

Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Research Report

Kennesaw State faculty and staff received more than \$16 million last year to fund research projects. "Research Report" keeps you abreast of the university's increased research activity.

Kennesaw State named provost and chief academic officer

Former Coles College dean becomes second to hold post in KSU history

By Tammy DeMel
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After a nationwide search, Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp announced the selection of W. Ken Harmon as the institution's new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Harmon, professor of accounting and the Tony and Jack Dinos Eminent Scholar Chair of Entrepreneurial Management at KSU, has served as the university's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs since July 2010. Previously, Harmon held top administrative posts at several business schools in the Southeast, including at Kennesaw State, where he was named dean of the Coles College of Business in 2009.

"Since joining Kennesaw State, Ken has demonstrated that he is an excellent leader who is committed to helping guide KSU on its path toward national prominence," Papp stated. "During his interim

appointment, Ken has been highly engaged both on campus and in the community, and he has established a very strong and positive reputation. It's clear to me that he is definitely the right person for this important position at this critical stage in the university's transformation."

Harmon joined KSU in 2006 as head of the university's accounting program. Later as dean of the Coles College, Harmon collaborated closely with Atlanta-area companies to raise the profile of the college, now regarded as one of the top business schools in the Southeast.

"I want to thank Dr. Papp, the search committee and the entire KSU community for their vote of confidence in naming me to this post," Harmon stated. "When I first came to Kennesaw State, the energy and excitement was palpable. This university has an entrepreneurial spirit like no other and I feel as if I have truly found a home here."



W. Ken Harmon, KSU's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, joined the university in 2006 as head of the accounting department at the Coles College of Business.

File Photo

University Development and Foundation Programs, spearheaded a successful \$297,000 grant request from the Department of Health and Human Services to equip several labs in Prillaman Hall. The equipment will support graduate research for nursing students.

Terry Powis, associate professor of anthropology, was awarded \$91,404 by the Alphawood Foundation to investigate the core and periphery of the ancient Mayan site of Pacbitun. He was also awarded a National Geographic Society/Waite Grants Program \$12,680 grant that will enable him to photograph artifacts and — using pattern recognition software — to reconstruct pilgrimage circuits the ancient Mayas undertook more than 1,000 years ago.

Jonathan McMurry, associate professor of biochemistry, received a \$22,927 diversity supplement to his National Institutes of Health grant supporting his research on the dynamics of specialized Type III secretion apparatus of bacterial flagellum. The supplement will support research training for Stephanie A. Hill, a KSU undergraduate student.

Biology professor **Army Lester** will lead the KSU segment of the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a five-year National Science Foundation grant that aims to increase minority STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) enrollment and baccalaureate degree completion, increase the percentage of minority students participating in STEM research, increase the percentage of minority scholars that transfer to a four-year institution after completing a partner two-year program, and increase the number of students that pursue STEM graduate programs.

The **Coles College of Business** was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation to purchase three additional Bloomberg subscriptions to be used for market research by students participating in the Student Managed Investment Fund.

Kennesaw State names new vice president for advancement

Missouri State's Michael J. Harders tapped to lead KSU's fundraising efforts

By Tammy DeMel
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Michael J. Harders, executive director of development for Missouri State University, has been named the new vice president for advancement for Kennesaw State. The national search was chaired by KSU Provost W. Ken Harmon. Harders will begin his new role on April 2.

In that role, Harders will lead the university's comprehensive advancement team, overseeing annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, corporate and foundation relations programs, as well as alumni affairs. He will report to KSU President Daniel S. Papp and serve as a member of the President's cabinet. "We are looking forward to welcoming Mike to Kennesaw State," Papp said. "His solid experience in university advancement and track record of meeting and exceeding campaign goals made him stand out among the finalists, and makes him a perfect fit for us. He will be a wonderful addition to the leadership team."

