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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for June is up slightly from May

Manufacturing activity in Georgia was up slightly for the month of June, according to the

Georgia (Jul 1, 2008) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for June is up slightly from May

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for June is up slightly from May

Latest reading shows continued weakness in manufacturing; commodity prices reach record high, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (July 1, 2008) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia was up slightly for the month of June, according to the [Econometric Center](#) at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business.

Georgia's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reading of economic activity in the state's manufacturing sector — for June was 49.6, up 0.8 point from 48.8 in May, indicating continued weakness in manufacturing.

The latest Georgia figure reinforces a trend reflecting weakness in the manufacturing sector that has been apparent since December 2007. April's PMI of 57.0 continues to look like an anomaly, with the last two months stabilizing around the average of 49.2 for the first three months of the year, said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business.

"The manufacturing sector is no longer decreasing and has stabilized," Sabbarese said. "But it still remains concerned with weakness in the economy and their markets."

The Georgia PMI provides a snapshot of manufacturing activity in the state, just as the monthly PMI released by the Institute for Supply Management provides a picture of national manufacturing activity. A PMI reading above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is contracting.

The national PMI registered 50.2 percent, up from 49.6 percent in May, after four months of contraction, according to the Institute for Supply Management.

The Georgia PMI reading is a composite of five variables — new orders, production, employment, supply deliveries and finished inventory. A sixth variable, commodity prices, is compiled by the Coles College's Econometric Center but doesn't go into the PMI calculation.

Though new orders surged by 11.1 points and production was up by 5.6 points, finished inventory was down by 12.9 points. Employment rose by 1.3 points.

"Employment's very weak. I just don't think manufacturers, given current economic conditions, are

interested in hiring full-time workers,” Sabbarese said. “We expect manufacturers to continue to be very vigilant regarding any unexpected changes in new orders.”

The commodity price reading of 92.9 for the June Georgia PMI, up from 92 in May, is at its highest level going back to 1991, when the Econometric Center first started compiling the data, Sabbarese said. Some 85.7 percent of manufacturers surveyed reported higher commodity prices from the previous month.

Rising commodity prices not only raise manufacturers’ costs and cuts into profits, but also affect hiring policies. As higher commodity prices take a bite out of earnings, these manufactures continue to maintain very conservative hiring practices, as illustrated by June’s employment reading of 39.3.

The PMI, compiled from a monthly survey of manufacturers, is the earliest indicator of market conditions in the sector. Since manufacturing is sensitive to changes in the economy, it can also reveal changing macroeconomic trends, even if manufacturing accounts for only 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The PMI’s value is in its timeliness and sensitivity to variables such as interest rates, global markets and other economic changes. The Georgia PMI provides valuable data that the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta analyzes, along with many other data sources, to get a picture of economic activity.

For a full report of the June PMI or to schedule an interview with Professor Don Sabbarese, please contact Aixa M. Pascual at 678-797-2549 or apasual@kennesaw.edu.

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A member of the 35-unit University System of Georgia, Kennesaw State University is a comprehensive, residential institution with a growing student population of more than 20,000 from 142 countries. The third-largest university in Georgia, Kennesaw State offers more than 65 graduate and undergraduate degrees, including doctorates in education and business.

A leader in innovative teaching and learning, Kennesaw State University offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees to its nearly 43,000 students. With 11 colleges on two metro Atlanta campuses, Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia. The university’s vibrant campus culture, diverse population, strong global ties and entrepreneurial spirit draw students from throughout the country and the world. Kennesaw State is a Carnegie-designated doctoral research institution (R2), placing it among an elite group of only 6 percent of U.S. colleges and universities with an R1 or R2 status. For more information, visit kennesaw.edu.

Kennesaw State, Georgia Highlands College to offer degrees in Paulding County

Residents of Paulding County soon will be able to earn four-year college degrees without...

Georgia (Jul 2, 2008) — Kennesaw State, Georgia Highlands College to offer degrees in Paulding County

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Kennesaw State, Georgia Highlands College to offer degrees in Paulding County
Partnership aims to bring college-level programs to fast-growing county

KENNESAW, Ga. (July 2, 2008) — Residents of Paulding County soon will be able to earn four-year college degrees without leaving their home county as a result of a new partnership between Kennesaw State University, [Georgia Highlands College](#) in Rome and the [Paulding County](#) government.

Beginning in January, KSU and Georgia Highlands College will utilize a 45,000-square-foot area in the Henry Winn and Bagby buildings in downtown Dallas – the County seat – to offer classes leading to a bachelor’s degree. The capacity of the facility will allow the two institutions to serve between 1,000 and 1,500 students.

The partnership, announced at a press conference Tuesday, will expand academic opportunities for Paulding County, one of the state’s fastest-growing counties and an area “academically underserved” by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents.

Under the new agreement, students will complete their freshman and sophomore years as students of Georgia Highland College, which is a two-year institution of the University System of Georgia. KSU professors will provide instruction for juniors and seniors and will grant the four-year degree – initially in the education and business fields.

“We are extremely pleased about this partnership which makes a four-year college education accessible to students in Paulding County,” said KSU President Dan S. Papp. “We also hope to move quickly to offer master’s level courses at the Dallas facility in the near future.”

Papp said some of the details — the classes, schedules and faculty — still are being worked out, and will be posted on shared links on the Georgia Highlands College and KSU Web sites by August.

The USG’s expansion into Paulding County is the result of a [demographic assessment](#) conducted by the Board of Regents to identify strategies for meeting the state’s enrollment capacity demands out to the year 2020.

“Our demographers told us we must accommodate 100,000 more students by 2020,” said Robert E. Watts, the Board of Regents’ chief operating officer. “About 70 percent of those students will come from within metro Atlanta and from areas like Paulding County, where we do not currently have

facilities that provide access to higher education.”

At the same time, the Atlanta Regional Commission has identified Paulding County as the fastest-growing county in Georgia, growing 170 percent over the last 15 years. The county has a population of more than 113,000.

“We’ve had our eye on Paulding County as a central place to locate a teaching site because it is one of the state’s fastest-growing counties,” said Georgia Highlands President Randy Pierce. “We know that education is the foundation for a better quality of life and for a better economic future.”

Paulding County leaders said the educational partnership will spur continued economic development in the region.

“If there’s going to be any further economic development in Paulding County, we have to make sure the kids have a chance to get a good college education,” said Jerry Shearin, chair of the Paulding County Commission.

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Georgia Highlands College is a two-year, associate degree-granting institution of the University System of Georgia, serving more than 4,500 students at five sites in Rome, Cartersville, Marietta and Carrollton.

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KSU professor to discuss new book on enigmatic Fox News founder

Kennesaw State University political science professor Kerwin Swint will face C-SPAN cameras at 2 p.m. July 12 at the Kennesaw Barnes & Noble as the cable network tapes him for an upcoming segment of its BookTV series on C-SPAN2. (For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Jul 7, 2008) — Kennesaw State University political science professor Kerwin Swint will face C-SPAN cameras at 2 p.m. July 12 at the Kennesaw Barnes & Noble as the cable network tapes him for an upcoming segment of its BookTV series on C-SPAN2.

Swint will discuss and sign copies of his new book, “Dark Genius: The Influential Career of Legendary Political Operative and Fox News Founder Roger Ailes.” The 250–page book, published by Sterling Publishings Union Square Press, came out in June.

The first book ever written about Ailes, Swint’s “Dark Genius” undertakes a definitive study of the man who steered Richard Nixon through the intricacies of the nascent broadcast news era of the 1960s, creating made-for-TV images and mastering a “style over substance” approach to reporting the news. Ailes went on to shape the images and campaigns of other famous Republicans, including Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Rudy Giuliani.

At the same time, Ailes was navigating a successful media career, in which he rose from TV producer to director of the “Mike Douglas Show” and eventually head of CNBC, the first cable financial network. Rupert Murdoch hired him in the 1990s to implement his vision of a different kind of cable news channel — Fox News. In 2007, Ailes joined Murdoch in launching the Fox News Business Channel and still serves as its president and a top advisor to Murdoch at News Corporation, which owns Fox.

□

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Kennesaw State collaborates with Georgia Department of Community Affairs on first statewide homelessness study

More than 75,000 Georgians are homeless at some point during the year. That was the key finding of...

Georgia (Jul 17, 2008) — Kennesaw State collaborates with Georgia Department of Community Affairs on first statewide homelessness study

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Kennesaw State collaborates with Georgia Department of Community Affairs on first statewide homelessness study

KSU statistics professors developed innovative technique for homeless count

KENNESAW, Ga. (July 17, 2008) -- More than 75,000 Georgians are homeless at some point during the year.

