

Compass

Fall 2007

Armstrong State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong-compass>

Recommended Citation

Armstrong State University, "Compass" (2007). *Compass*. 14.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong-compass/14>

This magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Armstrong News & Featured Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Compass by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Award winning



fall 2007

compass



Theaters
receive a
facelift

3

Transition!

AASU evolves from
commuter college to
residential university

4

Keeping the
campus safe

11



Asian Festival selects AASU student's logo design

The Savannah Asian Festival Committee, a non-profit group of Asian business owners and city residents, has selected a logo design by Jennifer Incorvaia to represent the annual event beginning in 2008.

Incorvaia, a senior and Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate, was selected from 19 students in Assistant Professor Angela Horne's corporate logo design and identity class. Runner-ups were Chris Gibson (second place) and Joey Merchant (third place), also students of Horne's.

The new logo, a splashy rendering of the letter "A" in black, thrown over a golden yellow rectangle atop the words "Savannah Asian Festival" in black and red, will become the graphic identity for the festival. The design will adorn T-shirts, posters, brochures, and other promotional materials for the festival beginning next year.

From left: Chris Gibson, Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson, Jennifer Incorvaia, and Joey Merchant.

WANTED

A LIVE AUDIENCE FOR THE ROBERT I. STROZIER FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

OCTOBER 19

Abridging the Freedom of Speech:
Political Correctness and the
Rise of a New Social
McCarthyism in America
Tony Morris,
Languages, Literature & Philosophy

NOVEMBER 9

Copyrights, Portraits, and Pope:
Marketing Poetry
in Early Eighteenth-Century England
David Wheeler,
Languages, Literature & Philosophy

JANUARY 18

Studio physics: Moving toward
student-centered instruction
Donna Mullenax,
Chemistry and Physics

FEBRUARY 8

Heavenly Genes: Eugenic
Motherhood
and the Rebirth of a Nation
Jane V. Rago,
Languages, Literature
& Philosophy

MARCH 7

The Japanese in Brazil: 1908-2008
José de Arimatéia da Cruz,
Criminal Justice,
Social & Political Science

MARCH 28

Georgia on My Mathematical Mind
Jane T. Barnard, Mathematics

APRIL 18

Vulnerable Populations: Exploring
a Family Perspective of Grief
Marilyn O'Mallon, Nursing

ALL LECTURES WILL BE HELD IN UNIVERSITY HALL 156 AT 12:05 P.M.

Jenkins Hall, Fine Arts Auditorium receiving facelift

The public face of Armstrong Atlantic State University is about to become even more beautiful. The curtain has gone up on the process of renovating Jenkins Hall—the home of Armstrong Atlantic's theatre program—and the Fine Arts Auditorium. These two facilities annually welcome more than 20,000 visitors to the AASU campus. The work began in September.

Benefiting from \$5 million in funding provided by the University System of Georgia, AASU is able to upgrade its principal arts and entertainment performance venues. This upgrade will serve to meet the academic needs of growing undergraduate programs in music and theatre while improving the university's ability to serve the performance space needs of many organizations within the community.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ed Wheeler chairs the university's advisory committee offering institutional guidance to the architectural vision of the project. According to Wheeler, "Renovation of Jenkins Hall will commence this fall and will continue through its completion in August 2008. To minimize the simultaneous disruption of both performance facilities during their most intense periods of activity, the Fine Arts Auditorium renovation will begin in April 2008 and continue through summer 2008."

In both buildings, the renovation plan addresses the existing facilities' operational needs and adds expanded scenic design, paint, and costume shops to Jenkins Hall.

The project

Seating replacement, acoustical adjustments, wall and floor finishing replacement, and lighting system upgrades will occur in both venues.

Jenkins Hall and its two theaters will undergo a complete overhaul, creating a more comfortable experience for audiences. These modifications will include improved technical production capabilities, a more spacious and visually attractive lobby, a secondary lobby for black box theater performances, and the introduction of a film studio to support the growing video production program at the university.

Until the two theaters reopen in fall 2008, plays will be presented in Masquers Chinese Theater, repurposed space in the Armstrong Center that was once a Chinese restaurant.

The Fine Arts Auditorium transformation will include acoustical tower additions on stage, house and stage lighting system improvements, and a refurbished auditorium interior complete with new seating, wall treatments, and flooring. The stage floor will also be replaced.



Take Your Seat

During the renovation of AASU's Jenkins Theater and Fine Arts Auditorium, supporters of the university and the performing arts are invited to participate in Take Your Seat, by placing their name or that of a loved one on a timeless brass nameplate. The nameplate will be permanently displayed on a theater seat in one of Savannah's two outstanding Southside performing arts venues.

Your Name Here

continued on page 13



Take Your Seat participants will receive an engraved nameplate on a seat in one of the two theaters, a certificate of registration, and a map of the theater indicating the location of their nameplate, and a letter recognizing this tax-deductible contribution.

The cost of a plate is \$250. Nameplates in the President's Row of each venue are \$500.

For more information, contact Gail Rountree at Gail.Rountree@armstrong.edu.

Transition!

Armstrong Atlantic evolves from commuter school to residential university

In 2002, an event occurred that would bring a permanent and seismic change to the character of Armstrong Atlantic. The first phase of Compass Point opened with four residence halls and 264 students. They were the pioneers of a remarkable transition that is still underway.

The year before Compass Point opened, 51 percent of the students attending the university were from the Savannah area. In fall 2006, with 856 residential students living on campus, the percentage of area students had slipped to 46 percent. The transition was beginning to show.

