

# Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

## KSU students vote for football program

Nearly 56 percent of voting students; approve activity fee

By Robert S. Godlewski  
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Applause and cheers erupted from an enthusiastic crowd of nearly 200 at the Carmichael Student Center on Nov. 16, when student government leaders announced that KSU students had approved a \$100 per-semester fee to support football at Georgia's third largest university.

More than 7,300 of 22,388 eligible voters cast online ballots between Nov. 8 and 14 with 55.5 percent approving the fee.

The positive vote followed the release in mid-September of a report by the Football Exploratory Committee headed by legendary University of Georgia football coach and athletics director Vince Dooley, which concluded there was solid support for football. At that time, KSU President Daniel S. Papp promised to gauge student support before making a decision.

"Student financial support is critical if KSU is going to have a football program," Papp said. "Before our students voted, I



Student Government Association President Ali Kamran, SGA Vice President Darius Robinson and KSU President Daniel S. Papp announced the vote tally.

wanted them to have all the facts and give them a chance to ask questions in an open forum. The only way we can afford to field a football team is with the support of student fees."

Funding football at KSU could cost between \$5 million and \$6 million annually, according to the report prepared by the Football Exploratory Committee. A student fee of \$100 per semester, along with additional

funds from sponsors, donors and ticket sales are necessary to generate revenue for the program.

The next step in the assessment process is to conduct an 18-to-30 month fundraising campaign to raise between \$8 million and \$12 million to create the infrastructure needed to launch the football program and to expand women's sports at the university to meet Title IX gender-equity requirements. If the fundraising is successful,

a business plan would be submitted to the Board of Regents (BOR), which would include a formal request for the \$100 student fee.

If the fee approval takes place in spring 2012, coaches would be recruited in fall 2012 and players would be recruited beginning in fall 2013. With some adjustments to the KSU Soccer Stadium, a football team could take the field by fall 2014.

## What's New...

### Board of Regents approves undergrad philosophy major at Kennesaw State

Kennesaw State University will offer a bachelor's degree in philosophy Fall 2011. The new major was approved by the Board of Regents in October.

It will be the only philosophy major offered at a University System of Georgia institution that emphasizes both Western and non-Western philosophies.

"Philosophy is a very important component of the liberal arts tradition," said W. Ken Harmon, KSU's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Adding the major is a low-cost, effective way for a growing university the size of Kennesaw State to fill a significant gap in its liberal arts offerings."

The philosophy major will emphasize knowledge of world cultures, research methods, writing and analytical skills, ethical reasoning and understanding, and an appreciation of cultural diversity.

"The curriculum in this major represents just the sort of education required for leadership in today's increasingly interconnected world," said Richard Vengroff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, which will house the new major. "Our approach stresses internationalized and integrated learning across disciplines and cultures."

In addition to the general education, electives and related courses required for all KSU undergraduates, the philosophy degree will require 30 hours of upper-level philosophy courses, including nine hours in one of three concentrations: Western philosophy, non-Western philosophy and values.

With the exception of three new courses that will be added to those offered by the Department of History and Philosophy, all courses in the new major will be taught by existing full-time faculty. Three part-time instructors will be added during the first two years of the program.

## KSU recognized for online education excellence

Sloan Consortium calls faculty training program exemplary

By Sabbaye McGriff  
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Kennesaw State was among seven higher education institutions nationwide recognized with a 2010 award of excellence at the Sloan Consortium's (Sloan-C) 16th Annual International Conference on Online Teaching and Learning in November.

The Massachusetts-based consortium presented KSU with the Excellence in Faculty Development Award, which recognized as "exemplary" the 12-week "Build a Web Course" training program offered by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The course is designed to train KSU faculty in developing new online and hybrid courses.

Since the training program was introduced in 2009, 75 faculty



(l-r) Nikki Hill, administrative specialist to Online Services, President Daniel S. Papp, Tamara Powell, director of Distance Education, Richard Vengroff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Thierry Léger, associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences were all smiles as the Sloan Consortium award was presented.

members from humanities and social sciences, education and nursing have developed 71 new online or hybrid courses, which combine online and face-to-face sessions.

That number is expected to grow 22 percent by spring 2011 as a result of the initiative.

The institutions receiving 2010 Sloan-C awards in other

categories are Boston University, Drexel University, Hunter College, the University of Central Florida, the University of Illinois, Springfield and the University of Massachusetts Boston/Online.

