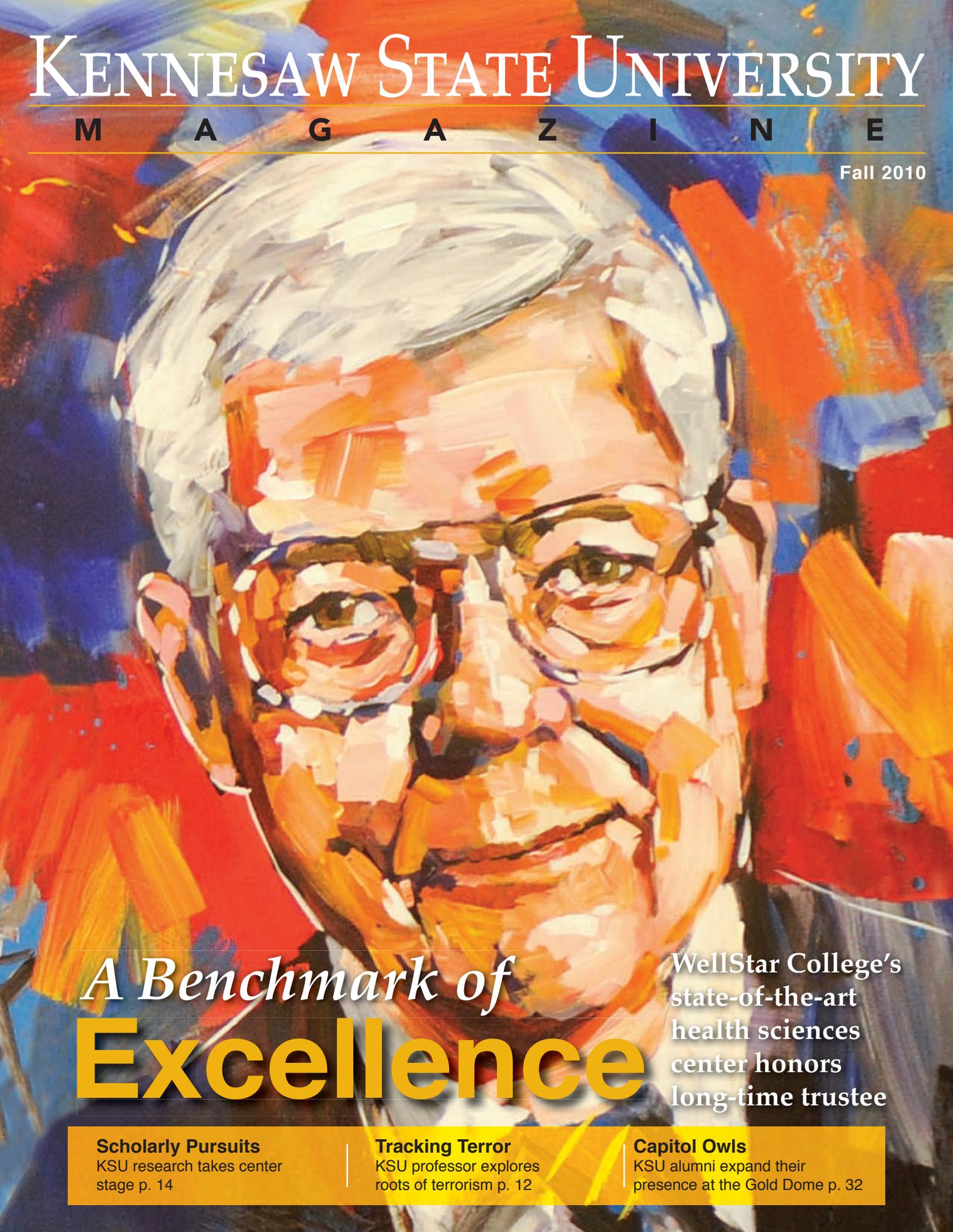


KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

M A G A Z I N E

Fall 2010



A Benchmark of **Excellence**

WellStar College's state-of-the-art health sciences center honors long-time trustee

Scholarly Pursuits

KSU research takes center stage p. 14

Tracking Terror

KSU professor explores roots of terrorism p. 12

Capitol Owls

KSU alumni expand their presence at the Gold Dome p. 32

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ON THE COVER

Prillaman Hall, Kennesaw State's new health sciences building, was named in honor of longtime KSU Foundation Trustee Bob Prillaman and his wife, Lil.

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Rakish angles and contemporary styling accentuate entries into Prillaman Hall, the new home of the KSU's WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

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Dear friends of Kennesaw State University,

As the 2010-2011 academic year begins, Prillaman Hall – named for long-serving KSU Foundation trustee Bob Prillaman and his wife, Lil, is opening its doors.

The massive, \$56 million edifice – the new home of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services – stands tall on the northern end of our burgeoning campus. With its state-of-the-art labs and classrooms, this stunning building will allow KSU to solidify its position as one of the largest producers of nurses in the state. Going forward, we will be able to increase graduation of nurses from 185 to 250 per year. This issue's cover story of the *Kennesaw State University Magazine* gives you all the exciting details on this latest addition.

The health sciences building makes its debut on campus as research at KSU is poised to take center stage. With each passing year, the university is garnering more and more research and other grants. Last year, KSU was awarded a record \$8.5 million in grants and contracts. Those awards are expected to increase to \$12 million in fiscal year 2010. Research in the sciences, business and the humanities is booming at KSU: our biochemistry professors are engaged in cutting-edge research on proteins; the Brain Lab at the Coles College of Business studying how the human mind controls computers; and one of our biology professors is identifying ways to eradicate kudzu.

As KSU matures as an institution – we kick off our second century in 2014 – our alumni are rising through the ranks and achieving great success. Be sure to read about the KSU graduates who are working at the state capitol, and with the governor. Another alumni story focuses on a former KSU golfer who launched an \$18 million Internet company. Also, I hope you enjoy the feature on our alum who played soccer at KSU and went on to become the first KSU soccer player to go professional when she joined the newly formed Atlanta Beat – which plays in the KSU Stadium.

We hope these stories will give you a better idea about the exciting things going on at KSU. And if it has been a while since you have been to campus, I encourage you to visit and see for yourself just what KSU has become.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel S. Papp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel S. Papp
President, Kennesaw State University

Coles College of Business Extends Global Footprint to India

The Coles College of Business will help train executive M.B.A. students in India thanks to a new partnership with one of India's up-and-coming business schools. The collaboration launches one of the fast-growing country's first executive M.B.A. programs offered with an American university.

Under the agreement, the Coles College of Business will help Mumbai Business School launch its executive M.B.A. program and teach the curriculum. Graduates of Mumbai Business School's Post-Graduate Program for Working Executives (PGPX) will receive certificates from the Coles College of Business.

"We are very excited about our new educational partnership in Mumbai, India's financial center," said W. Ken Harmon, KSU's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, who traveled to India in June to finalize details. "Our collaboration with Mumbai Business School will extend the Coles College brand into the heart of one of the most dynamic economies in the world. We are looking forward to a productive partnership that will yield benefits for both schools."

The revenue-sharing agreement will provide Coles College faculty the opportunity to teach at Mumbai Business School, whose faculty includes Indian business leaders as well as professors from renowned U.S. business schools such as Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management and Emory's Goizueta Business School. The partnership will also provide funding for research, travel and development opportunities for Coles College faculty, and will open the door for the college to help train U.S. executives whose companies want to do business in India.

This collaboration marks the Coles College of Business' entrance into one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies. India, which has a large English-speaking population, is quickly becoming one of the most important

economies around the globe, and demand for the education of managers and executives is rising. India's economy is projected to grow 8.5 percent this year, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner traveled to India earlier this year to work on improving bilateral economic and financial relations.

Harmon and Coles College administrators visited several



Sunil Rai, CEO of Mumbai Business School, and W. Ken Harmon, KSU's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, met in Mumbai in June to finalize a partnership between the two schools.

business schools in Mumbai, Delhi, Mysore and Bangalore in fall 2009 and they decided Mumbai Business School, which started operations in 2008, was the right partner "because of its entrepreneurial spirit and flexible approaches to education," Harmon said.

"Most of the business schools we visited in India were very young, which reflects the dynamic nature of the burgeoning economy," he explained. "While there are a number of long-standing business schools, we liked the fresh approach Mumbai Business School takes to business education."

KSU to Celebrate “Year of Romania” During 2010-11 Academic Year
Academic partnerships, faculty connections help shape annual country study



Romania – the land that inspired the tales of Count Dracula and classical composer Béla Bartok’s famous folk dance music – is the focus of KSU’s 2010-2011 “Year of” country study.

The 26th in a series of intensive annual examinations

of different countries and regions of the world, the “Year of Romania” will present concerts, exhibits, films and weekly lectures exploring the country’s history, culture, ethnic identities and its economic and political evolution from communism to democracy.

“We’re very fortunate this year to study a fascinating country that is a relatively new member of NATO and the European Union; that is only 20 years beyond the fall of communism and that has strong diplomatic ties with the U.S.,” said Dan Paracka, director of the Office of International Services and Programs and “Year of” program coordinator.

“These are all interesting reasons to take a deeper look at this important Eastern European country.”

Contributing to this year’s study are noted scholars from Romania, Canada and more than a dozen universities across the U.S., as well as KSU faculty whose scholarship is focused on Romania.

In addition, seven KSU faculty members are participating in a learning community that will develop interdisciplinary learning modules about Romania, where they visited in May. Five full-time KSU faculty members are Romanian and have taken an active role in planning this year’s program.

Paracka said the events and activities scheduled throughout the year have also been facilitated by KSU’s ongoing relationships with Romania’s ASEBUSS (the Institute for Business Administration in Bucharest), which offers the only American Executive M.B.A. program in Romania. In April, the university is collaborating with the Romanian Embassy in Washington, the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest and the American Chamber of Commerce in Romania to present a “Doing Business in Romania” conference.

View the full “Year of Romania” schedule at <http://www.kennesaw.edu/globalinstitute/yearofprogram.html>

KSU Faculty Visits Shanghai for Cultural Exchange

Three Kennesaw State University faculty members – dance professor Ivan Pulinkala, theatre professor Ming Chen and voice professor Oral Moses – participated in a faculty arts and cultural exchange project with Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) in China. This fall, several Chinese professors will return the visit, bringing their insights and expertise to KSU students.

