

Compass

Summer 2009

Armstrong State University

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Award winning

compass

summer 2009



**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

**The Jones
presidency
2000-2009**

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A publication of Armstrong Atlantic State University

AASU graduate named Savannah-Chatham County Teacher of the Year



“I like to show my students that everything has a purpose and mathematics is not just pushing numbers around on paper.”

As Daniel Peter Snope '03 was leading a troop of Boy Scouts on a work project at the Ogeechee Canal Museum and Nature Center, he had a chance encounter with the late Christopher Schubert, a geology professor at Armstrong Atlantic and administrator of the Troops to Teachers program. Snope,

who was retiring from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield, said, “He put the bug in my ear and opened my mind to the possibility of a career in education.”

That chance encounter was a fortunate one, because in January, Snope, now a mathematics teacher at Savannah Arts Academy, was named the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools' 2010 Teacher of the Year.

Snope became a real fan of AASU as he worked toward his Master of Middle Grades Education. With a previous bachelor's in professional aeronautics, he thought he was headed toward a second career of teaching science. Then he met Jane Barnard (see *Compass Spring* 2008). Barnard, an associate professor of

mathematics and an innovative statewide leader in mathematics education, convinced him to try math.

He readily admits that when he was in high school, no one would have ever predicted he would become a math teacher. At AASU, he found that “the instructors knew what they were doing and the practicum experience let me know I had made the right choice.”

Of his high school teaching role, Snope says, “I like to show my students that everything has a purpose and mathematics is not just pushing numbers around on paper.” When the students first enter his calculus classes, he says they have no idea of how interconnected all of the mathematics disciplines really are. However, he says, “It's very satisfying when you see the students learning the process.” That is only equaled by the satisfaction he gets when his students, who go on to universities such as Georgia Tech, Emory and the University of Georgia, write back to tell him how well prepared they are.

Barnard recommended Snope for Teacher of the Year. She wrote, “Dan's teaching experiences with middle and secondary students who have ranged from mathematically gifted to mathematically challenged, teaching experiences with youth who are being encouraged during special summer programs... and experiences conducting professional development workshops for in-service teachers indicate his qualifications for the Georgia Teacher of the Year.”

Photo by Megan Morris courtesy of the Savannah Morning News

23 Armstrong Atlantic College of Education graduates named district and school-level Teachers of the Year

Two Savannah area teachers were named district-wide 2010 Teachers of the Year by their respective school districts. **Daniel Snope '03** (Savannah Arts Academy) was selected by Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and **Janine M. Manior '04** (South Effingham Elementary School) was chosen by the Effingham County School District.

In addition to Snope, 21 graduates of the College of Education were Savannah-Chatham school-level finalists for the district title. These included:

Patricia Acosta '89 (Southwest Elementary School)
Keri Carrasquillo '02 (Thunderbolt Elementary School)
Jimmie Cave '06 (DeRenne Middle School)
Sandra Crider '81 (Coastal Middle School)
Lisa Formby '83 (Pulaski Elementary School)
Janet B. Gnann '89 (May Howard Elementary School)

Nancy Keaton '97 (Pooler Elementary School)
Nakashia Kirkland '06 (Hubert Middle School)
Rosalyn L. Martin '06 (Gadsden Elementary School)
Merritt Moore '04 (Heard Elementary School)
Shanda Padilla '01 (Early College)
Amanda Reynolds '02 (Jacob G. Smith Elementary School)
Connie Shippy '99 (Windsor Forest Elementary School)
Katrina Smith-Garvin '07 (Garrison Elementary School)
Crystal Snipe '03 (Largo-Tibet Elementary School)
Souriya Sriratanakoul '00 (West Chatham Middle School)
Vera Trappio '00 (Butler Elementary School)
Patrick Welch '07 (Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy)
Billy Willis '00 (Hodge Elementary School)
Tara Wood '03 (Hesse Elementary School)
Roberta Youngblood '92 (Spencer Elementary School)



Looking for Dr. Jones | INSIDE THE SEARCH

Arthur Gignilliat, Jr. settled his tall frame into a conference room chair in the Armstrong Center and warmed quickly to discussing the tenure of Tom Jones, the man he helped select as AASU president. Ironically, Jones was responsible for the very building Gignilliat was sitting in.