In that very short period, the campus has undergone numerous changes. Certainly none bigger than the impact on student life at the university.

Al Harris, director of student activities, said the residence halls “have given us people on campus with a vested interest in student life. Prior to Compass Point, it was harder to get students to come back to campus in the evenings and on the weekends for student activities.

“With the residence halls, we have a group of students who want to be involved in the Student Government Association and other student organizations. The growth of student organizations has reflected the growth of the residential community.”

Here come the Greeks

Harris says that student organizations have grown from around 34 before Compass Point to more than 70. Part of that growth has been the return of Greek life to the university. He recalls the late '60s when there were six or seven Greek fraternities and sororities. They dwindled down to none until the opening of Compass Point. Now there are nine Greek organizations flourishing on campus.

Robin Jones, assistant director of student activities, emphasizes that the future growth of Greek life on campus will be controlled. “First, the numbers and the experience of the students must be allowed to mature before we add any more,” Jones said. “Otherwise, we could be home to every popular Greek organization each of which would only have one member.”

Jones observed that even though Greek brothers and sisters might move off campus after a year or two, they will remain connected to the school through their Greek affiliations.

Harris mentioned the possibility, in the next year or two, of clusters of apartments at Compass Point being occupied by Greeks with breezeways and other spaces being used by fraternities or sororities.

With the arrival of the residential students, new organizations, and the Greeks, has come an increase in student activities.

Corey Reedy, director of housing and residence life, talked about the increase of “CUB attacks” where members of the Campus Union Board enthusiastically promote the growing nighttime programs. He notes that this activity is increasingly attracting commuter students as well.

Reedy says word of mouth has become a big factor in event success. He recalls last spring’s Casino Night that started off slowly, but built steadily throughout the evening as participants cell phoned their residence hall neighbors and friends to spread the word of a good time and free food.

“We hope all of this activity will translate into the retention of students,” Reedy added.



Chris Sather works out in the new recreation center.



Above: Anna Mach and David Clay enjoy some quiet time in her residential hall apartment.

Right: Johanna Daveback and David Secker take a Starbucks break in the Daily Perk.

On the cover: Mach and Nikki Murley, Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority sisters, enjoy a three-legged race during Parents' Weekend. The growth of sororities and fraternities is one result of AASU's transition to a residential campus.

On-campus recreation gets a big boost

Jones managed the new Recreation Center during its first year. "On full class weeks, we were seeing 1,700 to 2,000 visitors to the center," she said. "On-campus residents took more advantage of group classes rather than working out on their own. Resident students tended to request late night group classes while commuter students used the exercise facilities while they were still on campus."

In addition to extensive workout facilities, the center offers a variety of intramural sports such as soccer, flag football, and softball. Jones reports that faculty and staff often join the students in these activities creating good interaction.

During summer 2007, the fields behind Compass Point were being converted to intramural playing fields. Crews were flattening the fields and beginning regular maintenance while new lighting was being added for evening events. Vicki McNeil, vice president for student affairs, offered, "This adds another dimension to student life after hours."

Nanette Davis, the new director of recreation and wellness, commented on that new dimension. "Having a quality lighted field complex on campus will allow for immediate expansion of recreational opportunities for AASU students. Not only will it enhance our intramural program by allowing us to offer additional team sports, but it will also make possible the addition of a sport club program to meet the needs of our students who want to commit to an ongoing competitive team sport beyond the traditional short-term intramural league. It will also allow more flexibility in how students spend their free time."



Changes abound

James Brignati, vice president for business and finance, talked about changes in food service on the campus. "We've had to provide better food services for the students. Even though they have small kitchens, they don't always want to cook."

Aramark—the university's food service provider—has rejuvenated campus dining by introducing an a la carte service, extending hours (see sidebar) and opening a Quiznos in University Hall. Additionally, Jones became the driving force behind introducing the Daily Perk—a popular Starbucks coffee shop—to the lobby of Memorial College Center.

Pointing out that University Hall and the Science Center are the two busiest places on campus, Brignati says a site in the latter building is being explored as the future location for an express food kiosk that would sell prepackaged foods like sandwiches, salads, and desserts.

Last fall, the Lane Library began to accommodate the residential students by opening a half hour earlier and closing an hour later. Computer labs mirror the library schedule except for the one in University Hall that is open 24/7.

Varsity sports are seeing changes as well. Chad Jackson, director of sports communications, said, "A special seating

continued on page 6

Transition! *(continued from page 5)*

section in the arena is now set aside for (students) for our home games. Obviously, without the campus housing we couldn't have thought of doing a section like this before. Plus, with so many student-athletes also living on campus, our (athletes) are routinely seen by those in Compass Point, which I think also helps attendance at events.

Mario Incorvaia, arts marketing director, said that once students were living on campus, opening night receptions for Masquers theater productions were introduced. "Most of our Thursday night audiences are comprised of students now," Incorvaia concludes.

"Parents are now interested in how the rooms look, activities, health care, and safety," McNeil said. "With their students living on campus, they now want to know about public safety and notification procedures for parents and students in the aftermath of Virginia Tech."

Keeping them safe

Mack Seckinger, director of university police, reports that there was no big jump in service calls when the first residence halls opened. However, he says, having more than 800 students on campus "has become a major part in our decision making."

Consequently, a variety of proactive steps have been taken to preserve public safety.

Additional police officers have been added to serve the residence halls and to accommodate the campus' western expansion to the Armstrong Center and the health clinics at Savannah Mall.