That was the key finding of the first statewide study on the homeless population conducted this year by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in collaboration with Kennesaw State University.

Using an innovative sampling methodology and predictive model developed by KSU statistics professors Jennifer Priestley and Victor Kane, the study estimated that there were more than 20,000 people in Georgia who were homeless during the night of January 27, 2008. The A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at KSU conducted the census from the data collected at each of the localities doing the count, said director Carol Pierannunzi. The institute also conducted a census of homeless persons incarcerated in all jails on the night of Jan 27, by contacting each jail and collecting information.

A statistical methodology was selected because a physical count of homeless individuals across the state would not have been feasible.

Instead, the homeless counts were estimated, using a statistical methodology known as cluster analysis, which forms groups or "clusters" of counties by demographic and economic characteristics as well as other variables obtained from the U.S. Census. Once the nine clusters were established and validated, homeless counts from one or two counties were obtained in January of 2008. The ratio of the homeless population in these counties was then applied to the other counties in the cluster. The study also used 2007 homeless count data from Bibb, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Lowndes counties.

"The modeling effort was challenging", says Jennifer Priestley, assistant professor of statistics at

KSU. "We determined that cluster analysis – a technique heavily used in consumer marketing – was the best solution to creating the estimates. Once we had an estimate of the homeless population in all 159 counties, we were then able to apply more traditional techniques to the process".

The report was released at a press conference held at the Genesis homeless shelter in Atlanta July 16. Lindsey Stillman of the Department of Community Affairs served as the study's lead project manager.

Other highlights of the groundbreaking study include:

- o Extreme poverty and personal vulnerability were identified as the leading causes of homelessness in Georgia. The state's poorest citizens have the greatest risk of becoming homeless. Personal situations that left individuals and families vulnerable to the loss of housing included mental illness, substance abuse, developmental or physical disabilities (including chronic medical problems), family violence, eviction and criminal backgrounds.

- o Homeless Georgians ranged in age from 0 to 65 years old.

- o Although there were more homeless people in the urban counties such as Fulton and DeKalb, some of the more rural counties actually experience a much larger percentage of their overall population as homeless.

Additional partners in the homelessness study included the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless; the state's other Continuums of Care (Chatham, Clarke, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Muscogee and Richmond counties); numerous state agencies; homeless advocates and other statewide experts.

The study indicates that the most effective strategy for addressing homelessness is moving individuals and families into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Providing services to persons in stable housing situations have proven to be more beneficial and more cost effective than emergency-like responses.

The DCA will conduct a count in 2009. Specific dates and counties are being determined. For additional information on DCA's homeless programs, please visit www.dca.state.ga.us.

A full copy of the study ([Adobe Acrobat](#) required) is available on DCA's website at: <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/housing/SpecialNeeds/publications/homelessReport08lowRes.pdf>.

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University hosts premiere of Holocaust memorial composition

The Kennesaw State University Orchestra will perform the world premiere of “Flame Language,” a new...

Georgia (Jul 18, 2008) — University hosts premiere of Holocaust memorial composition

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Kennesaw State hosts premiere of Holocaust memorial composition

KENNESAW, Ga. (July 18, 2008) — The Kennesaw State University Orchestra will perform the world premiere of “Flame Language,” a new Holocaust memorial composition by Associate Professor of Music and Composer-in-Residence Laurence Sherr, at 8 p.m. on Oct. 22 in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. This is Sherr’s third Holocaust-themed composition.

A consortium of vocalists and orchestras from around the country commissioned the piece, which commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. Sherr, whose mother was the only member of her family to survive the Holocaust, found inspiration in the poetry of Holocaust-survivor Nelly Sachs. The words for “Flame Language” are taken from the Sachs poem “The candle that I have lit for you” and the music was created to enhance the meaning for the audience. “I want to bring Sachs’ poetry to people,” Sherr explains. “I want them to remember the Holocaust. I also want them to experience the poetry, to think about it and to take something away from the performance.”

In addition to “Flame Language,” Sherr has composed other works thematic of the Holocaust. His first piece on this theme, “Elegy and Vision,” was actually composed in memory of his brother; however, “Elegy and Vision” has been included in many Holocaust remembrance events and concerts. Later, Sherr composed “Fugitive Footsteps,” which was also inspired by a Sachs poem, to honor the survivors of the Holocaust. Before the Oct. 22 event, Sherr will present a pre-concert lecture on his Holocaust commemorations at 7 p.m. in the recital hall of the Music Building.

Sherr spent three years creating “Flame Language.” One of his main challenges was crafting a piece that would work for all the consortium musicians, which includes baritone Daniel Gale of Birmingham, Ala., bass baritone Oral Moses of Marietta; baritone Elliot Z. Levine of New York City; Leo Najar and the Bijou Orchestra of Bay City, Mich.; and Michael Alexander, director of both the Cobb Symphony Orchestra and the KSU Orchestra. “I had to tailor the piece to feature performers with different vocal ranges,” he says. “They all felt the final result was a dramatic and strong work.”

For the premiere performance at Kennesaw State, guest conductor Bridget Reischl of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music will conduct the KSU Orchestra and KSU Professor of Music Oral Moses will perform as soloist. “I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with a conductor who has the skills and accomplishments of Reischl,” says Sherr. “It’s also a pleasure to work with Moses, who has such a rich and expressive voice and is a fantastic communicator with audiences.”

Additional performances are planned by the other consortium members and will take place in Birmingham, Ala., New York City and in other regions. Information about future performances is available on Sherr's website at <http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~lsherr/holocaust.html>.

The Oct. 22 premiere of "Flame Language" will take place at 8 p.m. in the Bailey Performance Center. Tickets are \$5. The free pre-concert lecture is at 7 p.m. in the recital hall of the music building. For information or to order tickets, visit www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call the box office at 770-423-6650.

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KSU gallery season features diverse solo, group exhibitions

The Kennesaw State University Art Museum and Galleries plan a year of exhibitions ranging from...

Georgia (Jul 21, 2008) — KSU gallery season features diverse solo, group exhibitions

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Kennesaw State's gallery season features diverse solo, group exhibitions

KENNESAW, Ga. (July 21, 2008) — The Kennesaw State University Art Museum and Galleries plan a year of exhibitions ranging from contemporary paintings and photography to graphic design, sculpture and printmaking. "There will be a plethora of major solo exhibitions in contrast with an amazing series of large group exhibitions, all incredibly diverse in content, scale and media," said Will Hipps, director and curator for the KSU Art Museum and Galleries.

The gallery season opens with the solo exhibition of noted representational figurative artist Steven Assael, who is renowned for his photorealist, large-scale paintings. He will be exhibiting works from the gallery that represents him, the Forum Gallery in New York City and Los Angeles. "Through his extraordinary use of the visual vocabulary of painting, he is able to reveal essential characteristics of each model's personality," Hipps stated. The exhibit will be presented Aug. 7 through Oct. 9 in The Art Gallery-Sturgis Library, and the opening reception will take place during the Fall 2008 Grand Opening Reception on Aug. 28 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The exhibition will be accompanied by an artist workshop to be announced in September.

The season continues with the 6th Biennial KSU Art Alumni Exhibition, which will be on display in the KSU Fine Arts Gallery Aug. 21 through Oct. 2. "This year, the non-juried exhibition is open to all alumni, and the artwork has a size limit so that we may be afforded the opportunity to see multiple pieces of each alumni artists' work," said Hipps. The exhibition also provides an opportunity for alumni to remain connected to the department while showcasing their current work. The opening reception will be held on at the Fall 2008 Grand Opening Reception on Aug. 28.

The Aug. 28 Grand Opening Reception is the official celebration of the art exhibition season for the fall 2008 semester. In addition to the Steven Assael and art alumni exhibitions, the "Athos Menaboni: Conversations with Nature" exhibition, which officially opened in May 2008, will also be open during the reception. The Menaboni exhibition is in the Don Russell Clayton Gallery of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. "Having receptions for the first three fall 2008 exhibitions on the same evening will allow for wider audience participation," stated Hipps. "Many students, alumni and visitors have not seen the beautiful new Clayton Gallery or the Henriquez Atrium in the Bailey Performance Center."

Next up is "Recurring Visions: 30 Years of Photography" by renowned artist-photographer Vicki Ragan, Oct. 14 through Dec. 3. One hundred modest-scale photographs will be displayed in the Fine Arts Gallery in the Wilson Building. "Photography in general serves as a means of looking outward,"

Hipps stated. "Vicki Ragan does the opposite. Ragan's photographs look inward. She creates a stunning history of introspection, taking us on a journey in search of identity." This exhibition will be presented as part of the 10th Annual Atlanta Celebrates Photography Festival. The opening reception will be held Oct. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m., with dialogue from the artist beginning at 6 p.m.