“It was a unique opportunity to get to work with students from China,” says Pulinkala, who taught master classes, participated in lecture demonstrations and set a piece of choreography for the students. “The students were very receptive to my work. They are very eager to learn and grow. Learning took place on many different levels: the creative, artistic, technical and cultural.”

Chen, who initiated the project, helped coordinate with SHNU and also served as interpreter for part of Pulinkala’s master classes and other activities.

“The university was so hospitable. They did a lot of work to make sure that our trip was productive and enjoyable,” she said.

Moses performed a recital accompanied by a student musician then taught master classes to the entire voice department at the university. The SHNU students helped Moses

learn a Chinese folk song, which he will perform for the KSU community in September.

During the trip, the professors established connections to provide future learning experiences. According to Chen, Shanghai Normal expressed interest in establishing a joint curricular program that would allow KSU and SHNU dance students from each university to take classes offered by the other university and receive credit.



KSU professor Oral Moses (center) taught a master class for Shanghai Normal University.

KSU Launches Music and Entertainment Business Certificate Program

Kennesaw State has hired some of Georgia’s most renowned music business faculty and staff to launch its new Music and Entertainment Business Certificate Program this fall. The program is being funded with a major gift from Atlanta entertainment attorney Joel A. Katz.

Bruce Burch, a songwriter and publisher, has been named the program’s director. Keith Perissi has been named associate director and Heather Malcom has been named director of development. All were formerly with the University of Georgia music business program.

“Atlanta’s increasing prominence as a music and entertainment center affords our students the opportunity to access and learn the nuts and bolts of this growing industry, and to be well prepared to succeed,” said Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts.

The program is funded with an undisclosed contribution made by Katz, an internationally known entertainment industry attorney, to the KSU Foundation.

“We are pleased that Joel Katz is our friend and benefactor,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “This program will contribute tremendously to Kennesaw State’s increasing prominence in the arts and will help us groom high-quality graduates prepared to lead in the music and entertainment business.”

Unlike other programs in the state, KSU’s certificate program will focus not only on the music industry but also will include studies in the film, TV and video game businesses. Program participants will not be required to play an instrument.

The multidisciplinary program – a joint effort between the College of the Arts and the Coles College of Business – will allow business, music and other majors to become proficient in areas such as financial accounting and music theory, as well as emerging trends in music and entertainment.

KSU students will have access to top faculty. Burch is a 30-year music industry veteran who served as creative director at EMI Music Publishing in Nashville and

was president of his own music publishing company. Perissi is a professional musician who has produced concerts, collaborated in the creation of five albums and performed with a popular touring band. Malcom is a development veteran.

KSU is a good fit given its location in metro Atlanta, one of the top music and entertainment centers in the country and among the fastest growing. In addition, the university has exceptional concert venues, such as the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center and the brand-new soccer stadium, which can accommodate up to 15,000 people.

“I am honored to provide the foundation for the Kennesaw State University entertainment and music management program, the result of my long history of collaboration and 40-year friendship with Dr. Bobbie Bailey,” said Katz. “Her dedication to KSU, her vast charitable interests, and her love for the entertainment and music business were key factors in the decision to contribute.”

Burch said he is excited about working closely with Katz and Bailey, a longtime KSU trustee and benefactor.

“We are looking forward to KSU becoming a part of this thriving, creative entertainment center,” he said.



Atlanta entertainment attorney Joel Katz helped fund an entertainment and music business certificate program.

KSU Competitive Cheer Squad Clinches First Division I Championship

Kennesaw State’s competitive cheer squad clinched its first Division I national championship at the 2010 Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla., this spring.

“Our final routine was flawless,” team captain Jocilyn Yarnell said. “We were happy we hit a solid routine. The judges were going to give us whatever score they were going to give us, but I think we all knew in the back of our head that we won.”

This is the team’s third national championship in six years. The squad won back-to-back Division II championships in 2004 and 2005.

As a club sport, the competitive cheer squad administers its own budget, designs its own uniforms and employs a coach and choreographer. Of the team’s \$22,500 budget this season, the university provided only \$9,380. Now the team is trying to raise an additional \$4,000 for national championship rings.

“We had such a great team this year, especially in terms of bonding,” Yarnell said. “It was just the icing on the cake to win the championship at the end of the season.”

KSU Dance Company Performs at Kennedy Center

The Kennesaw State University Dance Company performed at the National College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in May.

KSU was the only school in the southeastern United States to be selected for the concert in the last four years and invited to the national festival for two consecutive years.

"We are very proud of our students for this accomplishment. The prestige of the Kennedy Center brings national visibility to the program in dance" said director of the KSU dance program and associate professor Ivan Pulinkala.

"Our success is connected to the support we have on campus and in the community."



KSU dancers performed for the second consecutive year at the Kennedy Center.

Applied Stats Master's Grads Enjoy 100 Percent Employment

While one out of 10 Americans are jobless, 100 percent of KSU's Master of Science in Applied Statistics graduates had jobs waiting for them after the spring and summer commencements — at salaries exceeding \$60,000 a year.

They can thank the statistics faculty for that. Jennifer Priestley, associate professor of applied statistics, worked for several credit card companies before entering academia and she knew the applied statistics program could get an edge over other programs by working with real data.

"Many statistics courses are taught using highly theoretical information that isn't representative of what actual data looks like in the marketplace," she says. "We teach our courses using real-world data from real people. In tough economic times, if it comes down to hiring someone who knows theory or someone who has worked with actual data, the latter has the advantage."

Priestley, who joined KSU's applied stats program in 2004, noted there is one drawback to this success story. "These guys didn't even do much celebrating," she says. "They all had to report to work Monday morning."

Comings & Goings



Joe F. Head, assistant vice president and dean of Enrollment Services, retired June 30 after 26 years working in admissions and enrollment services. Before coming to KSU, he served as director of admissions and associate registrar at Tift College, a Baptist women's college in Forsyth, Ga., and director of recruitment at Georgia Southern University. In the late 1990s, he chaired a task force to establish the Georgia Association of Collegiate Registrars and

Admissions Officers Institute for Strategic Enrollment Management, which became a model for professional development. Head earned a master's in higher education from Georgia Southern University.



Lendley C. Black, provost and vice president for academic affairs, was named chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth. Black joined KSU in 2002 as vice president for academic affairs and in 2006 was named provost. Black was also a professor of theatre and performance studies at KSU's College of the Arts. Before coming to KSU, he served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Emporia State University in Kansas. A native of Memphis, Black earned

a bachelor's in English from the University of Tennessee at Martin, a master's in theatre from the University of Connecticut, and a doctorate in theatre from the University of Kansas.



W. Ken Harmon, dean of the Coles College of Business, is KSU's new interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. He replaces Lendley Black while a national search is conducted to fill the position. Harmon, who served as director of the School of Accountancy at the Coles College before becoming dean in July 2009, has held top administrative posts at several business schools in the Southeast. Harmon was hired by KSU in 2006 to chair the accounting

department, which later became the School of Accountancy.



Kathy Schwaig, associate dean for academic affairs at the Coles College of Business, is now serving as interim dean of the college. She replaces W. Ken Harmon, who served as dean of the Coles College of Business for the past year and has been named interim provost. Schwaig joined the KSU faculty in 2002 as an associate professor of management information systems, bringing more than 20 years of teaching and professional experience. She was named

associate dean for administration for the Coles College in 2007.

Body, Mind and Soul

KSU professor studies correlation between body image and health behavior

By Jennifer Hafer



KSU Health, physical education and sports science professor Sean Stickney.

While body image issues are usually considered the domain of teenage girls, KSU professor Sean Stickney knows first hand that is not the case, and he has devoted his career to helping others deal with mental health issues.

"I faced some challenges like lots of college students do," said Stickney, a health, physical education and sport science professor. "I got caught up in the body-building culture of Southern California at the time and I developed a condition known as muscle dysmorphia."

Dysmorphia is the reverse condition of anorexia. Whereas the anorexic looks in a mirror and sees obesity, the reflection staring back at a muscle dysmorphic is that of a much smaller person, Stickney explained. Instead of seeing the heavily muscled college defensive back he was at the time, Stickney saw a scrawny, underdeveloped guy.

"Because of this condition, I became very interested in how the mind works, particularly in terms of body image and health behaviors," he said. "I just wanted to understand myself better as an athlete and as a student."

As director of the Academy of Mental Health Promotion and Research housed in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services at Kennesaw State, Stickney is gathering colleagues from across campus and across disciplines to study mental health issues. They found that how an individual constructs and evaluates his or her physical appearance, physical ability and physical health shapes his or her thoughts of self-criticism, sensitivity to feedback, and the likelihood to adopt or continue to engage in regular exercise. In addition, a person's ethnicity, gender and age cannot only shape how a person defines himself or herself physically, but how they respond to feedback given by his or her coaches, friends or even complete strangers.

"This study's findings hold extremely important and practical implications for adopting or sustaining exercise behaviors," Stickney said. "It is of utmost relevance for people who seek to understand the many intrinsic motivational processes within exercise domains in an effort to improve their physical health and well-being." **K**

Sound Moves

BrainLab's research into how the brain controls computers has many practical applications for business

By Aixa M. Pascual

In a small, non-descript room on the second floor of the Burruss Building, a lab subject wears a red and blue cap tight to the scalp, just like a swimming cap but with eight electrodes connected to a tiny recording device. The subject is told to imagine squeezing a stress ball. As his brainwaves start to fluctuate, a computer connected to the device displays on its screen a pink ball moving toward a target. The subject uses only his brain signals to move the ball to hit the target.

At the KSU BrainLab, Coles College of Business assistant professor of business information systems Adriane Randolph studies how the human mind controls computers. Randolph, who is founder and director of the BrainLab, and her student assistants have observed brainwaves as participants execute rounds of tennis on

the Wii, play violent video games and respond to brands placed in different types of media. With the use of a \$30,000 bioamplifier, a high-tech device that gathers and amplifies the brain's electrical signals, Randolph discovers solutions for brain-computer interfaces by uncovering the underlying characteristics that affect users' control.