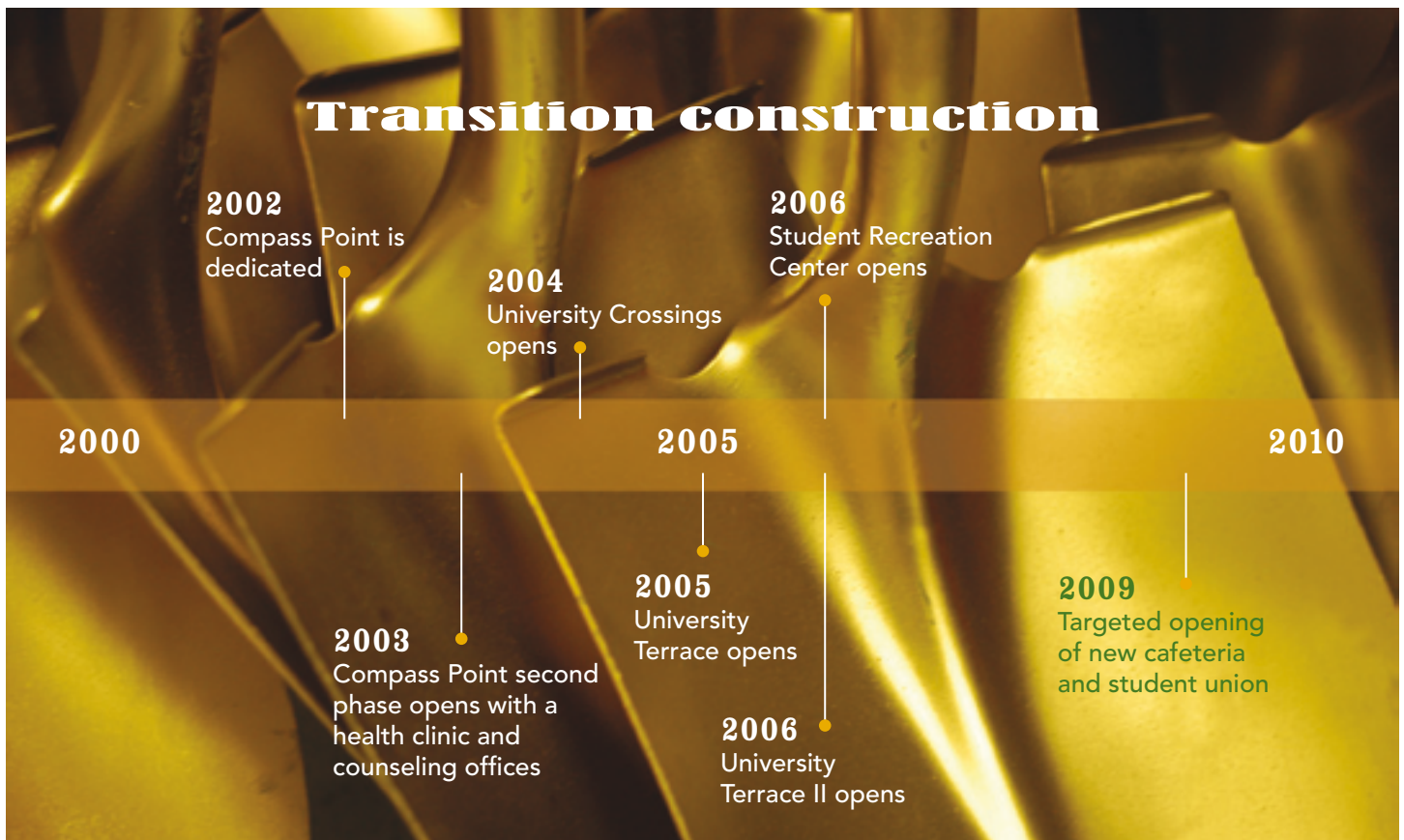
Public safety training is now given to community assistants and classes on such issues as self-defense, and identity theft are offered to all students.

This fall, 14 emergency telephones are being added to the residence halls. Each year, the Student Government Association works with University Police and Plant Operations personnel to survey campus lighting and make improvement recommendations.

Also, the university has joined hands with Savannah's award-winning Crime Stoppers program. Campus calls to that agency are now routinely relayed to the university police office.

As Vicki McNeil observed, "The university has made the transition in a very short period." Just think what the future holds in store. (See "Student Success Corridor" on page 7.)

—Barry J. Ostrow





Kristan Thompson examines Liz Gunn in the health clinic.

Keeping them healthy

Like any medical office, the tiny, brightly lit waiting room of the University Health Clinic has its own collection of colorful, outdated Hollywood gossip magazines. More soberly, the walls and tables are punctuated with brochures and posters promoting birth control, the dental clinic, STD information, and a long list of on-site services at very modest prices. On one low table sits a glass jar containing an ugly brown mass representing a year's worth of tar from cigarette smoke.

The University Health Clinic opened in 2003 as part of the second phase of Compass Point. Kristan Thompson, a nurse practitioner with Memorial Health University Medical Center, has managed the clinic since its inception. Talking to her about college-age health problems is not for the faint of heart.

Thompson said, "We run a full-service clinic providing just about every healthcare service except x-rays." For her mostly female constituency, she provides pregnancy and STD screening, pap smears, and birth control.

"Most of the guys are coming in," she says, "because they are sick or they want to be checked for an STD."

The plus side of having a mix of men and women living in close proximity is that Thompson is able to easily reach them as a group for frank health talks.

