

# SPSU

THE MAGAZINE | FALL 2009



**Celebrating Six Decades of Women at SPSU**

# SPSU

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**Southern Polytechnic State University**  
1100 South Marietta Parkway  
Marietta, GA 30060-2896  
678-915-7222

**Editor:** Sylvia Carson,  
Director of Public Relations

**Contributing Writers:**  
Eric Pollard  
Cristel Mohrman  
Sylvia Carson

**Vice President for Advancement:**  
Dr. Ron D. Dempsey

**Photographer:** Gary Meek

**Designer:** Garon Hart

**THE MAGAZINE FOR SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dear supporter of SPSU,

When The Technical Institute opened in 1948, the first class enrolled 116 students: 115 men and one woman. You'll learn more about that pioneering woman, Barbara Hudson Purdy, in this issue of the *SPSU Magazine*, along with stories about other successful women from this institution.

As I write this, 1,095 women are attending Southern Polytechnic this fall semester, marking the largest number of female students ever enrolled. Alumnae have enjoyed successful careers as engineers, architects, construction managers, computer scientists, teachers, and researchers. Several of these outstanding graduates are featured in this issue of the magazine.

That first group of students studied with 10 faculty members – all of them men. According to Dr. Richard Bennett, Professor of Social and International Studies and author of the 1997 history of this institution, the first woman faculty member was hired around 1964, well after the campus re-located to its current Marietta location. The percentage of faculty who are women has been increasing steadily in the last few years, and women now represent over 31% of the full-time faculty. (Over 50% of our current staff members are women, as well.) As you will read in this issue, one of these women faculty members received a special honor last spring. Dr. Carol Barnum, in the Department of English, Technical Communication, and Media Arts received one of the 2009 "Regents' Hall of Fame Awards" for teaching excellence from the University System of Georgia Foundation.

Student enrollment in Fall 2009 is well over 5,100, and the campus has a record number of students and faculty members on campus. The cranes and cement mixers associated with our new construction are exciting signs of progress, and we are all eagerly watching the rise of the Engineering Technology Center, the new building that will provide additional space for architecture design studios, new apartments and special interest housing, and a dining hall. Students are excited about the new parking deck, as well. As you have the opportunity to visit campus, I hope you'll come by and marvel at all the activity!

This issue of the *SPSU Magazine* is filled with information about the past, present, and future of this University – with achievements by both women and men. I hope you enjoy learning more about what's happening at Southern Polytechnic!

With very best wishes,



Lisa A. Rosssbacher, Ph.D.  
President



Dr. Rossbacher with The Technical Institute's first woman graduate, Barbara Hudson Purdy.

# Forty-seven options to choose from

Southern Polytechnic State University began offering eight new degree programs this fall, including three undergraduate engineering degrees approved in August by the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents.

Since 2006, SPSU's degree offerings expanded as rapidly as the student population – roughly 30 percent growth for both, as SPSU added 13 new academic degree programs in total, for its current 5,170 students. Among the other new academic programs are undergraduate degrees in construction engineering, and computer game design and development.

"I was one of the first students to sign up for the new construction engineering program," said senior Valerie Thomas of Warner Robins, Ga. "I considered switching from construction management to civil engineering technology because I wanted to be more involved in the actual design rather than the business aspect of construction. So I was excited when Southern Poly started offering the construction engineering degree."

Thomas updated CAD drawings and learned about basic transportation design work during an internship with Heath and Lineback Engineers, a structural and civil engineering consulting firm in Marietta, Ga. As a member of SPSU's American Society of Civil Engineers student

organization, she participated in the geotechnical competition at the Southeast ASCE Student Competition in March 2009 where she was able to practice the many theories she learned through the engineering of sandcastles.

Construction engineering was



one of the first new degrees added in 2006 and has been one of the most popular among female students who account for nearly 20 percent of the program's enrollment.

"The construction engineering degree gave me the flexibility to design as well as work for a contractor

on the construction management side," said senior Katie Bowar of Woodstock, Ga. "I feel that the mixture of design classes and construction management classes was perfect for what I wanted to do."

Bowar currently works as part of a cooperative education program with HNTB Corporation, an architecture and engineering consulting firm in Atlanta, specializing in the infrastructure industry. "The courses challenge me to learn, and with the co-op, I'm getting a good foundation to go into the work place."

"Our goal is to make our graduates more competitive in an increasingly technological world, giving them a significant advantage in both public and private sector employment," said Dr. Zvi Szafran, vice president for Academic Affairs. "The addition of these new degree programs enhances our appeal not only to students but also to prospective employers."

Faculty members agree as well.

"The new computer game design and development program became an undergraduate degree offering in fall 2009. It has the promise of benefitting Southern Poly in terms of enrollment and the Atlanta metro area by creating more careers and expanding the economy," said Dr. Han Reichgelt, dean of the School of Computing and Software Engineering. "As these game pro-

grammers begin graduating, and we keep attracting gaming companies, then there is the possibility of setting up a very vibrant gaming industry in Georgia.”

The establishment of these degree programs continues to make SPSU a more competitive institution, attracting new students to the school. Three evening engineering degrees were recently approved by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents: mechanical engineering, civil engineering, and electrical engineering. Aside from the Georgia Institute of Technology, SPSU is the only university in the state to offer these programs.

“Our programs specifically target non-traditional students who desire to complete an engineering degree on a full- or part-time basis. The addition of these degrees to the array of offerings at SPSU directly addresses Georgia’s need for professionals trained in areas of engineering,” said Dr. Szafran.

SPSU now offers a total of seven undergraduate engineering degree programs, as well as six degree programs in engineering technology.

“Engineering technology degrees have been the hallmark of an SPSU education for many years. Graduates have the skills to coordinate people, material, and machinery to achieve the specific goals of a particular project. SPSU now offers the ideal learning environment for students interested in both engineering and engineering technology,” added Dr. Szafran.

In all, SPSU now offers 47 degree programs – 36 undergraduate and 11 graduate. For more information on SPSU’s academic degrees, visit [www.spsu.edu](http://www.spsu.edu).

## Enrollment surge at SPSU

It’s not so much a surge as it is a tidal wave. Evidence of Southern Polytechnic State University’s expansion can be seen everywhere – from the number of new degree programs added (13 since 2006) to the \$100+ million construction of new academic and housing facilities currently in progress. But what spurred all of this is the continued increase in enrollment SPSU has seen over the past few years. A record 36 percent enrollment increase from the 2005 to 2009 academic years created a need for new construction. With current housing occupancy over capacity, the 720-bed housing project, scheduled for completion in August 2010, will bring some relief to the waiting list.

Since 2006, the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents has approved 13 new degree programs at SPSU:

- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- Bachelor of Science in Political Science
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Game Design and Development
- Master of Science in Accounting
- Master of Science in Information and Instructional Design

These engineering and technology-focused programs offer students a wider array of options, and also make them more competitive in the workforce, thereby increasing the appeal. The application and enrollment numbers for fall 2009 tell the story:

- 3,404 undergraduate and graduate students applied to SPSU for fall 2009 (27 percent increase from fall 2007).
- 374 students enrolled in all of the new undergraduate majors (over 8 percent of total undergraduate enrollment)
- 16 percent increase in total enrollment of new students from 2007 (22 percent for graduates, 15 percent for undergraduates)
- 73 percent freshmen retention from 2008 to 2009
- 24 percent increase in female applicants
- 27 percent increase in female enrollment
- 10 percent increase in African-American male undergraduate enrollment
- 22 percent increase in applicants from Cobb County
- 59 percent graduate enrollment in Cobb County students

The most popular majors chosen by SPSU students are: mechanical engineering technology, architecture, construction management, electrical engineering technology, and civil engineering technology.

# Reaching toward the STARS

**In an effort to draw more African-American males into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, Southern Polytechnic State University is reaching out to area young people.**

Funded by a 2008 grant from the University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative, SPSU's Success Through Academic and Resourceful Students (STARS) program targets local sixth- and seventh-graders at Pine Mountain Middle School in Kennesaw, Campbell Middle School in Marietta, and the Marietta Sixth Grade Academy to widen the pipeline of African-American males entering the STEM disciplines.

