

President's Report & Report to Donors: A Special Supplement

Fall 2013

Marketing & Communications Department, Armstrong State University

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT | REPORT TO DONORS

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT • FALL 2013



ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY



FROM *the* PRESIDENT

We started strong. I hope you have seen Armstrong's new, student-focused marketing campaign, Start Strong Armstrong. This fall, we found a new look and voice to help raise our visibility and attract students, and we have been having a lot of fun with it. And it is rooted in truth. Since 1935, Armstrong has given those who attend here a solid foundation for their next phase, whether it's preparation for a career or advanced degree, or filling a need in our regional workforce. Everything we do today is an attempt to honor that legacy and help our students succeed, just as Armstrong Junior College set out to do upon its inception.

In these pages, you will see what we have accomplished over the past year in support of student success. Our first-year student program, First Class, has launched and is loved not only by the students who gain from the program but also by the faculty who teach them. Our campus environment encourages our students to collaborate and serve others, where they can lead their peers, just as they will lead in their chosen fields when they graduate.

You will also meet some of our students who could not flourish at Armstrong without the support of scholarships. From a budding astrophysicist and a third-generation Pirate to tomorrow's healthcare providers, our students can stay strong thanks to your support. The bond that they form with Armstrong will stay with them for the rest of their lives. When I see our graduates beam with pride at the mention of their alma mater, I think of our earliest alumni who have that same sparkle in their eyes when they tell their Armstrong story.

Enjoy what you read and whom you meet here, and thank you for your support.

Warm Regards,



Linda M. Bleicken
President

STRONG Students

Armstrong's commitment to student success is our number one goal. Over the last year we focused all campus efforts towards support of our students' success to ensure that they start strong on their path to making the world a better place.



FIRST CLASS

After a successful pilot program, Armstrong's first-year seminar program, First Class, is now a key component of our freshman college experience. It fosters campus engagement and information literacy to help students conduct research and solve problems while forging a stronger connection to Armstrong.

SUMMER CHALLENGE

The second annual Summer Challenge program once again gave students who showed academic promise the opportunity to complete the program and enroll in the fall semester. The program built on its successes from last year and saw an increase in participation of 74 percent and a pass rate of more than 90 percent.



Top 5 Majors



UNDERGRADUATE

1. Nursing
2. Liberal Studies
3. Health Science
4. Biology
5. Early Childhood Education

GRADUATE

1. Early Childhood Education
2. Adult Education Community Leadership
3. Public Health
4. Physical Therapy
5. Middle Grades Education



PARTNERING ON LATINO STUDENT SUCCESS

In Partnership with Savannah Technical College, Savannah State University, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, and the Coastal Empire YMCA, Armstrong launched the CAMINO program to help guide Latino students and their families through high school graduation and college acceptance. This fall, one of the first students to participate, Aymed Reyes, enrolled in Armstrong and was featured on the national public television program "American Graduate Day 2013."

MILITARY TIES

Our military students are deeply important to Armstrong. In partnership with the City of Hinesville, the university will break ground on a new, expanded Armstrong Liberty Center facility. The new facility will allow us to expand services and offerings to military students and their families as tens of thousands of them return to the area from deployment. Once established, the new facility will allow us to double enrollment in Hinesville.

83%

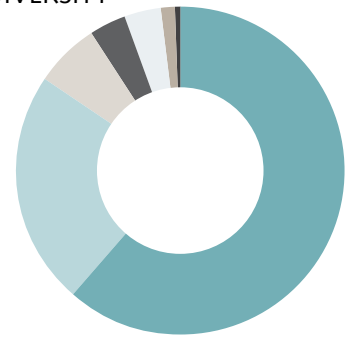
of full-time undergraduate students were on some form of financial aid.

PIRATE PRIDE

Armstrong received its second straight Peach Belt Commissioner's Cup for best record in the conference. No less important, the university also received its third PBC President's Academic Award, which recognizes the academic excellence of student athletes.



DIVERSITY



White/Caucasian	61.4%
Black/African American	23.3%
Hispanic/Latino	6.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.6%
Multiracial	3.5%
Unreported	1.6%
Native American	0.3%

THREE COLLEGES, ONE CAUSE

Armstrong's Division of Student Affairs and Student Government Association have forged a partnership with their counterparts at Savannah State University and Savannah Technical College on Three Colleges, One Cause, holding annual community outreach events. This fall, they collaborated on a benefit in Forsyth Park for the Wounded Warriors Project.



