Old theater now one beautiful sensation

The ugly duckling is now one beautiful sensation.

From the moment visitors mount the steps of Jenkins Hall and encounter the new exterior box office—with its miniature columns mirroring the 1965 originals—it is apparent that changes have been made.

Upon entering the building, a beautiful mosaic tile wall of various shades of maroon and gold greets theatergoers. In fact, the muted maroon and gold hues run throughout the auditorium. Plush maroon seats are surrounded by an accent wall and carpeting in compatible geometric designs. All are vibrant under the new house lighting fixtures.

The former box office now serves as a greatly expanded audio control booth jammed with the latest equipment. The scene shop, green room, and dressing rooms have all been expanded. And, at last, the facility has a dedicated black box theater for smaller productions, built for that purpose.

One new feature is a television studio designed to give student actors practice working in front of cameras. Those with television production interests will, for the first time, have a chance to work behind the cameras.

Pete Mellen, who directs the theatre program, says the new venue is going to do wonders for it. "The patrons and the students are going to see better shows and the quality will be as different as day and night," Mellen said.

"Our students used to take pride in just surviving the building. Now prospective students will want to come study and perform here because of it."

With the renovation of Jenkins Hall Theater and Fine Arts Hall, comes a brand new custom at AASU: the opportunity to have your name permanently displayed on a brass plate on a theater seat in one of these beautiful venues. With your named seat, you are providing support for our undergraduate students of art, music, and theatre. In addition, you are supporting the AASU commitment to being a valuable resource for entertainment, arts, and educational events in the region.

Every time the curtain opens you will know that you are among the patrons who support a tradition that has been a part of Savannah’s cultural fabric since 1935.

THEATER SEAT NAMING

Jenkins Theater and Fine Arts Auditorium
Theater Seat $250  President’s Row $500

For more information
Please contact Laura Harris at 912.344.2600 or Laura.Harris@armstrong.edu.
Student Union rising

Gold shovels flashed in the noontime sun as the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Student Union took place September 23. The building, a 60,180 square foot, $16 million extension of the Memorial College Center, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.

The two-story building will become the hub of student activity with a 300-seat food court-style dining area, a 200-seat lecture hall/movie theater, and a ballroom. It will become the centerpiece of the campus and bridge the student residential areas and the academic buildings.

“This new facility will be a welcome addition to the university and a direct benefit to our students,” said AASU President Thomas Z. Jones. “Now that AASU is becoming more residential, it is of vital importance that we have adequate space on our campus for student activities and a gathering point for our many student organizations.”

The building is rising on the open space at the northeast corner of Library, Science, and University drives. It will also include a convenience store, a 5,700 square foot bookstore, a coffee shop, and office space for the Student Government Association, Campus Union Board, and the Office of Student Affairs. Outdoor features include porches, plazas for seating, and water fountains.

A $90 student fee approved by the Student Government Association and the University Fees Committee in 2007 is financing the project. No public funds are involved.

“This new student union is a student-driven project from conception to design,” said Vicki L. McNeil, vice president of student affairs. “Our student leaders are creating a special place where all students, faculty and staff can come together as a community.”

The new Student Union has the distinction of the being the first green building on campus. Energy-saving features include the use of rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo, and a high-efficiency chilled water system for cooling. Construction will include the use of recycled glass tile and concrete. Porticoes and rooflines are designed to deflect direct sunlight from the building’s interior. The university has applied for certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. 

—Francisco Duque
Two new colleges created

The new organization will provide additional opportunities for students to conduct research at the undergraduate level.

AASU’s largest academic unit, the College of Arts and Sciences, has been reorganized into two distinct colleges. The structural changes will increase opportunities for interdisciplinary research and grant writing, and strengthen relationships among different academic departments within the university.

The new colleges are the College of Science and Technology and the College of Liberal Arts. The academic departments that belonged in the former School of Computing are now part of the College of Science and Technology.

“The new structure creates more opportunities for students to conduct research at the undergraduate level,” said Ellen Whitford, vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty. The changes also create new potential for collaborations among departments and across academic fields. Additionally, there are new opportunities for additional academic programs, as particular community needs or labor force demands are identified in the region.

