AASU Captures Inaugural Peach Belt Conference Academic Award

Armstrong Atlantic captured the first-ever Peach Belt Conference Presidential Academic Award, announced by the league at its annual meeting in Hilton Head, SC. The award recognizes the academic excellence of an institution's student-athletes.

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, which in this first year went to Armstrong Atlantic with a ratio of 1.0641. It is noteworthy that at each Peach Belt school, student-athletes had on average a better GPA than each general student body.

Ellen V. Whitford Appointed Vice President and Dean of Faculty

Ellen V. Whitford, a veteran academic administrator from New England who began her career as a high school teacher, has been appointed vice president and dean of faculty at Armstrong Atlantic. She comes to AASU from Central Connecticut State University, where she had been professor and interim provost and vice president for academic affairs since November 2004. She has been with the 12,315-enrollment public university since 2000, when she joined the faculty as professor and dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies. She holds a Doctor of Education from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a Master of Education from Arcadia University in Philadelphia, and an undergraduate degree in English from the University of Delaware.

Her first teaching assignment was as an English teacher and reading specialist at a Pennsylvania high school. Five years into that phase of her career, she became an adjunct faculty member at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ, and later at William Patterson College in Paterson, NJ. She left high school teaching and entered the university arena full-time in 1989, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in teacher education and school administration at Salisbury State University in Salisbury, MD. She rose through the administrative ranks there and spent five years as the chairman of Salisbury’s education department before moving on to Central Connecticut State University.
Whitford has published extensively in professional academic journals on topics as diverse as supervising student teachers and the battle over corporal punishment. She has also authored and co-authored numerous grant proposals, covering topics from teaching art to integrating technology into teacher education and assessment. Earlier this year, she co-presented a speech on internationalizing teacher education and leadership at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education—the latest in a long list of presentations at academic conferences and conventions.

Whitford will assume her duties at AASU in mid-July.

Tanenbaum Named to New Position
Barbara Tanenbaum, who was special assistant to the vice president and dean of faculty concentrating on community initiatives and strategic planning, has been named assistant to the vice president for student success.

Tanenbaum has been on the faculty of Armstrong Atlantic for 34 years. She worked her way up from a faculty member to department head in dental hygiene in 1992 before moving on to broader university-wide responsibilities in 2004.

The Office of Student Success will coordinate efforts to foster the success of students from the time they are recruited until they move into their chosen major. Evaluating and enhancing student tutorials and Freshman Learning Communities, implementing a reward system for faculty advisors, and outreach to minority high school students who are potential AASU students will be among Tanenbaum’s first-year focuses as well. Supervision of the Learning Support effort, the 62-Plus program for older students, and the undergraduate academic appeals process also are covered by the new position.

Kim West Appointed Dean of Enrollment Services
Kim West, registrar/admissions, has been appointed dean of enrollment services and registrar. His areas of responsibility include student recruitment, admissions, registration services, and financial aid.

Brooks Named Head of Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Donna Brooks has been named head of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, which is part of the College of Health Professions. That unit was elevated to department status recently in a decision from the University System of Georgia.

Brooks joined the Armstrong Atlantic faculty in 1995 as an associate professor. Her duties during her career here have included serving as coordinator of the program in speech-language pathology, which has now evolved into the new department. The program was accredited by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association in 2005.
AASU Appoints Mirande to New Customer Service Position

Melanie Mirande has been appointed to the newly created position of director of customer relations for enrollment services. Mirande, who previously served as director of recruitment, has held a variety of increasingly responsible positions related to enrollment and recruitment since joining the university 14 years ago.

“We want to increase the level of customer service to potential students, their families, and current students,” Mirande said of her new position. The idea, she said, is to provide “one-stop service” for everything from enrollment, to registration, to transcripts.

Compass Interactive Launched

Compass Interactive (CI) is the newest facet of Armstrong Atlantic’s evolving web presence, providing a central resource for delivery of multimedia content. With the popularity of the existing efforts to provide real-time video of sporting events and graduation via the web, the folks in Computer Information Systems knew there was a demand for more media, both live and stored for on-demand viewing. They looked not only to cutting-edge universities, but also to student-friendly websites to see how people are watching video on the web. Compass Interactive grew out of that research into what is known as a broadband channel—an interface that lets the user watch what they want, when they want, with easy access to the content.

Compass Interactive provides one location for watching sporting events, player profiles, AASU promotional video, faculty lectures, podcasts, and much more. The broadband channel paradigm offers a wealth of information in a friendly package. To tap into Compass Interactive, start by clicking on the CI logo at the lower right corner of the university home page. There you will find technical requirements and instructions for accessing this new service.