Next is the Fall 2008 Senior Exhibition I for art education majors. These students will display their professional-quality portfolios accompanied by work from their studio concentration. The senior exhibition is required as a partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Science in art education degree. The students' work will be displayed Oct. 22 through Nov. 5 in The Art Gallery-Sturgis Library and the opening reception will be held on Oct. 22 from 5-8 p.m.

On October 24-25, students working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic communication degree will participate in the Fall 2008 Senior Portfolio Presentation. Students with this concentration will present their portfolios in the professional, two-day exposition from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the Social Sciences Building Atrium.

Summing up the Fall 2008 semester, the final Fall 2008 Student Exhibition will be on display for Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio candidates, Nov. 19 through Dec. 8. The studio art majors exhibit a wide variety of artwork. Professional quality art is selected from three possible areas: painting and drawing, photography and printmaking, and sculpture and ceramics. The senior exhibition is required as partial fulfillment for the bachelor of fine arts in studio degree. The opening reception will be Nov. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Art Gallery-Sturgis Library.

The first exhibit of 2009 is the 26th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, Jan. 15 through March 3 in the Fine Arts Gallery. Celebrating over a quarter century of spirited competition among KSU student artists, entries are juried by distinguished Atlanta arts professionals and cash prizes are awarded. Many of the works will be available for purchase. This event is open to all KSU students.

The faculty and staff of the Department of Visual Arts will display their art in a wide range of media talent, including sculpture, painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, mixed media, printmaking and graphic design in the Annual Art Faculty and Staff Exhibition, Jan. 27 through March 16. The opening reception will be held Jan. 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Art Gallery-Sturgis Library.

The next highlight for the exhibition season will be "Chantal Zakari/Mike Mandel: In Collaboration," curated by Will Hipps, March 19 through April 30 in the Fine Arts Gallery in the Wilson Building. The contemporary artist/designers and husband and wife team will present their most recent collaborative work as part of the "Year of Turkey" programming at KSU.

"Mandel and Zakari are in Turkey this summer researching work which may center on the different social and cultural aspects of Turkey and the United States," stated Hipps. "One aspect will be the production of an 18-page art book." Best known for her digital work, Zakari is a faculty member teaching new media at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Mandel is also an accomplished and widely respected artist. The opening reception for this exhibition will be held March 19 from 5 to 8 p.m.; a dialogue with the artists will begin at 6 p.m.

March 31 through April 13 marks the Spring 2009 series of student exhibitions, starting with Senior Exhibition I for Bachelor of Science in art education majors. Like its fall 2008 counterpart, students will showcase their professional portfolios. The exhibit will take place in the Art Gallery-Sturgis Library and the opening reception will be on March 31 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Spring 2009 Senior Portfolio Presentation for Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic communications majors will be on March 27 and 28 in the Social Sciences Building Atrium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Closing out the season, the Spring 2009 Senior Exhibition II for Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio candidates will take place April 21 through May 4 in The Art Gallery-Sturgis Library. The opening reception will be held April 21 from 5 to 8 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call

KSU Art Galleries at 770-499-3223.

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School of Music established at Kennesaw State

Kennesaw State University has established the university's School of Music, formerly the...

Georgia (Jul 29, 2008) — School of Music established at Kennesaw State

Cheryl Anderson Brown

Abstract

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School of Music established at Kennesaw State

KENNESAW, Ga. (July 29, 2008) — Kennesaw State University has established the university's School of Music, formerly the Department of Music. This change recognizes the growing excellence of the nationally accredited music program, which boasts a performance faculty composed largely of musicians from the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Opera Orchestra and the Cobb Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to experiencing 70 percent enrollment growth since 2000, the newly renamed School of Music has added several new facilities, including the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center that opened in October 2007 and new faculty studios and student practice rooms that will be completed in late 2008. The Bailey Center houses the 3,600 square-foot Eric & Gwendolyn Brooker Rehearsal Hall and a 624-seat acoustically stellar Performance Hall, which Grammy Award-winning soprano Sylvia McNair called one of her "six favorites in the world" and which Donald Runnicles, principal guest conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, hailed as a "Georgia treasure." Last year, the music program also received a gift of 27 Steinway & Sons pianos from Dr. Bobbie Bailey, earning the distinction of one of four All-Steinway Schools in Georgia. Additionally, the music program has received more than \$2 million in endowments in the last two years.

Fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, the KSU School of Music offers a liberal arts degree in music and professional degrees in music performance and music education. In the last three years, it has created new orchestra and opera programs and has added a jazz studies program. At the same time, its graduates have been accepted into the nation's top graduate music schools and have won numerous national and international music competitions. Each year, the department presents more than 100 public performances. In the upcoming season, it will host performances by three 2008 Grammy Award winners: the chamber ensemble eighth blackbird, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore and violinist James Ehnes. The School of Music also hosts the 300-member Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra. The School of Music and GYSO co-present an annual summer music clinic at KSU. This year, 110 high school students participated in the clinic.

Charles Schwartz has been selected as the interim director the KSU School of Music. He will lead the program this academic year while a national search is conducted for a permanent director. Schwartz is the former dean of the School of Fine Arts at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and most recently served as the interim dean of the School of Music at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. Schwartz is succeeding Peter Witte, who had chaired the music department since 1999, but who recently accepted the position of dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“The distinction of the music program as a School of Music is another significant milestone in the arts odyssey at Kennesaw State University,” said Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts, which houses the School of Music as well the Department of Visual Arts and the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. “I congratulate the excellent music faculty for the superior work they have done to merit this achievement.”

For more information about the KSU School of Music at Kennesaw State, visit its website at www.kennesaw.edu/music.

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for July shows continuing weakness in manufacturing

Manufacturing activity in Georgia remained unchanged for the month of July, with no clear...

Georgia (Aug 4, 2008) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for July shows continuing weakness in manufacturing

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for July shows continuing weakness in manufacturing
Latest reading remains unchanged from June; production drops sharply, commodity prices slide after months of increases, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (Aug. 4, 2008) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia remained unchanged for the month of July, with no clear signs of sustainable growth for the near future, according to the Econometric Center at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business.

Georgia's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reading of economic activity in the state's manufacturing sector — for July was 49.6, the same level as in June. The reading indicates some stability, but also highlights continued weakness in manufacturing.

The latest Georgia figure reinforces a trend reflecting weakness in the manufacturing sector that has been apparent since December 2007. April's PMI of 57.0 continues to look like an anomaly, with the last three months stabilizing around the average of 49.2 for the first three months of the year, said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business.

"There's a lot of uncertainty," Sabbarese said. "The manufacturing sector doesn't see a long-term sustainable trend."

The Georgia PMI provides a snapshot of manufacturing activity in the state, just as the monthly PMI released by the Institute for Supply Management provides a picture of national manufacturing activity. A PMI reading above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is contracting.

The latest Georgia figure reinforces a trend for both Georgia and the nation as both surveys are converging at a measure of 50. The national PMI registered 50 percent, unchanged from June.

The Georgia PMI reading is a composite of five variables — new orders, production, employment, supply deliveries and finished inventory. A sixth variable, commodity prices, is compiled by the Coles College's Econometric Center but doesn't go into the PMI calculation.

Behind the Georgia PMI are monthly adjustments in all the variables, with production, down 10.7 points, experiencing the greatest change. This suggests that manufacturers are continuously reacting to monthly changes, with no clear expectations that they are sustainable in the long run.

New orders for July dropped 3.6 points, resulting in a drop in production. July's underlying PMI variables adjusted to an unusually high reading for new orders and production in June. Employment increased by 1.8 points.

"Employment improved slightly but remains relatively weak at 41.1 points and much lower than the national reading of 51.9. I just don't think manufacturers, given current economic conditions, are interested in hiring full-time workers," Sabbarese said. "We expect manufacturers to continue to be very vigilant."

The commodity price reading of 89.3 for the July Georgia PMI is down 3.6 points from June. This is the first time commodity prices drop since March 2008, Sabbarese said. Commodity prices had been rising for months, reaching a high of 92.9 for June, the highest level since 1991, when the Econometric Center first started compiling the data. High commodity prices pose a concern for higher inflation and lower corporate profits.

The PMI, compiled from a monthly survey of manufacturers, is the earliest indicator of market conditions in the sector. Since manufacturing is sensitive to changes in the economy, it can also reveal changing macroeconomic trends, even if manufacturing accounts for only 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The PMI's value is in its timeliness and sensitivity to variables such as interest rates, global markets and other economic changes. The Georgia PMI provides valuable data used by institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to assist in their analysis of current economic conditions, along with many other data sources, to get a picture of economic activity.

