

Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Research and Grants

The National Institutes of Health has awarded **Scott Nowak, assistant professor of biology**, a three year, \$309,977 grant for his project Molecular Mechanism of Akirin Function During Myogenesis. Myogenesis is the process where muscle is formed and maintained. Akirin is a protein that regulates this process. Nowak believes that by understanding both we may be able to improve the efficacy of therapies aimed at mitigating or reversing muscle wasting.

For the third consecutive year, KSU has received a grant from the National Security Agency to conduct a two week residential Chinese language and culture immersion program. The \$125,000 grant will fund the KSU Startalk Chinese Academy. **Anja Bernardy, associate professor of Spanish and foreign language education**, will lead the program.

The Japan Foundation has awarded a \$22,350 grant to KSU to expand and support an increase in Japanese Studies as part of the annual "Year of" program, led by **Dan Paracka, director and associate professor of education abroad**. Grant funding will support exchange faculty from Japan who will teach four courses over two semesters, as well as speakers for a lecture and a conference.

Virginia Watson, associate professor of mathematics, received a \$51,881 grant from the University of Georgia under the Teacher Quality program funded by the Department of Education. Watson runs the KSU Statistics and Probability Math Teachers' Circle, a collaboration with the Cobb County School System. The project's goal is to increase middle grades teachers' content knowledge of statistics and probability and increase their confidence in problem solving.

The Atlanta Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) has awarded KSU's **Internal Audit Center** \$50,000 to support the Center and its Internal Audit Educational Partnership program with the IIA. The director of the Center is **Rich Clune, associate professor of accounting**.

The Women's Resource & Interpersonal Violence Prevention Center received a \$5,000 Avon Foundation for Women Grant, which will enable the Center to expand its program to reach more students. The Center a gathering place for students, offering programming, crisis intervention and resource information. The director is **Emily Ramirez**.

State of the University speech highlights strategic plan, university achievements

by **Tiffany Capuano**
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University is tackling more than just football these days, as it launches a new strategic plan and faces reaccreditation.

"We are at a key juncture for this university," said Daniel S. Papp, who delivered his annual State of the University address to faculty, staff and students at the Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center April 10 and 11.

During his speech, Papp said that Kennesaw State recently submitted its five-year interim report for reaccreditation to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In an era of more accountability, this five-year report is just as important as the SACS' 10-year reaccreditation, Papp said. "I am highly confident that SACS will favorably approve the report."

Papp also announced that the administration has a new strategic plan for 2012-17, which took two years of planning and was strengthened by thousands of survey responses. The comprehensive plan, with its five goals and 60 action steps, has guided efforts to improve the university since last fall. "Actions are already under way to achieve each goal," he added.



David Caselli

During his annual State of the University address, Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp noted that the University's colleges have earned numerous accolades, with the Graduate College breaking the \$10-million mark in external research grants this year.

Other highlights from Papp's speech:

- Graduation rates have increased by 6 percent to 41 percent at Kennesaw State over the past three years. Kennesaw State is working to improve graduation rates by expanding interventions and creating an Honors College.
- The university added two new master's degree programs in chemical sciences and integrative biology.
- Two new facilities will break ground later this year. The Bagwell College of

Education will expand its classroom and office space, and the Dr. Betty L. Siegel Student Activity & Recreation Center will provide a new student recreational facility.

Papp also presented a look ahead to the celebration of the University's 50th anniversary. Founders Week is scheduled for Oct. 7-12, and the University will continue with a multi-year celebration that will conclude on June 9, 2017, marking the anniversary of KSU's first graduating class.

