

Compass

Spring 2010

Armstrong State University

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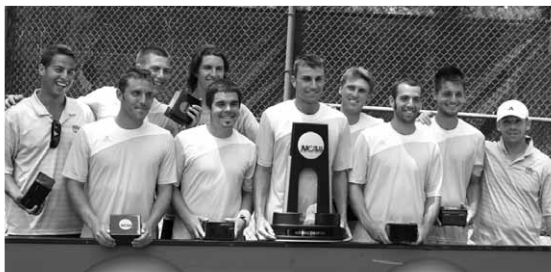
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compass

spring 2010



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



See inside for
*Report
to Donors*

About this issue

In this issue of *Compass*, we celebrate Armstrong's 75th anniversary. Inside you'll find stories of successful alumni and current students. Alva Lines is a member of the first graduating class of 1937. The Dickey family has three generations of Armstrong alumni, including two siblings currently enrolled. Alumni, faculty and staff provide some personal perspectives on what Armstrong means to them.

Andy Carter, AASU director of athletics since April 2009, writes his first column about the athletics program and gives thanks to a particularly strong supporter of AASU athletics, Dr. Donald Anderson.

A timeline of AASU's history, the attempted Stingray takeover of the Pirates as the school mascot and a short item about the school song and the lyrics are also included.

Please send us your comments or ideas for future stories to Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.

—Editor



On the cover: Photographs of Armstrong through the decades. AASU students, faculty and staff formed the number 75 on campus in fall 2009.

A letter from the president



Dear Friends,

During recent months, I have had the opportunity to speak to community groups around town and share some of what I've learned about Armstrong since becoming president last July. One of the underlying themes I have shared is that Armstrong is truly the city's college. It is important, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the institution this year, to remember that we began in 1935—in the middle of the Great Depression—thanks to the determination and vision of Savannah Mayor Thomas Gamble and other city leaders. Our founders understood that even in the toughest times, we must look ahead to the future. They had the vision and courage to establish a college to provide new educational opportunities for Savannahians during a time of extreme economic hardship.

Today, as we struggle with our own budget challenges, I look back at what our founders accomplished and find in their actions not only inspiration, but absolute certainty that we have an abundance of reasons to celebrate and to look to an ever brighter future.

Recent good news stories include the record \$700,000 raised by our annual 3 Days for AASU campaign and a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on April 23 for our new Student Union. A new residence hall is not far behind—we will open it to this fall's freshman class. These two new facilities will greatly enhance the services and support we provide to students.

Academic opportunity is also expanding with the approval, granted last December, to offer independently our Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. The ability to offer a doctoral degree raises the academic level of our institution as a whole.

For 75 years, Armstrong has transformed lives, and we are proud of our roots in this community. The success stories about our students and alumni that you'll find in this issue continue to unfold every day.

I invite you to be involved, take part in the celebration, and visit the campus this year. Join us for a fine arts performance on campus, visit our 75.armstrong.edu website to share your memories, and reconnect with old friends. In September, we will commemorate the first day of classes in 1935 with a number of events. I'd be honored to have you join us in celebrating Armstrong's 75th anniversary.

With warm regards,
Linda Bleicken
President

CAMPUS NEWS

The Union is here; Windward Commons rises

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for a \$24.2 million, 60,180 square-foot Student Union (pictured below) was held April 23 in the heart of the campus. The new facility brings additional services to students and bridges together the expanding on-campus residential area and the academic quad. The two-story building offers sweeping views of the campus from second-floor balconies and ramps up entertaining and dining services. It includes a 300-seat food court-style dining area and a 200-seat theater. The Union has wireless connectivity throughout and flat screens that provide up-to-the-minute campus information.



A coffee shop, convenience store, ballroom, lounge areas and an expanded bookstore are all part of the new campus crown jewel. The ribbon-cutting ceremony included the burial of a 50-year time capsule adjacent to the building that will be opened during Homecoming in 2060. In addition, opening in time for fall classes, will be Windward Commons, a four-story, 567-bed freshman residence hall, that will expand on-campus housing capacity to more than 1,400 students.



3 Days campaign raises \$700,000

The Savannah business community once again stood strong in support of Armstrong. 3 Days for AASU got off to a fast start when Memorial Health presented a check for \$235,000 at the campaign's kickoff breakfast. The total amount raised, \$695,909, climbed after John Helmken, CEO of Savannah Bank and chair of the AASU Foundation Board (pictured above with AASU President Linda Bleicken), announced that Savannah Bank would increase its contribution to make the total a full \$700,000. The funds will support scholarships for students of merit with proven financial need and also will benefit academic programs. This year's campaign honorary co-chairs were Y. Allen Beall '48, J. Cliff McCurry '68 and Kaitlen Fulp '08 and '11.

DPT gets approval

AASU is now authorized to offer selected doctoral degree programs following approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The change allows Armstrong to offer its Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree independently. In the past, the university offered the degree through a consortium with other universities. "This approval by SACS raises the level of the institution as a whole and will have a positive

impact on the quality of the education we provide, not only through the College of Health Professions, but across all colleges and disciplines" said AASU President Linda Bleicken.

