Student Union Building Breaks Ground

President Jones had a beautiful day to welcome guests.

Above right: Somi Benson-Jaja, SGA president, and Kaitlen Fulp, last year’s SGA president, cut one of two celebratory cakes.

Dignitaries break ground. Al Harris, AASU director of student activities; Vicki McNeil, AASU vice president of student affairs; Kaitlen Fulp, AASU student leader; Arthur SanFilippo, Burt Hill Architects; Somi Benson-Jaja, AASU Student Government Association president; AASU President Thomas Z. Jones; Don Waters, AASU Educational Properties Foundation Inc; Jeff Floyd, Alpha Group; Ulysses Eaton, Choate Construction; and Dee Ward, AASU Educational Properties Foundation Inc.

A Good Day for AASU

It was a good day. The First Day campaign enjoyed 66 percent participation by faculty and staff resulting in contributions totaling $89,908.

The First Day campaign kicked off on August 13 in the Armstrong Center with the university meeting and employee lunch hosted by President Thomas Z. Jones. A record attendance of more than 500 employees greeted the first meeting of the fall academic year.

Zaphon Wilson, College of Liberal Arts, led the First Day campaign and a committee made up of dynamic leaders within their own disciplines. These included Sherry Cortes, College of Liberal Arts; Bob Loyd, College of Education; Andi Beth Mincer, College
of Health Professions; Richard St. Pierre, College of Health Professions; and Jennifer Zettler, College of Science & Technology.

The trophy for being the first college to reach 100% participation went to the College of Education under the leadership of Dean Patricia Wachholz and Bob Loyd, special education.

David Roberts, plant operations, was the first individual to turn in a pledge.

The Liberty Center was the first department to reach 100% participation.

For any questions about First Day or how to get involved, contact Suzanne Ansley, annual fund coordinator, at 344.2870 or Suzanne.Ansley@armstrong.edu.

Grant Supports Cyber Security Certificate Program

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a $272,161 grant to the AASU Cyber Security Research Institute (CSRI) for the development and implementation of its new Cyber Affairs and Security Certificate Program. The funding was secured with help from U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston, U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, and U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss, all of whom recognized the immediate need for education in this field.

The certificate program, developed in conjunction with the College of Liberal Arts’ Department of Criminal Justice, Social & Political Science, began offering the new certificate program this fall.

The master’s level certificate program will consist of three courses or 9 credit hours designed to give students a unique opportunity to conduct research and to study cyber security issues utilizing the latest technology. The program is designed to offer advanced professional development for law enforcement agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and private industry.

Established in 2006, AASU’s Cyber Security Research Institute is one of only a handful of similar institutes across the country that provide undergraduate and graduate education in cyber security.
HOLA Wins National Recognition

The Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Program at Armstrong Atlantic State University (HOLA) has been selected as a semifinalist for a national award from Excelencia in Education, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. that promotes Latino education and academic achievement.

Melody Rodriguez, HOLA director, founded the organization in 2003 with the goal of assisting AASU Latino students succeed academically by providing support services and culturally sensitive programs. Since the establishment of HOLA, Latino enrollment at AASU has increased 37 percent, with more than 275 Latino students currently enrolled.

As a semifinalist for the 2008 Excelencia in Education Award, AASU’s HOLA will be included in the 2008 edition of What Works for Latino Students: Examples of Excelencia Compendium. The compendium will be distributed electronically later this year to more than 13,000 constituents. Additionally, key educational organizations and policy leaders will receive printed copies. Also, as semifinalist, HOLA is now part of Excelencias national campaign to promote effective institutional practices that show evidence of supporting greater numbers of Latino students earning higher education degrees.

Super Computer Will Enhance Undergraduate Research, Teaching at AASU

Armstrong Atlantic has become the new host for the MERCURY consortium, a group of faculty at predominately undergraduate institutions who work on research in computational chemistry. MERCURY stands for the Molecular Education and Research Consortium in Undergraduate computational chemistry.

As host, AASU will obtain a high performance computer to serve the MERCURY consortium and potentially other users in the Savannah area. High performance computers, consisting of more than 500 central processing units, make up the bulk of the hardware used by the consortium members.

George Shields and Cliff Padgett are two of the consortium’s faculty members.

Daugherty to Host New Compass Interactive Program

William Daugherty (criminal justice, social & political science) is featured in a webTV series called Political Perspectives. In the first few programs, Daugherty discusses the Georgia-Russia conflict.

Armstrong Atlantic’s webTV channel is called Compass Interactive. It’s a network of streaming video focusing on the university. Daugherty’s video can be found in the “What’s New” section. To see it, click the “AASU WebTV” link on the home page.

Instructors Wanted

The Armstrong Center for Professional & Continuing Education is seeking faculty members interested in teaching a prep course for high school students who plan to take the ACT Exam. The subject areas that need coverage are English, mathematics, and science reasoning. If interested, please contact Pete Mastopoulos at ext. 42951 or Pete.Mastopoulos@armstrong.edu for more information.
Calendar

October 1
Training Demo — Submitting Expenses and POs Online, noon-2 p.m.