Nursing students abandon books

A familiar childhood refrain includes the line, “No more classes, no more books…” The junior and senior students in the Department of Nursing have the no more books part down to a computer science.

In 2006, three nursing textbooks were replaced by personal digital assistants (PDAs). These have been loaded with three indispensable nursing textbooks and a raft of other medical information. The students can now look up a word, a lab test, or information on drugs and drug interactions. The PDAs also eliminate the need to carry around a separate medication calculator.

Camille Payne, head of the department, pointed out that new drugs and other medical information are coming out every day. The students regularly receive updates on new advances.

Best of all, the PDA fits into a pocket or purse, does away with having to lug three books around, and can be easily updated.

“The majority of our students are techno-savvy,” explains Helen Taggart, professor of nursing. “Many of them were already using PDAs.”

Payne added, “In the clinical setting, many nurses will ask to see the students’ PDAs. This is affirming to the student.”

While at a Darton College conference, Payne observed students using PDAs. She brought the idea back to Savannah where faculty members agreed it would be a good thing to initiate. Today, Armstrong Atlantic is still among only a few nursing schools in Georgia that use PDA technology. ☮

—Barry J. Ostrow
Victory!
Tennis teams take NCAA Championships

The Armstrong Atlantic men’s and women’s tennis teams both won NCAA Division II National Championships in Houston in May. The wins gave AASU a rare double win, taking 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 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 its 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 number 5-ranked Barry University. The men’s squad has been ranked No. 2 in the nation in each of the last three seasons.

In August, Representative Jack Kingston visited the campus to deliver a proclamation that was entered into the Congressional Record in honor of both championship teams, Earnshaw, and assistant coach David Secker.

— Chad Jackson

Above: Rafael Array celebrates a championship moment as part of the NCAA II men’s tennis competition. Photo courtesy of NCAA Photos.

On the cover: Alida Muller-Wehlau (left) and Sofia Haggstrom react to winning the NCAA II women’s tennis championship. Photo courtesy of NCAA Photos.

AASU’s championship tennis teams arrive in Savannah from Houston to a hero’s welcome by a sign-and-banner waving crowd of cheering supporters.

On May 12, 2008, one of the strongest earthquakes in modern Chinese history ripped through Sichuan Province with the power of 8.0 to 8.3 on the Richter scale. Almost 70,000 people lost their lives.

More than one thousand miles away, in Shanghai, an 11-member AASU study abroad group had been looking forward to spending a few days at Sichuan University in Chengdu, only 50 miles east-southeast of the epicenter. Two days after the temblor, one of the group’s leaders, Rick McGrath (economics) received a call from their tour agency in Chengdu saying it was safe and they should proceed with their planned itinerary.

McGrath later reflected that one of the most stunning aspects of the experience was the communications delay between the anxious parents at home and the group in China. “Because of the 12-hour time difference, at any given time one group was being exposed to the day’s news cycle while the other group was asleep.”

The group moved, still on schedule, from Shanghai to Beijing to Xian where they visited the amazing terra cotta warriors. They were scheduled to fly from Xian to Sichuan University. However, the travel agency in Chengdu called McGrath saying that due to the massive recovery efforts in the region, their itinerary would have to be diverted to the historic Silk Road through the Gobi Desert.

On their last night in Xian, an official government forecaster predicted a strong aftershock for the city by two o’clock the next morning. The population of the city poured out of buildings and was filling the streets until 2 a.m. McGrath reports that thousands of people were camped outside their hotel, despite the fact that there is no way to predict the time or location of earthquakes with such precision.

One of the students, Robert O’Mallon, sets the scene: “The mood was actually pretty high. There were some people sleeping on benches, others on blankets spread out on the sidewalk. Those who were awake were mostly just standing around with little to no worry on their faces.

“The alleyway that our hotel was in had mostly younger people chatting and playing around. The only people in the alley who showed some concern were the
security guys who were running around with flyers written in broken English, warning any westerners they could find.

“At each intersection they had little food spots set up full of people ordering food. The place where we sat down to eat had a mix of [people of different] ages sitting around makeshift tables chatting and eating away. [There was] no sign of worry or concern.

“By the time we started [back to the hotel], the streets were becoming empty and quiet again.”