Current SPSU students from the National Society of Black Engineers and the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PSLSAMP) serve as mentors to these middle school students through science and engineering competitions, such as Science Olympiad and Future City. These mentors help build confidence in STEM areas and provide career awareness to the students. More than that, these mentors become friends and confidants who make a real difference in the students' lives.

Camron Macon, a senior biology

major at SPSU from Marietta, is a PLSAMP scholar mentoring in the STARS program. He has noted the difference in student attitudes and performance as a result of his mentoring. "I have seen a change in the students' academics, the way they respect the teachers, and their outlook about college and possible career paths." Macon noted that the students he mentors enjoy and look forward to the time he spends with them and are willing to open up to him about personal issues outside of school.

However, his participation in the program hasn't just been a benefit to the students he tutors; STARS has provided Macon with an opportunity to continue pursuing his goal of being a teacher. "I plan to become a high school teacher, and even though these students are in sixth grade, I hope I can impart into their lives something they will take with them."

Principal Dayton Hibbs from the Marietta Sixth Grade Academy has noted the positive impact the program has had on students' attitudes. "We are thrilled to have the STARS program on campus. It's very important for students to have role models in addition to the academic support."

"The STARS program of Southern Polytechnic State University has had a significant and positive impact on our students and their academic performance," added Dr. Brian Davis, principal at Pine Mountain Middle School. "Our teachers, parents, and students have all been amazingly sup-

portive of the program and noted an increase in confidence and academic engagement for the young men who consistently participated with the STARS tutors."

"Because the youth have a chance to see and work with African-American college students, the prospect of going to college is more realistic to them," said Dr. Jeffrey Orr, director of the SPSU Advising, Tutoring, Testing, International Center.

STARS is one of several mentoring programs established at SPSU. This year, a second grant from the African-American Male Initiative helped establish a mentoring program specifically geared toward incoming African-American male freshmen. "This mentoring program will be an outgrowth of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan, which engages first year students through learning communities," said Dr. Orr. "We want to create a culture of academic success for African-American men by building on success at every academic level."

The new program will create a learning community for African-American males mentored by PLSAMP scholars during the first year. By the second year, at least half of the mentored students are expected to become PLSAMP scholars themselves, who will then participate in mentoring the new incoming AAMI students.

Currently, 11 SPSU students mentor through the STARS program at the three middle schools.



Camron Macon, a senior biology major at SPSU from Marietta and a PLSAMP scholar in the STARS program, mentors at the Marietta Sixth Grade Academy.

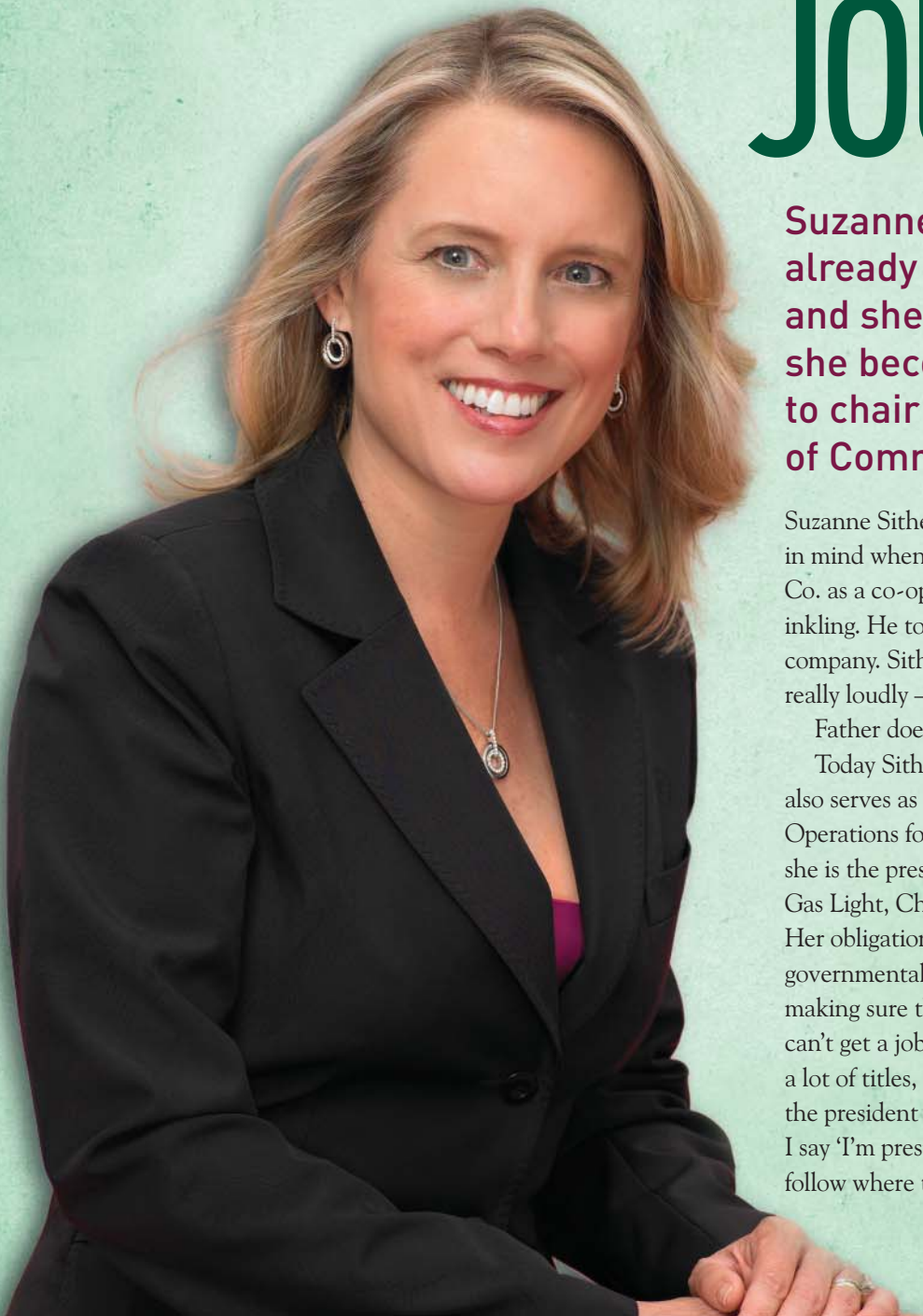
# HIGH ENERGY JOURNEY

**Suzanne Sitherwood (BS '83) already has four job titles, and she'll get a new one when she becomes the first woman to chair the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.**

Suzanne Sitherwood didn't really have a career goal in mind when she went to the Atlanta Gas Light Co. as a co-op student. Her father, however, had an inkling. He told her she would end up running the company. Sitherwood recalls laughing – laughing really loudly – to his prediction.

Father does, indeed, know best.

Today Sitherwood, 48, runs three companies and also serves as the senior vice president of Southern Operations for AGL Resources. In that capacity she is the president of three of its utilities – Atlanta Gas Light, Chattanooga Gas, and Florida City Gas. Her obligations for AGL Resources are mainly governmental, she says. “I spend most of my time making sure that people are in the right places. You can't get a job done without the right people. I have a lot of titles, and when I'm in Georgia, I say 'I'm the president of Atlanta Gas Light,' and in Florida, I say 'I'm president of Florida City Gas.' You can follow where this is going.”





She also will be running an entity that even her father couldn't have foretold. Next year, she will become chairperson of the board of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. She will be the first woman in the Chamber's 95 years to have that position.

Sitherwood's rise to the top was methodical rather than that of a shooting star. She graduated from Southern Poly, then known as, Southern College of Technology, with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering technology.

"Engineers were in high demand, particularly women engineers. There were no women in my classes and my grades were decent so I got a four-year-scholarship. I never knew who paid for my college, but I liked Southern Tech because it was less R&D and more pragmatic."

She considered a military career but Atlanta Gas Light Co., was recruiting women years ago in the co-op student program in the cathodic protection group. A self-proclaimed military brat (her father was an engineer), she recalls fitting right at home in the early days with the company.

"Joe LaBoon was the CEO, and he was a military man, and he ran the company like a military. The only thing missing was barbed wire. I felt right at home."