For a full report of the July PMI or to schedule an interview with Professor Don Sabbarese, please contact Aixa M. Pascual at 678-797-2549 or apascual@kennesaw.edu.

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Kennesaw State awards first specialist in education degrees during summer commencement

Kennesaw State University celebrated its summer commencement July 29–30, where it graduated its first class of Specialist in Education in Leadership for Learning candidates and said farewell to a long-time dean. (For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Aug 4, 2008) — Kennesaw State University graduated its first class of Specialist in Education in Leadership for Learning candidates July 30, marking a milestone in the university's first doctoral program.

Completion of the specialist degree, an Ed.S., is a significant step for the 27 students pursuing the university's first doctoral degrees and represents completion of 33 of the 75 hours — 44 percent — necessary for a doctoral degree.

“The Ed.S. is the doctoral degree without the advanced research, doctoral seminar or dissertation,” said Harriet Bessette, associate professor in the department of inclusive education.

“We embedded the Ed.S. in this program because we knew there were probably going to be some students who found the Ed.S. degree served them best.”

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University appoints first director of sustainability

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Georgia (Aug 4, 2008) — University appoints first director of sustainability

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Kennesaw State appoints first director of sustainability

Professor to help oversee academic and operational "green" initiatives at KSU

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 4, 2008) — Kennesaw State University has named Robert C. Paul, professor of biology in the College of Science and Mathematics, as the institution's first director of sustainability. In his new role, Paul will oversee environmentally sustainable operational and educational initiatives.

"Dr. Robert Paul is uniquely qualified to assume this important role," said Provost Lendley Black. "He has enjoyed a distinguished tenure at KSU as a faculty expert on sustainability issues and as an advocate for protecting our campus resources and reducing our environmental impact."

Paul assumed his new role on Aug. 1. The position is part of Kennesaw State's overall efforts to lessen its environmental footprint and educate its students, faculty and staff about environmental responsibility and sustainability.

In June 2007, KSU President Daniel S. Papp joined more than 300 college and university presidents in signing the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which commits KSU to being proactive in engaging students, faculty and staff in measuring and reducing the campus' carbon footprint over the next two years. As director of sustainability, Paul will serve a key role in moving forward the university's endeavors to meet these challenges.

Such positions — about 65 nationwide, according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education — are relatively rare among American colleges and universities, and rarer still are environmental coordinators or sustainability directors who look at not just how a university operates, but also how it educates students, faculty and staff.

"KSU is progressive and on the cutting edge in having someone who holds a Ph.D. and spans both the operational and academic realms of environmental issues and sustainability on a college campus," said Tim Hedeon, chair of the search committee for the sustainability director position.

As director of sustainability, Paul will be responsible for:

- taking a "green" inventory of KSU, benchmarking the university's energy and water usage, waste management and transportation issues, in evaluating the current state of the university in terms of sustainability;
- formal education, including teaching classes relating to the environment, ecology and sustainability as well as an interdisciplinary studies degree program in environmental studies;
- informal education to raise the awareness of sustainability issues; and

- coordination with the university's operations division in matters of design, plant operations, regulatory compliance, environmentally-friendly purchasing and other matters.

Paul has taught at KSU for 30 years and has long advocated environmental and ecological causes at the university.

"I am delighted that the position has come to reality at KSU," Paul said. "Numerous members of the university community have advocated for this position, and it is good to see that KSU is demonstrating its commitment to the environment. This is an exceptional opportunity to work on these important issues which dominate societal discussion in the early 21st century."

Paul said he hopes to work not just with the university community in academics and operations, but also with local governments on matters such as transportation, growth and land use.

Paul, who holds a Ph.D. from Stony Brook University, teaches environmental and ecological courses at KSU, in addition to biology and animal behavior. He was the first chair of the university's environmental concerns committee, and has served as president of the KSU faculty senate.

"This new position reinforces KSU's strong commitment to being a good steward of the environment," Provost Black said. "As the university continues to grow, we will increase our commitment to policies and practices that have a positive impact on our planet."

For more about Kennesaw State University's "green" initiatives, download the December 2007 edition of Access in Adobe PDF format at:

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/ur/downloads/Dec%2007%20Access.pdf>.

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Kennesaw State, Cobb County police practice emergency response on campus

Kennesaw State University and Cobb County authorities participated in an emergency response drill Aug. 5 to test response plans and communication systems a week before students return to campus residences for the fall semester.(For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Aug 5, 2008) — The call came in to the office of the biology and physics department at Kennesaw State University at about 9 a.m. Aug. 5.

Cindy Best, an administrative associate at the College of Science and Mathematics, took the call calmly. The caller told her there was a bomb in the science building.

But instead of panicking, she and dozens of KSU staff and faculty on Tuesday watched and learned how to operate in a crisis. Some took notes while others exited the building, before a high-tech robot removed and destroyed a simulated bomb.

The drill, code-named “Golden Owl II,” was the second in a series of ongoing emergency training exercises aimed at boosting KSU’s responses to emergencies and improving communications during a crisis.

“I think it’s wonderful to go through a scenario like this, so that if the real thing occurs, we don’t panic,” Best said. “It’s a very good thing knowing that there is a whole team at the university to help assist in an emergency.”

Kennesaw State’s department of public safety worked in conjunction with the Cobb County Police Department’s bomb squad in the drill, as did dozens of crisis managers from buildings across campus — faculty or staff members from each building designated key points of contact in the event of an emergency. There are about 200 crisis managers at KSU.

“The exercise was part of ongoing efforts to make sure that we know what to do during an emergency, and that both KSU and outside agencies work well together,” said Robert Lang, assistant vice president for strategic security and safety. “It was also intended to find things that we can improve upon in the future.”

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Steven Assael exhibit at Kennesaw State features photo-realistic art from New York, Los Angeles

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Steven Assael exhibit at Kennesaw State features photo-realistic art from New York, Los Angeles

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 5, 2008) — “Steven Assael: Solo Exhibition” will be displayed in the Sturgis Library Gallery at Kennesaw State University, Aug. 7 through Oct. 9. New York City artist Steven Assael, nationally acknowledged as a leading figurative artist, will share his works portraying photo-realistic human figures. Whether clothed or nude, the subjects of his drawings and paintings combine Assael’s mastery of technique perfected by artists from the past with an appreciation and sensitivity to modern-day subjects.

Works from the Forum Gallery in New York City and Los Angeles will be on display for the community to view in this exhibit. Director of Museum and Galleries Will Hipps will serve as curator of the exhibit. “Assael is an extremely skillful master painter of the live model. Through his extraordinary use of the visual vocabulary of painting, he is able to reveal essential characteristics of each model’s psyche or personality,” he says.

Assael’s figures are drawn from live models, some of these models chosen directly from of the street. Recent work portrays the isolation felt by young people, showing models covered with piercings, tattoos and costumes. His paintings and drawings are a study of human character, creating photo-realistic images that reveal the interaction between the artist and the subject. The mastery of technique revealed by Assael’s figures is superceded only by the emotional impact created by the human quality of those figures.

Born in 1957, Assael is a graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. He now teaches at Pratt Institute and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. His paintings and drawings have been displayed in solo and group shows across the country. In addition to displaying his works at KSU, Assael will also give an artist’s workshop as part of the visiting artist program sponsored by the KSU Department of Visual Arts.

The opening reception will take place Aug. 28 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the Sturgis Library Gallery. Admission to the “Steven Assael: Solo Exhibition” at Sturgis Library Gallery is free. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday; and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, visit www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call 770-499-3223.

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KSU, U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey host workshop on federal grant writing, contracting

Kennesaw State University will host a workshop to help citizens navigate the federal grant–...

Georgia (Aug 7, 2008) — KSU, U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey host workshop on federal grant writing, contracting

Jeremy Craig

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MEDIA ADVISORY

KSU, U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey host workshop on federal grant writing, contracting

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 7, 2008) — Kennesaw State University will host a workshop to help citizens navigate the federal grant-writing and contracting processes. The event will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the KSU Social Sciences Building. The workshop, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey, is open to the public. Reservations are required.

What:

Participants at the “Federal Grant Supermarket” will learn the basics of writing federal grant proposals at a workshop presented by the Georgia Tech Research Institute. Representatives of small businesses and state and local government entities also will learn how to register to do business with, and purchase from, the federal government.

Who:

The Georgia Tech Research Institute and officials from entities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Small Business Development Center, the General Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be on hand to answer questions. Representatives from other federal and state agencies will also be present.

When:

Thursday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The grant workshop starts at 10 a.m., with a session at noon examining federal opportunities for small businesses, and a contracting and purchasing session at 1 p.m. Federal representatives will be on-site from noon to 3 p.m.

