calutrons—devices required to separate the uranium 235 used for the first atomic bomb. Case was recently honored posthumously by having a new building at Oak Ridge named after him.

Foundation elects new officers

The AASU Foundation has elected new officers: Jerry Barton as chair; Robert A. Colvin as vice chair; Ann R. Purcell as secretary; and John M. Mamalakis as treasurer.

Jerry Barton is the city president for Sea Island Bank in Savannah. He joined Sea Island Bank in February 2004 to lead their entrance into the Savannah market. He serves on the board of directors of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and Union Mission. Barton is a member of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Council and Savannah Rotary West. He is a graduate of the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.



Robert A. Colvin became president and CEO of Memorial Health in Savannah in 1997. Under Colvin's leadership, Memorial Health University Medical Center (MHUMC) has been named a Distinguished Hospital by J. D. Power and Associates; one of Fortune Magazines 100 Best Companies to Work for; and one of Hospitals & Health Networks 100 Most Wired Hospitals. MHUMC also is the

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

Ann R. Purcell is a published genealogist and the office manager for Radiation Therapy Associates, P.C. She serves on the Georgia Board of Technical and Adult Education and co-chairs the Georgia Joint Education Liaison Committee. Purcell serves on the Effingham County Adult Literacy Advisory Committee, the Georgia Art Commission Policy Committee, and the Effingham YMCA Board of Directors, where she is campaign chairperson. She is an active member of the Hope Scholarship Study Commission. She served in the Georgia State House of Representatives from January 1991 until January 2005. Purcell received her bachelor's degree in education from Georgia Southern College.



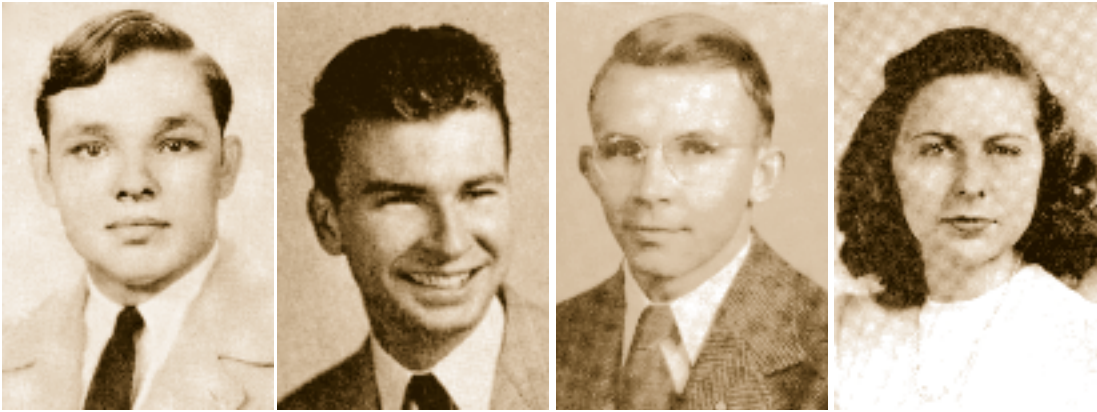
John M. Mamalakis is the program manager for the Georgia Restaurant Mutual Captive Insurance Company. He is also president of the Savannah Chapter of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter Society and a member of the board of Raising our Children Kindly (ROCK) Group.

41 alumni in region named teachers of the year

Forty-one College of Education certified teachers were selected as 2008 teachers of the year in their respective counties. Those honored include:

