

Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Research Report

Kennesaw State faculty and staff received more than \$16 million last year to fund research projects. "Research Report" keeps you abreast of the university's increased research activity.

Marcus Davis, assistant professor of biology, was awarded \$141,944 for the first year of a three-year \$399,957 National Science Foundation grant to research the evolutionary origins of the North American paddlefish. Funding is included for undergraduate students to work on the project.

Darryl Corey, associate professor of mathematics education, received \$50,495 for Learners and Leaders: Developing Math Teacher Leaders through Enhanced Content Knowledge, a weeklong intensive summer workshop and three follow-up sessions for as many as 30 Fulton County secondary mathematics teachers and instructional leaders.

Charlease Kelly-Jackson, assistant professor of elementary science education, received \$47,102 for Project ST3M: Expanding Teachers' Content and Pedagogical Content Knowledge through Problem-Based Learning. Twelve Fulton County elementary teachers will participate in a one-week summer institute and monthly workshops to enhance teachers' ability to incorporate instructional technology into their courses.

Virginia Watson, associate professor of mathematics, was awarded \$43,218 for Math Teachers' Geometry Circle. KSU faculty will present workshops to increase Atlanta and Fulton County teacher's content knowledge of geometry and measurement and confidence in problem solving.

Michelle Dean, assistant professor of chemistry education, was awarded a \$39,734 grant to improve the chemistry content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge of high school chemistry teachers through an intensive summer workshop and monthly meetings during the academic year.

KSU military symposium considers 21st century threats

By Neil B. McGahee
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Terrorism remains the number one threat to world security according to civilian and military experts who spoke at a military symposium on February 23 hosted by Kennesaw State and the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute.

More than 150 people attended the second annual event which included keynote addresses by former German defense minister Karl Theodor zu Guttenberg and F. William Smullen III, Colin Powell's chief of staff from 2001-2003, and director of national security studies at Syracuse University.

While both men tried to reassure the audience that security threats can be effectively thwarted, each warned about the dangers of old and emerging security threats such as terrorism, pirates, famines, pandemics and climate change as potential risks for the 21st century.

"Paint a picture of the global and national security landscapes and you quickly notice that the challenges we face today seem to be interconnected," Smullen said. "We face threats today that can quickly become global concerns that were once unthinkable."

In addition, while threats from Al Qaeda may seem to have lessened, Guttenberg and Smullen said that we still need to be on guard.

"Al Qaeda has changed and we must too,"



Volker Franke, director of the International Conflict Management doctoral program, (left) and keynote speakers William Smullen III and former German defense minister Karl Theodor zu Guttenberg share a conversation during the symposium.

Smullen said. "Although Al Qaeda has devolved into more of a media organization, grave threats remain as is evidenced by the underwear bomber who tried to blow up an airliner over Detroit, the unsuccessful Times Square bombing and, more recently, the attempted bombing of the U.S. Capitol.

Other threats include:

- Piracy, which threatens commercial shipping and in turn, has a chilling effect on commodity prices and contributes to regional insecurity. Zu Guttenberg noted that pirates attacked more than

439 ships and held 802 people hostage in 2011. In 2012, 37 ships have been attacked and 159 hostages taken. In 2010, a South Korean tanker fetched a \$10 million ransom.

- Hunger. There are more than 2 billion undernourished people in the world, Smullen said and government action is needed to sustain the world's food supply.

- Pandemics, natural or human caused
- Climate Change

Owls fight song rings in new tradition

By Robert S. Godlewski
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It was history in the making as a record-setting crowd of nearly 5,000 packed the Convocation Center on Feb. 9 to celebrate the debut of the Kennesaw State Owls new fight song.

Unveiled at the start of the game against local rival the Mercer Bears, the lyrics to the fight song include references to the surrounding area ("From the mountain we bring spirit, heart and victory), the region ("All through the Southland all know our might"), and a commitment to academics.

"This is the beginning of a new tradition at Kennesaw State," said Vaughn Williams, KSU's director of athletics. "I tell our students to think about this moment 15 or 25 years from now when you come back here as alumni. Think about this moment, this time. When you come back to a reunion here and see us doing the cheer at basketball games and football games, remember you were here, you were part of it."

The song is the brainchild of Harry Price, director of KSU's school of music, who approached Williams shortly after he was



KSU students cheer the debut of the new fight song.

hired as athletic director last April. Price enlisted the aid of his former Virginia Tech colleague and composer James Sochinski,

who has written songs for other universities.