Study Abroad: From China's Silk Road to Peru's ancient cities

AASU's Office of International Education offers more than 40 destinations for its study abroad programs. The trips, held over spring break and summer, are open to non-students. Only one requirement applies: participants must be able to enjoy safe adventures and learning outside the classroom. The academic tours take participants beyond the typical tourist destinations and are designed with "history and culture in mind," said Michael Hall, professor of history. Hall, who teaches and often speaks on Peru's history, typically leads groups of "cultural learners" into the cradles of ancient pre-Columbian civilizations. For more information, visit armstrong.edu and enter "study abroad" in the search field at the top right of the screen.

Master students

Two May graduates from the Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA) program have landed prestigious post-graduate appointments. Zahi Jurdi, from Columbus, Ga., accepted a post-graduate administrative residency with the Johns Hopkins Health System in Baltimore, Md. beginning in July. Brittany Pesak, from Calhoun, Ga., and also in the MHSA program, is going to St. Petersburg, Fla. in June, when she begins a one-year post-graduate administrative fellowship with the Veterans Affairs Sunshine Healthcare Network.

History of Armstrong to be published in September

Janet Stone, AASU professor of history emerita, will publish a book on the history of Armstrong. The 400-page hardcover book, *From the Mansion to the University*, was researched over several years and includes material starting with the founding of the college in 1935 to the day that current president Linda Bleicken took office in 2009. Illustrated with images of Armstrong across the decades, the book includes 13 chapters and an epilogue. Stone, who joined Armstrong in 1975, worked under

three presidents and one interim president. She retired in 2007.

"The book is not just about the institutional history, but it dips down into personal lives and lots of Savannah history," said Stone.

The expected time of publication is September 2010 to coincide with a planned presidential inauguration. For more information on how to purchase your copy of the book, contact Suzanne.Ansley@armstrong.edu or call 912.344.2870.

Happy 75th Anniversary AASU

What does AASU's 75th anniversary mean to you? We posed that question and a few others related to the anniversary to a handful of folks, including a distinguished alumnus, a long-time faculty member, an administrator who has seen it all during his 26 years at Armstrong and the president of the Student Government Association. We wanted to know the role that AASU has played in their lives. Here's what they told us.



Ronald E. Ginsberg '65
Judge, Chatham County
State Court

What does AASU's 75th anniversary mean to you?

Obviously it is hard to believe that it has been 45 years [since graduation]. It was a wonderful place to go to school because of its small size and its location in the downtown area. It gave you a different feel and the opportunity to befriend those who had not gone to high school with you.

Why should the community celebrate this milestone?

During its 75 years, AASU has sent many leaders into our community who have utilized what they have learned at Armstrong and are now helping this community.

How has AASU impacted your life?

When I entered Armstrong I had no idea what I wanted to do in life. It was a time when I was maturing into manhood. Once I began my second year, it was clear that I was developing a passion for political science and public service. It was professors like Bill Coyle who pointed me in the direction of my profession and who taught political science and made it come to life.

What would you write in a birthday card to AASU?

Armstrong education is a gift that keeps on giving.

What birthday gift would you give to AASU if money were not an issue?

The Armstrong House and associated buildings to create a downtown campus and make that part of Armstrong again.



Zerik Samples '11
President, SGA
Major: Public health
Job: Night auditor,
Springhill Suites

What does AASU's 75th anniversary mean to you?

AASU has become part of my family. I'm from Brunswick and I don't go home that often. This celebration is kind of a family reunion and I look forward to having the opportunity to meet older graduates and get to know them. It is like meeting family members that you didn't know before.

What impact has AASU had on your life?

This university has really given me a dose of reality, a taste of the real world. It has helped me grow in many ways from giving me time-management skills to learning how to effectively communicate with people. I've learned how to play leadership roles at work and at church.

What would you write in a birthday card to AASU?

Thank you for your many years of commitment to educating our future leaders.

What birthday gift would you give to AASU if money were not an issue?

A parking deck and a bigger sign along Abercorn Street so that people know that we are here.



Suzy Carpenter
Associate Professor
of Chemistry
Joined Armstrong
in 1987

What does AASU's 75th anniversary mean to you?

It is an opportunity to learn about the people whose vision and commitment brought us here and to appreciate their approaches to challenges they faced.

Why should the community celebrate this milestone?

Since, historically, the institution has educated the people of this area, it is doubtful that a single family has been untouched by AASU. The community created the institution; it has been the recipient of its work and will be instrumental in its accomplishments going forward.

What impact has AASU had on your life?

I came to Savannah two decades ago to teach here. Armstrong's long-standing history of believing in the potential of each person has inspired me to believe that, with work and patience, lives can be changed.

What would you write in a birthday card to AASU?

Be proud of who you've become! As in life, remembering the ups and downs of the journey provides courage and hope for tomorrow.

What birthday gift would you give to AASU if money were not an issue?