Harders joined Missouri State in 2007. During his tenure there, he was credited with restructuring the development office resulting in enhanced donor relationships

and increased gifts to the university. In addition, Harders was responsible for coordinating "Our Promise-The Campaign for Missouri State University", a \$125 million comprehensive campaign.

Harders began his career in higher education at the Kansas State University Foundation. Over his seven years at Kansas State, he was promoted three times and held the position of senior director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences before joining Missouri State.

Harders succeeds Wes Wicker who resigned in October after leading the university's first comprehensive capital campaign, which raised \$75 million.

Since Wickers' departure, Joe Meeks, dean of KSU's College of the Arts, served in an interim capacity.

"I'd like to thank Joe Meeks for all of his support and dedication over the past few months," Papp stated. "He has been a great help to the university, serving double duty as both a dean and as interim vice president for advancement. We highly value and sincerely appreciate his leadership and contributions during this transition."



Michael J. Harders will join Kennesaw State on April 2 as the university's new vice president for advancement.

File Photo

Kennesaw State student earns master's degree at 85

After earning a bachelor's at 81, Arthur Harris went to grad school

by Aixa Pascual
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Arthur Harris has spent most of his eighties hitting the books and writing papers. At 81, he earned a bachelor's degree in English at Kennesaw State, and four years later the university's oldest graduate earned a master's in professional writing.

"I originally signed up for a certificate program but I switched over to the master's program," he said. "The certificate wasn't enough. I wanted to set a higher goal."

Harris, co-founder of Spa Sydell, pursued the creative-writing track, taking courses in playwriting, fiction, speechwriting and review writing.

His professors describe Harris as an engaged and enthusiastic student, who always arrived to class on time. "He has opinions that he will share and spice up a classroom,"



Kennesaw State's oldest graduate, Arthur Harris, received a standing ovation during his hooding at commencement ceremonies in December.

said English professor Beth Giddens, his thesis co-adviser. "He doesn't let things go dull. He was very present, not a wallflower."

For his master's thesis, Harris wrote a memoir chronicling his love story with Sydell, his wife of 62 years. The story recalled their long courtship, their wedding night in a Times Square hotel, the love letter he wrote to her when their first child was born and their 58th wedding anniversary in Montepulciano, Italy, while Harris was studying abroad as a KSU undergrad. Along the way, the couple founded Spa Sydell and turned it into a successful business.

Harris said he is always looking for another mountain to climb and might like to teach or pursue a master's in fine arts or a doctorate.

"I firmly believe that seniors should keep their minds exercised and involved in learning new things," he said.

New television PSA unveiled during men's basketball game

"Global Thinkers. Engaged Leaders." shines spotlight on university's unique qualities

by Robert S. Godlewski
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Kennesaw State University unveiled a brand-new television public service announcement (PSA), on the Comcast/Charter Sports Southeast network during the Jan. 13 men's basketball game, when the Kennesaw State Owls took on the Mercer University Bears.

The 30-second spot, titled "Global Thinkers. Engaged Leaders", highlights Kennesaw State's academics, state-of-the-art facilities, residence life and athletics programs.

Produced in-house in a collaboration between Kennesaw State's Department of University Relations, the Department of Audio Visual Technology Services, and the Athletics Department, the PSA features a

video collage and images of students in various facets of campus life, from science and laboratories to the arts, to athletics and on-campus living. In addition to airing it during upcoming game broadcasts, Kennesaw State officials plan to use the spot to promote KSU on the university's website and over various social media channels.

According to KSU's Vice President for External Affairs Arlethia Perry-Johnson, the theme, "Global Thinkers. Engaged Leaders", builds on a broader marketing campaign currently being conducted by the University Relations department, "which positions KSU as a university of increasing preeminence with many impressive achievements on a wide variety of fronts."

Kennesaw State Owls men's and women's basketball

programs will receive broader exposure during the 2011-12 season as a result of an agreement between the Atlantic Sun Conference and ESPN.