"A school needs a fight song," Price said. "I think it's going to catch on."



Career fair connects 700 students with employers

by Robert S. Godlewski
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Take more than 60 employers offering jobs, mix thoroughly with 700 students searching for employment or internships, bake for four hours in the James V. Carmichael Student Center and the result is the 2012 KSU Spring Career Fair, a premiere networking event designed to help Kennesaw State students find jobs.

The career fair was brimming with well-spoken, perfectly groomed students in their best business attire hoping to impress recruiters from companies including Disney, the Georgia Aquarium, Enterprise, Coca-Cola and Apple.

"We expected 500 to 600 students, but we set a new record with about 700," said Karen Andrews, director of the KSU Career Services Center. "This was a very time-effective exercise for all concerned, for students and employers. We had a good variety of employers, more than 60 companies who



A KSU student talks to a recruiter at the career fair.

recognize the quality of our graduates."

Alumna Jenna Wright returned to her alma mater as a recruiter for Frito-Lay.

"As a district manager, I'm looking for people who are self-motivated and very professional," she said. "This has been a very worthwhile experience."

In addition to the recruiters attending the fair, Lori Trahan, an assistant director of the Career Services Center, said she is able to draw from a database containing some 5,000 recruiters.

"Altogether, we have some 12,000 in our database when you factor in our students, alumni and other networking connections," she said. "Our database contains employers who may have a full-time or part-time position or may want to offer a co-op or internship. We have a lot to choose from.

"We even have a San Francisco-based firm, nCircle Network Security, coming for the first time," said Trahan. "They know we have an excellent computer science program."

David Caselli



KSU sales competition draws Fortune 500 companies

By Aixa M. Pascual
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More than 500 undergraduate and graduate students from the top sales programs, representing 65 universities from the U.S., Canada and Belgium, participated in Kennesaw State's 14th annual National Collegiate Sales Competition — the largest and oldest collegiate sales competition in the world.

Every March for 14 years, recruiters from many Fortune 500 companies have descended on Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business looking to hire their next sales stars. As sponsors of the National Collegiate Sales Competition, these companies, including Verizon Wireless, UPS and Xerox, have the opportunity to hire students from the nation's best sales programs.



Florida State University, Baylor University, Northern Illinois University, Kennesaw State and the University of Houston are among the institutions that participated in the sales-call competition and exclusive sales career fair March

2 - 5. More than 70 of the top sales faculty in the U.S. served as judges in the competition.

The competition is an elimination tournament, according to Terry Loe, director of Coles College's Center for Professional Selling and the director of the competition. Participants enter an "office" — one of nine sales labs in the Coles College of Business — as if making a sales call and have 20 minutes to successfully make a pitch. Wall-mounted cameras broadcast the pitches to judges for scoring. The top 16 advance to the semifinals, then four finalists compete in the championship round.

"Some 75 percent of the students participating get hired at the competition," Loe said. "A record number of schools competed this year. The competition draws the best of the best and is a great recruitment tool for our corporate sponsors."



New York Times editor shares tips on reporting

by Guy Bailey
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New York Times Foreign Editor Greg Winter shared his ideas on reporting foreign news with Kennesaw State students, faculty and staff during a presentation sponsored by the KSU American Democracy Project.

Winter, a 10-year veteran covering sub-Saharan Africa and Central and South America said he uses a formula to decide which stories will be covered on his turf.

"Several rules of thumb are used to decide what is covered," he said. "First is math. How many people are affected by an event? Second — economics — how much money is at stake? Third — environment — how large an area is affected and how critical is it to the ecosystem? Fourth — impact — how sweeping are the ramifications of an event and how does it impact political and social dynamics within a country, or between countries. Does it

have geopolitical significance? Ultimately it comes down to news judgment."

Winter acknowledged there were biases in their coverage. "We apply criteria to ensure a fair way of treating stories but I admit that a fundamental bias runs through our coverage and that is the inherent value of human life and human welfare," he said. "This cuts across the political spectrum; it is an inherent, humanist bias and means we place a special attention to certain issues such as human welfare."

The American Democracy Project (ADP) is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens for our democracy. The project began in 2003 as an initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), in partnership with *The New York Times*. The goal of the American Democracy Project is to produce graduates who are committed to being active, involved citizens in their communities.



