Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp speaks to the University community during his annual “State of the University” address.

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Papp’s address presented a picture of a University that is becoming a magnet for students and community members around the globe. The University’s growth has been evidenced in its many global ties, consistent with the University’s mission to be a premier institution of higher learning.

“This is an era of transformation. It’s time to change and stick to a healthy lifestyle,” he said.

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“The next 50 years along with what could be done in its first 50 years is incredible, but where it could go and what it could do in the next 50 years — along with our soon-to-be new colleagues from Southern Polytechnic — almost defies imagination,” said Papp. The president delivered his speech to a full audience of faculty, staff and students who packed the Bailey Center to hear this year’s address regarding the status of the university.

Papp cited the Board of Regents naming of Kennesaw State as a “comprehensive university” last August as an important step in the university’s future. KSU is one of only four University System of Georgia (USG) institutions to receive this new designation.

Papp noted that Kennesaw State’s academic successes are evident in its many global ties, citing the first-ever visit by a sitting head-of-state, President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana.

Papp used a significant portion of his address to highlight the progress Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State have made since USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby announced the plan to consolidate the two universities.

“Through his annual State of the University address, Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp speaks to the University community during his annual ‘State of the University’ address.”

The BrandsMart acquisition expands properties east of main campus

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Kennesaw State officials have acquired a critical plot of land on Busbee Drive in Kennesaw — the former site of BrandsMart USA.

The $39 million acquisition, approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, will enable major expansion of the University and aid in the implementation of several key initiatives currently in the master-planning pipeline.

The purchase includes 17 acres of land, an existing 113,000-plus square-foot building and 722 much-needed parking spaces, which will be accessible through Kennesaw State’s park-and-ride bus shuttle program.

Projects planned for the repurposed retail building include a new student health center, additional laboratory space for Kennesaw State’s Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, a new marching band program and critically needed storage.

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp called the acquisition and development of the project “very strategic,” noting that the property would link the KSU Center on Busbee Drive — home of the University’s College of Continuing Education — with the 88-acre KSU Sports and Recreation Park, creating 120 acres of contiguous land east of the main campus.

“This acquisition comes at a critical juncture, just as we are about to complete the consolidation of Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic,” Papp said. “Space continues to be a premium as the University grows and evolves into the world-class institution that we all envision. So we are pleased to be able to adapt an existing facility and add additional capacity in a manner consistent with the University’s utilization objectives.”

In addition to providing added space to accommodate the expected growth of the University associated with the impending consolidation, the project also comes as the University anticipates kicking off its first season of NCAA Division I football in fall 2015.

The BrandsMart acquisition was spearheaded by the Kennesaw State University Foundation and will be funded by state bonds. It is the latest in a series of capital projects initiated by the KSU Foundation, which has spearheaded $490.7 million in expansion projects at Kennesaw State since 1999.
Georgia’s lieutenant governor lauds graduates

By Jennifer Hafer
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Georgia’s Third-Largest University • More than 24,600 Students • Doctorates in Education, Business, Nursing and International Conflict Management
ACCESS • http://web.kennesaw.edu/news • May/June 2014

Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth first-year student Charlie Miller bristles at the suggestion of anyone becoming a politician. Instead, Miller says he wants to be a public servant who builds consensus among stakeholders. “I want to help the people around me,” Miller said. “I’m tired of all the partisan politics. I want to hear each side of an issue and work to build agreements around decisions.” And, he took just that approach when suggesting – then inviting – Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle to be the Academy’s commencement keynote speaker May 14. Miller, along with other first-year Academy students, organized Wednesday’s graduation ceremony, which saw 10 students with developmental and intellectual disabilities receive certificates of achievement. “Charlie personally came to my office and came to my assistant and said, ‘I need the lieutenant governor to do a big favor for me,’” Cagle said in his opening remarks. “I had no idea it was going to be a commencement address, but Charlie, he always likes to shoot for the moon, and that’s what I like most about him.” From its humble beginnings of two graduates four years ago, to 10 graduates donning caps and gowns in a ceremony held in the Prillaman Hall Auditorium packed with proud family and friends, the Academy is coming into its own. “We could not be prouder of each and every one of you and your accomplishments,” said Beverly Maddox, director of grants for the Academy. Maddox read remarks on behalf of WellStar Health and Human Services Dean Richard Sowell who could not attend. “Your presence in the WellStar College and on the campus of Kennesaw State University has enriched us all.” The Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth offers students with developmental and intellectual disabilities the opportunity for a college experience. Academy students audit college-level courses in the only two-year certificate program in Georgia to offer post-secondary educational opportunities to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Kennesaw State volunteers help others in community