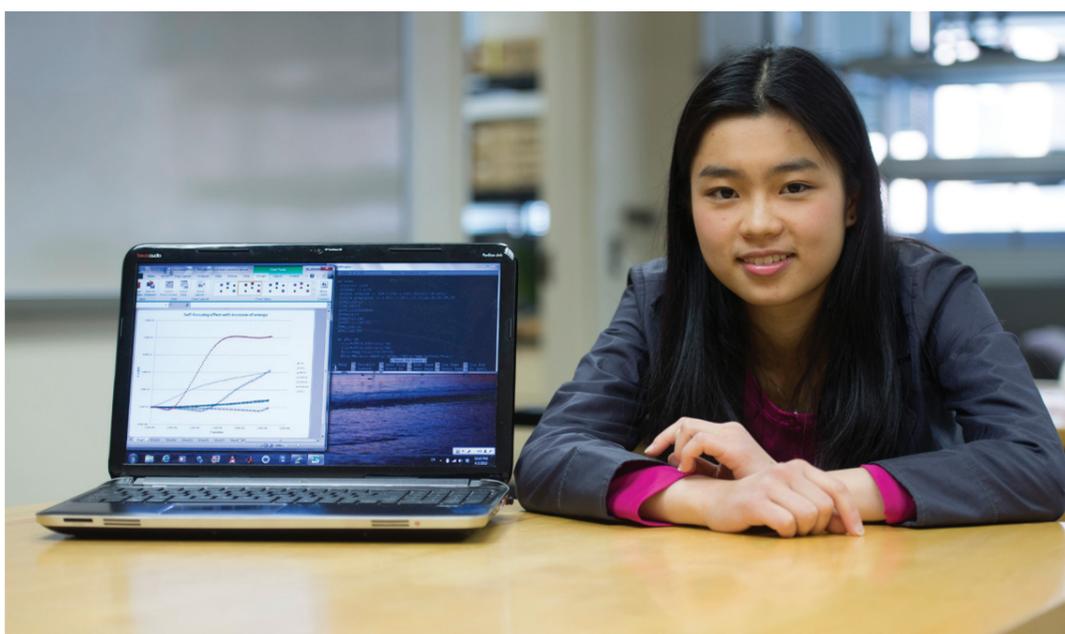
Biochemistry student receives coveted Barry M. Goldwater scholarship

by **Yolanda Rodriguez**
yrodriquez@kennesaw.edu

Jiexi Liao, a Kennesaw State junior biochemistry major, received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious and competitive award given annually to highly qualified students planning to pursue careers as scientists, mathematicians or engineers. It is the first time a Kennesaw State student has received the scholarship.

Liao, 22, has received numerous accolades while at KSU, including a Presidential Emerging Scholar award, and spent last summer assisting research in magnetic materials at MIT.

Liao's recognition by the Goldwater program was based partly on her involvement in research being conducted by Jeremy Gulley, an assistant professor in Kennesaw State's Department of Biology and Physics, whose research is funded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.



Anthony Stalcup

Jiexi Liao, a junior majoring in biochemistry, is the first Kennesaw State student to receive the nationally prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship.

Liao plans to pursue a Ph.D. in materials science and to conduct research in bio-molecular science as a university professor.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was

established by the United States Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater. The purpose of the program is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers

by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields. The program identifies approximately 300 scholars each year from a field of more than 1,000 nominees.

Brian Bohannon named as Kennesaw State head football coach

by Alvin Barba
abarba@kennesaw.edu

Before a standing-room only crowd inside the Kennesaw State locker room at Fifth Third Bank Stadium, Brian Bohannon was introduced as the Owls' first head football coach during a press conference in late March.

Kennesaw State President Daniel Papp and Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams made the official introduction of Bohannon, who joins the Owls' family after serving the previous five years as quarterbacks/B-backs coach at Georgia Tech.

The introduction of Bohannon as head coach came six weeks after the official

announcement that Kennesaw State would be adding football and begin playing in the fall of 2015. A few weeks after the press conference, Bohannon announced the first additions to his coaching staff: Grant Chesnut, athletic director and head coach at Central High School in Carrollton, Ga., as KSU offensive coordinator/offensive line coach; Liam Klein, director of player personnel at Georgia Tech, as assistant coach; Shane Bowen, defensive graduate assistant at Ohio State, as assistant coach; Tim Glanton former head coach at South Paulding High School, as an assistant coach; and Jay Bailey former equipment manager at Georgia State, as director of football operations.