Although cash is always appreciated, a suitable gift at this time would be wisdom and optimism.

continued on page 7 ➔



LINEs IN ARMSTRONG'S HISTORY

A 1937 alumnus remembers

Alva Burley Lines left a railroad job in 1935 to enroll in a startup, city-owned college being established in downtown Savannah at a time when the Great Depression had consumed the country. A Savannah High School graduate, Lines was in the first year of a four-year electrician apprenticeship position with the Central of Georgia Railway earning \$75 per month. A friend, worried that Lines was about to make the wrong choice, warned him against leaving the railroad job in such depressed economic times. "Lines, if you live to be 100 years old you will not see that kind of money again," his friend told him.

But, Lines, 20, who was born in Savannah in a house at the corner of Price and East 37th streets, across from the railroad tracks, and whose father, like millions in the country, was unemployed, had by then made up his mind. He wanted to be part of the first group of students attending classes at the new Armstrong Junior College in the Armstrong House. The structure, an Italian Renaissance mansion that had been donated by the Armstrong family to the city of Savannah, was striking in itself.

"It was a most attractive building," said Lines who eventually wrote a college paper on the house built by skilled masons between 1916 and 1919.

Beyond providing pleasing aesthetics, the new college energized Lines and his classmates, many of who had graduated from Savannah High School. "It was a time of great excitement. We were just past the worst years of the depression

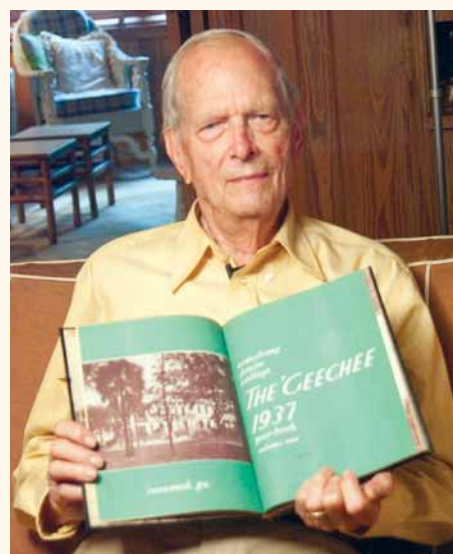
and we were working for hope, a career and to be able to live and enjoy living. Everything was new and we were trying to build on it."

To this day, Lines remembers clearly many of the faculty members and students who became a close-knit group during the first year of Armstrong Junior College. Arthur M. Gignilliat, professor of English, made Lines feel at home. "You had a feeling of [him being] a good neighbor, he welcomed you and gave encouragement," Lines said. "You wanted to do as well as you could because you realized it was a new school, a new undertaking in Savannah. It was higher education that was approachable and ready for those who needed it."

Administrators and the small group of faculty members wasted no time in engaging students in the enterprise of building a new school from scratch. President Ernest A. Lowe, who headed the college for the first six years, appointed Lines as chairman of publications after learning of his experience running Savannah High School's student publication. One of the first things the school needed was to establish its colors.

"I suggested we go down to Jones Company on Broughton," Lines said. As publications director it fell under his purview to choose the school colors. "We looked at the ties—and the gold and crimson looked beautiful together and we made the suggestion to the Student Council." The school colors—now identified as maroon and gold—were established as easily as that.

Some members of the faculty had profound influences on Lines and helped shape his life. Stacy Keach, professor of drama and the father of actor Stacy Keach, Jr., encouraged Lines to get involved in the Savannah Playhouse



Theatre, which in later years became The Masquers. Keach also helped Lines hone his public speaking skills.

Dean J. Thomas Askew, who would later become Armstrong's second president, pointed Lines toward a future in political science and history. "Tom Askew was a fantastic person who had more influence on me than any other person," said Lines. The relationship he developed with Askew led Lines into politics and eventually a job with Richard Nixon's first campaign in Georgia.

After graduating from Armstrong in 1937, Lines entered Emory and went on to serve in World War II. After returning from the war he went into business for himself, founding the Southeast Microfilming Company, which he has passed on to his children. One of his grandchildren, Elizabeth Bedell, graduated from AASU in May. Lines and his wife Mildred divide their time between their home in Atlanta and their beach house on St. Simon's Island.

"Armstrong gave us a sense of assuming responsibility, of learning something and getting a career. It gave us the inspiration to make something out of our lives," he said. ☼

Alva Lines is a member of The Heritage Society. Members of the society have chosen to name AASU as a beneficiary in their wills. These may include planned gifts and/or bequests. For information on options to provide a Heritage Society gift of any amount, contact Laura Harris, donor relations coordinator, at 912.344.2600.



Lines with his wife Mildred and granddaughter Elizabeth Bedell, a May 2010 AASU graduate, during a Homecoming visit to campus in February.

THREE GENERATIONS OF SCHOLARS

From the 1940s through 2010

In 1970, when it was time to choose a college after graduating from Savannah High School, David H. Dickey's first choice was Emory University. The son of a Savannah judge and World War II veteran, Dickey was determined to follow in his father's footsteps toward a career in law.

