Capital campaign hits $75 million target early
Five-year campaign expected to reach goal a year ahead of schedule

By Tammy DeMel
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In spite of tough economic conditions, Kennesaw State officials expect to surpass the $75 million goal of the university’s first capital campaign a full year ahead of schedule this fall. The five-year comprehensive capital campaign, launched in October 2007, raised $73.7 million in contributions as of June 2011.

The campaign raised the largest individual contribution ($18 million) from an anonymous donor, as well as the largest grant in university history ($8.9 million from the U.S. Department of Education). It also raised $14 gifts of at least $1 million each.

“Kennesaw State University is a young, dynamic, growing institution with a developing entrepreneurial spirit that is evident in our faculty, students, staff and alumni,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “The individuals and institutions that contribute to and support Kennesaw State recognize and appreciate how far we have come and the great accomplishments we are making, and we, in turn, make it clear how much we highly value our donors’ support.”

The capital campaign has allowed Kennesaw State to move forward on many fronts toward its quest for national recognition, including new student scholarships, initiatives to reward outstanding faculty and staff performance, new facilities, and a strong expansion in funded research.

“The success that we achieved with this capital campaign is a tremendous accomplishment,” said Norman Radow, chairman of the Kennesaw State University Foundation, which led the campaign. “The Foundation’s executive committee and board members are pleased to play a key role in helping KSU meet the goal of the university’s first-ever capital campaign. We are even more excited that the goal was achieved ahead of schedule.”

Just 47 years old, Kennesaw State – Georgia’s third-largest university – has one of the youngest alumni bases when compared to other colleges and universities in the state. Yet KSU consistently ranks just behind more established institutions such as Emory University, the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Georgia State when it comes to fundraising.

The capital campaign has allowed KSU to add more scholarships, build new facilities and expand research.

Regents approve Bagwell College expansion
$20 million addition creates more space for more teachers

By Robert S. Godlewski
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Kennesaw State University will sell Kennesaw State next year on a more than $20 million addition to the Bagwell College of Education thanks to an $18 million allocation from the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents and the Georgia General Assembly. The projected enrollment growth at KSU and new educator preparation degree programs require more dedicated space. Also, new initiatives in the Bagwell College – such as the Center for Literacy and Learning – require room to grow.

“We are deeply appreciative of the strong support from the University System of Georgia’s (USG) Board of Regents for this much-needed addition to the Bagwell College of Education and to Gov. Nathan Deal and the General Assembly for recognizing the important role Kennesaw State plays in the education of the state’s teachers,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “The outstanding support and advocacy on behalf of KSU by the members of our Cobb County delegation also played a key role in the funding of this critical need for the university.”

KSU graduates more teachers annually than any other USG institution – enrollment in the Bagwell College has more than doubled since the mid-2000s – but USG graduates satisfy only 30 percent of the state’s teacher requirements, with another 20 percent of teachers coming from private universities. However, a “20,000 by 2020” USG initiative seeks to meet 80 percent of the state’s need for teachers by the year 2020 while strengthening teacher quality, recruitment and retention.

“The university and the Bagwell College of Education are top choices for students who aspire to careers in teaching and educational leadership,” said Arlinda Eaton, dean of the Bagwell College. “As the number of future teachers enrolling at Kennesaw State continued to grow so did momentum for the new education building addition. We simply needed more space to meet the need for more teachers in Georgia.”
**“Year of Peru” promises intellectual, literary and culinary feast**

*South America’s fourth-largest country celebrated*

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Kennesaw State University is celebrating the “Year of Peru” during academic year 2011-2012 with expanded opportunities to learn about the South American nation’s ancient history, modern complexities and rich cultural traditions. With nearly 30 million people, Peru is South America’s fourth largest country. Pre-Columbian culture is rooted in its indigenous people and heavily influenced since the 16th century by Spanish contact and subsequent waves of African, European and Asian immigrants.