Gignilliat, himself the son of a college president, reached back a decade to 1999, the year he and four others were charged with finding a permanent successor to President Robert A. Burnett. A 1953 graduate of Armstrong Junior College, he sat on the search committee as a representative of the college's alumni. He recalled, "Our charge from Chancellor (Stephen) Portch was to search for, screen, and recommend no less than five candidates to the Board of Regents."

The search began with a field of 100 or more applicants. Narrowing the field to about 12, the committee interviewed each of them in a conference room near the Atlanta airport. "After the first round of interviews," Gignilliat said, "there was no doubt that Tom would be a finalist."

Jones, vice president for academic affairs at Columbus State University, was the only in-state, in-the-system candidate among the final five. His work in building bridges to the Columbus business community (see page 7) made him an immediate standout to the committee.

As the process wore on, the finalists were brought to Savannah to tour the campus and meet with various stakeholders on the campus and in the community. During a dinner meeting with a dozen or so of Savannah's most influential businessmen, Jones shared his vision of what he would do to move Armstrong Atlantic from a commuter school to a residential campus.

An unspoken favorite

Gignilliat said there were several excellent candidates in the final mix and the committee was required to submit its recommendations to the Board of Regents in unranked order. Unofficially, however, the committee did have its unspoken favorite. "I think each of us was pulling for Tom Jones. He had done a terrific job (in Columbus) developing the community's involvement with the college and that was a plus. Other candidates had excellent reputations, but his work with communities set him apart.

"When we boiled it down to the final group, there were two individuals who really stood out. Tom remained in the forefront as someone who could relate to both the academic and the outreach aspects of a college presidency. If we could have, I think we would have just recommended Tom."

1999 Presidential Search Committee

Ed Wheeler, Chairman,
Dean of the College
of Arts and Sciences

Arthur Gignilliat, Alumnus

Don Waters, Alumnus
and Businessman

Donna Brooks, Faculty

Anne Thompson, Faculty

David Faircloth, Administrator

Johnnie Walker, Student

The view from Atlanta

Fellow Savannahian J. Tom Coleman was serving on the Georgia Board of Regents when Jones was hired and was part of the committee that took the Savannah group's recommendations under advisement. He observed that Jones "had done a great job over there (in Columbus). He was organized and he could talk on any subject with great fluidity. Since he's come (to Savannah) he's been fantastic."



About Arthur M. Gignilliat, Jr.

Arthur M. Gignilliat, Jr. has served Savannah and the state of Georgia as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and on the University System of Georgia Foundation Board of Directors. He has made his mark on the state's business by serving on the Governor's Development Council the Georgia Board of Industry, Trade and Tourism. He spent 40 years with Savannah Electric & Power Company, retiring as chief executive officer. A former member of the Georgia Ports Authority, he was elected chairman in 2000. Gignilliat is a 1953 graduate of Armstrong Junior College and earned a degree in journalism at the University of Georgia.



About J. Tom Coleman

J. Tom Coleman has served Savannah as chairman of the Chatham County Commission, a member of Savannah City Council and as a state senator. His statewide posts have included vice chairman on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation. Coleman is chairman of Bonitz of Georgia, Inc., a specialty construction company in Savannah, which he has operated for 50 years. Coleman is a graduate of Georgia Tech.

Business leaders assess the Jones legacy of leadership

When Stephen Green, Cliff McCurry and Don Waters get together, ideas begin to fly. The chemistry among the three Savannah businessmen and Armstrong State alumni is palpable. They recently sat down to assess Tom Jones' legacy of leadership. They recalled that shortly after Jones' arrival in Savannah, they had peppered him with their thoughts on leadership.

In 1979, the Georgia Board of Regents had transferred Armstrong State College's business school to Savannah State College. "Without a business school, Armstrong needed a way to stand out," McCurry said.

Waters agreed. "All three of us had a feeling that, as an institution, we had been left behind. We all agreed that to engage the business community, we really needed a business school."