Where:

KSU Social Sciences Building, first-floor auditorium. Visit www.kennesaw.edu/maps for further location information.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required due to limited capacity. Reservations can be made via e-mail to casey.sims@mail.house.gov. For further information, call Gingrey’s local district office at (706) 290–1776.

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Art alumni exhibition at Kennesaw State features variety of work

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Georgia (Aug 14, 2008) — Art alumni exhibition at Kennesaw State features variety of work

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Art alumni exhibition at Kennesaw State features variety of work

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 14, 2008) --The 6th Biennial KSU Art Alumni Exhibition will be on display Aug. 21 through Oct. 2 in the Kennesaw State University Fine Arts Gallery in the Joe Mack Wilson Building. Alumni from classes ranging from 1992 to 2008 will be showcasing up to three pieces of art, which are available for sale to the public.

Director of Art Museum and Galleries Will Hipps serves as curator of the exhibit, which showcases small-scale two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces, as well as digital and new media. All graduates of the visual arts program were invited to participate in this opportunity. "This year, the non-juried exhibition is open to all alumni, and the artwork has a size limit so that we may be afforded the opportunity to see multiple pieces of each alumni artists' work," said Hipps. The exhibition also provides an opportunity for alumni to remain connected to the department while showcasing their current work.

The KSU Office of Alumni Affairs is sponsoring the 6th Biennial Art Alumni Exhibition. An alumni association representative will attend the reception and the alumni community is invited to attend the event.

Exhibition participants include the following: Leslie Amick (1995), Perry Bennett (2006), William Cash (2006), Matthew Craven (1993), Brandon Crawford (2005), Sarah Daly (2005), Jan DiPietro (2002), Stephanie Funk (2007), Jeff Gaines (2008), Ben Goldman (2006), Amy Kicklighter (2007), Lori Richman Jenkins (2004), Souham Lindstrom (1999), Gates Luck (2007), Shane McDonald (1992), Lauren Oates (2005), Jaime Parham (2005), Michelle Scott (2007), Melanie Henderson Stephan (2007), Allison Timbs (2008) and Sara Wieland (2006).

A grand opening reception will be held on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The reception celebrates the exhibitions at each of the three KSU galleries: 6th Biennial KSU Art Alumni Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery of the Wilson Building, "Steven Assael: Solo Exhibition" in the Art Gallery-Sturgis Library and "Athos Menaboni: Conversations with Nature" in the Don Russell Clayton Gallery of the Bailey Performance Center. The grand opening reception is the official celebration of the fall 2008 exhibition season.

Admission to the 6th Biennial Art Alumni Exhibition is free. Hours for the Fine Arts Gallery are Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call 770-499-3223.

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KSU opens new Central Parking Deck

A new eight-story Central Parking Deck that adds nearly 2,700 parking spaces for KSU students, staff and faculty officially opened Aug. 14, with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and “parking of the first car” by Student Government Association President Punit Patel.(For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Aug 14, 2008) — A new eight-story Central Parking Deck that adds nearly 2,700 parking spaces for KSU students, staff and faculty officially opened Aug. 14, with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and “parking of the first car” by Student Government Association President Punit Patel.

KSU President Daniel S. Papp called the opening of the deck a “truly momentous occasion. “It’s a magnificent structure, and it will eliminate parking problems on campus for at least two or three years.”

“This is an exciting day for KSU,” said Patel, a senior marketing and legal services major. “It shows the growth the school is facing. For students, it will relieve a lot of the stress of always trying to find a spot close to their buildings. Like its name says, the deck is really ‘central’ to almost every building on campus.”

The duo-toned brick structure is the largest parking deck on campus and larger than any parking facility begun in the state in 2007, according to Jim Stewart, who managed the building project for Choate Construction.

The new deck increases KSU’s parking capacity to 10,000, including about 500 spaces used for visitors, handicap access and reserved parking. Gary Dalton, assistant director of auxiliary services, estimates that the new deck results in a net increase of 1850 parking spaces, since 960 spaces have been lost to construction underway across campus. The campus now accommodates parking for 6,500 commuter students; 3,000 residential students and 1,000 faculty and staff.

“The net gain will more than offset the need for more parking as a result of increased enrollment over the next several years,” Dalton said. “We estimate that the highest number of students in class at any hour is 4,500. The commuter availability far exceeds that now.

Papp and John Anderson, assistant vice president for facilities services, recognized those who have made a substantial contribution to the new deck project. Among them are the KSU Foundation, which backed the bonds used to finance the project; Choate Construction, builder; Praxis3, designers; Lanier Parking, deck operators; KSU’s auxiliary services department, which oversees parking, and the Campus Parking Committee.

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KSU professor wins prestigious accounting award

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Kennesaw State professor Dana R. Hermanson wins prestigious accounting award
American Accounting Association's Wildman Medal recognizes best in published work

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 18, 2008) — Michael J. Coles College of Business accounting professor Dana R. Hermanson received the Wildman Medal, one of the most prestigious academic awards in the field of accounting, at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association earlier this month.

Hermanson, the Dinos Eminent Scholar Chair of Private Enterprise, was awarded the 2008 Wildman Medal for a paper he published with three other colleagues synthesizing the research on how external auditors evaluate various risks associated with auditing a company's books. His co-authors were Robert D. Allen of the University of Utah; Thomas M. Kozloski of Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; and Robert J. Ramsay of the University of Kentucky.

The Wildman Medal, sponsored by the accounting firm Deloitte, is awarded each year to the authors of the publication that is likely to have the most significant impact on the practice of public accounting. The list of past winners reads like a "Who's Who" among accounting researchers.

"The Wildman Medal is extremely meaningful to me because it recognizes research that contributes to the practice of accounting," said Hermanson, who has taught at KSU since 1993. "I am very thankful to the leadership of the Coles College of Business and to my colleagues for creating an environment that fosters this type of work."

Hermanson and his colleagues reviewed the academic literature on auditor risk assessment to support the efforts of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, created by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to oversee auditors of public companies. The paper was published in June 2006 in the journal *Accounting Horizons*.

Hermanson has received several awards for his contributions in research, teaching and professional service. His research addresses issues related to auditing, corporate governance, information technology and accounting education. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 business publications. Hermanson was recently named co-editor of *Accounting Horizons*.

"Receiving this award is yet another confirmation of Dana's expertise and singles him out as one of the premier researchers in his discipline," said Kathy Schwaig, interim dean of the Coles College of Business. "We're so proud of Dana and appreciative of the recognition that he brings himself, the School of Accountancy and the Coles College. He is an exceptional colleague and we congratulate him for receiving this extraordinary honor."

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A member of the 35-unit University System of Georgia, Kennesaw State University is a comprehensive, residential institution with a growing student population of more than 21,000 from 142 countries. The third largest university in Georgia, Kennesaw State offers more than 65 graduate and undergraduate degrees, including new doctorates in education and business. The Coles College is the largest business school in the state.

A leader in innovative teaching and learning, Kennesaw State University offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees to its nearly 43,000 students. With 11 colleges on two metro Atlanta campuses, Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia. The university's vibrant campus culture, diverse population, strong global ties and entrepreneurial spirit draw students from throughout the country and the world. Kennesaw State is a Carnegie-designated doctoral research institution (R2), placing it among an elite group of only 6 percent of U.S. colleges and universities with an R1 or R2 status. For more information, visit kennesaw.edu.

Board of Regents approves new dining facility for Kennesaw State

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved the construction of a new state-of-the-art dining hall for Kennesaw State University, allowing KSU to continue its evolution as a full-fledged residential university. The Regents approved the project during their Aug. 20 board meeting. (For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Aug 20, 2008) — The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved the construction of a new state-of-the-art dining hall for Kennesaw State University, allowing KSU to continue its evolution as a full-fledged residential university. The Regents approved the project during their Aug. 20 meeting.

“With the addition of our newest state-of-the-art residence hall this fall, KSU continues to expand into a vibrant, active campus,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “The Regents’ approval of our dining hall will further enhance the student living experience by providing first-class dining options, and will build upon the living-learning community we are creating here at KSU.”

University officials plan to open the two-story, 50,000 square feet dining hall during the fall 2009 semester. The 1,000-seat facility will be located in the heart of the KSU campus, between the A.L. Burruss Building housing the Michael J. Coles College of Business and the new Health Sciences Building off of Frey Road, which is scheduled to open in 2010.

The Kennesaw State University Foundation will secure financing for the \$21 million project, which will operate as a revenue-generating auxiliary enterprise.