Teresa Baker '96, '03 (Gadsen Elementary School)
Beverly Bennett Banks '99 (Frank Long Elementary School)
Marc Boese '97 (Jenkins High School)
Tiffany Bosworth '04 (St. Mary's Middle School)
Julian Childers '02, '04 (Shuman Middle School)
Albertha W. Collier '73 (Butler Elementary School)
Collett Collings-Faulkner '00 (Southwest Elementary School)
Kerry Scanlon Crain '01 (Bradwell Institute)
Katherine Ferreira '93 (Bryan County Middle School)
Mary Jo Fina '05 (Coastal Middle School)
Neffa Franklin-Witt '05 (Lewis Frasier Middle School)
J'Nai Gilbert '05 (Windsor Forest Elementary School)
Kim Hanger '99 (Largo-Tibet Elementary School)
Vonice Harrelson '99 (Woodbine Elementary School)
Rosanne Hearn '83 (Bloomingtondale Elementary School)
Amanda Highsmith '02, '05 (Oak Grove Intermediate School)
Sean Daniel Holcey '97 (Scott Alternative Education Center)
Richardean Hurt '05 (East Broad Elementary School)
Tonja Michelle John '94 (Waldo Pafford Elementary School)
Maeetta B. Johnson '94 (Garden City Elementary School)
Renee L. Jones Williams '00 (Hubert Middle School)
Suzanne Clements Lozier '06 (West Chatham Middle School)
Laura McNeill-Hurley '91 (Bartlett Middle School)
Leslie Miller '97 (Screven Elementary School)
Tony Miller '02 (Isle of Hope Elementary School)
Susan Ouzts '75, '88 (Richmond Hill High School)
Ellen Parker '02 (Richmond Hill Primary School)
Theresa Parmer '01 (Southwest Elementary School)
Barbara K. Ramps '96 (Liberty Elementary School)
Susan Ricks '89 (J.G. Smith Elementary School)
Pamela Ruchi '98 (Port Wentworth Elementary School)
Jerri Samuel '98 (Mamie Lou Gross Elementary School)
Patricia J. Scott '88 (Snelson-Golden Middle School)
Laura Dodd Solomons '73 (West Chatham Elementary School)
Angela D. Stewart '03 (Groves High School)
Verlynda Slaughter-Thompson '04 (Johnson High School)
Beverly Small '91 (Thunderbolt Elementary School)
Terri Lynn Surrency '98, '03 (Oak Vista Elementary School)
Wes Valentine '99 (Carver Elementary School)
Anueke Walker '02 (Camden Middle School)
Kathryn Whitney '03 (Spencer Elementary School)

GENERATIONS OF GRADUATES



Hugh Preston Futrell

Young Allen Beall

Andrew Ernst

Edna Hutchins Ernst

Amanda Futrell '06 and her brother Hugh Preston Futrell IV '07 are the third generation of Futrells to walk the Armstrong campus.

When the first Hugh Preston Futrell graduated from Armstrong Junior College (AJC) in 1948 with an associate's degree, he was accepted at Emory School of Law. He graduated from Emory in 1950 and practiced law in Savannah for 46 years.

Hugh Preston III followed tradition in the seventies, but left to marry Bonnie and start raising a family.

Preston IV had a strong academic record in high school, and could have chosen to go to college elsewhere, but he had a girlfriend—also named Amanda—who helped influence his decision to stay at home. He says he has never regretted that decision. Preston and Amanda are planning to marry later in 2007.

Attending Armstrong is somewhat of a tradition in the Futrell family, much as it is in the Beall, Ernst, Heidt/Marshall,

and Strozier families. All of these families proudly boast of three generations at Armstrong.

The Beall family

When Young Allen Beall—Allen to his friends—entered AJC in 1946, he was a member of that special group who used their G.I. benefits to go to college. He still talks about the quality education he received from Armstrong that helped him get into Emory before he had even earned his AJC diploma. He had already attended two quarters at Emory when he returned to accept his AJC diploma in 1948. Allen was as proud of his time at Armstrong as he was of the bachelor's and master's degrees he earned from Emory.

When it came time for his children to go to college—all five of them—it didn't take him long to decide where they would go. All five graduated from Armstrong State College: Allen, Jr. '72, David '75, Mark '78, Cynthia '84, and

Michelle '89. However, just sending his children to Armstrong State was not enough for Allen, Sr. He also joined the alumni association while they were in school so he could be further involved with the college, and ultimately became president of the association, serving two terms. But, one of his happiest moments was when his granddaughter Jennifer, Mark's daughter, decided to enter Armstrong to prepare for pharmacy school. Finally, Allen had that third generation of Armstrong alumni he had hoped for.

The Ernst family

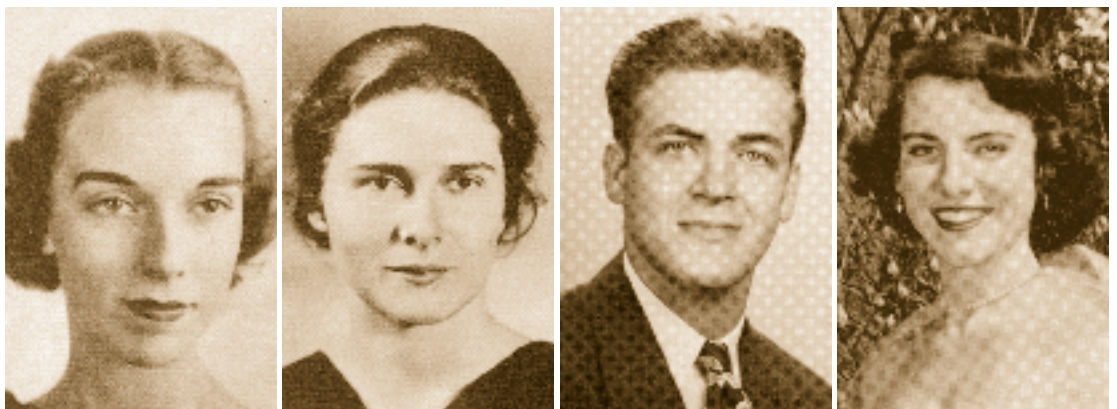
The Andrew Ernst family is also proud of its legacy at Armstrong. Andrew, Sr. graduated from AJC in 1942, and his wife Edna Hutchins Ernst in 1947. Their son, Andrew "Drew" Ernst, earned his degree in 1974. Drew's wife, Kathryn Scully Ernst, graduated in 1978. Drew went on to the University of Georgia