McGrath said the aftershock warning was called off at precisely 2 a.m. “It was as though they were safer at 2:01 a.m. than 1:59 a.m.,” he quipped. “The population stayed awake until 2 a.m. and then packed itself off to bed.”

—Barry J. Ostrow

2008 Study Abroad

The AASU study abroad trip to China was designed to expose students to the country’s economics, diverse societies, and different periods of history. Lost to the earthquake was a stay at Sichuan University and a visit to a panda reserve. Gained was a trek, sometimes by camel, on the ancient Silk Road with its Buddhist monasteries, centuries-old military supply depots, and the westernmost reaches of the Great Wall.

During the spring and summer of 2008, 140 students participated in study abroad experiences in 14 countries. Some of the countries visited included Vietnam, Great Britain, Brazil, Italy, Russia, and Spain. In addition, students attended semester abroad programs in France, Germany, Hong Kong, Wales, Spain, and South Africa.
OssaBest (Ossabaw E-Exploration for Students and Teachers) is funded in part by a three-year, $1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded to Armstrong Atlantic.

Ossabaw Island lies 20 miles off the coast of Chatham County. The trip across the placid open waters of Ossabaw Sound takes only 25 minutes, but one is transported back to a rich 4,000 year-old repository of history. The footprint of man on the third largest of Georgia’s barrier islands is varied and colorful from Native American mounds, to the remnants of wealthy indigo plantations with their tabby slave quarters, to the more recent contributions of millionaire land owners and erstwhile artists.

And now, a new group has succumbed to the allure of the lush island. Twice a week, over a two-week period in late July and early August, four teams of Savannah-Chatham County public middle and high school students and their science teachers made the sea trek for a new educational experience—OssaBest—designed by Armstrong Atlantic.

They disembarked amidst the deep green *spartina* marsh grasses and hiked the short distance up a well rutted, tree lined, dirt and tabby road leading to a rambling building with wide porches. Called the “Clubhouse,” it was originally built in the mid-1880s as a hunting lodge for the wealthy. For the next three-and-a-half days the clubhouse was the center of activity for the 77 middle and high school students and teachers who made up OssaBest’s first four classes.

The primary goal is to increase the numbers of students entering information technology, computer science, and education careers. Powering this goal, students and teachers use video and digital cameras, handheld GPS devices, groundwater sensors, and a weather station, and integrate their output into a multimedia field guide relating Ossabaw’s environment and life cycle. It is an exquisite game of connect-the-dots using 21st century technology to tell the story of a 40,000 year-old island.

Later, two 800-pound towers will be brought to the island and more sensing devices will be installed. The information collected will then be transmitted to a data center on the Armstrong Atlantic campus, where it will be processed. From there, it will be disseminated for instructional use in classrooms regionally, across the state, and nationwide.

“We want these programs to be used by Whitfield County, Bibb County, and all over the state,” said Paul Pressly, program coordinator for the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance, one of several key agencies working with AASU on OssaBest.

**Partners in OssaBest**

Joining Armstrong Atlantic in the OssaBest project are its partners, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools; the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography; the Ossabaw Island Foundation; Georgia Tech’s Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing; and the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service.

The Ossabaw Island Foundation is providing the sensors and other hardware on the island. Georgia Power gave the foundation a grant of $20,000 to purchase the weather station and the wireless equipment that is being used in the project.
As their time on the island began, the 20 or so participants gathered in the large rustic white living room of the lodge decorated with black and white photos chronicling the island’s history. The first group, curled up comfortably on padded wicker furniture, received an orientation to the island from faculty members Lei He (information technology), Ed Strauser (education), and education major Thea Monsion. Jack Sinopoli, an information technology major, made a PowerPoint presentation. In one corner, stacks of laptop computers awaited the students to claim them for documenting their time on the island.

“Throughout their involvement in the project, students and teachers will use information technology in sophisticated ways and integrate them in the classroom setting,” said Ashraf Saad, head of the Department of Computer Science, who secured the NSF grant.

Faculty and students in computer science and informational technology work with the public school teachers and students on how to use the data they gather. Faculty from the College of Education work with the public school teachers to help develop lesson plans that meet Georgia Performance Standards.

