

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

the new

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15





NORTON HALL

POLICE

ALL THE WAY



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KENNESAW HALL

president's message

The end of the 2015 fiscal year brings new opportunities to consider the many accomplishments of Kennesaw State University and what lies ahead as we begin a new era as an outstanding institution of higher education.

Following the prior year's experiences for the University's 50th anniversary, the 51st year was equally memorable, as our attention turned toward creating a "New U," as consolidation of Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State University began in earnest. Thanks to the hard work of faculty, staff and students from across both campuses, a solid foundation was laid for the consolidated Kennesaw State University when classes begin in fall 2015.

Laying that foundation for consolidation was the primary task set for fiscal year 2015. The consolidation process was an effort that required commitment from every member of the Kennesaw State

community, and they undoubtedly put us in position to hit the ground running. Thanks to the leadership of a joint KSU-SPSU Consolidation Implementation Committee, most of the challenges accompanying consolidation were addressed early in the planning process. When the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the consolidation in January 2015, the university community was ready to move forward with the detailed process of bringing the two campuses together.

In addition to the primary focus on consolidation, Kennesaw State continued a dedication to becoming a world-class university. Many of our efforts this year brought new opportunities for showcasing academic excellence, an engaged citizenship and a vibrant, thriving campus environment. As part of that drive toward excellence, Kennesaw State earned a Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the

Advancement of Teaching, which places the university among the top 10 percent of institutions in the nation for its ongoing collaborative efforts with the community.

This report touches on many notable developments of the past year, which have shown how well Kennesaw State is becoming a world-class institution. As we turn our attention ahead, it is worth noting a few key developments:

- National recognition for our academic, culinary, and technology programs;
- Expansion of our state-of-the-art academic and student support facilities;
- Continued efforts to expand international partnerships;
- An unparalleled dedication to establishing outstanding leadership for academic programs; and
- A significant increase in the University's economic impact, which has surpassed \$1 billion.

Also significant is that our students are continuing to demonstrate academic excellence through their national achievements, while our faculty and staff are developing programs that bring new avenues for making Kennesaw State a world-class institution.

As we share the accomplishments covered in this annual report, we invite your continued support for the opportunities that a "New U" will bring.



Daniel S. Papp
President
Kennesaw State University

the new U

CONSOLIDATION

During the past year, Kennesaw State University consolidated with Southern Polytechnic State University. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted in January 2015 for the consolidation, and the institutions began operating as the new Kennesaw State University, with the first consolidated classes beginning in fall of 2015. The new consolidated University maintains campuses in Kennesaw and Marietta, and the “New U” houses 13 colleges.

The consolidation process, which began in November 2013 when the Board of Regents recommended it, was the result of nearly two years of work to bring the two campuses together. A joint KSU-SPSU Consolidation Implementation

Committee consisting of 28 Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic administrators and faculty members met to plan and finalize the consolidation. The CIC relied on the work of 81 Operational Working Groups, drawn from faculty, staff and students from both campuses, and throughout the year reviewed and approved recommendations as they came forward from the OWGs.

The Board of Regents’ vote to approve the consolidation came almost a month after the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) — a regional higher education accrediting body — approved a prospectus and strategic plan for the proposed

The past year brought several important changes to Kennesaw State, with much of the focus on making a smooth transition to becoming a fully consolidated “New U” with the start of the fall 2015 semester.



Members of the Kennesaw State University community celebrate the Board of Regents’ vote to approve consolidation.

consolidation. And while SACSCOC allowed the consolidation process to move forward, members of the university community spent 2015 completing SACSCOC and finalizing operational aspects of consolidation. KSU prepared a detailed report for submission to SACSCOC in preparation for a decision in fall 2015

to allow the continued accreditation of the consolidated university.

With an expected student enrollment of 32,000 in fall 2015, Kennesaw State will be one of the 50 largest public universities in the country, with an economic impact of more than \$1.2 billion.





academics

NEW PROGRAMS

Over the academic year, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved several new programs for Kennesaw State.

The Regents approved a new Ph.D. program in analytics and data science at Kennesaw State University. The program is one of the first of its kind in the nation. The innovative program, which will be launched in fall 2015, is designed to train individuals to translate complex large, structured and unstructured data into information to improve decision-making. The doctoral coursework will include programming, data mining, statistical modeling and the mathematical foundations to support these concepts.