A school-record **91** student-athletes made the Peach Belt Conference Presidential Honor Roll. Students must maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA for the entire school year to be placed on the honor roll.



TRANSFORMATIVE Teaching & Learning

LIVING LABORATORY

In collaboration with the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance, Armstrong is hard at work on a new wet lab facility on Ossabaw Island that will allow students from a multitude of disciplines to study, learn, and explore in this rich coastal habitat. The interdisciplinary center is set to open next year.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The College of Health Professions received a grant of nearly \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration to implement an interprofessional care model at St. Joseph's/Candler's St. Mary's Health Center. The grant builds on nearly a decade of community partnership between Armstrong's College of Health Professions and St. Mary's.

IMPACTING The Region

Armstrong's impact on the Savannah region exceeded **\$214 million** from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

Armstrong accounted for **2,276** jobs in the region, **43** jobs were generated from capital improvements.



The popular biannual Treasure Savannah day of service continues to give students, faculty, and staff opportunities to volunteer en masse across the region. Between Fall 2010 and Spring 2013, Treasure Savannah has contributed 8,648 hours to the Savannah community.



Armstrong, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and Savannah State University hosted the University System of Georgia Board of Regents' April meeting.



Whether it be for the Masquers' unrivaled pace of twelve or more student-produced plays per year, the ten exhibitions held in the Fine Arts Gallery each academic year, or the annually sold out Patriotic Concert, Armstrong's Department of Art, Music & Theatre brings more than 10,000 community members to campus every year.



HEALTHCARE CAMP

The College of Health Professions launched its inaugural Health Careers Summer Camp, a week-long program designed for high school juniors and seniors to learn more about the healthcare profession. The young students lived on campus and learned about a variety of health career opportunities while enjoying a true college experience with their peers. Participants traveled to Savannah from across the state, and three students traveled from Vicenza, Italy, where their parents are stationed, serving on active duty.

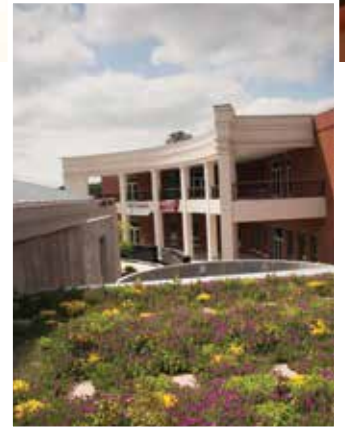
NEW IMPROVEMENTS

Enhanced Technology and Student Services

In our continuous effort to enhance facilities, construction is complete on the transformation of two of the original Southside campus buildings—Gamble Hall and the original Student Union. The original Student Union building has become Armstrong's Learning Commons, a state-of-the-art research and study center that fosters collaboration and innovation.



In addition to the computer labs, interactive technology, reference rooms and audio/video editing suites that the Learning Commons provides, the structure was also an adaptive reuse project complete with a green roof and designed to LEED Gold standards.



Home to the Department of Literature, Languages and Philosophy, Gamble Hall's much-needed renovation was completed in summer 2013.

Through intentional energy-saving measures, Armstrong decreased kilowatt hours used on campus by

11.6%.



HONORING OLD FRIENDS and Making New Ones

With the College of Education, we established the Bettye Anne Battiste Award for Excellence in Education Research. Named for the former professor and Early Childhood Education department head, the award will be given annually to a student who has demonstrated excellence in published or presented work in the field of education.

This year's luncheon for Golden Grads—alumni from the classes of 1937 to 1963—was a true reunion of friends at Savannah's Vic's on the River, owned by 1941 Armstrong alumnus Irving Victor.



This winter, the College of Health Professions will expand into the Armstrong Center to meet the need for higher enrollment capacity.

Armstrong.edu drew more than **4.6** million visitors from off campus last year.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

While I have a long history here, my position in advancement has given me a new perspective on Armstrong. From the trenches of the Student Union to the Foundation boardroom, I have come full circle. I couldn't be happier to complete that circle, telling our students' stories and asking you to support them.

Without you, the stories you see and hear would not be possible. Without you, Armstrong could not be what it is today—a university with a deep history and a clear vision of its future and the future success of our students.