"I knew from day one that I wanted to be a lawyer and I thought I'd go to Emory because that's where my daddy had graduated from law school," said Dickey.

By the end of the first year at Emory, the appeal of attending school at his father's *alma mater* had waned. At the same time, Dickey found that some of his classes didn't provide a strong enough academic challenge to occupy his full attention. He returned home to Savannah and enrolled at Armstrong State College, choosing to major in accounting in preparation for law school.

"By then Armstrong had a fabulous accounting program and they had an outstanding professor named Lamar Davis (his son is now the judge of the bankruptcy court here in Savannah)," Dickey said. "He taught me the principles of accounting and I have to attribute a lot to him, he turned me around."

Davis, a former president of the Georgia Society of CPAs, kept his students' attention with pop tests and weekly quizzes that accounted for 80 percent of the final grade. "You had to work every day, and if you didn't, you would fail," said Dickey, now a 28-year partner with Savannah's Oliver Maner law firm.

Dickey remembers other faculty members, including Bob Morgan, also a practicing CPA, and Mike LaBurtis, who had retired from Ford Motor's marketing

division. What they provided collectively to the Armstrong students was practical knowledge with years of personal experience to back it up.

On campus, Dickey joined the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and got involved in intramural sports before earning a business administration degree (*magna cum laude*) in 1974 with dual majors in accounting and finance.



Sara Leon Dickey and Grady L. Dickey pictured in 1947.

"The people who graduated from Armstrong during that particular time did really well and they went into Savannah businesses, such as accounting, marketing and insurance firms and eventually went to the top of their professions."

The First Generation

Nearly 30 years before Dickey's graduation, his parents Grady L. Dickey and Sara Leon Dickey, both now deceased, were enrolled at Armstrong, attending classes at the campus downtown. Both had grown up in Savannah as childhood friends living down

the street from one another.

Grady graduated from Commercial High School in Savannah focusing on typing and shorthand courses in anticipation of joining the war effort. He served in France as a secretary to a general, taking dictation in longhand before typing up reports.

"When my dad came back to Armstrong he would go to class and take down the lecture word by word and he would have a complete transcript," said Dickey.

At Armstrong, Dickey senior rose to the presidency of the student senate, was a member of the Social Club—the WWII veterans club on campus—and was class valedictorian. He also reunited with Sara and the two married in the spring of 1947. Both Grady and Sara eventually served as president of the Armstrong alumni association. They loved to dance and especially enjoyed the Jitterbug.

"Their favorite song was Chattanooga Choo Choo," Dickey said.

After graduating from Armstrong, Sara Dickey began a career as a public school teacher before moving into real estate and establishing one of the first women-owned real estate agencies in Savannah.

Today's Generation

Brad and Amanda Dickey, children of David H. Dickey, are also part of the Armstrong family. Amanda, an English major, never mentioned to her father a desire to attend anywhere else. She graduated in May 2010.

"I said good things about Armstrong and I left it up to them," said Dickey. "They knew I went there and they knew I was very happy with Armstrong."

Brad, however, was reading Albert



1935

February — Mayor Thomas Gamble announces to the Savannah Morning News that plans were underway to establish a college in Savannah. Armstrong Junior College opens in September with 175 students in the former home of George Ferguson Armstrong just north of Forsyth Park.

1938

Fall — Despite hard economic times, enrollment grows to 354 students.

1943

Fall — Enrollment declines due to the war.

1950

Armstrong opens the Masquers troupe, a student-only theatre group that has grown to be a well-known performing group today.

1953

Enrollment continues to grow in day and evening programs.





David H. Dickey (center) with his children Brad, scheduled to graduate in December, and Amanda Dickey, a May 2010 graduate.

Einstein by the time he was in high school and had his mind set on being an astrophysicist.

“Brad ended up at Florida Institute of Technology because he thought he wanted to be a NASA scientist,” said his father. Recent budget cuts at NASA made that unlikely.

Upon graduation from FIT with a degree in physics, he returned home and enrolled in AASU’s master’s in computer science program. Not long after that, he showed up at his father’s house after taking a test at school and said, “Dad, I

just took the hardest test I have ever taken in my entire life.”

“It made my heart smile to hear him say that,” said Dickey. “I just smiled and said, ‘Oh, at Armstrong? And you went to FIT?’” said Dickey, flashing a grin.

“Armstrong has come a long way from just being a local community college,” said Dickey. “It has always been a school that teaches more practical applications that are useful to someone in their real life and their career.” ☀

Happy 75th Anniversary AASU

(continued from page 4)



Bill Kelso '88
Assistant
Vice President for
Student Affairs
Joined Armstrong
in 1984

What does the 75th anniversary mean to you?

When I think of the Dr. Coyles, Jane Barnards, and Dr. McCartheys of my time as a student, I remember giants in regards to teaching and student learning.

Why should the community celebrate this milestone?

The fact that for 75 years this institution has always represented a quality educational option for the citizens of Savannah and surrounding communities.