The Board of Regents approved a new bachelor's degree in public relations, beginning in fall 2015. The new stand-alone degree represents an expansion of the University's

program in public relations, which previously was offered as a concentration within the Bachelor of Science in Communication. The creation of degree programs in public relations reflects both an increase in student interest and employment opportunities.

The Board of Regents approved the Master of Science in Healthcare Management and Informatics, an interdisciplinary degree designed to address the growing demand within the health information technology sector. The new degree, the only one of its kind in the system, will be offered beginning in 2016. The curriculum will be designed to address delivery of healthcare; information technology; computing; data analytics; informatics; and leadership/management principles.

Students graduating with a two-year degree in culinary studies from Chattahoochee Technical College

As Kennesaw State began making the transition to a consolidated university, several academic programs were updated or added, while new facilities were completed to enhance the learning environment on campus.



Students learn about culinary at the Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality.

will now have a pathway to a four-year degree at Kennesaw State University through a new articulation agreement approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Through the agreement, interested graduates from Chattahoochee Technical College's new Associate of Science degree program in culinary will be able to enroll in Kennesaw State's Bachelor of Science in Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality program as rising juniors.

As part of a donor gift, Kennesaw State named two students 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. The Kennesaw State University Clendenin Scholars Program provides scholarships to recipients pursuing advanced degrees.



The Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center adds multiple fitness opportunities for students.



The four-story expansion of the Bagwell College of Education was completed this year.

CHANGING SPACES

The consolidation brought the creation of two full service campuses to Kennesaw State: the Kennesaw Campus and the Marietta Campus. Ten of the University's colleges are housed on the Kennesaw Campus: Leland and Clarice C. Bagwell College of Education; Coles College of Business; College of Continuing and Professional Education; Honors College; College of Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Science and Mathematics; College of the

Arts; Graduate College; University College and WellStar College of Health and Human Services. Three colleges are located on the Marietta Campus: College of Architecture and Construction Management; College of Computing and Software Engineering; and the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

During the past year, several key building projects were completed

on the Kennesaw Campus to better serve the educational and athletic needs of students. The Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center, a 176,000-square-foot facility with areas dedicated to fitness, opened to students during the summer of 2015. Work was also completed on the four-story addition to the Bagwell College of Education, a 78,756-square-foot building with multiple classroom, labs and department offices. Renovation and

expansion of the Horace Sturgis Library continued during the past year. And the Board of Regents also approved the \$9.9 million acquisition of buildings and 17 acres, formerly the site of BrandsMart U.S.A., east of the Kennesaw Campus, to be used for academic departments, storage, parking and the new marching band program.



EDUCATION BUILDING

comings & goings

12

As Kennesaw State made the transition toward becoming a comprehensive university, there were new members of the leadership team ready to take the University to new levels. During the past year, the community said farewell to some of those who advanced the University's status as an innovator in higher education, while welcoming new faces to campus.

TRANSITIONS



Jerome Ratchford, the vice president for student success, retired this year after more than 25 years as a member of the Kennesaw State administration. Under his leadership, the University developed programs and services for students in specific populations such as adult learners, students with disabilities, minority students and international students. As the founding director of Student Development, Ratchford made a lasting impact on the issues affecting the future and well being of all students.



Ralph Rascati, the founding dean of the Honors College retired this year after 30 years at Kennesaw State as a professor of biology, the chair of the Department of Biology and Physics, the associate vice president for academic affairs, and the dean of the University College. During his career at Kennesaw State, Rascati made several important contributions, including development of a biotechnology program, a groundbreaking first-year studies program and an Honors College.

NEW ROLES



During the past year, a new cabinet-level officer position was created, the vice president for economic development and community engagement. **Charles Ross**, former director of Startup Networks for the Enterprise Innovation Institute at Georgia Tech, took the position to enhance leadership in efforts by the University to engage in the local, regional, state and national communities.



Kathleen “K.C.” White, the former associate vice chancellor and dean of students at Louisiana State University, was hired as Kennesaw State University’s vice president for student affairs. White takes over the role from Jerome Ratchford, serving as the chief officer focused on assuring student success beyond the classroom.