While the second class of students from a variety of Chatham County middle schools was arriving on the island, the inaugural class was winding down its time with a walk from the opposite side of the cabin. They stopped to watch the herd of Sicilian donkeys—carelessly introduced to the island in the 1960s as pets—laconically graze around the weather station. The day before, the students had been reading some of the 60 measurements produced by the station. They listened to Pressly deliver a talk on the history and restoration of three tabby slave quarters, each girl taking a turn running her hands along the rough walls.

Finally, they paused in a cathedral of palms and oaks towering over a glen of variegated green. Sprightly conversations slowed to a hush in the awesome presence of such beauty. Melanie Hoffman, an eighth grade physical science teacher from Southwest Middle School explained the thick resurrection fern that covered the oaks relating her lesson to the measurements of rainfall and groundwater that the students had taken the day before.

As their backpacks and bedrolls were being loaded on a truck for transport to the waiting boat, Mercedes Holly of Southwest Middle School shared that her time on the island was well spent. “Science is more than what you learn in school,” Holly said. “This has been the hands-on part of it.” Another Southwest student, Tia Burke, echoed Holly’s enthusiasm and added, “I’m not a science person, but I’m really getting into science now.” OssaBest had its first converts.

—Barry J. Ostrow
School Board President Joe Buck attended a school system retirement reception recently. He recalls, “The first person I shook hands with was Dr. Lisa Alliota. She said, ‘You knew me when you taught me at Armstrong, and now I’m retiring with 30 years of service to the school district.’”

Encounters such as that make Buck—former vice president for student affairs at Armstrong Atlantic—realize his life had come full circle. Buck retired from AASU in 2006, the year he was elected to a four-year term on the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools Board of Education. He is now seeing, from a new perspective, how the university he had worked at for 38 years affects the public schools.

“One of the unexpected parts of the job of being school board president,” Buck said, “is seeing the impact Armstrong has had on the community. There is not one of the 52 schools I visit that doesn’t have Armstrong people. When I walk into a school I am struck by the number of people who come up to me saying, ‘You taught me in college,’ or, ‘I’m an Armstrong graduate.’”

Many AASU alumni took education courses from Buck; students in other disciplines met him through their “introduction to college” courses; and still others received leadership training and experience in his division. Now, he sees many of them preparing public school children for higher education and the world of work.

Buck says his first career has allowed him to bring a unique point of view to the school board. “When another board member questions why the Board of Regents has taken a certain position, I can explain to them some of the workings of that body and the effect they have on state universities,” Buck said.

From his present vantage point, Buck observes how collaborative projects between the school system and the university fare in practice. As an example, he reports, “The PRISM (Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics) program has been extremely well received by teachers who are under pressure to improve math and science scores. They are hungry to learn as many new approaches as they can.” He credits AASU’s Sabrina Hessinger, Michael Lariscy, Vannie Walker, and others for advancing the program.

Buck also cites other programs the school system and Armstrong Atlantic have collaborated on. These include the brand new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative) program, successor to PRISM, and OssaBest (see page 8). He fondly recalled TFEFI (Teachers Environment and Free Enterprise Institute), which was underwritten by International Paper. Over the course of 21 years, TFEFI sent more than 500 teachers slogging through the marshes and swamps of southeast Georgia learning about the science and economics of the state’s paper industry.

The board president now sees, from the other side, the impact of science fairs, engineering academies, one-act play and music competitions, and the computing faculty helping public school students build robots. “Anytime you have an avenue to challenge students academically, it’s better for the students,” he said.

Buck is a proponent of the school board thinking outside the box. Joint enrollment and early admissions are two of his hot button issues. “Soon,” he says, “the board will convene a meeting with area universities and colleges to discuss teacher education and the teaching of science and math.”

He was glad to see the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program (GTAPP) introduced a few years ago. GTAPP prepared college graduates from other fields to teach. Last year, a Master of Arts in Teaching was introduced which accomplishes much the same, as did GTAPP. “Alternative preparation programs are an opportunity to attract great teachers who are motivated to do a good job,” Buck said.

“I think universities could play a much greater role by providing our students with good role models and mentors,” Buck said as he looked toward the future. “Students in fraternities, sororities, and service clubs could help expand a role now played by a few community organizations. I don’t mean just dropping by or tutoring, but spending some quality time with our youngsters who need good examples.

