Kennesaw State adds new sponsor partnerships

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State officials and some of the institution’s key donors want to attract top students to pursue master’s and doctoral degrees at the burgeoning university — and they are putting money into scholarships aimed at competing nationally for the best and the brightest.

Through the Kennesaw State University Clendenin Scholars Program, scholarship recipients pursuing doctoral degrees will receive $20,000 a year, plus an annual out-of-state tuition waiver for a maximum of three years. Master’s degree Clendenin Scholars will receive $15,000 a year, plus an annual out-of-state tuition waiver for a maximum of two years.

“The Clendenin Scholars Program will help elevate Kennesaw State’s national reputation as a university of choice for graduate students,” said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp. “We are indebted to the Clendenin family for sharing our vision of supporting superior students who may have financial challenges. Their generosity will expand the pool of students who will have access to our first-rate graduate programs.”

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 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.

Over the past five years, 35 recipients were awarded scholarships under the Clendenin Graduate Fellowship with 20 who have already graduated and earned degrees in programs such as chemistry, biological sciences, conflict management, educational leadership and business administration.

Nearly half of the recipients earned their advanced degrees at Kennesaw State. Clendenin Scholar applications are currently being accepted for the 2014-15 academic year. The deadline to apply is March 28, 2014.

For more information about the Clendenin Scholars Program, visit: www.kennesaw.edu/clendenin.

The National Science Foundation’s Major Research Instrumentation Program has funded a $303,023 proposal for a fluorescence-activated cell sorter by biology professors Marvin Hudson, Xueya Hauge, and Scott Nowak. The instrument, which will be installed in summer 2014, will enable KSU faculty to identify, isolate, and purify a broad range of cells and cell components that will further their research programs. In addition to an expansion of research capabilities, the acquisition of cell sorting technology will offer new avenues for course development in the science curriculum at KSU.

The National Science Foundation’s Major Research Instrumentation Program has funded $103,041 for a proposal submitted by three chemistry professors Ellen Moonnsen, Michael Van Dyke, and Carol Chrestensen, for a spectrophotometer and associated equipment for use in multidisciplinary research and research training and course curricula. Faculty will use the instrument to research protein structure/function relationships, ligand-nucleic acid interactions, enzyme catalysis and control, and stress response.

Biologist professor Susan Smith received $80,000 from the National Science Foundation for her research on cloning, mutagenesis, and localization of voltage-gated proton channel (Hv1) proteins from a kilobase length dinoflagellate, Dr. Smith’s work with her colleague Thomas DeCoursey from Rush University will extend Hv1’s usefulness as a model system for studying protein specific transport mechanisms and their paradigm provides a model for understanding and predicting effects of proton acidification on marine organisms.

The Mobile Application Development Center received $9,872 in funding for a weeklong summer program for middle school students to where participants will learn the art of designing and creating games for Android powered mobile devices using App Inventor, originally provided by Google and now maintained by MIT. The program will build on a larger program piloted in 2013. NASA Junior Integrates technology and mathematics with mobile game development.

Mathematics professor Joe DeMain’s mini-grant of $6,250 from the National Science Foundation is for funding for him to work with three undergraduate students during the 2013-2014 academic year on a specific math research problem.
Although its work is just beginning, the Expanded Consolidation Implementation Committee (ECIC) of Southern Polytechnic State University and Kennesaw State University already is focusing on the proposal to create 15 individual colleges that will compose the academic units of the new university.

A 47-member committee – composed of administrators, faculty, staff and students from SPSU and KSU – held its first meeting in January to begin defining how the new integrated university would be organized. At their initial meeting, the ECIC’s members also discussed development of vision and mission statements for the consolidated university, and deliberated a proposed academic structure that might consist of 13 colleges, including:

- Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- College of Architecture and Construction Management
- College of Computing and Software Engineering
- Leland and Clarice C. Bagwell College of Education
- School of Business and College of Management
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- College of Science and Mathematics
- Graduate College
- Honors College
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- College of Design

“The committee had an excellent discussion of the direction we might take with academic colleges,” said Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp. “We are definitely mindful of SPSU’s history and outstanding reputation, which will contribute to enhancing the new university’s prestige as a nationally recognized institution. Naming one of the colleges the ‘Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology’ is an excellent way to carry the rich tradition and heritage of SPSU forward.”