Jon Preston, chair of the Software Engineering and Game Development department and a professor of gaming, was named the faculty executive assistant to the president. Preston succeeds Psychology Professor Maureen McCarthy, who was named an American Council on Education Fellow.



John Omachonu was named senior vice provost to execute academic strategy following the University’s designation as a comprehensive university and its consolidation with Southern Polytechnic State University. Omachonu, who took over the position left by Teresa Joyce, was the former vice provost for academic affairs and chief diversity officer at Middle Tennessee State University.



Keisha Hoerrner was named dean of University College. Hoerrner, who had served as interim dean of the college, was associate dean of University College, department chair of First-Year Programs, assistant department chair of University Studies and director of learning communities.



Eun (E.K.) Park was named dean of Computing and Software Engineering. Park is the former vice provost of research and dean of graduate studies at the California State University, Chico, and professor of computer science.



Kennesaw State University and the Cobb Chamber named Metro Atlanta Chamber Vice President of Entrepreneurial Development **Nancy Wright Whatley** as the executive director of the Georgia Business Success Center, a business incubator, accelerator and education project.



Jo Ann Chitty, the senior vice president of Selig Enterprises, Inc., was named chair of the Kennesaw State University Foundation. Chitty succeeded Connie L. Engel, who served as chair of the Foundation since October 2012. Prior to her appointment as KSU Foundation chair, Chitty served as vice chair as well as chair of the Foundation’s real estate committee. Chitty earned three Foundation awards during her six-year tenure as a trustee.

grants & research

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

During the past year, Michael A. Leven, a veteran hospitality industry executive and president and CEO of the Georgia Aquarium, donated \$5 million for the Michael A. Leven School of Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality. The gift represents the largest single contribution from an individual in the University's 52-year history. Leven's philanthropic gift will be used to support an endowed faculty chair as well as scholarships for culinary sustainability and hospitality students.

Kennesaw State University was awarded a \$3.2 million "First in

the World" grant from the U.S. Department of Education – the second largest grant in the university's history – to increase transfer and completion rates for underrepresented and low-income community and technical college students seeking four-year degrees. The four-year grant supports the Transfer Advocacy Gateway, a program combining the areas of enrollment services, advising and academic support to provide transfer students from two-year colleges to Kennesaw State with a more streamlined and enhanced pathway to obtaining a four-year degree.

Kennesaw State continues to make significant strides toward fulfilling its role as a comprehensive university. Over the past several years, the University has received numerous grants and contracts for faculty scholarship, and a number of donors have made gifts to the KSU Foundation, providing a growing environment for faculty and students to conduct research.



Kennesaw State welcomed the transfer of official papers of Rep. Phil Gringrey to the University.

LexisNexis Risk Solutions donated three individual gifts totaling \$150,000 to support research aimed at further promoting open source HPCC Systems in both academia and industry, as well as for creating a certificate program focused on big data analytics.

CarMax Auto Finance established a two-year scholarship fund for students in the increasingly critical fields of data analytics and applied statistics.

AVENUES FOR RESEARCH

Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp and Rep. Phil Gingrey signed a Deed of Gift transferring to the University the official papers of the six-term Republican congressman and former state senator. The acquisition will allow scholars, students and members of the community to research the daily workings of the congressman and his interaction with constituents.

The National Science Foundation awarded Associate Professor of Mathematics Ana-Maria Croicu \$514,398 to continue her Scholarship Program in Science and Mathematics, aimed 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.

The U.S. Department of Education provided \$507,790 through the Georgia Department of Education's Math and Science Partnership program, which seeks to improve mathematics and science teacher education. The KSU Northwest Georgia Mathematics and Science Education Partnership Project is an interdisciplinary program directed by Charlease Kelly-Jackson, assistant professor of

science education and Brendan Callahan, assistant professor of biology education, designed to improve the content knowledge and instructional practices of the teachers from area school districts.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation awarded the Center for Sustainable Journalism \$250,000 to help increase awareness about substance use prevention and early intervention and foster care in its youth-oriented public affairs publications. The Center for Sustainable Journalism also received \$600,000 from the Robert Bowne Foundation and \$200,000 from the Wallace Foundation to support *Youth Today*, a periodical and website. The Wallace Foundation has given support for *Youth Today* to expand its coverage of after-school programs, after-school system building, and summer learning.