By Robert S. Godlewski
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Nearly 120 students, faculty, staff and community volunteers from Kennesaw State University took part in beautification and group project activities at several locations on and off campus during the inaugural KSU Day of Service on April 26. Opportunities to help the community included Alive Ministries’ Save It Forward Initiative, Allatoona Creek Park Trail System, United Way’s Project Shoebox, the YELLS Project (Youth Empowerment through Learning, Leading and Serving) and the KSU campus landscaping project. Depending on the site selected, participants could choose activities ranging from light gardening and picking up litter, to trail maintenance and working at a food pantry. KSU Parking and Transportation provided buses to transport volunteers to and from off-campus locations. At Alive Ministries in Marietta, KSU Day of Service volunteers sorted and organized a food pantry. The Save It Forward Initiative establishes food pantries in local schools and uses extreme couponing to build up resources to distribute to Cobb County families in need. The charity has partnered with 11 schools in the Cobb County School District and served more than 6,000 children. According to Alive Ministries’ website, nearly a quarter of Georgia’s children live in poverty, which is more than half a million children under age 18. Organized by KSU’s Office of Community Engagement, Volunteer KSU, the Center for Student Leadership and a planning committee made up of faculty, staff and students, the Day of Service was envisioned as a day of fun in service to the community.

Small Business Development Center named Georgia’s SBDC of the Year

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State University received top honors in May from the U.S. Small Business Administration’s regional and state offices for its small business initiatives. The Small Business Development Center in the Michael J. Coles College of Business was named Georgia’s Small Business Development Center of the Year for 2014. The Center also was honored with the 2014 Regional Small Business Development Center Excellence in Innovation Award for the Southeastern region, which consists of eight states. This is the first time a Georgia SBDC has earned the regional award. “We are honored to be recognized as the SBDC of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration,” said Drew Tonsmeire, area director of Kennesaw State University’s SBDC, a 30-year old program at KSU. “To be chosen among the best throughout the Southeastern United States acknowledges the exceptional service delivered by the Kennesaw SBDC staff.”

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Kennesaw State is part of a partnership program between Kennesaw State, the University of Georgia and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBDC offers free one-on-one confidential business consulting for Georgia’s small businesses, primarily serving Cobb and Cherokee counties. Terri El Haddaoui, chief executive officer of The Edge Connection in the Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State, was named the Women in Business Champion of the Year. “I am passionate about promoting the success of women in business,” said El Haddaoui, who runs The Edge Connection, a nonprofit organization that provides entrepreneurial training for low-to-moderate income women, minorities and veterans. “There is no better honor than to be recognized for improving and empowering the lives of other women.” Tonsmeire and El Haddaoui were honored during the Small Business Week awards lunch, hosted by the Georgia Quality Lenders Circle. This year marks the 50th anniversary of National Small Business Week.

National association honors director

Teresa Johnston, director of Kennesaw State’s Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery, was honored with the Kitty Harris Award during the 5th National Collegiate Recovery Conference at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. The award is given annually for outstanding professional service and leadership in the field of addiction recovery in higher education and to the Association of Recovery in Higher Education. “The natural collaborative nature of recovery is often at odds with the competitive nature of higher education; thus, it is critical that each of us remember that we give away our experience, strength and hope,” Johnston said. “As we stand on the shoulders of those before us, we must remember that service and leadership are shared, and we must develop horizontal leadership in the national community.” The Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery’s mission is to support and encourage young adult recovery and wellness by providing programs and engaging in collaborative research and education.
Kennesaw State named to green colleges guide

By Tiffany Capuano
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Chiara Grady graduated last month from Cartersville High School but, as a “Move On When Ready” student in Kennesaw State’s Dual Enrollment Honor Program, she already has completed two years of college-level coursework and immersed herself in an active campus life.

At the May 20 meeting of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, she stood poised, describing her experience in the program, why she preferred dual enrollment over loading up on high school AP courses, and why she chose Kennesaw State.

“I took two AP classes, but I wanted the full college experience – to jump-start my postsecondary education,” said Grady, who applied for the program when she was only a sophomore. “I knew enrolling when she was only a sophomore. “I knew enrolling

Kennesaw State athletes brought home multiple honors after competing in Atlantic Sun events in May. The Kennesaw State baseball team claimed its first Atlantic Sun Conference tournament title and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The 7-1 win over Lipscomb in the tournament final in Fort Myers, Fla., catapulted the Owls to No. 27 in the nation in the Collegiate Baseball Baseball poll. KSU, the only ranked A-Sun team as well as the highest ranked to come out of the state of Georgia, claimed 23 victories in its last 24 games during the regular season and conference tournament.

In the NCAA Tournament, the Owls advanced to the Super Regional round of 16 after winning the four-team Regional in Tallahassee. Florida. KSU finished the season 40-24 after falling to Louisville in the Super Regional. It was the first 40-win season for the Owls since joining NCAA Division I.