She says being comfortable in the situation must have been "in my DNA. I was comfortable being around military men and men, like my father, who talked a lot of technical things, like machines and guns. A lot of the men in the field wanted me to succeed. They cared about my succeeding and were even protective. Some of those men still work with me."

She has held a variety of

positions including vice president of engineering, environmental and construction, chief engineer, director of competition planning, director of rates and regulatory affairs, and director of residential markets.

Prior to her current role, Sitherwood served as vice president of gas operations and capacity planning, a position she held since June 2002. As vice president, Sitherwood directed the natural gas distribution infrastructure, gas control, gas measurement, marketer relations, customer-related services, interstate pipeline relationships, asset management, and management of storage facilities.

"I changed jobs every two to three years – just like the military,"

**"I HAVE LIMITED TIME, AND I WANTED TO GET INVOLVED IN GROUPS WHERE I COULD LEND MY TALENTS AND HELP BUSINESS ACROSS THE STATE."**

she says. "I always adjusted well and loved the new challenges and mental stimulation of getting up to speed quickly. One opportunity led to another. I guess they just ran out of jobs and gave this [the president's job] to me," she says with a laugh.

She considers herself "blessed" to work there. "To me, it is all about customer service and providing our customers with the energy they need. We put together a team, and I want all of our individual talents to work together to provide the best customer service. It sounds like a textbook speech, but it's not that easy to execute."

As part of her job, she became more involved with the Georgia

Chamber of Commerce, which represents business interests statewide, and she took on several leadership roles.

"I have limited time, and I wanted to get involved in groups where I could lend my talents and help business across the state," she says. "Of course, economic development is very important to our company, and there are bigger issues as well, transportation, education."

She maintains that she didn't have her eye on the chamber's top leadership role, but she did want to take positions where she could make a difference. "It wasn't about becoming the chairperson of the chamber," she says. "I was there to get out in the state and learn and listen. If you get

out and talk to people and you care about Georgia and know your facts, people will listen. It also allowed me to engage in the political arena. I wanted to do more than write a check."

Sitherwood's husband, Guy Griswold, retired from Procter & Gamble where he was in charge of external affairs, and is now with Blue Ridge mentioned in some circles as a future political candidate – possibly for the governor's office.

"I keep hearing people say that," she says. "I don't plan on stepping down from this position, and I don't know why people would be saying I have political ambitions. Actually, go raise \$10 to \$15 million, and then come see me."

## SITHERWOOD IS TARGETED ON WHERE SHE PUTS HER ENERGY AND TALENTS. "IF IT'S GOOD FOR THE STATE, IT'LL BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS," SHE SAYS SIMPLY.

"Suzanne is very intelligent and extremely capable," says Lindsay Thomas, who is retiring from AGL Resources as a senior vice president of governmental relations. He also was the president and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce for seven years. "She has boundless energy and she loves the political world – and she's very capable in it. Politics request some sensitivity, and she has a natural knack. She gets along in politics, and she loves the political game. She really knows how to get along with the players, and she knows the process and how it works."

Sitherwood's political acumen as well as her technical knowledge played out well as she headed the chamber's Environment & Energy Committee and worked to secure passage of Georgia's first statewide



plan last year. The plan, which was approved by overwhelming bi-partisan, geographically diverse margins in the General Assembly, has as key objectives supporting the state's growing economy, protecting the health of the state's citizens, preserving our natural resources, and enhancing our quality of life.

The first step in the plan is the creation of ten regional water councils, each of which will work over the next three years to analyze how much water is currently available in local streams, rivers and other sources, determine how best to manage and conserve those resources, and develop plans that take into consideration how future growth will be accommodated. The General Assembly funded the program this year."

I wanted to do something about the water situation because, well, we need it," she says. "And I think we were going in the right direction – forming a regional water council. It had to be grass roots, effort and we had to go out and help people understand what it will take to provide water for the state in the future. There is no silver bullet."

Sitherwood admitted her work with the water issue was "challenging. We are in the midst of a challenging economy with lay-offs, but we have to keep our eyes focused and feel good and optimistic about our own future. We have to keep our companies healthy and our state healthy. We can't have our water situation be like our transportation where we knew it was a problem for decades and didn't do anything. Saying 'I told you so' isn't good. But five years from now we can look back with pride at what we

accomplished with the water situation. And, I think that's pretty cool."

As she takes over the leadership of the Georgia Chamber next year, she will help lead it through a variety of issues.

Sitherwood is targeted on where she puts her energy and talents. "If it's good for the state, it'll be good for business," she says simply. In addition to the Georgia Chamber, she serves on the Governor's Energy Policy Council and the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board.

She also serves on the board of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and chairs its wellness and legislative board committee. In addition, she is chair of the Atlanta New Century School Advisory Board and The Carter Center Board of Councilors. She was also recently appointed to the new Atlanta Dream Advisory Board.

Sitherwood is a member of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of United Way and a co-chair for the Atlanta Regional Council (ARC) 50 Forward Program. She also served on the boards of the American Cancer Society, Clean Air Campaign, Emory Hospital Visiting Committee, Atlanta Woman Advisory Board, Livable Communities Coalition, Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc., Governor's Task Force on Transportation and AID Atlanta.

For her part, Sitherwood says she is up for the challenges. "I want to take a leadership role," she says. "I'm high energy, and the cup is always half full. I know my journey has just started."

*This article is reprinted from Atlanta Woman Magazine–MAY/JUNE 2009, courtesy of Trans World Publishing.*

# A place to learn, live, and play



Last year, the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents approved a plan to construct new suite-style and special interest student housing at Southern Polytechnic State University. The groundbreaking ceremony in mid-September marked the beginning of construction for the Hornet Residential Village.

The new residences, containing approximately 720 beds, will increase the capacity of on-campus housing to 1,883 total beds. Construction is also currently underway for two multi-story buildings containing 600 beds for the suite-style units, 10 houses containing 12 beds each for special interests, and a new food service facility of approximately 16,700 square feet.

"This new expansion of housing supports the academic mission of the University. SPSU is committed to providing a residential living and learning environment that is positive, safe, and healthy," said Patrick McCord, SPSU's vice president for Business and Finance. "The new on-campus housing plays an integral role

in the University's mission to deliver quality education at a reasonable cost."

SPSU was the first university within the University System of Georgia to build student housing utilizing the Public-Private-Ventures method.

No state or public money will be used to build the current housing. Instead a foundation was created to sell bonds to raise funds for construction, and the bonds will be repaid through rent revenues. This method of funding allows the school to build housing based on demand. "Funding through GHEFA (Georgia Higher Education Facilities Authority) is preferred because \$100 million dollars of projects from various institutions are bundled together. This gives the projects and institutions included in the bundle an economy of scale they wouldn't have had otherwise. Soft costs such as legal fees, bond insurance, and debt reserves are less...and that means we get more project for each dollar of debt we incur," explained McCord.

Plans for the new housing were based in part on a

market study conducted with students. The units will be primarily composed of two and four bedroom suites with shared baths within the units and community laundry rooms in each building. The special interest housing will be available to athletes, fraternities, sororities, honor societies, and other student organizations. The new housing complex will also contain a new dining hall with a much larger seating capacity that is capable of offering a wide variety of food programs and meal choices. The current dining hall in the Student Center will be replaced with two to four brand-name retail food operations. In support of SPSU's credo of applied knowledge, the construction of the new facility will be open to classes at designated times so that they may see first hand the progression of construction.

The Ambling Development Company construction team includes Juneau Construction Company as the general contractor for the project and Niles Bolton Associates as the architect of record.

# Reflections on

Barbara Hudson Purdy (AS '50) enrolled as Southern Technical Institute's first full-time female student in 1948. She began courses in the school's Building Construction program, along side many of her classmates who were young men returning from war.

While other women took courses there, Hudson Purdy was the only one to commit to the two-year program. She chose the school - which over the years evolved to Southern Polytechnic State University - based on its location and tuition rates and her desire to learn about design. Classes were held at a former Naval air station, a campus she recalled as "very plain, nothing exciting." "To me, it was more the design area that was interesting, not learning how to nail or saw," she said. And she did learn, and went on to use that knowledge throughout her life, but not without finding a husband in the process. Noticing her struggle with algebra assignments, a classmate offered to help her improve her math skills. Those tutoring sessions "lasted for a long time," said Hudson Purdy, who wound up dating and later marrying her tutor, Alfred Purdy. But first, she focused on her education. In addition to math, she studied English and design - an area of study she clearly recalled. "We did things like build a model of a house we had designed. It was a combination of a book and manual," she said.

