President Daniel S. Papp announces retirement

In a letter to the campus community on May 10, Dr. Daniel S. Papp announced his retirement from his position as president of Kennesaw State University, effective June 30.

“It has been a pleasure to serve as president of this great University for the past 10 years, and to enjoy a 43-year career with the University System of Georgia,” Papp wrote. “Together we have accomplished much during the past decade.”

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby recognized Papp’s service.

“Dan’s extensive experience and leadership was essential to the transformation of Kennesaw State into a world-class university. When you step foot onto Kennesaw State’s campus, you immediately feel a vibrancy that Dan has played a part in making the institution what it is today. I thank Dan for his contributions to Kennesaw State University and the University System of Georgia and appreciate his commitment to higher education, along with his friendship. We wish Dan and his family the very best.”

Papp, who has been Kennesaw State president since July 2006, has overseen some key changes to the University during his tenure, including recognition as a doctoral university in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning, a consolidation with Southern Polytechnic State University and the launch of a football program.

“Kennesaw State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ken Harmon said, “I have been in academe for 34 years, and I’ve never experienced a leader like Dan Papp. I’ve never seen anyone with the combination of humility, vision, drive, passion and tenacity. This University is better because Dan Papp was president.”

Papp has been president as enrollment consistently increased to 33,000 students, the campus added several state-of-the-art buildings, and the academic profile of the university rose with the addition of several undergraduate and graduate programs.

Board of Regents Chairman Kessel Stelling highlighted Papp’s service, saying, “Dan Papp dedicated his life’s career to the University System of Georgia. For more than 40 years, Dan has played an important role in the growth and advancement of the System. From Georgia Tech, to the System Office and Kennesaw State, Dan has touched and made an impact on countless lives over the course of his career. On behalf of the Board of Regents, we thank Dan for his service.”

Papp expressed appreciation to the campus community and pointed to a bright future for the University.

“Thanks for the opportunity to have served as your president,” Papp said. “Keep up the great work – and I can’t wait to see what lies ahead for KSU!”

New bridge improves access to Kennesaw Campus

By Jennifer Hafer

The Skip Spann Connector has opened adjacent to the Kennesaw Campus as a new route to help alleviate traffic in the area. A portion of the bridge’s design—a lighted railing that showcases Kennesaw Mountain—came from a team of students.

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Kennesaw State presents international achievement awards

By Sabbaye McGriff
smcgriff@kennesaw.edu

The Sultanate of Oman’s ambassador to the United States was among the seven individuals honored at Kennesaw State University’s third annual International Achievement Awards ceremony at the Marietta Country Club.

Hunaina S. Al Mughairy, the Arab world’s first female ambassador, received the 2016 Kennesaw State Global Affairs Division’s Global Public Service Prize, an award that honors an international figure who has made important contributions to public service in the country/region featured during the University’s “Year of” annual country study (2014-2015 was the “Year of Afghanistan,” 2015-2016 was the “Year of the Arabian Peninsula”). The award recognizes Ambassador Al Mughairy’s longstanding commitment and contributions to improving the Arab world.

Kennesaw State’s Global Affairs Division, which hosts the ceremony, also presented three other awards recognizing outstanding global contributions by a distinguished, globally engaged Kennesaw State University faculty member and alumni, and a special award recognizing an important global community partner. Three students received scholarships to study abroad.

In addition to Al Mughairy, Kennesaw State’s 2016 International Awards recipients are:

- Sheikh Distinguished Alumni Award: Stella Xu, director of China initiatives, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- Sheikh Distinguished Faculty Award: Ming Chen, professor and resident designer, College of the Arts, Kennesaw State University
- Kennesaw State Distinguished International Community Partner Award: Angela Khoury, executive director, A.I.F Institute
- Emerson Scholarship for the Advancement of International Education: Sydney Williams, human services
- The Robin Schmidt Shore Endowed Scholarship: Hannah Wauters, biology major
- The Barry and Sylvia Hyman Endowed International Education Scholarship: Matthew Williams, nursing major
- The International Achievement Awards are organized by the Division of Global Affairs with financial support from Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth, for whom the awards to faculty and alumni have been named. Jagdish Sheth, a renowned scholar of marketing, consumer behavior and emerging global markets, is the Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Marketing at Emory University and the author of more than 300 papers and books.

Education building named in honor of benefactors

By Jennifer Hafer
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The Education Building has a new name. The naming of the Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Education Building and the Chantal and Tommy Bagwell Endowed Chair are both in recognition of $3 million in gifts from the couple.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the renaming of the building in recognition of two separate gifts the Bagwells recently made to the university – $2 million earmarked for the new building and $1 million for the Bagwell Endowed Chair. The Endowed Chair will be a three-to-five-year position in an area of expertise that is aligned with the goals outlined in the College’s strategic plan.