Treatment provided at very low fees includes dispensing medication, drawing blood for lab tests, enrollment physicals, required immunizations, and cholesterol screening. Thompson points out that community living increases the number of cases she sees of simple coughs and colds.

She regularly shops laboratories to find the lowest prices for blood tests and helps students to find reasonably priced health insurance.

Located as she is in Compass Point, most of the students Thompson sees are from campus housing. "They pass by the clinic every day, so they are more familiar with us," Thompson explains.

Another benefit of having the clinic on campus has accrued to the nursing program. Each semester, up to 35 nursing students participate in clinic activity.

Student Success Corridor in planning stage

In summer 2008, a Student Success Corridor will begin to rise near Compass Point and the Memorial College Center bringing with it new dining facilities, and a student union. The second phase will include dedicated freshman housing.

In phase one, a new dining facility will be designed to meet the needs of a larger on-campus student population. The new dining hall is estimated to be about 15,000 square feet with seating for 300-400. Care will be taken to assist students with special dietary needs such as vegetarian, vegan, and diabetic. Also included in phase one is an addition to the Memorial College Center of up to perhaps 40,000 square feet. This will provide students with more space for student organization meetings and programming. Thought is being given to providing services such as a game room, convenience store, and print/copy shop.

The expansion would be funded through a student fee dedicated to the student union. The Student Government Association is currently involved in the design and is investigating other student unions in Georgia's university system to determine appropriate programs and services to be offered by AASU.

A new residence hall accommodating at least 300 freshmen is planned for the second phase of the Student Success Corridor. It will be traditional style housing with two students sharing a room without the living room and kitchen features of the current apartments. Each floor will include a common lounge space for studying and socializing.

Vicki McNeil, vice president of student affairs, said, "We are considering a mandatory on-campus living requirement for traditional age freshman. Significant studies on entering freshmen have found that the most important characteristic associated with finishing college was living on campus during the freshman year."

McNeil posits first-time students who will participate in the on-campus college experience will welcome this lifestyle which connects them to their living community and strengthens their relationship to the university.

"The new residence hall will create a comfortable sense of community for freshmen. Living on campus will afford more contacts with faculty both in the residence halls and due to closer proximity to faculty offices.

"Also, students have a higher satisfaction with their college experience and are more involved in co-curricular activities. The advent of a new residence hall for freshmen will make a big difference in the life and culture of the campus."



ALUMINARI

Living with the loggerheads

While still a small boy growing up in Stone Mountain, GA, Mike Frick '03 became interested in turtles. One set of grandparents moved from Stone Mountain to Savannah and told him about visits to the former Savannah Science Museum. He became fascinated with their stories of the Caretta Research Project (CRP) that was then run by the museum. His other grandmother lived in Jupiter, FL on the Atlantic coast where Frick saw his first live turtles in the wild.

In 1986, when he was old enough, he started volunteering with the CRP located in the Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge off the coast of Savannah.

"As volunteers, we'd spend a week riding the beach on four-wheelers from dusk to dawn," Frick recalls. "We were looking for mother loggerhead sea turtles coming on land to nest."

Frick and his fellow volunteers would spend a week on the island tagging the turtles to determine how many nests they laid. The loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) can lay as many as six nests in one season and then may take a year or two off.

Upon graduating high school in 1991, Frick entered the biology program at Armstrong State College (ASC). While in school, he was hired as a teacher at the Science Museum and as a project leader for the CRP. In this role, he would take weeklong stints on the island. Eventually, he became a "part-part-time student" at ASC.

He credits his professors, Kenneth Relyea and Francis Thorne, with keeping him in school. "Without these guys, I don't know if I would have finished my degree," he said. "They liked to take students on camping and field trips. They were proponents of getting outside and seeing things for yourself and not just learning from a book."

Frick vividly recalls one trip with the two men to the Smoky Mountains where they were catching cave salamanders at three in the morning. "They taught us to think ecologically and that everything in life is interconnected," he said.



From late spring to early fall, Frick, now CRP's research director, spends alternate weeks on the island. Wassaw is the only Atlantic island north of Florida that has not been timbered. "It's like a jungle out there," he says wryly. The researchers and volunteers all live in two cabins that were built in the 1920s.

The enthusiastic volunteers come from every state in the union and many countries. "You take all these people from all walks of life and put them together for a week," Frick says. "It's kind of sad that it only lasts a week. Just about the time you have a cohesive group, they have to leave."

The researchers and volunteers are highly motivated. They have to be. Life on the island is difficult. There is electricity for lights, but no air conditioning. No television. Instead, at night they sit on the big, screened porch that was added to one of the cabins, and watch the birds and lizards moving around.

"It makes you wonder why the animals are doing what they do," he says with a touch of that wonder in his voice. "When you're out there, you have to adapt. Humans are one of the few species that don't adapt, but make our environment adapt to us."

Last summer, Frick shared a bittersweet experience on the island with his son Benjamin, 6. Walking on the beach together, they saw a turtle that Mike had tagged in 1986. "She was really old and beat up," he said, his face expressing sadness for the reptile. She could still lay eggs, but with paralysis in a rear flipper, she could no longer nest."

Data collection and research ranges from the reproduction habits of the loggerheads to the food they eat and the plants and animals that grow on their backs. "When you see what's growing on them, it tells you where they've been hanging out," Frick explains.

He also collects samples for university researchers throughout the country. Among them, AASU educators Kathryn Craven, Judy Awong-Taylor, and Jennifer Zettler who are all studying reasons for the failure of loggerhead eggs to hatch.

During the winter months, Frick is kept busy writing research articles and arranging for collaborative research projects with other institutes.