"This is an especially gratifying honor because of Sloan's prestige and the caliber of the other institutions being recognized," said interim Provost W. Ken Harmon. "As enrollments have increased and the pressure for classroom space becomes more acute, the development of more online courses is a necessity."

Tamara Powell, director of "The training program is designed to take potential online/hybrid instructors from curious to comfortable to competent in three months," Powell said.

## **KSU professor awarded Board of Regents' teaching honor** *German professor honored with Teaching Excellence Award*

By Sabbaye McGriff  
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Hundreds of Kennesaw State students have learned to “sprechen zu Deutsches” under Sabine Smith’s instruction, even as their peers pursued more marketable foreign languages.

In March, the Board of Regents will present the Teaching Excellence Award — one of three annual awards honoring the best teachers in the University System of Georgia — to Smith, an associate professor of German at KSU. She was recognized for



Associate Professor Sabine Smith won a Board of Regents' 2011 Teaching Excellence Award.

her innovative teaching, for the cocurricular activities she devises to immerse students in German language and culture, and for her leadership in establishing a German studies major at KSU.

“This is an outstanding and richly deserved honor for Dr. Smith and for Kennesaw State,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “She exhibits an extraordinary level of dedication to her students and the teaching profession, and a commitment to the university’s academic ideals. We are very proud of her accomplishments.”

Smith, who holds a Ph.D. in German from the University of California, Davis, joined the KSU faculty in 1999 as the only full-time German professor in the foreign languages department. Since then, the German studies program she helped design evolved into an undergraduate minor in 2000, and became a major in 2007. Enrollment in German courses at KSU grew from 78 in spring 1999 to 231 in spring 2010.

“Having grown up in Europe, I personally value foreign language and culture study as

a ticket to experiential learning and global citizenship,” said Smith, who was selected by fellow faculty in 2009 to receive the Distinguished Teaching Award from the KSU Foundation.

Smith said she works to provide students the broadest possible range of experiences to learn another language and culture, including study abroad, internships, interdisciplinary studies, speakers, cultural events and service-learning projects such as teaching German at local schools.

## **KSU kicks off “Year of Romania” festivities** *Culture fest featured regional costumes, dances and cuisine*

By Sabbaye McGriff  
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Twenty years after a revolution ushered in a new era of democratic reforms, Romania has become one of Europe’s fastest growing economies largely because of its people, former U.S. ambassador to Romania and keynote speaker Jim Rosapepe told a standing-room-only audience on “Year of Romania” Day in October.

“Romania is a vibrant country with wonderful people who truly value education and are hard-working, and very competent in engineering and technology,” said Rosapepe, who was joined by journalist Sheilah Kast, his wife and co-author of “Dracula is Dead: How Romanians Survived Communism, Ended It,

and Emerged Since 1989 as the New Italy.”

The “Year of Romania” Day festivities included appearances by Romanian officials, such as Marcel Duhaneanu, rector of Bucharest-based ASEBUSS, which has offered an executive M.B.A. program in partnership with KSU’s Coles College of Business since 2003, and Darius Gazinschi, the honorary consul of Romania for Atlanta.

A two-hour culture fest in the Student Center featured colorful regional costumes, dances representing various regions and gypsy culture and authentic cuisine prepared by the Astoria Romanian Restaurant of Suwanee, Ga. Ensemble Transylvania, a dance troupe of Romanians living in Atlanta and three ensembles from Saints



A children’s dance ensemble from Atlanta performed for “Year of Romania” Day.

Constantine and Elena Orthodox Romania Churches in Lilburn, Ga. performed, as did members of the KSU Tellers and local folk singer Mariana Balan.

The celebration also recognized Romania’s dominance in competitive gymnastics, with an appearance by Olympic champion Daniela Silivas and a floor exercise routine by a state champion high school gymnastics team.

“We’re so pleased that we are celebrating the Year of Romania,” said Papp, who revealed a possible Romanian connection in his own family tree. “The ‘Year of’ program tremendously enriches our campus and our students and is invaluable to KSU as we move forward with our commitment to global learning.”

## **Homecoming 2010 offers sports, music and fun** *Game in new KSU Soccer Stadium a first for homecoming*

By Robert S. Godlewski  
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From a parade on campus to a soccer game in KSU’s new stadium to tree plantings, KSU Homecoming 2010 offered something for everyone.

Faculty, staff, students and alumni celebrated homecoming in October for the first time with a game in the new KSU Soccer Stadium, where the women’s soccer team played Mercer University.