Bohannon, a native of Griffin, Ga., has 17 years of coaching experience at the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) levels, all of which have come while working with Georgia Tech Head Coach Paul Johnson.

A four-year letter winner and standout as a wide receiver at Georgia, Bohannon started his coaching career at West Georgia before earning his first full-time position at Gardner-Webb University (N.C.) as the wide receivers coach in 1996. He also has coached at Georgia Southern University and the U.S. Naval Academy.



Brian Bohannon addresses the media during a press conference introducing him as Kennesaw State's first head football coach.

KSU team earns top 12 honors at national mock trial championship

by Sabbaye McGriff
smcgrifl@kennesaw.edu

Eight members of Kennesaw State's mock-trial team returned victorious from national competition in Washington, D.C., April 12-14, one of two teams to garner 12th place at the American Mock Trial Association's championship tournament. In a field narrowed from 530 collegiate teams to 48 advancing to the national competition, Kennesaw State finished just behind Yale University and just above the University of California, Berkeley.

The Kennesaw State team also won the Sen. Robert F. Kennedy Spirit of AMTA Award, a division honor recognizing the team that best exemplifies the ideals of honesty, civility and fair play. Eric Butler, a senior political science major, won the highest ranking in the team's division as a witness, earning him the title of All-American Witness.

The mock trial team competing in the national tournament included senior political science majors Travis Bain, Eric Butler, Misty Gann, Zack Moore,



Eight members from Kennesaw State's mock-trial team gathered to practice for their appearance at the national competition in Washington, D.C. The team placed 12th out of 48 teams.

Brandi Sluss and Kevin Weehunt; B.J. Moates, a junior political science major; and Tora Norwood, a senior majoring in criminal justice.

While Kennesaw State competes in invitational tournaments throughout the academic year, the road to the nationals

began in February. The teams' strong performances at qualifying tournaments in Atlanta and Greenville, S.C., earned them one of only 48 bids to the national championship tournament. Kennesaw State was the only team from Georgia to emerge with a national bid.

This season, 16 Kennesaw State students participated in regional and post-regional competition. Mock trial is a co-curricular activity in which students simulate criminal and civil courtroom cases.

Kennesaw State recognized nationally for sustainability and value

by Yolanda Rodriguez and Jennifer Hafer
yolanda@kennesaw.edu
jhafer@kennesaw.edu

April was a banner month for Kennesaw State as the University received three national recognitions – two for sustainability and one for affordability.

For the third consecutive year, The Princeton Review ranked Kennesaw State among the most environmentally responsible colleges in North America in its annual edition of the "The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges."

The publication highlighted the University's LEED-certified buildings and its farm-to-campus program while also noting

other initiatives: alternative transportation; motion detectors for lighting in classrooms and meeting places; and increased recycling efforts on campus.

Kennesaw State was also named one of three finalists for the 2013 Operator Innovations Awards in Sustainability from the National Restaurant Association. In naming the University a finalist, the Association cited Kennesaw State's Culinary and Hospitality Services dining operation which incorporates a comprehensive, closed-loop waste management program, a farm-to-campus-to-farm program and The Common's LEED Gold certification.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org named Kennesaw State one of the top 100 "Most Affordable Large Public

Colleges" in the U.S.

To be eligible for the annual listing, colleges and universities must be public, four-year institutions costing less than \$15,500. Higher education institutions were chosen after review of data provided by the federal government and the Carnegie Foundation.

AffordableCollegesOnline.org is a website that offers students information about affordable higher education options. The website provides financial aid videos, expert advice and cost savings ideas.