Southern Polytechnic President Lisa Rossbacher concurred, noting that the preliminary draft proposal of a college structure for the consolidated university included four named colleges and the prospect of nine additional naming opportunities. “The Expanded CIC is off to a good start,” Rossbacher observed, “and I expect that we will move forward rapidly with both the structure and vision and mission statements for the consolidated university.”

The planners will continue to meet to shape their proposal. Once the vision and mission statements and the organizational structure for the consolidated university are agreed upon by the ECIC, Papp and Rossbacher will forward the proposal to University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Buckabay. The vision and mission statement then will be presented to the Board of Regents for its consideration. The Chancellor will review the new organizational structure.

Form of consolidated university begins to take shape

Kennesaw State celebrates inaugural India Day

By Tiffany Capuano
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India’s influence on world affairs was the centerpiece of a daylong forum held on the Kennesaw State campus Jan. 24, when academic experts, government officials and community leaders gathered for the University’s first India Day.

During the symposium devoted to understanding India’s cultural, economic and political culture, Consul General of India in Atlanta Ajit Kumar spoke of the nation’s impact as the world’s largest democracy, one of the largest food producers and providers of human resource strength in information technology.

“Both countries, India and the U.S., are committed to building peace and prosperity, and they converge on a majority of issues,” Kumar said. “The gender and social gaps are widening. It challenges us to reeducate ourselves to reemite the world.”

Kumar joined other experts, including the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago Neil Parsan, Emory University Marketing Professor Jagdish Sheth, and Georgia Attorney General Samuel Olenos, to explore issues relevant to India and the India community in Atlanta.

Panel discussions focused on key issues relevant to India, including religion, holistic medicine, business, women’s issues and information technology.

Representatives of Sikhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Christianity shared their insights on what religion means to them and how it is practiced in the Indian context, while panelists on women and social issues explored some of the employment issues that women face while attempting to work in India.

Several Kennesaw State University students who studied in India as part of an Educational Abroad program talked about their experiences during the panel discussions.

The event was organized by Kennesaw State’s India China America (ICA) Institute in the Coles College of Business, in partnership with the Consulate of India in Atlanta, Kennesaw State’s Indian Faculty and Staff Association (IFSA) and the Institute for Global Initiatives (IGI).

Donors fund leadership program in Coles College

By Tiffany Capuano
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Atlanta businessman and philanthropist Thomas W. Hughes and his wife, Barbara, have donated $500,000 to support a new program for students in the Michael J. Coles College of Business.

The gift will fund the College’s newly created Hughes Leadership and Career Program, which will provide a unique blended advisement program combining academic and career guidance for business students.

“Tom and Barbara are longtime friends of Kennesaw State University and valued members of our community,” said Daniel S. Papp, president of Kennesaw State. “Their generosity will have a profound impact on our students and will provide a solid foundation for guiding students toward the right career path.”

Hughes is founder and past president/CEO of National Electronic Attachment, Inc., which he began in 1998, and Medical Electronic Attachment, Inc., which he started in 2007. A Coles College MBA graduate, Hughes is a member of the KSU Board of Trustees and serves on the Coles College of Business Advisory Board, where he was selected Board Member of the Year in 2010 and 2013. In 2011, he was named a Coles College executive-in-residence.

The Hughes Leadership and Career Program will address the challenges undergraduate students face when making career choices and obtaining jobs after graduation. Traditionally, universities offer academic advising during the first two years and then career advising in the later years, but not a blended option. This program will help to combine these often-separated advising options seamlessly throughout a student’s entire college career.

“Tom is not only a valued supporter of the Coles College, he has become a friend and dedicated partner,” said Kathy Schwaig, dean of the Coles College. “Through his and Barbara’s generous gift, this program will enable us to provide our students with the help they need to develop and build strong professional skills that will distinguish them in the marketplace.”

Professor appointed to top accounting oversight advisory group for public companies

Sridhar Ramamoorti, associate professor of accounting and a director in the Corporate Governance Center in the Michael J. Coles College of Business, has been appointed to serve a three-year term for the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board’s (PCAOB) Standing Advisory Group (SAG). The SAG advises the PCAOB, a nonprofit corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies, on the development of auditing and related professional practices standards.

Ramamoorti is among 17 new and re-appointed members to the 42-member SAG. He is among only six academic professors selected to the SAG. His three-year term began January 2014.
Kennesaw State receives grant for teacher prep programs

By Jennifer Hafer jhafer@kennesaw.edu

The Bagwell College of Education has been selected as one of five Georgia institutions for the Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellowship, joining a growing national initiative that seeks to increase the supply of outstanding teachers in the science, technology, engineering and math fields and to change how they are prepared to teach.