“Big Brothers/Big Sisters is starting again in Savannah and Armstrong Atlantic could play a valuable role in the success of that program.”

Buck concluded saying, “When you’ve spent your life working with young people as I have, the legacy you leave behind is not programs, but the people you have impacted.”
Greetings from your
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Alumni Office!

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits as the 2008-2009 academic year gets well under way. As the new alumni coordinator, it has been an extremely fast-paced eight months. I have had numerous opportunities to get to know not only the outstanding individuals who comprise the AASU Alumni Board of Directors but also, through various events, to meet many wonderful alumni.

First let me tell you a little about myself. I am a Savannah native, a graduate of H.V. Jenkins High School and a graduate of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. After college, I began working with the UGA Alumni Association as the event coordinator for the Atlanta Alumni Center and then in Athens as the associate director of development for the College of Pharmacy. I enjoy working with alumni and look forward to exciting times here at AASU.

In the coming days, it will be my goal to help strengthen your relationship with AASU. To do this, I will work with all areas of the university to keep communications with you open and consistent. It’s important that you keep me informed of happenings in your life too. Please feel free to share memories of your time at AASU, family news, births, wedding announcements, job changes, your updated contact information, etc. We want to keep in contact with you and, if you wish, share your news in Compass.

Your alumni association invites your support and involvement. I welcome your ideas and feedback on ways in which we can keep you connected to your alma mater.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly. You can reach me by calling 912.344.ALUM (2586) or by e-mail at Beth.Crovatt@armstrong.edu. I am proud to represent AASU and look forward to meeting you personally in the near future.

Sincerely

Beth Crovatt
Alumni Relations Coordinator

Please complete and return the following questionnaire using the enclosed pre-paid envelope. This will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and will ensure that you receive updates on upcoming events as well as Compass.

Title: □ Mr. □ Mrs. □ Ms. □ Dr.

Name ________________________________________

Maiden name ________________________________

Nickname ____________________________________

Street address __________________________________

City __________________________________________

State _________________________________________

Zip __________________________________________

Phone ( ) ________________________________

E-mail address ______________________________

AASU degree:

□ Associate’s __________________ Year _______

□ Bachelor’s _________________________ Year _______

□ Master’s ____________________________ Year _______

Additional degrees __________________________

Institutions __________________________________

Spouse’s full name_________________________________

Spouse’s maiden name (if applicable)______________________

Did your spouse graduate from AASU? □ Yes □ No

Years __________________________________________

Did your spouse attend AASU? □ Yes □ No

Years __________________________________________

Would you prefer e-mail to be the primary form of communication between you and the AASU Alumni Association? □ Yes □ No
Kay Riley Thigpen ’96, ’97, ’08 puts a smile on the face of almost everyone she meets—particularly the youngsters who are lucky enough to be sitting in her dental chair in Belize.

Thigpen, a dental hygienist, has been traveling to Belize City for the past 10 years with her employer, dentist D. Stephen Acuff. Once a year, Acuff shuts down his office and all four people working there make the flight to Central America to bring preventive dental care to the children at St. Mary the Virgin Anglican School under the banner of Project Smile. Other Project Smile teams from the United States often join them.

“They chew on sugar cane all the time and don’t eat well balanced meals,” Thigpen explains, “so proper dental care is very important to them. Once a day they get perhaps their only hot meal of the day—rice, beans, and chicken—thanks to a lunch program Dr. Acuff started.”

She, her teammates, and other acquaintances help out with a lot of other needs too. Thigpen relates the story of a young boy who wasn’t reading because he couldn’t afford glasses, so one of her Savannah patients bought him a pair of reading glasses from a dollar store. Thigpen reports that he is reading now. In another instance, her co-workers in the dental clinic at Armstrong Atlantic helped a boy whose eyeglass frames were broken and wired together. They all chipped in and bought him new frames. Some children get new shoes. “It’s a great, great feeling,” the ever-ebullient Thigpen says.

Thigpen thinks of the seven- to nine-day missions as working vacations. “I’ve been going down there so long, and we see so many of the same kids each year, that it’s like visiting family.”

Thigpen is married to Doug Thigpen ’02,’08, whom she met in one of her Master of Public Health classes. Next February he will accompany the team to Belize for the first time. “Dr. Acuff and I didn’t want Doug just hanging around,” laughs Thigpen. “He’ll probably help out in the computer lab.”