Other avenues of engagement

That was not to be and the three, along with other business leaders and AASU foundation board members, began to look at other ways to engage the business community. They soon realized that unlike the Atlanta model—loaded with large national corporations and major employers like Coca Cola and Delta Airlines—Savannah was largely dominated by non-profit employers such as the major healthcare systems, the board of education and the Georgia Ports Authority.

Waters observed, "The biggest impact Armstrong could have would be to place graduates with all of Savannah's largest employers." He remembered a newspaper story several years earlier that had concerned the firing of an executive in the school system. "I thought," he continued, "that with a school of education, we needed to be training future leaders."

Green agreed. "If students had the fundamentals of leadership, it would permeate everything they do."

And so, the triumvirate championed to the new president the idea of the university fostering leadership. McCurry laughed, "We scared the hell out of him, I think."

If they did, Jones never showed it. Under his stewardship, the principles of

leadership were introduced throughout the curriculum and even as a major track in a new master's degree.

Green made the point that McCurry had "put his money where his mouth was" by investing heavily in the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leader Program, an expansion of a longtime leadership program for promising freshman at AASU. (Mamalakis had been a giant in Savannah's insurance industry.) McCurry modestly replied that, "It was a great way to honor someone who had really loved the institution."

Campus development

In 1968, Green had been a student leader pushing for campus housing. Though unsuccessful, that experience was to later motivate him to take a leadership role in establishing the Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. (EPFI) and serving as its first chairman. The foundation quickly blossomed into a public-private effort to add much needed facilities to the campus, including three student residential complexes. It was the means to fulfill Jones' vision of transforming Armstrong Atlantic from a commuter



"Tom was willing to go to Atlanta to pursue public-private ventures."

—Stephen Green '68
President and CEO
of Stephen S. Green
Properties, Inc.

Green is a past president of the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees and currently serves as a member of the AASU Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors. He was inducted as a distinguished member of the AASU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. Green is a 1971 graduate of the University of Georgia.



"We are fortunate to have Tom living in the community where he will (continue to) be a big plus to the college and to Savannah."

—J. Cliff McCurry '68
Vice chairman of
Seacrest Partners, Inc.

McCurry is a past recipient of the AASU Outstanding Alumnus Service Award, past president of the AASU Foundation Board of Trustees and a current member of the AASU Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors. McCurry and his wife Kathy endowed the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leader Program at AASU. He is a 1971 graduate of the University of Georgia.



"Today we are approaching \$100 million in bond indebtedness and that's really an asset."

—Don L. Waters '75 is
president and CEO of
Brasseler, USA.

Waters is a past recipient of the AASU Distinguished Alumni Award. Waters currently serves on the AASU Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors and was a member of 2009 President Search Committee. He received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1978.



college to a residential university.

"Tom was willing to go to Atlanta and fight for approval to pursue the public-private ventures," Green said.

"Today we are approaching \$100 million in bond indebtedness," Waters said, "and that's really an asset."

Waters continued, "Tom really embraced the changes. Look around. Students are being drawn from all over." McCurry pointed out that Armstrong's two NCAA Division II national tennis championship teams were made up of students from all over the world.

McCurry credited Jones for his eagerness to reach out to the other colleges in the area and with doing a good job of plugging the university into the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce and other Savannah agencies. "We are fortunate," McCurry said, "to have Tom living here in the community where he will (continue to) be a big plus to the college and to Savannah."

Waters summed up the thinking around the table when he said, "We're all going to miss Tom when he's gone. And that's a great measure of a leader."

— Letty Shearer and Barry Ostrow

The Jones years

Students

- Enrollment grows from 5,444 in 2000 to more than 7,000
- Enrollment at the Liberty Center in Hinesville grows 45.3% since fall 2005
- Student organizations increase from 39 to 85 since 2000
- The men's and women's tennis teams both capture NCAA Division II National Championships in 2008

Academics

- Twenty-four new academic programs added since 2000
- AASU wins the Peach Belt Conference Presidents' Academic Award in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007
- AASU is one of only four state universities to offer Doctor of Physical Therapy degree
- Cyber Security Center created
- AASU/Georgia Tech dual enrollment program allows students to complete a four-year Georgia Tech degree in Savannah
- Prepared teachers increase by 76% from 2004 to 2008
- Nursing graduates increase by 40% between 2004 and 2008

Infrastructure

- Almost 900 students live at Compass Point, University Crossings and University Terrace residential complexes
- Armstrong Center and the Student Recreation Center open
- Jenkins Hall, Fine Arts Hall and Lane Library renovated
- Windward Commons, the first dedicated freshmen residential facility, will open in 2010
- A new student union building will open in 2010 with more than 60,000 square feet of space

In 1968, Stephen Green (not pictured) was part of a student push for on-campus housing. As a community leader in 2002, he helped make that dream come true with the opening of Compass Point.



