

Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Research and Grants

Funded by a \$239,719 FY 15 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders from Southeast Asia grant from the Department of State, KSU will host a five-week program on civic engagement in February comprising a 4-week academic residency and 1-week educational study tour examining civil and human rights through the lens of the U.S. civil rights movement. 22 undergraduate student leaders from ASEAN countries will attend the program that will cover peace studies, the U.S. economy and social entrepreneurship, civil and human rights, conflict analysis and resolution, leadership and ethics, volunteerism, and the U.S. civil rights movement. Led by Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Chief International Officer **Lance Askildson**, the Division of Global Affairs is organizing and hosting the program with support from a number of KSU entities: CIFAL Atlanta (housed at KSU), the Center for African and African Diaspora Studies, the Office of Community Engagement, and the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics, and Character.

Nikolaos Kidonakis, Professor of Physics, received a \$150,000 three-year grant from NSF for his research in theoretical particle physics phenomenology. Kidonakis, funded by NSF since 2005, produces calculations that are important for precision studies of the top quark, for understanding the Higgs boson and electroweak physics, and for the search for new physics at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research). The grant includes funding for two undergraduate research assistants each year.

Associate Professor of Mathematics and Mathematics Education Wendy Sanchez's successful proposal to NSF for a \$99,192 grant will fund a conference of mathematics teacher educators to be held in Atlanta in the fall. The conference will bring together researchers from three different theoretical perspectives (political/social, cognitive, and situated) to discuss important goals, activities, and practices for methods instructors. While Sanchez is the lead on the project, she is working with colleagues from Purdue, Middle Tennessee State, and Clemson to organize and host the conference.

NSF awarded \$55,581 to KSU for its role in a collaborative project with Athens Technical College to train eighteen rural area machine tool instructors from the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and two instructors from KSU in multi-axis computer numerical control (CNC) programming and machining at Vincennes University (VU) in Indiana. TCSG and KSU machine tool instructors formed the Coalition of Machine Tool Technology Programs of Georgia (COMP-GA) to help address the severe workforce shortage in this field.

Kennesaw State celebrates annual MLK observance



Robert Anthony Statcup

Keith Smith, associate professor of art, created a bust Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which was unveiled in January. Marc Lamont Hill, right, was the keynote speaker for the annual MLK observance held on the Kennesaw Campus.

By Paul Floeckher
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Kennesaw State University unveiled a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as part of its annual MLK observance hosted by the African-American Student Alliance.

The bronze bust of the civil rights leader was commissioned by the AASA and created

by Keith Smith, associate professor of art at Kennesaw State. The bust was displayed at the Bailey Performance Center during the MLK program prior to being moved to its permanent location outside the English Building.

"I think it means a lot for our campus, just in terms of acknowledging Dr. Martin Luther King," Smith said. "This is the only bust we have, and it's of Dr. Martin Luther

King. That's huge. That's making a really big statement."

Bold statements also came from the guest speaker Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, a social commentator, author and Distinguished Professor of African-American Studies at Morehouse College. Hill told the audience that, if Dr. Martin Luther King were alive today, he "would challenge us to not stop and celebrate where we are, but to dream a dream much larger than the one we have engaged in over the last 50 years."

"The biggest problem with the world today is that there are too many people who don't do anything," Hill said. "Dr. King's legacy is about brave action. We have to be willing to be courageous."

The MLK celebration also included performances of inspirational songs by the KSU Gospel Choir. The program resonated with Kennesaw State students in attendance.

"If we don't keep the legacy alive, then what will we teach our children in the future?" said Jaiva Crawford, the president of KSU's African-American Student Alliance. "I feel like every year (the MLK observance) brings our people closer together – 'our people' meaning America and the world as a unit – closer together one day and one step at a time."

Kennesaw State elevated to doctoral research institution

By Sabbaye McGriff
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Kennesaw State University has been elevated to a doctoral research institution with moderate research activity — designated "R3" — in The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning 2015 update. The University was previously classified among larger Master's Colleges and Universities or "M1" institutions.

Under the Carnegie classifications, doctoral research institutions are those that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the upgrade year. In FY 2015, Kennesaw State awarded 40 doctoral degrees, including the Ph.D. in International Conflict Management and doctorates in education, business administration and nursing science.

"The upgrade in the Carnegie

Classification signals exciting prospects for the advancement of research and scholarship at Kennesaw State," said University President Daniel S. Papp. "It opens the door for more faculty research grants, greater support for students pursuing doctoral degrees and further development of our doctoral programs. It is a very significant milestone."