One of the topics on which he has become something of a national expert is barnacles. He looks for the symbiotic relationships between the barnacles and the loggerheads, asking why they grow there and what the benefits are to each species. Frick explains that by looking at the fossils of sea turtles, it is clear that they have been hosts to barnacles for some 15 million years.

In the course of his research, Frick has examined barnacle samples collected by Charles Darwin. "They were preserved in Scotch in those days and survive today in better shape than some more recent samples," Frick observes.

Collaborating with a colleague from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in California, Frick has recently completed an extensive book on barnacles that will be published this winter by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 🌿

—Barry J. Ostrow



Global warming brings visitors

From his vantage point as the research director for the Caretta Research Project on Wassaw Island, Mike Frick '03 sees one of the signs of global warming almost every day.

"For 30 years we've been having loggerheads nesting on our beaches. Now we're beginning to see different species of turtles that would normally nest in south Florida moving here as our climate becomes more semi-tropical," Frick says. "In Florida, they are beginning to see turtles coming up from South America. Crabs that once only lived in the Caribbean are now showing up in Georgia."

About loggerhead sea turtles

- Named for its large head
- Weigh 200 to 350 pounds as adults and measure about three feet in length
- An estimated 14,000 females nest in the southeastern U.S. each year
- Feed on mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and other marine animals
- Live longer than 30 years, sometimes longer than 50 years
- Found all over the world

Sources:
Florida Power and Light
Wikipedia

Profile in Leadership | KAITLEN FULP

Leadership comes easy to Kaitlen Fulp. A senior rehabilitation services student from Nashville, GA, she served four years as her high school class president, earned status as an honor student, and participated as a cheerleader. She attributes her success to being from a small town, but she was prepared to duplicate those accomplishments in the broader world of a university campus.



Kappa honor society.

In her junior year she was tapped to fill the vacant treasurer's post in the Student Government Association. She begins her senior year as president of the organization.

Throughout her university career she has volunteered for fund-raising events like the annual phonathon and 3 Days for AASU. In her "spare time" this blonde whirling dervish enjoys playing tennis "just for fun."

Kaitlen's advice to an entering freshman is, "Find someone you can trust and depend on. That makes the difference in your success. Have someone you can talk to, help you make decisions, and guide you. You don't have to be involved in everything at Armstrong Atlantic, but take action on something you're passionate about."

Last spring, Kaitlen was one of the most seen students in the community. She was the only individual student selected to represent Armstrong Atlantic in an advertising campaign that also featured the Lane Library and the AASU Chorale.



Kaitlen was seen studying in the International Garden, an ad that appeared on billboards and in several newspapers. A really good sport, she was also featured on an AASU Chorale recruiting poster singing in a shower.

She has taken her own advice and counts, among her mentors, Joe Buck, former vice president for student affairs; Bill Kelso, assistant vice president for student affairs; and Anne Thompson, associate professor of physical therapy. ☼

—Barry J. Ostrow

"This young lady has a wonderful future ahead of her, and will touch many lives."

—Anne Thompson
Associate Professor, Physical Therapy



"From the moment Kaitlen arrived on the AASU campus, she was a leader. Coming from a small South Georgia town and a family who held values of service and integrity, she possessed a values base on which to build as she matured into a young adult. Her customer service work ethic is second to none. She has been extremely effective as a new student orientation leader, always looking for that student and his or her parents who needed a little extra attention. She possesses leadership traits that cause her always to require the best of herself as she strives to serve others.

Kaitlen is articulate, of highest character and is fun to work with. Her strong leadership experiences are coupled with her strong spiritual faith and work together to make a student leader second to none. She IS Armstrong Atlantic and represents the best of all of us in the Armstrong community."

—Joe Buck
Retired vice president of student affairs

Keeping the campus safe

On a sunny afternoon on May 23, 2007, four University Police officers ease down a hallway in Ashmore Hall. In a tight, shoulder-to-shoulder diamond formation, they move catlike, eyes wide, hands clutching guns above the shoulders. In an instant a thunderclap of gunfire rattles the senses, a shrill scream follows, trailed by the rapping of feet running unseen around a corner. The officers quicken their pace and aim their guns ahead.

Fortunately, this dramatic maneuver was merely a joint training exercise with simulation guns involving University Police officers and their counterparts in the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department.

The exercise was an example of how University Police personnel have been working with local

law enforcement to jointly react to an incident on campus, thus increasing the level of safety for Armstrong Atlantic students, faculty, and staff.

On a much broader level, a push to enhance campus preparedness to react to and mitigate disasters—whether natural or man-made—has taken place over the summer of 2007 and continues into the fall as the university revises its existing emergency response plan.

“We know that things are going to happen and what we can do is to prepare to take the most appropriate action and respond in a way that will minimize the impact of an event,” said John McGuthry, chief information officer, who is spearheading a university-wide effort to revise the plan.

McGuthry has been holding regular planning sessions with eight faculty, staff, and administrators representing all areas and levels of the campus and including a lieutenant from the Georgia Regional Police Academy in Savannah. The group is revising prevention, reaction, and mitigation plans and will present its recommendations to President Thomas Z. Jones in December 2007.

“We’ve had an emergency plan for some time and we began looking at it more than a year ago to see how technology could help us improve on it,” McGuthry said.

The advent of BLAST in the fall of 2006 was a result of that process. BLAST is a combination of homegrown systems and a purchased service that can send critical messages to telephone numbers and e-mail addresses designated by students, faculty, and staff. For example, in the event of classes being cancelled because of a power outage, students would be alerted before they make their way to the classroom.