While she was aware of her uniqueness as a female student, she said she did not feel awkward about it. "It was a pleasant time," she said. "Everybody treated me well. The men were all gentlemen, perhaps because the war veterans were a little older and more mature than traditional college students."

When she graduated in 1950, her status as a female graduate was noticed by the Atlanta Journal and her accomplishment was shared in some of the school's promotional materials. Hudson Purdy accepted a job

at Rich's Department Store, where she briefly designed merchandise layout for the department store. She was soon expecting her first child, and she and Alfred moved several times over the years while he served in the Army. Eventually, they settled again in Georgia. As a commuter student, Hudson Purdy took buses to and from classes each day, leaving little time for her to pursue extra-curricular activities at Southern Technical Institute. Still, she managed to find time to work on the student newspaper and serve as editor of the school's yearbook. She still has her yearbooks, which she turns to for an occasional trip down memory lane. But perhaps longer-lasting mementos of her education are the three homes she later designed for her family, using insights of proportions, traffic patterns, and building materials she learned at Southern Technical Institute. In 1987 Hudson Purdy earned a license in real estate, working in that field until 1998. During that time, she and her husband developed a small subdivision and in partnership with a builder, she sold additional homes. "So," she reflected, "I've used what I've learned." The Purdys' current home in Rockdale County, east of Atlanta, was designed by Hudson Purdy. She and Alfred have lived there since 1998. The couple celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in August. The family she and Alfred reared also serves as a legacy to their college days. After marrying in 1950 - just a few months after graduation - the two went on to have seven children. Today, they are also the proud grandparents of 13 and great-grandparents of 10.



# the past



**CLEBURNE V. HARMON**  
*Dalton, Georgia*  
Mechanical Secretary, Photo Club; Member Mechanical Club

**WALTER R. HAY**  
*Hollsopple, Pennsylvania*  
Building Construction Associate Business Manager, Technician's Log; Member Alpha Beta Society; Vice-President Freshman Class; Literary Key, Technician's Log

**R. ERWIN HAYES**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*  
Industrial Technology Secretary, Monogram Club; Member Tau Alpha Pi; Manager, Varsity Basketball; Letter, Varsity Basketball, Manager

**FREEMAN HENDERSON**  
*Macon, Georgia*  
Building Construction Member Technician Staff, Technician's Log Staff; President, Alpha Beta Society; Intramural Softball; Football; Volleyball; Basketball; Honor Roll, 2 quarters

**ERALD T. HEULITT**  
*Neptune City, New Jersey*  
Building Construction Member Glee Club; Alpha Beta Society; Intramural Football

**B. HIERS, JR.**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*  
Building Construction

**BARBARA HUDSON**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*  
Building Construction Member Tau Alpha Pi; Exchange Editor, '49; Staff Writer, '50 Technician; Associate Editor '49; Editor '50 Technician's Log; Literary Keys, Technician's Log; Honor Roll, 3 Quarters

**ROBERT W. HUDSON**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*  
Civil Secretary, Civil Club; Intramural Football, Volleyball

**GEORGE R. HUGHES**  
*Macon, Georgia*  
Electrical Member Student Council, Monogram Club, Electrical; Intercollegiate Varsity Basketball, Track; Intramural Track, Football, Volleyball; Letter, Basketball, Track

**MARVEL ASBURY HUNTER**  
*Winder, Georgia*  
Building Construction

**LEWIS JACOB INGRAM**  
*Hogansville, Georgia*  
Electrical Electronics and Radio; Vice-President, Monogram Club; Member Radio Club

**ALTON BROOKS IVEY, JR.**  
*Waycross, Georgia*  
Civil Technology Member Photo Club; Civil Club



# Textualized Berlin

How do our backgrounds and beliefs influence what we think or believe about a foreign culture? How does that change when we find ourselves suddenly immersed in that culture? And more importantly, how do we change as a result? These were questions for thought for students of SPSU's Honors course *City as Text* this past spring. This is the second time the course had been offered. Last year, students visited Rome, Italy. This year, they visited Berlin, Germany.



Toke Adetayo

“What would it be like to have our students remove themselves from places of familiarity and go to unknown sites characterized by new politics, new people, new language, new currency, new habits, new ways of approaching day-to-day experiences?” asked Dr. Jeffrey Orr, director of the Advising, Tutoring, Testing, International Center, and professor for this Honors course. “I wanted students to take an introspective moment to ponder how their own identity, culture, and values affect what we see and how we see it, as well as our willingness to explore something.”

*City as Text* offered students the opportunity to experience a different culture firsthand.

“Similar to traditional study-abroad programs at SPSU, the *City as Text* course centers around the experience abroad, and that experience is integral to the rest of the course,” said Dr. Richard Bennett, director of International Programs. “The primary differences are the faculty who teach the course, the locations visited, and the depth of classroom orientation.”

While study-abroad programs are taught by faculty from a host university, *City as Text* is taught by SPSU instructors. Because faculty in *City as Text* can change from year to year, the location and course content changes as well, unlike study-abroad courses. Finally, the orientation to prepare students for international travel is limited to a few meetings with study-abroad staff, whereas *City as Text* presents a thorough classroom discussion prior to travel.

Class discussions in *City as Text* often centered on student interests, biases, habits, and preferences, and on how their own backgrounds affect how they perceive a city. “We had a number of students from different cultural backgrounds, providing such diverse perspectives. This trip provided a more in-depth look at the city and its culture,” added Dr. Orr.

At the end of the semester, each student gave a presentation identifying and researching a particular aspect of the city while connecting it to his or her own personal experiences, culture, and major field.

Throughout the trip, students posted blogs about their experiences and their perceptions of Berlin. Below is a blog excerpt from Toke Adetayo, an architecture major, about the lasting impact of the city.

### How *City as Text* left a lasting impact on me

March 19, 2009

I still have a vivid image of the names of the six victims of the holocaust mounted on the wall at the museum. I still feel the calmness that came upon me when I was in the memorial, almost as if, I were there again. I still remember the stories of some people being recited into my ears. I still feel the tears filling my eyes when I remember the pictures of children and women being killed by the thousands. Reading the actual series of events at the “Topography of Terror” brings the reality of the event to me. Leaning against a wall in the holocaust tower gives me a sense of connection to the victims. It places me in a very uncomfortable yet soothing environment.

This experience has been balanced, as everything in life should be. I have seen greatness in an imperfect city. The balance of modernism and Berlin’s growth and achievements in great things like architecture and energy saving. It was good to see that they have found a balance to their choices of keeping historical buildings and monuments rather than just tearing them down. They gave non-Berliners something to look at, something to allow us to reflect upon, something to allow us to understand a piece of their past. They gave me something to feel rather than read about. They are a true example of how the past does not define the future. One makes the decision on how the past affects or shapes their future.

—Toke Adetayo

Although *City as Text* is offered as an Honors course, it is available to other students for credit, upon approval from the Honors’ director, Dr. Nancy Reichert, and will be available again in spring 2010.

For more information on SPSU’s Honors’ program and the *City as Text* course, visit [www.spsu.edu/honors](http://www.spsu.edu/honors).

# Long-tenured professor lauded for communications program, personal success

**D**r. Carol Barnum, professor of Information Design/Technical Communication at Southern Polytechnic State University, has spent three decades teaching courses about the constantly evolving communications field. As co-founder and director of SPSU's Usability Center, in which students test products for problems and report on user experience, she teaches a usability course, recruits business clients, and moderates usability studies. Her work in the classroom and her book, *Usability Testing and Research*, have been recognized with a number of awards. Dr. Barnum most recently received the 2009 Regents' Teaching Excellence Award from the University System of Georgia and was personally congratulated by Georgia governor, Sonny Perdue.