Ibrahim Elsayw, Executive Director for the Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth, received \$141,000 from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, to provide Post-Secondary Education courses for persons with developmental disabilities, based on an inclusionary model.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$90,709 for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program, run by Tommie Nelms, Director of the WellStar School of Nursing, and Genie Dorman, Associate Director for Master's Program Nursing. This program funds nursing students who are enrolled in the Advanced Care Management and Leadership Master of Science in Nursing Nurse Educator Program or in the Doctor of Nursing Science Program.

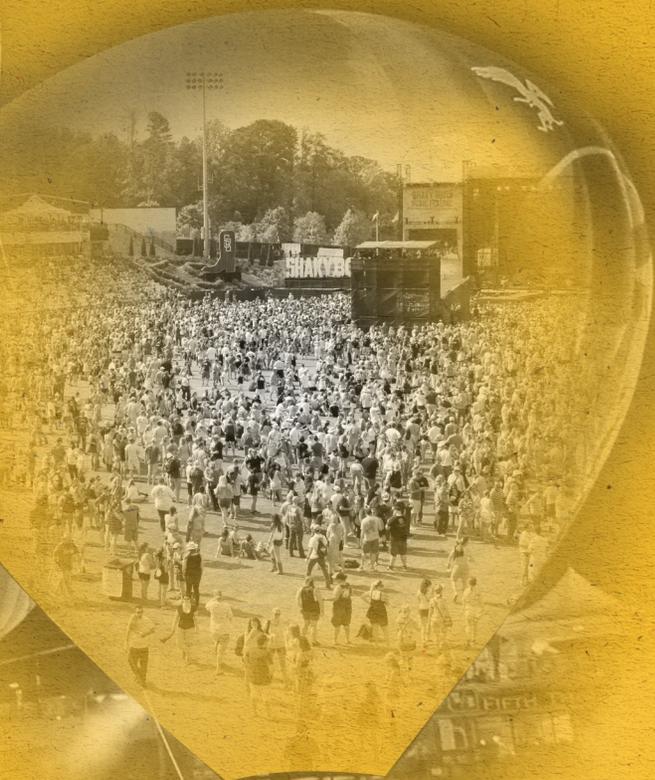
The Georgia Department of Transportation provided a \$127,500 contract to be conducted by faculty

from the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering, helping to understand the effects of RAP on pavement, potentially leading to longer lasting, cheaper pavements and reduced maintenance costs.

The Freeman Foundation provided \$100,000 in support of the production of a documentary on tea in modern China. The project is being coordinated by Lance Askildson, KSU's vice provost for global affairs and executive director of the Division of Global Affairs.



The Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth continues to advance its goal of providing post-secondary education for persons with developmental disabilities.



community engagement

A NEW DESIGNATION

Kennesaw State University earned the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a highly sought-after designation among higher education institutions. The classification, which is valid through 2025, places Kennesaw State among the top 10 percent of universities nationally that have earned recognition for ongoing collaborative efforts with their larger communities in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources. Kennesaw State was recognized for numerous initiatives and activities that create, expand and perpetuate community engagement. Kennesaw State is one of 361 institutions – and one of only 10 in

Georgia – that holds the Community Engagement Classification.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Black and gold were the colors of the day at Georgia's Capitol as faculty, staff, students, alumni and others celebrated Kennesaw State University's inaugural "Day at the Capitol" event on March 25 in Atlanta. Members of the Cobb Legislative Delegation were on hand to celebrate and offer congratulations to President Daniel S. Papp, who was invited to the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate sessions as they presented Kennesaw State with resolutions in recognition of the event. The event

One of the primary goals for Kennesaw State has been to engage and make a positive impact on the community. The University continued to touch the region in many important ways this year, whether through direct impact on the economy, through community service programs or the many partnerships formed.



The Kennesaw State community organized the inaugural "Day at the Capitol" during the session of the state legislature.

was one the university's first public outings as a consolidated university.

Nearly 200 students, faculty, staff and community volunteers took part in beautification and group project activities both on and off campus during the second annual KSU Day of Service in April.

There were several opportunities for assisting organizations in need through the program.