As if her schedule weren’t busy enough, Thigpen is very active volunteering with the Junior League and at Oatland Island where she is a member of the Friends of Oatland. Both of these organizations, she says, are very important to her.

With an associate’s and bachelor’s in dental hygiene, and soon a master’s in public health, Thigpen is appreciative of the education she has received at Armstrong Atlantic. She maintains close ties with the university working as a clinical instructor. Next spring, she and Dr. Acuff will lead a group of 10 to 14 senior dental hygiene students to Belize.

—Barry J. Ostrow
**The MAN OF STEEL’S legacy**

The next time you take a walk on River Street or visit Disney World, think about Tommy McCormick. McCormick was a self-employed structural steel detailer who drafted drawings of how to raise structures and often supervised the jobs in the field. Two of his legacies are the handrails along the steep stairs connecting Bay and River streets and the iconic Cinderella’s Castle in the Magic Kingdom.

Tekelia Sloan and Barbara Helms certainly think about McCormick. They are the first students to win Thomas Spencer McCormick Presidential Scholarships. The scholarships are given to students in the communications sciences and disorders graduate program. They, too, are part of Tommy McCormick’s legacy.

In the late ’90s, McCormick developed tremors in his hand and was forced to retire. Not one to sit around, he called on his steel reserve and turned his hobby of white water paddling—one he shared with his wife of 28 years, Jeanne—into a new career. He began leading white water rafting trips down the Class II and III Nantahala River in North Carolina. The fond memories he still evokes in those he introduced to the thrill of this adventurous sport are yet another way in which he will be recalled.

In 1998, a stroke affected his balance and in 2005, he had bypass surgery. A week later, he suffered a second stroke that affected his speech. While receiving rehabilitation therapy at Memorial Health University Medical Center, a therapist told the McCormicks about the Scottish Rite “RiteCare” Center for Communicative Disorders at Armstrong Atlantic.

Tommy began twice-a-week therapy at the center. Jeanne said, “His goal was to get back to doing all the things he could do before his stroke. He couldn’t always say what he wanted to say, but we could always understand what he wanted to say.

He made a lot of progress at RiteCare.” Jeanne gives a lot of credit to the professionalism and caring attention he received from the faculty and students in the center.

Tommy was about three semesters into his therapy at RiteCare when he lost his life in a senseless traffic accident while riding his bicycle.

“The last thing they were working on before he died,” Jeanne recalls, “was how to get his change right in a store. He was improving every time he went. It was a great experience.”

A few months after Tommy’s death, Jeanne made arrangements with the Office of Development to establish an annual scholarship in his name for two deserving students with promising careers in the communications sciences and disorders profession. Future generations of graduate students will continue to benefit from the legacy of Tommy McCormick.

For information on establishing a scholarship or legacy gift, e-mail Gail.Rountree@armstrong.edu.

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**About Jeanne McCormick**

Jeanne McCormick’s first encounter with Armstrong came in the mid-60s when she was a student at the St. Joseph’s Hospital School of Nursing. At the time, she attended some of her classes at Armstrong State College when the school was still located in downtown Savannah.

After graduation, she worked for eight years at Evans Memorial Hospital in Claxton while she and Tommy began raising their five children—four daughters and a son. As balancing work and family became more challenging, she was offered a nine-to-five job at the privately-owned Pembroke Telephone Company, with the promise of no evening shifts. Today she is vice president and chief operating officer of the small telecommunication firm.

At left: Jeanne McCormick (center) is flanked by the first Thomas Spencer McCormick Presidential Scholarship winners Tekelia Sloan (left) and Barbara Helms.
Three easy steps will have you riding in style.

Show your pride in Armstrong Atlantic the next time you purchase or renew your vehicle registration in the state of Georgia.

1. Visit www.external-affairs.armstrong.edu/alumni/licenseplate
2. Download and complete the required MV-9C form.
3. Take the completed form to your local county tag office.

It has never been easier to show your Pirate pride every day!

Ride With Pride!
Christina L. Larkin ’05 is serving in Bulgaria as a youth development worker for the Peace Corps. She is assisting in a program that will help the youth there remain in school and deal with the issues of AIDS and human trafficking.