New York Times Foreign Editor Greg Winter

David Caselli

Campus Notes

Science seminars focus on recent developments

ScienceTALK, a spring seminar series sponsored by the College of Science and Mathematics focuses on recent developments in those fields. In addition to presentations by KSU faculty, speakers from Emory, Clemson, Colorado State and Southern Methodist universities present papers according to interim dean Ron Matson. Seminars meet at 3:30 pm every Thursday in CL 1008 through the end of the semester.

KSU vice president honored by national education magazine

Arlethia Perry-Johnson, KSU vice president for external affairs, was named one of "25 Women Making a Difference," in higher education in the March issue of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Perry-Johnson previously served as an associate vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. She is also project director of the University System's nationally recognized African-American Male Initiative. To read the entire story, please visit www.diverseeducation.com



First students inducted into Noyce II program

by Robert S. Godlewski
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The first cohort of experienced STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) professionals was inducted into Kennesaw State's I-IMPACT Noyce II program, one of just eight similar programs in the country, in February.

The I-IMPACT program, shorthand for the Initiative to Inspire and Mentor Physics and Chemistry Teachers, is designed to place highly qualified individuals as science teachers in grades 7-12, with an emphasis on chemistry and physics.

"Kennesaw State has taken another step toward increasing the number of STEM teachers with the establishment of the I-IMPACT program," said Greg Rushton, the director and principal investigator of the program. "Our goal is to find people who are working or have worked in the science

professions, who have the academic qualifications to enter a teacher-prep program, and who want to teach."

The program is a partnership between Kennesaw State, Georgia Tech, the American Chemical Society and the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency that recruits academically qualified career-changers to join KSU's MAT science program. It is funded by a \$2.84 million grant from the National Science Foundation and \$1.4 million from KSU. Teaching Fellows are initially eligible to receive \$10,000 toward the cost of the 14-month program, according to Rushton.

"The scholarship pays for the student to pursue a master's degree, while simultaneously earning teacher certification," Rushton said. "Then for the next four years, candidates earn an additional \$10,000 a year as a stipend along with an additional \$5,000 for supplies and travel expenditures while they work in high-needs school districts."



David Caselli

The first cohort of STEM professionals were inducted into KSU's I-Impact Noyce II program.



KSU, Southern Cal collaboration explores homelessness

by Neil B. McGahee
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"Welcome to the place you never want to end up," a man told students from Kennesaw State University (KSU) and the University of Southern California (USC) who were touring Skid Row, downtown Los Angeles' homeless community.

KSU and USC teamed up for a six-month exploration of the social issue of homelessness through each school's Leadership Exchange program. The program includes two immersion weekends, one in Atlanta and another in Los Angeles. Southern Cal students will visit Atlanta's homeless communities during spring break.

"We accept about 15 students each year," Josh Hunt, KSU's leadership Exchange director, said. "We focus on social issues like homelessness to teach leadership skills such as advocacy, networking and problem solving. It's a way for students to advocate for issues they're passionate about while learning how to make a difference."

"I don't know what I was expecting, but I wasn't expecting this," said Adriana Lee, a sophomore nursing major at KSU. "It's really eye-opening to see people in this condition. In Atlanta, you see homeless people, but it is nothing like Skid Row. I am really more grateful for all that I have, and I now have more compassion for the homeless. I want to get involved and see what I can do as a young person to help out."

Before the tour, the students met Los Angeles Police Officer Deon Joseph, a 17-year veteran of the Skid Row area. Joseph gave them statistics, pictures and stories about Skid Row, but it wasn't until they entered the community that they understood the reality of his presentation.

The students were overwhelmed by the stench of urine, the piles of discarded clothing on the sidewalks and the street littered with garbage. But after several blocks, when conditions deteriorated from bad to worse to deplorable, eyes welled with tears and jaws dropped.

The Southern Cal students visited Kennesaw State in March to get a close look at Atlanta's homeless population and the efforts being made to alleviate that community's problems.



Lewis co-curates High Museum exhibit devoted to golf

By Jennifer Hafer
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Organized by Atlanta's High Museum and the National Galleries of Scotland, "The Art of Golf," co-curated by Catherine Lewis, executive director of museums, archives and rare books and professor of history at Kennesaw State, is the first-ever major exhibition devoted exclusively to golf at an American art museum.

The exhibit explores the royal and ancient games as depicted by landscape and portrait artists, photographers and Pop artists through the ages. Comprising approximately 90 works from artists as

diverse as Rembrandt, Charles Lees, Norman Rockwell and Andy Warhol, "The Art of Golf" examines the game's origins, its foundation in Scotland and its growth in America in the 20th century.