Margaret Egloff

Ann Gibson

Robert Strozier

Helen Allred Strozier



law school, and returned to Savannah to practice law with Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn PC. In 2000, he took on a leadership role with Armstrong Atlantic by serving on the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees for six years. Today, he serves on the AASU Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. board. Using his legal experience, he has helped the university acquire the adjacent properties that have been remodeled and converted to campus use.

It was no surprise, then, when his daughter, Elizabeth Ernst Davis, decided to come to Armstrong to become an elementary school teacher. Elizabeth worked as a student worker in the development office, volunteered as a student caller for the phonathon for three years, and was very involved in student life on campus. When she graduated in May 2006, she became the third generation of Ernsts to graduate from Armstrong. She married Jeremy Davis in June and the couple moved to Alabama where she teaches kindergarten at Holy Spirit School in Tuscaloosa.

The Heidt-Marshall family

Helen Heidt and Murray Marshall first met as students at Armstrong State in the early 1960s. They knew about each other, but had never been officially introduced until a mutual friend matched them up on a double date. This was unusual because their mothers had been long-time friends, had grown up living next door to each other, and had both graduated in the first class of Armstrong Junior College in 1937. The mothers were Ann Gibson Marshall and Margaret Egloff Heidt. Their friendship had kept the families lives intertwined for many

years, but still, Helen and Murray had never met. Helen and Murray have been together for more than 40 years. Their daughter, Margaret Marshall Bishop, is the third generation of their families at Armstrong when she graduated from nursing school in 1996.

The Strozier family

The Strozier family came to Armstrong Junior College when Robert Strozier entered in 1947. Bob, a precocious speller, excelled at AJC and discovered his love for language and literature, graduating in 1949. He met his wife Helen Allred '51 after he had graduated, but while she was a student at Armstrong. The two married, and left Savannah to further Bob's education.

When they returned, Bob's connection to Armstrong would take on many different forms. He taught in the English Department from 1955-59 until he made the decision to return to school again for his Ph.D. Once he had earned that, he taught in Texas for a few years before returning to Armstrong State in 1965. After 30 years of teaching and heading up the Department of Languages and Literature, he was hired as public relations director when the Office of Advancement was established in 1992. When he retired in 1995, he had been a student, professor, department head, and administrator at Armstrong.

Helen got her master's in education from AJC, taught in the public schools for 30 years, and was selected outstanding teacher of the year before retirement. Both of the Stroziers' daughters, Carolyn and Leslie, attended Armstrong. Leslie's son, Russell Smith, is nearly ready to graduate, completing the third generation legacy. ❀

— Patty Parker



There are many generational legacies at Armstrong Atlantic. Each one is important and deserves to be recognized. If you are a member of a generational family at Armstrong Atlantic, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations. Call Patty Parker at 912.921.2343 or e-mail Patty.Parker@armstrong.edu.

Alumni Association Elects Officers

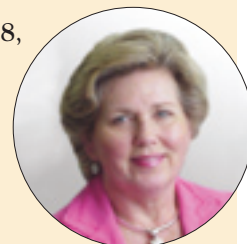
The AASU Alumni Association elected its new officers for the 2007-2008 academic year at its annual meeting.

Spence Hoynes '70, president, is retired. He is a former assistant commissioner for the Georgia Department of Labor. He and his wife **Sheila '75** live at Lake Oconee.



Kevin Fitzmaurice '99, '02, president-elect, is material analyst for Georgia Power Co. He resides on Skidaway Island with his wife and daughter.

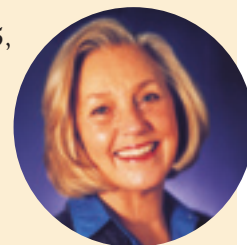
Sandra Jones '64, '98, vice president, is the benefits administrator for the City of Savannah's Human Resources Department.