D.C. Humanities Council selects Grooms' book as 2013 city-wide common reader

The novel "Bombingham" by Anthony Grooms, award-winning author and professor of creative writing at Kennesaw State, has been selected as the Humanities Council of Washington D.C.'s common reader for the 2013 program year, which begins in May.

"Bombingham" was selected as part of the Council's "Live to Read" program, a celebration of literature and city-wide reading in D.C. The book will be widely recommended reading in classrooms, book clubs and libraries across the city and will be the focal point of book discussions, film screenings, exhibits, read-ins, and classroom programs, all related to the book and its themes. It follows the Council's 2012 selection of Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Pérez receives grant from International Honor Society

Jorge Pérez, associate professor of Information Systems at Kennesaw State University, has been named an American Council on Education Fellow for the 2013-14 academic year. Perez is one of 50 Fellows selected to this year's program following a rigorous application process. Currently in the process of selecting a host institution for his fellowship, Perez completed a three-year term as faculty executive assistant to President Papp in 2012. The ACE Fellows Program, established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration.

Kennesaw State awards first Ph.D. at May commencement ceremony

by Sabbaye McGriff
smcgrif1@kennesaw.edu

Former technology executive Rebecca LeFebvre became the first recipient of a doctor of philosophy degree from Kennesaw State University during the spring commencement ceremony for graduate students on May 15.

LeFebvre successfully defended her dissertation, "Deciding to Fight: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study of Decision-Making in Conflict Situations," in April, completing the requirements of the Ph.D. program in International Conflict Management. Her research compares the effects of cultural variables on decision

making in conflict contexts among three samples of respondents in Ghana and the U.S.

"I am extremely honored to be the first Ph.D. from KSU," said LeFebvre, who completed the program in three years. "I have had such talented people to work with in my department, many of whom have interesting research of their own and also took the time to advise me on my own research. I feel strongly that I will be only the first of many Ph.D. recipients to come from KSU, and that the university has a phenomenal future ahead of it in compelling and innovative research."

Prior to joining the program, LeFebvre was vice president of product development for News Distribution Network in Atlanta.

She also has served as vice president of program management for Digital Media Technology at Turner Broadcasting Systems and as a senior director of product operations for Energy Systems Group at Motorola Inc. in Atlanta. She earned a master's degree in computer science at National Technology Institute and a bachelor's in electrical engineering from Rice University.

LeFebvre plans to continue her research and hopes to take a full-time faculty position at an Atlanta-area university.

International Conflict Management became Kennesaw State's first Ph.D. program in 2010, and enrollment has grown to 34 doctoral students from 19 different countries.



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Rebecca LeFebvre is Kennesaw State's first Ph.D. recipient. She earned her doctor of philosophy degree in International Conflict Management during the May 15 commencement ceremony.

Academy for Inclusive Learning & Social Growth receives legislative funding

by Jennifer Hafer
jhafer@kennesaw.edu

A Kennesaw State University program that enables students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience college life has received \$50,000 in the FY 2014 Georgia General Assembly budget.

This is the first legislative appropriation received by the Academy for Inclusive Learning & Social Growth, which is housed in the University's WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

When the final gavel fell on the 152nd legislative session March 29, legislators had approved \$100,000 in funding in support of inclusive post-secondary education for students with developmental disabilities, including \$50,000 for Kennesaw State's Academy and an additional \$50,000 that will be used for the development of an inclusive post-secondary educational program at another USG institution.

The Academy offers a unique two-year certificate program designed to provide students who have intellectual and developmental disabilities with a college experience by auditing college-level courses, as well as courses designed to help them gain social, work and living skills so they may find jobs they want and become more independent.

"By having this college experience, students who may have been very shy, or a little awkward in social situations before, are suddenly integrated into the student body, and it changes their whole outlook on what they think their abilities are," said WellStar College of Health and Human Services Dean Richard Sowell. "We are proud to be the standard bearers for inclusive post-secondary education in Georgia."

