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Armstrong Atlantic State University

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Spring Commencement

Approximately 675 degree candidates received diplomas at spring commencement ceremony on May 8. President Linda M. Bleicken and senior members of the university administration conferred the degrees. Roman M. Cibirka, vice president for instruction and associate provost for academic affairs at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG), conferred the AASU-MCG Doctor of Therapy Degrees.

Frank Barragan, Class of 1938, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters. A native of Savannah, Barragan fought in World War II after his graduation from Armstrong. He is married to Ruth Klingon Barragan, a 1940 graduate of Armstrong Junior College. Their daughter, Susan Barragan Fitzpatrick, is a 1963 graduate of Armstrong State College. Barragan is past president of the Armstrong Alumni Board of Directors, and was awarded the AASU Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994. He is a former member of the Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Arthur M. Gignilliat, Jr., AASU Class of 1953 and former chair of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, delivered the commencement address.

Lady Pirates Clinch Third in a Row

For the third straight year, the AASU women’s tennis squad has brought home the NCAA Division II National Championship. The Pirates finished off Brigham Young University-Hawaii in singles play 5-1 to capture the national trophy. The Pirates join an exclusive club of champions to ever win three consecutive NCAA Division II national women’s tennis titles. They include Chattanooga University (1983-85), Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (1986-89) and BYU-Hawaii (2002-04).

Staff Advisory Council News

The Staff Advisory Council collected eight bags of toiletries, several bags of clothing and many packages of diapers for Union Mission during their Spring 2010 Community Outreach project. These items will be used at the Magdalene Project, which is a shelter for women and children. The council would like to thank everyone on campus who donated to this cause.

Staff Advisory Council’s Change for Change jars located around campus during Spring Semester raised $97.63 towards the March for Babies Walk held in April. AASU’s March for Babies team raised a total of $1,107.62. A special thanks to team co-chairs, Tracey Dunn, Corinne Ackerson-Jones and Megan Morris.

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Staff Advisory Council. These individuals will serve a two-year term beginning July 1.

Charita Hardy
Academic Affairs

Susan Hacker
President’s Staff

Kara Greene
Student Affairs

Mario Incorvaia
Academic Affairs

The Staff Advisory Council held its annual potluck lunch in Shearouse Plaza on May 19. Jessica Tuttle (admissions) and Frank Twum-Barimah (housing) were the final contestants in a fast-paced game of musical chairs. As the music ended, Jessica beat Frank to capture the win.

Recent Grants Awarded to AASU

Recent grants awarded to Armstrong have included $67,572 to the College of Education in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary, the Georgia Aquarium and the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. The money will fund two, six-day workshops to equip 32 kindergarten-12th grade teachers with the tools to effectively incorporate into their teaching information about the importance of Georgia’s watersheds and coastal areas. Funding for the grant comes from Georgia’s Teacher Quality Higher Education Program, which is managed by the University of Georgia for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Funding to support the program comes to the Georgia Board of Regents from the United States Department of Education.
AASU’s Educational Technology Center (ETC), in partnership with five area high schools, was awarded $322,900 in federal grant funding as part of the Federal Title IID Engaging Students Through Mobile Handheld Computing Grants for the fiscal year 2010. The funding will address a statewide initiative to improve instruction to meet the needs of students enrolled in advanced placement (AP) classes at high schools in southeast Georgia. The grant recipients from the Armstrong Atlantic State University ETC service area are Groves High School, Johnson High School, Savannah Arts Academy, Glynn Academy and Brunswick High School. Wendy Marshall, ETC director, will work with these schools over the next two years to help them advance their use of technology in their AP classrooms.

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a $457,000 congressionally directed grant to the AASU Cyber Security Research Foundation (CSRF) for the development and implementation of a Cyber Affairs and Security Certificate program. The CSRF will utilize the funding to continue the development and delivery of its Cyber Security Education & Training Initiative through new curriculum development and acquisition of equipment. “This program takes cyber security training beyond virus scanning and firewalls to train our cyber investigators with the skills to track down and defeat those who would use the Internet to facilitate crime and terrorism,” said Randy Grubb, executive director of the CSRF.

You can still have your name included in Armstrong's history book

Janet Stone, AASU professor of history emerita, will publish a book later this year on the history of Armstrong, From the Mansion to the University. Please contact Suzanne Ansley at 344.2870 or Suzanne.Ansley@armstrong.edu to make your donation to receive a personalized copy of the book. Donations must be received no later than June 9, 2010 for names to be listed in the book.

Calendar

June 9
Midterm (Session B)

June 24
Last Day of Class (Session B)

June 21-July 2
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents Adventure in the Arts Summer Arts Camp for children ages 7 through 14. AASU holds this creative, multidisciplinary arts camp in the Fine Arts Hall weekdays from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the first week and 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the second week. Admission is free for the Grand Finale Event on the evening of July 2. Call 344.2556 for enrollment/participation information.

June 25
Midterm Friday (Session A)
Final Examinations (Session B)
June 27
In “Celebration of our Independence,” the Savannah Winds, community wind symphony in residence at AASU, honors America, her servicemen and women and veterans of the U.S. armed forces with its highly popular Annual Patriotic Concert in the AASU Fine Arts Auditorium at 3 p.m. This exciting concert features Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips, Deputy Commanding General – Rear and Senior Commander, 3rd ID U.S. Army as narrator; WTOC’s Bill Cathcart returning as master of ceremonies; 3rd ID honor guard to present our great nation’s colors; and Douglas Andrews to be recognized as reigning Chatham County Veteran of the Year. Advance general admission tickets are $12 ($14 at the door). Advance senior citizens, U.S. military, students, children and AASU (w/Pirate Card) are $10 ($12 at the door). Call 344.2556.

