KSU will be one of nation’s largest public universities

By Jennifer Hafer

Kennesaw State University was one of only two universities ranked by Computerworld in its annual Data+Editors’ Choice Awards, which recognize organizations for big data initiatives that have delivered significant business value. 

Kennesaw State was among 20 organizations, such as Google, Intel, Cisco, ThomsonReuters and Merck & Co., to earn the 2014 award.

Only two universities were named to the list: Kennesaw State and Emory University.

“IT is an honor for Kennesaw State to be recognized for our approach to big data analytics,” said Mark Anderson, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. “Our program blends statistics with mathematics and computer science, and makes us a leader in big data education. This award is a manifestation of the success of our strong interdisciplinary academic partnerships.”

Computerworld’s Data+Editors’ Choice honorees were selected not only for their innovative use of analytics to achieve business benefits through big data, but also for their ability to demonstrate real-world results and help establish best practices for other IT practitioners in a rapidly expanding technology area.

According to Jennifer Lewis Priestley, professor of statistics and data science at Kennesaw State, the university was honored for its Master of Science in Applied Statistics program, which uses real-world data in the classroom in partnership with the SAS Institute, the largest independent vendor in the business intelligence market.

“Teaching will remain the core of the consolidated university,” he said. “We are doing exactly what the Regents expect of us, maintaining our emphasis on teaching, even as we expand our research on emerging, development, service and external funding.”

Papp also used his opening of school address to highlight many accomplishments from the previous fiscal year, including:

• The opening of the Bernard Zuckerman Museum;
• The purchase of the 180,000-square-foot BrandsMart building and its accompanying 722 parking spots;
• Sixty-one percent of student-athletes won All Academic Honors in the Atlantic Sun Conference, with a combined GPA of more than a 3.0;
• Funding for external research and service has grown from $2.3 million in 2002 to $10.7 million in fiscal year 2013.

Looking to the future, Papp touted the opening of the new Bagwell College of Education addition next spring; the opening of the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center by summer 2015 and the expansion of the Sturgis Library in the fall.

Access

A publication of Kennesaw State University

Kennesaw State honored for big data initiatives

By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University was recently honored by Computerworld for its big data initiatives. Many helped the University earn the honor, including, from left, Ken Hoganson, interim chair of the Department of Computer Science; Lewis ValBreda, chair of the Department of Statistics and Analytical Sciences; Jennifer Lewis Priestley, professor of statistics and data science; and Joe Dolan, a student in the Master in Science in Applied Statistics program.

“Students in Kennesaw State’s Master of Science in Applied Statistics program tout a 100 percent job placement rate upon graduation, with many students landing multiple job offers, according to Priestley.

The program aims to improve STEM discipline recruitment efforts, help increase participation, retention, and degree completion for talented but financially needy students, and improve the academic experience in STEM fields.

LexisNexis Risk Solutions donated three individual gifts totaling $150,000 to the Computer Science Department. A portion of the funding will support research aimed at bettering open source HPCC Systems in both academia and industry. LexisNexis is also contributing to the creation of a certificate program that will give students, industry professionals and practitioners a comprehensive overview of real world big data projects. A portion of the gift will be used to sponsor “R Days” a conference hosted by the Department of Statistics and Analytical Sciences.

Ibrahim Elsayy, Executive Director for the Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth, has received $141,000 from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. Funding allows KSU to provide Postsecondary Education courses for persons with developmental disabilities, based on an inclusion model.

The program plans to increase the number of students to 21 in 2014-2015, with a goal of doubling enrollment.

sturgis library

Sturgis Library in the fall.

By David Caselli

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Sturgis Library in the fall.
American Heart Association recognizes workplace health initiatives

By Jennifer Hafer
jhafer@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University has been recognized with the American Heart Association’s (AHA) Gold-level Fit-Friendly Workplace award for the second consecutive year. The honor is presented annually to organizations nationwide that “go above and beyond when it comes to their employees’ health,” according to the Dallas-based nonprofit. According to the American Heart Association, Kennesaw State’s Employee Fitness Center measured $4,000 in savings on a per-person basis for employees who participated in the program. The survey, titled “2014 Great Colleges to Work For®,” placed the university among the top 500 institutions nationwide.