"Where we are right now is at a new horizon for how we interact with computers," says Randolph, a self-described geek with good social skills. "Brain-computer interfaces allow individuals to control devices in their environment through the use of signals from the brain. Computers can't read exactly what humans are thinking but they can read thought patterns."

These experiments in cognitive neuroscience have practical

applications in the burgeoning fields of neuromarketing and neuroeconomics. "The interfaces allow explorations into human buying behavior and decision-making abilities," Randolph says. For example, someone living in Atlanta may be inclined to say they prefer Coca-Cola, even if they really prefer Pepsi. But through mental imaging techniques used in the BrainLab, such as electroencephalography (EEG), "we may learn about what people are really thinking when presented with different options and link those thought processes to actual behavior," she explains.

The interfaces Randolph is studying also have practical applications for increasing productivity in the workplace by better syncing interfaces with human intent. "As a user attempts to open an application on their computer, she may click on the wrong one and waste time while it loads," says Randolph. "But if the computer were tuned into her thoughts, it would know before she finished clicking that it was the wrong application and would choose the right one."

Other university brain labs, such as the one at Georgia Tech, conduct research on how brain-computer interfaces can assist disabled people who are locked in by developing quality-of-life applications. But Randolph is focusing on more generalized research with broader applications for people without motor disabilities, which will ultimately help everyone.

Randolph, who studied systems engineering in college, has been fascinated since an early age by why people react emotionally to computers. While pursuing a Ph.D. in business administration at Georgia State, she focused on computer information systems and worked at the brain lab developing real-world applications for use by individuals in extreme states of paralysis due to Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), otherwise known as locked-in syndrome. At KSU, she wants to take that research further.

"Although we don't currently have computers controlled by thoughts in the mainstream workplace," Randolph says, "that is just right around the corner." **K**

"Where we are right now is at a new horizon for how we interact with computers," says Randolph...



Mixed media digital art by Tess Bertie

Tracking the *Roots of* Terrorism

KSU professor looks to Russian author Dostoevsky to answer why people kill for political causes

By Sabbaye McGriff

Nineteenth-century literary master Fyodor Dostoevsky could not have conceived the massive deaths that resulted from the 9/11 attacks, the terrorist bombings in Kenya, Tanzania, London, India and Moscow, and most recently, the thwarted car bombing that could have reduced New York's Times Square to a smoldering inferno.

Still, says Jack Moran, KSU associate professor of political science and international affairs, Dostoevsky's insights into modern terrorism are just as relevant today as they were in the 1800s, when the writer penned a series of novels capturing the political and psychological motivations behind terrorism.

"Dostoevsky really had an advantage over us in the sense that he was a first-generation observer of terrorism," says Moran, author of "The Solution of the Fist: Dostoevsky and the Roots of Modern Terrorism," published in 2009. "In two of his great murder mysteries – "Demons" and "Crime and Punishment" – Dostoevsky was warning Russian society about this new generation of revolutionaries who could so easily murder innocent people in the name of a political idea."

Moran describes Imperial Russia as the cradle of modern terrorism. From 1860 to 1907, the number of known terrorists in Russia swelled from fewer than 100 to 45,000, and 6,000 government personnel were killed or wounded by terrorists from 1905 to 1908. Observing this, Moran says, was appalling to Dostoevsky, whose novels also implicated modernization as a cause of terrorism.

"The demons in [Dostoevsky's] books are not monsters, but gracious, subtle, cosmopolitan, rational and scientific,"

says Moran. "They are also murderers, rapists and terrorists in modern societies that had abandoned any sort of moral constraint that helped keep tyranny in check, creating the new, modern, nihilistic world of terrorism."

Then, as now, Moran says, terrorists are politically motivated. In Dostoevsky's time, the motivations were revolutionary socialism and its attempt to create equality, especially for people classified as serfs, roughly the equivalent of slaves.

"Dostoevsky most certainly saw serfdom as an evil, but at the same time, he felt that equality without some kind of countermeasures, like freedom, can result in horrors like terrorism," Moran says. "We have equality and freedom in the same package. Those who created the Soviet Union didn't see that. For them, it was all about equality, forget freedoms, and it resulted in millions and millions of deaths and genocide."

Today, political motivations for terror are most often associated with what Moran says is inaccurately called religious terrorism, as well as ecoterrorism. The common thread of those who committed terrorism for political purposes in Dostoevsky's time and those who do so today is shame and humiliation, he concludes.

"For Arabs and Muslims in the Middle East, it is the shame of being displaced and occupied by foreign powers (as they perceive the actions of Europe, Israel and the U.S.), especially after having been the center of civilization and a dominant world power themselves for so long. It is humiliating to them to



Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs Jack Moran thinks Dostoevsky's insights into terrorism are still relevant today.



be in the position they now are in."

The same could be said of the 800 years of humiliation and oppression of the Irish by the English and the troubles that resulted in Northern Ireland, Moran noted.

"I will argue that the main reason the Irish Republican Army no longer can gain a footing among the Catholics in Northern Ireland or in the Republic of Ireland is because the public humiliation has disappeared," he says. "I'm not sure when this happened precisely, but now it's cool to be Irish."

Alleviating the psychological dynamics of humiliation and shame should figure prominently into the counter-terrorism strategies of U.S. administrations since 9/11, Moran observes.

"If we can help make peaceful, prosperous societies in the Middle East, we can help eliminate the humiliation that is driving the murderous terrorism within that part of the world." **K**

The clenched fist was a symbol of revolution in Dostoevsky's time.

Scholarly Pursuits

KSU's grant-funded research takes center stage, garners expanded support

By Aixa M. Pascual

Research at Kennesaw State is flourishing. Though not a research university, KSU's faculty members are garnering prestigious grants and increasing numbers of undergrads and grad students are participating in research. In fiscal year 2009, the university was awarded a record \$8.5 million in grants and contracts, 40 percent more than in fiscal year 2008, according to KSU's Office of Grants and Contracts. KSU is poised to receive close to \$12 million in grants and contracts in fiscal year 2010.

"I am hoping we can grow grant activity by 100 percent in the next five to six years," says Charles Amlaner, KSU's vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College. "We'd like to grow grants and contracts by \$1 to \$2 million annually over the next several years. We have vast, untapped intellectual resources in our faculty."

Research dollars are funding new projects and innovative equipment such as state-of-the-art, \$300,000 biomolecular research instruments – purchased with grant money by KSU's chemistry and biochemistry department in January – that allow scientists to study interactions among proteins and other biomolecules.

These latest additions to KSU's science labs – a sophisticated automated machine that purifies proteins and an optical biosensor that analyzes in real time how proteins interact with one another – have allowed researchers such as assistant professor of biochemistry Jonathan McMurry to take scientific inquiry to new heights. McMurry has received half a million dollars in grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the past four years to study how infectious bacteria such as *E. coli* and salmonella move around. Knowledge of how toxic

microorganisms move about can shed light on how they cause disease.

In addition to biochemistry, KSU faculty are conducting research in a variety of other disciplines.

In the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, sociologist Miriam Boeri is looking at methamphetamine use in the suburbs and archaeologist Terry Powis is investigating cave sites in the Maya Lowlands of Belize. Sports science professors Mitchell Collins and Bernie Goldfine of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services are studying the lifestyle and environmental factors that make Americans more prone to obesity than Brazilians. Biochemist Carol Chrestensen's research on protein binding has potential applications for the development of anti-inflammatory arthritis drugs. And an \$8.9 million, multi-year grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education is allowing Bagwell College of Education professors to partner with the Cobb County School District for a pilot project to launch a new teacher education program and study teacher efficacy and student achievement.

Since coming to Kennesaw State last year to take the job as the university's first vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College, Amlaner has kept busy visiting academic departments to encourage faculty to write more – and better – grant proposals. A big part of his job is to look for external grants to fund research and other scholarly pursuits. Amlaner plans to send 15 to 30 professors each year to professional grant-writing sessions sponsored by the NIH, NSF and other agencies.

"There's a lot of opportunity for KSU with the NSF because we have a large number of undergraduate students in the science and mathematics disciplines," Amlaner says. "The NSF

Purchases like this state-of-the-art \$300,000 piece of biomolecular equipment allows KSU scientists to study proteins.

McMurry quips, "It's like going from a horse and buggy to a Ferrari."



Biochemistry professor Jonathan McMurry received grants to study how bacteria transform.

turns out to be a very good source for faculty teaching and trying to fund research in science and math."

In the past decade, KSU has laid the groundwork for research and scholarly activity to take off by adding new master's programs in strategic disciplines such as teaching and applied statistics. As the university has attracted a critical mass of graduate students (2,000 and counting), professors are increasingly able to get assistance to conduct research in their fields and are more likely to be funded. Moreover, three years ago the university launched its first applied doctoral program, in education, and now also offers applied doctoral degrees in nursing and business. There are plans to add an applied doctoral program in computer science in the next year. KSU awarded its first applied doctoral degrees this summer.

As the new academic year kicks off in the fall, KSU will welcome its first class of Ph.D. students. A Ph.D. program in international conflict management was approved in the spring by the Board of Regents and has already attracted nearly 50 applicants.

"[A Ph.D.] is a very important milestone in the development and evolution of a university's culture," says Amlaner, an Oxford-educated neuroscientist who has studied sleep in birds

and snakes for three decades and directed many master's and doctoral students throughout his career. "When that happens, we continue to build bigger and better graduate programs."