Kennesaw State's new athletic director, Vaughn Williams, is excited about the university's enhanced visibility in the collegiate sports arena. "As athletes, we see ourselves as ambassadors for the university," Williams stated. "Having the opportunity to showcase a KSU public service announcement during one of our televised games is a great way for us to help promote the university and our phenomenal achievements."

To view the Kennesaw State PSA, visit <http://vimeo.com/33741768>.

Kennesaw State featured in Georgia Trend Magazine

Magazine focuses on university's academic and physical growth

by Neil B. McGahee
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In its January 2012 issue, *Georgia Trend* magazine lets the cat out of the bag about Kennesaw State.

"Anyone subscribing to the notion that Kennesaw State University is a place where students go to college when they can't get in anywhere else needs to wake up and smell the fair trade coffee served at The Grind Coffee Co. found at The Commons, the university's state-of-the-art dining facility," the lead paragraph boldly proclaims.

"Destination: Kennesaw State," a five-page feature about Georgia's third-largest university, written by Patty Rasmussen, focuses on the university's academic and physical growth. Through

interviews with President Daniel S. Papp, students and other administrators, the magazine paints the picture of KSU as it is today — a burgeoning university on the rise towards national prominence.

"One of my high school teachers laughed when I told her I was coming to KSU because she grew up in the Kennesaw area back when it was still a small commuter school," third-year student Sara Lynn Colley from Thomaston was quoted. "Even I thought I would transfer after two years. I actually got into Auburn for this fall semester, but I didn't want to go."

KSU has enjoyed steady but manageable four percent growth over the past five years, Rasmussen says, but it's not just the numbers of students coming to KSU; it's the type of students it is

attracting.

"Our SATs and high school GPAs have continued to climb," Papp told Rasmussen. "The students are as engaged as ever with their activities and communities." KSU is a diverse campus, one that actively seeks out students of color, veterans, disabled learners and international students. More than 142 countries are represented among the student body. We are getting a national reputation, and that helps attract students to KSU."

View a digital version of the article on the campus news section of the KSU website at: <http://web.kennesaw.edu/news/>



Kennesaw State University was featured in the January 2012 issue of *Georgia Trend* magazine. The article chronicles the university's growth, enhanced student life and academic achievement.

Campus Notes

KSU Community Clinic receives grants

The KSU Community Clinic at MUST Ministries has received two grants in support of its programs to combat hypertension and diabetes. The Kaiser Permanente Foundation has awarded the clinic a grant for \$14,915, while The RiteAid Foundation bestowed a gift of \$9,700. The grants will provide resources for managing hypertension and diabetes to the vulnerable populations the clinic serves — primarily Hispanic and African Americans. Recent surveys indicate 60-65 percent of the clients using the clinic are Hispanic/Latino with their primary diagnosis being diabetes and hypertension. Hispanic clients with diabetes and hypertension require screening, education and treatment since they are twice as likely to die from heart disease as non-Hispanics with these disorders. In

addition, most of the African-American women using the clinic have diabetes. The death rate from diabetes is two times higher for African-American women than for white women. The clinic is a division of the KSU WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

The Kennesaw State Counseling and Psychological Services Center earned two awards. at the annual Georgia College Counseling Association meeting in January. Josh Gunn, director of behavioral response programs was awarded the Professional Leadership Award and case manager Marcy Stidum earned the Clinical Program of the Year Award.

Pathways to Peace lecture series brings Nobel Prize winner to KSU

Williams warns human rights in the U.S. have eroded since September 11

by Neil B. McGahee
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Jody Williams, winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for her work to ban landmines, spoke about her life as an activist at Kennesaw State's second annual Pathways to Peace lecture series in February.

Williams said her activism was first fueled by the civil rights movement, the reemergence of the women's movement and the Vietnam War when she was a student at the University of Vermont in the 1970s. But her life was forever changed several years later when she read a flyer, "El Salvador: Another Vietnam?" in a Washington, D.C. subway.