Papp also noted that the R3 classification is consistent with the Board of Regents' designation of Kennesaw State as a comprehensive university, and with goals he recently outlined for the University.

"The Carnegie designation as a doctoral university is one indication that Kennesaw State is moving along the path to become a world-class university, which is what the Board of Regents requires and demands of us as a comprehensive university," Papp said. "While we will remain focused

primarily on undergraduate education, our emphasis on master's degrees and doctoral programs — including Ph.D. programs — will continue to expand.

Kennesaw State has rapidly increased the quality of its graduate instructional program and the level of faculty and student research, scholarly and creative activities, according to Charles Amlaner, the University's vice president for research.

"Being elevated to an R3 classification reflects the work of a lot of people over a number of years," Amlaner said, noting that Kennesaw State launched five doctoral programs in six years beginning in 2006, and added a Ph.D. program in analytics and data science in fall 2015. "The Carnegie upgrade means we're starting to reap the harvest of what we sowed just seven years ago when we started along this path."

New environmental engineering degree addresses critical needs in field

By **Tiffany Capuano**
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Kennesaw State will offer a new Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering designed to prepare students for the growing environmental and sustainability concerns facing the planet.

The new degree, approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, will prepare graduates for licensure as professional engineers in all 50 states.

Critical areas such as water and air pollution, solid and hazardous waste management and treatment, and other emerging environmental issues such as sustainable air, water and land resources, human

health and environmental restoration are key aspects of the new curriculum. Kennesaw State will offer the program beginning in fall 2016.

“This academic degree is important to educate today’s students to solve some of the world’s greatest and most critical environmental challenges,” said Thomas Currin, dean of Kennesaw State’s Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. “There is a critical need for students with this proficiency, and Kennesaw State will produce engineers who are well-equipped to make a difference in the environmental field.”

Environmental engineers sample, design and analyze various treatment systems for air, water and soil, and as tougher quality standards are

enforced by industry and government regulations, environmental engineers must deal with complex societal issues such as climate change or site contamination.

“At Kennesaw State, we hope to encourage more women to enter this growing engineering discipline and bring more female engineers into the industry,” said Sam Beadles, chair of the civil and construction engineering program for the College. “Women populate environmental engineering at nearly two and a half times the national average for all engineering fields. The degree offers a high level of social relevance and is therefore an attractive career path.”

The new degree program replaces the College’s existing degree in environmental engineering technology.

Program named a GRAMMY Museum University Affiliate

Kennesaw State University’s Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business (MEBUS) program was selected as an official University Affiliate of the GRAMMY Museum® at L.A. LIVE, one of only four institutions across the country named so far this year.

“We are honored to receive this recognition and look forward to watching our students greatly benefit from the many opportunities offered through this GRAMMY Museum partnership,” said Keith Perissi, director of KSU’s MEBUS program.

As a University Affiliate of the GRAMMY Museum, the MEBUS program, a joint venture of the College of the Arts and the Coles College of Business at KSU, will have access to Museum content for educational purposes, curriculum resources, research programs, internship opportunities, professional development seminars, collaborative marketing, promotions and project-based learning.

A leading model for academic

and applied studies in the music and entertainment industry, the MEBUS program teaches business acumen and the business side of the industry while providing practical experiences, on-the-job training and exploration of career opportunities. The program’s founder and namesake, Joel A. Katz, is one of the nation’s foremost entertainment attorneys.

“We’re thrilled to welcome the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Program into our GRAMMY Museum University Affiliate family,” said Bob Santelli, executive director of the GRAMMY Museum. “The program’s close proximity to the Atlanta chapter of The Recording Academy will provide a unique opportunity for the Museum to interact and engage with students interested in pursuing careers in music.”

The University is now one of eight institutions inducted into the GRAMMY Museum University Affiliate program since it launched in 2014.



Attending the GRAMMY Museum induction are, from left, Joel A. Katz, President Daniel S. Papp, MEBUS Director Keith Perissi, and GRAMMY Museum Director Bob Santelli.

KSU part-time MBA ranked among nation’s best

By **Paula Stanton**
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The part-time MBA at Kennesaw State University’s Michael J. Coles College of Business was named 50th in the nation by Bloomberg Businessweek in their 2015 business school rankings. KSU joins Emory University, Georgia State University and the University of Georgia in the top five programs in Georgia.

