
Tennis Teams Take NCAA Championships

The Armstrong Atlantic men’s women’s tennis teams both won NCAA Division II National Championships in Houston on May 17. The titles are the second and third for head coach Simon Earnshaw. He won his first title in 2005 with the Lady Pirates.

The women’s tennis team won their fourth NCAA Division II National Championship with a 5-2 victory over Lynn University at the Memorial Park Tennis Center.

Undefeated all-season long, the Pirates clinched their first men’s tennis national championship with a 5-0 victory over No. 5-ranked Barry University.

The wins gave AASU a rare double, winning the men’s and women’s tennis crowns in the same season for the first time since BYU-Hawaii accomplished the feat in 2003.

The team arrived at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport on May 17 to a hero’s welcome by a sign-and-banner waving crowd of 50 to 100 cheering supporters.
Wheeler Departs AASU

Two decades after arriving at Armstrong State College, Ed Wheeler, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, is taking up a new challenge as interim academic officer at Gordon College. Gordon is a two-year University System of Georgia institution located in Barnesville, about one hour south of Atlanta in middle Georgia. Wheeler’s distinguished service to the university has included stints as head of the mathematics department and interim vice president for academic affairs.

In the College of Arts and Sciences newsletter, Wheeler wrote, “Please know that I leave the Armstrong community with a complex mixture of sorrow, pride, and overwhelming gratitude. A quick glance at the Armstrong directory finds that I have had a small part in hiring over one hundred members of the current Armstrong faculty, including department heads, vice presidents, a president, and more than one assistant dean. More importantly, I have had the opportunity at one time or another to join almost all members of Armstrong community in some important effort. It has been my pleasure to work with faculty from across the colleges and staff members from across the university on projects and programs that have advanced the interests of the university, reached out to the community, and/or, most importantly, improved the learning experiences of Armstrong students. In leaving my academic community of twenty-one years I carry with me many treasures; in each case the treasure is a memory of good work done with good colleagues.”

Wheeler notes that a very strong motivating factor in his move was the proximity to his granddaughter, Natalie Claire Toppen who is now a little more than a year old.

More than Six Hundred Thirty Graduate

More than 630 graduate and undergraduate students received their diplomas at the Savannah Civic Center on May 4.

Faculty Senate Moves Forward

The evolution from executive committee to senate leadership is under way for the faculty. Kevin Hampton, art, music & theatre (president), Delana Nivens, chemistry (vice president), and Jewell Anderson, library (secretary) are working on their first order of business: building a senate structure from the ground up. Senators and senate committees have been elected and are doing their work over the summer.

Work continues toward establishing senate operations and standing faculty committees for the senate’s fall debut, with the generous assistance of outgoing Executive Committee Vice Chair Mike Toma, economics, and the efforts of the newly elected Senate Steering Committee.
More Than $700,000 in Grants Awarded to ETTC Collaborative Schools

The Educational Technology Training Center (ETTC)), in collaboration with eight area schools, was recently awarded more than $700,000 in federal grant funds as part of the Title II D Teachers, Teamwork, and Technology Competitive Grants for the fiscal year 2008. Wendy Marshall serves as the ETTC director.

These grants will address a statewide initiative to improve instruction to meet the needs of the 21st century student and impact overall student achievement. The grant recipients from the Armstrong Atlantic State University ETTC are: Charlton County High School; Glynn Academy in Brunswick; McIntosh County Academy; Long County High School; Liberty County High School; West Chatham Elementary School in Pooler; Coastal Middle School in Savannah; and Windsor Forest High School in Savannah.

Each school will receive $93,592 to implement up-to-date learning environments in a minimum of four classrooms and a media center. In addition, the ETTC staff will provide 100 hours of professional development for all grant recipients, as well as 100 hours of in-classroom support for the grant teachers over the next two years. Each school will also receive 30 laptop computers.

Campus Traffic Changes Begun

Several changes in the traffic flow from Abercorn Street are in the works. First, the Burnett Hall entrance was permanently closed Tuesday, May 13, 2008. In addition, by summer’s end, an opening in the Abercorn Street divider and a traffic light will enable traffic to more easily enter and exit the campus at Arts Drive.

Kudos

Three members of the Armstrong Atlantic family have received the national Jefferson Awards for Public Service. They are: Chris Nowicki, Student Government Association senator; Patricia Coberly, associate professor and program director of special and adult education; and Chris McCarthy, an instructional technology support specialist in the School of Computing. The three were honored for their commitment to volunteerism.

Nowicki, a junior, will represent AASU during a national award ceremony hosted by the Jefferson Awards on June 17 in Washington D.C.