"Had it not had 'Vietnam' in the title,

I would have thrown it away," she said. "But the juxtaposition of El Salvador and Vietnam made me curious."

Williams began volunteering for a small organization that sought to raise awareness about the plight of war-torn Central Americans. She said she spent a considerable amount of time in Central America, often touring Nicaragua and Honduras with U.S. delegations.

Williams said her work has been focused on South America and Africa for the past decade. In 2007, she issued a report to the United Nations' Human Rights Council, describing the atrocities being committed in the Darfur region.

But the loss of human rights isn't relegated to places like Central America and Africa. Williams warned that human

rights in the United States have slowly eroded since September 11, 2001.

"I've thought about going, and comparing the lack of freedom of expression in Central America with what's happened in the U.S. around the 'Occupy' movements," she said. "I have to say I think it's unfortunate that I'm having to worry about my civil rights in this country."

The Pathways to Peace lecture series, organized by the Coles College of Business, First-Year Programs and the Peace Studies Program, seeks to promote campus engagement in strategies that impact lasting world peace according to Sheb True, associate dean for Graduate and Executive Programs in the Coles College.



File Photo

Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams emphasized the need to redefine peace during Kennesaw State University's second annual Pathways to Peace lecture.

Giovanni adds poetic touch on MLK Jr. Day

World-renowned poet captivates crowd at Bobbie Bailey performance center

by Robert S. Godlewski
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Activist and world-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni helped advance the state of race relations during an exuberant and, at times, humorous presentation at Kennesaw State's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in January.

Hailed by Oprah Winfrey as a "living legend," Giovanni is one of the most widely read American poets. Having grown up in an all-black suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, Giovanni said she prides herself on being "a black American, a daughter, a mother and a professor of English."

An inspirational song by the Kennesaw State Gospel Choir led by Oral Moses set an appropriate tone for the event, which was held at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center.

Patricia Maduakor, a recent KSU graduate, introduced Giovanni, the woman *Black Enterprise* named a Women of Power Legacy Award winner for work that expands



Anthony Statcup

Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned poet, spoke during Kennesaw State's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in January.

opportunities for other women of color.

Giovanni, a Virginia Tech distinguished professor, said she remains "as determined and committed as ever to the fight for civil rights and quality."

She closed with a reading of one of her most famous works "In the Spirit of Martin," which begins, "This is a sacred poem ... blood has been shed to consecrate it ... wash your hands ... remove your shoes ... bow your head ... I ... I ... I Have a Dream."

Giovanni adapted the poem's last line slightly by replacing the word greatness with that of Martin in a timely marking of the holiday celebration.

"This is a sacred poem ... open your arms ... turn your palms up ... feel the spirit of Martin and be redeemed."

The 68-year-old Midwesterner's words captivated the capacity crowd, which included KSU President Daniel S. Papp and members of his cabinet. The audience rewarded her efforts with a standing ovation.

Board of Regents approves KSU master's in integrative biology

Research will ultimately result in more grant dollars for the university

By Jennifer Hafer
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The University System of Georgia's Board of Regents recently approved a new Master of Science in Integrative Biology for Kennesaw State University, the first degree of its kind in the state of Georgia.

"Kennesaw State seeks to establish a master of science with a major in integrative biology to provide students with a competitive advantage in anticipation of trends in the biological sciences," said Ken Harmon, KSU provost

and vice president for academic affairs. "The distinctive integrative approach in the program will enable graduates to anticipate changes in the marketplace and simultaneously work in teams to solve complex biological questions."

The 36-semester-hour program will include a thesis requirement and be housed in the department of biology and physics, its main objective is to teach graduates how to integrate content, concepts and data across biological scales (e.g. molecules, cells and ecosystems).