“The Foundation is thrilled to play a major role in another project which is continuing to grow the university,” said Norman Radow, chair of the Foundation’s board of trustees. “This facility will be a stunning landmark even in the midst a campus of beautiful buildings.”

The new dining facility will help meet the increased demand for food operations, as current operations at the Carmichael Student Center — initially designed to handle 5,000 students, faculty and staff — cannot fully accommodate the more than 21,000 students and more than 2,000 faculty and staff that comprise the campus population, said Faye Silverman, director of KSU Auxiliary Services.

“Our facility will be exciting, fun and inviting,” said Faye Silverman, director of KSU Auxiliary Services. “We want this to be the place for our students.”

The dining hall will operate every day of the week during the fall and spring academic semesters, with continuous service for both residential and commuter students, Silverman said. Generally, the hall will be open from Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and on weekends with later opening hours. The facility also will offer students on-campus employment opportunities, enhancing their flexibility to work around class schedules.

A wide variety of dining options will be offered to students via meal plans to suit their particular needs, from traditional home cooking to 1950s diner-type fare and international cuisine, as well as breakfast options, Silverman said. The hall also will include a coffee shop and dessert offerings. Sodexo Inc., which currently operates many KSU food services, will manage the dining hall.

Officials also plan to offer vegan and vegetarian options and will be sensitive to food allergens like wheat, dairy, nuts and shellfish. Additionally, Gary Coltek, assistant director of culinary services, plans to develop a number of innovative programs in the new facility, including a greenhouse where KSU will grow herbs and vegetables to be used in food service.

To help keep students healthy, Silverman said the dining facility will work with the KSU Wellness Center

to empower students with information to make nutritious choices.

To accommodate customers desiring a quieter meal time, or those working on projects with others, the second floor of the dining hall will contain soft seating areas and terraces. Students also will be able to gather in group dining rooms located on that same level, which can be used for team projects, residential student life activities or classes.

KSU officials hope to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the facility as part of KSU's environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.

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Kennesaw State hosts grand opening reception for fall art gallery exhibitions

Kennesaw State University's Fall 2008 Grand Opening Reception will be the official kick-off...

Georgia (Aug 21, 2008) — Kennesaw State hosts grand opening reception for fall art gallery exhibitions

Cheryl Anderson Brown

Abstract

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Kennesaw State hosts grand opening reception for fall art gallery exhibitions

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 21, 2008) — Kennesaw State University's Fall 2008 Grand Opening Reception will be the official kick-off for the art exhibition season for the fall semester. The event will be held on Aug. 28 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. simultaneously in all three of the campus galleries: the Art Gallery in the Horace Sturgis Library; the Fine Arts Gallery in the Joe Mack Wilson Building; and the Don Russell Clayton Gallery in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center.

"We want to highlight the significant work that is being shown in all three of our art galleries," Hipps stated. "By hosting simultaneous receptions in all three galleries, we hope that people will take the opportunity to see each of them. Each exhibition offers a distinctly different experience for the viewer. These three exhibitions together showcase the exciting gallery schedule we have planned this season and demonstrate the excellence of the galleries themselves."

One exhibit being highlighted that evening will display works by noted representational figurative artist Steven Assael, who is renowned for his photorealist, large-scale paintings. Hipps explained the "crowd appeal" of Assael's works. "Through his extraordinary use of the visual vocabulary of painting, he is able to reveal essential characteristics of each model's personality," Hipps stated. "His art is amazing." The exhibit is currently on display through Oct. 9 in The Art Gallery in the Sturgis Library.

The second exhibit to be featured will be the 6th Biennial KSU Art Alumni Exhibition, which showcases current artistic works from several years of KSU artists. This event allows KSU alumni artists to serve as inspiration for current KSU artists and, in the same token, alumni are able to connect to and have the support of the KSU College of the Arts. This exhibition will be on display in the Fine Arts Gallery in the Wilson Building Aug. 21 through Oct. 2.

"Athos Menaboni: Conversations with Nature" is the third exhibition open during the reception. Menaboni is well known by most for his realistic avian portraiture, which has been compared to Audubon. This exhibition also includes his landscape paintings and works of other artistic media. The exhibition opened in May and will run through July 2, 2009 in the Don Russell Clayton Gallery.

The grand opening receptions will be held on Aug. 28 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Art Gallery, Sturgis Library; Fine Arts Gallery in the Wilson Building; and Clayton Gallery in the Bailey Performance Center. Admission to the galleries and the receptions is free. For more information, visit

www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call 770-499-3223.

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The KSU College of the Arts is one of only four Georgia institutions to have achieved full national accreditation for all of its arts programs.

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Kennesaw State recognized among the best universities in the nation

Kennesaw State University may not have the name recognition of the nation's Ivy League schools or the notoriety associated with a nationally ranked football team, but according to U.S. News & World Report, it's an "Up-and-Coming" school that's "firmly focused on improving the job they're doing." (For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Aug 22, 2008) — Kennesaw State University may not have the name recognition of the nation's Ivy League schools or the notoriety associated with a nationally ranked football team, but according to [U.S. News & World Report](#), it's an "Up-and-Coming" school that's "firmly focused on improving the job they're doing."

"These accolades from *U.S. News & World Report* confirm what we have been saying: Kennesaw State is on an upward trajectory, and we are not just getting bigger, we're much better than many people yet know," President Daniel S. Papp said. "KSU is driven by a can-do spirit, and we have ambitious goals and dreams. We have a bright and promising future."

For the first time, this spring *U.S. News* polled top college officials to identify schools that have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities. Kennesaw State was among 70 colleges that received the most nominations. KSU was the only public institution in Georgia cited on the list of "Up-and-Coming" schools.

"For prospective applicants, we believe the schools on this list offer the reassurance that whatever their historical reputation (or lack of it), they're firmly focused on improving the job they're doing today — at least in the judgment of their peers," the magazine states.

KSU also was the only college in Georgia recognized for its efforts to help freshmen acclimate to the rigors of college life. For the sixth consecutive year, KSU's First-Year Experience program was cited as a "Program to Look For" by the magazine.

"We are so pleased to be the only institution in Georgia honored for our first-year initiatives," said Keisha Hoerrner, chair of the department of First-Year Programs. "As the newest academic department at KSU, the faculty and staff of our First-Year Programs are honored by this validation of our continuing efforts to serve incoming students."

This is the seventh consecutive year that the magazine has published its "Programs to Look For," a list of schools with outstanding examples of academic programs that are commonly linked to student success.

In the case of Kennesaw State, students who take KSU 1101 — designed to acquaint first-time, first-year students and transfer students with fewer than 30 credit hours with the campus and its programs — have a 79 percent one-year retention rate.

Students who take that course within a learning community are retained at an even higher rate of 82 percent, compared to a 70 percent retention rate among students who do not take the course.

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Luncheon honors community leaders, raises funds for arts scholarships

The Kennesaw State University College of the Arts will present the annual Flourish Awards at the...

Georgia (Aug 25, 2008) — Luncheon honors community leaders, raises funds for arts scholarships

Cheryl Anderson Brown

Abstract

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Luncheon honors community leaders, raises funds for arts scholarships

KENNESAW, Ga. (Aug. 25, 2008) -- The Kennesaw State University College of the Arts will present the annual Flourish Awards at the First Annual Flourish Luncheon tomorrow, Aug. 26, at 11:30 a.m. at The Cobb Galleria Centre. The awards will be presented to Georgia Shakespeare founder Richard Garner, Addison Elementary School art teacher Jayne Hebert, Smyrna philanthropists Bob and Elaine Feldberg, and the Cobb Symphony Orchestra.

More than 200 guests are scheduled to attend the luncheon, which has raised more than \$100,000 to benefit scholarship endowments and student-learning initiatives in the KSU College of the Arts. The event celebrates the college's tenth anniversary with the theme, "Past, Present, Future."

"At the luncheon, we will highlight our outstanding students and alumni," said Joseph Meeks, who has served as the dean of the college since its inception in 1998. "We also want to show how much we have achieved in a single decade."

In ten years, the college has also doubled the number of declared majors and built three new facilities: the Visual Arts Building, the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center and the soon-to-be-completed Wilson Building Annex. In this same time period, the college has grown its donor base to more than 300 active supporters and has raised more than \$5 million. It also holds full national accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the National Association of Schools of Music and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Last year, the college was designated as an All Steinway School.

The luncheon not only will honor all of these milestones, but will also salute the progress of the arts in the greater community with the presentation of the Flourish Awards. Inaugurated in 2005, the awards honor those who have helped the arts flourish in Georgia. They are presented in four categories: Arts Leader, Arts Educator, Nonprofit Organization/Arts Company and Community/Public Servant.