In addition to the traditional “Owl Prowl” parade and an outdoor concert by the alternative rock band MUTEMATH, KSU started a new tradition, as students teamed up with Keep Cobb Beautiful to add new plantings to the campus, including a special Homecoming 2010 tree located near the Campus Green.



Freshman Michael Parker, left, was elected Lord of the 2010 Homecoming Court, senior Justin Davis, center, was elected King and sophomore Moises Guerra, right, was elected Duke.

“Every year we try to add a little bit more, taking sugges-

tions from students and alumni to improve and enhance the

homecoming experience,” said Michael Sanseviro, dean of

Student Success and Homecoming 2010 committee chair. “We wanted to show that KSU can be a destination campus, not just for the pursuit of higher education, but also for fun.”

On homecoming Saturday, tailgaters enjoyed exhibition matches by the men’s lacrosse and men’s rugby club teams at the Owls Nest fields, adjacent to the KSU Soccer Stadium.

As the sun was setting, the stadium lit up for a match against Mercer. KSU’s women’s soccer team — the defending Atlantic Sun Conference champions — put up a good fight during a game dominated by two good defenses. In the end, they came up a bit short in overtime as the Bears won 1-0. A fireworks show followed, as KSU Homecoming 2010 came to an end.

## Third Homelessness Awareness Week draws hundreds

### Students sleep out, attend sessions and contribute food and clothing

By Sabbaye McGriff  
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With a full agenda of speakers, classroom activities and displays, one of the biggest draws for Homelessness Awareness Week at KSU is the dose of reality the annual 42-hour sleep out delivers.

More than 200 students joined staff, faculty and community participants to sleep out overnight or hang out between classes on the ground in makeshift shelters made of cardboard boxes, newspapers and improvised tents to simulate the experience of being homeless during KSU's third annual Homelessness Awareness Week.

An all-day academic conference — included for the first time this year — also was a big draw for students. About 250



Nearly 200 KSU students observed Homelessness Awareness Week by sleeping in makeshift shelters.

attended sessions addressing issues of employment — crisis intervention for the homeless and federal efforts to reduce homelessness. A “Rally to End

Homelessness,” launched national activist Diane Nilan's 10-day, 2,100-mile RV journey from Georgia to Maine to draw attention to the issue.

Noticeably different this year, organizers say, was the level of student commitment, not only to learning more about the plight of those who are homeless but to reaching out. Individually and through student organizations, KSU students collected more than 12 boxes of winter coats; contributed more than 200 meal swipes that were donated to a local agency to distribute to people in need; and filled several boxes with food that were donated to local food pantries.

“There has been a shift in the KSU culture,” says Lana Wachniak, professor emeritus of criminal justice and sociology and founder of KSU's Homelessness Awareness Week. “Our students have moved from being sympathetic toward others in need to becoming empathetic to others.”

Wachniak thinks the evolution may be happening, in part, because more KSU students have experienced homelessness themselves or know someone who has. In fact, she said, recent data indicate that more than 27,000 school children in Georgia were homeless last year.

Dee Dee Merrill, a freshman majoring in business management, said her family experienced homelessness when she was a child.

“Now that I am an adult, I try to support programs like Homelessness Awareness Week that actively search for a solution and educate people about the problem,” she said. “The safety of a secured campus provides students options to be involved that are more appealing than hitting the streets or shelters.”

## KSU conference attracts experts in social media integration

### Participants witness impact on communications

By Natalie Godwin  
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Just 24 hours after the controversial firing of National Public Radio news analyst Juan Williams in October, KSU's Center for Sustainable Journalism executive director Leonard Witt posted an impromptu interview with NPR's chief executive officer on YouTube, instantly reaching almost 2,000 viewers.

“I was there with my little point-and-shoot camera and able to record the interview,” Witt said of capturing an interview with Vivian Schiller after her speech to the Atlanta Press Club. “It's the perfect

case of a story going viral.”

Witt's video was a powerful illustration of the impact that social media has on communications, a hot topic during the Social Media Integration Conference hosted by the center. About 150 communicators from around the country traveled to KSU to learn the latest trends and strategies in social media.

Keynote speaker Shiv Singh, director of digital engagement and social media at PepsiCo, manages a popular social media project that he said responds more to consumer experiences than traditional marketing. “We're making a difference in real communi-



(l-r) Marla Erwin, interactive art director for Whole Foods, Kellye Crane, of Crane Communications and Jeremy Porter, of Definition 6, answered questions during the conference.

ties and social media allows us to reach them through the communities they create online,” he told the audience.