Kennesaw State named ‘Great College to Work For’

By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University has been named by the Public Relations Society of America as a “Great College to Work For,” giving it top honors in two categories: facilities, workspace and security; and work/life balance. Of the 92 institutions recognized in this year’s survey, Kennesaw State was one of only two Georgia universities recognized in the survey, and the only public institution in the state to make the cut. According to The Chronicle, the Great Colleges survey included a two-part assessment process: a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff; and an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies and practices from each institution. The private factor in deciding whether an institution received a “Great College to Work For” recognition was the employee feedback.

“American Heart Association recognizes workplace health initiatives

By Jennifer Hafer
jhafer@kennesaw.edu

For the third year in a row, The Chronicle of Higher Education has recognized Kennesaw State University as a “Great College to Work For,” giving it top honors in two categories: facilities, workspace and security; and work/life balance. Of the 92 institutions recognized in this year’s survey, Kennesaw State was one of only two Georgia universities recognized in the survey, and the only public institution in the state to make the cut. According to The Chronicle, the Great Colleges survey included a two-part assessment process: a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff; and an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies and practices from each institution. The private factor in deciding whether an institution received a “Great College to Work For” recognition was the employee feedback.

“We are extremely honored to once again earn this recognition from The Chronicle of Higher Education in its ‘2014 Great Colleges to Work For’ survey,” said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp. “Our faculty, staff and administrators are the backbone of this institution and the driving force behind our rising national reputation. It is their hard work and dedication that provides our nearly 25,000 students access to a transformational education.”

This is the second year Kennesaw State employees have said campus facilities meet their needs, while also agreeing the appearance of the campus is pleasing. The university also received kudos for creating policies that provide employees the flexibility to manage their lives on the job and at home. Also recognized in the facilities/workspace/security category, Kennesaw State’s campus offers several new or updated office buildings, classrooms and other facilities.

Kennesaw State to offer MBA-level strategic communications course

Kennesaw State University has been named by the Public Relations Society of America as the 12th university in the nation to offer its MBA-level Strategic Communications course. PRSA is the largest professional organization serving the U.S. public relations community.

The class will be offered through the Michael J. Colles College of Business MBA program. The course directs graduate business students in reputation management funding a strategic vision where PR is a core strategic discipline. The course is designed to prepare students for careers in corporate communications (internal and external), integrated marketing communications, investor relations, corporate social responsibility, government relations and crisis communications.

The new PRSA-endorsed course will enhance Colle’s College’s current strategic communications offerings and will be available to graduate students beginning in 2015.

Professor named Georgia Science Teacher of the Year

The Georgia Science Teachers Association (GSTA) has named David Rosengrant, associate professor in Physics Education, as the winner of the state’s College Level Science Teacher of the Year. Rosengrant, who works in the Department of Biology and Physics, has been at Kennesaw State for the past seven years. His research involves problem-solving, the learning differences between experts and novices, as well as eye-tracking research. Each year GSTA recognizes excellence in science teaching through the Science Teacher of Promise awards and recognition program. The Science Teachers of the Year awards recognize ongoing excellence in science and the commitment to its improvement. Outstanding achievement in elementary, middle and high school science teaching is recognized with the selection of a state winner.
The Presidential Citation is the highest honor that the American Psychological Association can bestow. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of psychology and to the Association. The recipient of the 2014 Presidential Citation is Dr. Joel A. Katz, the founder of the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Program at Kennesaw State University.

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp presented the award to Dr. Katz during the University’s Convocation Center Commencement ceremonies. The Presidential Citation is given in recognition of Dr. Katz’s contributions to psychology, particularly in the areas of entertainment and music business. Dr. Katz is the founder of the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Program (MEBUS), which is designed to provide a foundation of practical knowledge and experience for students who are interested in the music and entertainment industry.

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Distinguished Service Medal awarded to Maj. Gen. Maria Britt

By Robert S. Godlewski
rgodlewski@kennesaw.edu

Maj. Gen. Maria Britt, the first female head of the Georgia National Guard and, since 2012, Kennesaw State University associate vice president for operations, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

The presidential award, presented by U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., is one of the nation’s highest. The citation recognizes Britt’s “exceptional meritorious service from February 21, 2008 to September 30, 2011, as the commanding general, Georgia Army National Guard.”

