AASU Captures 2007 Peach Belt Conference Presidents’ Academic Award

Armstrong Atlantic has captured the 2007 Peach Belt Conference Presidents’ Academic Award, announced by the league at its annual meeting in Hilton Head in May. The award, which recognizes excellence in academics for all of an institution’s student-athletes, went to the Pirates for the second consecutive year.

This spring, the Peach Belt asked each of the league’s 12 members to submit an undergraduate student body average GPA and a student-athlete average GPA for the academic year. These two numbers were then used to create a ratio for each school. The award is given to the school with the highest ratio. As a whole, Armstrong Atlantic student-athletes carried a 2.97 GPA for the 2006-07 academic year, including the spring semester in which the entire athletic department’s GPA was above a 3.00.

“I am extremely proud of our student athletes for their academic accomplishments,” said President Thomas Z. Jones, who also served as the president of the PBC Executive Committee for the 2006-07 academic year. “To be recognized by the Peach Belt Conference for the second consecutive year for outstanding academic achievement is a tribute to our student-athletes, their coaches, and the entire athletic department staff.”

AASU Announces Renovation Plans for Theaters

Armstrong Atlantic will soon renovate Jenkins Hall, the home of Armstrong Atlantic’s theatre program, and Fine Arts Auditorium. These two facilities annually welcome more than 20,000 visitors to the AASU campus. The work will begin in September 2007.

Benefiting from $5 million in funding provided by the University System of Georgia (USG) through a minor capital improvement project budget line, AASU is able to upgrade its principal arts and entertainment performance venues. This upgrade will serve to meet academic needs of growing undergraduate programs in music and theatre while improving the university’s ability to serve the performance space needs of many organizations within the community.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ed Wheeler chairs the university’s advisory committee offering institutional guidance to the architectural vision of the project. According to Wheeler, “Renovation of Jenkins Hall will commence in September and continue through its completion in August 2008. To minimize the simultaneous disruption of both performance facilities during their most intense periods of activity, Fine Arts Auditorium renovation will begin in April and continue through Summer 2008.”

In both buildings, the renovation plan addresses the existing facilities operational needs through equipment upgrades and repair/replacement contingencies. The plan also increases square footage in Jenkins Hall by adding a rear addition that will house an expanded scene design shop, paint shop, and costume shop, enhancing the theatre program’s ability to develop sophisticated costume and set design.

Seating replacement, acoustical adjustments, wall and floor finishing replacement, and lighting system upgrades will occur in both venues.
Professors, Students Participate in 2007 Savannah Asian Festival

The Telfair Museum of Art presented artist Pang-Chieh Hsu in a series of workshops and a site-specific installation at Telfair's Jepson Center for the Arts during the week of the Savannah Asian Festival. Hsu, a professor of art in painting and drawing at Armstrong Atlantic, is a native of Taiwan and holds his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts.

Hsu is noted for his meticulous realist paintings and drawings including recent works that depict stacks of papers made to resemble ancient money and burned to the ancestors. The Jepson Center piece, aptly titled Lotus Flowers, is reflective of Buddhist philosophy and consists of 108 three-dimensional origami lotus flowers arranged in lantern-shaped cubes.

Also participating in the festival were Angela Horne, assistant professor of art, and her 19 students in a corporate logo design and identity class. The City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs invited area art students to participate in a contest to create a logo for the 12-year-old festival. Horne's students welcomed the challenge and worked on the project toward the end of the semester. Three finalists were chosen; Chris Gibson, Jennifer Incorvaia, and Joey Merchant presented their designs to the Savannah City Council on June 7. The winner, Jennifer Incorvaia, CIS, a fine arts senior pursuing a degree in graphic and electronic design, was announced at the opening ceremony of this year's festival. The logo will become the graphic identity for the festival, adorning T-shirts, posters, brochures, and other promotional materials beginning next year.

AASU Study Abroad Students Help Orphans while in Mexico

Bill Deaver, languages, literature and philosophy, led 19 students to Mexico as part of the AASU study abroad program. During a service project at the Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos Orphanage, he and the students served 130 orphans ham and cheese sandwiches, chips, and fruit drinks. The sandwiches were a special treat requested by the orphanage since the children rarely get to eat meat and cheese. They have meat once a week and fish every eight weeks. For the most part, they eat cereal, tortillas, rice, beans, and eggs. The children also received board games and piñatas from the Armstrong Atlantic students.
AASU Bookstore Shows Support for Virginia Tech
The staff and students of the AASU bookstore sent a university hooded sweatshirt to the bookstore on the Virginia Tech campus. The sweatshirt was sent along with a note of support for healing and peace after the recent shootings at Virginia Tech.

Elderhostelers Taste Small Town Life at the Vidalia Onion Festival
The AASU Elderhostel office sponsored a program during the weekend of the Vidalia Onion Festival. Twenty-six participants learned how the Vidalia onion took root and sampled the local flavor. Experts at the Vidalia Onion Research Center and the Pecan Orchard Plantation explained how onions are farmed and invited the hostelers to pick their own onions. The group sampled the local flavor at the Vidalia Onion Cook-Off as area chefs displayed their culinary skills. They attended a street dance, watched the air show, and a rodeo. The program participants were also able to experience the early days of Vidalia on the historic Pal Theater big screen by viewing pictures and home movies from the 1800s through the 1960s.