Academy administrators are working on creating a replication manual because they are being called upon locally, nationally, and internationally, to provide consulting to other institutions interested in creating similar programs. According to Academy Director

Ibrahim El Sawy, the Academy has received inquiries from as far away as the Middle East for such assistance.



Anthony Stalcup

Students Ben Lewis (left) and Myles Thomas (right) with the Academy for Inclusive Learning & Social Growth along with Kari Cain, the Academy's employment counselor, speak with Jill Wolfe from IIAlive about the Academy's unique two-year certificate program designed to provide a college experience to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Inaugural Presidential Diversity Awards celebrate a climate of respect and inclusiveness

by Robert Godlewski
rgodlew@kennesaw.edu

Six members of the faculty, staff and student body were recognized during the 2012-2013 Presidential Diversity Awards on April 22 at Prillman Hall. The inaugural ceremony highlighted the University's increasingly diverse population and its efforts to create a campus climate of respect and inclusiveness.

The awards recognized individuals who have exemplified the mission of each of the categories of the Presidential Commission – Disability Strategies and Resources, Gender and Work Life Issues, GLBTIQ Initiatives, Racial and Ethnic Dialogue, Sustainability, and Veterans Affairs.

President Papp, Chief Diversity Officer Erik Malewski and the Presidential Commission chairs acknowledged the

contributions the award winners have made in the struggle to recognize, support, encourage, and ultimately foster the success of their respective communities and individuals.

The winners are: Jill Sloan, program coordinator for the Academy for Inclusive Learning & Social Growth (Carol J. Pope Award for Distinction in the Disability Strategies and Resources); Flora Lowe-Rockett, a student in the integrated studies program (Outstanding Contribution in Gender and Work Life Issues); Teresa Joyce, senior vice provost (Award for Excellence in GLBTIQ Initiatives); Jesse Benjamin, coordinator of African and African Diaspora Studies (R.O.H. Rosa Bobia, Oral Moses, and Harold Wingfield Social Justice Award for Racial and Ethnic Dialogue); R.C. Paul, director of sustainability (Award for Distinction



David Caselli

Chief Diversity Officer Erik Malewski (left) and President Daniel Papp (right) with winners of the 2012-2013 Presidential Diversity Awards (l-to-r) Teresa Joyce, Jill Sloan, R.C. Paul, Derek Ridings, Jesse Benjamin, Flora Lowe-Rockett.

in Sustainability); and Derek Ridings, a history student (Excellence in Service and Leadership Award for Veterans Affairs).

In addition to the award honorees, the event featured a keynote address from Beverly Guy-Sheftall, founding director of the Women's Research and Resource

Center at Spelman College and adjunct professor at Emory University's Institute for Women's Studies. Sheftall praised Kennesaw State's efforts on diversity and inclusiveness, but reminded the audience that many challenges lie ahead "especially at this juncture in our national history."

Coles College helps women leaders through new Women's Leadership Center

by Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Former Cosmopolitan editor Kate White helped launch the new Women's Leadership Center in the Michael J. Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University, during an inaugural event addressing more than 500 metro Atlanta business women.

White told the women gathered for the Center's launch at the Georgia Aquarium, "Stop worrying whether people will like you. We let the need to feel popular get in the way of doing the job and our success."

The new Center will give women business leaders the opportunity to explore real-life strategies to push innovation and share best practices about gender and leadership in the workplace. It is designed to foster the advancement of women in

today's workplace. The Center will help women business leaders achieve higher levels in their careers at corporations, universities, nonprofit organizations, and as entrepreneurs.

"Unlike other women's centers, the Women's Leadership Center focuses strictly on women and leadership in the workplace," said Erin Wolf, the center's executive director. "We promote research, education and community involvement

related to that." The Center currently offers executive roundtables and other events where PWA leaders collaborate to share new ideas, thought leadership and best practices in order to increase representation and retention of women in leadership positions within their organizations.

In addition to serving as the Center's executive director, Wolf teaches strategy and leadership classes in the College's Executive MBA program.