“The Bagwell family has a long history of philanthropy and service to Kennesaw State University beginning in 1996, when Mrs. Clarice Bagwell — Mr. Bagwell’s mother — made a generous gift to name the Bagwell College of Business,” President Papp said. “We are so honored by the family’s continued trust and investment in the College.”

The University’s new Education Building addition, which houses the Bagwell College of Education, was funded by $20.3 million in state funds. Opened in August 2015, the 78,756-square-foot facility significantly expanded facilities to meet the growing demands of faculty, staff and students.

Tommy Bagwell is the owner of American Proteins Inc., and Chantal Bagwell serves on the company’s board of directors. Both are active members of the community. Tommy Bagwell is a trustee of the Kennesaw State University Foundation and served as the charter president of the Forsyth Rotary Club. Chantal Bagwell was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve on the “REACH!” Foundation board.

Initially, a portion of the naming gift will be dedicated to work the college does with its P-12 partners to prepare effective educators to improve student learning. Some of the money also will be used to create new research opportunities for faculty and students.

KSU Day of Service takes support to the community

By Robert S. Godlewski
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The third annual KSU Day of Service mobilized almost 350 Kennesaw State volunteers at over a dozen community sites in metro Atlanta, ranging from food pantries to pet adoption facilities, from public schools to senior centers.

Volunteers participated in a variety of projects designed to meet the specific needs of community organizations throughout Cobb County and metro Atlanta. Tasks included stocking food on shelves, painting inside schools, landscaping, cleaning kennels, and packing books for children in Africa.

Among the most popular sites, Good Mews Animal Foundation and Our Pal’s Place benefited from the large number of cat and dog lovers who volunteered their time to help clean facilities and sort donations.

The signup sheet for a perennial favorite, MUST Ministries/SavE It Forward Program, also filled up fast.

Dozens of students, faculty and staff attired in gray KSU Day of Service T-shirts stocked shelves and packed food for distribution to members of the community.

“It is important for KSU to serve the community and the day of service event is an important part of the university’s mission to serve the community,” said Ken White, associate professor of political science and criminal justice. “Students and members of the community give up a Saturday morning to participate in the event, but it’s so fun and fulfilling that we have people who have done it every year since we started. They’re community service professionals at this point.”

Organizers Kimberly Henghold, assistant director of Volunteer KSU, and Brian Wootten, executive director of the Office of Community Engagement, say the event has become an annual tradition at Kennesaw State, providing opportunities for the university to say “thanks” to the community for the many important ways it has supported KSU throughout the institution’s history.

KSU to host national research conference

Kennesaw State University has been selected to host a national undergraduate research conference in 2019. For April 2019, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) will bring together more than 4,000 students and their faculty mentors for a three-day conference.

NCUR provides students with the opportunity to present their scholarly research in a professional setting and network with their peers, and faculty mentors, in addition to meeting with graduate school and corporate recruiters. The gathering welcomes presenters from all institutions of higher learning and from all corners of the academic curriculum, generating a unique learning opportunity.

KSU Board of Regents Chair and Kennesaw State University Foundation and served as the founder of the company’s board of directors. Both are active members of the community. Tommy Bagwell is a trustee of the Kennesaw State University Foundation and served as the charter president of the Forsyth Rotary Club. Chantal Bagwell was appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to serve on the “REACH!” Foundation board.

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KSU leaders celebrate at Georgia capitol

By Sabbaye McGriff
smgriff@kennesaw.edu

A pair of resolutions adopted in both the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate recognized and commended the academic accomplishments of two Kennesaw State University engineering students and their dean, as well as the athletics, coaches and athletic staff who launched the University’s first football season.

Members of the Cobb, Paulding and Fulton County delegation in both legislative chambers sponsored the resolutions and joined with students, administrators and staff at a Capitol reception to celebrate a few of Kennesaw’s recent academic and athletic accomplishments. Gov. Nathan Deal also met briefly with University representatives.

HR 1560 commended Thomas Curran, dean of the College of Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology at Kennesaw State, and students Valerie Washington and Kurt Jacobson for earning three of the top six annual awards from the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers, among other distinctions. HR1559 recognized and commended the students, coaches, and staff involved with the inaugural football season at Kennesaw State University. Similar resolutions — SR 1135 and 1136 — were adopted by the Senate.