The 2008 Flourish Award for an Arts Leader will be presented to Richard Garner, co-founder and artistic director of Georgia Shakespeare, who has been a model arts leader in metro Atlanta for more than 20 years. He is the past president of the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America. He is the recipient of the distinguished career award from the Georgia Theatre Conference and the ABBY Award for outstanding arts professional and he is a past Lexus Leader in the Arts. Garner has been the force behind several initiatives that have broadened the influence of the arts throughout Georgia,

including Shake at the Lake in Piedmont Park, the Family Classics Series which commissions new plays for family audiences, Camp Shakespeare for youngsters, and other educational programming that has reached more than 750,000 students since 1986.

The 2008 Flourish Award for an Art Educator will be presented to Jayne Hebert, art teacher at Addison Elementary School in Marietta. Hebert leads a discipline-based art education program that connects language arts, science and math to the art curriculum. She also emphasizes art history and art appreciation in studio lessons. Hebert uses the gardens around the school for reflection, sketching and bringing nature into the classroom as objects for engaging students in each lesson. Hebert is a strong leader in Addison's Garden Study Group and volunteers her time teaching Junior Master Gardeners. She works in the school's reflection garden, carrying wheelbarrows of dirt, digging and planting, protecting plants that are on the endangered list, painting murals on the pavement and teaching students the love for seeing art in nature.

The 2008 Flourish Award for Community or Public Service will be presented to Bob and Elaine Feldberg of Smyrna. In addition to operating their own business, Repro Products Inc., which was recognized as the 2005 Small Business of the Year by the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, the Feldbergs have been arts supporters for more than a decade in the Cobb and Atlanta community, giving their time, money and company resources. At KSU, they served on the 2005 College of the Arts Benefit Gala committee and chaired the event in 2006. They also created an endowed music scholarship at KSU in honor of Bob's mother, Cynthia Feldberg. They are also active supporters of Cobb Family Resources, Theatre in the Square, Friends of the Strand, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and Cobb Symphony Orchestra.

The 2008 Flourish Award for a Nonprofit Organization or Arts Company will be presented to the Cobb Symphony Orchestra. For nearly six decades, the Cobb Symphony has engaged audiences through imaginative programming, visionary leadership and critically acclaimed performances. Under the leadership of artistic director Michael Alexander and executive director Brian Hermanson, the Cobb Symphony has recently expanded to include the Cobb Symphony Chorus, CSO Jazz Program and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra, a resident youth orchestra at Kennesaw State that serves more than 200 students from 10 counties. CSO and the KSU School of Music also co-present the annual Summer Music Clinic for high school students. The Cobb Symphony also offers an In-School Residency program at Hickory Hills Elementary School, a charter music school in Marietta.

Major sponsors of the Flourish Luncheon include Diann and Richard Labroff, Repro Products, Steinway Society of Atlanta, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Teasley, Cobb Symphony Orchestra and The Color Spot. The event was organized by a volunteer committee that included chair Mike Feldberg, Kathryn Kennelly, Traci Newman, and Mike and Jan Russell. The recipients of Flourish Awards were selected by a committee that included Merrell Calhoun, Tim Lee, Mark Maguire and Betsy Trope.

For more information about the luncheon, click the link at www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call 770-499-3214.

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WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State University strengthen nursing partnership

WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State University (KSU) announced today that they have forged a...

Georgia (Aug 28, 2008) — WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State University strengthen nursing partnership

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

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WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State University
Strengthen Nursing Partnership

MARIETTA, Ga. (Aug. 28, 2008) – WellStar Health System and Kennesaw State University (KSU) announced today that they have forged a stronger strategic partnership designed to enhance KSU’s top-notch nursing program and to develop WellStar’s workforce of the future.

“This expanded partnership will allow Kennesaw State to continue attracting the best and brightest nursing students in the state,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “We are very pleased that our WellStar School of Nursing will work even more closely with such a high-quality healthcare provider as WellStar.”

Kennesaw State and WellStar, the largest integrated health system in the southeast, will partner in workforce planning efforts to recruit more KSU Bachelor of Science nurses to work throughout the WellStar system. In order to recruit the best nursing graduates, the partnership will establish an adjunct faculty certification for qualified WellStar nurses who teach in KSU’s Preceptor Program, through which B.S.N. students spend six-to-eight weeks in on-the-job training. This robust program will provide KSU nursing students a more focused clinical training experience and help foster WellStar’s vision to provide world-class healthcare.

The partnership also will provide faculty development funds to retain nursing faculty within KSU’s WellStar School of Nursing. Scholarships for undergraduate students also will be provided.

Kennesaw State University consistently records some of the highest passing rates among state universities on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

“Kennesaw State University offers one of the strongest nursing programs – and the largest – in the state of Georgia,” said Gregory L. Simone, M.D., president and chief executive officer of WellStar Health System. “Combined with WellStar’s mission to provide high-quality healthcare services to this community, we are excited about the potential this partnership represents.”

WellStar and Kennesaw State have collaborated in many efforts since the 1980s. The partnership was formalized in 2003 with the naming of KSU’s WellStar School of Nursing and the WellStar College of Health & Human Services. Today’s announcement enhances that long-standing, successful partnership.

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The vision of WellStar Health System is to deliver world class healthcare through our hospitals, physicians and services. WellStar Health System includes Cobb, Douglas, Kennestone, Paulding and Windy Hill hospitals; WellStar Physicians Group; Urgent Care Centers; Health Place; Homecare; Hospice; Atherton Place; Paulding Nursing Center and WellStar Foundation. For more information, call (770) 956-STAR or visit www.wellstar.org.

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for August is down from July

Latest reading shows sharp drop in new orders, continued weakness in employment; commodity prices...

Georgia (Sep 3, 2008) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for August is down from July

Aixa M. Pascual

Abstract

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for August is down from July

Latest reading shows sharp drop in new orders, continued weakness in employment; commodity prices slide after months of increases, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (Sept. 2, 2008) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia declined further in the month of August, with no clear signs of a turnaround in the near future, according to the Econometric Center at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business.

Georgia's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reading of economic activity in the state's manufacturing sector — for August was 47.9, a decline of 1.7 points from July. The reading indicates continued weakness in manufacturing.

Employment's steady but low reading of 41.7, up 0.6 points from July, is the best indicator that Georgia manufacturers are still waiting for more consistently solid signs of improvement before they start hiring more workers. Only 4.2 percent of survey participants added new workers to their workforce, said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business.

"Uncertainty is still the operative word for the manufacturing sector," Sabbarese said.

"Manufacturers selling primarily in the domestic market will remain cautious for the remainder of this year."

The Georgia PMI provides a snapshot of manufacturing activity in the state, just as the monthly PMI released by the Institute for Supply Management provides a picture of national manufacturing activity. A PMI reading above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is contracting.

The latest Georgia figure reinforces a trend for both Georgia and the nation as both surveys are converging at a measure of 50. The national PMI registered 49.9 percent, barely changed from 50 in July.

The Georgia PMI reading is a composite of five variables — new orders, production, employment, supply deliveries and finished inventory. A sixth variable, commodity prices, is compiled by the Coles College's Econometric Center but doesn't go into the PMI calculation.

August's underlying PMI variables do not reveal a long-term, sustainable trend.

For August, substantial declines in new orders (-7.7 points) and supply deliveries (-14.1) were the main contributors to the 1.7 point drop in the PMI, with a production increase of 7.1 points offsetting the declines. This is a typical pattern when uncertainty about new orders prevails. Employment increased by just 0.6 points.

"Employment remains weak at 41.7, slightly up from 41.1. Employment in Georgia remains well below the national PMI employment of 49.7. Employment is considered a lagging indicator and, until it begins to show some sustainable improvement, it suggests that the economy is not close to recovering," Sabbarese said. "Georgia's manufacturers show no sign that we are close to rebounding."

The commodity price reading of 66.7 for the August PMI is down 22.6 points from July. This substantial drop in commodity prices means that the slight drop in commodity prices reported in July could be the beginning of a long awaited relief by manufacturers, Sabbarese said. Manufacturers in general have struggled with high material costs and their ability to pass them on to their customers. August's adjustment was substantial, with 32.7 percent fewer manufacturers reporting higher commodity prices than in July.

The PMI, compiled from a monthly survey of manufacturers, is the earliest indicator of market conditions in the sector. Since manufacturing is sensitive to changes in the economy, it can also reveal changing macroeconomic trends, even if manufacturing accounts for only 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The PMI's value is in its timeliness and sensitivity to variables such as interest rates, global markets and other economic changes. The Georgia PMI provides valuable data used by institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to assist in their analysis of current economic conditions, along with many other data sources, to get a picture of economic activity.