“In the event of an incident, we know that we have a plan in place and have people trained to respond.”

— Vicki McNeil, vice president for student affairs

The university emergency plan—a continuously evolving step-by-step guide on how university personnel can react promptly to mitigate emergencies—takes into account a variety of scenarios that include, among other things, hurricanes, tornadoes, power outages, and violent acts striking the campus.

Vicki McNeil, vice president for student affairs and a member of the planning group, said “We need to have a written plan that is easy to understand and that is there for students and parents to see. We also need to practice that plan. We can’t control every situation; we’re an open campus. But in the event of an incident, we know that we have a plan in place and have people trained to respond.”

For example, during hurricane season community assistants in the residence halls regularly hold floor meetings to go over hurricane information. Staff members are prepared to assist students during the evacuation process. Hurricane information is also posted on the university Web site.

The university has made arrangements with East Georgia College in Swainsboro to provide temporary shelter to students who need a place to stay after an evacuation.



(Left to right): Sal Ortega, Bill Bryson, and John Bennett, all University Police officers, participate in active shooter training in AASU's Ashmore Hall.

In the event of a more sudden emergency, students, faculty, and staff now have access to more emergency telephones on the campus and around residence halls. The university has been adding additional emergency telephones in the common grounds around residence halls.

In addition, as the campus switches over to Internet telephony this fall, phones will be added to almost all classrooms, giving University Police instant access to students and faculty. The phones can also be used to dial anywhere on the campus.

“The horrific events at Virginia Tech serve as a reminder for us to evaluate our existing plans and look at how we can improve on them,” said McNeil.

Seckinger continues to work with the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department to provide monthly training for his officers and build a strong relationship with the police department.

“The first time that we work together doesn’t have to be in the heat of the moment,” he said. “Continued training with them allows us all to be on the same sheet of music and work out the kinks before we have to engage in a real situation.”

He adds, “Our relationship with them is probably better than it’s ever been. Working together and training together means there’s better security for our community.”

The revised emergency plan will be available in print and online in January 2008 and will replace a summer 2007 version that was made available in May. 🌸

—Francisco Duque

A gift of music



At the tender age of three or four, Neva Lee Hargest's grandmother took her to church to sing in the kiddie choir. It didn't go well. The choir director would later tell her parents to take her home and not come back because she couldn't sing and wouldn't pay attention. Not an auspicious beginning for someone who would spend her lifetime making beautiful music and helping others to do the same.

More recently, the Ponca City, Oklahoma kiddie choir dropout has established the Neva Lee Hargest Music Scholarship for music majors and has been named to the Heritage Society for establishing a planned giving bequest. In between, Hargest has continually pursued her love of music.

At five she attempted piano lessons, but was thwarted because she couldn't read words yet. Luckily, her stepfather—a talented singer in his own right—saw the performer in her and constantly encouraged her musical activities.

In junior high school, he took her to an audition with the Louisville Symphony Chorus where he sang. She was accepted and became the symphony's youngest member. Later, she became a regular on a high school television variety show.

Upon graduation from high school, she turned to Western Kentucky College where she hoped to become a music therapist. However, the college didn't offer the appropriate academic program and she became a vocal music major instead.

Hargest didn't finish college because she married a career military man whose postings took them all over the world. She said, "He was an Air Force band director who directed church choirs and formed community choruses wherever we lived. We had five children and they all sing and play instruments."

For 25 years, Hargest lived in Nashua, NH where her musical career matured. It began with a choral audition for the Nashua Symphony Orchestra's presentation of Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. She thought she would just try out for a soprano alto duet and was engaged as the alto soloist for the entire oratorio

with the orchestra and a 100-person choir behind her.

For the next decade, she was coached by professionals at the Boston Lyric Opera and sang with the Nashua Symphony at least once a year. For a few summers, she sang with the Boston Pops at Tanglewood. One year, she traveled with the Nashua Symphony and chorus on a concert tour to Austria and Italy. In Rome, she fondly recalls singing in an old church in the shadow of the Coliseum.

Following the death of her husband in 2000, Hargest moved to Savannah where two of her children live. Since then, she has sung with the Hosanna Choir at White Bluff United Methodist Church and with the choir of Wilmington Island United Methodist Church. Her daughter, Carol Gray, had been singing in I Cantori, Savannah's only professional *a cappella* choir. When Gray had to leave the group, mom replaced her.

In 2005, she married Tom Hargest, a retired professor of surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina. As Tom was making provisions in his will for a bequest to his *alma mater*, Lafayette College, he encouraged Neva to do the same for a college of her choosing.

"I'd lost touch with Western Kentucky, so I began looking around for a college where I could help a promising music student," Neva Hargest said. She didn't have to look very far.

One of her sons, Edmund "Tag" Bridges, had just graduated from AASU and was singing with his mother in I Cantori under the direction of AASU's Robert Harris. She had also become acquainted with Gail Rountree, director of development. All the signs were pointing to a relationship with Armstrong Atlantic.

Once a scholarship is established, it may typically take three years before it starts generating sufficient proceeds for scholarships. Not one to wait, Hargest has begun to generously contribute additional amounts to fund annual stipends for a music student until her scholarship account has matured. 🌸

—Barry J. Ostrow

For information on establishing a scholarship or legacy gift, e-mail Gail.Rountree@armstrong.edu.

Funding for Bricks and Mortar

Soon after the 2002 dedication of Compass Point, the first student residential community on campus, university officials decided to establish a foundation that would support campus growth by providing private financing alternatives outside of what the Board of Regents could allocate.