## **In what ways has your approach to education changed since you joined the SPSU faculty in 1979?**

When I first started in 1979, I was hired to teach technical writing. In those days, the expected approach was to stand up and lecture. We've taken a turn away from that, thank goodness. I don't lecture anymore. Students are much more engaged now. When I started, the expectation was that the teacher was a knowledge source. During the first two years I audited a technology class in each of the technical departments to help me relate better to students. This helped me understand what they would

want to write about in technical reports. From that beginning, we now have our own degrees in our department and I teach almost fully online. When teaching my online courses, I add resources and include links to articles. I'm always increasing the support to students so they have everything they need. I think that's a critical component, especially in the online experience.

## **There have been so many changes in communications over the past 30 years. What have been some of the biggest changes you've seen at SPSU?**

Being online is probably the biggest paradigm shift in teaching. About seven years ago, we started offering online classes in our program. It just sucked the applicants out of campus-based admission because everyone wanted to be online for the convenience. It was amazing how many students didn't want to commute. To make the transition to an online teaching environment, I took advantage of every training opportunity that was made available about online teaching. Also, I now work from home a lot. It gives me the flexibility of avoiding the commute myself. The trade off, though, is that I spend much more time online ... so I basically 'see' my students every day.

## **You've been praised by your students and received awards for your teaching. What makes you stand out as an educator?**

I don't compare myself to my colleagues. I think I have high expectations for my students. I think one of the things that motivates me as a teacher is when my students find they can meet my high expectations and exceed them. I have a reputation for being rigorous. Those who like that approach tend to take more of my courses. They become absolutely dedicated and devoted to what they can accomplish. To those who are committed to it, it is a great relationship.

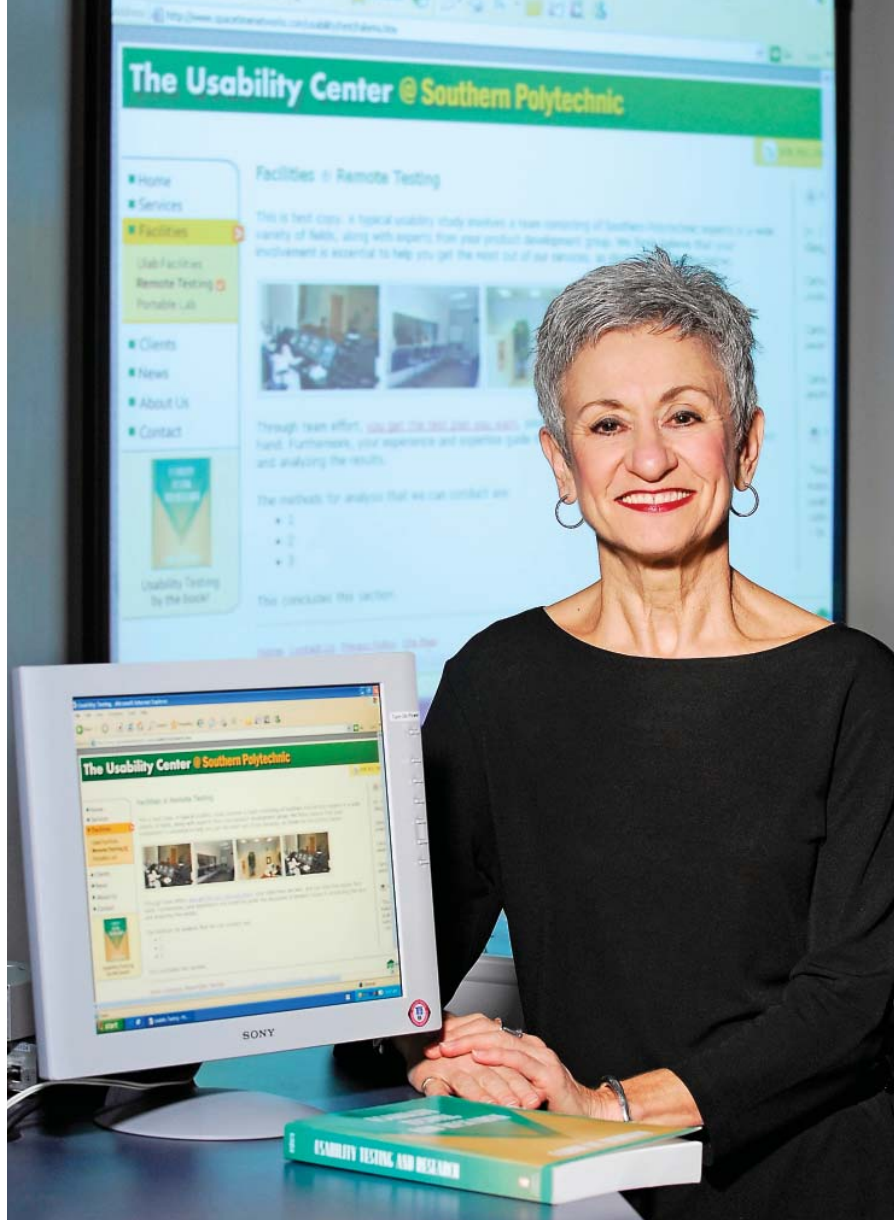
## **What does it mean to you to be named a recipient of the Regent's Teaching Excellence Award?**

That's a huge honor and complete surprise. Dr. Zvi Szafran, vice president for Academic Affairs, nominated me. I reluctantly applied for it and it was a huge surprise to receive it. I really didn't think that the courses I teach and the students I teach would be in the running against all the other universities. I think it's just wonderful that teaching at Southern Polytechnic can earn that kind of validation. On one hand, maybe I should quit now that I'm ahead, but on the other hand, I wake up every day eager to see my students. It's a motivation to keep going, too.

## **What do you do to keep current in such a rapidly changing field?**

I write and publish a lot. I read a tremendous amount. I use the summers to catch up on a lot of





professional things. I attend one or two conferences a year. I present papers with my students and colleagues and also by myself. This year, after three years of serving on the award committee for the Society for Technical Communication's Kenneth Rainey Research Award, given in honor of my former department chair, I was nominated for the award myself and received it in May. The award is based on contributing a body of knowledge to the field. It was nice to see that publishing recognized.

**How do you envision the Information Design/ Technical Communication program 30 years from now?**

I don't think I could imagine five years into the future. Who would have imagined social networking? We not only have to stay with the times, we have to stay ahead of the times. Right now we don't have a course on social networking, but I will probably have to add the topic to my Marketing Communications class. We are constantly out of breath trying to keep up with all the changes happening in the communication and usability field.

**What was it like for you 30 years ago when the SPSU staff was composed primarily of men?**

When I first came to Southern Polytechnic, that was absolutely

true. The women tended to be in the English department. I can count on one hand the women who were in the other departments. When former department head Robert Fischer encouraged me to audit those courses, it allowed the technical faculty to see I was interested in what they were doing. I also went to basketball games and other events to get to know the faculty. I never felt isolated or estranged for being a woman. And now we have a woman president.

**Are you doing anything to celebrate your 30-year anniversary at SPSU?**

I went to the service awards and got my 30-year certificate. I don't really measure time. I frequently get asked, 'When are you retiring?' It's just not on the radar for me.

**What have been some of your favorite moments at SPSU?**

I love seeing my students succeed. Sharing research opportunities is great. Seeing them get great jobs, having them ask me for reference letters. I've been the recipient of many awards myself, which are very validating. Primarily, I think I'm rewarded by the great work that my students do and seeing them in the professional community. I stay connected with my students, which is great.

**You've achieved so much at SPSU. Is there anything you haven't done yet?**

I'm not goal-oriented. I'm opportunity-oriented. I just try to expose myself to as much new learning as possible and consider new opportunities when they come. Part of what keeps me in the work world is my enthusiasm for new opportunities. I don't know what the next one will be.

# ACE Fellow experiences SPSU's leadership, dedication to students

**A student-focused university with strong leadership is how one educator describes Southern Polytechnic State University.**

After serving for 18 years at Georgia Perimeter College as a professor, department chair, and assistant vice president, Dr. Margaret Venable spent the 2008-09 school year as a "student" at SPSU.

While she didn't take any formal classes, Dr. Venable, who was SPSU's first American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, defines her experience as an extended learning opportunity.

"One of the first things that really struck me is how student-focused SPSU is. That's obviously something I value, and it was rewarding to see how much the faculty and staff value the students. That's something you don't see at every institution," she said.

