

## **Groundbreaking ceremony program for University System of Georgia College in Cobb County, 1964**

The Board of Regents approved the establishment of a new junior college in Cobb County on October 9, 1963. In the spring of 1964, the Board of Regents and the steering committee chose a site formerly part of the Steve Frey farm as the new location for the college. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 18, 1964. Governor Carl Sanders gave the address and Commissioner Herbert McCollum and Marietta Board of Education chairperson Dempsey Medford led the formal groundbreaking.

## First issue of *The Sentinel*, 1966

The student-centered nature of Kennesaw Junior College (KJC) was apparent prior to the school's opening. In August 1966, KJC President Dr. Horace Sturgis met with a group of students interested in establishing a school newspaper. Although the KJC campus was unfinished and would not be completed in time for the opening quarter in October, Dr. Sturgis and the student newspaper advisory council moved forward with paper's development. The group chose *The Sentinel* as its name and distributed its first issue on October 3, 1966. Topics of the first issue included staff and student statistics for opening week, a letter from the KJC president, updates on KJC campus construction, and the development of campus activities and resources.

## **Student Rules and Regulations pamphlet, registration card, and name tag, 1966-1977**

During the 1960s and 1970s, KJC students received a variety of materials at the start of the academic year. The *Student Rules and Regulations* pamphlet outlined behavioral expectations for all students and summarized academic policies relating to grades, and attendance. Many students received name tags during orientation sessions, and registration cards were used to develop class schedules. A computerized registration system replaced the card system in the early 1980s.

## KJC Yearbook, 1970

During KJC's opening quarter in 1966, the founding yearbook staff chose *The Montage* as the name for the school's nascent publication. The staff chose this name because of its "dignified, aesthetic sound" and its meaning fit with the mission of the yearbook. The first yearbook appeared in 1967 and continued until 1995. The yearbook changed its name to *Talisman* in 1993. This 1970 yearbook features a collection of photographs of campus buildings, student activities, headshots, and creative writing pieces.

## **Scrappy stuffed animal, ca. 1988-1996**

Dr. Horace Sturgis, the first president of KJC along with select faculty and students chose the owl as the school's mascot. They chose the owl for two reasons. First, there were not many colleges and universities in the nation with this mascot. Second, owls are often known as wise, which implied an emphasis on academics at KJC. Eventually the mascot affectionately became known as "Scrappy the Owl." Over the years, Scrappy has appeared in many forms – often as individuals in costume at special events or as a stuffed animal.

## Typical items owned by a Southern Technical Institute student, ca. 1949

What might a student at the Southern Technical Institute carry around campus in 1949? The first item is a Southern Technical Institute brochure, which outlines all the courses of study and individual classes offered during the academic year. The next item is *The Technician*, the official student newspaper of the Southern Technical Institute. This publication kept students and faculty apprised of the latest news on campus. The next few materials are items that a student could buy at the Southern Technical Institute store, including a fountain pen, stationary, and a candy bar.

## **“Southern Tech Separation” promotional sticker, ca. 1979-1980**

Beginning in 1975, serious discussions about the separation of the Southern Technical Institute from the Georgia Institute of Technology were taking place. Many advocates of separation argued that Southern Tech had reached a level of academic maturity and autonomy that warranted separation from its parent institution. In 1978, Southern Tech faculty voted to establish a Regents Study Committee to evaluate the relationship between the two schools. While some individuals believed that the arrangement between the schools should remain intact, Southern Tech faculty overwhelmingly advocated for independence. The issue received ample media attention, and many promotional items, such as this sticker, were created to advance the separation agenda.

## Letter from Cobb NAACP President to Dr. Stephen Cheshier, 1984

During Dr. Stephen Cheshier's presidential administration at Southern Tech, diversity and inclusion became major topics of discussion. In addition to targeted recruitment strategies, Dr. Cheshier's administration increased diversity at Southern Tech by reaching out to underrepresented groups in Marietta. This letter is from Oscar Freeman, who served as president of the NAACP Cobb County Branch from 1982-1986. Mr. Freeman's positive response to Dr. Cheshier's community leadership forum demonstrates the high level of collaboration and mutual respect that existed between Southern Tech and the Cobb NAACP. Developing connections with activist groups in the city made Southern Tech an integral part of Marietta's community.



## **SPSU basketball uniforms, ca. 2008**

Although SPSU never had a football team, there was no lack of school spirit for athletics. Basketball served as a major source of pride throughout the history of the university, as it was the first intercollegiate sport established at the school in 1948. The first men's basketball team was named "The Green Hornets." In the late 1970s, the Southern Tech basketball program experienced major changes under the leadership of Coach George Perides, who swiftly led the Hornets to the regional finals two seasons in a row. In 2002, the Lady Hornets had their inaugural season, which galvanized even more support for athletics and representation of women at SPSU.

## **Last SPSU commencement program, 2014**

In November 2013, the Board of Regents announced plans to consolidate SPSU and KSU beginning January 2015. SPSU held its final commencement program on December 13, 2014. Interim president, Ron Koger, led the ceremony, and Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, former president of SPSU, provided the commencement address.