"The Master of Science in Integrative Biology degree is transformational for our college and our students," said Ron Matson, interim dean of the College of Science and

Math. "It allows the faculty to have more active research programs, which in turn allows our students, graduate and undergraduate, more opportunities to actually do science. The research conducted as part of this program will ultimately result in more grant dollars for the university and greater recognition of the College of Science and Mathematics and KSU as an education and scientific resource for Georgia and the nation."

The new program is expected to accept students in fall 2012, just in time for the opening of the College of Science and Mathematics' new laboratory building.

Kennesaw State project joins Investigative News Network

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange seeks to cover youth justice issues

by Jennifer Hafer
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The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (JJIE), a trial project housed at the Center for Sustainable Journalism at Kennesaw State University, has joined the Investigative News Network (INN), a consortium of some 60 news organizations across North America.

JJIE.org, a news source and conversation hub for juvenile justice and related areas of child welfare, mental health and public education, was founded in 2009 to help the increasing number of nonprofit newsrooms pool resources, promote editorial

collaborations and more widely distribute their work.

"We are excited about having JJIE and Kennesaw State University as part of the network," said Kevin Davis, CEO and executive director of INN. "Juvenile justice issues are chronically underreported by the mainstream media and we are delighted to help bring high quality and persistent coverage of this important area."

JJIE.org's goal is to help the general public, practitioners, educators, parents, youth, policymakers and lawmakers better understand juvenile justice issues both singularly and as a part of the larger child

welfare, mental health and educational ecosystem.

"Joining the INN collaboration is a logical step in the JJIE.org's movement into a national news organization covering youth justice issues," said JJIE.org Executive Director Leonard Witt, who calls juvenile justice the civil rights issue of our time.

"Of course, we will be exchanging stories with INN organizations coast to coast and editor John Fleming is planning cooperative reporting and investigative journalism projects with interested INN members," Witt added. "We are confident everyone will prosper by this relationship."



New center works with Atlanta companies to improve profitability

Statistical analysis also supports research opportunities

by Aixa Pascual
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Responding to growing community demand, a new statistics-consulting center at Kennesaw State is helping a growing number of companies sift through reams of data so they can operate more effectively and improve profitability.

Kennesaw State's Center for Statistics and Analytical Services, established in August 2011, is the university's resource for statistical analysis and also consults with external organizations. The external client list already includes companies such as Southern Company, Beecher Carlson and Alcan Cable, as well as the Pension Benefit

Guaranty Corp., a U.S. government agency, and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

"Kennesaw State has outstanding faculty in statistics and analytics," said W. Ken Harmon, KSU provost and vice president for academic affairs. "We had frequent requests from the campus and the community for this service. Therefore, we thought we should form a center to house this expertise and to deliver a value-added service."

The need for a centralized resource for statistical analysis has come about as research opportunities have increased and scholarship has advanced. Although the center primarily supports the analytical needs of faculty and students engaged in research. Its roster of external clients is poised to continue growing.

"Companies tend to be very data rich and information poor," said Jennifer Priestley, associate professor of statistics in the College of Science and Mathematics and director of the Center for Statistics and Analytical Services. "Data is inexpensive and easy to capture and store, but translating it into meaningful information is hard. That's where the center comes in."

As Kennesaw State's expertise in the field of statistics and analytics is enhanced. The university's Master of Science in Applied Statistics has become a popular academic program since its introduction in 2006. The graduates of this program have little problem finding jobs. In fact most students have multiple job offers prior to graduation.

Kennesaw State strikes gold, wins two Chancellor's awards

University acknowledged for excellence in customer service

by Robert Godlewski
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Kennesaw State University won two gold awards — Customer Service Institution of the Year and Outstanding Customer Service Contact Center — in the University System of Georgia Chancellor's Customer Service Excellence Award competition. This is the third time Kennesaw State has won the system-wide Customer Service Institution of the Year award. Previous wins came in 2007 and 2008.