"From the first faculty meeting, I remember the emphasis on the quality of coursework, but always with an emphasis on students," said Dr. Venable, pointing to SPSU's tutoring programs and co-curricular activities.

"One of the things staff, faculty, and administrators talk about first and foremost is how important the success of the student is. It's a theme that



recurs no matter who you are talking to. At some institutions, faculty members are more focused on research and they lose sight of the students," she said.

She said SPSU has a good balance between those two focuses in that professors engage advanced students in research opportunities and speak to newer students about the importance of research to raise their awareness as to what kind of work they could do as professionals.

Dr. Venable spent her year as an ACE Fellow focusing on SPSU's new Freshman Experience Program and the recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty.

"Every institution encounters challenges when it comes to

recruitment," said Dr. Venable. "At SPSU, that challenge is attracting female faculty. You can't just focus on recruitment. You have to make sure you have a campus environment that would be attractive to retain them. And you want to make sure you have a diverse faculty to better reach a diverse student population."

Her second focus was to review SPSU's new Freshman Year Program, which aims to engage students with staff, classmates, and campus activities.

Dr. Venable worked with an SPSU committee, chaired by Prof. Mark Nunes of the English, Technical Communications, and Media Arts department, which created programs around the theme "The Networked

Society.” The program encouraged new students to use social networking to connect with others on campus.

“I think this was a first stab at things SPSU can do,” she said, adding that the program can be built upon with more planning and funding. As long as social networking remains the rage, “It seems like that’s a good way to connect students with SPSU and with each other.”

Dr. Venable also left her mark by working with Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) coordinator, Prof. Bob Brown, and Dr. Zvi Szafran, vice president for Academic Affairs, to write a formal QEP proposal as part of the University’s re-accreditation process.

The QEP, which focuses on the success of new students, centers around establishing learning communities in which a group of students takes the same core classes, giving them more opportunities to build relationships and study groups.

The plan is being piloted this fall within the School of Computing and Software Engineering.

“The ultimate goal is that if students are engaged and academically successful, they will graduate at a higher rate,” she said.

In her office just outside the Admissions Office, Dr. Venable witnessed interactions between visitors and the university’s staff. She said she was impressed by the way prospective students were treated.

“When students come or call or email, there’s a lot of patience and time taken to help them understand what the university is all about,” Dr. Venable said, emphasizing that the staff focuses not on numbers, but on whether SPSU will be a good fit for each student.

“It’s all genuine. It’s not an act. People genuinely care about prospective students and want them to be happy here,” she said.

Dr. Venable said her own chemistry background and interest in diversity, coupled with Southern Polytechnic’s strong leadership reputation under the direction of its president, Dr. Lisa A. Rossbacher, attracted her to the university.

“I was really looking for the opportunity to broaden my

**“One of the reasons I was interested in Southern Polytechnic was because they have a great president and I thought she’d be a great person to learn from.” —DR. MARGARET VENABLE**

perspective, find out how other institutions do things,” she said. “One of the reasons I was interested in Southern Polytechnic was because they have a great president and I thought she’d be a great person to learn from.”

Dr. Venable wasn’t disappointed.

“She really asks for input from people and values the input she gets. You can tell when she asks for input she really is listening. Her mind isn’t made up already. It really makes people feel valued.” That collaborative leadership style, Dr. Venable added, “carries down through the administration.”

In addition to Dr. Rossbacher, she said she was particularly impressed by the leadership of two administrators she spent the most time with: Dr. Zvi Szafran and Dr. Ron Koger, vice president for Student and Enrollment Services.

“You can learn from watching good examples and bad examples. I’ve just seen so many good examples this

year. I had the opportunity to observe some great leadership from the staff and faculty. Everyone has his or her unique leadership style. The more you can learn about how people lead, the more you can learn about what is effective. A lot of it is very subtle – the format, the timing, the language that’s chosen. So many different things can play a role in the way things go when you’re working as a team.”

Overall, Dr. Venable said her Fellowship was an opportunity for her

to grow and learn as an administrator by studying the actions of SPSU’s leaders.

“I was the person in the room who was able to ask the dumb questions. I could ask the questions other people didn’t because they knew the answers. It makes people think, ‘Why do we do it that way?’ I was the person who brought the fresh eyes. But I seriously think I benefited more than SPSU did,” she said.

Dr. Venable said what she enjoyed most about her Fellowship was “the time, the freedom to study, learn, and reflect.”

“It’s a luxury I don’t have normally when I’m holding down a full-time job,” she said. “It was just an invaluable experience and I’m so grateful for the opportunity.”

After leaving SPSU and completing her Fellowship, Dr. Venable returned to Georgia Perimeter College as the Assistant Vice President for Early Colleges & Academic Initiatives in the Office of Academic & Student Affairs.

# FROM RUNNIN' HORNET TO AVERAGE JOE

## IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT YOUR

“average Joe” can say he challenged and defeated an NBA champion, but that’s exactly what former SPSU basketball player, alumnus, and current admissions recruiter Marc Reece (BS ‘07) did. He recently took to the courts against some of the NBA’s legends in the reality competition show, *Pros vs. Joes* on SpikeTV.

*Pros vs. Joes* pits your “average Joe” in sports competition against former professional athletes, still in their prime.

“These weren’t just regular ball players,” said Reece. “These were all-stars and hall of famers.”

Despite the numerous accolades, Reece wasn’t intimidated by the pros, having led the SPSU Hornets to two conference titles and three straight national tournament appearances from 2004 to 2006. In fact, with two other average Joes from California, Reece won bragging rights and a share of \$10,000 in a three-on-three basketball competition against former NBA powerhouses, Shawn Kemp, Eddie Jones, and Ron Harper.

Reece has become a very recognizable face for the University, thanks to his reality show appearances. Having participated on BET’s *College Hill Interns* in 2007, he has brought a number of students to information tables at college fairs and eventually to campus.

“Being on that show has helped the school’s exposure tremendously. High school students will swarm

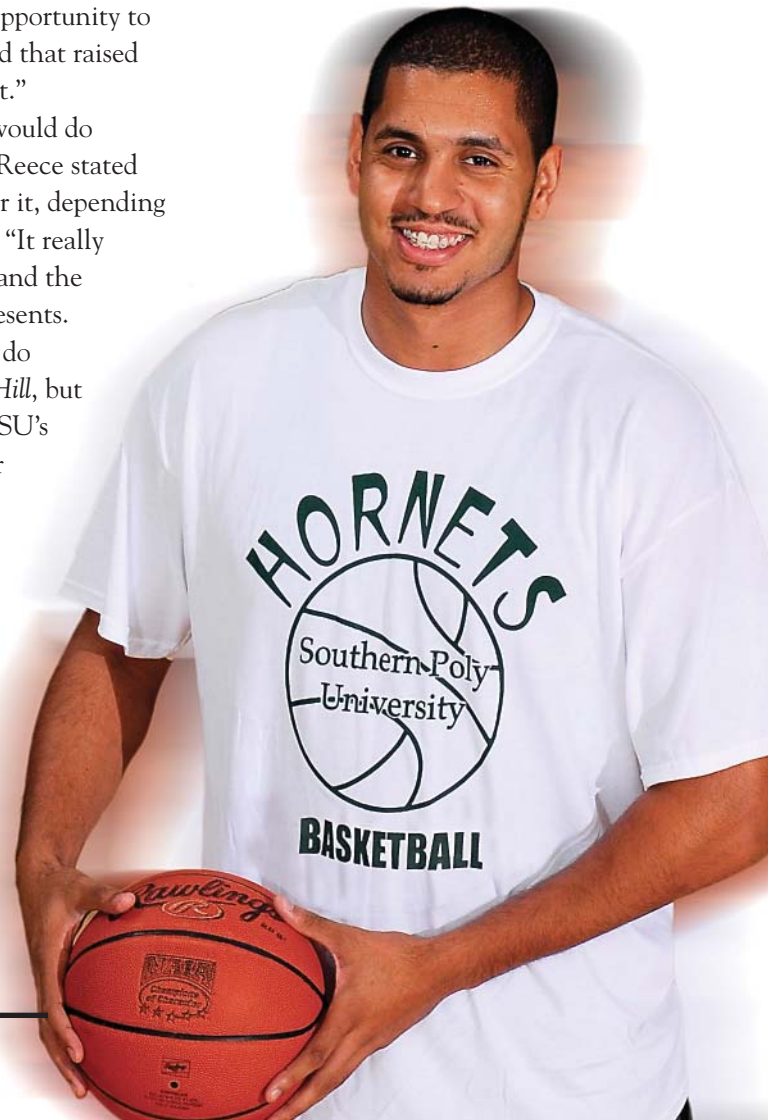
the recruitment table and ask, ‘Are you from *College Hill*?’” Reece said. “They’ll talk briefly with me about the show and then ask about Southern Poly. They want to know if I went there and what made me choose the school.”