I have long known how gifted our students are and have seen firsthand how so many of them need scholarships to succeed here. However, my new perspective on the generosity of our supporters has allowed me to truly see how our donors help make Armstrong the place that it has become, while never forgetting our inspiring history.

If you haven't been on campus in a while, please visit. I would love to show you what you are making possible and what potential awaits. Stop by or give me a call at 912.344.2530.

— William Kelso '88, Vice President for Advancement



Report to Donors 2012-13

THANK YOU! *What does it mean when you make a gift of support to Armstrong?*

You believe in excellence in higher education. You are a part of a group of individuals, families and organizations that have confidence in the future of Armstrong and its students. You make an investment in the future educators, healthcare professionals, artists, police officers, business leaders, and scientists. THANKS TO YOU, Armstrong's bright, motivated students are able to succeed.

The following report lists donors who made a gift to the university between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 at the Steward Society level and above. Please visit armstrong.edu/give for more information on our giving societies.

HERITAGE SOCIETY

Members of the society have chosen to name Armstrong as a beneficiary through a planned gift, such as a bequest in a will. The Heritage Society supports not only the present needs of the university, but also seeks to make provisions for future generations of Armstrong students.

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 Jo Ann Coleman
 Diana Baker-Cummings '94, '98, '07
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 Donald C. Starr

COMPASS SOCIETY

Members of this esteemed society have cumulatively given \$50,000 or more to Armstrong.

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 Anderson Capital Corporation
 ASTRO Radiation Oncology Institute Fund
 AT&T Foundation
 Bank of America
 Bhatia Foundation
 Board of Regents - University System of Georgia Foundation
 Brasseler USA
 Camden County Sheriff's Office

*deceased



Emmanuel Diaz Michel '17
 BAXLEY, GEORGIA

Major: Applied Physics
 Nick and Anna Mamalakis Scholarship

Emmanuel Michel has always known that he's going to go far. Unfortunately, he hasn't always had the means to follow his dream of becoming a leading international astrophysicist—until he found Armstrong. Thanks to the Nick and Anna Mamalakis Scholarship, this first-generation college student can live on campus, pursue his studies, and take on student leadership roles that will help him forge his career path.

"This scholarship means that I have a chance," said Emmanuel. "I have an opportunity now where at first I didn't."



Benjamin Oliver '16
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Major: Medical Laboratory Science
Theron A. Grant Memorial Scholarship

Benjamin Oliver came to Armstrong at first because of the radiologic science program, but he stayed because of the experience. Having received the opportunity to enter STEP (Science Technology Expansion Program) during the summer of 2012, he found that his true potential was not with radiologic science, but with medical laboratory science. While the career path is a challenging one, he feels confident in his choice because the Theron A. Grant Memorial Scholarship proves that someone else is confident in him too.

"To me, this scholarship means that someone believes in what I'm doing," said Oliver.

The scholarship is a constant reminder to Oliver that hard work pays off. Since coming to Armstrong, he has realized how important it is to give 100 percent in the classroom so that you can obtain 100 percent of your potential in the real world.

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1935 SOCIETY

Annual giving of \$5,000 or more

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William P. Mitchell and Georgia Steamship Company, LLC
Lisa K. and Daniel W. Pinyan, Jr. and the Pinyan Company
Savannah Friends of Music, Inc.
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Edward I. Wexler
Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia Foundation

ARMSTRONG SOCIETY

Annual giving of \$3,000 to \$4,999

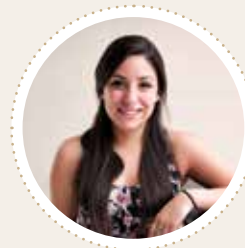
Donna R. Brooks
Robert L. Murphy, Jr. '87 Presser Foundation
Connie F. and William S. '59 Ray, Jr.
Jessica Stepaniak
The Savannah Community Foundation
Mark Uzmann
Walmart Foundation

PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY

Annual giving of \$1,000 to \$2,999

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Carol and William Megathlin
Peter J. Mellen
Cindy S. and Stephen L. Morris
New York Life Insurance Company Matching Gift Foundation
Pamela L. O'Quinn '80
Jeanne and David E. Paddison
Parkersburg Garden Club



Jasmine Dias '16
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Major: Theatre
Melaver Family Scholarship

When Jasmine Dias chose Armstrong to pursue her dreams of becoming an actress, she had more than just the odds of a competitive industry against her. Her father is also in college, so the family faces the challenge of trying to support both of them financially as they attend school. However, thanks to the Melaver Family Scholarship, a big financial burden has been lifted. The scholarship has also boosted Jasmine's confidence and is a daily motivation because she wants to prove that the money invested in her future is not going to waste.