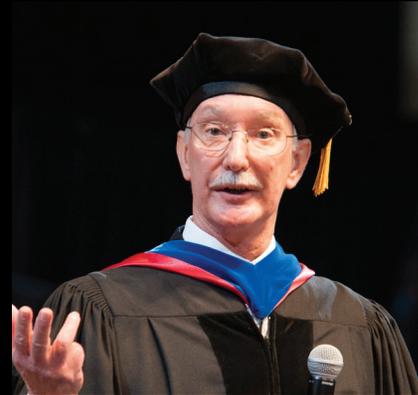
The Atlanta Business Chronicle named President Daniel S. Papp one of Atlanta's 55 "Most Admired CEOs" in the education category. The publication recognized executives



John Grant, Jr., the CEO of 10 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., speaks during Commencement.



Author Ann Coulter speaks as part of the "Marketplace of Ideas" series.



Robert McNally, president of GeoVax, Inc. speaks during Commencement.



Activist Angela Davis speaks during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration.

who are established leaders with a strong record of innovation in their field, outstanding financial performance, a commitment to quality, a strong vision and a commitment to diversity. Papp was also recognized by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce with its 2014 Leadership Award for his efforts to make a significant impact on Cobb County.

As part of Kennesaw State's commitment to fostering a welcoming, diverse and inclusive environment, University officials engaged in "The Assessment of Climate for Learning, Living and Working," a comprehensive survey of how students and employees view their experiences and relationships on campus. As the culmination of many years of planning, the survey's results put focus on the perceptions

of those on campus trying to meet their needs, abilities and potential.

ATTRACTING MAJOR EVENTS

During the past year, the Kennesaw Campus was the host site for several major events that attracted participants from throughout Georgia and the Southeast.

More than 50,000 were on campus in May for the inaugural two-day Shaky Boots Festival, the first multi-day, multi-stage country music event held in Georgia.

In October, Kennesaw State hosted the second-annual Owl-O-Ween hot air balloon festival that drew more than 30,000 people for one of the biggest events staged in Cobb County.

Major League Lacrosse, the premier professional outdoor lacrosse league, held its national championship game at Fifth Third Bank in August 2014, with a return to the venue scheduled for the 2015 championship.

SPEAKERS

Several prominent members of the Atlanta and Georgia communities spoke to graduates during the summer, fall and spring Commencement ceremonies. Among the prestigious speakers were Joel A. Katz, chairman of Global Entertainment and Media Practice of Greenberg Traurig; John Grant, Jr., the CEO of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.; Hans Gant, former senior vice president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber; Monica Pearson, retired anchorwoman

with WSB-TV; Robert McNally, president and CEO of GeoVax, Inc.; Michael A. Leven, chairman and CEO of the Georgia Aquarium; Chris Ragsdale, superintendent of the Cobb County School System; and Kenny Leon, co-founder and artistic director of the True Colors Theatre Company in Atlanta.

A capacity-plus audience attended the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration to hear activist and scholar Angela Davis, who spoke about the civil rights movement and modern day protests.

As the second speaker in Kennesaw State's "Marketplace of Ideas" lecture series, syndicated columnist and best-selling author Ann Coulter spoke on a variety of issues, including immigrations, gun control and the campaign for president.





international

Global learning remains a top educational priority for Kennesaw State as it grows into a comprehensive university. During the past year, that dedication to international partnerships has brought new opportunities for students and faculty.

ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE

Kennesaw State officially opened its first permanent international education site in a historic 13th century fortress in Montepulciano, Italy, allowing the University to conduct year-round academic programs there. A ribbon cutting, banquet, tours and wine tasting marked the official opening of the University's International Programs in Tuscany at the Antica Fortezza Poliziana, where Kennesaw State occupies 4,000 square feet. The second floor of the Fortezza was renovated to accommodate six classrooms, an apartment for a director, meeting space and offices to support study abroad.



Kennesaw State opened its first permanent international education site in Montepulciano, Italy.

YEAR OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

For the 31st anniversary of Kennesaw State's annual "Year of" country study, the University presented a full calendar of events for the Year of the Arabian Peninsula. The events during the year focused on a number of issues

facing the seven nations of the region, including an international conference on the "Women of Oman" that focused on the changing roles of women in Oman. The conference featured the Omani Ambassador to the U.S. Hunaina Al Mughairy and Oman's Minister

of Higher Education Rawya Saud Al Busaidi. The Year of the Arabian Peninsula also included a KSU Arabic Festival, an art exhibit about Arab-Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces and many other cultural and academic events.