“We are proud to be recognized among the leading business schools in Georgia and the nation,” said Kathy Schwaig, dean of the Coles College of Business. “This

ranking relies heavily on student input and post-MBA outcomes. The high level of student satisfaction shown in this ranking validates what we do as a college of business.”

Part-time business programs play a vital role for working professionals who are unable to attend business school full time, but wish to advance their careers. Coles College enrolls more than 350 part-time MBA students. The self-paced program offers courses in the evenings and on weekends, with minimesters in May, August and December.

“This recognition as a top 50 program is a testament

to the quality of graduate education provided by the Coles College of Business,” said Timothy Mathews, director of MBA Programs at Coles. “As one of the best MBA programs in the country, we are able to provide our students with the necessary business skills and acumen to excel in their careers and ultimately achieve their professional goals.”

The Bloomberg Businessweek ranking is based on current student satisfaction and an alumni survey that examines feedback, compensation and job satisfaction after graduation. The 2015 rankings recognize 74 part-time MBA programs around the country.

DIRECTOR HONORED BY AMERICAN COLLEGE COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

Josh E. Gunn, executive director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Kennesaw State University, was honored by the American College Counseling Association (ACCA) with its Director of the Year Award during the group’s annual business meeting in Louisville, Ky. Robert (Bob) Mattox, associate vice president and director of Student Success Services, accepted the award on Gunn’s behalf.

Gunn, who joined Kennesaw State in December 2008, is the first KSU administrator to be selected for the award. In addition to his service on behalf of the ACCA, since December 2012 Gunn has served on the advisory board of the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association, which helps educate colleges and universities on best practices for behavioral intervention teams.

KSU FOUNDATION CHAIR RECEIVES TOP AWARD

Jo Ann Chitty, chair of the Kennesaw State University Foundation and senior vice president of Selig Enterprises, Inc., was among 15 women honored with a 2015 “Women Who Mean Business Award” presented by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Presented during an evening event at the Loews Atlanta Hotel, the awards honor women from various industries and professions who have made a difference in their communities, blazed a trail for others and are leaving an indelible mark on business in Atlanta.

Chitty was named chair of the Kennesaw State University Foundation in October 2014 after serving for five years as the chair of the real estate committee, where her leadership helped steer more than \$200 million in real estate assets from acquisitions through construction.

Dean Named 2016 Georgia Engineer of the Year

By Tiffany Capuano
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Kennesaw State University's dean of the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Thomas Currin, was named Georgia Engineer of the Year, an honor bestowed annually on only one of the state's 22,000 professional engineers by the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers.

Currin, originally nominated for the Georgia Engineer of the Year in Education award, received the highest score of all nominations submitted for various categories, earning him the top Georgia Engineer of the Year award.

"I'm thrilled to be selected by my engineering peers for this honor and appreciate all the support that I have received over the years from the professional engineering community in Georgia," Currin said.

A leader in engineering education in the state, Currin has spent nearly three decades in higher education, becoming founding dean of the engineering college at Southern Polytechnic State University in 2006 and founding dean at Kennesaw State University in 2015.

A transportation engineer prior to joining higher education, Currin has served as an evaluator and commissioner of ABET, the primary accreditation agency for engineering education in the U.S., and has authored numerous engineering education articles for publications and presentations. He also holds professional engineering licenses in several states, including Massachusetts and Georgia.

In addition to the dean's award, two Kennesaw State students earned the top spots for both the Engineering Student of the Year and the



David Caselli

Thomas Currin, dean of the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, was recently named Georgia Engineer of the Year.

Engineering Technology Student of the Year.

Valerie Washington, a systems and industrial engineering student, was selected as Engineering Student of the Year, while Kurt Jacobson, a mechanical engineering technology student, was named the Engineering Technology Student of the Year.

While the University's engineering faculty and students have earned these awards in past years, this is the first time that three Kennesaw State recipients have received the prestigious honor at the same time.

Online degree programs ranked among best in the nation

By Tiffany Capuano
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U.S. News & World Report has once again named Kennesaw State University's online learning programs among its "Best Online Programs" for 2016.

Among the eight program categories evaluated by U.S. News & World Report, Kennesaw State ranked in both the Master of Business Administration (MBA) in the Michael J. Coles College of Business and the Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) in the College of Computing and Software Engineering.

Kennesaw State's MSIT program earned the No. 28 ranking on the U.S. News & World Report's annual list. The program ranked in the top 15 among public institutions nationally, and was one of three in Georgia to make the list. The online graduate program, which focuses on areas such as IT security, health information technology, databases and networking, has been ranked in the top 30 in this category for five years by U.S. News & World Report.