What impact has AASU had on your life?

It has taught me how to give back to the community.

What would you write in a birthday card to AASU?

Dear Armstrong, through the good times and tough times, you have always been there for this community. Thank you for the seven and a half decades of educating the citizens of the Coastal Empire.

What birthday gift would you give AASU if money were no object?

A golf course, equestrian center and a faculty dining facility.

In 1997, the Judge Grady & Sara Dickey Scholarship Fund was established through the AASU Alumni Office. The endowed scholarship provides financial support to outstanding and gifted students who maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

For information on establishing a scholarship, contact Gail Rountree, director of advancement, at 912.344.2710.

1959

January — Armstrong College of Savannah becomes a two-year unit of the University System of Georgia.

1962

August — The Mills B. Lane Foundation and Donald Livingston donate a new campus site of 250 acres on Savannah’s south side.



1963

Summer — Armstrong admits its first African-American student, Otis Johnson, who would later become the mayor of Savannah.

1964

The Board of Regents confers four-year college status upon Armstrong. B.A., B.S., and B.B.A. degrees are offered.

Pirates' Treasure

by Andy Carter
Athletics Director



When I arrived as the new director of athletics at Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) in June of 2009, I reaffirmed the core idea that the student-athlete experience would be at the heart of our effort to continue to grow our stature as a premier athletic department. With this in mind, we have worked hard to provide an AASU athletic experience that is balanced by first class academics.

As we help students succeed, we know that relationships must be the cornerstone of that success. AASU has impressed me with the quality of the student-athletes and their achievements. The young people that fill the rosters of our athletic teams are not only achievers on the fields, courts, and fairways, but they are also achievers in the classroom. The academic success of the fall semester speaks to these achievements as 53 percent of the student-athletes achieved a GPA of 3.0.

The success of the student-athlete is directly correlated to the leadership provided by the head coaches and staff in the athletic department. There are many who contribute to our overall success, but there is one particular individual I want to highlight. I am honored to tell you about Dr. Donald Anderson (left), who has elevated the reputation of AASU athletics and provided scholarships to countless student-athletes over the years.



He joined Armstrong in 1966 as an assistant dean shortly after the opening of the new campus on Abercorn Street. Over the years, he has served in various roles including acting head of education, registrar and coordinator of general studies. His passion for AASU athletics led him to get involved with the teams and to build relationships with players.

In the 1990s he established the Anderson Athletic Scholarship Program, which has provided scholarship support to countless student-athletes and continues to do so. Dr. Anderson has been a tremendous blessing by making it possible for many student-athletes to be successful and graduate in their chosen fields. Along the way, he has provided advice and counsel to many young men and women.

Please join me in saluting Dr. Anderson for the service, dedication and resources he has provided to the students at Armstrong Atlantic State University. Without his devotion, AASU Athletics would not be the same.

Onward Armstrong

G. Herbert Griffin '42, director emeritus and past president of the AASU Alumni Association, dusted off an old campus gem—the Armstrong school song—and sang it during the afternoon commencement ceremony in December. He also sang it at a recent Alumni Gathering.

Watch out foes cause we are on
our way
Cheering Armstrong onward today!
Win or lose good sports we will be
Gaining glory for dear old AJC
So hats off all in reverence to her
Give three cheers hooray!
See her banners flying above her
We can't express it but oh gee how
we love her!
So FIGHT FIGHT is our song
Onward ole' Armstrong!
Yay Team!!!



Herbie stops by the Alumni Office on his 88th birthday.

AASU Stingrays? Think not.

In 1994 school administrators announced that the Stingrays were replacing the Pirates as the school mascot. Reaction by students, who opposed the change, was swift. The controversy led to media coverage in the student newspaper, *The Inkwell*, the *Savannah News-Press* and the Associated Press.

Students defended the Pirates and their historic ties to the city of Savannah. A call-in poll conducted by the *Savannah News-Press* showed an overwhelming support for the Pirate mascot of 96 percent.

As the controversy simmered, AASU President Robert Burnett formed a mascot committee to review the process. The Armstrong Stingrays chapter closed nearly four and a half months later with a memo from President Burnett in response to the committee's recommendations.

In his memo he wrote: "I recommend to you that Armstrong retain the Pirate as its athletic mascot. The support of the pirate as an athletic symbol was overwhelming, if not unanimous, following the announcement of a mascot change."



1966

January — Classes begin on the new campus of Armstrong State College.

1967

Armstrong athletics join the ranks of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the Pirate mascot is born.

1973

Student life begins to flourish with numerous sports teams, student clubs, sororities and fraternities.

1979

Fall — Court-ordered desegregation plans lead to program swap with Savannah State. All teacher education programs come to Armstrong and all business administration programs go to Savannah State.

1985

Compass Point opens, ushering in the era of on-campus student housing.

1996

The institution becomes Armstrong Atlantic State University, boasting three colleges and shifting from the quarter to the semester system.