Christina Gibson '01, treasurer/recording secretary, is director of health promotion and diseases prevention at the Coastal Health District. She is an adjunct professor in

AASU's Department of Health Sciences.

Patty Parker '92, '95, corresponding secretary, is AASU's director of alumni relations.



class notes

'60s

Chandler Griffin '68 has retired from the University of South Carolina (USC) as a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English. He attributes his love of English to the education he received from professors Robert Strozier and Osmos Lanier. He has published 15 works of non-fiction, his most recent being *Abraham Lincoln's Execution*. Besides teaching and writing, he found time to market a clever invention—the little college flags decorating cars on the way to football games. First designed in 1984, they were made only for USC and Clemson. When he sold the patent five years later, there were flags for 37 different colleges throughout the nation.

'70s

Charles H. Monroe '72 was honored by the Marine Corps for his dedication to duty during the invasion of South Korea. At one point, he temporarily lost his sight while in enemy territory. Subsequently, he earned his bachelor's at Armstrong State and a master's in rehabilitation counseling at the University of Georgia. Through the years, he has assisted other veterans as a counselor and friend.



Three named to Super Lawyer list

Julian Friedman '54, Andrew Ernst '74, and Walter Hartridge '80 were named to a list of Georgia Super Lawyers for 2007. They were among 40 lawyers selected through a statewide poll of attorneys in the state conducted by *Law & Politics*.

Kathleen Howell Miller '77 recently joined Sea Island Bank in Savannah as senior human resources manager covering the Savannah, Statesboro, and Metter markets.

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

'80s

Suzanne Edenfield '84 was promoted to head of the Department of Dental Hygiene at AASU after serving on the department's faculty for more than 22 years.

'90s

Carolyn F. Bigelow '93, '96, '99 is director of nursing at Savannah Area Behavioral Health. She received her Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner certification in 2004.

Tracy Barrenbrugge Mueller '93 gave up a career in nursing to work alongside her husband, **Nick Mueller '93**, in his catering business, Chef Nick Mueller and Company. They attribute the success of their business and marriage to being able to spend more time together, and to good communication. The Muellers were one of three couples featured in a *Savannah Morning News* story on families who work together successfully.

Karey Burgstiner '97 accepted a position as director of community education for behavioral medicine at Memorial Health.

'00s

Janet Ellis Grider '00 graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in May 2006 with a master's degree in reading education. She is now working as a reading specialist in Nashville, TN.

Renee Pigat Woodruff '00 has been working for seven years as a grief counselor for Hospice Care of the Lowcountry. In 2003 she earned a certification in thanatology through the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

Nicole Wright '01 is currently working with Weichert Realtors-Prestige Properties in residential sales.

Mary Angela West '02 is teaching second grade at Waldo Pafford Elementary School in Hinesville. She began work on her master's in education at AASU Liberty Center in January.

Melvin Sloan '02 was promoted to vice president of the Georgia Region Mortgage cross-sell team.

Stephen "Matt" Dixon '03 accepted a position in Seoul, Korea to teach English. He plans to intern for one year at which time will begin school to earn his MBA.

Megan M. Randall '04 was promoted to director of radiology at Monroe County Hospital in Forsyth, GA after working two years as a radiographer. One of her first accomplishments as director was to write and receive a grant for the purchase of a mammography tracking computer system.

Elizabeth Hilderbrand '05 is employed at Gulfstream Aerospace in product support as a core recovery representative.

Elizabeth Ernst Davis '06 is teaching kindergarten at Holy Spirit School in Tuscaloosa, AL. She and her new husband are in Tuscaloosa while he pursues his master's degree at the University of Alabama.

engagements

Carrie A Gordon '97 to wed Kurt Petermeyer in spring 2007
Jennifer Boassy '03 to wed **Danny Radcliff '97** on June 30, 2007
Stacie Pigman '03 to wed Jonathan Shaw in August 2007
Heather Buckley '05 to wed Daniel Spencer on June 9, 2007

weddings

Tonia R. Reynolds '92 married Michael Pope on July 8, 2006.
Carolyn F. Moye '93, '96, '99 married Clinton V. Bigelow on May 20, 2006.
Tricia M. Ferro '98 married Major Jeffrey Murphy on July 1, 2006.
Christina Grayson '05 married Joshua Klein in May 2007.
Elizabeth Hamilton '05 married Troy Funk on September 9, 2006.
Raymond Morgan '05 married Paige Lynes on March 31, 2007.
Renee Pigat '00 married Mark Woodruff on July 29, 2006.
Lindsay Poole '03 married Garrett Smith in March 2007.
Jessica Scholten '05 married Keith Morgan on May 19, 2007.