Some of the “Year of Peru” events include:

- Dan Paracka, study-abroad director and “Year of” program coordinator, will join visiting Fulbright Professor Oswaldo Miguel Gavilía Cannon from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú to teach a newly designed course spanning Peru’s Pre-Incan civilizations, Inca conquest, Spanish conquest and early nationalism.
- Ernesto Silva, assistant professor of Spanish, will teach a course featuring four novels by Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa, winner of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Every Friday, The Commons Student Culinary Center will feature Peruvian cuisine and will host some of the country’s top chefs in its kitchen.
- About 30 KSU students and faculty will study abroad in Peru.
- KSU will host a conference titled “Understanding Peru through Visual, Culinary and Literary Culture.”

“This year’s country study presents a unique opportunity to learn in depth about Peru’s rich history, culture and modern society,” Paracka said. “Peru is a dynamic place with great energy and creativity. The ‘Year of Peru’ creates a platform to learn from others in a way that does not discredit or discount what seems foreign or alien but instead embraces the unknown as a source of creativity and vitality that enriches our understanding of a complex and fragile world.”

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**Economic impact of university grows by $1 million**

*Student spending fuels university’s growing impact on metro Atlanta’s economy*

By Jennifer Hafer
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Spending by Kennesaw State University students was the driving force behind an almost four percent jump in the university’s local economic impact in fiscal year 2010 over FY 2009, according to a report recently released by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

In determining its rankings, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education’s 2010 report recently published by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education’s plan. We thank the publishers of Diverse: Issues in Higher Education for recognizing our outcomes and progress.”

KSU is ranked among the nation’s top 100 producers of minority students graduating with a degree in the physical sciences
• 23rd for all African-American students graduating with a degree in accounting
• 29th for all African-American students graduating with a degree in finance
• 31st for all African-American students graduating with a degree in marketing
• 32nd across all minority students graduating with a degree in education
• 33rd for all African-American students graduating with a degree in nursing
• 47th for all African-American students graduating with a degree in the physical sciences

**New and improved KSU Bookstore opens this fall**

*Renovations, expanded product lines create “wow” factor*

By Sabbaye McGriff
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The new KSU Bookstore will open its doors on Aug. 15 to reveal a completely renovated, high-tech retail store that is nearly double in size.

In addition to expanded lines of KSU merchandise, school supplies and convenience-store items, the campus community will find a newly added Clinique cosmetics counter and a greatly expanded OﬀTEC technology center with a wide selection of Apple and Windows-based products, and accessories. The KSU Bookstore’s renovation was seven years in the making.

“It’s substantially different in look and feel — a more traditional college bookstore look that is more befitting a university,” said bookstore director Jamie Burns.

The additional space accommodates expansion in the textbook department, whose book rental service has boomed in recent years. Also, in response to the growing popularity of online learning and digital materials, the textbook area now oﬀers more than 350 titles in digital and e-book formats. Burns said the bookstore will feature three different layouts throughout the year — one for back to school; another for graduation; and one for in between those periods.

“We think the renovated bookstore will make a tremendous impact,” Burns said. “It really shows oﬀ that side of the student center nicely.”
Kennesaw State showcases brain injury research lab
Pioneering researchers develop blood test to diagnose strokes, concussions

By Robert Godlewski
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A new neuroscience team at Kennesaw State University, partnering with researchers from the medical schools at Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh, has been awarded a major grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) to validate the efficacy of a new, biomarker blood test for concussions and mild traumatic brain injuries.

The research team, led by Kennesaw State Distinguished Professor of Health and Human Services Svetlana Dambinova, recently received a $2.38 million Department of Defense grant to help diagnose battlefield concussions. The team’s work focuses on the chemical reactions that occur in the body in the aftermath of concussions and strokes.

In July, the group of cutting-edge neuroscientists and neurologists opened their new research facility — Kennesaw State’s Brain Biomarkers Research Laboratory — to the media and hosted visiting members of its national research project. Their lab is located in Kennesaw State’s $56 million Prillaman Hall Health Sciences Building.

Dambinova and her team’s discovery of a key molecule that may aid in the early detection of strokes and brain injuries has led to the development of a blood test that can be easily administered in hospital emergency rooms, as well as in combat conditions and at athletic events. If the molecule is found in the bloodstream, it may give health care providers the opportunity to identify not only the occurrence of a stroke, but potentially the ability to predict a “mini-stroke” or a “silent stroke” before it even happens or gets detected, Dambinova said.