The online MBA program at Kennesaw State's Michael J. Coles College of Business ranked 28th in the nation and climbed one spot from last year. The MBA program also ranked 25th among public universities and second among Georgia's colleges and universities.

"To be ranked again this year by U.S. News & World Report for our online programs recognizes Kennesaw State's dedication to providing top-quality academic programs in the online learning environment," said Elke Leeds, associate vice president for Technology Enhanced Learning at KSU. "It affirms that our programs are valued and respected beyond our campus borders and validates our commitment to provide talented students with rigorous and high-quality degree programs, allowing them to maintain a healthy balance between their workplace, their families and their academic pursuits."

The 2016 rankings by U.S. News & World Report evaluated more than 1,200 online degree programs at colleges and universities throughout the nation.

At Kennesaw State, more than 7,000 students take online courses each semester, with many students earning their bachelor's and master's degrees without ever coming to campus. KSU offers 16 fully online master's degree programs, 12 bachelor's degree programs and two doctoral programs. In 2014, University launched its first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and has served thousands with MOOCs in education technology and information security. Two new project-based learning MOOCs in professional writing and business modeling will launch in February.

Kennesaw State continues to be nationally recognized for its online learning. OnlineU.com ranked KSU 13th in the nation as a "Best Value Online College," and the Affordable Colleges Foundation, which publishes AffordableCollegesOnline.org, ranked KSU 17th in the nation for "Best Online Colleges."

NEED TO FILL

Board of Regents approves property purchase for Kennesaw State

By Paul Floeckher
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The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the purchase of property east of Kennesaw State University's Kennesaw Campus to be utilized in KSU's future development.

The Board of Regents will acquire 1.02 acres at 3051 George Busbee Parkway from Cobb County for \$875,000. The property – formerly occupied by Kids R Kids – includes a 12,320-square-foot, one-story building and adjacent parking area. Funding for the property acquisition will come from state bonds earmarked for infrastructure expansion at Kennesaw State.

With this latest land acquisition, the University's Kennesaw Campus will occupy a total of 384 acres, and the Marietta Campus will occupy 197 acres.

"We appreciate the Board of Regents approving this acquisition and enabling us to secure the real estate and facilities needed to meet the demands of our rapidly-growing student population," Papp said. "Space continues to be at a premium as Kennesaw State evolves into a world-class institution, so this new property will strongly support our master plan and the vision we have for the University's future."

The property is located across the street from the 88-acre KSU Sports and Entertainment Park, which includes Fifth Third Bank Stadium. It is also adjacent

to the land the University previously purchased at the former BrandsMart USA site on Busbee Drive in Kennesaw, which was approved by the BOR in February 2015.

The former BrandsMart building currently serves as the home of Kennesaw State's marching band and also provides much-needed warehouse space. A master plan is currently in development for the remainder of the facility. The adjacent parking lot also provides additional parking spaces for the University's use.

Conceptual plans for renovating the former Kids R Kids building to help meet the University's growth demands are currently being developed and reviewed.

Journalism and emerging media offered as new degree program

By Sabbaye McGriff
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In an effort to make its communication program more competitive and responsive to industry trends, Kennesaw State University's School of Communication and Media will offer a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Emerging Media.

Following approval in January by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the new major expands a journalism and emerging media curriculum previously offered as a concentration within the Bachelor

of Science in Communication major. The new major will be offered starting in the fall 2016 semester.

More than 175 students are currently enrolled in the journalism and emerging media concentration, which emphasizes producing news content for traditional media like newspapers, magazines, television and radio, as well as for online, mobile and social media applications. Administrators expect the number of students declaring a major in the field will increase to 250 within three years.

"The new journalism and emerging media major is the latest step in strengthening programs for students focusing on developing news and feature content through storytelling in the evolving news media industry," said

Barbara Gainey, director of the School of Communication and Media.

Communication continues to be one of Kennesaw State's most popular majors, with more than 1,500 enrolled. In addition to the newest major in journalism and emerging media, students earning the Bachelor of Science in Communication may also concentrate in media studies and organizational communication. The School of Communication and Media also offers a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations; a Master of Arts in Integrated Global Communication and a graduate certificate in Digital and Social Media.

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp among Georgia's "most influential"

By Jennifer Hafer
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Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp makes his 10th consecutive appearance in Georgia Trend magazine's 2016 list of "100 Most Influential Georgians." Papp was one of seven University System of Georgia presidents to make this year's list.