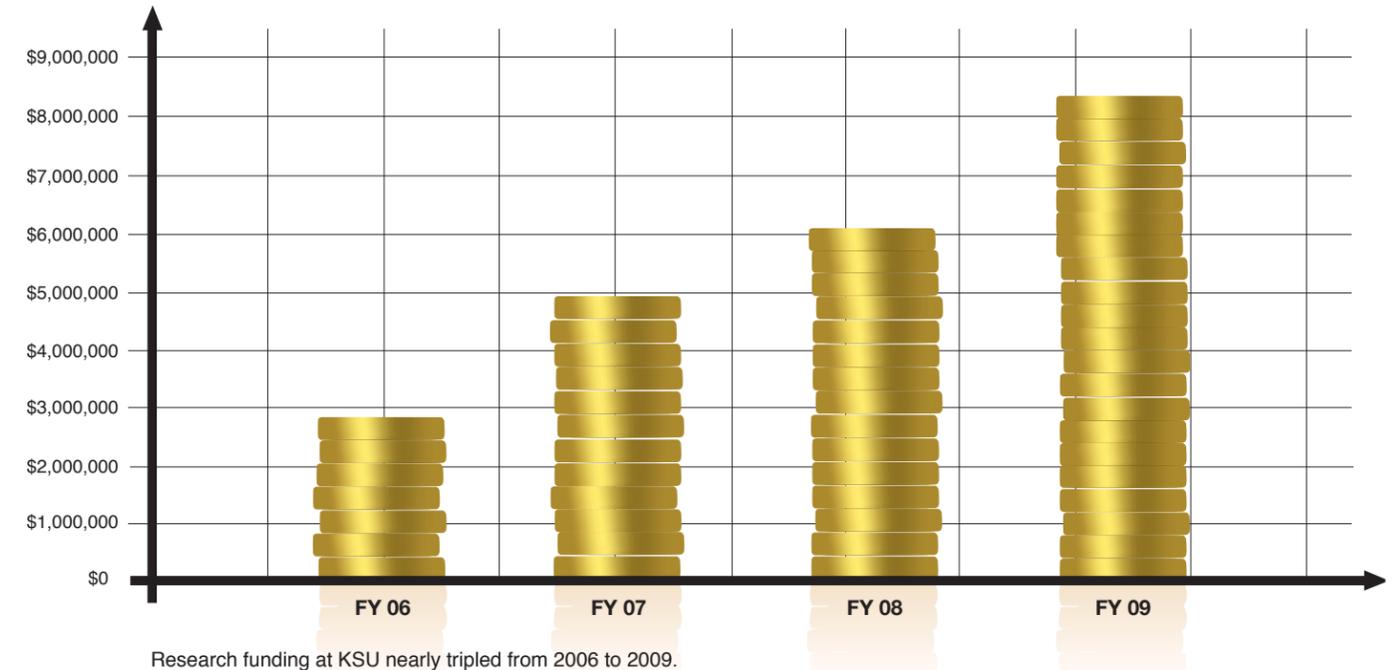
As its graduate offerings have grown, KSU has been beefing up its books and publications repertoire. In the past year alone, the library has added vast databases of periodical literature such as the Web of Science meta-database and Scopus, giving faculty and students access to thousands of the world's top scholarly journals. "Digital access to bibliographical information is absolutely critical for faculty proposal writing and for their own scholarly publishing," Amlaner explains.

Amlaner is keenly aware that KSU has to continue developing graduate programs in more disciplines to keep growing its grant base. Currently KSU is working to set up master's programs in biology and chemistry, psychology and criminal justice. "A master's degree will provide us with graduate students who have dedicated time to do research and will also give us access to more funding dollars," says Mark Mitchell, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, of the master's in chemical sciences that he expects to be up and running in two years. "More research generates more scholarly papers, which in turn generates more funding."

Biochemist Chrestensen is using the new biosensor to study how proteins interact with each other to sense stress in the environment. The new instruments, she says, have allowed her to conduct more sophisticated research. Chrestensen is currently funded by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement and is applying to the NIH and NSF for \$300,000 in additional grants.

Grants that fund faculty research help make KSU more attractive to high-caliber undergraduates who are interested in pursuing graduate degrees and research careers. McMurry says that three of the undergraduate students who have worked with him in the lab have gone on to competitive graduate-level programs, including one who graduated this

Growth in Research Funding at KSU



year and will be pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Georgia.

"We can take undergraduates and give them cutting-edge training in a biochemistry lab that they cannot get at other universities," McMurry says, explaining that even research institutions that have the new lab equipment KSU recently acquired do not allow undergraduates to use it. "We are not

only doing primary research but also training students to design and perform experiments with optical biosensors, which is valuable in grad school."

Before McMurry acquired the new equipment for his lab, conducting similar experiments took much longer. "We get much better data much faster with the biosensor," McMurry quips. "It's like going from a horse and buggy to a Ferrari." **K**

KSU sociology and biology faculty were among the top five recipients of external research dollars in 2010.

Professor	Department	Amount	Agency
Miriam Boeri	Sociology and Criminal Justice	\$569,000	NIH
Jared Tagliatela	Biology and Physics	\$388,000	NIH
John Salerno	Biology and Physics	\$330,000	NSF
Jonathan McMurry	Chemistry and Biochemistry	\$273,000	NSF, NIH
Scott Lewis	Chemistry and Biochemistry	\$159,000	NSF

Kelsey Bizzell audited KSU classes last year as part of the Academy for Inclusive Adult Education program.



College Material

Developmentally disabled adults experience university life

By Jennifer Hafer

KSU freshman Kelsey Bizzell was like most first-year college students last fall. She was amazed by the size of the university and struggled with the process of writing college papers.

Fast-forward two semesters and Bizzell has adjusted well to the rigors of college life. But what makes her unique are the odds she overcame to get to campus, including society's expectations of the developmentally disabled.

"I always wanted to go to college," Bizzell, who is autistic, said, "but I had a teacher in high school who said, 'You can't go to college.'"

Bizzell was part of KSU's Academy for Inclusive Adult Education's pilot cohort last fall – one of three developmentally disabled adults auditing college courses. The non-degree program offers post-secondary educational opportunities to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The academy is part of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

"This is the first program of its kind in the state of Georgia," said program coordinator Jill Sloan. "We integrate totally with the campus. I always had a number of special-education students wanting to go on to college and further their

education, but that was not an option because they graduated with special-education diplomas."

Sloan, a career special-education teacher, said that before the academy was launched, employment options for special ed high school graduates were typically working at a grocery store or a fast food restaurant.

"In the past, the disabled have been put in jobs others think they are capable of versus what the person's interests, dreams and goals are," she said. "Through the academy we want to find a way to help them get the jobs they want."

Not only are Bizzell and her classmates, Chris Hunnicutt and Mary Minotto, pursuing their dreams, but they can add "trailblazers" to their beefed-up resumes as well.

The program has been so successful that three additional students will be enrolled through the academy this fall, and a future collaboration with Georgia State University and the University of Georgia will create a consortium dedicated to replicating the program throughout the University System of Georgia's 35 colleges and universities.

"What I am most proud of – after the students' performance and their parents' support – is this university," said program director Harry Stern, director of development at the Global Center for Social Change. "The incredible support and 'can do' attitude of administration and faculty has been inspiring. This program has been welcomed and encouraged."

Stern said plans call for enrolling 25 students in the academy by 2012.

"Our students' parents continually point out that this university has presented their children with a goal after high school and the prospect of securing more meaningful and better remunerating work upon completion of the program," he said. "Parents are telling us that the fun and excitement of a university experience has made their children's lives that much fuller and richer."

As for the teacher who once told Bizzell she could not go to college, the 21-year-old said, "I'm in college." **K**



Mary Minotto (left) Chris Hunnicutt and Kelsey Bizzell are enrolled in KSU's Inclusive Adult Education Program.

A Benchmark of Excellence

By Jennifer Hafer

At a dedication ceremony this summer, the new Health Sciences Building – christened Prillaman Hall – was opened, ushering in a new era for Kennesaw State University and the WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

“This is truly an historic occasion for Kennesaw State, as we open this state-of-the-art facility that will enhance nursing education and solidify the WellStar College of Health and Human Services’ reputation as one of the region’s, if not the nation’s, premier nursing programs,” President Daniel S. Papp said. “We are also especially proud of our symbiotic partnership with WellStar Health System, which benefits not only both organizations through shared services, but our community as well.”

The college consists of the WellStar School of Nursing, the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Science, and the Department of Social Work and Human Services. “The college has never really had a home,” said Richard Sowell, dean of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services. “We’re spread out over seven different buildings on campus. This new building gives us the opportunity to function together and build a sense of community.”

The nearly 200,000-square-foot building looms large over the north end of campus, adjacent to the Central Parking Deck and The Commons. Beginning in September, as classrooms were fitted with audio and video technology, classes began in the new building, which houses WellStar faculty, with the exception of a cohort of health, physical education and sport science faculty who will remain in the Convocation Center.

“This building will allow us to be more effective and efficient in our teaching methods and will greatly enhance the learning experiences of our students,” Sowell said. “We have worked very hard to make sure we have matched the space with



Prillaman Hall labs feature the same equipment as found in hospitals.

the educational needs of all of our programs. The larger classrooms offer theater-style seating, so students can focus on the faculty teaching. And the new computer labs will offer students greater access, so they are not limited in the time they can spend.”

A three-story, open-air foyer with limestone tile and giant, artichoke-shaped chandeliers greet visitors to the \$56 million building, which was built with \$47 million in state support, a \$300,000 federal grant and a generous collection of private donations.

“Even through the pain of budget cuts, Kennesaw State University has continued to thrive,” KSU Foundation Chairman Norman Radow said. “The construction of Prillaman Hall and the learning opportunities it will facilitate will lead us to becoming a national school of excellence.”

The expansive, four-story facility boasts 15 health, science and interdisciplinary labs; two 120-seat classrooms; four 90-seat tiered classrooms; three 60-seat classrooms; six seminar

WellStar College’s state-of-the-art health sciences center honors long-time trustee



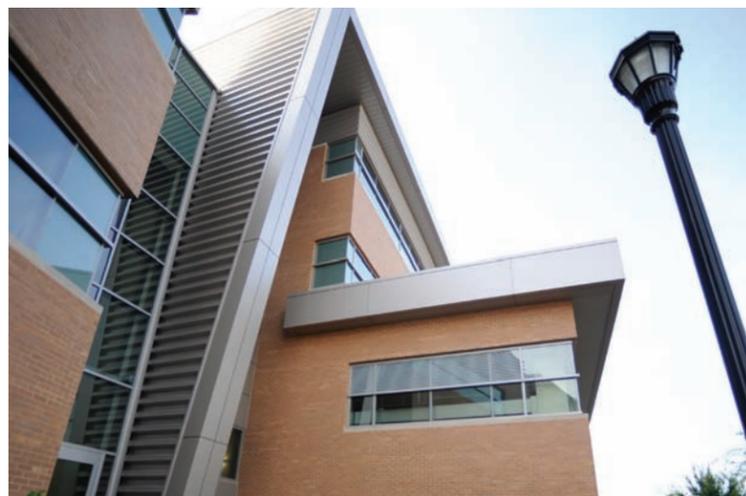
The WellStar School of Nursing will expand its outreach as a regional nursing simulation lab site supporting nursing education for northwest Georgia.



