University community comes together to plan 50th Anniversary celebration

By Scott Wittsee
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Bringing 50 years of Kennesaw State University’s history together is no easy feat – and it is one that required the efforts of individuals across the entire campus to make it work. Thanks to more than a year of planning, it will be a celebration worth remembering.

This absolutely has been a campus-wide effort with input from every sector – faculty, staff, students, donors and the community at large,” said David Arnold, Kennesaw State’s assistant vice president for Strategic Communications and Marketing.

Kennesaw State is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its founding as a junior college on Oct. 9, 1963, with a weeklong celebration, followed by four years of recognizing key milestones in the institution’s history. Founders Week, which includes numerous events and activities helping KSU look back at a half-century of progress while looking toward the future, is slated for Oct. 7-11, 2013. The planning process for the retrospective began with the creation of the 50th Anniversary Committee, which President Daniel S. Papp announced in March 2012.

The 50th Anniversary Committee met periodically during the past year, giving a wide variety of individuals the opportunity to suggest ideas and possible events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Overseeing the efforts of the 50th Anniversary Committee and providing guidance to the other groups involved in the planning process was the 50th Anniversary Working Chairs Committee, made up of four longtime members of the university community – Terri Arnold, Tom Kerne, Nancy King and Joe Meeks.

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Board of Regents elevates Kennesaw State to ‘comprehensive university’ status

By Tiffany Capuano
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According to the new college and university classifications policy approved by the Board of Regents, institutions classified as comprehensive universities offer undergraduate and master’s-level programs with a number of doctoral programs. Although graduate programs at comprehensive universities are characterized as master’s dominant, under the new policy, institutions designated as comprehensive universities must also commit to become “world-class academic institutions.”

Kennesaw State currently offers 90 graduate and undergraduate degrees, including professional doctorates in education, business and nursing, and a Ph.D. in International Conflict Management.

Over the past five years, Kennesaw State University’s research and grant activity has increased, averaging more than $35 million in external funding awards and nearly 100 awards per year. These grants and others have led to new discoveries by Kennesaw State faculty and provide students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience and participate in academic research. Along with Kennesaw State, the Board of Regents also reclassified the University of West Georgia. In addition, Valdosta State University and Georgia Southern University — which were previously categorized as regional universities — were named comprehensive universities.

Prior to the reclassification, Kennesaw State was designated as a state university.

On October 9, 2013, Kennesaw State will celebrate a momentous milestone in the university’s history with the 50th anniversary of the approval of the institution’s charter by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. In recognition of the University’s first 50 years, a myriad of campus and community organizations are collaborating to sponsor a week-long series of events during Founders Week.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Kennesaw State University President Dr. Daniel S. Papp and Coach Vince Dooley Cobb Chamber’s First Monday Breakfast, Cobb Galleria Centre – 7:30 a.m.

University Historian Dr. Thomas A. Scott’s Book Launch: “Kennesaw State University: The First Fifty Years, 1963–2013” and Unveiling of the Kennesaw State Archives’ Historical Exhibit and Website: “The Kennesaw State Spirit: KSU at 50” – 4:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Student Convocation “My Orange Duffel Bag,” featuring Author Inspirational Speaker Sam Bracken and Legendary Coach Bill Curry Convocation Center – 11:00 a.m.

“Hoot-a-Palooza” at Town Center Mall – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Kennesaw State University Foundation Board of Trustees Annual Dinner (By Invitation)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Groundbreaking: Skip Spann Connector – 9:30 a.m.

Groundbreaking: Sturgis Library Connector – 9:00 a.m.

Coach Bill Curry, Convocation Center – 11:00 a.m.

KSU at 50” – 4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Retirees Event: “Brunch on the Bricks” – KSU Gazebo and Leadership Room – 9:30 a.m.

Panel Discussion: “The Evolution of Inclusion at Kennesaw State University” – 1:00 p.m.

Cobb Chamber’s First Evening Gathering of Faculty Staff and Students: “Celebration on the Green” – 3:00 p.m.

INFORMATION

Additional information and a full schedule of events can be found online at the KSU 50th Anniversary website: www.kennesaw.edu/50th

Acces
First-year program ranked among nation’s best by U.S. News

By Tammy DeMel
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Kennesaw State University’s first-year program is ranked among the best in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 Best Colleges report. It is the university’s highest ranking of any of its programs.

In addition, the university ranked fourth among other national universities in the category of non-Ph.D. granting institutions. Regional Universities in the South, which recognizes institutions that have made bold, most-promising and innovative changes in the areas of academics, faculty, student life, campus or facilities.

Kennesaw State University’s first-year program, ranked as “Academic Programs to Look For.” This category lists schools that are outstanding examples of academic programs believed to lead to student success. Schools are selected based on nominations by college presidents, chief academic officers, deans of students and deans of admissions.

In addition, Kennesaw State was recognized as an “Ex-School for B Students” in the publication’s annual report: This category highlights institutions that took a broad and engaged student body.

First-year programs are ranked as part of “Academic Programs to Look For.”