Papp, who is the 2017 chair-elect of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, became Kennesaw State University's president in 2006. Under his leadership, Kennesaw State has risen in academic stature becoming a doctorate-granting institution in 2010. The university now offers 12 doctoral degrees, including two Ph.D. programs. In 2013, Kennesaw State was designated as a comprehensive university by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. This year, U.S. News & World Report ranked the University among the top innovative institutions in the South and, for the 12th time, ranked its first-year experience program as one of the best in the nation.



David Caselli

The magazine noted Kennesaw State's consolidation with Southern Polytechnic State University in 2015, among Papp's many accomplishments. The consolidation made Kennesaw

State one of the 50 largest public universities in the country with more than 33,000 students, and this summer, the university celebrated its 100,000th graduate. Also in 2015, Kennesaw State earned the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification.

"We at Georgia Trend do not take the task of selecting the most influential people in the state lightly," the magazine states. "It's pretty much a year-round process for us and entails lots of meetings and discussions. The original list is always more than 100, and we think the final group – subject to retirements, course corrections and shifts in power, not to mention late-in-the-year hirings and firings and a controversy or two – represents the realities of leadership, power and influence in Georgia."

Kennesaw State professor shares patent for web search technology

By Robert S. Godlewski
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A Kennesaw State University computer science professor's invention will allow more robust analysis of text and web search data, enabling researchers to utilize vast amounts of previously hard-to-quantify information into more user-friendly data.

Ying Xie, professor and assistant department chair of the College of Computing and Software Engineering, and Vijay V. Raghavan, the Alfred and Helen Lamson Endowed Professor in Computer Science at the Center for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, have been issued a U.S. patent

for a new algorithm on text and web search technology for a "system, method and computer program product for information sorting and retrieval using a language-modeling kernel function."

"Experimental studies showed that this new search method outperformed traditional search technique," Xie said. "This method also provides a solid foundation for implementing personalized text or web searches, so it has great value for commercialization."

Xie, who also teaches in the Ph.D. program in analytics and data science, is a co-inventor for another U.S. patent entitled "Semantic Relationship Extraction, Text Categorization and Hypothesis Generation" that was issued in 2009. He has two more pending patent applica-

tions on mobile and social network techniques.

Instead of analyzing structured data from neat columns and rows of numbers arranged on spreadsheets, this new search algorithm allows researchers to utilize unstructured data, such as that which exists in email, tweets or texts, for example. They can also perform analysis on video and audio files.

"Professor Ying Xie's work is on the cutting edge of computing," said E.K. Park, dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering. "It pushes the boundaries of deep data even further."

Xie, who is based on Kennesaw State's Marietta Campus, began teaching in the Ph.D. program in analytics and data science this fall.

Fifth Third Bank Stadium Game Day Atmosphere Ranked No. 10 in FCS

By Al Barba
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Kennesaw State has only been playing football for one season, but it has already cracked the Top 10 nationally as Fifth Third Bank Stadium is listed No. 10 on StadiumJourney.com's Top 25 ranking of Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) stadiums.

The rankings take into account food and drink choices, atmosphere, neighborhood, fans, access, return on investment, and special features.

The Owls played their inaugural season in 2015 and posted a 6-5 overall record, including a 5-1 mark at home.

"This Top 10 ranking is a great testament to all the hard work put forth by members of the athletics department, stadium employees, and the support provided by the university's administration," head coach Brian Bohannon said. "I can't tell you how

phenomenal our fans were this season and how much energy they provided our players and coaches. Everyone from our fans, students, marching band, community and sponsor partners were instrumental in us posting a 5-1 home record and helping make Fifth Third Bank Stadium a special place to play.

"I want to thank our fans and staff, and congratulate them on providing the Kennesaw State football with one of the top FCS game day atmospheres in the country," Bohannon added.

Fifth Third Bank Stadium was one of three Big South Conference venues included in the Top 25, joining Coastal Carolina's Brooks Stadium (No. 6) and Spangler Stadium (Gardner-Webb) rated No. 18. With Coastal Carolina heading to the FBS level next season, Fifth Third Bank Stadium will rank as the top venue in the Big South Conference.

Montana's Washington-Grizzly Stadium topped the poll.



Robert Anthony Stalcup

Kennesaw State's Fifth Third Stadium was recently ranked nationally as one of the best atmospheres for football.

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