David M. Pisarcik ’05 is the head basketball coach for the boys’ team at Nature Coast Technical High School in Brooksville, FL.

Kristopher P. Britt ’06 opened Crossroad Productions and School of Music in Pooler, GA and is teaching music.

Alexander J. Corriere ’06 is currently working in Kuwait in the field of software technology.

Erica R. Neff ’06 worked as a case worker for Youth and Family Services in Albuquerque, NM. In the fall of 2007 she entered the University of New Mexico School of Law. While in her first semester she was named to the Dean’s List in the top 10% of her class. She is also the president of Law Students for Reproductive Justice, a representative for the Student Health Law Association, and a law clerk for Peter Johnstone, P.C.

Ferheen Ahmed ’08 began a post-graduate administrative residency with the Medical College of Central Georgia in Macon in June 2008. She has completed a number of formal internships with various health service organizations in the Savannah area including St. Joseph’s/Candler and the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion as a project manager. Ahmed also participated as a member of the 2008 University of Alabama Health Administration Case Competition in Birmingham, representing AASU.

Simbi Animashaun ’08 is teaching seventh grade English at Parkland Magnet Middle School in Rockville, MD.

Kurt Browning ’08, Billy Lee ’08, and Sarah Trawick ’08, all received Georgia Power’s New Teacher Assistance Grants. Browning is teaching at Martha Puckett Middle School in Jessup, GA; Lee is teaching at Southwest Middle School in Savannah; and Trawick is teaching at Joseph Martin Elementary in Hinesville, GA.

Julie A. Yawn ’08 is a systems analyst for the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission. She was previously employed by the City of Savannah.

**pairings**

Christine C. Hansen ’01 Wed Aaron Blayne Albrecht in November 2008

**weddings**


Candace Childs ’02 married Kevin Harbour on March 29, 2008.

Mary Ann Simmons ’02 married Eric Betts on March 1, 2008.

Stephen M. Dixon ’03 married Allyson Brianne Campbell on September 20, 2008.

Amanda Weaver ’03 married Clint Crawford ’02 on May 30, 2008.

Craig A. Call ’04 married Victoria Brooke Tootle on August 9, 2008.

Jeremy L. Hitt ’04 married Elizabeth Hillagas on April 19, 2008.


William Reed Tyler ’05 married Nazira Lilliana Araya on July 12, 2008.


Cynthia Alma Mills ’06 married Scott Ryan Davis on October 4, 2008.

Jessica F. Redmond ’06 married Matthew L. DeLoach on September 27, 2008.

Brandi A. Woods ’06 was married in September 2008.

Erin M. Byrnes ’07 married Jeremiah Cantrell ’07 on March 1, 2008.


Haley Stone ’08 married Robert Dickerson on October 11, 2008.

**additions**

Charles C. Manning ’00, a daughter on February 29, 2008.

Kasey Ray-Stokes ’06 and her husband, Mark: Benjamin Andrew, April 7, 2008

**passings**

Lee J. Meyer ’59, architect, May 9, 2008

Wray Kessel ’76, one of the earliest Masquers, October 2008

Christopher J. Schuberth, retired assistant professor of science education, May 13, 2008
$182 million
That's the 2007 economic impact AASU had on the local economy.
— Source: Georgia Trend

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Editorial assistance

LET US HEAR FROM YOU
If you would like to comment on anything you read in Compass, or if you have ideas for future stories, please e-mail the editor at Barry.Ostrow@armstrong.edu.

To see past issues of Compass, please go to: www.urelations.armstrong.edu/compassmenu.html.

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RX for wellness
This year, the Student Recreation Center is prescribing a healthy dose of wellness for whatever ails you.

Nan Davis, center director, reports that an even greater emphasis on wellness is being injected into the program that is open to students, faculty, and staff.

The wellness lineup includes a High Noon Walking Club and 24 group exercise classes each week. Brown Bag Lunch Seminars will explore such topics as stress management and healthy eating habits. An intro to weight training is planned, and personal training is now available.

Healthy Eating Every Day is a 14-week course designed to develop healthy eating patterns for a lifetime and help people reach a healthy weight.

New sport clubs being formed this year include men’s rugby and disc golf. Plans are underway to start a men’s soccer club.