President Papp unveiled 2012-2017 strategic plan

President Daniel S. Papp outlined a strategic plan to advance Kennesaw State University’s evolution as a nationally prominent university recognized for excellence in education, engagement and innovation. “As we approach our 50th anniversary and prepare to look back at the history of Kennesaw State, today we unveil a roadmap to our future,” Papp said at the annual Opening of School event launching the 2012-2013 academic year. “We have a very ambitious agenda, which will involve the entire campus community moving forward together to achieve our key strategic goals. Our vision is that this agenda will help our University attain the national preeminence KSU deserves.”

The draft strategic plan outlines an action-oriented agenda for Kennesaw State aimed at planning for additional growth, improving student-faculty and student-staff ratios, fostering an environment that embraces inclusiveness and diversity; improving customer service; enhancing relationships and engagement with alumni and surrounding communities; and expanding the University’s emphasis on recruiting the best and brightest students, staff and faculty. Shaped by the Strategic Thinking and Planning Committee, the new strategic plan was nearly two years in the making. In addition to Papp, the 33-member committee included the president’s cabinet, faculty members representing each KSU degree-granting college, representatives from the University’s various governance senates and councils, and two members of the Student Government Association.

“This is not just the committee’s plan,” Papp said. “We incorporated feedback from three surveys that were conducted to solicit feedback from our internal and external constituents.”

Papp envisioned that the committee would be a representative, transparent and collaborative body, and he confirmed that those goals were met. “I was very impressed with the members of the committee not being territorial, but thinking about the University as a whole,” Papp said. “There wasn’t a focus on ‘what is the strategic plan going to do for me?’ Instead, it was ‘what is the strategic plan going to do for the whole university?’ That was a theme throughout the committee’s discussions.

To read the strategic plan, please visit: kennesaw.edu/president

University celebrates 10 years as residential campus

Move-in day for many students was put on hold until the ribbon could be cut, officially opening University Place II, Kennesaw State’s newest residential hall.

The 451-bed, 207,500-square-foot live-work-play complex, designed primarily for upper-classmen, brings the number of on-campus beds to nearly 3,500.

This latest apartment-style complex features four-bedroom suites with private bathrooms, a shared kitchen and living room, washer and dryer, balcony and Wi-Fi connectivity. The new complex also provides expanded space for student activities, including an outdoor amphitheater and a multipurpose room for events.

“With the opening of University Place II, Kennesaw State achieves yet another milestone in making our institution one of the best residential universities in the U.S.,” said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp. “Quality academics and a vibrant campus life are essential for any top university, and with the recent completion of this new housing facility and Phase III of the KSU Sports and Recreation Park, Kennesaw State continues to add top-tier facilities to our first-class academic offerings.”

With this latest housing addition, Kennesaw State Residence Life now offers five on-campus residential communities.

“On-campus student living provides one of the unique experiences of college life,” said Kennesaw State Vice President for Student Success Jerome Ratchford. “There is no substitute for highly motivated students interacting in a safe and supportive environment. Only Kennesaw State students can reside in the University’s residence halls, which are staffed by university personnel — and we can’t emphasize the benefits of that distinction enough to our students and their parents. High-quality
Kennesaw State Foundation recognizes outstanding faculty, staff

by Aixa M. Pascual
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Kennesaw State University faculty and staff were recognized for excellence in teaching, research and/or creative activities and service at the recent faculty and staff awards ceremonies. The prizes — totaling more than $150,000 — included the Holder Professional Development Awards, funded by former foundation chair Tommy Holder, and the KSU Distinguished Faculty Awards.

“The amount of cash and faculty development provided by the KSU Foundation exceeds that of any other university at any level,” said Senior Vice Provost Teresa Joyce. “We thank the foundation for its exceptional support and recognition of faculty excellence at KSU.”

Associate Professor of Nursing Barbara Blake received the $17,000 Distinguished Professor Award, the top faculty prize, for her research on AIDS and HIV community-based initiatives.

“Her research, creative activity and professional service contributions have been exceptional, garnering numerous awards and recognitions and resulting in more than $1 million in funding to support both research and community development initiatives,” said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp.

Cathy Bradford, director of learning communities, was recognized as staff employee of the year. Rifka Mayani, associate director of operations for enterprise systems, was recognized as administrative employee of the year. Each was awarded $5,000.

Other faculty winners include:
- Jonathan Lewin, math, Distinguished Teaching Award
- Laurence Sherr, music, Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award
- Megan Burke, math, Distinguished Professional Service Award
- KSU Foundation Prizes for Publications or Creative Activity were awarded to Ming Chen, theatre; Rongbing Huang, business; Robert DeVillard and Bobby Jang, education; Jackie Jones, nursing; Jeffrey Helms and Daniel Rogers, psychology; and Nikolaos Kidonakis, math.
- The Holder Professional Development Award winners were Tyra Burton, marketing; Joe DeMaio, math; Maia Hallward, political science; Xarja Haenge, biology and physics; Leena Her, inclusive education; Linda Hightower, visual arts; Tanja Link, sociology; Rebecca Makus, theatre and performance arts; Lynn Patterson, geography; Vanessa Slenger-Friedman, anthropology; Mark Patterson, geography; Nancy Pullen, anthropology; Kristen Seaman, visual arts; and Maria Shaheen, early childhood education.