Kennesaw State, along with Columbus State University, Georgia State University, Mercer University and Piedmont College, will each receive $400,000 matching grants to develop their teacher preparation programs based on standards set by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The institutions will develop a model master’s-level teacher preparation program, offering fellows a rigorous yearlong experience in local classrooms.

“KSU is ideally suited for this collaboration as illustrated through our strong track record in increasing the quantity and quality of math and science teachers, as well as engaging in teacher education reform efforts that have resulted in the creation of models of exemplary practice,” said Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp.

Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellows receive $30,000 stipends to use during the 15-month, 36-credit hour master’s program, followed by three years of teaching and mentoring. Preparation extends into the first three years of teaching in urban or rural schools, incorporating induction and mentoring programs that feature ongoing school-university cooperation. Two cohorts of 15 fellows will be funded.

“In the Bagwell College of Education, we deeply value continuous improvement and innovation within a collaborative environment,” said Dean Arlinda Eaton. “We see the Woodrow Wilson STEM Teaching Fellowship Program as a superb opportunity to build upon the solid foundation we have laid, take our MAT programs to the next level of excellence, attract exemplary students to transformed programs, and ensure that there are well prepared mathematicians and science teachers facilitating the learning of Georgia’s youth.”

Civil rights leader speaks on value of service

By Sabbaye McGriff smcgriff@kennesaw.edu

Throughout his career as a pastor, civil rights strategist with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as a U.S. congressman, U.N. ambassador, mayor of Atlanta, co-chair of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and leader in organizations working for human rights and economic empowerment, the Rev. Andrew Young acknowledged the hand of God at work.

“Coincidence is God’s way of remaining anonymous,” said Young in an intimate, unscripted address during Kennesaw State’s 2014 Martin Luther King holiday celebration at the Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center on Jan 19. “None of what I have done – none of what we accomplished with Dr. King – was planned or anticipated.”

During the 1960s, after Young joined King and other leaders in forming the SCLC, the movement was thrust into the national spotlight as nonviolent protesters faced violent mobs during freedom rides to desegregate interstate buses, sit-ins in Birmingham, the famed “Bloody Sunday” march in Selma, the Chicago campaign, and the Memphis boycott by sanitation workers.

“Little did we realize that we were on the path to so much social change,” Young said. “It wasn’t that we were smarter, more courageous or bigger and badder than anyone else. We were willing to go where God had sent us.”

The evolution of Young’s career after King’s death also was divinely guided, he said. He ran for and was elected to Congress in 1972, even though “no one wanted to run for Congress after Dr. King’s death.” After Jimmy Carter was elected president, he appointed Young to serve as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in 1977.

Young encouraged students to be mindful of God’s purpose for their lives and to make the best use of living in a time when there is more technology and more understanding of human needs. Both, he said, are the basis upon which wealth can be built. “The way we end poverty is by plugging into a global economy.”

“I find the only thing lacking today is vision and courage,” he said. “You can solve any of the problems of your life or of other people by serving others. … The people who do best always start out doing something for others.”

New chief of police named at Kennesaw State University

By Tiffany Capuano tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University officials have named Roger Lee Stearns, a seasoned higher education law enforcement administrator, as KSU’s chief of police.

Stearns joins Kennesaw State University with extensive law enforcement experience in higher education. Most recently, he served as chief of police at the University of Texas-Pan American for the past four years. Previously, Stearns served on the police departments for Vanderbilt University, University of Texas-Dallas and the University of Arkansas.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from the University of Arkansas and also attended the FBI National Academy in 2008.

“We conducted a nationwide search for a chief of police and selected Roger Lee Stearns for this important position,” said Randy Hinds, vice president for operations, chief information officer and chief business officer at Kennesaw State.

“Chief Stearns brings more than 20 years of community-oriented policing experience in a variety of large university environments. His extensive law enforcement background reflects his deep commitment to training and community-oriented policing. His proactive leadership style will help him develop a strong partnership and great rapport with the entire KSU community,” he added.

Stearns was chosen from among more than 100 applicants for the position, with four finalists selected for interviews. The new chief replaces Ted Cochran, who retired last fall after 30 years of service with Kennesaw State.

As chief of police, Stearns oversees the day-to-day public safety operations, implement and enforce established safety and security policies and procedures, and maintain positive relationships with faculty, staff, students and first responders.