Though the premises of the shows were different, Reece noted many similarities – the main one being the level of competition. “Both were highly competitive with high stakes and high standards. With *College Hill*, you didn’t want to be sent home by not meeting expectations. In *Pros vs. Joes*, you had the opportunity to win a lot of money and that raised your competitive spirit.”

When asked if he would do another reality show, Reece stated that he might consider it, depending on the circumstances. “It really depends on the show and the opportunity that it presents. I didn’t think I would do another after *College Hill*, but when Jim Cooper [SPSU’s Executive Director for Strategic Marketing and Sustainability Initiatives] told me about *Pros vs. Joes*, I decided to try out. I wanted to do that show because of my passion for basketball.”

Reece graduated from SPSU with a Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration in the spring of 2007 and has been an admissions recruiter since that time. He has given a number of campus tours to potential students and incoming freshmen and has become something of a “secret recruiting weapon” because of his reality show popularity. “I see a lot of students on campus that I recruited from college fairs. Although *College Hill* may have been a reason they stopped by my table, they chose Southern Poly after learning more about the school and the programs that we offer.”



# Baseball team celebrates triumphant season

**Number one in their conference. Number three in the nation. Shattered records. Conference champions. World Series appearance. Three players signed to major league teams. What didn't the SPSU Hornets baseball team do last season?**

The Hornets began the 2009 season with a series sweep over Talladega College in February. That set the tone for the entire season as they racked up a 16-game winning streak during their record 53-win season for SPSU. Under head coach Matt Griffin, the team ultimately captured their third Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) championship and earned a trip to Lewiston, Idaho for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' (NAIA) World Series. Before they were eliminated from the national tournament, they ended the hopes of 16-time national champion Lewis-Clark State College and garnered a mention on ESPN.

Throughout the season, the Hornets set milestones and shattered records. Coach Griffin clinched his 200th victory after a complete game no-hitter from pitcher Mark Doll against Auburn University - Montgomery. Sean Teague, the 2009 SSAC Pitcher of the Year, threw a perfect game in a 9-0 defeat of conference rival Reinhardt College. The Hornets also ranked number one in the SSAC and as high as number three nationally during a season that saw a record-shattering 461 runs and 57 homeruns. Over a dozen players received awards at the SSAC pre-conference tournament banquet. And for three players, the end of the season marked an exciting new beginning in the major leagues.

Doll was drafted in the 29th round to the Philadelphia Phillies – the 887th overall pick – after earning 11 wins in the season. Teague, a 25th round pick, was drafted by the Florida Marlins and ranked sixth in the NAIA for runs allowed per game. Pitcher Dustin Carder signed with the Baltimore Orioles after becoming a free agent at the end of the season with a record of seven wins and three saves.

“This has been the most enjoyable season I've had in my six years as head coach,” said Griffin. “We played really

well, and making it to Idaho for the NAIA World Series was unbelievable. It will definitely help our program in the future.”

Building on that success would be easy for a coach who had his entire roster returning for the next season. But even with nearly a dozen of his players, including seniors Teague, Doll, and Carder, departing this year, Griffin isn't worried about the future. “We had a great senior class who helped the younger guys become better players throughout the years, so we have a good nucleus coming back next year.”

Griffin is also thrilled about new prospects for the upcoming season. “Recruiting is easier when you have a good team. We have people calling us about playing at Southern Poly, because they know we have a great team and because they know they're going to get a great education. We've already signed 10 players including two walk-ons,” added Griffin.

The three pitchers who were drafted mark a total of seven players under Griffin who have gone pro – 19 total for the Hornets program, including Griffin himself who was drafted to the Chicago Cubs in 1998. Other drafted players include:

|                 |            |                     |      |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------|------|
| Stephen Flake   | Pitcher    | Florida Marlins     | 2007 |
| Joe Billick     | Catcher    | Kansas City Royals  | 2007 |
| Eli Rose        | Pitcher    | Independent League  | 2006 |
| Rusty Watters   | Pitcher    | Independent League  | 2005 |
| Kasey Wilson    | Catcher    | Independent League  | 2004 |
| Mark Ihlenburg  | Pitcher    | Independent League  | 2003 |
| Jared Humphries | Outfielder | Cincinnati Reds     | 2002 |
| Tom Paciorek    | Outfielder | New York Mets       | 1998 |
| Matt Griffin    | Shortstop  | Chicago Cubs        | 1998 |
| Jeff Battles    | Pitcher    | St. Louis Cardinals | 1992 |
| Chris Jones     | 1st Base   | Atlanta Braves      | 1987 |
| Eric Alexander  | Outfielder | Atlanta Braves      | 1986 |
| Roger Hackett   | Pitcher    | Atlanta Braves      | 1985 |
| Greg Hudson     | Pitcher    | Montreal Expos      | 1984 |
| David Jinkins   | Outfielder | Cleveland Indians   | 1984 |
| Danny Mann      | Outfielder | Atlanta Braves      | 1980 |

# Soccer phenom goes pro

## ONE NAME COMES TO MIND WHEN

soccer coach Kom Momeni thinks of the best: Danso. So it's no surprise that after only the second-ever season of Southern Polytechnic State University's soccer program that the best would play among the elite. Soccer phenomenon Mamadou "Futty" Danso is the first SPSU Hornet to play for a professional soccer team. The Portland Timbers, in the United Soccer League, signed the center back after acquiring him from Major League Soccer's D.C. United in April.

Danso's last season with the Hornets was beyond spectacular, as he led the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) in goals, shots, shots on goal, and points per game and was the only person in the nation to be in the top five in each of those categories. He scored 35 goals in two seasons and was named the 2008 SSAC Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, First Team Selection (2007 and 2008), and Newcomer of the Year (2007). He was also a member of the 2008 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America Honorable Mention Team.

"Statistics can be very impressive, but it's the things we don't see on scoreboards or in record books that speak to why Danso is the best. His overall speed, strength, size, and stamina make him a superior athlete," said Momeni. "He was the full package because he possessed all of the qualities that make him a professional player. Not only that, despite being a natural center back,

he filled several different positions for the Hornets team when needed. It's that versatility that makes him the best."

Off the field, adversity constantly challenged him, and in spite of it all, he overcame and overwhelmed. "He missed the preseason training because of visa issues," added Momeni. "He had to become mentally and physically prepared on his own. He had a neck injury that required him to be taken off the field on a stretcher. Also, as a devout Muslim, he fasts during the month of September. Yet, he would still perform in 90 degree heat having had nothing to eat or drink for over 12 hours. That speaks to his mental and physical toughness."

Danso turned pro after his second year with the Hornets. He was initially scouted and acquired by D.C. United in February, but before he could get comfortable in our nation's capital, he was traded to Portland. Danso made his pro debut in April 2009 and made an immediate impact. After only three months on the team, Danso had scored three goals – his first goal coming in only his second game with the team. He also started in six of the nine games he played in.

Although it was a disappointment to the team for Danso to leave the Hornets program early, the success he's seen so far with the Timbers is no shock to Momeni. "I think he's going to have a good professional career."

When asked about the upcoming season for the Hornets, Momeni was very optimistic. "I'm excited. We're



Mamadou "Futty" Danso

going to miss Mamadou because he scored a lot of goals and did a lot for our team. But we have a strong core returning this year. These guys returning are committed, focused, and very motivated to win."

assistant coach, John Sprague from Concordia College in N.Y., is sure to bring much success to the Hornets team. He joins assistant coach Bert Leonard and graduate assistant Paul Sammeroff on the coaching staff. Sprague was vital in developing a program that is now one of the strongest in the Northeast and, like Momeni, has also coached players who have gone on to play professionally, both domestically and internationally.