Kennesaw State doctoral students awarded international scholarships

by Neil B. McGahee
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Two members of the first cohort of students in Kennesaw State University’s Ph.D. program in International Conflict Management have been awarded scholarships to study and conduct research at Edinburgh University in Scotland and at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Germany.

Samy Gerges of Egypt was awarded a Chevening scholarship. “This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff and is another example of the University’s growing national prominence.”

The Department of First-Year Programs in University College helps students transition from high school to college life, aiding retention rates and building a sense of community on campus. The first-year experience program is designed to give students the skills they need to succeed not only in college but in life. Only 23 schools were chosen from thousands of colleges and universities for their work with first-year students.

“Recognition for more than a decade is a milestone achievement for a program that continues to help so many students achieve academic success,” said Ralph J. Rascati, associate vice president for advising, retention and graduation initiatives and dean of University College. “As the only school in Georgia recognized in this category, we are proud to be among the caliber of institutions such as Stanford, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of South Carolina — long recognized as originators of the first-year experience concept.”

Also in the 2013 rankings, Kennesaw State retained its ranking of 27th among public universities in the South, and its 61st position among regional universities in the South. U.S. News defines regional universities as schools that offer a full range of undergraduate programs and some master’s programs but few doctoral programs.

For more information about University College, please visit: www.kennesaw.edu/uc

Adidas tapped as official apparel provider of the Owls

The Kennesaw State University athletic department took another step forward in standardizing its brand by partnering with Adidas to be the official apparel provider of the Owls. The multiyear contract calls for the University’s 17 intercollegiate sports to be outfitted in Adidas apparel and footwear. Kennesaw State teams will debut their new look this fall.

Faculty-edited textbook published as second edition

Kennesaw State nursing professor Carol Holtz’s textbook, “Global Health Care: Issues and Policies” is slated for second edition publication. Holtz, a recognized expert in global health care, was commissioned by Jones & Bartlett Learning in 2008 to author the first edition. Several Kennesaw State faculty are among the contributors, including Govind Harilaran, Michele Zebich-Know, Lois Robley, Janice Long, Kathy Shaubell, David Mitchell and WellStar College of Health and Human Services Dean Richard Sowell.

U.S. News ranks first-year program among nation’s best

by Yolanda Rodriguez
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Kennesaw State University’s first-year experience program is among the best in the country, according to the U.S. News & World Report 2013 “Best Colleges” issue released on Sept. 12.

“We are proud to be listed, for 10 years running, among the top universities recognized for their excellence in first-year experience programs and their commitment to first-year students,” said Kennesaw State University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs W. Ken Harmon.

“Recognition is not a result of our success but a result of their studies at the Marshall Center. For more information about University College, please visit: www.kennesaw.edu/uc

Eliza Markley
Samy Gerges
College of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks to retire after 38 years

by Jennifer Hafer
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College of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks is retiring in February 2013 after 14 years as dean and 38 years on the Kennesaw State University faculty.

Meeks played a central role in the creation of the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Program, a collaborative effort between the College of the Arts and the Michael J. Coles College of Business. Under his leadership, COTM has also received significant gifts leading to the naming of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, the Onyx Theater, the Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan Jr. Concert Hall, the Eric and Gwendolyn Brooker Rehearsal Hall and the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art. Under his leadership, the School of

Music was designated an All-Steinway School.

“During the years that Dean Meeks has led the College of the Arts, the college has grown in size, reputation, quality and private support,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ken Harmon. “All departments and schools in the college that can be accredited by national accrediting agencies are accredited, or are in the process of being accredited. Similarly, as a friend-raiser and fund-raiser, Joe’s skills deserve special mention. The College of the Arts has more endowed scholarships than any other college at Kennesaw State.”

Ivan Pulinkala, chair of the Department of Dance, will serve as interim dean until a permanent dean is selected in a national search. A search committee will be formed this fall, and a new dean is expected by summer 2013.

School spirit reigns during College Colors Day

by Robert S. Godlewski
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The Kennesaw State campus was awash in black and gold as the University celebrated College Colors Day Aug. 31.

The seventh annual event, which coincided with “back-to-school” activities and the kick-off of the fall intercollegiate athletics season across the United States, promotes the traditions and spirit of the college experience by encouraging everyone to wear their favorite college or university apparel.

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp and athletic director Vaughn Williams, Kennesaw Mayor Mark Nelms and Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood signed a proclamation calling on citizens, students, faculty and staff to show their school spirit by wearing black-and-gold, Kennesaw State-branded attire.

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“College Colors Day is a great activity for bringing the University community together and showing pride in Kennesaw State University,” Williams said. “The athletics department has proclaimed every Friday as Black and Gold Day, and we look forward to the entire University community showing its school spirit.”

Since its inception in 2005, College Colors Day celebrations have grown rapidly across the country. Thousands of organizations and millions of individuals participate annually by donning their team colors and sharing in the college spirit with friends and colleagues.