Dambinova and her team’s work was also featured at the July gathering in Atlanta of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC). AACC has honored and recognized her research advances and scholarships on several past occasions.

Kennesaw receives prestigious award recognizing global efforts
Simon Award recognizes diversity of global programs

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Kennesaw State has received one of the most prestigious awards recognizing excellence in international education.

KSU was one of eight colleges and universities recognized by NASFAA: Association of International Educators with the coveted 2011 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization at a June awards ceremony in Vancouver, Canada.

President Daniel S. Papp received the award, which recognizes the diversity of approaches the university employs to internationalize its campus.

“This prestigious award signals that KSU is on target with the goals we established in 2007 to create an integrated, interdisciplinary and multifaceted global learning environment,” said Papp.

Papp added, “Each of the university’s eight colleges has strategically incorporated internationalization into their curriculum, faculty and student development objectives. We are extremely pleased that NASFAA recognizes our efforts.

Over the past year, KSU has received two other awards for its internationalization efforts — the Institute for International Education’s 2011 Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education and the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy’s 2010 Top Citizen Diplomacy Program award.

KSU was among five universities recognized by NASA in the comprehensive internationalization category.

“We’re among an elite group of institutions receiving this honor,” said Barry J. Morris, KSU’s vice provost of global engagement and strategic initiatives. “KSU’s tradition as a public research university, internationalized campus results from the commitment of administrators and faculty to collaborate across disciplines to create rigorous academic programs and global learning experiences that prepare our students, faculty and local communities.”

New Interdisciplinary Studies Department debuts this fall
Seven humanities and social sciences programs are now under one department

By Ralph Ellis
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Seven academic programs in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences will begin operating as a new Interdisciplinary Studies Department this fall.


“The creation of this new interdisciplinary department advances the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary approaches to learning, and to its major goals of promoting diversity, inclusion, global learning and an engaged citizenry,” said interim Provost W. Ken Harmon.

“The programs that now make up the Interdisciplinary Studies Department previously operated as a cluster under the office of the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“The alignment of these programs and their successful history of collaboration in terms of curriculum delivery, the sharing of resources, interdisciplinary research and the staging of successful events and activities reinforce the strategic goal of nurturing interdisciplinary and intercultural learning,” said Richard Vengroff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Vengroff also noted that the departmental structure allows decisions about faculty tenure, promotion and scholarship to reside wholly within the department, rather than in the home departments to which the faculty members were previously assigned.

Princeton Review lauds Kennesaw State as environmentally friendly
University included in “The Guide to 311 Green Colleges”

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Kennesaw State has been included in “The Guide to 311 Green Colleges,” known by its acronym as ecoAmerica, a national nonprofit environmental organization. Other Georgia schools honored this year were Agnes Scott College, Berry College, Emory University (Georgia Tech), Georgia Southern and the University of Georgia.
Jeff Karlsson named Kennesaw State’s first All-American golfer
Owls record best season in KSU golf history

By Neil B. McGahee
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The 2011 season may be forever known as the season of firsts. In its best year in KSU golf history, the Owls:

• won its first Atlantic Sun Conference championship
• made its first NCAA national championship appearance
• saw its first golfer, junior Jeff Karlsson, named to the PING All-America team and named the A-Sun Men’s Golfer of the Year
• garnered first team A-Sun honors for Karlsson and Matt Nagy

Additionally, the Owls won four team titles, received five Atlantic Sun Golfer of the Week awards, and Jay Mosley, in his second season as the Owl’s head coach, was named A-Sun Coach of the Year.

“I am very proud of what this team has accomplished all year long,” Mosley said, “and I look forward to an even better season in 2011-12.” Karlsson, who was a unanimous selection for A-Sun Golfer of the Year among the conference coaches, won individual titles at the Sam Hill Intercollegiate, the Seminole Classic and the A-Sun Championships, where he shot a three-round total of 70.33 and a first round 67 en route to becoming KSU’s first individual medalist at the event. His stroke average of 70.33 and his -1.27 shots against par were the best in Division I golf.