"There has never been a show like this," Lewis said. "The challenge of this show was that it wasn't a history exhibit, it's an exhibit about fine artists taking up golf as a subject. Most of the works in this exhibit have never been seen in the United States before, and some have never left the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. It's been an exciting project that we hope will attract diverse audiences who love golf and art."

Michael E. Shapiro, the High's Nancy and

Holcombe T. Green Jr. director, said, "Dr. Catherine Lewis was chosen to co-curate 'The Art of Golf' exhibition at the High for several reasons. She is a well-known scholar in the field, she's an experienced curator, and she was, fortunately for us, here in Atlanta. She has been writing on golf for more than 15 years and knew many of the works that are included in the show."

Lewis has written five books on golf and some of the most famous men to ever play the game, including "Bobby Jones and the Quest for the Grand Slam," "Considerable Passions: Golf, the Master's and the Legacy of Bobby Jones," and "Don't Ask What I Shot: How Eisenhower's Love of Golf Helped Shape 1950s America."



File Photo

Catherine Lewis



Executives share success secrets at Lessons in Leadership forum

by Ginger Sinton
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Character, integrity and optimism were just some of the characteristics that contributed to their career successes, said panelists at the Michael J. Coles College of Business Executive MBA's Lessons in Leadership held Feb. 23 at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Paul Lopez, lecturer in the Coles College Executive MBA program, moderated the panel discussion themed "Accelerate Your Leadership Plan."

"Given today's tough competitive

conditions, what is the top characteristic you look for in an employee you would hire or promote?" Lopez asked, "What is your greatest challenge to successful leadership?"

John Dwyer, senior vice president of customer experience at AT&T Mobility, said teamwork and collaboration are critical elements in today's competitive marketplace.

"My task is to motivate the team so it's important to get the right people," he said. "I feel most alive at the moment we mobilize around a crisis. Remain calm and show confidence. Have faith in yourself.

As a leader, there is no better time than when it all lines up; everyone in the room feels it."

Patricia Falotico, vice president of global sales center transformation with IBM, said a "collaborative influence" contributed to her career success. She said that integrity is a key characteristic that IBM looks for in an employee — "all part of the basic values that we hold true at IBM."

Cyril Turner, president of Delta Air Lines' global services, added optimism to the list.

"You have to be optimistic in order to get great results," he said. "Don't lead

small. Work beyond your authority."

Betty Siegel, president emeritus of Kennesaw State University, agreed that optimism is one of the most important ingredients to business.

"Enroll others in your vision," she said. "We should engage in invitational leadership."

Lessons in Leadership is an annual event sponsored by the Executive MBA program of the Coles College of Business, which was recently recognized by *CEO Magazine* and *BusinessWeek* as a top executive MBA program.



Student essayists share joys, challenges of study abroad

by Robert S. Godlewski
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Kennesaw State study abroad students were honored by the Education Abroad Office for their essays describing the joys and challenges of international education.

“Almost a thousand Kennesaw State students participated in international study programs last year, and we’re seeing more and more students wanting to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to broaden their education every year,” said Dan Paracka, director of the Education Abroad Office. “We congratulate these individuals on their accomplishments. They are at the heart of everything we do.”

Although each essay winner studied in a different country, they shared many of the same highs and lows that come with international travel. Each said they returned a little wiser in the ways of the world and with plenty of great memories that will last a lifetime.

First-place winner Johanna Leskinen taught science to

ninth grade students near Cape Town, South Africa.

“The kids mumbled to each other with the characteristic clicks and drops of the Xhosa language most of the time,” she wrote. “So we spent those first few sessions communicating with confused glances as I flailed my arms around and scribbled pictures on scraps of paper.”

Eddy Hallmark, the second place winner, got a good look at the benefits of social entrepreneurship when he traveled to a Guatemalan village.

“When we arrived, we were greeted by Paola, the local Mayan entrepreneur. Her social entrepreneurship provides needed products, such as eyeglasses and water filters, to the local people and it allows local entrepreneurs, like Paola, to earn income for their families.”

Third-place essayist Kayleigh Palmer offered a humorous take when she traveled to Peru.

“Growing up, my parents always encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone,” she wrote. “On May 31, 2011, I not only left my comfort zone but my comfort planet and



David Caselli

Education Abroad essay winners were Johanna Leskinen, left, Eddy Hallmark, Education Abroad director Dan Paracka, Kayleigh Palmer and Liily Wilkerson.

my comfort universe.”