You Made Someone Smile
Human resources reports that the following employees were nominated for “You Made Someone Smile.” For more information about this program, contact human resources at 927.5267.
Rebecca Jones – Graduate Studies
Brenda Logan – College of Education
La Trelle Rogers – Business & Finance
Ed Strausser – College of Education
Laura Sherman – Admissions
Amanda Thomas – Registrar
Kelly Tippy – Student Affairs

Welcome Aboard
Phouttharath “Jill” Phongsavong – University Relations

Kudos
Congratulations to the following staff members who were elected to the 2007-2008 Staff Advisory Council: Scott Gilreath, chair, Brian Dawsey, vice chair, and Fern Illidge, secretary.

Doug Frazier and Ann Fuller, Lane Library, delivered a presentation, “Inventorying and Shelf Reading the Collection with Voyager” at the GIL Users Group meeting, Ft. Valley State University, in May.
Bill Deaver, languages, literature and philosophy, had his article on Mexican poet Marcela del Rio, “Cara y cruz el la poesia del Marcela del Rio,” accepted for publication in Romance Notes.


Lindsey Long, Kelly Hinton, Shante Breitenbach, undergraduate students, and Jonathan Roberts, psychology, presented a poster, “Relations Among Finger Length Ratios, Mental Rotation Task Performance, and Self-perceived Masculinity/Femininity,” at the annual conference of the American Psychological Science in Washington, D.C. in May. During the same conference, Roberts and John Kraft, psychology, presented two posters, “Online Test in Introductory Psychology Course Leads to an Increase in ‘Quitters’,” and “Rateynprofessors.com: Should We Give It a Chili Pepper for Accuracy?”


Aziz was the guest editor for Volume 19, Number 11, of Advance for Medical Laboratory Professionals.


Ray Hashemi, computer science, Lewis Le Blanc, Berry College, Mahmood Bahar, University of Mofatteh, and Bryan Traywick, graduate student, presented “Profiling the Potential Donors to a Non-Profit Organization,” at the 2007 International Conference on Information and Knowledge Engineering (IKE’07), held in Las Vegas in June. The paper was accepted for publication.


John Talburt, Ning Ning Wu, and Elizabeth Pierce, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Hashemi, presented “Entity Identification Using Indexed Entity Catalogs,” at IKE’07. The paper was accepted for publication.

Ray Hashemi served as vice-chair at IKE’07, and served as a member of the program committees for the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, the 2007 International Conference on Genetic and Evolutionary Methods, the 2007 International Conference on Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, and the 2007 International Conference on Image Processing and Pattern Recognition, in Las Vegas in June.

Hashemi will also serve as a program committee member at the 2007 International Conference on Software Engineering Research and Practice, in Silicon Valley in July.

Azita Bahrami, information technology, and Clinton Carey, graduate student, had “Ontology-Based Identification of Explicit and Implicit Metadata Terms” accepted for publication in the 2007 International Conference on e-Learning, e-Business, Enterprise Information Systems, and e-Government (EEE’07), in Las Vegas in June.
Bahrami served as vice chair at EEE'07; vice chair of the 2007 International Conference on Internet Computing, and program committee member of the following international conferences: 2007 International Conference on Wireless Networks, 2007 Semantic Web and Web Services, 2007 International Conference on Foundations of Computer Science, and the ICCS'07, all held in Las Vegas in June.

Ray Bahrami will also serve as a program committee member at the First International Workshop on Software Architecture Research and Practice to be held in Silicon Valley, and as an editorial board member of the 2007 International Conference on Conceptual Structures, Sheffield, Great Britain, during July.

Wayne Johnson and Priya Thamburaj Goesser, engineering studies program, co-authored a paper, “Intra-disciplinary Teaching in the Engineering Studies Curriculum: Applying Numerical Modeling Techniques to Static’s Problems,” that was accepted for presentation and publication at the 2007 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Conference and Exposition.

Cameron Coates, engineering studies, and Johnson wrote a paper, “Pushing the Limit: Exposure of High School Seniors to Engineering Research, Design, and Communication,” that was accepted for presentation and publication at the 2007 ASEE Conference and Exposition.

The Annual Talented Researchers in Engineering program for high school students was held in June. The program involved 16 local high school students, and the following AASU faculty: Coates, Johnson, and Goesser, Chris McCarthy, computer science, and Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas, art, music & theatre. The Georgia Space Grant Consortium sponsored this program for high school students.

Coates, Camille Coates-Clark, M.D., and Mykal Woody, Savannah State University undergraduate student, submitted a paper, “Post Healing Structural Response of an Internal Fixation System for a Mid-shaft Radius Fracture,” to the biomedical applications section of the 2007 American Society of Medical Engineers’ International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition to be held in November in Seattle.