“He oversees 73 employees, including sworn officers, security officers and administrative personnel. “With the direction that Kennesaw State University is going in, and with the consolidation of the two campuses, this is a great opportunity to be part of something very positive,” said Stearns.
Scholar Jagdish Sheth establishes awards recognizing global impact

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Jagdish Sheth, a renowned scholar of marketing, consumer behavior and emerging global markets, has established a fund to endow the annual presentation of awards to faculty and alumni of Kennesaw State University whose work has had global impact.

Sheth, the Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at Emory University and the author of more than 300 papers and books, has established the Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth Distinguished Alumni Award for Exceptional and Humanitarian Service Achievement and a corresponding award for faculty achievement. The awards will be presented annually.

These international achievement awards provide Kennesaw State University with a unique opportunity to showcase its growing international engagement while also highlighting the increasingly globalized nature of higher education,” Sheth said.

Sheth’s awards to distinguished alumni and faculty are among a series of achievement awards that Kennesaw State and its Institute for Global Initiatives (IGI) will present for the first time in April. Other awards to be presented annually include:

- The Kennesaw State University Global Public Service Prize to be awarded to an international figure from the country or region designated for the University’s “Year of” annual country study. The prize recognizes the recipient’s important contributions to public service in that country or region, as well as a commitment to academic exchange between the country region and the University.
- The Institute for Global Initiatives Distinguished International Community Partner Award will recognize the accomplishments of a local community member who has demonstrated achievement and commitment to international outreach and engagement through a project with sustained impact.
- “These awards are an important step in Kennesaw State’s evolution as a leader in internationalization and global learning,” said Lance Askildson, Kennesaw State’s chief international officer and executive director of its Institute for Global Initiatives. “It is a privilege to honor those whose work has had such great impact and whose lives model for our students the potential in global learning, engagement and service.”

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to partner with Kennesaw State

The Kennesaw State University School of Music has entered into a partnership agreement with the world-renowned Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO). The partnership was announced on Jan. 24 during the first performance by the ASO at Kennesaw State.

The formal partnership will further solidify their cooperative interests in music performance, education and outreach. The ASO will perform three concerts at KSU during the 2014-2015 season and Robert Spano, music director of the ASO, will visit KSU annually for a dedicated educational activity.

In October, Spano visited KSU for a three-day residency in which he rehearsed the KSU Symphony Orchestra, hosted a question-and-answer session and coached students in chamber music performance.

The ASO and School of Music will work together to identify some visiting guest artists who, while in Atlanta to perform with the ASO, will visit KSU and offer master classes and other educational opportunities for music students.

Michael Alexander, Interim Director of the School of Music, said, “The School of Music is excited to have the opportunity to partner with, provide support, and benefit from the immense expertise of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. As cultural leaders in our region, we are both strengthened by a collaboration that benefits our students and strengthens the musical and artistic presence in our community.”

Patty Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, said, “Our professional partnerships are vital to the development of our students as artists, scholars and future leaders in their communities. Engaged collaborations with world-class artists and arts organizations inspire us, and the opportunity for our students to learn from the professionals of Atlanta Symphony Orchestra is invaluable.”

Kennesaw State to outsource student health services

By Jennifer Hafer
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Kennesaw State University officials have contracted with the WellStar Medical Group to operate the university’s Student Health Services.

Student Health Services at Kennesaw State includes three health care facilities that provide KSU students with the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, mental health support, disease prevention and health promotion. The three facilities handle 20,000 patient visits each year.

Kennesaw State Vice President for Operations Randy Hinds said, “By partnering with a large and well-regarded health system, we instantly have access to expertise and resources that will help us to increase both quality and efficiency. This provides a wonderful opportunity to ensure that our students have access to the best health care.”

Dr. Megan Bowles is the new clinic’s medical director. Bowles is board-certified in internal medicine and currently practices family medicine with the WellStar Medical Group. She received her medical degree from Georgetown University Medical Center and completed her residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Bowles has previously served as a student health physician at the Vanderbilt University Student Health Center.

“I am excited to return to a practice I enjoy, and I look forward to contributing to the health of the KSU community,” said Bowles.

The WellStar Medical Group, part of the nonprofit WellStar Health System, includes more than 600 medical providers in more than 30 specialties in over 100 locations. KSU’s WellStar College of Health and Human Services was named in recognition of WellStar’s support to the University.”