Compass Point 2002

Windward Commons 2010





Bricks and mortar the foundation for academic development

"You've got to have infrastructure.

[Growth and learning] can't happen in a tent."

—Thomas Z. Jones



Michael Donahue, AASU vice president for external affairs, sees the Jones presidency,

in at least one respect, as a natural extension of the late President Robert A. Burnett's leadership in academics. He explains, "Both men were dedicated to the constant improvement and expansion of academic programs. Jones, however, tied that expansion with the need for new academic facilities."

Donahue was the department head for the criminal justice program when Jones arrived in 2000. He was soon tapped by the new president to become director of regional education services, and later promoted to his current position. In those roles, he worked closely with Jones who was rapidly moving the university into a growing era of public-private partnerships. "Jones knew if he relied only on the slow moving formulas imposed by the state, that it would take many years to acquire the much needed space to meet state standards and advance academics," Donahue said.

What Jones did was to provide a vision and work creatively with a group of forward thinking Savannah businessmen (see page 4) to create the Educational Properties Foundation, Inc. (EPFI). As a private entity, it arranges the financing to buy land and build the facilities needed to move the educational agenda forward. User fees pay for the projects.

Utilizing state funds, Jones was able to refurbish and modernize the Lane Library—a key part of the university's academic support infrastructure—and secure its expansion in the state's budget. At the same time, EPFI purchased the former Publix Shopping Center and built the Armstrong Center that now supplies

space for growing the university's robust professional and continuing education program. In addition, the center provides much needed university office space and meeting facilities for both the university and the community.

In Hinesville, Jones formed partnerships with the city and county governments and the industrial authority. The Liberty Center was moved from Ft. Stewart to leased space in the city. This allowed Armstrong Atlantic to provide an increasingly wider range of courses and full degree programs to a growing student population. "Dr. Jones was very hands on in transforming the Liberty Center from a small, shared presence on Ft. Stewart to a more dynamic facility serving all of Liberty and nearby counties," Donahue said.

When asked for this article, Jones said that the Liberty Center has a very bright future. "Demographics suggest there's going to be a population explosion," Jones said. "If you look at all the projections, there is a lot of growth coming to the Hinesville area.

"As the center grows, it will take some of the pressure off the main campus which continues to grow."

Donahue continued, "Dr. Jones also picked up where Bob Burnett left off in terms of transitioning the university from a commuter school to a residential school." Compass Point, the first phase of on-campus housing was underway by the time President Burnett retired. Under Jones, and with the support of EPFI, the second phase of Compass Point was brought on line and two other residential complexes were added.

"The residential expansion

brought new challenges that the university and EPFI had to step up to," Donahue said. Once the on-campus student community had grown to almost 900 students, additional infrastructure was needed. A recreation center was built, health and counseling offices were moved into Compass Point, a women's field house was added and ground was broken for a new student union. All were made possible by the support of EPFI.

Jones summed up the issue of building facilities by saying, "You've got to have infrastructure. [Growth and learning] can't happen in a tent."



President Jones and Student Government Association President Somi Benson-Jaja participate in the groundbreaking for the student union building (shown in artist rendering above).



Pioneering partnerships

In 1996, the city of Columbus, GA was faced with the possibility of a major corporation, Total System Services (TSYS) moving out of the state. TSYS, a global provider of electronic payment services to financial institutions and companies, was on the verge of a major expansion that required a dramatic ramp-up of computer programmers.

Enter Tom Jones, then vice president for academic affairs at Columbus State University. Jones forged a strong partnership between the university, TSYS, and the emerging economic development office of the University System of Georgia (USG). Together, they came up with a plan to develop the strong computer savvy workforce TSYS needed.