First Day

First Day (the faculty-staff campaign kickoff) will take place on Thursday, August 10. Chris McCarthy, School of Computing, will serve as the university chair of the campaign this year and is confident that the average of participation will exceed 80%. More information will be forthcoming with details on how to make sure all faculty and staff of the university have an opportunity to contribute and to compete for the trophy that is now held by the School of Computing.

For more information, contact McCarthy at 961.3074.

Heritage Society

President Thomas Z. Jones recently visited with members of the Heritage Society. During his visit, he presented a donor with a gift of appreciation for having established a planned gift. Planned gifts help ensure that future generations of students have the opportunity to pursue higher education. The names of the Heritage Society members will be placed in Burnett Hall.

For more information, contact Suzanne Ansley at 921.5740.

Welcome Aboard

Kathryn, O’Neal, Registrar/Admissions
Laura Vogel, Bookstore
Events

July 2
Savannah Winds Annual Patriotic Concert, 3-5 p.m., in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

A barbeque dinner will follow the concert in the Memorial College Center dining room and will be catered by Ken & Candi’s Bar-B-Q from 5-6:30 p.m.

July 4
Holiday

July 5
First day of classes (Session D)

July 8
CHAOS, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

July 13
Last day of classes (Session B)

Workshop 411: Key Elements, sponsored by Georgia Student Finance Commission, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., University Hall, room 112, computer lab

Georgia Student Finance Commission luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., University Dining Room

July 13-16
Art, Music & Theatre presents Meshuggah-Nuns at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. only on July 16) in Jenkins Theater.

July 15
SAT, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Solms Hall, room 110

July 20-23
Art, Music & Theatre presents Meshuggah-Nuns at 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. only on July 23) in Jenkins Theater.

July 25
Last day of classes (Session A)

July 29
CHAOS, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Kudos

Elizabeth Eckert, external affairs, was installed as the new president of Savannah AMBUCS in June. AMBUCS is a service organization that focuses on providing assistance to people with disabilities. Among their best known programs are AmTrykes, which are therapeutic tricycles given to children with disabilities, and the Saturday Exceptional Bowlers League. Contact Eckert at 921.5816 for further information.

Randall Reese, art, music & theatre, traveled to La Serena, Chile in May, where he presented workshops, clinics, and performances at the Universidad de La Serena (USL) and USL’s Escuela Experimental de Music “Jorge Pena Hen.” Reese is assisting with the formation of a jazz big band program involving teachers and students of the university and its affiliated school of music.
Patricia Coberly, special and adult education, presented “Diversity is More than Skin Deep: Developing Cultural Understanding,” at the 6th International Conference on Diversity in Organization, Communities and Nations, held in New Orleans in June.

Rochelle Lee, radiologic sciences, reports that the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program received a site visit from the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) in February to review their program. They subsequently received a letter from the JRCNMT stating that the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program was in full compliance with all requirements necessary for initial accreditation. The JRCNMT awarded program accreditation until 2009.


Several faculty and students made presentations at the 18th annual conference of the Association for Psychological Science in New York in May. L. Graham, undergraduate psychology student, and Jonathan Roberts, psychology advisor, presented a poster, “2-Dimensional vs. 3-Dimensional Maps: Sex Interacts with Ability to Orient”; Sara Farrell, psychology, and L. M. Finkelstein, Northern Illinois University, presented “Coworker Perceptions of Distributive Justice in Response to Rewarded Organizational Citizenship Behavior: The Role of Attributions;” K.L. Von Waldner, undergraduate psychology student, and Vann Scott, psychology advisor, presented “Effects of Self-Awareness and Self-Consciousness on Stereotyped Behavior” during the poster session; J.M. Skutch, B. Nelson, D. Rogers, undergraduate psychology students, and Steve Taylor, psychology advisor, presented a poster “Effects of Verbal Encoding on Sex Differences in Incidental Memory.”

Scott, also presented “Rubric creation as Profession Development” at the poster session of the conference and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology Teaching Institute.

Alexander Collier and Jennifer Zettler, biology, Taylor, psychology, and V. Nair, psychology student, presented a poster, “Risk of predation influences the development of Rana pipiens tadpoles” at the annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences in Florida during March.

Patricia Reese, university relations, was elected to a new three-year term on the board of directors of the Propeller Club of Savannah.

University system electronic news sources
Take advantage of the range of informational publications published online by the University System of Georgia (USG). The newest is an interactive monthly piece called Linkages that reports news of the university system and provides hot links to related source materials: www.usg.edu/linkages/.

For news of both the university system office and individual campuses, read the monthly System Supplement: www.edu/pubs/sys_supp/.
The submission deadline for the August issue of eARMSTRONG is July 17.

Please send submissions to news@mail.armstrong.edu

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