"Everyone at Kennesaw State works hard to provide excellent customer service, and these two most recent

awards are indicative of that effort," said President Daniel S. Papp. "We are proud of the continuous leadership that Linda Lyons and her team provide in this area and are excited about the positive recognition the IT service desk earned for its customer service."

The KSU Service Desk won the Chancellor's Gold award for Outstanding Customer Service Contact Center. The unit, which is part of the Information Technology Services department, has consistently received excellent feedback on the team's quality customer service skills.

"Winning the Gold award for Outstanding Customer Service Contact Center recognizes an outstanding and innovative team effort," said Lectra Lawhorne, director

of Information Technology Services.

"The KSU Service Desk developed an internal wiki for the service desk technicians, which led to more 'call first-contact call closures,' with 53 percent of all calls closed on first contact, and an average close time of about 11 minutes. The team also implemented an online method that enabled our customers to monitor their service requests using their same KSU login name and password customers use for all other electronic services."

Kennesaw State University hosts SoCon 12

Edelman executive vice president keynotes sixth annual event

by Neil B. McGahee
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Steve Rubel, executive vice president for global strategy and insight at Edelman, was the keynote speaker at SoCon12, held Feb. 4 at Kennesaw State University. Presented by KSU's Center for Sustainable Journalism, SoCon12 — billed as an "unconference" — brought together professionals from diverse backgrounds interested in learning about the latest trends in social media and social networking.

Marking its sixth year, SoCon12 featured speakers and offered sessions focusing on the way that social media has transformed business, the world and relationships.

Rubel, who works for the world's largest independent

public relations firm, was the keynote speaker. His presentation, "Transmedia Storytelling," focused on the future of media and how he helps his clients unify their communications strategies across traditional and emerging social media channels. He has been named to PR Week's "40 Under 40" list and Forbes.com's "Web Celeb 25."

The conference also featured forums on topics such as the ability of traditional computers to survive the mobile revolution; cultivating responsible fans; the value of incorporating SEO-friendly content into the Web; using basic Web skills to build iPhone and Android apps; social media strategies that may not work for your business; and dealing with social media mistakes.



Center for Sustainable Journalism

SoCon offers attendees the opportunity to network and learn about the latest trends in social media from experts and each other.

National Music Conference takes place at Kennesaw State

KSU Wind Ensemble highlighted

By Johanna Brown
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Kennesaw State University's School of Music hosted the College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association Joint Southern Division Conference Feb. 23-25 in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. The biennial conference promotes the musical and educational significance of bands.

Organized by David Kehler, associate professor of music and director of bands, and John Culvahouse, professor of instrumental music education, more than 300 band directors and students from across the southeast attended the conference's workshops and clinics.

"This conference was a collaboration of what is new in the band world," explained David Kehler, associate professor of music and director of bands. "College and high school band directors shared ideas and music in the presence of current composers premiering new works."

H. Robert Reynolds, adjunct professor of conducting at the University of Southern California, was the conference's guest artist-in-residence. Throughout his distinguished career, Reynolds conducted at venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center. Reynolds led a conducting symposium for conference attendees.

In addition to workshops, the conference featured 16 university, public school and professional ensemble performances, including the KSU Wind Ensemble, all of

which were free and open to the public.

"This was the first time that the KSU Wind Ensemble was featured in the national spotlight," said Kehler. The KSU Wind Ensemble performs a diverse repertoire for winds and percussion encompassing chamber music, wind ensemble repertoire and works large bands. The other bands that performed included: Harrison High School Wind Ensemble (GA), Jones Middle School Band (GA), Oliver Middle School Band (TN), Thompson High School Band (AL) W.T. Woodson High School (VA), Columbus State University Wind Ensemble (GA), University of North Carolina Wind Ensemble (NC), University of South Carolina Symphonic Winds (SC), University of Georgia Wind Symphony (GA) and the Valdosta State University Faculty Ensemble (GA).

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