2013 SAUPO focuses on global trends and challenges to Asia-U.S. business partnerships

by **Sabbaye McGriff**
smcgriff@kennesaw.edu

Expert panels examining global trends in health care, technology, human resource management and entertainment, as well as frank discussions about the challenges longtime multinational companies face doing business in Asia, attracted nearly 500 people to the 2013 Symposium Asia-USA Partnership Opportunities (SAUPO).

With the largest attendance since it launched in 2011, this year's SAUPO lived up to its status as the South's largest Asia business conference. The daylong symposium, held April 19 at the St. Regis Hotel in Atlanta, was organized by the Asian Studies Program at Kennesaw State. It attracted a diverse group from across Asia and the U.S. and more than 120 participants, representing domestic and international business, academic institutions, media, government agencies and diplomatic offices.

SAUPO organizers, led by May Gao, event chair, associate professor of communication and Asian studies

coordinator at Kennesaw State, facilitated a wide range of collaborations, creating panels with broad appeal and depth.

Kennesaw State's WellStar College of Health and Human Services sponsored a discussion on global health featuring a panel of experts from WellStar Health System, India's Apollo Hospitals Group, the CDC and multinational IT giant Wipro.

A session sponsored by payroll and benefits administration giant ADP brought together chief executives and top human resource managers from multinational corporations including real estate investment firm Portman Holdings, Carrier USA and China-based Huawei, the world's second-largest telecom equipment supplier. Joined by a representative from CARE International and a private immigration attorney, the panel examined multiple aspects of managing a global workforce.

"SAUPO is truly a collaborative effort that starts with a campus-wide initiative involving all seven Kennesaw State colleges and the Institute for Global Initiatives, then reaches out to engage sponsors, presenters, colleagues and other participants from the local, national and

international communities," said Gao. "The symposium provides a global stage for Asian Studies at Kennesaw State to showcase our research, leadership and global community engagement."



May Gao, coordinator of KSU's Asian Studies Program and chair of the Symposium Asia-USA Partnership Opportunities (SAUPO) talks with Weixing Chen, professor at Eastern Tennessee State University after his presentation at the 2013 SAUPO event.

Innovative new culinary degree program focuses on sustainability

by **Jennifer Hafer**
jhafer@kennesaw.edu

A new bachelor's degree in Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality moves the farm-to-table concept from the plate to the bottom line, looking at the economic advantages of implementing sustainable practices throughout the food service industry.

The Board of Regents approved the program in April. The newly formed Institute for Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality is housed in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services,

Designed by top industry experts, the bachelor's degree program has been shaped to offer a unique approach to the study of culinary and hospitality management – infusing the curriculum with knowledge in sustainability, while also

emphasizing food science, nutritional analysis, resource conservation, and essential business skills and abilities.

"The goal of this Institute is to be the epicenter for teaching and research as it relates to sustainable practices in culinary and hospitality management," said Christian Hardigree, director of the Institute.

Organizers expect to enroll 150 students during the program's first year and upwards of 400 students in the fourth year. The first two courses, "Introduction to Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality" and "World Cuisines and Culture," will be offered this fall. In addition to their formal classroom studies, students will be required to complete 600 hours of hands-on experience as they complete their coursework.

One of the differentiators of the new degree program is the partnership it will have with Kennesaw State's award-

winning Culinary and Hospitality Services Department, which is renowned for its efforts in sustainability in its food service operation. The Culinary and Hospitality Services operates The Commons student dining hall and oversees the University's "farm-to-table" food program.

"The academic program is designed so our students can intern with Culinary and Hospitality Services on campus, ensuring graduates will have consistency in their skill sets, and we will know the level of sustainability being taught through those internships."

Graduates of the innovative new degree program will be prepared to implement and manage sustainable practices in restaurants, hospitals, adult and child care facilities, food manufacturing and distribution, hotels and airlines, to name a few career options.