That noteworthy effort became the foundation of the state's highly successful ICAPP (Intellectual Capital Partnership Program), which to date has educated Georgians for more than 5,000 jobs across the state.

Since Jones' arrival at Armstrong Atlantic, five ICAPP programs have been developed at AASU alone. Working in partnership with various area industries and hospital systems, more than \$1.7 million has been raised for workforce development in electrical engineering, computer information, nursing, medical technology, and other health professions positions.

Terry Durden, interim assistant vice chancellor in the USG's Office of Economic Development, has long admired Jones' commitment to economic development. She said, "Partnerships are the foundation of ICAPP, just as Tom Jones helped create at Columbus State and continued to do at Armstrong Atlantic State University."

Antonio Gerena probably never heard of Tom Jones and doesn't appear on Jones' lengthy Christmas card list. But the two are linked through Jones' pioneering efforts in Columbus.

Gerena was working in an Alabama grain and feed store when he learned of the TSYS project at Columbus State. Interested in advancing his career, he enrolled. Upon graduation, he joined Total Systems where he held a number of jobs over several years including a lead developer position, creating software that linked bank teller machines to customer checking, savings and credit card accounts. Today, Gerena is director of clinical and interoperability development for Greenway Medical Technologies in Carrollton, GA.

Medical technologists are among the professionals prepared under ICAPP programs.



ICAPP at Armstrong Atlantic

The Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) brings together state government, universities and businesses to resolve critical employment needs in a region. Armstrong Atlantic has engaged in five such partnerships since 2002.

2002

Gulfstream — The resources of AASU and the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering program were applied to help meet the critical need for engineers at Gulfstream Aerospace.

2003

Nursing Fast Track — AASU, Memorial University Medical Center and St. Joseph's/Candler joined forces to concentrate on the critical nursing workforce needs of the two regional healthcare systems.

Medical Technology — AASU and the Medical College of Georgia entered into a joint project with multiple partners in the healthcare delivery industry to address the shortage of medical technology workers throughout the state of Georgia.

VeriSign — AASU and Georgia Southern University collaborated to prepare highly qualified JAVA programmers at VeriSign, Inc.

2005

Health Professions Expansion Project — The AASU College of Health Professions worked with Memorial University Medical Center, St. Joseph's/Candler and the Southeast Georgia Health System in Brunswick to expand the professional workforce in three critical shortage areas: nursing, medical technology and radiological sciences.



A conversation with President Jones

TOM JONES' OFFICE REFLECTS A LONG CAREER as a college professor and administrator. Awards line the walls and two bookcases are packed with mementos of professional experience and achievement. With less than 90 days left before retiring as president of Armstrong Atlantic State University, Jones sat down with *Compass* for this interview.



Compass: In your inaugural address, you foresaw a university actively involved in a variety of collaborative enterprises in the region. It's obvious that great progress has been made in the last nine years. Has that progress met your expectations?

Jones: I think it's a work in progress. We enhanced engagement with our community partners significantly. I think it will take additional work on the part of our faculty, staff and students to keep it going.

Jones went on to talk about such examples as the collaboration between the colleges of Science and Technology and Education working with local school systems to advance education in math and science and the College of Health Professions working with local healthcare systems while significantly increasing the number of nursing graduates.

Compass: Where is there more work to be done?

Jones: We need to continue a forward look at the campus infrastructure. We have inadequate space and that problem will continue to grow as we get bigger.

I think we need to establish stronger ties with our business partners and alumni. We need to begin building our endowment.

I think it's going to be a great opportunity for the new president to establish a vision of what's needed as we approach our seventy-fifth anniversary.

Compass: In 2001, you anticipated the conference center and the growth of professional and continuing education. How has that repositioned the university in the region?

Jones: The Armstrong Center has extended our visibility and elevated our position in the community. It has provided a doorway to and from the university. There needs to be an inward migration [from the community]. The Armstrong Center serves as that doorway just as does the Arboretum, athletics, and the fine and performing arts. These offerings will continue as magnets to draw friends and future friends to the university.