October 2-4
The Masquers theatre troupe presents Williams Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. in the Masquers Chinese Theater. General admission is $10. Discounts available to military, seniors, alumni members, and students/children. AASU staff, faculty, and students presenting valid AASU I.D. will be admitted free of charge. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for ticketing information.

October 2
PeopleSoft Training — Expenses Approval, 9 a.m.-noon
PeopleSoft Training — ePro Approval, 1-4 p.m.
Faculty Forum, noon-1:30 p.m.

October 6
Last Day of Classes (Session 2)

October 7
Final Exams (Session 2)

October 8
Final Exams (Session 2)
Mid-Term (Session 1)

October 10
Registration (Session 3 only)
Faculty Field Trip, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Robert I. Strozier Faculty Lecture Series. Learotha Williams and Barbara Fertig, history, present “Interpreting the North End,” 12:10 p.m. in University Hall 156

October 11-14
Fall break

October 13 to November 7
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents “Viaje Andina: Art Inspired by Northwest Argentina,” a student study abroad art exhibition, in the AASU Fine Arts Gallery. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays. Admission is free. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for information.

October 14
Final grades due, 4 p.m. (Session 2)

October 15
Departmental textbook submissions for spring term
First day of class (Session 3)
HOLA Lunch & Learn, noon-1:15 p.m.
University Curriculum Committee, 3-5 p.m.
The Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents an art gallery reception for “Viaje Andina: Art Inspired by Northwest Argentina,” at noon in the AASU Fine Arts Gallery. Admission is free. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for information.

October 16
Department of Nursing open house for current and future nurses, Ashmore 224 and 225, 6-7:30 p.m.
October 20-23
The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre hosts American lyric baritone Hank Hammett in music residency at AASU for classes, workshops, master classes, and a culminating gala showcase recital. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for location and schedule of activities. Admission is free.

October 20
Called meeting of the Faculty Senate, noon-1:30 p.m.

October 21
AASU Wind Ensemble performs “In Concert” at 7:30 p.m. in The Armstrong Center Ballroom. Admission is $6. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for ticketing information.

October 22
Celebrate AASU Day!, 11:50 a.m.-6 p.m.

October 23
Coastal Georgia Universities Career Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
French Movie Night, 7-10 p.m.
The AASU Department of Art, Music & Theatre presents “Women Are Like That,” favorite selections from Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte* and Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Oklahoma!* at 2:30 p.m. Location TBA

October 30-November 2
Happy Halloween! The Masquers theatre troupe presents *Misery*, based on Stephen King’s bestselling novel and film. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. in the Masquers Chinese Theater. General admission is $10. Discounts available to military, seniors, alumni members, and students/children. AASU staff, faculty, and students presenting valid AASU I.D. will be admitted free of charge. Call 344.2801 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., weekdays, for ticketing information.

October 30
Radiologic Sciences open house, 5-6 p.m.

Kudos

Michael Toma (economics) presented “The Changing Regional Economy” at the Effingham Chamber of Commerce annual leadership retreat held on St. Simons Island.

Shelley Conroy (College of Health Professions) presented a paper, “Partnerships for Global Understanding,” at the National League for Nursing 2008 Education Summit in San Antonio in September.

Robert LeFavi (health sciences) has written a new book, *The 2:4 Solution*, published in paperback this summer by Booklocker.com. LeFavi, a priest in the Anglican Communion, looks at how creationism and evolution can be reconciled in a way that gives credence to both sides.

Suzy Carpenter and Richard Wallace (both chemistry) participated in an instructional session to train new OWL (Online Web Learning) users. They are part of an eight-member faculty that includes educators from Virginia Tech, Western Michigan University, Xavier University and University of Florida. “Getting Started with OWL for Organic Chemistry” was conducted online via Webex.

Carpenter and Wallace are consultants for Cengage Publishing as lead teachers to train other faculty who have recently adopted OWL for their courses.
George Shields (College of Science & Technology) presented “Computational Design of a Small Peptide that Inhibits Breast Cancer” at the University of Georgia in September.

Bob Gregerson (biology), with coauthors, published “A novel mRNA 3 untranslated region translational control sequence regulates Xenopus Wee1 mRNA Translation” in the August issue of Developmental Biology.


Marilyn Hutchinson (middle & secondary education) has been reelected to serve a second term as vice president of the Savannah chapter of Phi Delta Kappa the professional association of educators.

Richard J. Cebula (economics) and Christopher K. Coombs (Louisiana State University-Shreveport) published an article, “Recent Evidence on Factors Influencing the Female Labor Force Participation Rate,” in the summer 2008 issue of the Journal of Labor Research.


Bonnie Emerick (languages, literature & philosophy) will have poems published in two publications: “Likeness Recognition” in Cannibal; “Repeats Our Difference,” “Marionette,” “Injury Blindness,” “Susannah One,” “Of Two Sisters,” and “how we say (we have nothing to say)” in WOMB.