Competing in Jacksonville, Fla., the Kennesaw State’s men’s track and field team won back-to-back Atlantic Sun titles in dominating fashion. The team totaled 311 points, which was the second most points ever scored in an A-Sun Championship. A week after being the class of the field at the Outdoor Atlantic Sun Championships, the team also swept the post-season outdoor awards.

Kennesaw State baseball team celebrate victory at the NCAA Regional in Tallahassee, Fla.

Coles College of Business honors veteran entrepreneurs

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State University’s Michael J. Coles College of Business honored its first class of participants who completed the College’s new entrepreneurial program aimed at helping military veterans become business owners.

The Georgia Advancing Veterans Education (GAVE) initiative paired military veterans with Kennesaw State business faculty and successful business owners who helped these new entrepreneurs learn what it will take to start their own small businesses in Georgia.

The 13 military veterans, who were either in the advanced stages of starting their own business or were interested in starting one, worked for several months and received instruction in subjects such as creating a business plan, understanding accounting and finances, and sharpening presentation skills.

The participants presented their business plans to a panel of angel investors on May 3, potentially bringing these veterans the capital needed to launch their businesses.

“No other program in the state offers this type of business training for military veterans who are entrepreneurs, or aspiring entrepreneurs,” said Sheb True, director of the GAVE program and professor of marketing and professional sales in the Coles College of Business. “Small business is the backbone of the U.S. and these veterans have made an amazing transformation during the past few months. They have worked hard and while there is still a long journey ahead, it’s about progress and the path forward.”

The GAVE participants have developed a variety of small businesses that will soon launch in Atlanta and Savannah, including restaurants and catering, construction management, sporting apparel, private security, and several non-profit social enterprises.

Dual enrollment student tells Board of Regents about success

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Chiara Grady graduated last month from Cartersville High School but, as a “Move On When Ready” student in Kennesaw State’s Dual Enrollment program, she already has completed two years of college-level coursework and immersed herself in an active campus life.

At the May 20 meeting of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, she stood poised, describing her experience in the program, why she preferred dual enrollment over loading up on high school AP courses, and why she chose Kennesaw State.

“I took two AP classes, but I wanted the full college experience – to jump-start my postsecondary education,” said Grady, who applied for the program when she was only a sophomore. “I knew enrolling in a program that would take college more economical. It has been a wonderful experience. I have become much more outgoing.”

Choosing Kennesaw State’s Dual Enrollment Honor’s Program was also a no-brainer for Grady. Both her brother and sister attended Kennesaw State. As a two-year participant in Move on When Ready - one of two state-funded dual enrollment programs – Grady was required to attend college full time. The program pays full tuition for enrolled students. She is the only dually enrolled honors student at Kennesaw State to participate in the Move on When Ready program in both her junior and senior high school years.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, 298 high school students were dually enrolled at Kennesaw State. Katherine Kinnick, director of the University’s Dual Enrollment Honor Program, said she expected that to climb to nearly 400 for fall 2014.

“Most of the juniors in the dual enrollment program come here part time,” said Kinnick. “Chiara knew she wanted to attend college full time, so Move on When Ready was the right program for her.”

Grady wishes all to Kennesaw State this fall to double major in finance and economics. She has completed 17 courses and earned 51 college credits through the dual enrollment program.

Chiara Grady speaks to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in May about her experience with the Dual Enrollment Honor Program.
A delegation led by the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman spent April 18 at Kennesaw State University meeting with officials and staff to begin planning a conference highlighting the changing roles of women in Oman.

The conference will take place Nov. 7 during the University’s “Year of Arabian Peninsula” country study for the 2014-2015 academic year. Oman is among the seven Arab countries that are the focus of the yearlong study, which also includes the Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The ambassador, Humaina Sultan Al Musabhi, and top officials of the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center (SQCC) in Washington, D.C., met with top Kennesaw State officials, including Lance Askildson, the University’s chief international officer, and W. Ken Harmon, provost, several college deans and faculty members with scholarly interest and expertise in Islamic and Middle Eastern arts, culture, history and international affairs.

In addition to the delegation, the delegation included SQCC officials Kathleen Rudolf, executive director; Ambassador Husaina Sultan Al Musabhi, center, meets with chief international officer Lance Askildson and KSU President Daniel S. Papp; and Dr. Mark Anderson, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "We are very excited about this partnership. Their scientific talent provides a unique opportunity for students to expand their research skills," said Anderson, the dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

The generosity of this donation will be recognized with the renaming of the largest classroom in the Science Building as the Birla Carbon Auditorium for the next five years. In addition, an area within the building will be designated to showcase the Birla Carbon Scholars Program.

Birla Carbon is the world’s largest manufacturer and supplier of high quality Carbon Black additives. The company has 17 manufacturing facilities in 12 countries and two research and development centers, one of which is located at their operational headquarters in Marietta.

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