George Davies, physical therapy, has been selected as the Switzer lecturer for the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions annual meeting this coming October. Davies will deliver a special luncheon lecture at the national meeting as one of the plenary speakers.

Thomas Cooksey, languages, literature & philosophy, presented a paper, “The Man of the Day to Follow: Sundiata and the Living Epic,” in April at the national conference of the American Comparative Literature Association, hosted by Long Beach State University.

Ned Rinalducci, criminal justice, social & political science, was named the AASU Professor of the Year by the Savannah State University/Armstrong Atlantic State University Naval ROTC Program.
Mark Budden, mathematics, received National Science Foundation-funded grant from the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics at Brigham Young University for the 2008-2009 academic year. The grant will support the establishment of an undergraduate research group on rational reciprocity laws. Students Kristin Ellis and Stephen Savioli comprise the group.

Leigh Rich, health science, and Jack Simmons, languages, literature & philosophy, presented their joint research paper: “Demonized Women and Emasculated Men,” at the South Eastern Women’s Studies Association conference in Charlotte, NC.


Eric Werner, chemistry & physics, presented a poster, “Effects of a triazacyclononane ligand cap on hydroxypyridonate Gd(III) complexes as high-relaxivity MRI contrast agents” at the 235th national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans. Co-authors included Ankona Datta, Jason D. Pierce, and Kenneth N. Raymond of the University of California, Berkeley, and Mauro Botta and Silvio Aime of the University of Turin, Italy.

Jonathan Roberts and Steve Taylor, psychology, Judy Awong-Taylor, biology, Linda O’Hara Long, psychology student, and Julie S. Webb, biology student, presented “CfoI polymorphisms in a nicotinic receptor subunit gene (CHRNA4) and mental rotation task performance,” at the meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists in Spartanburg.

Alex Collier and Brett Larson, biology, Steve Taylor, psychology, and Christina Bronk, biology student, presented “Predation stress impacts tadpole behavior, growth, and overall size at metamorphosis,” at the meeting of Association of Southeastern Biologists in Spartanburg. The four also presented, “The impact of predation stress by largemouth bass (Micropterus salmoides) on the growth of leopard frog tadpoles (Rana sphenocephala).”

Christy Mroczek, languages, literature & philosophy, presented “The Ethos of Activism in Online Communities” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New Orleans.

Wendy Wolfe, psychology, and co-authors have published “Student Client Satisfaction with Tele-psychiatry Support at a Rural University Counseling Center” in Telemedicine and E-Health.

Richard Wallace, chemistry, presented “Edible and Ornamental Banana Research In Georgia” at the Finnish Museum of Natural History at the University of Helsinki in May.

June Hopkins, Monica Hunt, history, and Leslie Sanders, the Skidaway Community Institute, led a discussion of No Ordinary Time by Doris Kearns Goodwin for the Skidaway Bookends Committee. More than 100 people attended and later participated in the small group discussion sessions.

Melody Rodriguez, HOLA, was featured in the LULAC National Newsletter for being named of one Georgia’s top 40 Under 40 in Georgia Trend magazine.

Richard J. Cebula, economics, has co-authored five papers with AASU economics majors. The papers have been accepted for publication in refereed scholarly journals:


Cebula also presented a speech to the Georgia Chapter of the Mortgage Banks Association on “The Housing Crisis and the Economy.”

Felix Hamza-Lup presented a paper, “Haptics and Extensible 3D in Web-Based Environments for e-Learning and Simulation,” at the 4th International Conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies, in May at Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Hamza-Lup was the main speaker at the Virtual Reality Application in Medicine Workshop organized at the University of South Bohemia in May in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

Hamza-Lup's paper, “Online External Beam Radiation Planning and Training,” has been accepted for publication at the Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery 22nd International Congress and Exhibition this month in Barcelona, Spain.

As part of the conference committee, Hamza-Lup has served as a reviewer for the IEEE and ACM International Symposium on Mixed and Augmented Reality - ISMAR 2008 to be held in Cambridge, UK in September.

Three AASU art students swept the collegiate level prizes at the recent 2008 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) poster competition held at the Savannah Trade and Convention Center. Kenneth Bruzenak received the first place award and a $1,500 Hannah Oesterheld and Alicia Perez, received second prize ($1,000) and third prize ($500), respectively. All three winners are students of painting and drawing professor Pang-Chieh Hsu.