Participants praised the content and networking opportunities at the conference. Marie Peagler, who owns a small communications firm, traveled from Jasper, Ga., to learn how to create effective social media campaigns. “Now I can develop specific strategies with budgets ranging from \$500 to \$5 million,” she said. “That is valuable to all of my clients.”

For more information on the Center for Sustainable Journalism, visit: <http://sustainablejournalism.org>

## KSU enrollment tops 23,400 for fall 2010

### University continues quest for national prominence

By Jennifer Hafer  
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Kennesaw State University enrollment grew by 4.7 percent for the fall 2010 semester to 23,452 students outpacing overall growth in the University System of Georgia.

The University System of Georgia enrolled 311,442 students in fall 2010, up 3.2 percent over 2009 fall enrollment.

“Our continued enrollment

growth attests to the fact that Kennesaw State is an increasingly popular destination campus for those choosing a university,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “Discriminating students recognize that we are a well-respected institution on the verge of becoming a national university. In addition to our outstanding bachelor's and master's programs, an increasing number of students are drawn to KSU because of our growing

number of doctoral programs.”

Kennesaw State now offers five doctoral programs, including two Ed.D. degrees as well as a Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.), a Doctor of Nursing Science (D.N.S.) and a new Ph.D. in International Conflict Management.

According to Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services and Registrar Kim West, more high-school seniors are considering KSU as their first-choice

college selection.

“College admissions and retention are influenced by economic issues and unemployment,” West said. “KSU's increased enrollment also is a result of expanded recruitment initiatives and continued student marketing — both of which are influencing the university's name recognition and reputation.”

The university's expanding appeal is reflected by the number of joint-enrollment students —

high school students who are simultaneously enrolled in college — which increased from 125 in fall 2009 to 149 in fall 2010.

The report also shows growth in Hispanic enrollment while African-American enrollment remained steady. Minority students comprised only 12 percent of KSU's student body 15 years ago, but since have grown to 26 percent of the university's student body in fall 2010.

## Campus Notes

### Kennesaw State ombudsmen certified

KSU ombudsman Dorothy Graham and assistant ombudsman Bernard Anderson were recently certified as organizational ombudsman practitioners, two of only 51 in the world. The Ombuds office is housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and creates opportunities for KSU students,

faculty and staff to voluntarily resolve classroom or workplace issues in a confidential, neutral and informal atmosphere. Anderson and Graham hear about 170 cases a year.

### Wills appointed director of veterans center

Frank Wills, an Iraq War veteran, was named director of the newly created KSU Veterans Resource

Center. The center, located in the Student Success Services Department, assists veterans wishing to start or continue their post-secondary education. As director, Wills helps veterans obtain educational benefits and act as a liaison between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the university. While a graduate student at Mississippi State University,

Wills worked for the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America's Veterans and presented a proposal to a congressional subcommittee to assist student-veterans attending the nation's colleges.

### Crowder elected to national post

Stan Crowder, assistant professor of criminal justice, was elected

president of the Academy of Behavioral Profiling, a national organization dedicated to the application of evidence-based criminal profiling techniques. Crowder, a retired Army colonel, was the 2007 recipient of the Betty Siegel Teaching Award. His research specialties include profiling, crime reconstruction and forensic linguistics.

## Simulated dorm fire shows danger of burning candles

### Cobb County firefighters extinguish “blaze” near residence halls

By Robert S. Godlewski  
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KSU’s Department of Strategic Security and Safety deliberately torched a simulated dorm room to drive home the dangers of burning candles in residences. The dramatic demonstration, held during National Fire Prevention Week, was designed to show a crowd of about 100 students, faculty and staff how quickly fire can spread when a lighted candle comes in contact with combustible materials such as bedspreads, curtains or notebook paper — items commonly found in college dorms. Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services personnel were on hand to extinguish the blaze at the end of the 20-minute demonstration.

“We know our students are busy with their studies and extracurricular activities, so it can be difficult to capture



Students examine the aftermath of a simulated dorm fire.

their attention on a serious subject like fire prevention,” said Bob Lang, assistant vice president for strategic security and safety. “Typically, few students ever think that a single candle could cause such destruction.”

Unfortunately, the statistics prove that he is correct. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, more than half of all residential candle fires are caused by a candle placed too close to combustible materials. Thousands of people have been injured in the past decade, and hundreds have died as a result of the estimated 23,000 residential candle fires, according to DHS data.