Felix Hamza-Lup (computer science) provides reviews for ACM Computing Reviews. Computing Reviews posts reviews daily reflecting the rapid evolution across all areas of computer science.

Hamza-Lup directs the Network Enabled Work Spaces (NEWS) laboratory that is now listed on the official website of the International Symposium on Haptic Interfaces for Virtual Environments and Teleoperator Systems.

Hamza-Lup leads the BACH (Broadband Analysis of Collaborative Haptics) project. BACH has been recognized by SenseGraphics, which represents over 20 years of experience in the haptics and graphics industry.

The NeuroPathways project, lead by Hamza-Lup in collaboration with Mercer Medical School, developed a new medical education web portal, targeted towards development of interactive 3D systems that simulate the human brain and nervous system. This new research and development effort will support the expansion of interactive three-dimensional simulations systems, allowing students to visualize and conceive neural pathways and embryonic development. The project is sponsored by a $14,000 research grant from Mercer Medical School.
Azita Bahrami (informational technology), Ray Hashemi (computer science), and Alexander Tyler (physician, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences), have written a book chapter “Use of Rough Sets as a Data Mining Tool for Experimental Bio-Data,” in: Computational Intelligence in Biomedicine and Bioinformatics: Current Trends and Applications.


**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 which 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.

*Aramark Campus Services – First Day Lunch* $6,039.79
At the request of President Jones and Vice President Donahue

*Advertising Specialty Services – First Day Logo items* $3,079.13
At the request of the Office of Development

*HRH Company of Savannah Annual D & O Insurance* $2,396.00
Required by the state of Georgia and the AASU Foundation Board

*King Tisdell Cottage Annual Awards Banquet* $850.00
At the request of President Jones

*Advertising Specialty Services – Logo items* $598.72
At the request of the Office of Development

*Armstrong Atlantic State University New Faculty welcome bags* $571.78
At the request of Vice President Whitford

*Ramelle’s Flowers – In sympathy memorials* $261.08
At the request of Vice President Donahue

*Savannah Estate Planning Council membership* $200.00
At the request of Director of Development Rountree

*First City Club – University membership dues* $124.10
At the request of Vice President Donahue

*United Way of the Coastal Empire – Kick-off Luncheon* $120.00
At the request of President Jones

*Aramark Campus Services – President’s budget meeting* $65.70
At the request of President Jones
AASU in the News

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

9/1  New Student Union coming to AASU campus
    Savannah Morning News
    Also, Business Report & Journal 9/1, Coastal Courier 9/19

9/1  Student Leona Avey earns $1,000 scholarship.
    Coastal Family

9/1  Latino Heritage Week coming to AASU
    La Voz Latina

9/1  Goizueta Foundation grants scholarships to Latino students
    La Voz Latina

9/4  AASU honors tennis teams for national championships
    Savannah Morning News

9/9  Matt Schmidt is new women’s basketball coach
    WTOC-TV
    Also, Savannah Morning News 9/10

9/10 College Issue looks at enrollment and lawsuit filed by The Inkwell
    Connect Savannah

9/10  AASU Opens 2007-2009 Faculty Lecture Series
    Connect Savannah
    Also, Savannah Morning News 9/11, Savannah Tribune 9/3

9/12  Thomas Z. Jones interviewed live about start of new year
    WBMQ-AM
    Also, WTKS-AM 9/19

9/11  Federal Grant to Fund Cyber Security Certificate Program
    Savannah Morning News
    Also, WTKS-AM, 9/12; Business Report & Journal 9/15

9/11  AASU to Host Faculty Art Exhibition
    Savannah Morning News

9/11  Richard McGrath (economics) quoted on the economic downturn
    WTOC-TV

9/15  Richard McGrath (economics) quoted about rising gas prices
    WTOC-TV

9/19  AASU Athletic Director Eddie Aenchbacher announces retirement
    Savannah Morning News
    Also, WTOC-TV 9/18

9/19  AASU Arboretum Inspires with plethora of plants
    Savannah Morning News

9/20  Graduate Sheryl Avery publishes second work of fiction
    Savannah Morning News

9/23  AASU holds groundbreaking ceremony for new Student Union
    WTOC-TV, WJCL-TV, WSAV-TV
    Also www.savdailynews.com 9/24
9/24 Paul Mullen (criminal justice, social & political science) interviewed about U.S. Supreme Court stay of execution in Troy Anthony Davis case
WSAV-TV

9/29 Richard Cebula (economics) interviewed regarding the current financial crisis.
WSAV-TV

9/30 President Jones will leave his post at AASU effective June 30, 2009
Savannah Morning News
Also, www.savdailynews.com 9/29

9/30 Michael Toma (economics) interviewed live regarding the current financial crisis.
WBMQ-AM

9/30 Russell Watjen was interviewed regarding financial aid services on campus.
WSAV-TV

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 November issue of eArmstrong is October 15.

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.