Psychology student presenters at the Carolinas Psychology Conference in April included Sarah Bodley, Jacob Hammer, Teneka Miles, Sarah Rice, and Daniella Ward.
Welcome Aboard
Zellah Russeff, Registrar & Admissions

Calendar

June 2
Registration Day (summer 2008 - all sessions)

June 3
First day of classes, Sessions A & C
SGA sponsored American Red Cross blood drive, 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

June 7
Navigate AASU

June 16
Midterm, Session C

June 19
First day of classes, Session B

June 19-22
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents T Bone N Weasel by Jon Klein at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. only on June 22) in the Masquers Chinese Theater. Limited seating; advance ticketing is highly recommended. General admission is $10. Audience discretion is advised. Not recommended for children. Call 344.2801 for information.

June 21
Navigate AASU

June 23 to July 2
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre Summer Arts Camp for children ages seven through 14. AASU holds this creative multidiscipline arts camp in Fine Arts Hall weekdays from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the first week, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the second week. Grand Finale Event on the evening of July 2. Free admission to Grand Finale Event. Call 344.2556 for participation information.

June 26-29
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents T Bone N Weasel by Jon Klein at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. only on June 29) in the Masquers Chinese Theater. Limited seating; advance ticketing is highly recommended. General admission is $10. Audience discretion is advised. Not recommended for children. Call 344.2801 for information.

June 29
In celebration of U.S. independence, the Savannah Winds, community wind symphony in residence at AASU, honors America, her service men and women, and veterans of the United States armed forces with its highly popular annual patriotic concert in the Sports Center Arena at 3 p.m. This exciting concert features senior military personnel, Air National Guard color guard, and Veteran of the Year honors. Advance general admission tickets are $12; advance AASU employees with a valid AASU I.D. only $8. Call 344.2801 for additional ticketing information.

June 27
Midterm, Session A

June 30
Last Day of Class, Session C
Unrestricted AASU Foundation Funds Monthly Report

The Office of External Affairs reports the expenditure of unrestricted AASU Foundation funds requested by administration, faculty, staff, and community partners for various programs and projects that qualify for such support. Unrestricted funds are those given to the foundation to enable the university to support worthy academic, student and community programs and projects for which state funds cannot be used. They are also used to supplement existing state funding to the university and to assist the university in raising additional money. Unrestricted funds are raised chiefly from the annual campaign, in particular the 3 Days for AASU fund drive in April, faculty/staff campaign in August, and the alumni phonathon in October and November.

Faculty Staff Appreciation Event $5,996
At the request of President Thomas Z. Jones

AASU Service Awards $6,199
At the request of Rebecca Carroll, Human Resources

Student Affairs $877
Reimbursement for travel by students representing recognized student organizations

Fine Arts Scholarship Stipends $600
Stipends for three students with lead roles in “La Traviata”
At the request of President Jones

Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce $600
CEO Council dues at the request of President Jones

Support for Vice President for Business & Finance Search $447
At the request of Vice President Ellen Whitford

Kappa Alpha Psi $150
Mark Clayton Golf Tournament at the request of Michael Snowden

AASU In the News

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

4/30 AASU archeology students participate in dig at Ogeechee Canal site
Connect Savannah

4/30 A review of The Masquers' Mr. Marmalade
Connect Savannah

5/2 AASU changes phone numbers
Savannah Morning News

5/3 AASU spring commencement
WTOC
Also, Savannah Morning News 5/4

5/3 School of Computing student Iyatiti Mokube earns Best Student Paper Award at regional conference
Savannah Morning News
Also Savannah Tribune 5/7
5/7 Camille Stern interviewed about nursing shortage
WTOC-TV

5/8 Department of Nursing hosts 60 local high school students
Savannah Morning News

5/3 ETTC collaborative schools receive $700,000 in grants
Savannah Daily News
Also Savannah Morning News 5/9

5/12 Entrance to campus off Abercorn is changing
Savannah Morning News
Also, WTOC-TV 5/14

5/14 Tennis teams head for national championship
Savannah Morning News

5/14 Senior awarded Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship
Savannah Tribune

5/18 Pirates sweep NCAA Tennis Titles
Savannah Morning News

5/20 Pirates players, coaches celebrated after winning national titles
WBMQ-AM, WTOC-TV
Also WTKS-AM 5/21

5/25 Former AASU professor Chris Schuberth dies at 75
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/.
- 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/.
- Linkages reports news of the university system and provides hot links to related source materials: www.usg.edu/linkages/.

The submission deadline for the July issue of eARMSTRONG is June 13.

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

For more information contact Barry Ostrow in the Office of University Relations at 344.2876 or Barry.Ostrow@armstrong.edu.