

Access

A publication of Kennesaw State University

Research
Report

Kennesaw State faculty and staff received nearly \$10 million last year to fund research projects. "Research Report" keeps you abreast of the university's increased research activity.

Associate foreign language professors **Luixi Meng** and **Anja Bernardy** were awarded \$99,774 by the National Security Agency to implement StarTalk, a residential professional development program for K-12 Chinese language teachers.

• **Terry Powis**, assistant professor of anthropology, received a \$30,550 grant from the Alphawood Foundation to continue research at the Pacbitun Regional Archaeological Project in Belize. Powis has been investigating the preclassic Mayan period occupation in the Belize Valley since 2008.

• **Gregory Meyjes**, chair of the Department of Inclusive Education, and **Sandy Bryan**, global learning coordinator for the Bagwell College of Education's international education programs, received a \$22,000 contract from the Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombia, the Caribbean and Mexico to develop and implement a certification program for teachers of families of U.S. embassy staff, families of employees of U.S. corporations and host – country national families.

Assistant mathematics professor **Yuliya Babenko** received a \$35,000 collaboration grant from the Simons Foundation, which she will use to develop seminars for her department, as well as attend conferences and meet with collaborators. She was an invited presenter at an approximation theory workshop in Budapest in July and plans to participate in a conference on harmonic analysis and approximation in Armenia in the fall. She will also attend a conference mathematical models for curves and surfaces in Norway next summer. Babenko's research interests include numerical analysis, approximation theory and spline theory.

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 (\$5 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 preeminence, including new



David Caselli

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

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.

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 start construction 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. Peru’s culture is rooted in its indigenous people and heavily influenced since the 16th century by Spanish culture 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 Gavidia Cannon from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú to teach a newly designed course spanning Peru’s Pre-Incan civilizations, Inca expansion, Spanish conquest, colonialism 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



Peru Tourism Ministry

Peru’s diverse land encompasses the Pacific coast, the Amazon rain forest and the Andes Mountains, in which is nestled the ruins of the Incan city of Machu Picchu.

seems foreign or alien but instead that enriches our understanding embraces the unknown as a source of creativity and vitality of a complex and fragile world.”

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 a 14 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.

The institution’s FY 2010 economic impact on the 28-county Atlanta metropolitan region was more than \$800 million, up from \$701 million in FY 2009. The overall economic impact of the 35-unit university system on the

state’s economy in FY 2010 was \$12.6 billion.

“Kennesaw State’s impact on the local economy is substantial and expanding,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “With a growing student body of more than 23,400, we are proud to call Cobb County home and to contribute in such a significant manner to the region’s success.”

The USG study was conducted by the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business, which analyzed data collected between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010, to calculate the university’s economic impact.

The study measures initial spending on personal services, operating expenses and student spending, as well as the impact of this spending on output, value-added, labor income and employment.

Initial spending by KSU totaled \$508 million. This spending includes salaries and fringe benefits, operating expenses and other budgeted expenditures. When combined with nearly \$278 million in student spending in FY 2010, total initial spending accounted for the lion’s share of KSU’s \$800 million in overall economic impact. The remaining \$14 million in economic impact



David Caselli

KSU contributed more than \$800 million to the 28-county Atlanta metro region. Student spending was a driving force.

was created by re-spending – the multiplier effect of those dollars as they are spent again in the region.

Kennesaw State ranks among top 100 producers of minority grads

Nine programs also ranked in top 50 by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*

By Tammy DeMel
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Kennesaw State University ranked among the nation’s top degree producers of minority students in a special report recently published by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. This is the first time Kennesaw State was included in the publication’s rankings.

The national magazine’s annual “Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers” report recognized Kennesaw State as a top overall degree producer of African-American students (95th). KSU also was recognized as a leading institution for African-American students graduating in seven academic categories and ranked among the top institutions for Asian-Americans majoring in education (23rd).

“We are proud to stand among the nation’s colleges and universities that are being recognized as leaders in

the area of diversity,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “Embracing and leveraging our campus diversity is a major component of Kennesaw State’s overall strategic plan. We thank the publishers of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* for recognizing our outcomes and progress.”