“LIFE IN COLOR” concert mixes paint, music and fun

by Robert S. Godlewski
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When it was over, the audience of 4,700 that attended the “LIFE IN COLOR” concert at the Kennesaw State University Student Stadium Sept. 14 resembled a Jackson Pollock canvas. Billed as “the world’s largest paint party,” the concert featured acrobats, light displays and laser lights pulsating to electronic dance music as four water cannons unleashed a torrent of 600 gallons of water-based paint on the fans.

“The promoter said this was his favorite venue and the best service he has seen in a long time,” said Marty Elliott, executive director and general manager of the KSU Sports and Recreation Park and the Kennesaw State Stadium.

The concert not only demonstrated to the promoter what the state.

the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents to pursue doctorates or begin research programs.

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“New faculty know that within six years they must get tenured, so they need to get on a quick trajectory of producing scholarship,” Nelms said. “This way, they’ll be given the money to do pilot studies that will hopefully lead to bigger funding so they can develop a program of research leading to tenure and promotion.”

The University System of Georgia typically produces about 80 percent of the nurses taking the state licensing exam in any given year, according to Ben Robinson, director of the BOR Center for Health Care Work Force, putting the USG in a unique position when it comes to relieving the state’s shortages of nurses and nursing faculty. The WellStar School of Nursing is the largest producer of baccalaureate nursing graduates in the state.

Nursing faculty receive scholarship funding from Board of Regents

by Jennifer Hafer
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Kennesaw State nursing faculty received $126,000 from the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents to pursue doctorates or begin research programs.

“Most of the money will be used to fund doctoral students who already teach in the university system,” explained Tommie Nelms, interim director of the WellStar School of Nursing. “This money goes to existing faculty so they can be full-time students. One individual can get $40,000 over a two-year period.”

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“The size of our nursing education system is so large that resolution of nursing issues is up to us,” Robinson said. “We carry the lion’s share of the burden to help alleviate the shortages of faculty and students. We need to put enough faculty out there so schools aren’t robbing each other of faculty. Without more faculty, we can’t graduate more nurses.”

For more information about the WellStar School of Nursing, please visit: kennesaw.edu/col-bhs/son
Ghana’s rich cultural traditions — the vibrant colors of Kente cloth; the majesty of tribal chieftaincy; the rhythmic power of native drums; and the flavors of soulful West African cuisine — took center stage at Kennesaw State’s “Year of Ghana Day” festivities on Sept. 26.

A delegation of a half-dozen chiefs, called a Durbar, accompanied by a dancer performing a royal dance and a quartet of drummers kicked off the event. Before it was over, the audience had witnessed a demonstration of the respect afforded chiefs in Ghanaian society and sampled popular Ghanaian dishes.

The event was one of a series of lectures, performances and exhibits scheduled throughout the academic year to immerse the campus in the year-long study of the West African nation.

Other activities included a campus visit by a delegation from the University of Cape Coast, one of the West African exhibiting country scheduled to present during the “Year of Ghana” studies. The study also featured a two-day conference focused on Ghana as a model for democratic governance, economic growth and sustainable development in Africa.

President Daniel Papp, welcomed the attendees in Twi, one of more than 100 Ghanaian languages, saying, “Ghana has an exceptionally rich culture and the ‘Year of Ghana’ gives us the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of this very important democratic nation and its culture.”

“The power of native drums; and the flavors of soulful West African cuisine — took center stage at Kennesaw State’s “Year of Ghana Day” festivities.”

A quartet of drummers accompanied a procession of Ghanaian chiefs at “Year of Ghana Day” festivities.

Nigerian judges attend University dispute resolution forum
by Sabbaye McGriff
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About 35 Nigerian judges traveled halfway around the globe to study methods to resolve local conflicts peacefully.

The delegation attended a four-day workshop at the University’s Center for Conflict Management designed to encourage the use of mediation and effective communication to resolve conflict without resorting to violence.

Akamnu Adebayo, director of the center, said he hoped the participants had developed the knowledge and skills necessary to implement conflict-connected programs in Nigeria.

“Nigeria is experiencing a great deal of conflict, some of it resulting from the adoption of a democratic style,” he said. “Some of the conflict stems from growing religious pluralism, as evidenced in escalating tension between Christianity and Islam. Some, like the crisis in the Niger Delta, arises from conflicts over natural resources. These disputes have overwhelmed the country’s courts, which in this growing democracy are called on to settle disputes that may once have been settled by an elder, pastor or imam.”

Adebayo noted that the keynote speaker, Ghanaian Akanmu Adebayo, director of the center, said he hoped the participants had developed the knowledge and skills necessary to implement conflict-connected programs in Nigeria. “Nigeria is experiencing a great deal of conflict, some of it resulting from the adoption of a democratic style,” he said. “Some of the conflict stems from growing religious pluralism, as evidenced in escalating tension between Christianity and Islam. Some, like the crisis in the Niger Delta, arises from conflicts over natural resources. These disputes have overwhelmed the country’s courts, which in this growing democracy are called on to settle disputes that may once have been settled by an elder, pastor or imam.”

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