Student study areas are found on every floor of Prillaman Hall.



Prillaman's nursing labs feature diagnostic equipment similar to the type used in hospitals.



Unique angles define Prillaman Hall's contemporary architecture.

rooms; four computer labs; a 230-seat auditorium; faculty offices; and the school's first pediatric lab. One of the more unique features is a room for breast-feeding mothers, complete with a refrigerator for storage. The room is available for use by any KSU faculty, staff or students.

"The faculty really wanted this room, so we included it," said David Bennett, associate dean for planning, communication and infrastructure. "It's very much in the spirit of this building. Our theme for the building is health, wellness and diversity."

Key to supporting that motto will be the increased production of nurses and nurse educators at the WellStar School of Nursing. In addition to all the new amenities, the building will allow the school to increase the number of graduates from approximately 185 a year to close to 250. Currently, only one in nine qualified applicants are accepted into the nursing program due to space constraints.

Employment in the nursing profession is expected to grow much faster than average in comparison to all other professions. According to a December 2009 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 581,500 new registered nurse positions will be created through 2018, increasing the size of the RN workforce by 22 percent.

"What makes this nursing shortage different than previous shortages is there is not enough faculty to teach future nurses," Bennett said. "We now have four graduate nursing programs, including our new doctorate of nursing science, that are aimed at helping alleviate the shortage of nurse educators."

One of the state's top producers of nurses already, the WellStar School of Nursing will be expanding its outreach as a regional nursing simulation lab site as well, supporting nursing education for northwest Georgia. The simulation labs will allow nursing students to gain critical hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment and to learn essential, contemporary nursing skills. **K**



Well equipped labs insure that every student can participate in lab assignments at the same time.



Cutting the ribbon to officially open Prillaman Hall were, from left: Richard Sowell, dean, WellStar College of Health and Human Services; Gregory Simone, former WellStar Health System CEO; Norman Radow, chairman of the KSU Foundation; Bob Prillaman; KSU President Daniel S. Papp; Lil Prillaman; Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle; Kessel Stelling Jr., member, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; and Connie Engel, chair, KSU Foundation Real Estate Committee.



Noted Georgia artist Steve Penley was commissioned to paint a portrait of Lil and Bob Prillaman to hang in the foyer of Prillaman Hall. Best known for his paintings of historic figures, Penley's unique style of bold color, strong brush strokes and vivid imagery captured the essence of the Prillamans.

New Health Sciences Building Named for Long-time Trustee, Wife *Prillaman Hall named for Bob and Lil Prillaman*

The new \$60-million health sciences building housing the WellStar College of Health and Human Services was named Prillaman Hall in honor of longtime KSU Foundation trustee Bob Prillaman and his wife, Lil. Prillaman, a retired senior vice president of Caraustar Industries has been a community leader in Cobb County for more than 30 years.

The Prillamans have been generous benefactors of a number of organizations through the years, but two organizations in particular, WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State University, have a special place in their hearts.

A past chairman of WellStar's board of trustees and a KSU Foundation trustee for 25 years, Prillaman is credited with bringing the health care organization and the university together, a relationship that reached a milestone in 2003, when WellStar presented KSU a gift of more than \$3 million, resulting in the naming of the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, the WellStar School of Nursing and the WellStar Women's Wellness Center in its honor.

"Bob's contributions to this institution are immeasurable," President Daniel S. Papp said. "Perhaps most significantly, he brought WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State together to address the region's health care needs."

As chairman of the development committee of the KSU Foundation, Prillaman led the charge in raising \$8 million in private funding for the new building.

"While it is true that Bob Prillaman holds the all important position of the chairman of the development committee, the naming of the building is a recognition of Bob's lifetime commitment to Kennesaw State University, to health care and the overall betterment of mankind," said Norman Radow chairman of the Foundation.

A ribbon-cutting and naming ceremony for the building was held Aug. 5.

"I don't know how to express the honor we feel," Prillaman said. "The building will define KSU as not only largest nursing school in the state but one of continued quality."



President Dan Papp and Bob Prillaman share a moment during the dedication ceremony.



The road leading from the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center to the new health sciences center was renamed Prillaman Way.

Setting the Standard for Environmentally Sustained Construction

Prillaman Hall going for Gold LEED Certification

Though the results will not be known until sometime next year, construction efforts at the new health sciences building, which will be officially named Prillaman Hall, were aimed at garnering the coveted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.

The certification acknowledges the building's compliance to a stringent set of standards developed by the United States Green Building Council for environmentally sustainable construction. It rates performance in five key areas: sustainable site development; water efficiency, energy efficiency; materials and resources; and indoor environmental quality.

"The university and the college have a great interest in improving our environment for future generations, and addressing waste and pollution," said David Bennett, associate dean for planning, communication and infrastructure. "The WellStar College of Health and Human Services faculty was emphatic that LEED certification of the building was a priority. Health, wellness and diversity were the faculty-identified themes

for the building and LEED certification relates directly to health and wellness."

Among the green features at Prillaman Hall are low-flow toilets, motion-detected lighting, a shower for faculty or staff who walk or ride a bike to work, and a system to recapture rainwater for irrigation. Additionally, recyclable wood and locally produced bricks were used in the construction of the sprawling 192,000-square-foot building.

"The building will serve as an educational tool for sustainability," Bennett said. "Signs will be placed throughout the building to inform students, faculty and guests of the strategies used to make the building a more sustainable and environmentally friendly building."

If certification is achieved, Prillaman Hall will be Kennesaw State University's second LEED-certified building. The first was the Social Sciences Building, which received a Silver LEED certification three years ago.

"There are very few buildings in the state that have Gold certification," Bennett said. "We believe that attaining this status would set a benchmark for other new buildings in the system and in the state."

Mastering Diplomacy

KSU students master the finer points of diplomacy, paving paths to international careers

By Sabbaye McGriff

Members of KSU's Global Society teams tackle some of the world's thorniest issues in carefully orchestrated simulations of the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States.

Three Global Society teams approximate their diplomatic namesakes in every detail as they negotiate, debate and recommend policies on pressing global issues.

As their names – Model United Nations (MUN), Model African Union (MAU) and Model Arab League (MAL) – suggest, team members play for real-world benefits: more informed world views; meeting and networking with international dignitaries; resume-enhancing experience; and communication skills. For some, it provides a clear path to international careers.

Participation in the MUN helped launch 1999 international

affairs graduate Richard Davis' career, which included a stint in the Peace Corps, graduate studies at Georgetown University and his current work in the African Region Influenza Division of the Centers for Disease Control. Likewise, for international affairs majors Paul Harris, '08, and Meghan Gladden, '06, who owe their careers at the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. State Department, respectively, to participation in the MUN. Dee Allen, former MAU member and 2001 political science graduate, travels the world briefing U.S. military officers for the Pentagon's Intelligence Agency on Africa.

"Students on all of the teams work really hard and are very passionate about the countries they represent, the issues and the diplomatic process," said Dan Zimmerman, a 2010 graduate who led the MUN team last year, noting that participants do not get academic credit.



KSU's Model United Nations team represented Ireland at the national competition in New York.

Model United Nations

International business major Nikola Kolev, a senior who is entering his third year on the MUN team, relied on strategy, collaboration and persuasive communication to steer his way to national competition honors.

The first line of strategy, Kolev said, is to influence the order of topics for debate from among three predetermined topics.

"It's critical to get the issue your country has a vested interest in high on the agenda since the body only gets through debate on one or two of the topics," he said.

For his leadership, Kolev was awarded an "Outstanding Delegate" award. Fellow teammate Sarah Johnson also earned the distinction, and the team earned a "Distinguished Delegation" honor.



KSU Global Society teams, representing three continents, master diplomatic skills as they try to solve pressing world problems.



KSU's Model African Union team participated in the 2010 national competition.

Model African Union

Caroline Ofulah, a senior majoring in communication and international affairs, said success in MAU competitions boils down to research and networking.

"It just forces you to become studious," said Ofulah, who earned one of the individual leadership awards at the 2010 national competition. "If you don't do your research, you'll be massacred."

She and her 16 fellow team members represented Egypt, Angola and Cote d'Ivoire in the MAU, which simulates the 53-nation African Union. Of 11 awards for outstanding delegations and committee leadership KSU's team garnered five.

Ofulah pressed for an immediate end to a conflict between Sudan's government and a dissident faction that resulted in the deaths of Kenyan villagers along Sudan's southern borders. She negotiated sensitive religious and territorial issues and helped draft a multifaceted resolution to end the conflict.



KSU Model Arab League team member Jeff Drennan.

Model Arab League

Jeff Drennan's passion for his team's position on the plight of the region's refugees led to his designation as an "Outstanding Delegate" at the MAL's 2010 national competition. KSU's team represented Sudan and captured seven individual and team awards.

Serving on the Special Committee on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, Drennan's influence swayed the committee to vote for a policy of integrating refugees into society, affording them jobs, housing and sustainable food markets.

"It's a 'win-win' situation," said Drennan, a senior political science major who completed his second year of national competitions with the MAL in 2010 and previously spent two years with the MUN. "It helps the person and it helps the economy."

Drennan is vocal about the larger benefits of MAL competitions, including the chance to see the world through the eyes of people who live in different parts of the world, especially in the Middle East. "People have a negative view of the Middle East, but you can't judge a society by the actions of a few," he said.