“These last few years have been an exceptional time for Kennesaw State,” President Papp said in separate addresses to the members of both chambers. “We are thankful to the Legislature for all of its continued support for our institution.”

Among those greeting and thanking legislative members at the Capitol were the student and dean recognized in the resolutions, four seniors from the inaugural football squad, as well as Head Football Coach Brian Bohannon and Athletic Director Vaughan Williams and members of their staff. Kennesaw State students working this semester as legislative interns and aides; and Charles Ross and Amanda Seals, vice president and associate vice president, respectively, of the University’s Division of Economic Development and Community Engagement, whose Office of Government Relations hosted the event.

Confucius Institute partners to produce documentary about tea

By Sabbaye McGriff
smgriff@kennesaw.edu

A new five-part documentary exploring the all-important role of tea in Chinese culture premiered in April on Georgia Public Broadcasting Television. The Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University (CIKasu) and GPB partnered to produce the series.

“Chinese Tea: Elixir of the Orient” takes viewers to China to explore how tea became an integral part of the country’s culture and evolved to become its signature drink, consumed at least three times daily by rich, poor, young and old in China. The documentary also brings viewers back to Georgia to visit local teahouses and experience homegrown tea culture.

“Creating this informative documentary in collaboration with GPB has been a wonderful opportunity to share an important aspect of Chinese life, culture and history,” said Ken Jin, CIKasu’s founding director and senior executive producer for the documentary. “For the Chinese, tea drinking is so much more than consuming a beverage. It is deeply integrated into traditional and modern culture and represents the lifestyles, values, philosophy and beliefs of Chinese people.”

The documentary highlights the importance of tea in China’s spiritual and economic life, and in the health of its people. Currently, China produces more than one-third of the world’s tea and is home to more than 90,000 teahouses.

Steve Carey, GPB’s vice president of production, served as the documentary’s executive producer with Ashley Mengwasser, who also wrote the script and co-directed it with Kevan Ward.

“This is an amazing story about the culture, history, and humanity that is so simply a cup of tea.” Carey said. “GPB has the extraordinary privilege of presenting the backstory about one of the most widely consumed drinks in the world. From the people who produce it, to ancient ceremonies still used to prepare it, the leaves of tea provide an exciting introduction to Chinese civilization.”

Kennesaw State to offer undergraduate Asian Studies degree

By Sabbaye McGriff
smgriff@kennesaw.edu

Signaling the growing importance of Asia in global affairs, Kennesaw State will begin offering the University System of Georgia’s first Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Asian Studies in fall 2016.

Following approval by the Board of Regents, the new degree will allow students majoring in Asian Studies to concentrate in Asian cultures; Asian history and politics; Asian business; or teaching English as a foreign language. Like the previously offered minor in Asian Studies, the new major will be housed in Kennesaw State’s Interdisciplinary Studies Department within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“The Asian Studies major reflects Kennesaw State’s continuing commitment to global education and to the strategic development of academic programs that position our students to compete in a global economic and political arena in which Asia is playing an ever-increasing role,” said W. Ken Harmon, the University’s provost and vice president for academic affairs.

A cornerstone of the new program is a requirement that students achieve intermediate proficiency in an Asian language. The curriculum includes 123 credit hours of interdisciplinary courses, beginning in the lower division with Chinese, Japanese or Korean language and culture; research methods; and three electives from among nine academic subjects. Upper division courses include a comprehensive course on understanding Asia, a choice of history courses focused on ancient to pre-modern China, modern China and Japan or modern India and South Asia; intercultural communication; business courses; and a study abroad and/or internship.

Recommendations by a 21-member Asian Studies Advisory Board, organized by May Gao, coordinator of Asian Studies at Kennesaw State and professor of comparative education, contributed to the design of the new Asian Studies major.

Game design program ranked among top 50 in the world

By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

The Princeton Review has ranked Kennesaw State University as one of the top 50 schools worldwide to study game design. KSU is one of only 20 public universities named in the annual ranking.

The Computer Game Design and Development (CGDD) program in Kennesaw State’s College of Computing and Software Engineering is the first – and only – academic program of its kind to earn accreditation from ABET, the accrediting body for college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. The CGDD program focuses on the design and production of digital media for entertainment, education, and research. As a specialization within the field of computing, game design and development offers interdisciplinary collaborations with engineering, the creative arts and the humanities.

Kennesaw State is one of only a few universities in the U.S. that are outfitted with a Sony PlayStation 4 laboratory, which gives students access to technology for PS4 development.