The AASU Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. (EPFI) has quickly become a critical component of the campus' expansion by providing a financing conduit for projects and acquisitions deemed strategically important by the university.

One shining example of that was the purchase in 2004 of the 11 acres of land adjacent to the campus. Now called the Armstrong Center, it serves as a conference and meeting center serving businesses and residents in the region, while housing AASU's Office of External Affairs, the Department of Professional and Continuing Education, Plant Operations, the university housing office, and additional classroom space. An additional seven acres were added to the campus with the



purchase of University Crossings, formerly a rental community that was refurbished and turned into student housing. It now serves 100 residents.

President Thomas Z. Jones serves as foundation president, steering it to help achieve its goals of continuously enhancing educational opportunities for AASU students, while offering new services and value to the community and the region.

The foundation also has had a helping hand in facilitating the acquisition and implementation of the Student Recreation Center and the new women's sports field house. It also manages the long-term lease on University Terrace and University Terrace II. EPFI will continue to support these and other AASU campus initiatives. ❀

—Francisco Duque

(From the left) Don Waters, Brasseler USA; Dalton Ward, AASU; Lee Williams, AASU; Jerry Barton, Sea Island Bank; Drew Ernst, Hunter Maclean, Exley & Dunn; Brian Foster, First Chatham Bank; Connie Farmer Ray, Coldwell Banker Greater Savannah Realty; Michael Donahue, AASU; and Jim Brignati, AASU

Jenkins Hall, Fine Arts Auditorium receiving facelift *(continued from page 3)*

Current usage

One of the most publicly visible departments on the AASU campus, the Department of Art, Music & Theatre is the primary resident of both venues and is preparing for scheduling challenges during the course of the next year.

The highly prolific theatre program, which mounts upward of a dozen stage productions annually in Jenkins Hall, is exploring alternate venues for live performances while increasing its film production activity for 2007-2008.

The instrumental and vocal areas of the music program, both of which call Fine Arts Hall home, are adjusting their preliminary spring 2008 concert

calendars to avoid April concerts when possible and to relocate those springtime events.

Renovation implications

Renovation of each of these facilities holds significant impact on AASU as it does for the community. From the standpoint of student enrollment, AASU will be able to use its enhanced facilities to attract the most talented performing arts students. More than 150 music and theatre degree-seeking students who currently perform in either Jenkins Hall or the Fine Arts Auditorium, as well as the numerous

non-majors who participate in the Masquers, Savannah Winds, jazz ensemble, wind ensemble, University Chorale, percussion ensemble, and orchestra will enjoy the benefits of two first-rate performance facilities.

Dean Wheeler observes, "The state seldom gets such a good bargain for its dollars. For a budget of \$5 million we will pour new life into quality facilities that are primary vehicles for educating performing arts students from across the state and region. At the same time, we will address the comfort and aesthetics of facilities that regularly serve the citizens of Coastal Georgia." ❀

class notes

'70s

William Scarborough '75, '77 received the Certified Fraud Examiner professional designation. He is an associate chief accountant in the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Scarborough is also a certified public accountant and received both a Master of Professional Accountancy and a Master of Taxation from Georgia State University.

Harold Joe Duckworth '77, after 20 years in the trucking business, has returned to Savannah. He is an insurance agent with Sterling Life, specializing in the senior market. His son Joe, Jr. is in college at Colorado State University, while his son Patrick plans to enroll at AASU in the fall. His daughter Laurie works for the Landings Company.

'80s

Mark James Lowman '84 has been promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He is currently serving in the U.S. Strategic Command at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX.

Karen R. Goddard '85 is a board member of the Savannah Board of Realtors.

'90s

Amy Chancey '90 is a nurse with the U.S. Navy Hospital Ship Peleliu that was scheduled to visit the Philippines, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon and Marshall islands.

Sherry McCumber-Kahn '91 has been promoted to section chief of the Hazardous, Toxic, Radioactive Waste Division of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Peter Mastopoulos '92 has been inducted into the prestigious Baden-Powell Fellowship by the World Scout Foundation. He received the honor from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and William F. Cronk, president of the Boy Scouts of America, in San Francisco. This distinction is reserved for individuals who make a significant contribution to fostering the ideals of scouting around the world. Mastopoulos currently serves as the international representative for the Savannah Boy Scout Council. In this capacity, he helped develop an association between the Saint Petersburg, Russia and Savannah Boy Scouts that led to exchange visits.

Joseph Keith Purvis '92 was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 for Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division. He is currently the executive officer for a light cavalry squadron at Fort Polk, LA. He is a second generation Purvis to graduate from Armstrong. His father **Joseph Purvis** graduated in 1975.

William Garry Caudill '94 has been employed with the Early County Sheriff's Office for the past 10 years and is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division as chief investigator.

Patrick L. Burk '95 has been named senior environmental project manager with Saussy Engineering, LLC.



Chief Michael Berkow with Major Gerry Long during her promotion ceremony

Capt. Gerry M. Long '80, a 25-year veteran of the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, has been promoted to the rank of major. In her career, Long worked in criminal investigations, internal affairs, information management, and patrol. As commander of the

downtown precinct, she was tasked with organizing the security for the St. Patrick's Day celebration, and with overseeing local security for the G-8 Sea Island Summit.

'00s

Rev. Steven Meguiar '00 is the senior pastor of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Savannah. A graduate of the theatre program, he directed *Three Cornered Moon* as part of the celebration of the Masquers seventieth anniversary.