OWLS TAKE THE GOLD

By Robert S. Godlewski
rgodlews@kennesaw.edu

The football team has been the top story, but the university also had some big wins for professional development funding for several from the KSU Foundation, including the KSU Foundation Distinguished Professor Award.

Two other Huskies were also honored during the same ceremony by President Daniel S. Papp. Nicole Donofrio, assistant director of the office of the dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, was recognized as student employee of the year. Luticia Hans, associate director of telecommunications in the department of information technology services, was recognized as administrator of the year.

Other faculty awards were:
• “Kennesaw State University Teaching Award: Pam Marsh, professor of psychology.
• KSF Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award: David Jones, professor of philosophy

Other distinguished staff awards included:
• Tisha McCalla, academic division; Debra Hill, administrative division, and Soo Brown, campus division.

The top faculty award, the $17,000 Excellence in Student Affairs, went to Ashley Purkey-Church, associate dean of students.

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By Robert S. Godlewski
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Kennesaw State University has been offering online courses since it became a major player in the online education world in 2005. In fact, Kennesaw State University was one of the first institutions in the state to offer online courses.

Since then, the university has maintained a strong presence in the online education market, and has seen significant growth in the number of online students.

In the last five years, the university has seen an increase in the number of online students, with more than 30,000 students enrolled in online courses each fall.

The growth in online education has been driven by several factors, including the convenience and flexibility of online learning, as well as the increasing demand for online education among working adults.

The university offers a wide range of online programs, including bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, as well as certificates and continuing education courses.

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Farm-to-campus program gets a new addition

By Jennifer Hafer
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Edible centerpieces and a three-course farm harvest dinner highlighted the grand opening of Hickory Grove Farm, the latest addition to Kennesaw State University’s award-winning farm-to-campus program, on Sept. 21. Among the dinner offerings enjoyed by 75 guests inside one of the property’s greenhouses were chilled roasted heirloom tomato soup, a roasted baby beet and arugula salad, rosemary and KSU Honey roasted leg of lamb, Georgia shrimp and KSU Grits and Krispy Kreme Doughnut Bridal Pudding.

“IT was a truly a night to remember,” said Gary Colek, director of Culinary and Hospitality Services. “Anytime we are able to showcase our farm-to-campus program, and at the same time educate people about sustainable practices in food service, it’s a wonderful opportunity for us.

The Hickory Grove Farm property consists of 25 acres, 15 of which are cleared for planting, and two greenhouses. The farm will produce Swiss chard, broccoli, cauliflower, green cabbage, red cabbage, collards, squash, zucchini, sunflowers, marigolds, beans, hydroponic tomatoes, all colors of bell peppers, cucumbers and farm fresh eggs. Only non-genetically modified varieties are cultivated, using natural methods of soil preparation, pest control and fertilization.

“This on farm we have 60 free-range chickens that will produce more than 300 organic eggs a week for use in recipes in The Commons,” Colek said. “The farm is truly for our students. Not only will it provide produce to serve in The Commons, it will also serve as a classroom for multiple programs on campus.”

The Georgia Department of Transportation gave the Kennesaw property – once used as a GDOT staging area – to the university. Two days before the ribbon-cutting ceremony and farm harvest dinner at Hickory Grove, The Daily Meal, an online publication dedicated to culinary trends and news, ranked Culinary and Hospitality Services eighth in its “50 Best Colleges for Food in America,” up two spots from last year’s ranking.

Mayors declare College Colors Day to honor Kennesaw State

By Robert S. Godlewski
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Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp and Vaughn Williams, Kennesaw State’s director of athletics, met Monday, Aug. 26, with the mayors of Kennesaw, Dallas, Powder Springs and Smyrna to sign a proclamation designating Aug. 30 as “College Colors Day” at the state’s third-largest university. The presentation occurred in the President’s Boardroom.

Participating mayors included Max Bacon of Smyrna; Patricia Vaughn of Powder Springs; Mark Mathews of Kennesaw; and Boyd Austin of Dallas.

The joint proclamation called on residents to show their school spirit by wearing their Black and Gold Kennesaw Colors Day” at the state’s third-largest university. The presentation occurred in the President’s Boardroom.

College Colors Day is a national event, now in its seventh year. It kicks off the fall semester’s intercollegiate athletics season and strives to advocate higher education through increased public awareness.

Entrepreneur-in-residence teaches students the gift of giving

By Tiffany Capuano
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Charitable giving is the focus of a class this fall for business graduate students at Kennesaw State University’s Michael J. Coles College of Business. But unlike other business school courses, this one involves the instructor’s own wallet.

Thomas Hughes, an entrepreneur-in-residence at Kennesaw State, is the instructor of Business of Philanthropy, a graduate-level class designed to help business leaders and entrepreneurs learn how to effectively manage philanthropic gifts.

This is an incredible opportunity for our students,” said Blumentritt. “We are teaching individuals, who work or will work as business executives for a nonprofit or a corporation, how they can impact charitable giving as an individual.”

Entrepreneur-in-residence teaches students the gift of giving