Career Services Center and Sixth Annual SAS Day help connect students with top employers

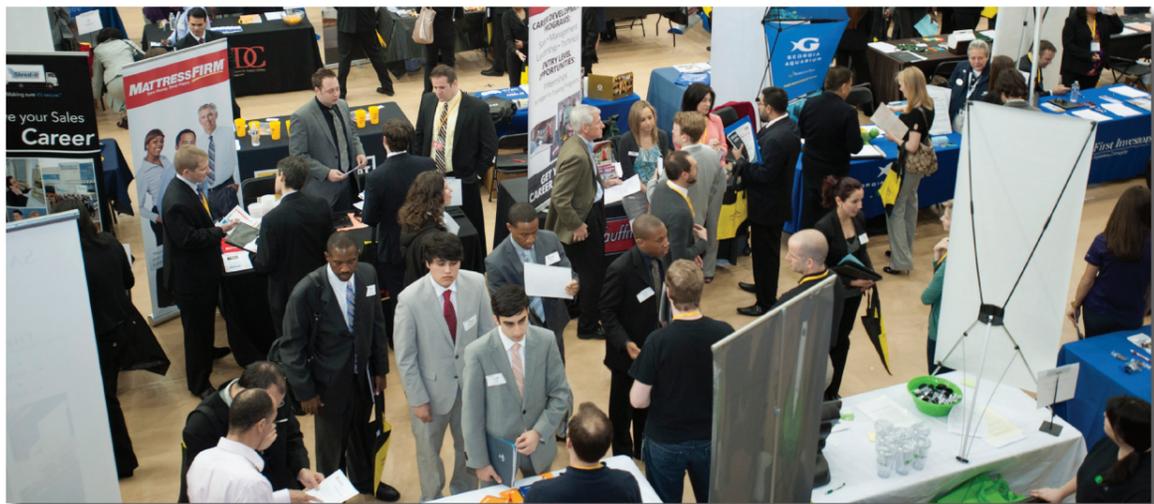
by **Yolanda Rodriguez and Robert Godlewski**
yolanda@kennesaw.edu and
rgodlew@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State has become a favorite among top employers. During KSU's Spring 2013 Career Fair held on March 28 and organized by the Career Services Center, a record 104 organizations were on hand to meet with close to 800 students.

The Career Services Center organizes several fairs throughout the year to help connect students and potential employers. According to Lori Trahan, associate director, the Center has been very successful over the years in helping people find jobs and internships even in tough economic times.

Other fairs throughout the year include the Fall 2013 Career Fair, scheduled for Oct. 10; a teacher-specific fair with the Bagwell College of Education, which took place on March 14; and an accounting-specific fair with the Michael J. Coles College of Business, scheduled for Sept. 17.

In a twist on the traditional career fair, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Science and Mathematics hosted its Sixth Annual SAS Day for students studying applied analytics featuring a "reverse



More than 104 organizations were on hand to meet with close to 800 students at the Spring 2013 Career Fair in March.

job fair." Representatives from nearly 60 local, national and regional companies toured student poster exhibits as students demonstrated their knowledge of SAS, the most widely used statistical analysis software in the world.

Sponsored by the Southern Company, the Annual SAS Day not only connects students with potential

employers, it also recognizes the best student poster presentations. Undergraduate students Olabisi Omole and Stephanie Krutick and graduate student Bukeka Freeman were this year's winners.

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Writers - Tiffany Capuano, Robert S. Godlewski, Jennifer Hafer, Sabbaye McGriff, Yolanda Rodriguez | **Layout Designer** - Justin Gotthardt
Photographers - David Caselli, Anthony Stalcup | **Director of Strategic Communications** - Tammy DeMel
Interim Director of Marketing and Strategic Projects - Dallas Bentley | **Director of Creative Services** - Ray Burgos
Assistant Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing - David Arnold | **Vice President for External Affairs** - Arlethia Perry-Johnson



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