"Without this scholarship, I am not sure if I would be able to be here this school year," said Jasmine. "It is greatly appreciated and means a lot to me as well as my family."

Jeanne T. and James R. Persse
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 Jacquelyn B. '00, '04 and James F. Repella
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 Zaxby's
 Anonymous donors (3)

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 Susan M. and Robert G. LeFavi
 Margaret Lyle
 Adrienne M. and Will E. Lynch



April Graves '14
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Major: Psychology
 Presidential Honors
 Scholarship

Growing up in Savannah, April Graves has always known that she would attend Armstrong. Before her freshman year, Graves was selected to participate in the STEP (Science Technology Expansion Program), which gave her the opportunity to conduct undergraduate research and develop her interest in studying psychology. Since receiving the Presidential Honors Scholarship, Graves now has the opportunity to focus more on the research that she loves and not on the worry of how she will finance college. "The scholarship enables me to concentrate on my schoolwork without having to get a part-time job, which would distract me from my studies," said Graves.

Cynthia J. '78, '84 and Daniel N. Lynes, Jr.
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 Ge-Juan H. and Leslie L. Wilkes, Jr.
 Elizabeth T. Wilson
 Anonymous donors (8)



Erin Berube '17
MERRITT ISLAND,
FLORIDA

Major: Chemistry
General Scholarship

Coming from a high school graduating class of only 150 students, Erin Berube was looking for a school where she could not only feel comfortable and at home, but where she could also pursue her love for soccer and her interest in chemistry. She checked off everything on her college dream list when she found Armstrong. However, Erin's dreams to become a Pirate would not have been possible without the scholarship she received from Armstrong.

"Without this scholarship, I would have needed to stay in Florida rather than going to school out of state," said Erin.

With the scholarship relieving a large financial burden, Erin is now free to be an outstanding Pirate both on and off the soccer field.

"Since I play soccer, it would be nearly impossible to have a job, play soccer, and study for my classes," she explained. "This scholarship allows me to spend those additional hours left in my schedule to study rather than work."

STEWARDS SOCIETY

Annual giving of \$125 to \$249

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- Diane S. Hansford
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Annual giving up to \$124

Thank you to the 1,581 donors who gave at this level during the 2013 fiscal year. You are a generous group of alumni, current and former faculty and staff, parents, and friends. Whether you gave during our annual Phone-a-thon, by mail, or online at armstrong.edu/give, thank you for your outstanding support!

Every gift is meaningful, and every gift improves the student experience at Armstrong.

Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy of this report to donors. If you would like to correct an error or provide a clarification, please contact Katherine Alt in the office of Advancement at Katherine.Alt@armstrong.edu or 912.344.3267. We appreciate each donor and friend of the university, and we welcome your feedback as we strive to improve the annual report!

donor *spotlights*

by ALLISON HERSH



REMEMBERING DANIEL

A Savannah family with a multigenerational Armstrong connection creates a new memorial scholarship

Armstrong serves as a proud tradition for the Waldrop-Harris family.

Charles Waldrop graduated from Armstrong in 1939, attended the University of Georgia Pharmacy School, and enjoyed a successful career as a pharmacist. His wife, Betty Crumbley Waldrop, graduated from Armstrong in 1940.

Each of the Waldrop's four children attended the university, including daughter Beth Waldrop Harris, who earned a B.S. in Biology in 1974 and an M.Ed. in Biology/Education in 1979. Beth met her future husband Peter Harris, who completed a B.S. in Chemistry at Armstrong, at a Pirate basketball game in 1971.

When Beth and Peter's son, Daniel, died unexpectedly of a stroke at the age of 24 last year, they decided to create an Armstrong scholarship in his name. The new Daniel Harris Memorial Scholarship offers financial assistance to the university's music majors, even though Daniel never attended Armstrong himself.

"Our son was a very good musician who played the guitar and taught guitar to young kids," explained Beth, a retired high school biology teacher. "Music was his passion."

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement and financial need.

Although the family has struggled with Daniel's loss, they feel confident the memorial scholarship will serve as an important way for their son's legacy to live on.