Two May grads are making a difference

NICOLE HUDDLESTON

Senior leadership is a key component in college athletics. When softball player Nicole Huddleston entered the 2010 season for the Pirates as the lone senior on the squad, she knew she would face a big responsibility to help mentor her young teammates through the season.

A native of Rossville, Ga., Huddleston has embraced that role and ranks among the top home run hitters in AASU softball history. As a freshman, she had an outstanding debut, hitting .306 with a team-high eight home runs and 29 RBI.

As a sophomore she had to battle through her own bit of adversity. Just 15 games into the season, she suffered a season-ending knee injury. But she made a decision to remain involved.

As a junior, after overcoming her injury, she hit .328 with six home runs and 36 RBI, earning first-team All-Peach Belt Conference and second-team National Fastball Coaches Association All-Southeast Region honors. She was named to the preseason All-Conference team in February.

She understands her role as a team leader.

"You don't have to be the boss, but you do have to guide the younger players," she said. "You have to learn to pick and choose how to say things."

Which leads directly into her plans for the future. A health science major with a 3.0 GPA, Huddleston graduated in May with her bachelor's and wants to pursue her master's in education, teach elementary school students and coach softball.

She had a small taste of that in February when she and four other players volunteered at East Broad Elementary School as a part of the AASU Alumni Association's monthly "Read Aloud" program.

She is clearly excited about her future.



IVAN SOPIN

Ivan Sopin played guitar in a rock band in his hometown of Syktyvkar, Russia and even released a demo album. But since arriving in the United States and enrolling at AASU in 2005, he has focused on computer science, completing his bachelor's in 2008 before enrolling in the master's program, which he finished in May 2010.

At AASU he co-authored nine research papers with Felix Hamza-Lup, professor of computer science. The papers involved Hamza-Lup's projects like 3DRTT (3D Radiation Therapy Treatment) and Neuro Pathways. 3DRTT is a recently patented graphical simulation web-based tool that aids physicians and medical personnel using linear accelerators to apply radiation therapy. Neuro Pathways is a collaborative project with the Mercer University School of Medicine to help medical students visualize and better understand the human nervous system.

"Computer science requires you to be a constant learner," said Sopin. "In some fields, like art, if you're talented you can take it easy, do your thing and probably succeed. I don't think computer science is one of those fields," he said.

Sopin, who is employed by a software development company in Savannah, also provided leadership to AASU computer science students through Hamza-Lup's Network-Enabled WorkSpaces (NEWS) laboratory.

"I'm pretty thankful for all the opportunities I've had here," he said. "Who knows what I would be doing without all the research I've been involved with."

To learn more about Sopin, visit his website: ivansopin.org. Professor Felix Hamza-Lup's website is <http://cs.armstrong.edu/felix/>.



2008 and 2009

Men's and Women's tennis teams win back-to-back national titles.

2009

Linda Bleicken becomes AASU's seventh president.

2010

AASU marks the 75th anniversary of its founding.



class notes

'60s

Susan J. Conner Punzel '69 is provost at Albion College in Albion, Mich. A history major at Armstrong, she went on to earn an M.A. and Ph.D. in French history at Florida State University. She received the Legion of Merit of the International Napoleonic Society and is the author of a book, "The Age of Napoleon," and numerous articles in scholarly journals.

'70s

David W. Turner '71, retired as chaplain Lt. Col. from the U.S. Air Force Reserves in October 2009, after 26 years of service. He serves as Pastor at Barnwell Presbyterian Church, Barnwell, S.C., is director at the Legion Ministry Center, and serves as moderator at the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, Presbyterian Church USA 2010.

William W. Scarborough '75, '77 recently received the Certified Internal Auditor professional designation at a dinner hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors in Washington D.C. He is a certified public accountant and a certified fraud examiner. He received a Master's of Professional Accountancy and a Master's of Taxation from Georgia State University. He works in Washington D.C. as an associate chief accountant in the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Robert L. Tatum '75 recently had an original song "Love from a Manger" included on a Christmas CD, *Christmas in the Mountains Volume III*.

Richard J. Landolt '78 has lived in Cherokee County since 1986 and has been employed by the Cherokee County School District since 1989. He is principal at Crossroads High School/Middle School. He earned an M.Ed. from Kennesaw State University; education leadership certificate from Georgia State University; education specialist from Lincoln Memorial University; and completed all coursework for doctoral degree in education from Samford University.

'80s

Lynn Tucker Roberts '83, '85 has been teaching at AASU since 1983, beginning as a part-time instructor and now as a tenured assistant professor in the Department of Health & Physical Education. During her time at AASU, she has served as director of Intramurals & Recreation and as the Women's Tennis Coach. She is married to Joe Roberts, AASU baseball coach. They have two children, Brian, who is in his second year at The Citadel, and Eric, a freshman at AASU.

Michael S. Matz '84 is a dentist in Philadelphia who recently competed in Indianapolis at the 2009 U.S. Masters Swimming Championships. In the 45-49 age group, he was a member of two relays that won 4th and 5th place medals and also posted in the top 25 times in his individual backstroke and butterfly events. He has qualified for next year's Nationals to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has been married to his wife, Ellen, for 22 years and they have two sons, Josh, 19, and Zach, 17.