I'm sure that we are positioned much differently than we were nine years ago and I am sure that when the new president comes in, things will be repositioned differently than they are now.

Compass: In your inaugural speech, you saw a university that would embrace a leadership theme. What are some of the outcomes of that goal?

Jones: One way to approach that was to inculcate the university with a culture of leadership. We tried to do that in a number of ways. We asked the students to be a big part of that through participation in an expanding number of clubs and Greek organizations and in the Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leader Program.

The other side of the effort was academic. I was pleased that the colleges of Health Professions and Education immediately embraced the idea. Soon all of the colleges were finding ways to [embrace leadership ideals] within their respective curricula.

The students in our programs now have all the ingredients to become effective leaders. The liberal arts have been a catalyst for this.

The third step was to demonstrate leadership to our constituencies through course projects and internships.

Working with our partners in the community, we were able to bring distinguished speakers and leaders in their fields—such as Thomas Friedman and



2001

Inauguration Day



2002

President Jones and former President Robert Burnett dedicate Compass Point.



2002

International Night in the Garden

First lady makes her mark

AASU's First Lady Joyce Jones has made her mark on the university during the nine years of President Thomas Z. Jones' tenure.

She has influenced a variety of endeavors ranging from the establishment of the Mercer Family Collection of Johnny Mercer memorabilia in the Lane Library to initiating the university's international education program with the Dante Alighieri School in Siena, Italy.

One of her lasting contributions will be remembered as her effort to bring sororities back to the Armstrong Atlantic campus. Jones had been a Tri Sigma at her alma mater, Fairmont State College in West Virginia. Working with Robin Jones, former assistant student

activities director, she built interest in the sorority with young women on the campus and successfully lobbied the support of the national organization. "She was really a good asset," Robin Jones said.

At the time, Robin Jones—now director of the student center at the University of South Alabama in Mobile—was working to establish at least one national sorority on campus in order to bring others on board. "It was a joint effort with Joyce to bring them all on campus at one time," Robin Jones explained. Without her involvement with Tri Sigma, there wouldn't have been any system of sororities at AASU."



President and Mrs. Jones enjoy an early spring day on the campus.

Richard Florida—to Savannah. Senator (Zell) Miller was the first in that series.

A program called "Leaders Among Us" led to the evolution of the Faculty Senate and the creation of the Staff Advisory Council.

All of this wasn't unique to my administration. We built on the work of previous presidents.

Compass: What are some of your personal short-term and long-term goals?

Jones: On June 30, when I step down, it will be 38 years that I have been in public higher education. This summer, Joyce and I will do a little domestic travel, visit some friends and spend some time with our granddaughter in Atlanta.

In the fall, I'll be working with Executive Vice Chancellor Susan Herbst and the University System of Georgia on

presidential leadership issues. I'll get to know some of the new university presidents, introducing them to the culture of the system and coaching when necessary. In addition, I will be working on a leadership assessment program for system presidents.

By the summer of 2010, my dance card will be open. I've been fortunate to be engaged with the community and I want to extend my involvement.

Jones and his wife Joyce, have a cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina on a branch of the New River and they expect to spend a lot of their time in that beautiful setting.

Compass: You summed up your inaugural speech saying, "The joy is in the journey." Has your journey been joyful?

Jones: It's been wonderful! I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I've been at three different institutions in three different roles and the people I've worked with have been wonderful. Now, my capstone experience has been here at Armstrong Atlantic with its outstanding faculty and staff. The other reward for me has been to work with this community. I had known (former president) Bob Burnett for years and he told me that he was leaving me a great institution with a lot of work left to be done. When I talk to the next president, I will say the same thing. The journey for Armstrong Atlantic isn't over yet.

Cover: President Jones in the atrium of the Armstrong Center



Senator and former Governor Zell Miller gives a leadership lecture.



(left to right) William Megathlin, Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. and President Jones tour the campus.



The president visits with students (left to right) Joe Schwartzburt, Kim Bobb and Erin Lariscy at Compass Point.

class notes

'50s

Mary Craik '53 has launched a new career as a fiber artist with her own gallery in the East Market Art Zone in downtown Louisville, KY. Before retiring, she taught psychology at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota.