In addition, he has made many contacts – the Syrian ambassador, an influential international publisher, a Saudi Prince and diplomats with the U.S. State Department among them. He is not sure what he would like to do after graduation, but he is hedging his bet that it will be in the international arena after taking the foreign service exam this fall. **K**

Kudzu Wars

KSU professor battles "the vine that ate the South"

By Neil B. McGahee

Hunched over a desk in his tiny office wearing a rumpled golf shirt, khaki pants and cap and sneakers, Sigurdur Greipsson does not look like he would fight anything. But make no mistake: he is a warrior and his battlefield is his greenhouse.

The KSU biology professor's adversary is *Pueraria montana* – kudzu – the ubiquitous climbing vine that has completely engulfed millions of acres of southern forests and the occasional abandoned junkyard and honky tonk.

Imported from Asia, southern farmers were encouraged to plant kudzu in the 1930s dust-bowl years to provide erosion control. By the early 1950s the government had categorized it as an invasive species, but it was too late. The vine spread like a bat out of hell smothering and killing native vegetation.

"Why is kudzu so successful here and not in Asia?" Greipsson asked rhetorically. "This is probably because kudzu has escaped its enemies – grazing animals and insects – when it was introduced in the South. Another factor as important is that kudzu's growth is dependent on the presence of certain fungi – *arbuscular mycorrhizal* – in the soil, which forms a symbiotic association with *rhizobium*, a bacteria commonly found on the roots of the peanut plant and performs nitrogen fixation. In other words, kudzu makes its own fertilizer. That is why its vine can grow at the rate of a foot a day during the peak of the summer."

Greipsson has not always fought kudzu. He is from Iceland, which so far has not been invaded by the sinister vine.

"I have always been fascinated by invasive species," he said. "I was conducting post-doctoral research at the University of Florida on the symbiotic relationship between invasive plants and soil microbes and I saw the kudzu invasions in Alabama and southern Georgia."

Sigurdur Greipsson, associate professor of biology, works with small kudzu plants.

Realizing the environmental impact on native ecosystems, Greipsson began concentrating his research on kudzu. When he accepted a faculty position at Troy University in Alabama – the heart of kudzu country – he continued his research.

Sweating in the high humidity of KSU's College of Science and Mathematics greenhouse, Greipsson looks almost grandfatherly as he waters tiny sprouts already bearing the distinctive shape of kudzu leaves. Ironically, he will soon turn his attention to methods to eradicate them.

"Ultimately, I hope to use aggressive native plants to restrict the kudzu invasion and prevent reinvasion where it has been eradicated," he said. "Kudzu loves the sun and cannot live in forests where there is deep shade. So by restoring native species, the shade canopy it creates can destroy kudzu on its own without the need for chemicals." **K**



The Perfect Drive

In golf, in business and in life, KSU alum Spencer Askew perfects the game

By Sabbaye McGriff

Spencer Askew, KSU's first Academic All-American in golf, ticks off a string of stories that illustrates why the 31-year-old entrepreneur has been able to build Efreightsolutions.com into an \$18 million company in just five years.

Driven for success

Askew was competitive even as a youth. Growing up in Albany, Ga., he was valedictorian of his high school class, earning the highest grade-point average of any student at the school. "I wasn't the smartest kid," he said. "I just wanted it more than the next guy."

Askew came to KSU in 1997 and lettered as a freshman, but he says he hit the proverbial sophomore brick wall. Perplexed, he called the Atlanta Braves to find out which sports psychologist worked with the team's pitchers. It turned out to be KSU psychology professor Pat Devine, who helped him understand that he was playing golf physically but not mentally — that he needed to visualize every course before he stepped onto it, every shot before he made it.

A visionary leader

Askew's introduction to technology came from a series of consulting jobs. At a golf course management company, he was introduced to an e-procurement system used to buy equipment. Later, he learned the shipping business while consulting for a major freight transportation and logistics company. "It was a very I.T.-driven organization, but practical applications were not driving day-to-day cost savings to the business," he observed.

Identifying gaps in those operations led to Askew's vision of building a transportation management system platform that would bring shipping buyers and sellers together in the same way Expedia.com pairs travelers with travel and hospitality businesses.

Askew launched Efreightsolutions.com in 2005 and has been developing new ventures and opportunities ever since. He recently launched GeorgiaFreight.com, a private-label version of Efreightsolutions.com, which allows the state of Georgia to leverage the buying power of small- and medium-sized businesses when it comes to shipping, thus making the state a more attractive place to do business. At the same time, Askew made the platform more appealing by donating 10 percent of every shipping transaction to two funds supporting foster care and education in the state. Philanthropy is part of his personal vision. Last fall, he became the first KSU alumnus athlete to fund athletics scholarships with a \$60,000 gift. He also wants to fund church start-ups and missions.

His business vision is also trained on layering the company's ability to private label its technology. This fall, Askew will open a facility in Kennesaw to house his new venture, Cosco USA, a joint partnership with Cosco Holdings, China's largest shipping line.

Still plays a mean game of golf

For two consecutive years, Askew has led the foursome winning the annual Dot Martin Scholarship Golf Classic, which has raised more than \$400,000 in athletic scholarships for KSU.

"Golf mirrors life," he says. "You can play the same course every day, and it will still be a new experience each time." **K**



Spencer Askew built Efreightsolutions.com into an \$18 million company in just five years.

Once the territory of graduates of older, more established academic institutions, Georgia's Capitol is increasingly the domain of more Kennesaw State alumni. David A. "Spiro" Amburn, Sean Jerguson, Nels Peterson, Martin Scott, Steve Thompson, Lindsey Tippins, Amanda Seals, Doug Stoner, Daniel Stout, and James Touchton came to the Gold Dome via the Campus Green and they credit KSU for preparing them to be

Capitol Owls

By Neil B. McGahee



David A. "Spiro" Amburn
Political Science '94

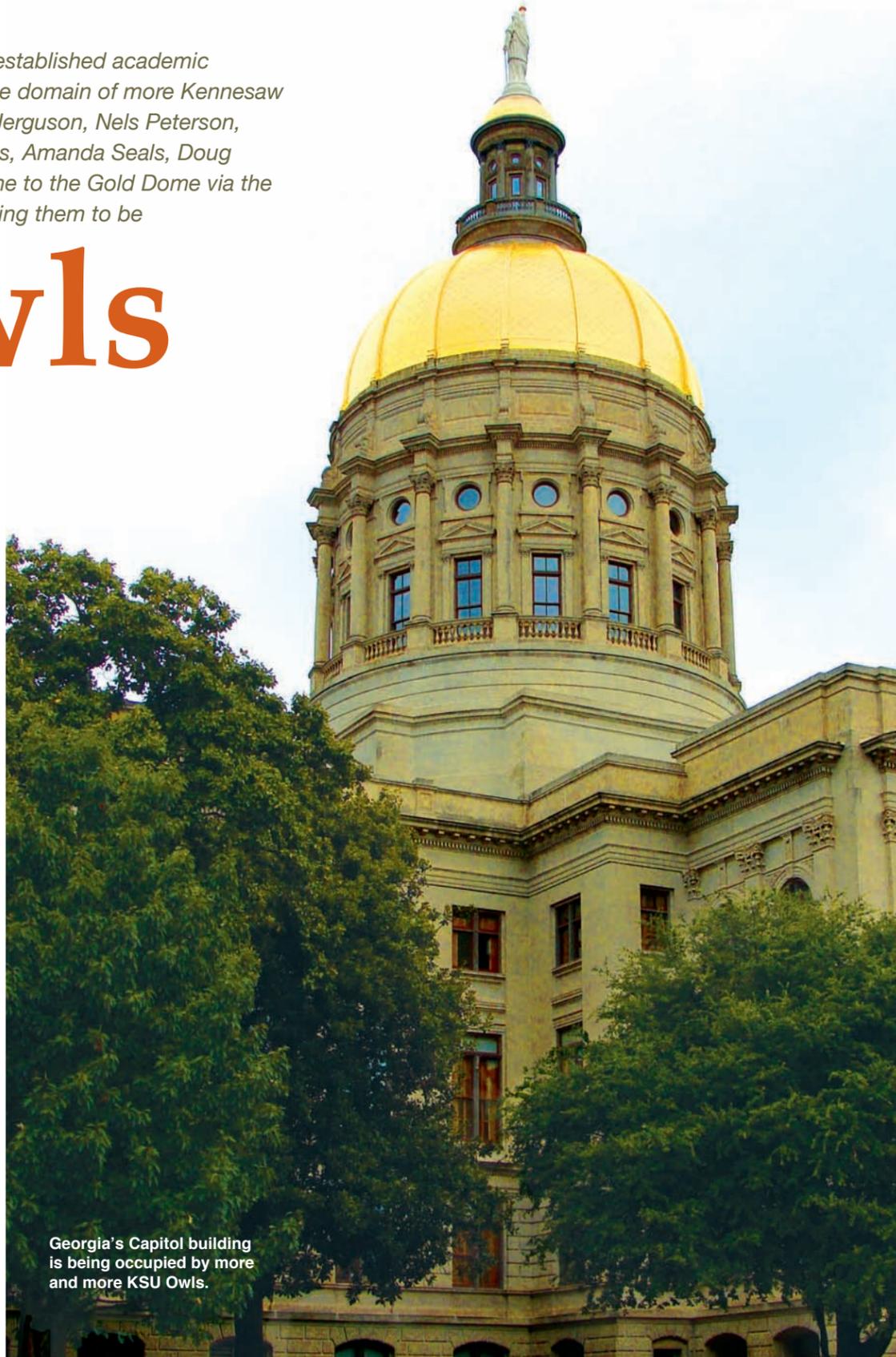
Amburn was named chief of staff by House Speaker David Ralston in January. He had previously served as Gov. Sonny Perdue's deputy legislative affairs director and legislative affairs director for the Georgia Department of

Juvenile Justice.

"My job includes political and managerial responsibilities," Amburn said. "I serve as a political adviser to the speaker and I'm responsible for overseeing more than 100 employees of the House of Representatives. I am involved in decision-making that impacts public policy, budgeting, staffing and communications. It's a lot like running a small business."

Amburn credits the KSU political science faculty for preparing him for the job.

"The political science program is top-notch and continues to grow in stature," he said. "I gained a solid foundation of knowledge not only about state and local government, but also federal and international policy. Dr. Helen Ridley's constitutional law class was especially good."