Terri M. Fuller '88 is an ob/gyn nurse practitioner. She recently opened a solo practice, "Women's Total Health" in Lake Hopatcong, N.J. She is one of the first nurse practitioners to open her own practice as an independent contractor in the state of New Jersey.

'90s

Dale B. Lewis '92 was recruited by CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, Fla. after completing his M.S. in Transportation Economics. During the last 15 years he has served as associate vice president and vice president in the finance, trucking operations, labor relations, positive train control and marketing departments. He has stayed in close contact with the AASU Economics program and currently serves on the advisory board. He recently endowed the Lillian A. Hood Economics Scholarship.

Elaina M. Landolfi '94 is CFO and controller of South Coast Renovations, Inc. She has two children, ages 19 and 22.

Karl M. Asmus '96, is a major in the U.S. Army Field Artillery and a foreign area officer specializing in Sub-Saharan Africa. He serves as acting defense attaché in Dakar, Senegal, and additionally accredited to Cape Verde, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. He is married to Pamela Asmus '98.

Shannon Lynn Horton '96, married Shane David Tratechaud on July 11, 2007. She has three children: Layton, 9, Asher, 5, and Graham, 1. She has worked in management at Target in Minnesota for more than three years.

Thu-Van T. Bui '98 currently lives in Lansing, Kan. with her husband and two children. She has spent the last year training for triathlons and has completed two so far. Her next goal is to run a half marathon in the fall.

Wade A. Scroggins '98 is the historian for The Judge Advocate General's School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He is married to the former Anna Smith of Spring, Texas, and they have three children, Dena, Eliana and Jonathan.

'00

Amber J. Brooks '00 has gone back to school to get a teaching degree so she can teach art. In the meantime, she is doing something else she truly loves—working as a pet groomer. For the past eight years, she has worked at A Paw Above pet grooming salon in Pooler. In all, she has 16 years of professional grooming experience. Art weaves its way through all aspects of her life, including her job.

Patricia R. Kinney '00 received a Master's of Science in Environmental Analysis and Management from Troy University in 2006. She works as an associate plant analyst at South Carolina Electric and Gas Company.

Roger Scott Harbison '02 served in the Provost Marshal office with the 3-2 Stryker Brigade in Baqubah, Iraq.

Melissa McCoy Hill '02 is an English teacher at Jenkins High School in Savannah.

April V. Faulkner Smith '02 is a fisheries biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's commercial fisheries division. She sets up sonar sites along rivers in southcentral Alaska for the purpose of estimating adult salmon returns.

Nikkia Scott Norman '03 is the recipient of the 2010 Ray Darwin Webb, M.D. scholarship awarded by Effingham Hospital. She has served as a treatment nurse at the hospital since September 2007 and is working toward a master's in nursing.

Mary K. Thornton '03 works with the Florida Department of Transportation on the SunGuide Intelligent Transportation System used statewide for traffic monitoring and control.

Mary L. Edwards '04 was recently elected president of the Georgia Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). This is a special interest division of the Council for Exceptional Children. She serves on the State Steering Committee for Transition.

Erica Johnson '04, current treasurer of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, is engaged to be married to T. Avery Acker '04. The two first met while attending AASU.

Kelly Young-Silverman '04 began her career at Actor's Express, a professional theater company in Atlanta. She has taught at Gables Academy. Kelly and husband, David Silverman, started Cakebaby Productions in 2009. They completed three short films and are looking to produce a feature soon. Their first film, *The Tedious Existence of Terrell B. Howell*, is a selection of the 2010 Atlanta Film Festival and the 2010 Dances with Film Festival in Los Angeles. The Silvermans were invited to submit to the 2010 DragonCon Film Festival. Presently, Kelly is working on writing projects. Her 10-minute play, *Awkward Silences*, will be shown at the Harvest 2010 Backyard Play Festival.

Kenneth E. Grant '06 recently graduated from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Emerging Leaders Program. He is a public health analyst with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga.

Jessica L. Gilligan Miller '06 is a chemist at Herty Advanced Materials Development Center.

Jessica English Martinez '07 graduated from Notre Dame with a Master of Fine Arts in English (creative writing). Several of her poems have appeared in various small press and electronic journals in the U.S. and Canada. Recently, 11 of her poems, along with five photographs, have been accepted for publication in a charity anthology in the United Kingdom. She married Casey English '06 and is an undergraduate academic advisor for painting and sequential art students at Savannah College of Art and Design. She is working on a memoir and a collection of poems.

Elizabeth C. Hoo '08 is one of 25 people selected to participate in a three-year internship on public health prevention service through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Guy Weaver '08 is in graduate school at Missouri Baptist University pursuing a career in education. He has worked with students for several years on a volunteer basis as a youth sponsor, coach and mentor. He and his wife, Dani have three children.