'60s

Shirley Ansley Freeman '69 has retired as the town finance director of Hilton Head Island after 23 years. She now serves as assistant town manager of Bluffton, SC. She and her husband, Rev. Fred R. Freeman, Sr., will soon celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

J. Cliff McCurry has joined Seacrest Partners Inc. as vice chairman. McCurry's role will be to oversee the business development activities for the growing insurance firm. He previously served as chairman of Willis HRH's Savannah operation.

'70s

David H. Dickey '74 is an attorney with Oliver Maner LLP in Savannah. He is a past president of the AASU Foundation Board.

James Duvall '74 is a Methodist pastor in the South Georgia Conference. He is married with three grown children and four grandchildren.

William H. Sharpe '74 is the director of human resources at Fort Gordon, GA. He will retire in May 2009.

James Brasfield '75 teaches English at Penn State University. He has received fellowships in poetry from The National Endowment for the Arts and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and has twice been a Senior Fulbright Fellow to Ukraine. A collection of his poems, *Ledger of Crossroads*, will be published in October 2009.

Richard H. Schuller '75, '79 and his wife Donna have adopted two children, ages 12 and 13, from Donetsk, Ukraine. Since graduation, he earned an M.B.A. from Georgia State University and is a senior director with BNY Mellon Wealth Management in Boca Raton, FL.

Pamela S. Williams '75 obtained her master's in elementary education from the University of South Carolina. She and her husband of 33 years, Aubrey, have two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Stephen Reid Edenfield '77 is a pilot for US Airways. He plans to retire soon.

Tamela Harrell '79 lives in Bluffton with her husband Nicholas. Together they own a commercial construction company, Arkbuilt. She is also a contributing writer for a local magazine and has written, illustrated and composed music for the children's book *Nellie Jelly and the Jelly Well*. She is currently writing a non-fiction book about a woman who was trapped in Iran for eight years.

'80s

Joseph Becton '80 is a senior officer in the Savannah Parole Office. He is also a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve and was recently promoted to chief petty officer. He is married with two sons.

Raymond Bunger '80 is a main-frame security specialist for the Social Security Administration at the National Computer Center in Baltimore.

Ruby Kay Hardy '80 is the technology director for Immaculate Heart High School in Oro Valley, AZ. In addition, she serves as site coordinator and business instructor for Virtual High School, and teaches dual enrollment computer courses for Pima Community College. She lives with her husband Michael and three children, Gabriel, Jessica and Christopher.

Daniel Barta '83 is director of enterprise fraud and risk strategy with SAS Fraud Management. He resides in Irving, TX with his wife Sheryl and two children, Nicholas, 9 and Kennedy, 5.

Charles Mangan '83 was elected president of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. He has been employed by AGL Resources in corporate security since 1986 and resides in Grayson, GA.

Arthur J. Haysman '84 is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He is currently stationed in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia as bilateral liaison officer for the American Embassy.

Delores L. Belew '85 teaches at Armstrong Atlantic in the literature, language and philosophy department and at Strayer University. She recently published a book, *The Woman, the Red Dragon, and the End of the Age* and has written two supplemental texts for composition classes and one for creative writing classes. She is also a professional artist.

Judy Helvey O'Neal '87 is a nurse administrator of an ambulatory endoscopy center in Savannah. She is married with two sons and three grandsons.

Robin Robinson '88 lives in Alaska with her husband and two daughters. She works for the U.S. Public Health Service as a commander and is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She expects to graduate in 2010 with a family nurse practitioner's license, specializing in nephrology nursing.

'90s

Tracy M. Chance '90 is a stay-at-home mother who keeps corporate books and oversees projects relating to her family business. She is married with three sons.

Mark Hong Chol Yun '90 is an attorney for Solo Law Practice specializing in criminal defense and juvenile law. He served nine years in the Georgia Army National Guard as a tank commander and is commander of the Royal Rangers of Georgia. He and his wife Cynthia have two children, Paul, 7 and Valerie, 4.

Glen Williams '92 has completed the 100 ton captain's course through the Coast Guard. He plans to volunteer to take high school kids on a summer sailing course in the Caribbean.