“Jeff’s All-America honor is a very impressive award because it reflects the entire season and is evidence that he had an outstanding year,” Mosley said. “It is proof that you don’t have to play at a big-high profile school to be a successful college golfer. Jeff has elevated his game while here at KSU and he has helped make everyone around him better as well. We are excited about the future of our program and hope to have many more All-Americans in the years to come.”

Kennesaw State receives federal grant for theatre production
National Endowment for the Arts’ grant supports production of “Splittin’ the Raft”

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The National Endowment for the Arts awarded the College of the Arts’ Department of Theatre, Performance Studies & Dance a $10,000 grant to support the upcoming production of “Splittin’ theRaft,” an adaptation of “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

After a six-night run at KSU’s Black Box Theater Sept. 20-25, the play will be performed at various community arts organizations and schools, including the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville, the Arts Association of Newton County, the Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta and various high schools in North Georgia.

“This project is exemplary in its community engagement,” said John Gentile chair of the Department of Theatre, Performance Studies & Dance. “It brings a canonical work of American literature and a thoughtful consideration of contemporary social issues involving diversity to today’s students in the greater Atlanta community.”

Written by Scott Kaiser, “Splittin’ the Raft” is a dramatic adaptation of the Mark Twain classic “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” as seen through the eyes of the great orator and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The play, featuring African-American spirituals and songs by Stephen Foster, will be directed by associate professor of theatre and performance studies Harrison Long.

“I’m very excited,” Long said. “We have an amazing cast, which reflects the range and diversity of our talented student body.”

Off-site parking and shuttle service expand
Commuter students can park and ride from Town Point and Town Center Mall

By Sabbaye McGriff
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KSU’s Department of Parking and Transportation has expanded its off-site park-and-ride services for commuter students to include 700 reserved spaces at Town Center Mall and continuous shuttle service to campus. Parking and shuttle service for commuter students will continue between main campus and Town Point.

Shuttles will run continuously Monday to Thursday from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. along “gold” and “black” routes. The gold-route shuttle circulates the campuses, running every 10 minutes between the west Town Point parking lot and Chastain Point, with campus stops at The Commons and the Student Wellness and Recreation Center. The black-route shuttle will run about every 18 minutes from the food court side of Town Center Mall. It will make campus stops at The Commons, the Student Wellness and Recreation Center and the KSU Center.

Parking at the two locations is available only to KSU commuter students, who must secure a site-specific decal. The fee to park at Town Point remains S20. There is no fee to park at Town Center Mall, but students must obtain a decal.

The shuttle service for both locations is available to all KSU faculty, staff and students with a valid KSU ID.

“As our enrollment continues to climb, the pressure for more parking increases, especially for commuter students,” said parking and transportation director Beth Tindel. “Last fall we were at 98 percent capacity and there was just no parking left for commuters. The additional spaces at the mall bring our off-site parking total to 1,060 and that will help considerably.”

Tindel expects demand for more off-site parking to increase. “We’ve received numerous comments that we’re only adding parking south of campus and not accommodating students who commute from north of the campus. We’re looking into that as well.”

Kennesaw State women’s soccer team travels to Ecuador
Coach and six student-athletes lead soccer camp

By Robert S. Godlewski
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Kennesaw State’s women’s soccer coach and six student-athletes traveled to Quito, Ecuador, this summer to lead a soccer camp for 150 bilingual boys and girls, ages 7 to 17.

The invitation to conduct the camp was an outgrowth of KSU’s successful student teaching-study-abroad program, held in conjunction with Colegio Menor San Francisco de Quito, an English-speaking international school, and Universidad San Francisco de Quito. For the past several years, KSU has offered teacher-preparation candidates the opportunity to gain valuable field teaching experience at Colegio Menor.

“This soccer camp is an excellent example of Kennesaw State’s international outreach and engagement,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “Our international programs are central to KSU’s academic mission and we encourage our students to take part and get involved in these exciting projects. This athletics project represents a unique opportunity for our student-athletes to teach others while at the same time learn more about different cultures.”

This marks the first time that KSU student-athletes have ventured outside the United States to conduct a summer camp. The KSU contingent was assisted by camp counselors at Colegio Menor San Francisco de Quito.

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