"Armstrong has given our family a lot over the years and was the first place we thought of for a scholarship," said Beth. "This scholarship is something that would mean a lot to our son. It helps our family make sense of our loss."

To donate to the Daniel Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact the Office of Advancement at 912.344.2541 or advancement@armstrong.edu.



The Waldrop-Harris family recently suffered another tragic loss, that of Thomas J. "Jake" Waldrop, who also attended Armstrong and earned a degree in political science in 1979. Waldrop earned his law degree from Georgia State University and had an outstanding career as a defense attorney with the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta. A scholarship recognizing law students involved in public service was established at Georgia State to honor his memory. In addition, the Criminal Law Section of the Atlanta Bar Association has established the Thomas J. Waldrop Truth and Justice Award, honoring a criminal law attorney in Atlanta who embodies and exemplifies a passion and dedication for true justice.

DONNA BROOKS

Assistant Dean

College of Health Professions

Donna Brooks, assistant dean of the College of Health Professions, believes in the importance of giving back to Armstrong.

That's why she donates to the university's annual campaign each year and recently decided to endow a scholarship for an outstanding senior Speech Pathology student at Armstrong. The Donna R. Brooks Endowment will make its first scholarship award in the fall of 2014, and will recognize an Armstrong student for exceptional academic achievement and financial need.

"I'm very excited," Brooks said of the new endowment. "It's important for me to support others and help them meet their financial obligations as a student."

Brooks was the recipient of a number of scholarships while earning a Ph.D. in Audiology and Speech Science from Purdue University and a B.S. and M.A. in Speech Pathology from Hampton University. She understands, firsthand, the importance of supporting fundraising efforts that directly benefit students.

"I give because it's a way for me to give back," she explained. "I was able to go to school and graduate with a Ph.D. virtually debt-free. I want to help other students do the same."

This Hampton, Va. native, who has been part of the Armstrong community for the past 18 years, is impressed by the university's spirit of giving. She considers it an honor and a privilege to support Armstrong through charitable donations and has seen the positive impact financial support can make in the lives of students.

"Through education, everyone can enjoy opportunities they might not have otherwise," she said. "We can help others improve the quality of their lives and the quality of their communities."








FISCAL YEAR 2013 **BY THE NUMBERS**

From June 1, 2012
to July 30, 2013

2,153 
DONORS

contributed gifts & pledges
totalling **\$689,000**






Breakdown by total to fund type

	Scholarships	\$326,257.08
	Programs	\$175,799.90
	Armstrong Commitment	\$100,690.34
	Unrestricted	\$66,959.72
	Athletics	\$19,294.50






OUR DONORS

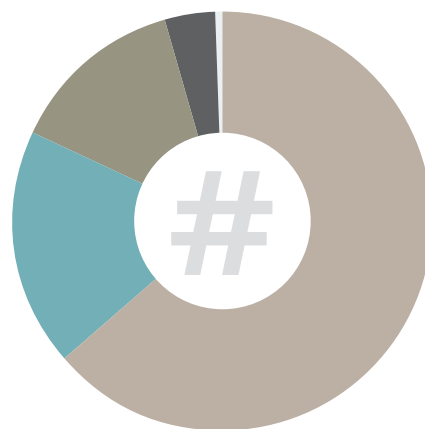


% of Constituents by Dollars Given

	Alumni	27%
	Business/Organization	26%
	Foundation	17%
	Faculty/Staff	15%
	Friend	15%

% of Constituents by Number of Donors

	Alumni	63.8%
	Friend	18.4%
	Faculty/Staff	13.4%
	Business/Organization	3.9%
	Foundation	0.5%



THANKS TO YOU...

Alumni
giving
increased
68.8%

First time donors
increased by
74%
Welcome to
our **618**
new donors!

91 donors contributed to the
ARMSTRONG COMMITMENT FUND
70 students (including 23
graduating seniors) each received
average aid of **\$1,485**

54% of
faculty and staff
participated in
the Campus
Campaign, beating
the national
average of 25%!

NEW FUNDS

Armstrong Commitment Fund
Asthma Initiative Fund
Bettye Anne Battiste Award for Excellence
in Education Research

B.J. Ford Scholarship Fund
College of Liberal Arts Scholarship
Daniel Harris Scholarship
Donna R. Brooks Endowment

First Citizens Scholarship
Meredith Avery Memorial Anthropology Fund
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