Although KSU residence halls are well built with fire sprinklers in every room and fire extinguishers on every hall, officials want to be sure that all 3,000 residential students get the message that fire safety is everyone’s responsibility.

## KSU’s global initiatives garner national attention

### “Year of” and global certification programs recognized

By Sabbaye McGriff  
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Two hallmarks of Kennesaw State’s commitment to global learning — the “Year of” country study and the global certification program — were showcased in November at a national summit promoting global citizen diplomacy.

The Washington, D. C., summit — a partnership between the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy and the State Department — recognized exemplary programs that promote Americans’ engagement in international activities and issues. KSU was selected by the summit’s Higher Education Task Force, which reviewed proposals submitted by U.S. academic institutions. Nine other higher education institutions were also recognized.

“The ‘Year of’ program is a cornerstone of Kennesaw State’s commitment to global learning and engaged citizenship,” said Barry Morris, executive director of the university’s Institute for Global Initiatives. “The certification program has



KSU’s “Year of” events, such as the “Year of Korea” celebration, were showcased at a global citizen diplomacy summit in Washington, D.C.

allowed us to establish a student-driven process for recognizing student achievement in global learning and validate our

students’ global-learning experiences.”

Since 1983, KSU has presented the annual “Year of” program focused on a particular country or area of the world, including Korea, Turkey, the Atlantic world, Kenya, China, France and Spain. The current academic year has been designated the “Year of Romania.”

Dan Paracka, “Year of” program coordinator, said the country study has created a ripple effect leading to greater global competence and cultural understanding among KSU’s students and faculty. “It has generated heightened interest among faculty, additional funding for faculty travel, new courses, education-abroad opportunities for students, and mutually beneficial global partnerships.”

The global certification — a program introduced in 2008 — recognizes a student’s achievement of global perspectives, intercultural skills and responsible citizenship through coursework, education abroad and intercultural experiences. Students develop portfolios of their global learning experiences and submit them for assessment in order to be certified as global scholars.

## Information Systems Department moves to Coles College of Business

### College of Science and Math will house Computer Science Department

By Aixa Pascual  
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The Coles College of Business will house KSU’s new Information Systems Department starting July 1, 2011.

The move will bring together, under one academic department, all faculty members from across the university who teach courses in information systems, said Kathy Schwaig, interim dean of the Coles College of Business. Information systems departments are typically found in colleges of business because of their focus on business applications.

Currently, the Department of Computer Science

and Information Systems is part of the College of Science and Mathematics and some faculty in the Coles College of Business teach information systems to business students. The College of Science and Math will create a separate Computer Science Department.

“The new Information Systems Department will give these faculty members a discipline-related home that is more consistent with their education,” said Schwaig, who has a Ph.D. in information systems. “Most of the Information Systems faculty moving to the Coles College have Ph.D.s or master’s degrees from colleges of business.”

The discipline of computer science teaches students how to develop hardware and software to operate

computers and requires many upper-level math courses, while the discipline of information systems deals with how technology can be used to solve business problems and requires more business courses. Students educated in information systems learn about both the business and technology aspects of computer systems.

“We need people who can design and develop systems from a business perspective,” Schwaig explained. “An Information Systems person will be well versed in the business side as well as the technology side of any system that is developed. There is a resurgence now in students seeking Information Systems degrees, as well as in companies looking for employees with these skills.”

## U.S. Women’s National Team plays at KSU stadium

### Nearly 5,000 watch prelude to 2011 Women’s World Cup

By Jennifer Hafer  
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History took place at the KSU Soccer Stadium on Oct. 2, when the U.S. Women’s National Team beat China 2-1 in an exhibition match before more than 4,700 spectators.

“I’ve been here a couple of times with Women’s Professional Soccer, but I absolutely love this stadium,” U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said. “This is a soccer stadium, and this is how it should be. To play a game against China in this atmosphere was perfect.”

The exhibition game marked the first time the U.S. women’s national team played a match at the 8,300-seat facility, which opened its doors this summer. The stadium is home to the KSU Lady Owls and the Atlanta Beat Women’s Professional Soccer Team.

“We were thrilled to host the U.S. Women’s National Team for their match against China,” said Owls head coach Rob King. “We knew when designing and building the KSU Soccer Stadium that we’d get the opportunity to showcase great matches.”



The U.S. National Soccer Team played China at the KSU Soccer Stadium.

Access is a publication of the Office of University Relations at Kennesaw State University.  
A companion Website, KSU News, is located online at <http://news.kennesaw.edu>.

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