With well-equipped facilities, the CGDD program has hosted some of the largest game development gatherings in the nation and has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services to develop programs focused on smoking cessation, food-borne illnesses and HIV awareness. The CGDD program also works with the Georgia Game Developers Association to promote STEM and game development studies among high school students.

According to the survey results, more than 85 percent of game design students created actionable plans to launch games while working on their undergraduate degrees. At Kennesaw State, students gain competitive insight during the program’s sponsored Game Jam and Global Game Jam competitions, where programmers, designers, musicians and artists gather to develop video games in less than 48 hours.

Georgia’s Third-Largest University • More than 33,000 Students • Offering more than 150 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees
Kennesaw State designated ‘Purple Heart University’

By Paul Floeckher
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In a ceremony on the Campus Green, President Papp signed a proclamation in recognition of the school’s “Purple Heart Designated University” status. Kennesaw State is the first University System of Georgia institution to achieve the distinction by The Military Order of the Purple Heart.

In bestowing this honor on KSU, The Military Order of the Purple Heart recognized the University for “its outstanding service to military and veteran students and families.” More than 2,000 veterans and family members are enrolled at KSU, including 1,100 who receive VA benefits.

“One on campus college,” Papp said, “we deeply appreciate what the American military has provided for this country – among other things, the ability to say what we want, read what we want, think what we want and debate what we want – without fear of political retribution or social retribution.”

Georgia National Guard Spc. Kit Lowe, a Purple Heart recipient, presented Papp with a flag emblazoned with the Purple Heart emblem and the words “honoring America’s combat wounded veterans.”

Papp announced that Kennesaw State will observe Purple Heart Day annually on April 21, when the Purple Heart flag will fly on both the Kennesaw and Marietta campuses.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military award and is earned when military personnel are wounded or killed while serving during combat. Brig. Gen. Thomas Carden Jr., Commanding General of the Georgia Army National Guard, was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

During the Purple Heart Ceremony, the University’s Office of Military and Veterans Services rededicated a memorial to Purple Heart recipient Army 1st Lt. Jonathan “J.D.” Walsh, a 2008 Kennesaw State graduate who lost his life in action on April 22, 2012, while serving with the 82nd Airborne in Afghanistan.

Kennesaw State president praises university’s progress

By Paul Floeckher
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A great deal has been accomplished in the 15 months since the consolidation of Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University — but much more work and progress is ahead, President Papp told faculty and staff in his annual State of the University address.

In his speech, given on April 25 and April 26 at the Kennesaw and Marietta campuses, Papp outlined the strategic steps Kennesaw State will take in the coming year. He also shared several successes from the past year, including a record enrollment of 33,400 students, more than 5,600 students earning degrees since the consolidation, and Kennesaw State’s classification as a Carnegie doctoral research institution.

“This University is on its way to becoming exactly what the Board of Regents, the people of Georgia and we ourselves expect KSU to be — a world-class academic institution,” Papp said.

That includes meeting two key objectives for the consolidated university: redirecting funds from administrative functions and putting them toward research, scholarship, infrastructure improvements and instruction; and increasing the percentage of students it retains and graduates.

As research takes on a larger role at Kennesaw State, the University could top $11 million in external research funding this year, Papp said.

He outlined six major tasks the “new Kennesaw State” must complete:

- A five-year strategic plan beginning in 2017
- A new master plan to identify the physical future of both campuses through 2045
- A branding and marketing project with initiatives to begin in the next year
- A new capital campaign to begin with the year
- Compilation of a reaccreditation report to be submitted in 2018; and
- Development of a new Quality Enhancement Plan on “Engaging in Transformative Learning” as part of the reaccreditation process

Awards highlight diversity and inclusion at KSU

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Karyn Alme, senior lecturer of environmental sciences – Carol J. Pope Award for Distinction (Presidential Commission on Disability Strategies and Resources); Nancy Reichert, associate professor of English – Outstanding Contribution Award (Presidential Commission on Gender and Work Life Issues); Robert Sherer, professor of art – Teresa M. Joyce Award for Excellence (Presidential Commission on GLBTIQ Initiatives); Judy Brown Allen, senior lecturer of sociology – R.O.H. Social Justice Award (Presidential Commission on Racial and Ethnic Dialogue); Ramona Devonish – R.O.H. Social Justice Award (Presidential Commission on Racial and Ethnic Dialogue); John Anderson, assistant vice president of Facilities Services – R.C. Paul Excellence in Sustainability Award (Presidential Commission on Sustainability); Bob Mattox – Mattos Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership (Presidential Commission on Veterans Affairs).

Access is a publication of the Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing at Kennesaw State University. A companion website, KSU News, is located online at http://news.kennesaw.edu.