Britt joined Kennesaw State in February 2012 after a 28-year military career. In her last post, she served as commanding general of Georgia’s 11,000 National Guard soldiers. During her tenure, she twice led the Georgia National Guard to win the prestigious Army Guard soldiers. During her tenure, she twice led the Army Guard soldiers. During her tenure, she twice led the Georgia National Guard to win the prestigious Army National Guard Competition First Runner-Up award.

“Congratulations Maj. Gen. Maria Britt for being awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for her outstanding leadership while she was commanding general of the Georgia Army National Guard. Maria’s honor brings a great deal of pride to our university and community,” said Randy Hinds, Kennesaw State’s vice president for operations, chief information officer and chief business officer.

A native of Gloversville, N.Y., Britt is among the first female graduates of the United States Military Academy, West Point, and holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Joint Military Intelligence College. She also is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and earned a second master’s degree in strategic studies.

Britt is a strong advocate for veterans’ issues and participates as a member of the KSU Presidential Commission on Veterans Affairs, working closely with the KSU Veterans Resource Center and the KSU Veteran Recruitment Advisory Committee. She serves on advisory boards for the Shepherd Center, the Coles College of Business Women’s Leadership Center, Women Veterans Social Justice, and the Coles College of Business Georgia Advancing Veterans Education (GAVE).

Kennesaw State ranks in top five for best college food

By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University was ranked fourth among the “75 Best Colleges for Food in America” by The Daily Meal, an online publication dedicated to culinary trends and news. This is the third time that Kennesaw State has earned a spot in the ranking’s top 10.

The Daily Meal’s annual ranking researched nearly 2,000 four-year colleges in America to create its 75 best colleges list for 2014. Kennesaw State earned the No. 4 spot, behind Bowdoin College, Johns Hopkins University and Columbia University.

Two other Georgia institutions were included in the annual college food ranking: Emory University and the University of Georgia.

The Daily Meal used criteria such as nutrition and sustainability, accessibility and service, education and events, the surrounding area, and other special features that individual college dining facilities offer. These judging points focused on well-balanced healthy food, food preference accommodations, dining hall hours, proximity to on-campus living, and nutrition and culinary education.

This recognition is the latest in a string of accolades for Kennesaw State’s Culinary and Hospitality Services, which received the National Restaurant Association’s Operator Innovation Award for Sustainability for its “Farm-to-Campus-to-Farm” program in 2013 and was a finalist in the health and nutrition category in 2014. Last year, the University claimed the association’s top prize — Innovator of the Year — the first time an educational institution had been selected to receive the prestigious industry award, besting organizations including Walt Disney Parks and Resorts and the U.S. Air Force.

Graduate students named as first Clendenin Scholars

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State named two students — Etsegnet “Mimi” G. Endale, a Ph.D. student in international conflict management, and Ailis Tertichny, a student in the Master of Social Work program — as the first recipients of the Clendenin Scholars Program, which awards up to $20,000 a year to high-achieving students pursuing graduate degrees at the University.

Endale, who grew up in Ethiopia, served as a diplomat and was involved in the United Nations General Assembly. Endale, of Atlanta, has research interests in diaspora and refugee studies, peacekeeping and peace building, humanitarian intervention, African studies, social empowerment and gender studies.

Tertichny, of Sandy Springs, plans a career in the holistic rehabilitation of survivors of sexual trauma and exploitation. She is currently pursuing a clinical graduate degree at Kennesaw State with a concentration in exploitation. She has been involved in the anti-trafficking movement since 2007.

“These two scholars have academic and professional records that make them models for graduate education at KSU,” said Tom Clendenin, a Kennesaw State trustee whose family provided the $1 million endowment for the program. “The Clendenin Scholars Program aims to recruit the best and brightest graduate students to study at this institution.”

The Kennesaw State University Clendenin Scholars Program, which attracted 83 applicants this year, provides scholarship recipients pursuing doctoral degrees with $20,000 a year, plus an annual out-of-state tuition waiver from Kennesaw State, and master’s degree recipients with $15,000 a year, plus an annual out-of-state tuition waiver from Kennesaw State.

The original Clendenin Graduate Fellows Program was established in 2008 with a $1 million endowment from the Clendenin family. That program sought to attract new candidates to the University’s graduate education programs and to retain existing KSU-affiliated individuals interested in pursuing advanced degrees. The previous awards funded recipients’ education either at Kennesaw State or other accredited universities. The new Clendenin Scholars Program redirects the awarding of scholarships to students enrolled exclusively at Kennesaw State University.