Coates, and Darryl Daniels, computer science undergraduate, hosted a robotics workshop for middle and elementary school teachers during June that was funded by the Georgia Space Grant Consortium.

Calendar of Events

July 1
Savannah Winds, the community wind symphony, honors America, her service men and women, and veterans of the United States armed forces in the popular Annual Patriotic Concert in the Fine Arts Auditorium at 3 p.m. This concert features senior military personnel, Air National Guard color guard, and Veteran of the Year honors.

July 2-13
Advance web registration

July 2-6
Advance advisement by appointment only

July 4
Holiday – Independence Day
July 5
First day of classes (Session D)

July 5-8
Art, music & theatre presents Maxwell Anderson’s psycho thriller play *The Bad Seed*, 7:30 p.m., (3 p.m. on Sunday, July 8), Jenkins Theater

July 11-14
Art, music & theatre presents Mo Gaffney and Kathy Anima’s 1989 sketch comedy piece *Parallel Lives*, 7:30 p.m., (3 p.m. on Sunday, July 14), in the Jenkins Black Box Theater

July 13
Navigate Armstrong, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., begins in the Fine Arts Auditorium

July 14
SAT On-Campus, admission test for students attending AASU, Solms Hall 110

Art, music & theatre-sponsored Dance Conference, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium. For more information, contact Mario Incorvaia at 927.5325 or incorvma@mail.armstrong.edu.

July 15
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) meeting, 2-6 p.m., Sports Center 223, 225, and 226. NAMI is a non-profit organization educating the general public about mental illnesses and coping strategies. For more information, contact Charlie Parrish at 921.5685 or Charles.Parrish@armstrong.edu.

July 16
Last day of classes (Session B)

July 18-21
Art, music & theatre presents Mo Gaffney and Kathy Najimy’s 1989 sketch comedy piece *Parallel Lives*, 7:30 p.m., (3 p.m. on Sunday, July 14), in the Jenkins Black Box Theater

July 24
Navigate Armstrong for non-traditional/transfer student orientation, 2:30-6 p.m., University Hall 156

July 25
Last day of classes (Session A)

July 26-29
Art, music & theatre presents the classic dark comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*, 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m., Sunday, July 29), Jenkins Theater

**AASU In the News**
Following are some of the top stories appearing in print and broadcast media in June. For more details on these and other stories, contact Francisco Duque in University Relations at 961.3173 or Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.

6/1 Jordan Gray is helping to save the Diamondback Terrapin.
*SOUTH Magazine*
6/1 Savannah's barbershop singing quartet, The Thirteenth Colony Sound, offers two, $1,000 scholarships for AASU music students.  
-South Magazine

6/1 AASU may soon get its first National Latino fraternity.  
-La Voz Latina

6/1 AASU Engineering students designed and built robots as a semester-long project.  
-Coastal Family

6/4 Doug Frazier has been named university librarian of the Lane Library.  
-Business Report & Journal

6/6 AASU tennis player, Iuliia Stupak was named as the top-ranked singles and doubles player in the NCAA Division II, earning All-American honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.  
-Savannah Morning News

6/7 AASU’s performing arts centers to undergo a $5 million renovation  
-Savannah Morning News

6/8 AASU sports webcasting, launched in 2001, brings untelevised games to loyal fans.  
-The Chronicle of Higher Education

6/9 William Daugherty writes an editorial about the Iran and U.S. meeting.  
-Savannah Morning News

6/13 AASU senior, Jasmine Herron, selected to attend nationwide leadership program  
-Savannah Herald

6/13 AASU professor Pang-Chieh Hsu will create 108 origami lotus flowers arranged in lantern-shaped cubes for the 12th Annual Asian Festival.  
-Connect Savannah

6/14 AASU student, Chris Nowicki, returns from an appearance on ‘The Price is Right’ with $10,000 in prizes.  
-Savannah Morning News

6/15 Students get technical at the Savannah Engineering Academy.  
-Savannah Morning News

6/15 AASU will host a culinary and cultural trip to Siena, Italy November 4-11.  
-Savannah Morning News

6/20 A delay in renovations gives AASU a surprise summer theatre season.  
-Connect Savannah  
Also, Savannah Morning News-6/21

6/22 AASU hosts 16 top high school students during the Talented Researcher in Engineering program.  
-Savannah Morning News
University system electronic news sources
Take advantage of the range of informational publications published online by the University System of Georgia (USG).

- For news of both the university system office and individual campuses, read the monthly *System Supplement*: [www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/](http://www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/).
- Value Added–USG Serves Georgia focuses on how the university system and its campuses are serving Georgia and local communities. To read this monthly publication, go to: [www.usg.edu/pubs/value/](http://www.usg.edu/pubs/value/).
- *Linkages* reports news of the university system and provides hot links to related source materials: [www.usg.edu/linkages/](http://www.usg.edu/linkages/).

The submission deadline for the August issue of *eArmstrong* is July 16.

Please send submissions to AASU.news@armstrong.edu.

*For more information contact Barry Ostrow in the Office of University Relations at 927.5223 or Barry.Ostrow@armstrong.edu.*