Georgia's Capitol building is being occupied by more and more KSU Owls.



Sean Jerguson
Biology '95, M.P.A. '00

Jerguson got his first taste of politics while a student at Kennesaw State where he was elected vice president of the Student Government Association and academic affairs chair for the Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents. Jerguson, a Republican, was elected in 2007 to the House, representing southeast and central Cherokee County. He serves on the health and human services, regulated industries, game, fish and parks and children and youth committees.

Nels Peterson
Political Science '01

If a legal battle is being fought under Georgia's Gold Dome, odds are that Peterson is right in the thick of it. Peterson, executive counsel to Gov. Sonny Perdue, and three deputy counselors handle all legal affairs involving the state's chief executive.

"Since most significant litigation involving the state usually names the governor our office stays pretty busy," he said. Peterson also advises the governor on judicial appointments and legal issues arising from legislation.

Peterson, who earned a law degree from Harvard, strongly values his KSU experience.

"I was very fortunate to have great professors like Kerwin Swint and Jack Moran," he said. "The full KSU experience, in and out of the classroom, really set me on course for the challenges I've encountered since graduating."



Martin Scott
M.B.A. '02

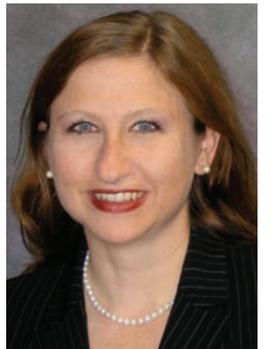
Martin Scott was elected to the House in 2004 representing district No. 2 in northwest Georgia. Scott, a Republican, sits on the banking, energy, intergovernmental coordination, ways and means, and game, fish and parks committees, and is co-chair of the sales tax subcommittee of ways and means, and chairman of the Taxpayer Protection Caucus.

"No doubt, my KSU experience played a major role in getting me elected to the House of Representatives and it continues to help me be an effective legislator," Scott said. "My Kennesaw M.B.A. helped me develop critical analysis skills that have sustained me through business, legislative, church and family life."

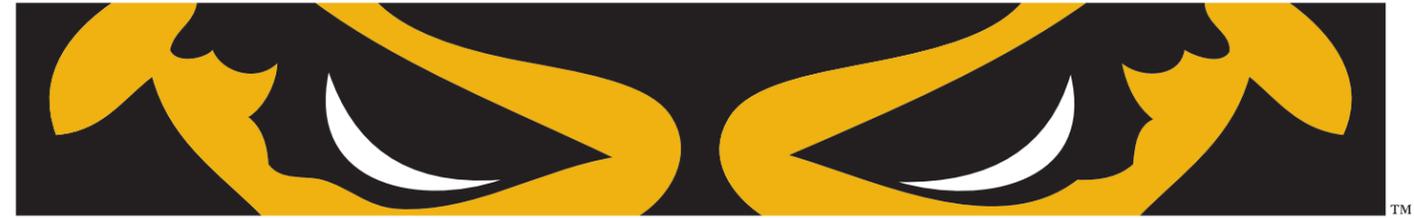
Amanda Seals
Communication '97

Seals serves as the executive director for government relations for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. She started her government career in Gov. Zell Miller's press office and has served as director of communications for the State Senate, the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Department of Community Health. Seals also served as chief of staff to the Senate Minority Leader and Senate President Pro Tempore.

"I would not be where I am today if it were not for the outstanding professors I had at Kennesaw State. Being an effective communicator is a gift that I was able to build upon through the skills I obtained while at KSU that continue to pay off today," she said.



Owl Country



Doug Stoner
Political Science '86

After serving two years in the House of Representatives, Stoner was elected to the State Senate in 2004 representing south Cobb County. A leading authority on transportation issues, Stoner, a Democrat, chairs the Intermodal Rail & Transit Subcommittee and serves on the Senate transportation and special joint

Senate-House transportation funding study committees. In May, he was named one of the "Most Influential Georgians of the Year" by *James Magazine* and was recently cited by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as someone who "understands the connections among environmental, education and economic issues in improving Georgians' quality of life."

Daniel Stout
Marketing '05

Stout represents Paulding County in House district No. 19 after winning a special election to finish the legislative term of Glenn Richardson, who resigned as House speaker. Stout, a banker, serves on the economic development and tourism, human relations and aging, state institutions and property and state planning and community affairs committees.



"The experience I gained at Kennesaw State was helpful in preparing me for my career," he said. "I'm thankful to the professors who invested in me. The Coles College of Business really offers a lot to students who are preparing to take on great challenges."



Steve Thompson
Political Science '76

Known as the dean of the Senate for his longevity in office – he was first elected in 1990 – Thompson, a Democrat, also holds the distinction of having been the youngest-ever member of the General Assembly when he was elected in 1980 at age 25 to serve in the House. Thompson serves on the appropriations, finance, banking and financial institutions, and transportation committees.

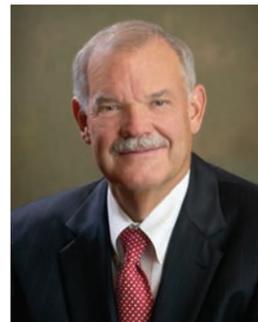
and financial institutions, and transportation committees.

In 1998 he was appointed senior floor leader. "Attending Kennesaw State was a pleasure and a real educational experience," Thompson, a former KSU trustee said. "The political science program, especially the courses taught by Dr. Willoughby Jarrell prepared me to understand the framework of government, which has served me well in my political career."

Lindsey Tippins
Business Administration '69

Pledging a platform of conservative ideas — bolstering the economy, creating new jobs, stopping illegal immigration and educating children — Marietta small business owner Lindsey Tippins, a Republican, soundly defeated his incumbent opponent for the State Senate District 37 seat in July. He has no Democrat challenger. Tippins, a former chairman of the Cobb County Board of Education, earned his associates degree in business administration from KSU in 1969.

"Kennesaw State, or Kennesaw Junior College as it was known then, really prepared me for business and politics," he said. "In addition to a good business program, they had an excellent social science program. Although I earned my bachelor's from Georgia State, I found the academics were more rigorous at KSU. You had to work hard."



James R. Touchton
Political Science '06
M.P.A. '09

Touchton serves as a policy analyst for the Senate Research Office.

"I provide support to individual senators on issues of policy development, conduct background research for statewide and local legislation, analyze public policy trends and summarize legislation," he said. "I also staff the Senate education and science and technology committees and produce committee reports."

Touchton said attending Kennesaw State, where he served as student government president and earned an internship in the Governor's office, helped him to understand how government works, a valuable asset in his political career. **K**

Larry Nelson Inducted into Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame

KSU alumnus Larry Nelson, '70, winner of 29 PGA tournaments, was inducted



into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame in June. After graduating from then-Kennesaw Junior College, he turned professional the following year and won 10 tournaments including three majors — the 1981 and 1987 PGA Championships and the 1983 U.S. Open — over a 23-year span. He also played on the 1979, 1981 and 1987 U.S. Ryder Cup teams. In 1997, Nelson joined the Champions Tour (formerly the Senior Tour) and won 19 tournaments. He was selected Senior Player of the Year in 2000 after winning \$2.7 million — the second-highest season total on the tour. Nelson was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2006.

KSU Sports Teams Compete for Division 1 Championships

After successfully completing a mandatory four-year reclassification period, all KSU intercollegiate athletics programs competed in their first full-fledged NCAA Division I season this year. KSU switched from NCAA Division II to Division I in 2005, so the Owls were not eligible for Atlantic Sun Conference postseason play or NCAA tournaments until the 2009-10 season. This year's volleyball, softball, women's tennis and men's and women's basketball teams participated in A-Sun tournaments for the first time and the women's soccer team, which transitioned to Division I earlier, made its second NCAA national tournament. Additionally, senior high jumper Jerome McKinzie qualified for the NCAA national indoor and outdoor track competitions and golfer Jeff Karlsson finished eighth in the final round of the NCAA men's golf southeast region championship.

KSU Teams Finish First, Second in Atlantic Sun Conference All-Sports Race

Kennesaw State's women's athletics claimed the Atlantic Sun Conference's Sherman Day trophy for the first time in school history. The Owls garnered the women's all-sports title by winning the regular season and tournament championships in women's soccer and by finishing solidly in other sports, including three runner-up finishes by the track and field and cross-country teams and a second place finish in women's golf.

The men's sports programs finished second to East Tennessee State for the Bill Bibb men's all-sports trophy, riding the momentum of three conference championships won by the track and field teams and the cross country squad.

Magazine features KSU cross-country team

The Kennesaw State cross-country team is featured in the September issue of *Running Times*. The monthly magazine showcases the Owls cross-country program from its beginnings in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to its successful Division II days to the conference

championship teams of the Division I era. The story features interviews with KSU Athletics Director Dave Waples, head coach Stan Sims, former coach David Poteet and student-athletes Nathan Haskins, Erin Sutton and Mackenzie Howe.



Becks' Big

By Neil B. McGahee

Rebecca Hall Nolin, one of the top players in Kennesaw State soccer history earned a spot on the 2010 Atlanta Beat roster, the first KSU student-athlete to play at the top echelon of professional soccer after college. And if that wasn't enough, she scored the Beat's first-ever goal in the third game of the season.

Nolin, a four-year starter and team captain from Windsor, England, was an all conference defender from 2003 to 2006 and a member of the Owls 2003 National Championship team. In July she returned to KSU as an assistant coach.

"I had always dreamt of playing professionally," Nolin said. "But things didn't look very promising for women's soccer. I was a nobody in England – I had never played on an international team – and the professional teams in the U.S. were just beginning so I jumped at the chance to come to KSU. I learned so much about soccer and life here at KSU thanks to coach Rob King, who opened so many doors for me. There isn't a coach in college who takes such a caring interest in his players and their futures."

After graduating in 2006 with a bachelor's in sports management, Nolin, who prefers her nickname, "Becks," began playing for the Atlanta Silverbacks of the developmental W-League. After a very successful 2009 season,

Rebecca Nolin is KSU's first professional soccer player.