Christopher B. Rogers '00 is a worship pastor in south Georgia. He handles the music program for the church, from children to adults. Rogers also spent a year teaching special education in the public school system of Baldwin County before going into the music ministry.

Cynthia Dickerson Carey '03 is living in Hanover Park, IL where she is employed at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital as a radiation therapist and the clinical lead for the College of Dupage radiation therapy program. She and husband Jamie married in 2004.

Melody Rodriguez '03 was included in both *Georgia Trend* and *The Savannah Business Report and Journal's* 40 under 40 lists. The lists recognize outstanding community leaders under the age of 40 in Georgia and the Savannah area respectively.

Quentin L. Martin '04 graduated from the Mercer School of Law in May 2007 and will be returning to Savannah to practice law in the area of civil litigation.

W. Craig Smith '04 joined the Johnson Square branch of The Coastal Bank as a commercial relationship officer.

Amanda Futrell Morse '06 has been teaching health and physical education at Richmond Hill High School. Additionally, she is coaching the junior varsity softball team and is assistant varsity coach for the girls' soccer team. She and her husband Cray moved to North Carolina at the end of the school year.

weddings

David H. Dickey '74 married Catherine Clarke Shealy on May 26, 2007.

Jennifer McCook '01 married Allan Robider on April 21, 2007.

Christina Lee '02, '04, married Joseph Lynes in August 2007.

Michael Sibilio '04 married Maunalee Reneé Hashemi in August 2007.

Monique Brown '05 married James E. Harris on March 31, 2007.

April N Moye '05 married Stephen Downing on November 18, 2006.

Stephanie Burnsed '06 married Matthew Lee on April 14, 2007.

Amanda Futrell '06 married Cray Morse on June 24, 2006.

James Doyle Herring '06 married Amanda Lynn Troughton on March 3, 2007.

additions

Joseph Keith Purvis '92 and wife Jennifer were expecting their fourth son in June 2007.

Julie M. Moore '02, '04: Samuel, April 7, 2007

passings

Pauline Cargill Powers '37*, April 7, 2007

Siegwart J. Robertson '41**, past-president of the alumni association 1947-1948, April 30, 2007

Alberta R. Beckwith '42**, March 20, 2007

John L. Adams '48**, March 22, 2007

Edward Chan Sieg '49**, March 2007

Hannah R. Kelly '50**, August 11, 2006

William C. Boswell '52**, February 26, 2005

Carl Benjamin Thompson, Jr. '64, June 20, 2007

Roy Edward McCabe '70, December 15, 2006

H. Russell Rawlings II '73, February 15, 2007

Stephen M. Payne '74, July 2006

Patti Hagan Thompson '78, June 7, 2007

Sherry L. Waters '87, March 21, 2005

Wanda Mae McIntire '06, January 10, 2007

* Member of the first graduating class

** Golden Graduate (1937-1957).

—Compiled in the Office of Alumni Affairs

THE AWARD WINNING VOICE OF ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY

THE INKWELL



AASU's award-winning weekly student newspaper, *The Inkwell*, is now available to alumni for a \$14 academic year subscription. For more information, contact Angela Mensing, editor-in-chief at inkwell@armstrong.edu.

Fast Fact

\$3.4 MILLION

That's how much grant money the nursing program received to boost nursing enrollment, attract disadvantaged students, and expand free primary healthcare services

Compass is produced in the Office of University Relations with support from the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation.

BARRY J. OSTROW

Editor and principal writer

JOAN LEHON

Designer

KATHERINE ARNTZEN

Principal photographer

FRANCISCO DUQUE

Writer and editorial assistance

PATRICIA REESE

Editorial assistance

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

If you would like to comment on anything you read in *Compass*, or if you have ideas for future stories, please e-mail the editor at Barry.Ostrow@armstrong.edu.

To see past issues of *Compass*, please go to:
www.urelations.armstrong.edu/compassmenu.html.

Alumni director to retire

Patty Parker, after 15 years in AASU's advancement office—seven as director of alumni relations—will retire at the end of December.

A nontraditional student, Parker came to Armstrong in 1986 to pursue an associate of arts that she received in 1992. During that time she was a student aid worker in financial aid. Subsequently, she worked part-time in the Office of Advancement managing the data base, sending out mailings, and tracking the budget. She received her Bachelor of General Studies in 1995 and was offered a full-time position in advancement as the contributions administrator.

In 2000, responsibility for alumni affairs was tacked on to her job description and six months later she was named director of alumni affairs.

On her watch she has been responsible for a number of innovations. Ten Armstrong Clubs were formed for Golden Grads, Masquers, and alumni in the Islands, Westside, and the Landings, as well as Liberty and Bryan counties, Jacksonville, Metro Atlanta, and Columbia, SC.

Graduating seniors are honored at a celebration banquet she established which encourages furthering school spirit and fond ties after graduation. She also restructured and energized alumni board meetings by moving them off campus to Armstrong Club venues.

One final project is currently in development. Parker is working to establish formal recognition for graduates of multi-generational Armstrong families. To this end, she has written several stories about some of these families for *Compass*.

Parker said, "I loved the opportunity to share my appreciation for Armstrong with other alumni by working in this job. I feel we have a common bond—rather like a 'family connection.' I am retiring with a deep love for the alumni office and the work I do. I also appreciate the friendships I have cultivated over the years." 🌸



“I loved the opportunity to share my appreciation for Armstrong with other alumni by working in this job. I feel we have a common bond—rather like a ‘family connection.’”



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAVANNAH, GA
PERMIT NO. 380

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED