KSU to build $21 million science lab  

Construction of five-story, 73,000-square-foot addition set to begin in mid-March

By Robert S. Godlewski
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The College of Science and Mathematics broke ground March 18 on KSU’s first full scientific teaching and research facility. The $21 million addition will allow faculty and students to conduct more research, a necessity as the proposed master’s degree programs in integrative biology and in chemical sciences are approved by the Board of Regents.

“Since KSU enrolls some of the largest numbers of biology and chemistry majors in the state, the laboratory expansion provides the necessary research space to accommodate hands-on instruction and learning,” said Daniel S. Papp, president of Kennesaw State University. “With construction of this state-of-the-art facility, KSU takes yet another step toward meeting the educational and technological challenges facing students in the 21st century.”

The new facility, which will connect with the existing science building, will contain biology and chemistry teaching and research labs plus faculty and administrative offices with an atrium.

“The reaction of our students, alumni and faculty to the architectural renderings for the addition has been phenomenal,” said Ron Matson, interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

“Everyone is excited because now we will have the necessary laboratory space we need to expand our research endeavors like never before. This opens doors to new frontiers in such areas as biotechnology and biomedical research that offer so much promise.”

The architectural firm of Perkins + Will designed the project, which is expected to achieve Gold LEED certification. The facility, which will be constructed by Choate Construction Company over the next 18 months, will house graduate and undergraduate labs on separate floors and feature some of the latest scientific instruments.

KSU partners with India, China and America Institute  

University hosts thought leaders from world’s largest economies

By Aixa Pascual
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Kennesaw State has entered into a partnership with the India, China and America Institute (ICA Institute), a respected thought leader on economic and geopolitical issues involving the United States and two of the world’s largest emerging economies — India and China.

The ICA Institute will be housed in the Coles College of Business. KSU is a perfect fit for the institute because of the university’s commitment to internationalization and its engagement in both China and India. KSU houses a Confucius Institute, one of only 122 such academic centers in the world sponsored by the Chinese government, and has a partnership with Mumbai Business School, one of India’s up-and-coming business schools.

“As we look toward the future of the global economy, China and India will be the next economic superpowers,” said W. Ken Har- mon, KSU’s interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Our partnership with the ICA, which has an outstanding reputation for fostering strong connections among the three economies, will help KSU and the Coles College further engage in these countries while solidifying our position as a leader in global education.”

The India, China and America Institute works to foster business partnerships between the three economic superpowers. It also conducts research, as well as provides education and training to industry leaders, policymakers and nonprofits.

“As a university committed to global learning, it is imperative that KSU continues to increase its involvement in both countries,” said Barry Morris, vice provost for global engagement and strategic initiatives. “We will continue to expand partnerships in India and China that advance student achievement, faculty development and overall excellence.”

Govind Harilhan, chair of the Department of Economics, Finance and Quantitative Analysis and executive director of the India, China and America Institute, spoke as KSU President Daniel S. Papp listened.

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• The Burruss Institute of Public Service received a $192,950 contract to work with the Georgia Department of Community Health and the Georgia Sexual Assault Primary Prevention Partnership (G-SAPPP) to update the Georgia Sexual Violence Prevention Action Plan. Burruss will develop and host a rape prevention education website and present a strategic planning session to update the plan.

• The Center for the Study of the Civil War Era received $1,000 from the Georgia Humanities Council to support a symposium on new interpretations of the Civil War. Speakers from the universities of Georgia, Virginia and Illinois will be featured. The 2011 symposium kicks off four years of sesquicentennial events that will be sponsored by the Center.

February/March 2011

Research Report

Kennesaw State faculty received nearly $10 million last year to fund research projects. In this issue of Access, we overview “Research Report,” to keep you abreast of KSU’s increased research activity.

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KSU delegation makes historic visit to Libya
Mission to explore partnerships comes just weeks before political turmoil

Top Kennesaw State University administrators made an historic and diplomatic visit to Tripoli in January to explore the expansion of academic partnerships, weeks before the political unrest sweeping the Middle East reached the Libyan capital.

The university was invited by the Libyan Paralympic Commit-
tee to meet with its officials and representatives of the country’s Ministry of Education and Al Fatah University as a follow up to a groundbreaking Arab-American Dialogue held in 2009 by the Global Center for Social Change in KSU’s WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

KSU’s delegation included Barry Morris, vice provost for global engagement and strategic initiatives, Richard Sowell, dean of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, and Azletthia Perry-Johnson, vice president for external affairs. Their visit constituted a second round of talks following meetings in December among Libyan officials and educators and KSU faculty members.

“If you consider that the U.S. only reestablished relations with Libya during the last presidential administration, this was a very historic visit,” said Perry-Johnson. “We couldn’t have foreseen the events occurring now in Libya, however during our visit, we were very well received. We were encour-aged by the strategic goals that the Libyan officials outlined and their enthusiasm for collaborat-ing with Kennesaw State.”

During a weeklong series of meetings and presentations, officials from the hosting organizations outlined their programs and conveyed hopes for collaborations to support programs in nursing, teacher education, curriculum and professional development and for enhancing handicap access.

KSU’s initial contact with Libyan officials during its first Arab-American Dialogue addressed workplace access issues for persons with disabilities. WellStar College and its Global Center for Social Change organized the dialogue, which drew representatives from more than a dozen Arab World countries. The college has worked closely with several Arab universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop initiatives for persons with disabilities.

KSU delegation launches corporate partnership program
New program will promote ties between KSU and business community

The Kennesaw State University Foundation launched the KSU Corporate Partners Program in early 2011 to foster strategic ties between the university and businesses in the greater Atlanta area. The KSU Corporate Partners Program is tailored to companies that already support KSU programs and convey hopes for persons with disabilities.

The foundation’s focus on securing real estate and facilities to meet its high enrollment growth. Among so many valuable other projects, they also fund the most generous faculty rewards and recognition program in the University System of Georgia.

Membership in the KSU Corporate Partners Program, which requires a minimum contribution of $5,000, provides corporate partners with one-on-one access to university staff for customized programs to meet their individual business needs, including research projects, executive education programs and roundtables on specific topics.

“We are excited about this new program as it will provide new opportunities to bring the resources and expertise of Kennesaw State University to local corporations and businesses,” said Norman Radow, chairman of the KSU Foundation. “So many great things are happening at KSU, and we want the metro-Atlanta business community to be an integral part of our phe-nomenal growth story.”

Corporate partners will be able to tap into the expertise of faculty and administrators from the entire university, including the Coles College of Business, which is renowned for expertise in areas such as family business, entrepreneurship, corporate governance and professional sales.

Campus Notes

By Erica Rountree
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KSU Student Culinary Center showed off its Georgia-grown, farm-to-table chops to a fellow foodie from the governor’s mansion on March 4. Sandra Deal, wife of Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, was escorted on a tour by Dr. Bobbie Bailey, KSU trustee, benefactor and longtime friend of the university.

During Deal’s tour of the Commons, the first lady tasted sweet Savannah shrimp, whole roasted suckling pig, Georgia-grown mus-
tard greens and local stone-milled grits. The visit marked her support of National Nutrition Month, a nu-
trition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the American Dietetic Association.

The Commons, which serves as many as 7,000 people each day, focuses on menus that embrace sustainability and utilize locally grown produce as well as local pork and seafood. According to Gary Colekt, chef de cuisine and director of KSU culinary and hospitality services. Like KSU, the Governor’s Mansion has its own farm, and the Deals try to use locally grown products in the kitchen.

After The Commons, Deal toured Prillaman Hall, the un-
iversity’s new $56 million health sciences building. Laurie Tis, assis-tant dean of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, along with associate professor John McEster and KSU graduate students, discussed the university’s research into the interrelationships between obesity, diabetes, nutrition and exercise with the first lady.

Finally, Deal visited two nursing labs, where KSU prepares its stu-dents to provide real-time patient care in a simulated hospital setting, complete with advanced diagno-
tic equipment and responsive “pa-
tient” mannequins.

Deal concluded her tour at The Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center, where she listened to music students rehears- ing onstage in the rehearsal hall and met with students who were using the center’s practice rooms. She also toured the Don Russell Clayton Gallery, which houses the university’s art museum.
KSU icon Harold Wingfield calls it a career

One of the founders of the Black Faculty Caucus retires after 25 years

By Neil B. McGahee
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Every speaker at Harold Wingfield’s retirement party eventually said the same thing — he made a difference.

Wingfield is a political science professor, explained the workings of government to thousands of KSU students over the past 25 years. Then his back gave out.

“Tyr had three lumbar surgeries to try to correct disc problems and curvature of the spine,” he said. “I can’t stand for long periods of time any more but I’m an old-fashioned teacher. I like to walk through the aisles and interact with my students. I can’t sit on a stool and teach. That’s boring.”

But Wingfield played a bigger role here, one that changed the face of Kennesaw State forever.

“When I arrived at KSU in 1985, there were only about a dozen black faculty members,” Wingfield said. “Oral Moses, Rosa Boba, Anne Smith, Rodney Dennis, Natalie Woods — I can’t remember them all now — and I formed the Black Faculty Caucus with the express objective of enhancing the number of African-American faculty and students at KSU.

We fought hard for those ideas and now there are black administrators, vice-presidents, department chairs and professors all around campus.”

Joseph “Pete” Silver, the provost of Clark Atlanta University and director, Cardiovascular Medicine, PC

Robert A. King, head women’s soccer coach

Louise M. Lawson, professor of statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Science and Mathematics

Mark N. Papp, KSU student-athlete; Owls softball

Valerie Whitleyse, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of psychology, Department of Psychology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“Having made the transition to fielding a full-fledged NCAA Division I athletic program, KSU is now engaging in a national search to find our new athletic director,” Papp said. “We have top-notch athletic facilities — including a new, state-of-the-art soccer stadium and the most every one of God’s children had a chance to succeed,” he said.

“The people in this room who look just like me owe their careers to Harold Wingfield. He was a change agent. There is an old African proverb that says if you see a turtle sitting on a pole, he had help getting there. Those of you sitting on a pole at KSU got there with Harold’s help.”

KSU Symphony Orchestra tours China

Student musicians perform three concerts in Beijing and Xi’an

By Cheryl Anderson
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Life-changing is how that student musicians are describing the KSU Orchestra’s recent tour of China. The ensemble, directed by Associate Professor of Music Michael Alexander, was invited to perform three concerts in Beijing and Xi’an.

“This was an amazing opportunity for the students,” Alexander said. “China is emerging as a world leader in classical music. They are wild about orchestral music, and they made us feel incredibly welcome.”

The orchestra performed first in Beijing, where they shared concert billing with China’s top youth orchestra. In Xi’an, they played in that city’s new $100 million hall.

When they were not performing, the students visited many historic and cultural sites. They also were able to interact with young Chinese musicians. “We didn’t always speak a common language,” said violin performance major Holly Botella, “but we could really understand each other very well.”

Botella and her fellow students say they look at the world differently now. Not only are they spending a lot more time in the practice rooms — “We met kids 10 years younger than us, who said they practiced nine hours a day!” — but they also have more gracious attitudes. “The Chinese people were so welcoming and kind and they have such a strong sense of community, it really changed the way I see the world,” Botella said.

KSU’s new music and entertainment business program kicks off

Benefactor Joel Katz is first guest lecturer

By Aixa Pascual
apascual@kennesaw.edu

Students enrolled in the new music and entertainment business certificate program — a joint venture between the Colleges of Business and the College of the Arts — got a chance to listen to Joel Katz one of the world’s leading entertainment lawyers, during the program’s first guest lecture in February.

Katz, who donated an undisclosed amount to KSU last fall to launch the program, regaled the audience of about 100 people with stories of how he got started as a lawyer in the music and entertainment business by happenstance 40 years ago, and how he signed his first client — James Brown — and went on to add a who’s who of recording artists including Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Josh Groban, Jimmy Buffett and Michael Jackson.

Katz, chair and founding shareholder of Greenberg Traurig’s global media and entertainment practice, also talked about the challenges of new technologies and pointed out that the digital age is offering “myriad of opportunities” for students.

“This is a most interesting and exciting time for the music and entertainment business,” Katz told the students gathered at a classroom in Prillaman Hall. “Technology is not a threat, it’s an opportunity as long as there is a legal environment that protects intellectual property.”

Over the past three decades, he explained, the music recording industry has changed dramatically, as CDs, MP3 players, iPods and mobile phones have been introduced over the years. But as media, technology and content blend, it has to be clear who owns and controls content. Intellectual property, Katz insisted, has to be protected.

“Artists who create deserve to be paid for their work,” he said. “[If not] there will be no new content. Someone has to pay for its creation. Though the launch of the CD in the early 1980s ushered in the ‘golden age of music,’ Katz said nowadays there are plenty of jobs and opportunities for those interested in the music and entertainment business.

“The future is yours. Go get it,” he told the audience.

Search for new KSU athletic director launched

Panel of students, administrators and faculty expected to complete work by April

By Robert S. Godlewski
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A national search is underway to replace former KSU Women’s Golf head coach David Waples, who announced his retirement last August after serving the institution for more than 23 years.

KSU President Daniel S. Papp announced the KSU Athletic Director Search Committee which includes:

• Thomas H. Keene, professor of history and interim chair, Department of History and Philosophy, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
• John Charles Bradbury, associate professor of health, physical education and sport science, WellStar College of Health and Human Services
• Joan Domnick, associate professor, communication; and senior year journalism course coordinator, University College
• Richard Franza, associate professor of management and chair, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Coles College of Business
• Robert A. King, head women’s soccer coach
• Louise M. Lawson, professor of statistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Science and Mathematics
• Mark N. Papp, KSU student-athlete, Owls men’s golf
• Theodore L. Parrish, KSU Foundation trustee, principal and director of investments, The Hensler Financial Group
• Richard Siegel, KSU Foundation trustee; executive director, Cardiovascular Medicine, PC
• Catherine Tarvin, KSU student-athlete, Owls softball
• Valerie Whitleyse, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of psychology, Department of Psychology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

“Having made the transition to fielding a full-fledged NCAA Division I athletic program, KSU is now engaging in a national search to find our new athletic director,” Papp said. “We have a strong sense of community, it really changed the way I see the world,” Botella said.

KSU President Daniel S. Papp congratulates Harold Wingfield at Wingfield’s retirement party.
KSU professor’s debut novel honored at daylong state Capitol event

Georgia Legislation recognizes Stepakoff’s “Fireworks Over Toccoa”

By Sabbaye McGriff smcgrff1@kennesaw.edu

Georgia’s Third-Largest University • More than 23,400 Students • Doctorates in Education, Business, Nursing and International Conflict Management.

During a daylong celebration at the state Capitol, the Georgia Legislature passed resolutions in both chambers declaring Feb. 10 as “Toccoa-Stephens County "Fireworks over Toccoa Day,” recognizing the attention Kennesaw State professor Jeffrey Stepakoff’s novel by that title has brought the town, county and state.

Coordinated by the Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce, the day’s events featured a legislative orientation and briefing, proclamations, lunch and photo sessions with state officials. Signed copies of Stepakoff’s “Fireworks over Toccoa” were placed on the chamber desks of legislators in both the House and Senate, compliments of publisher St. Martin’s Press. “I am so flattered that my work is being recognized by our state legislators,” said Stepakoff, a veteran film and television writer whose credits include “The Wonder Years,” “Sisters,” “Major Dad,” Disney’s “Tarzan,” and “Dawson’s Creek.” “I’m thrilled that the book is helping to remind people of the great contributions the city has made to our state, and to introduce people to the city. Toccoa is the Cherokee word for beautiful — and it really is!”

KSU’s study-abroad scholarship program recognized as “best practice”

Program earns an Institute for International Education’s 2011 Heiskell Award

By Sabbaye McGriff smcgrff1@kennesaw.edu

In just two years since KSU implemented the Global Learning Scholarship Program, the initiative has earned an award for innovation in international education.

The Institute for International Education presented KSU one of 12 Andrew Heiskell Awards during its Sixth Annual Best Practices in Internationalization Conference in New York on March 18. More than 1,000 IIE higher education member institutions are eligible to compete for the awards.

The Global Learning Scholarship program provides scholarships for every KSU student who studies abroad — more than $725,000 in scholarships since 2008. In 2010, 866 students studied abroad in 35 countries on six continents. The scholarship program is supported by student fees.

“In today’s complex interdependent world, it is important to have first-hand experience of other countries and cultures,” said Dan Paracka, education-abroad director for KSU’s Institute for Global Initiatives. “We believe that every KSU student should study abroad and therefore we are doing our best to make such important educational opportunities more accessible.”

In nominating KSU’s study-abroad scholarship program, Paracka said scholarships increase students’ access to the education abroad experience and improve the quality of programs offered.

KSU received “honorable mention” in study abroad; one of four categories IIE recognized this year. Other award categories included internationalizing the campus in business education, international partnerships and community college internationalization.

“The 2011 Heiskell Award winners represent some of the world’s best initiatives in internationalizing higher education,” said IIE President and CEO Allan E. Goodman. “As institutions continue to innovate, taking their internationalization efforts to new heights and depths, we look forward to continuing our tradition of recognizing their commitment to excellence and meeting the global mandate of our time.”

Fiscal Solutions Tour visits KSU to discuss fiscal responsibility

Panelists say government must tame the federal deficit

By Ralph Ellis rellisskusu@gmail.com

Future generations will suffer unless the government acts now to control the mounting federal deficit, said financial experts visiting Kennesaw State University on March 1.

The Fiscal Solutions Tour, presented by the nonpartisan Concord Coalition with support from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, brought four financial experts with national experience to different locations to discuss fiscal responsibility and reform. The experts were Joseph Antos, Wilson H. Ginnis, a KSU alumnus and reporter at Augusta, Ga.’s WJBF-TV, and former U.S. comptroller general. “The recession increased the deficit, but all the panel members agreed the root cause is funding for entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which made up 51 percent of the federal budget in 1970 and 57 percent in 2010. Amiss said great discipline or “a political or technological miracle” was needed to bring the entitlement programs under control. Bixby said that even if the United States recovers from the recession and reduces war costs, “We’re still on an unsustainable track.”

Civil rights activist lays it out in black and white

Dick Gregory remembers MLK; urges students to make a difference

By Robert S. Godlewski rgodlewks@kennesaw.edu

Activist, author and comedian Dick Gregory did not pull any punches about race relations during KSU’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. But he did mix in plenty of humor at the KSU African-American Student Alliance-sponsored event.

The KSU Gospel Choir had just sung and Cory McGinnis, a KSU alumnus and reporter at Augusta, Ga.’s WJBF-TV, had just completed an introduction of the 79-year-old when Gregory started working the full house at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. The man who marched beside King in the 1960s showed he still has the stamina to reach a whole new generation. The septuagenarian raised the volume of his delivery every few minutes to make sure everyone understood.

Chiding Britain’s royal family for its wealth, Gregory reminded the crowd that Queen Elizabeth is just another human being. “Queen Elizabeth and my welfare cousin; they both got a heart,” he quipped.

As with the civil rights movement, he said the solution to many problems facing blacks today could be found with “two of the most powerful forces in America, the black woman and black churches.”

President Daniel S. Papp applauded Gregory for his wit and insight. Addressing the crowd, Papp reiterated a key theme of the federal holiday, saying, “Remember what Dr. King meant, not just to whites and blacks, but to people of all colors around the world. We’ve come a long way in just 40 to 50 years but there are a great many things left to do.”

Papp continued, “As Mr. Gregory pointed out, one person can do a heck of a lot. Many of you here are KSU students, so when we leave this room remember what Mr. Gregory said: You can make a difference. You must make a difference.”