To see the complete essays and student photos, please visit http://kennesaw.edu/studyabroad/essay_contest_new.html



Recovery community offers support to Kennesaw State University students

by Aixa M. Pascual
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After a stint in rehab and working a 12-step program, Jason Callis knew grad school would be challenging. But at Kennesaw State, Callis, 29, has found a supportive environment in the Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery’s collegiate recovery community. The community, launched in 2008, has allowed him to make lifelong friends and flourish academically while gaining “an acceptance of myself.”

“The program provided a way for me to be involved with people in similar situations while I was in school,” said Callis, who is pursuing a master’s in social work. “I love that it provides some structure, although it isn’t forced structure. It’s set up so that if a student takes part

and makes the effort, the student will succeed.”

Kennesaw State is among a group of universities at the forefront of providing collegiate recovery communities for students recovering from addiction. In early March, KSU hosted the 3rd National Collegiate Recovery Conference, which attracted administrators from 25 universities and experts on young adult addiction and recovery. Teresa Johnston, director of KSU’s Center for Young Adult Addiction and Recovery, is president of the newly formed Association for Recovery in Higher Education. More and more universities are following in KSU’s footsteps and launching their own programs, including the University of Michigan and Penn State, which have created recovery programs in the last year.

College can be a difficult environment for young people who have faced addiction and/or substance

misuse. The recovery community at KSU offers a social model of support to enable students to have a full, mainstream college experience while remaining abstinent from addictive behaviors. “It’s about bringing together recovery principles and academic principles,” said Johnston. “Recovery is about insight, commitment, readiness and motivation, and so is college.”

“Eating disorders, gambling addictions and substance dependence are prevalent in our society and we are losing precious resources. College offers hope and a more joyful life, and students in recovery are part of that dynamic as well.”

The recovery community at KSU now serves 52 students, up from 36 two years ago, Johnston said.



Kennesaw State students work as promoters, agents for local artists

by Aixa M. Pascual
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A select group of Kennesaw State students will get a first-hand look at the inner workings of the music industry.

More than 50 would-be music execs enrolled in the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Program will have the chance to promote and market local music artists by building fan bases through

social media.

“This is a wonderful learning lab for our students,” said Keith Perissi, associate director of the program. “This project will give students hands-on experience in the music and entertainment industry, working with heavyweights such as Sony. They will be doing the job that agents, managers and promoters do. This is about as real as it gets.”

Week after week, the students will be producing video clips, booking the acts at

local venues, pitching local and national media and using social media to launch campaigns. They will meet with the artists and post weekly blogs chronicling their progress throughout the semester.

“This is a win-win situation for everybody involved,” said Brad Todd, an entertainment industry executive who founded PlayPro Media. “The artists are getting a consulting team with professionals who have years of experience in the industry.”

Angie Caquias, a Kennesaw State junior who wants to be an entertainment lawyer, is excited to be working with hip-hop artist A-N-T.

“A lot of people who want to be in the music and entertainment industry don’t get the chance to do all this — marketing, brand-building, touring and social media,” she said. “You wouldn’t normally get the opportunity to do this as a student.”



Kennesaw State professor explodes onto national literary scene

By Jennifer Hafer
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Kennesaw State University Professor Jeffrey Stepakoff has exploded onto the national literary scene, recently being named an “exciting new author” by *Reader’s Digest*.

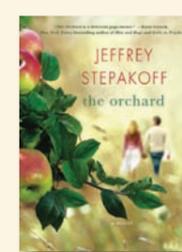
Stepakoff’s sophomore offering, “The

Orchard,” is the lead title in “Select Editions, Vol. 318,” an anthology of four new fiction novels by bestselling authors as well as rising new stars. Other titles included are Lee Child’s No. 1 *New York Times* Bestseller “Worth Dying For,” Barbara O’Neal’s “How to Bake a Perfect Life” and David Rosenfelt’s “On Borrowed Time.”

“It’s thrilling to be included in this kind

of company,” said Stepakoff, assistant professor of film & TV writing. “These are literally some of the world’s biggest authors. I was surprised and humbled to get the call they wanted to include ‘The Orchard’ in ‘Select Editions.’”

Stepakoff’s first book, “Fireworks Over Toccoa” was released last year.



Jeff Stepakoff was named an exciting new author by *Reader’s Digest*

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