BUILDING GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS

For the third year in a row, the Institute for International Education ranked Kennesaw State University among the top ten master's level U.S. institutions for student participation in education abroad programs. The University was ranked eighth in the country, with 766 students studying abroad. Kennesaw State University's position as a top-ten master's level institution reflects several years of increased focus on international education.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities awarded Kennesaw State University for excellence and innovation in international education, one of only two such awards presented among the organization's 400 member institutions nationwide. In its inaugural awards program, the AASCU is honoring Kennesaw State for international education programs that have enhanced the University's curricula, fostered opportunity and creativity in integrating international students into campus life and encouraged students from underrepresented groups to study abroad.

Kennesaw State University was recognized as one of the top producing institutions of Fulbright Scholars for the 2014-15 academic



year by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Among master's institutions, Kennesaw State was among the top seven with three KSU faculty members earning Fulbright grants this year.

The 2015 Symposium on ASIA-USA Partnership Opportunities, the South's largest Asian business conference, explored the opportunities and dynamics of building and managing strategic

partnerships in a global economy from the perspectives of more than 60 government officials, scholars and corporate decision-makers from North America, Asia, Europe and Africa. The symposium has been organized by the Asian Studies Program at Kennesaw State since 2011.

Kennesaw State University's Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth teamed with WellStar

College of Health and Human Services' Department of Exercise Science and Sport Management on a trip to the United Arab Emirates – the University's first inclusive education abroad program. The 10-day trip emphasized inclusion and to promote the independence for the students, as they experienced the diversity and culture of the region.





athletics

NATIONAL HONORS

Kennesaw State Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams was selected to represent the Atlantic Sun Conference on the inaugural NCAA Division I Council. The Council, which conducts the day-to-day business of Division I, consists of 40 individuals from across the nation.

Former Kennesaw State catcher Max Pentecost took home top billing in the NCAA Division I catcher's world, winning the Johnny Bench Award at the Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission. The award, sponsored by BaseballSavings.com, recognizes the top catcher in the nation, making Pentecost the first KSU player to win the accolade as well as the first in the Atlantic Sun Conference and first from the state of Georgia.

Kennesaw State University's athletics program took home two awards at the 2015 Atlanta Sports Awards hosted by the Atlanta Sports Council. The Owls baseball program, led by head coach Mike Sansing, was named the Team of the Year and former KSU All-American Max Pentecost won for Collegiate Athlete of the Year.

Head baseball coach Mike Sansing earned his 1,000th career win during 2015, which was his 24th season at the helm of the Owls baseball program.

For the first time since transitioning to the NCAA Division I level in the fall of 2005, Kennesaw State University had three athletic programs in

The Kennesaw State Athletics programs continued to flourish with national recognition during the past year, as student-athletes found success both on the field and in the classroom.



The Kennesaw State baseball team received multiple accolades for stellar play on the field.

national Top 25 rankings. Following its record-breaking 2014 season, the baseball team opened the 2015 season ranked as high as No. 19 by Baseball America. Meanwhile, head coach Jay Moseley and the men's golf program was No. 21

in the Golfstat rankings, and the men's indoor track and field under head coach Andy Eggerth's team was No. 22 in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association rankings.

Several student-athletes were recognized for academic excellence during the past year. The Kennesaw State women's golf team had five student-athletes named to the Women's Golf Coaches Association All-America Scholars Team. The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent in all of college athletics. The Kennesaw State men's and women's tennis teams earned Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team honors while 10 student-athletes were recognized as ITA Scholar-Athletes.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Kennesaw State's new football program had several key milestones as it prepared for the fall 2015 debut. After unveiling the uniforms for the football program, the first class of scholarship players moved on campus during the fall. In early spring, Kennesaw State University signed 16 recruits during National Signing Day. It was the second signing class for the Owls, after recruiting 29 players during their previous year. In late March, the KSU football program held its inaugural Black and Gold Game in front of nearly 4,000 fans at Fifth Third Bank Stadium.



Kennesaw State named Al Skinner as the new men's basketball coach.