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education’s list of top 100 degree producers showcases U.S. colleges’ and universities’ success in awarding degrees to African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American and Native-American students. In determining its rankings, *Diverse* uses the most recent enrollment data from the U.S. Department of Education as submitted by each institution.

In fall 2010, minority students accounted for 26 percent of Kennesaw State’s more than 23,400 undergraduate and graduate students. Other categories where KSU ranked include:

- 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 education
- 40th for all African-American students graduating with a degree in parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies
- 46th 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 OwlTEC 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 our size,” 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



Svetlana Dambinova answers a question from the media.

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 a featured presentation at a 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.

New Interdisciplinary Studies Department debuts this fall

Seven humanities and social sciences programs are now under one department

By Sabbaye McGriff
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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 new department comprises African and African Diaspora Studies, American Studies, Asian Studies,

Environmental Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Latin American Studies and Peace Studies.

"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 citizenship," 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, service and scholarship to reside wholly within the department, rather than in the discipline-based 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 Ralph Ellis

Kennesaw State has been included in "The Guide to 311 Green Colleges," the *Princeton Review's* third annual listing of environmentally friendly educational institutions.

The *Princeton Review*, known for ratings that help students choose and get into colleges, surveyed more than 700 institutions in 2009-10 about their environmental practices, policies and academic offerings. KSU was one of seven Georgia schools listed in the June publication.

The guide praised Kennesaw



KSU was designated a green college by the *Princeton Review* thanks to LEED-certified buildings such as Prillaman Hall.

State for seeking alternative transportation initiatives, installing motion detectors for lighting in classrooms, installing energy-saving devices on vending machines and increasing the use of recycled materials on campus. LEED certification, short for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, of several campus buildings was a plus.

The guide said of KSU: "A quarter of the buildings on campus have undergone energy-related retrofits to date, and three buildings have or will soon receive LEED certification. KSU's Social Sciences Building

is LEED-certified at the Silver level; The Commons – Student Culinary Center has gold LEED certification. Prillaman Hall, the Health Sciences Building, will soon acquire LEED designation as well. The dining hall's sustainability features include composting, trayless dining and local food purchasing. Gray water from the Central Parking Deck and other locations is being used for watering campus landscaping."

KSU was noted for having an undergraduate degree program with a focus on environmental science or environmental policy. All non-science majors at KSU

take a two-semester introductory science course on environmental issues. The College of Science and Mathematics has received a \$125,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to establish its "Sustainable Homes: Building 'Smarter' Houses Today for a Better Tomorrow" project.

The *Princeton Review* developed its rating system with ecoAmerica, a 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.

Kennesaw receives prestigious award recognizing global efforts

Simon Award recognizes diversity of globalization 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 NAFSA: 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 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 at KSU," Papp said. "Each of the university's eight colleges has strategically incorporated these goals into curriculum, faculty and student development objectives. We are extremely pleased that NAFSA recognizes the results."

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



Barry J. Morris, vice provost of global engagement and strategic initiatives, and KSU President Daniel S. Papp received the Senator Paul Simon Award in Vancouver, Canada in June.

Diplomacy Program award.

KSU was among five universities recognized by NAFSA 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 distinction as a comprehensive, internationalized campus results from the commitment of administrators and faculty to collaborate across disciplines to create rigorous academic programs and global learning experiences and opportunities for students, faculty and local community."

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 Mosely, 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," Mosely said, "and I look forward to an even better



KSU golfer Jeff Karlsson was named to the PING All-America team.

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 207 and a first round 67 en route to becoming KSU's first medalist at the event. His stroke average of 70.33 and his -1.27 shots against par were the best in Division 1 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," Mosely 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"

By Cheryl A. Brown
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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' the Raft," 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 in 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



(l-r) Rob Hadaway, with guitar, Annie Power, Shannon Sparks and John Stewart are cast members of "Splittin' the Raft."

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 campus, 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 \$20. 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 de 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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