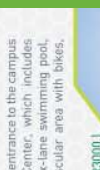
For more information on the third season of the Hornet soccer program, visit [www.spsu.edu/recreation/Soccer-Men](http://www.spsu.edu/recreation/Soccer-Men).



**STUDENT CENTER (A)** Our Student Center, includes the Food Court, cable TV rooms, a game room, and 460-seat theatre, the campus radio station, bookstore, student offices and meeting rooms, lounges, and conveniences (ATM, copier, postal service).



**THE "GLOBE"** Located in an open plaza between the Student Center and the main Administration Building, the Globe is a campus icon and the setting for activities.



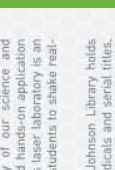
**THE "ROCK"** On the landscaped green in front of the Library, you'll find SPSU's infamous "Rock". For more than 30 years, our fraternities and sororities have painted their letters on The Rock - a friendly competition that spurs members to stay up all night to "guard" their paint job.



**RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER (S1)** Near the entrance to the campus is our state-of-the-art Recreation and Wellness Center, which includes basketball courts, racquetball courts, a 25-yard, six-lane swimming pool, a weight room, an aerobics room, and a cardiovascular area with bikes, treadmills and more.



**COURTYARD APARTMENTS (R1000, R2000, R3000)** Our on-campus Courtyard Apartments offer a world of convenience to students who choose to live there. Fully furnished, these apartments have four bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen fully-equipped, a washer-dryer unit, and a balcony or patio. At the heart of this complex is our spacious Community Center, which houses a commons area and a coffee shop.



**ATRIUM BUILDING (J)** In the center of campus, the Atrium Building serves as a general classroom building as well as a location for several cutting-edge laboratories, including SPSU's usability lab, where industry and academia are brought together from the latest tools, research and technology to support user-centered, task-oriented design applications.



**CRAWFORD LABORATORY BUILDING (E)** Many of our science and engineering technology students attend classes and hands-on application oriented labs in the Crawford Building. The physics laser laboratory is an example of how we use technology, education our students to shake real-world problems.



**LIBRARY (C)** Southern Polytechnic's Lawrence V. Johnson Library holds more than 110,000 catalogued volumes, 1,300 periodicals and serial titles, microforms, U.S. geological survey maps for the state of Georgia, and circulating reserve collections of texts and tests. SPSU and distance learning students can use DALLIED, a system that provides them access to all college and university libraries throughout the state, as well as many other Library resources.



**GYM (SP)** Home to the Rummin' Hornets Basketball teams, the Gym comes alive with cheering fans each season. In 2004-05, the Men's Basketball team won the Southern States Athletic Conference Tournament Championship and finished the season ranked #1 in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics poll.



**ARCHITECTURE BUILDING (N)** Within this distinctive building, each Architecture student is given their own studio space - room to draw, create models, and use the newest software for design creation. The facility also houses a jury room, where students present and defend their Senior portfolio projects, and a gallery used by the entire campus to display student projects and host events. The American Institute of Architects gave Heery International a Design Excellence Award for our building.



**ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CENTER (O)** The new Engineering Technology Center will serve as the main academic building for students majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Computer Engineering Technology, Telecommunications Engineering Technology, or Mechatronics Engineering.



**DIRECTIONS**  
From I-75, take exit 263 (1720 Loop/Southern Polytechnic). Go west towards Marietta on South Marietta Parkway. Take the East Main Entrance one mile on the left, which leads onto campus.

**BUILDINGS**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| A          | Joe Mack Wilson Student Center           |
| B          | Administration Building                  |
| C          | Lawrence V. Johnson Library              |
| D          | Mathematics Building                     |
| E          | Crawford Lab Building                    |
| F1         | Facilities - Administration              |
| F2         | Facilities - Cart & Archive File Storage |
| F3         | Facilities - Small Vehicle Storage       |
| F4         | Facilities - Grounds & Vehicle Shop      |
| F5         |  |
| F6         |  |
| F7         |  |
| F8         |  |
| F9         |  |
| G          |  |
| H          |  |
| I          |  |
| J          |  |
| K1, K2, K3 | Clarence Armonson MET Complex            |
| L          | Civil Engineering Tech Bldg              |
| M          | W. Claire Harris Textile Center          |
| N          | Architecture Building                    |
| O          | Student Competition Team Building        |
| P          | Parking                                  |
| Q          | Engineering Technology Center            |
| R1         | Howell Hall                              |
| R2         |  |
| R10        |  |
| R20        |  |
| R30        |  |
| R100       |  |
| R200       |  |
| R300       |  |
| R400       |  |
| R500       |  |
| R600       |  |
| R1000      |  |
| R2000      |  |
| R3000      |  |
| S1         | Recreation & Wellness Center             |
| S2         | Gymnasium                                |
| S3         | Concession                               |
| T          | Wildcat Communications Center            |
| U          | Extended University                      |

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Commons 600                   |
| Courtyard 1000                |
| Courtyard 2000                |
| Courtyard 3000                |
| Recreation & Wellness Center  |
| Gymnasium                     |
| Concession                    |
| Wildcat Communications Center |
| Extended University           |

|                     |
|---------------------|
| Norion Hall         |
| Housing Office      |
| Community Center    |
| Courtyard Mail Room |
| Commons 100         |
| Commons 200         |
| Commons 300         |
| Commons 400         |
| Commons 500         |

|            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| K1, K2, K3 | Clarence Armonson MET Complex     |
| L          | Civil Engineering Tech Bldg       |
| M          | W. Claire Harris Textile Center   |
| N          | Architecture Building             |
| O          | Student Competition Team Building |
| P          | Parking                           |
| Q          | Engineering Technology Center     |
| R1         | Howell Hall                       |

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| Facilities - Material Storage      |
| Facilities - Large Vehicle Storage |
| Facilities - Maintenance Shop      |
| Facilities - Central Receiving     |
| Facilities Grounds Storage         |
| Engineering Lab Building           |
| Academic Building                  |
| Studio Building                    |
| Atrium Building                    |

|    |  |
|----|--|
| F5 | Joe Mack Wilson Student Center           |
| F6 | Administration Building                  |
| F7 | Lawrence V. Johnson Library              |
| F8 | Mathematics Building                     |
| F9 | Crawford Lab Building                    |
| G  | Facilities - Administration              |
| H  | Facilities - Cart & Archive File Storage |
| I  | Facilities - Small Vehicle Storage       |
| J  | Facilities - Grounds & Vehicle Shop      |



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Permit No. 318

## Save These Dates

### **Monday, November 9, 2009**

#### **Hornet Alumni Breakfast**

Fall Alumni Breakfast featuring guest speaker Suzanne Sitherwood, (BS'83) President, Atlanta Gas Light, Chattanooga Gas, and Florida City Gas, from 7:30 – 9 a.m. in the SPSU Student Center Ballroom. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

### **Friday, December 4, 2009**

#### **Alumni Night at the Atlanta Hawks**

Join SPSU alums at 5:15 p.m. at a private pre-game reception in Phillips Arena before the gates open to the public at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 and include a free Hawks jersey and two drink tickets.

### **Sunday, February 7, 2010**

#### **Super Bowl Party**

Join other SPSU alums in cheering for your favorite NFL Super Bowl contender. Location TBD.

### **Saturday, February 27, 2010**

#### **Hoops Homecoming—Basketball Alumni Reunion**

All basketball alums and their fans are invited to attend an SPSU basketball game and other events to honor our former basketball players. SPSU students will be celebrating their own Homecoming, too, so alums will be invited to join in all the festivities.

### **Friday and Saturday, March 26-27, 2010**

#### **Alumni Reunion and Bathtub Races**

They're back! Bathtubs are being readied as we go to print on this magazine! The bathtubs will not have motors this time—they'll be powered with sheer human will and a lot of heart. Our new road on campus is the perfect setting for these 21st century bathtub races. Mark your calendars and save the date for what promises to be a great Alumni Reunion!

**For more information about these events and more,  
contact the Advancement Office at 678-915-7351.**