Al Skinner, a former Division I national coach of the year and two-time Big East Conference Coach of the Year, was named the new head coach of the Kennesaw State men's basketball program. Skinner, who becomes the sixth head coach in program history, brings 22 years of Division I head coaching experience to Kennesaw State, most recently as associate head coach at Division I Bryant University in Rhode Island.

Kennesaw State named AJ Boyd as the head coach of the first-ever Kennesaw State co-ed cheerleading team. Prior to joining the Kennesaw State department of athletics, Boyd served as the program director and head coach of the KSU competitive cheer program for seven years, leading the program to back-to-back Division I National Championships in 2010 and 2011.





awards & recognitions

OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS

Kennesaw State University was among a select group of 23 colleges and universities that scored an “A” for its high-quality core curriculum in a nationwide study on the state of general education released by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. It was the fourth year that Kennesaw State earned an “A” in the annual “What Will They Learn?” report. KSU was one of five schools in Georgia to receive a top score, according to the Washington, D.C.-based American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

For the third year in a row, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 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, KSU was one of only two Georgia universities recognized in the survey, and the only public institution in the state to make the cut.

Kennesaw State was recognized as one of the top producing institutions of Fulbright Scholars for the 2014-15 academic year by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Among master’s institutions, Kennesaw State was among the top seven with three KSU faculty members earning Fulbright grants last year.

Kennesaw State continued to build national and international reputation during the past year, as many of its faculty members and programs were recognized for excellence.



For the fourth consecutive year, the University ranked among the nation’s top degree producers of minority students, according to a special report by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. The national magazine’s annual “Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers” report recognized Kennesaw State as a top producer of college degrees conferred to African-American students, as a leading institution for African-American students

graduating within seven different academic categories and ranked among the top institutions for Asian-Americans majoring in education.

Kennesaw State was recognized among the nation’s top schools for veterans, according to *Military Times* magazine in its fifth annual “Best for Vets: Colleges 2015” rankings. The University was one of only 140 schools nationwide to be honored by the publication.

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. It was the third time that Kennesaw State has earned a spot in the ranking’s top 10.

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Maureen McCarthy, faculty executive assistant to the president and professor of psychology, was named an American Council on Education Fellow for the 2015-16 academic year. McCarthy was one of 47 fellows nationwide to be selected to this year’s program. The ACE Fellows Program is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing emerging leaders for senior positions in college and university administration. McCarthy also won The American Psychological Association’s Division 2 – the Society for the Teaching of Psychology – Presidential Citation for her contribution to the field.

Kennesaw State University psychology professor Pam Marek was among three recipients of the University System of Georgia’s 2014 Regents’ Award for Excellence in Teaching, the state’s most prestigious honor for higher education teachers. She was recognized for her strengths

in teaching and working with students in advisement, mentoring, and undergraduate research.

Maj. Gen. Maria Britt, the first female head of the Georgia National Guard and, since 2012, Kennesaw State University associate vice president for operations, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. The presidential award is one of the nation’s highest.

The College of Continuing and Professional Education received multiple awards from highly respected adult learning organizations, including outstanding

services awards from the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education and the University Professional & Continuing Education.

The Affordable Colleges Foundation ranked Kennesaw State as No. 17 in the nation for “Best Online Colleges.” The 2015 ranking was published on AffordableCollegesOnline.org, a website for prospective college students and their parents. Online education programs also received honors from BestColleges.com, a college planning website, which ranked the online undergraduate degree programs No. 22 among the nation’s universities that offer

bachelor’s degrees online. In addition, the online BBA degree program at Michael J. Coles College of Business was ranked ninth nationwide by BestColleges.com in their 2015 ranking of online business degree programs.

Kennesaw State was among 11 universities honored with a Campus Technology Innovators Award by *Campus Technology* magazine for innovative and visionary technology project leadership. The University was recognized in the Administrative Systems category for its Virtual Assessment Center, a tool created and used to assess Massive Open Online Courses, KSU’s newest learning model.

KSU 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.

The Physics Teacher Education Coalition recognized Kennesaw State as a leader in physics teacher preparation by naming it an inductee into its inaugural “The 5+ Club,” a group of institutions that has graduated five or more physics teachers in a given year. Kennesaw State was one of only 11 institutions nationwide included in the rankings.



Maria Britt, the associate vice president for operations, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

APRON STRINGS

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The Original





Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2015

For more information, or to obtain additional
copies of this report, please contact:

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