

3 Days for AASU Raises \$700,000

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Armstrong Atlantic State University

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John Helmken, CEO of Savannah Bank and chair of the AASU Foundation Board, presented a check for \$695,909 to AASU President Linda Bleicken.

3 Days for AASU Raises \$700,000

(April 3, 2010) The seventh annual 3 Days for AASU campaign came to a close Friday morning after John Helmken, CEO and president of Savannah Bank and chair of the [AASU Foundation Board](#), presented a check for \$695,909 to Armstrong Atlantic State University President Linda Bleicken.

Helmken announced following presentation of the check that Savannah Bank would increase its gift to raise the total to \$700,000. "Everyone tells me that this is the year of sevens for Armstrong—it is their 75th anniversary, this is the campaign's seventh year and Linda Bleicken is serving as the seventh president," he said. "I think the Savannah Bank can step up and make it another seven for Armstrong."

Helmken thanked other supporters of 3 Days for AASU, including Danny Pinyan, CEO of Pinyan Co., who was the first CEO to present a check to the first annual campaign; Jerry Barton, president of Sea Island Bank and former chair of 3 Days for AASU; and Irving Victor who has been a strong supporter of Armstrong over many years.

The 2010 campaign got off to an exciting start Tuesday when Memorial Health announced a gift of \$235,000 during the kickoff breakfast in the Armstrong Center. Mary Chatman, Memorial Health senior vice president and chief nursing officer, presented the check to AASU President Linda Bleicken, Shelley Conroy, dean of the [College of Health Professions](#), and Helen Taggart, interim head of [nursing](#).

The Memorial funds will provide AASU senior nursing students additional opportunities, including a summer externship course at Memorial and full scholarships for their senior year of study at AASU.

"We are very thankful not only to Memorial, but to all our partners in the Savannah community for their continued support of Armstrong," said Linda Bleicken. "As everyone knows, we have been experiencing reductions in our budget in the last few years and these private dollars are extremely important for us to continue to support student scholarships and academic programs."

Last year, the 3 Days for AASU campaign raised \$429,638.

Serving as this year's campaign honorary co-chairs are Y. Allen Beall, Class of '48; J. Cliff McCurry, Class of '68; and Kaitlen Fulp, Class of '08 and '11.

For more information about 3 Days for AASU, contact [Suzanne Ansley](#) at 912. 344-2870.

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