June 28
First Day of Class (Session C)

Kudos
Hassan Aziz (medical technology) was selected for membership in the prestigious Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity. Alpha Mu Tau is a national fraternity whose purpose is the advancement of professionals in the clinical laboratory sciences. One of the prime activities of the fraternity is the granting of graduate and undergraduate scholarships for clinical laboratory science students.

Aziz was invited to serve a three-year term on the editorial advisory board for Advance for Medical Laboratory Professionals.

April Garrity (communication sciences and disorders) co-authored “Family History of Speech and Language Impairment in African American Children: Implications for Assessment,” published in the April/June 2010 issue of Topics in Language Disorders.


Rahimi served as session chair for “The Mathematics and Science Millieu: Preservice Teachers’ Understanding of their Subject Speciality” and “Middle Grades Teachers: Positioning and Pedagogy” at the American Educational Research Association Meeting.

Psychology students Jenna Eagle, Ivy Patton and Melissa Ballard presented a paper, “Effects of kava-kava on aggressive behavior of Betta splendens,” at the 35th Annual Carolinas Psychology Conference in Raleigh, NC in April. Mirari Elcoro was the faculty advisor for this project.

Psychology students Sebastian Krzywanski, Caroline Eastman, Davor Zink, Adele Stevens, Wendy Yoder and Amy Steely presented a paper, “To reflect or distract? A comparison of self-distanced, self-immersed, and distraction strategies for processing anger-eliciting memories,” at the Carolinas Psychology Conference. Wendy Wolfe and Vann Scott were the faculty advisors.

Psychology students Adele (Stevens) Stuckey and Caroline Eastman presented a poster, “Human judgment versus the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) Software: Comparing Kross and Pennebaker methods of analyzing emotional and cognitive content in written essays,” at the 2010 meeting of the Georgia Psychological Association in Atlanta, Ga., in May. Wolfe and Scott served as faculty advisors.

Frank Katz (information, computing and engineering) presented a paper, “WPA vs. WPA2: Is WPA2 Really an Improvement on WPA?” at the 4th Annual Computer Security Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Pamela Mahan participated in the Governor’s Teaching Fellows Program Summer 2010 at the University of Georgia.

Mike Mahan was a participant in the facilitators training for “Project WET,” a program for integrating water education into pre-service educator training. The session was held at the Charles Elliot Wildlife Center in Mansfield, Ga. in May.

Senior Josh Wilson, a member of the Pirates baseball squad who graduated in May with a degree in liberal studies, scored the 305th hit of his career on April 24 against Flagler College, setting a new Peach Belt Conference record for hits. The Springfield, Ga. native surpassed the previous record of 304 hits held by Jason Morales of the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. Wilson finished his four-year career with 313 hits, ranking ninth all-time in NCAA Division II history.

### AASU in the News

Following are some of the top stories appearing in print and broadcast media in May 2010. For more details on these and other stories, contact Francisco Duque in Marketing & Communications at 344.2971, or Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.

5/3 AASU community says goodbye to Bryce Tarter
   WTOC-TV, WJCL/Fox and WSAV-TV

5/4 Robert Harris (AMT) and his chamber choir profiled.
   Connect Savannah

5/4 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed regarding positive signals in the local economy.
   WSAV-TV

5/6 Richard McGrath (economics) interviewed regarding Europe’s financial uncertainty and impact of U.S. markets.
   WTOC-TV

5/8 AASU holds graduation.
   WTOC-TV, WJCL-TV
   Also, Savannah Morning News 5/9

5/11 AASU Continuing Education program to be cut
   Savannah Morning News

5/11 Regents hike tuition at Georgia universities.
   Atlanta Business Journal, Gwinnett Daily News and several others across the state.
   Also, Savannah Morning News 5/12

5/12 Vice President Vicki McNeil interviewed regarding Bryce Tarter investigation.
   WTOC-TV

5/12 AASU’s Office of Minority Affairs honors multicultural students
   Coastal Courier

5/13 Elizabeth Wilson (career services) interviewed regarding use of aptitude tests.
   WSAV-TV
Pirates men’s and women’s tennis teams chase third consecutive national championships.
Georgia Public Broadcasting (radio)

Several hundred people support Relay for Life hosted at AASU on May 14.
WJCL/Fox, WSAV-TV and WTOC-TV
Also, Savannah Morning News 5/15

Lady Pirates win third consecutive national title.
Savannah Morning News, WTOC-TV, WJCL/Fox, WSAV-TV and Star Bulletin (Hawaii)

AASU grad Mary Jo Fina is named 2010-2011 Bryan County Teacher of the Year.
Bryan County News

Michael Toma (economics) interviewed regarding improvements in local economy.
WTOC-TV

President Bleicken honored by Georgia Southern’s chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma.
Business in Savannah
Also, Savannah Morning News 5/26

Michael Toma’s (economics) Economic Monitor is featured on front-page story.
Savannah Morning News
Also, WTOC-TV 5/14

Armstrong campus arboretum in full bloom.
Savannah Morning News

The Lady Pirates, three-time national tennis champs, and their coach, Simon Earnshaw, take a bow on Mid-Morning Live.
WTOC-TV

AASU’s Office of Minority Affairs recognizes Brittany Mallard, AASU student and Long County resident.
Coastal Courier

Armstrong’s budget cuts not as deep as anticipated.
Savannah Morning News
Also, WJCL/Fox 5/27 and WTOC 5/26

Lady Pirates tennis among selected group in the state to win NCAA championships.
Atlanta Journal Constitution

The submission deadline for the July issue of eArmstrong is June 15.

Please send submissions to AASU.news@armstrong.edu.
For more information contact Francisco Duque in Marketing & Communications at 344.2971 or Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.