Maggie J. Wagoner '93 lives in Elkin, NC with her husband of 17 years, Matthew, and two daughters, Hannah, 9 and Abigail, 4. She works as a dental hygienist.

Shawna Harlin '95 has worked in the mental health field for more than 11 years. She is a licensed professional counselor and recently completed her Ph.D in organizational psychology.

Rebecca Ann Cox '97 lives in Statesboro and travels both as a physical therapist and with an electronic documentation system. She is married has a newborn son, Noah Howard Robinson.

Donna Newman Wolfer '97 has worked as a nurse for St. Joseph's Hospital and Yale University's teaching hospital. She works at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. She was recently married and enjoys running marathons and road biking.

Jackie Jackson '99 works as the natural resources administrator for the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission. She is married to Jon Teel '99.

April Marotta '99 is a dental hygienist in Fayetteville, NC. She lives in Sanford, NC with her husband and two sons, Raiden and Kael. Her oldest daughter, Bristol, will start college this winter.

Patricia Zehr '99 was recently promoted to director of administrative services in information technology at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.

'00s

Ronald W. Brister '05 is an engineering service representative for South Carolina, northern Georgia, and southern North Carolina.

Adam Howard '06 is a product marketing specialist for JCB Inc. in Pooler.

Shelby Majors '06 is conducting user experience research for Engauge Digital, a marketing agency in Atlanta.

Melinda Meadow '06 lives in Kansas with her daughter, Abigail. She is an autism spectrum consultant serving six school districts.

pairings

Craig S. Sapp '06 to wed Brianna Russell in July 2009

weddings

Trikia J. Gilbert '01 married Ronald Collins on March 7, 2009.

Tonilynn Perrotta '05 married Captain William Brent Chastain on November 1, 2008.

Amy Malcom '07 married Adam K. Howard '06 on October 18, 2008.

Allyson R. Maloney '08 married Nicholas Branch Finland on May 2, 2009.

Heather McMichael '08 married Justin Lybarger '08 on December 20, 2008.

Geoffrey Scott Meeks '08 married Andrea Brooke Dixon in November 2008.

passings

Dewey F. DeLettre, Jr. '48*, November 1, 2008

Mary E. Jarrell '48*, January 2, 2009

Charles Calvin Clanton III '49*, September 26, 2008

Bernard Baker Dismukes '50*, September 24, 2008

Joseph C. Muller '50*, December 11, 2008

Clarence D. Cone, Jr. '52*, December 27, 2008

Thomas R. McMillan, Sr. '54*, December 20, 2008

Mary F. Dixon '55*, December 22, 2008

Alexander Bergman, Jr. '58*, July 7, 2008

Warren Cass Rogers '68, August 11, 2008

Clem G. Beasley, Jr. '70, October 26, 2008

Mary Jane Sheldahl '74, August 13, 2008

Anne F. Patton '76, January 9, 2009

Mary A. Jones '86, February 4, 2009

Randall P. Moore '87, April 25, 2008

Diana Williams '88, August 25, 2008

Arthur G. Wilson '86, December 30, 2008

Marvin L. Kawamoto '05, September 16, 2008

Michelle L. Molpus-Robertson '07, October 10, 2008

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Report to Donors MAY 1, 2008 - APRIL 30, 2009

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Mike Kemp (right) and Ann Purcell present a check to President Thomas Z. Jones for \$429,638. All dollars raised during this annual fund campaign will provide support for student scholarships.

3 Days for AASU Raises \$429,638

Armstrong Atlantic raised \$428,638 during the 3 Days for AASU community campaign.

Mike Kemp, senior vice president of Synovus Trust Co. and Ann Purcell, of Radiation Therapy Associates, served as campaign co-chairs.

"In these tough economic times, the business community in our region once again stepped up to support Armstrong Atlantic State University," said Purcell. "They understand that their financial support to AASU represents an investment that in the long term will benefit not only their businesses but the community as a whole," said Purcell.

Danny Pinyan, president of The Pinyan Company, received an award for his ongoing allegiance to this annual campaign. A newcomer award was presented to Lauren Sather of First Chatham Bank for volunteering time to the campaign.