anniversaries

Jean Bolen Bridges '53 and her husband, Martin, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 30, 2006.

additions

Col. Charles Larry Collins '50 announces the arrival of his great-granddaughter, Kaya, born December 30, 2006 to his granddaughter Charity Thomas Scott and her husband Michael.
Crystal Taylor Cooper '90 and husband Buster: Parker Taylor, December 10, 2006
Cristen West Younts '97 and husband James: James Christopher, February 6, 2007
Thomas Wirht '01 and wife Laura: Miles Thomas Potts, August 30, 2006
Robert S. Udinsky '04 and **Cynthia Thomas Udinsky '94**: Holdyn Thomas, November 29, 2006

passings

Dorothy Hendry '37*, January 6, 2007
Ann Gibson Marshall '37*, February 3, 2007
Pauline Cargill Powers '37 *, April 7, 2007
Barbara Kleinberg Longwater '39, November 17, 2006
Jessie V. Seckinger '44, February 23, 2007
Laurie Abbott '48, November 17, 2006
William Merriman, Jr. '54, October 21, 2006
Robert Brewton '57, December 13, 2006
Nathan Benami Rabhan '57, February 7, 2006
William Harrell '63, February 22, 2007
Mary C. Bowdle '69, December 30, 2006
Robert E. McBride '73, October 17, 2006
Constance Jones '75, February 20, 2007
Mary D. Robertson '75, February 16, 2007
Larry Crawford '76, December 17, 2006
Robert Dodd '77, February 10, 2006
Eunice Rhodes Pryor '82, February 18, 2007
Susan L. Jordan '84, October 9, 2006
Donna Adler '87, January 21, 2007
Roy G. Thomas '91, January 25, 2006
Joseph Alan Quinan '97, October 24, 2006
Kathleen Pierson Meszaros '98, November 18, 2006

*Members of the first graduating class

Clarice Ashmore, December 5, 2006, wife of Henry L. Ashmore, fourth president of the college
Rubyen M. Chambless, Sr., November 19, 2006, taught business-related classes for more than 20 years
Lamar Davis, December 30, 2006, Professor of Business Administration Emeritus 1948-1976

— Compiled in the Office of Alumni Affairs



Herb Traub, Jr. '37 (center) admires a 35-pound king salmon he caught in July 2006 while trolling in a fjord near Anchorage AK. He is flanked by Captain John (left) and his grandson, Pieter Ribbens. Traub and nine family members enjoyed the catch for dinner that evening.

Alum elected

Last fall, **J. Craig Gordon '01** ran unopposed for state representative in Savannah's District 162.

Representative Gordon planned to present ideas during the 2007 session involving education, health care, and job opportunities with better wages. His main areas of responsibility are economic development and tourism, retirement, state planning, and community affairs.

Gordon is the chief executive officer of Statewide Healthcare, Inc. He received the Secretary of State's Outstanding Georgia Citizen Award and the 2004 Spirit of Excellence Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Fast Fact

The Department of Art, Music
& Theatre offers more than
100 events each year ranging from
concerts, plays, and musicals in
its three theaters to art exhibits
in the Fine Arts Hall art gallery.

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BARRY J. OSTROW

Editor and principal writer

JOAN LEHON

Designer

KATHERINE ARNTZEN

Principal photographer

PATRICIA REESE

Editorial assistance

FRANCISCO DUQUE

Editorial assistance

Three named to foundation board

Community leaders Diana Morrison, owner and president of Advertising Specialty Services; Linda A. Barker, associate broker with Coldwell Banker Platinum Partners; and Judge Tammy Cox Stokes have joined the 23-member AASU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Morrison (top) served as chair of the first 3 Days for AASU Community Campaign in 2004. A board member of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, she was honored by the chamber with its 2003 Helen V. Head Small Business Advocate Award and its 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Barker '90 (center), specializes in sales of residential and commercial properties, as well as land and property management. She has served as chairman for the Richmond Hill YMCA and the Coastal Bryan Development Authority.

Records Court Judge Tammy Cox Stokes (bottom) was the first African American woman judge in Chatham County. She is the vice chair of the Georgia Judicial Training Council and is district representative of the Council of Municipal Court Judges. She serves on several boards and is the president of the Port City Bar Association.



Office of External Affairs
Armstrong Atlantic State University
11935 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31419-1997
www.armstrong.edu

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