Bonnie A. Camp '09 was recently among 29 Georgia teachers selected to receive New Teacher Assistance Grants from Georgia Power. Bonnie is a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Walker Middle School in Ludowici, Ga.

Aaron C. Eubank '09 is an accounting specialist with Wells Fargo Insurance Services, Charlotte, N.C.

engagements

James Dewberry, Jr. '95 to wed Mary Ann Duffy.
Casi L. Wilson '03 to wed Sean E. Dees.
Erica Johnson '04, current treasurer of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, is engaged to be married to T. Avery Acker '04. They met while at AASU.

weddings

Amanda Keck '02 married H. Ryan Grady in February 2010.
Melissa L. Wilson '03, '04 married Keith J. Giddens on August 29, 2009.
Gerald P. Counihan '08 married Haley Brooke Miller on April 25, 2009.

births

Cristen West Younts '97 and her husband, James, welcomed their third child, Sean Lawrence Younts on September 22, 2009. He joins 4 year old Ashley and 2 year old James.

Meaghan T. Hayes '05 and Daniel Davis '05 welcomed daughter, Addison Savannah Davis, on July 22, 2009.

passings

Marian Cassie Sanders Turner '37*, August 11, 2009
Evelyn Perfect Allen '40*, February 17, 2010
Marguerite Redmond '45*, September 16, 2009
Cecile Harris "Celi" Maclaurin, '47*, January 25, 2010
Robert Lafayette Remond '47*, February 5, 2010
James Eugene Wilson '47*, November 6, 2009
Helen Quattlebaum Artley '48*, September 12, 2009
Herbert L. Mackey, Jr. '49*, February 16, 2010
Gerald Murray Pollack, '49*, January 3, 2010
Thomas Joseph Dillon, Sr. '50*, December 30, 2009
Florence Kerves Nesbit '50*, February 12, 2010
Charles Bernard Folger '58*, November 21, 2009
Frank Buchheit '60, December 4, 2009
Mary Brooks Morgan Sewell '68, February 1, 2010
Betty Jane Pye Zeigler '69, February 13, 2010
Amy Ruth "Jo" Elmore Stone '72, February 24, 2010
Vernell Flowers Gardner '75, February 19, 2010
Carl L. Fleischaker '78, November 28, 2009
Nancy Armistead Nicholson Hughes '78, October 6, 2009
Zada P. Browne '80, August 15, 2009

Joyce Muirhead '84, December 9, 2009
John James Bayides, Jr. '85, January 2, 2010
Patricia Ann Grooms Carter '88, November 6, 2009
Janet Marie O'Quinn Murray, '88, April 12, 2009
Michael C. Gordon '93, October 7, 2009
Jeffrey A. Dotson '00, October 27, 2009
Julia Brown McDaniel '05, February 11, 2010

Martha Lee Bozeman Fay, taught science at Armstrong Junior College from 1944-1949. December 19, 2009

Ida J. Gadsden, AASU professor of education emerita 1956-1981. November 26, 2009

Orange W. Hall was the first department head for the business school when it opened in the 70s. October 2, 2009

George H. Menzel, AASU associate professor, 1977-1988. In 1984 he was awarded the H. Dean Propst Award for Outstanding Faculty Member. November 2, 2009

Mary Dan Ingram Coleman Miller, AASU assistant professor of education 1966-1968, October 31, 2009

Mary Elizabeth Pound, former bookstore manager. April 15, 2010.

*Golden Graduate (1937-1958)



Fulbright Scholar and U.S. Marshal

Steve Smith '75, '87 served on the Savannah Police Department for 28 years, but he didn't get enough

of a career in law enforcement. In 2009, he decided to apply for the U.S. Marshal post for the southern district of Georgia. He was appointed to the job in late December, following U.S. Senate confirmation. The vetting process, Smith admits, was grueling. At one point, both the FBI and the U.S. Justice Department were conducting parallel investigations into his background. But, for the former police captain and decorated Vietnam veteran, it was worth it. Serving as U.S. Marshal, he said, "is a tremendous honor and a call to duty that I take very seriously." From his Armstrong years he remembers Drs. Bill Megathlin, Michael Donahue and Dennis Murphy. "Each of these professors took a personal interest in their students and they are a great part of any success that I have had." Smith is a Savannah High School graduate and the recipient of a 2005 Fulbright Scholarship.

Report to Donors

May 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the AASU Foundation, I am pleased to present the 2009-2010 Report to Donors. Financial support from our donors allows us to continue providing a truly exceptional educational experience for our students. The names of those donors who made one or more gifts to AASU during the recently completed year, May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010, are included in this report. Thank you for your outstanding support.

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With your support, we will continue to be a leader in preparing graduates in
education, healthcare, law enforcement, science and the arts to meet the challenges
of the next 75 years.

Visit 75.armstrong.edu for a list of special events during 2010 and join us on
campus as we celebrate this anniversary. Please consider making a special contribution
to the AASU Foundation for the 75th anniversary. Contact Gail Rountree
at Gail.Rountree@armstrong.edu or 912.344.2710.