Break

Former Owls soccer star makes Atlanta Beat history

King encouraged Nolin to attend a Women's Professional Soccer League combine, where her impressive play earned an invitation to the Beat's training camp and eventually a spot on the 22-player roster of the newly launched team, which plays at the KSU Soccer Stadium.

"I wasn't planning to go to the combine," she said. "It was all the way down in Tampa and I didn't think I had much of a chance, but coach King and some of the Silverback coaches kept insisting that I would make it. The more they said it, the more I believed them, so off I went."

It is a good thing she believed. Nolin made history on May 29 when she scored the Atlanta Beat's first-ever goal at the KSU Soccer Stadium against the Tampa Bay Hellenic. With less than a minute to play, Beat teammate Shelley Thompson headed a shot that was deflected by the Tampa Bay goalkeeper. The rebound went directly to Nolin, who headed it into the back of the net tying the game.

"I couldn't be more happy for Rebecca," King said. "It is very fitting that one of our former players score the first goal for the Atlanta Beat in the new stadium."

While Kennesaw State and King helped her pursue her dream of playing soccer professionally, Nolin realized an added benefit from attending KSU. A teammate, Mandy Nolin, introduced Rebecca to her brother. The couple married in 2008. **K**



Nolin, left, was an Atlantic Sun all-conference selection her senior year.



Kennesaw State students were invited to bring their best "props, friends and characters" and pose for photos that "capture the personality of KSU."

1980s

Leigh Colburn (Education '87), principal of Marietta High School, was named Northwest Georgia Woman of the Year by the YWCA at its annual Tribute to Women of Achievement. She and her husband, Charles, live in Marietta.

Dale Gaddis (Social Science Education '84) was one of three finalists for the Douglas County School System's superintendent position. Gaddis has been with the Cobb County School District since 1983 and has been the district No. 2 superintendent since 2002. He and his wife, Angela, live in Marietta.

Tim Sullivan (Data Processing '87) is running for the district No. 4 House seat in Gwinnett County in the Georgia Republican primary. He has more than 25 years of management experience and currently resides in Buford.

Mary Ansley Southerland (Economics and Finance '89), president and co-owner of W.D. Little Mortgage Co., was inducted into the Academy of Women Leaders at the YWCA's annual Tribute to Women of Achievement. She lives in Marietta with her husband, James.

1990s

C. Ross Berry (M.B.A. '97), CEO of Solaris Heart & Vascular, received the American College of Cardiovascular Administrators' 2010 Award of Excellence. He lives in Kennesaw with his wife, Julie.

Jason Fields (Social Science Education '99 and M.Ed. Educational Leadership '09) was awarded the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) teacher at Paulding County High School, where he teaches honors macroeconomics. He lives in Dallas, Ga.

Barbara Miller (Early Childhood '93 and M.Ed. Early Childhood '02) was named a Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) teacher for the Paulding School District for the third time. She teaches math at East Paulding High School and lives with her husband, Allen, in Marietta.

Michelle Munda (Psychology '93) earned membership in the Coldwell Banker International Diamond Society for her sales performance in 2009. She lives in Griffin.

William "Doug" Roach (English '99) of Douglasville was recently named account manager for TBB Global Logistics.

Ronny Sibley (M.P.A. '99) is running for office in House district No. 19 in Paulding County. He currently lives in Hiram.

Beth Scott (Early Childhood Education '92) was featured in the Lifestyle section of the *Marietta Daily Journal* showcasing one of her recipes. Beth lives in Marietta with her husband, David.

Dr. Greg Simone (M.B.A. '97), former president and CEO of WellStar Health System, was honored with the Servant Leader award at the annual Celebrating Stardom dinner hosted by MUST Ministries. He and his wife, Therese, live in Marietta.

James "Russ" Vickers (Marketing and Professional Sales '92) is the minister at the Middle Fayette Church of Christ and is launching a weekly feature in the *Fayette Daily News* called "Let the Bible Speak." He lives in Fayetteville with his wife, Jessica, and son Bryan.

2000s

Jessica Blinkhorn (Art '05) was honored at a film festival in Toronto for the film "Grounded by Reality," which depicts her everyday struggles living with spinal muscular atrophy. She lives in Marietta.

Brittney Bottoms (Exercise and Health Science '04) was named one of the "20 Rising Stars Under 40" in the March edition of *Cobb Life* magazine. She coaches figure skating in Kennesaw and Marietta and is a member of the U.S. Figure Skating Association executive board. She is married to David Bottoms and they live in Marietta.

Dr. Ralph Caruana (M.B.A. '01) was named associate dean for clinical affairs at the University of Central Florida. He lives in Maitland, Fla.

Carolyn Chucci (Nursing '04) was nominated for a nursing excellence award at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* annual Celebrating Nurses event and was one of 10 "Angels Among Us" winners. She lives in Loganville.

Chris Gilligan (Information Systems '06) was elected president of the Bennett Thrasher Foundation board. Bennett Thrasher is a public accounting and consulting firm in the Atlanta area. Gilligan lives in Woodstock.

Juliet Voccio (Marketing '04) **and Logan Henderson** (Marketing '05) were married in April in Rome, Ga. They met when they were members of the Kennesaw Marketing Association. Logan works for Wells Fargo and Juliet handles brand marketing for Newell Rubbermaid.

Michael G. Johnson (M.B.A. '00) was named regional vice president for John Hancock Retirement Plan Services. He is responsible for the company's sales and sales support in the greater Atlanta region. He lives in Atlanta.



Submit information for Alumni Notes to the KSU Alumni Association at ksualumni@kennesaw.edu or to the following address:

Office of Alumni Affairs
Attn: Class Notes
Kennesaw State University,
1000 Chastain Road
MD 5600, House 56
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Katherine L. Knudsen (Political Science '07) won the Mississippi Bar Award from the Mississippi College School of Law. The award is given to a student who has excelled academically and shown promise in the area of litigation.

Judith A. Lukjan (M.B.A. '01), clinical research program manager for Covidien, was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who, an executive networking agency, for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in management. She lives in Boulder, Colo.

Cherie K. Miller (M.A.P.W. '07) was nominated for the Georgia Writers Association's Georgia Author of the Year award for her book "BackWords: A backwards word list for gamers." She works at Kennesaw State University and lives in Acworth with her husband, Stephen.

Patrick Sheehan (Management '05) was promoted to planning supervisor at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Cheryl, and son Liam.

Daniel Stout (Marketing '05) is running for the House district No. 19 seat in Paulding County. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Kelly, and 9-year-old daughter Libby.

Rob Schumann (Music '05) joined East Side Baptist Church as the minister of music. He is married to **Tunrade Schumann** (Music '09) and they live in Paragould, Ariz. with their son Xander and are expecting a daughter in September.

Mary J. York (Communication '04), was promoted to senior account agent by William Mills Agency, the nation's largest financial and technology public relations firm. During her four years at the agency, she has successfully managed campaigns for clients in insurance and retail. She lives in Kennesaw.

Curvy Girl Carves Fashion Future

Shunned by Elle and Vogue, KSU alum leads curvy girls through world of high fashion

By Sabbaye McGriff

What's a budding fashionista who has been plus-sized since age 12 to do when she is being ignored by the mainstream fashion media?

For Chastity Garner, the answer was clear – create your own niche and help thousands of other women in the process. “The Curvy Girl’s Guide to Style,” the online blog she launched in 2008, has attracted some 40,000 hits, about 30,000 followers on Facebook and another 500 on Twitter. Orders for her new book by the same title – published in spring 2010 – also are beginning to pour in.

“There is definitely a [news and information] market out there for the over-size-14 woman who wants to look stylish and wear high-end fashion,” says Garner, who earned a bachelor’s in political science in 2004 and a master’s in public administration in 2007 from KSU.

Garner’s foray into the world of high fashion began in 2005, when she became a signature plus-size model for Atlanta-based Jibri, a design firm specializing in street couture for the fashion-conscious, curvy woman.

For a self-described fashionista, modeling was always more about the clothes than the modeling, says Garner, whose runway career ended abruptly following a knee injury. To keep herself in the fashion world, Garner launched Garner Style, an image consulting service for plus-sized women and started

her blog. She also blogs for Examiner.com in Dallas, Texas, where she now lives.

“I didn’t go into either of my major fields,” she says, “but my KSU education was definitely a plus because it contributed to my thinking outside the box and honing my writing skills. I just followed my passion.” **K**

Chastity Garner authors “The Curvy Girl’s Guide to Style” blog.

Follow Garner’s blog at <http://garnerstyle.blogspot.com/>



Engaging Alumni

By Jennifer Hafer

Linda Caldwell, a 1997 M.B.A. graduate, is the new president of the KSU Alumni Association (KSUAA). Caldwell, an audit officer with WellStar Health Systems, talks about the rewards of being an alumni association member.

KSU Magazine: What are the benefits of being a member of the KSUAA?

Caldwell: Active alumni benefit from relationships they build through a variety of artistic, academic and athletic activities for alumni, especially having fun supporting football if it comes to KSU.

KSU Magazine: What is your goal as the president of the alumni association?

Caldwell: My goal is to engage more alumni and increase the number of alumni giving back to KSU.

KSU Magazine: What are some challenges you foresee in your new role as president of the KSUAA?

Caldwell: Time is always a challenge. For many years KSU didn’t offer the traditional student experience so we don’t have the traditional culture of giving. KSU is a very young university



Linda Caldwell, new KSU Alumni Association president

and is a much younger institution than other metro Atlanta universities.

KSU Magazine: What are the top five reasons alumni should join and/or be active in the association?

- Caldwell:**
- 1) To build relationships with one another and develop networking opportunities
 - 2) To take part in a variety of concerts and athletics events
 - 3) To gain access and enjoy fabulous food on campus at Cobb’s No. 1 restaurant, The Commons
 - 4) To increase the value of their degrees by helping KSU to become an even greater university and
 - 5) To help strengthen our communities by supporting KSU’s efforts to equip our future work force and community leaders with tools for success.

KSU Magazine: What is the alumni association’s role in the future of KSU?

Caldwell: The alumni association will strive to communicate with alumni and with communities at large to tell the many success stories of KSU. These stories should be repeated in a variety of forms and venues until alumni and our communities are aware of the positive impact KSU has had on our communities. **K**



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