For a full report of the August PMI or to schedule an interview with Professor Don Sabbarese, please contact Aixa M. Pascual at 678-797-2549 or at apascual@kennesaw.edu

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Atlanta tennis champ to face Roddick at Elton John's AIDS fundraiser at KSU

John and Billie Jean King will host the star-studded tennis event Oct. 12 at KSU's Convocation Center. (For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Sep 22, 2008) — Atlanta tennis star Donald Young will battle Andy Roddick at the Advanta World TeamTennis Smash Hits event Oct. 12, at Kennesaw State University's Convocation Center.

Young will join tennis superstars Roddick, Martina Navratilova, Anna Kournikova and others for the 16th annual celebrity fundraiser hosted by Sir Elton John and Billie Jean King. The star-studded charity tennis event benefits the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Atlanta AIDS Partnership Fund. Advanta WTT Smash Hits has raised more than \$8.5 million since 1993.

Longtime Kennesaw State University supporter Bobbie Bailey is co-chair of the event. Charlie Hendon and Sacha Taylor are also serving as co-chairs. VIP tickets will cost \$350 and include courtside seating and admission to a reception with live and silent auctions.

"We hope to raise as much money as we can for the charities," Bailey said. "Sir Elton John does a wonderful job with his foundation supporting those with HIV and AIDS, funding prevention efforts and trying to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against HIV- and AIDS-affected individuals."

The afternoon of tennis will include singles, doubles and mixed doubles action played using the World TeamTennis co-ed team format. The players will form two teams, with one team captained by John and the other by King. John, an avid tennis fan, will kick-off the event in a celebrity doubles match.

"Kennesaw State is the perfect venue for this tournament," Bailey said. "It's a beautiful campus that's flourishing, and the university has the most wonderful facilities."

The sports world took notice of Young when he won the 2005 Australian Open junior title at 15, and then became the youngest year-end world No. 1 in the ITF junior boys' rankings at 16. Young's growing list of titles also includes the 2007 Wimbledon Junior Championship and he added two singles titles in 2007, winning both an ITF Futures and Challenger event.

Reserved seat ticket prices range from \$70 to \$110; general admission tickets are \$39.50.

For VIP tickets, call 404-653-0240 or go to www.ejaf.org/SmashHits08. For general admission tickets, call 1-800-514-3849 or go to www.etix.com.

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Greg Mortenson Speaks at KSU Oct. 1

Best-selling "Three Cups of Tea ..." author discusses why building schools in...

Georgia (Sep 23, 2008) — Greg Mortenson Speaks at KSU Oct. 1

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Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Best-selling author Greg Mortenson to speak at Kennesaw State Oct. 1

Building schools is author's antidote to fighting jihadists and the Taliban

KENNESAW, Ga. (September 23, 2008) — Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time," a *New York Times* best-seller for more than 80 weeks, will share his epic adventures building schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan during three scheduled talks at KSU October 1.

What:

Mortenson's "Three Cups of Tea ..." has been selected the "common reader" for all first-year KSU students. About 2,300 students are reading and discussing the book in 85 sections of the first-year seminar class. Mortenson will speak at two sessions exclusively for students and at an evening appearance open to the public with reserved tickets.

Who:

Following an attempt in 1993 to scale K2, the world's second highest peak, residents of a remote village in the Pakistani Himalayas found Mortenson delirious as he descended from his unsuccessful climb. To repay them for nursing him back to health, he vowed to build them a school. With the help of two nonprofits he founded, he has since raised funds to build more than 78 schools in often volatile regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

When and Where:

Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. in the KSU Convocation Center (Public invited, reserved ticket required); at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. (Student only sessions; media call contact).

Order tickets at www.kennesaw.edu, click on "An Evening with Greg Mortenson" link.

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Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell to donate space memorabilia to Kennesaw State

Mitchell's donation includes patches and flags flown into orbit in 1971

Georgia (Oct 2, 2008) — Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell to donate space memorabilia to Kennesaw State

Jennifer Hafer

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Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell to donate space memorabilia to KSU
Mitchell's donation includes patches and flags flown into orbit in 1971

KENNESAW, Ga., (Oct. 2, 2008) — The sixth man to walk on the moon is donating rare Apollo 14 lunar artifacts to the Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State Oct. 6. The donation event will be held in the University Rooms of the Carmichael Student Center from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Mitchell's donation of 250 Apollo 14 emblems on space suit material and five flags flown aboard Apollo 14 is the second donation of space memorabilia to the library. Retired USAF Brig. Gen. Charles Moss Duke Jr. donated a lunar module contingency checklist, a lunar rover map and 20 Georgia state flags flown on board Apollo 16 to the Sturgis Library last fall.

"The library is working to expand its special collections with items other than rare books," said Sturgis Library Assistant Vice President Robert Williams. "This collection of space artifacts, along with the previous donation from Apollo 14 astronaut Charles Duke, provides students with a greater sense of history by actually being able to see and hold these items."

Mitchell served as the lunar module pilot of Apollo 14 and spent nine hours moonwalking on the Fra Mauro formation Feb. 9, 1971, following Apollo's Feb. 5 landing. The Apollo 14 mission was NASA's third manned lunar landing.

"Dr. Mitchell's donation bestows upon the university, and indeed all of Georgia's residents, the rare distinction of owning more flown lunar artifacts than virtually any other entity in the world," said David Frohman, a space memorabilia dealer and consultant who arranged the donation. "I am thrilled to have been a part of the process of seeing a world-class space collection built virtually overnight at Kennesaw State University, and in doing so, I hope to help inspire a new generation to reach for the stars!"

A Presidential Medal of Freedom award recipient, Mitchell was also awarded the United States Navy Distinguished Medal and three NASA Group Achievement Awards. He was inducted to the Space Hall of Fame in 1979 and the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 1998. He was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

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Author Greg Mortenson shares “tea” with Kennesaw State students, speaks to more than 2,000 on campus

“Three Cups of Tea ...” author draws rousing response from KSU audiences, helping students raise nearly \$13,000 to help build a school in Central Asia. (For complete story, click on headline above)

Georgia (Oct 2, 2008) — As New York Times best-selling author Greg Mortenson tells it, in Central Asian cultures sharing one cup of tea allows you to get to know a stranger; with two cups, you are friends; and with three cups, you are family.

Mortenson spent the day with the Kennesaw State family Oct. 1, having tea and sharing insights into his life and the exploits that culminated in the writing of his best-selling book “Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time,” published in paperback in 2007.

During three sessions — a midday presentation to about 400 students, an intimate afternoon tea with 25 students and an evening address to about 1,700 students, faculty, staff and guests — Mortenson captivated audiences as he described how an “ordinary life of failures and disappointments” was transformed into one of extraordinary purpose and accomplishments.

Mortenson, who is 50 years old, appeared at KSU in conjunction with the selection of “Three Cups of Tea ...” as the “common reader” for 2,300 students in First-Year Seminar (KSU 1101 and 2290) classes.

A committee of KSU faculty, with student representation, selects a book each year for all first-year students. The common reader is designed to expand students’ self awareness, global understanding and perspectives, according to Keisha Hoerner, chair of First Year Programs.

Co-authored by journalist David Oliver Relin, “Three Cups of Tea ...” chronicles Mortenson’s journey from a failed attempt in 1993 to scale the world’s second highest peak, to his phenomenal success facilitating the construction of more than 78 schools in remote, mountainous areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

What Mortenson hopes his audiences will derive from his book and talks is an understanding that ordinary people can make a difference in the world. Failure, he reiterated, is often the first step.

“I had a 1.8 G.P.A. my freshman year of college and I failed the test to get my driver’s license the first time,” Mortenson told his audience. “A Persian proverb says, ‘When it gets dark, you can see the stars.’”

Villagers from the town of Korphe in the Pakistani Himalayas nursed Mortenson back to health after finding him emaciated and confused. “My pants were ripped and I hadn’t had a bath in more than 80 days,” he said. “Still, they invited me for tea.”

The villagers’ kindness prompted Mortenson to promise to build them a school. He says he witnessed groups of children writing with sticks in the sand, with no teacher at hand. He returned to Korphe two years later to make good on his promise.

At the midday session, students filled every seat in the crammed University Rooms, lined the walls and sat on the floor in the aisles to hear Mortenson and view slides depicting his mountain climb and encounters with the people of Korphe and other regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, some controlled by the Taliban and the “opium mafia.”

At the afternoon tea sponsored by the KSU Alumni Association, Mortenson fielded questions from students whose professors have described them as passionate about the book and their commitments to raise funds to help Mortenson’s two non-profits — Pennies for Peace and the

Central Asia Institute — build more schools.

Some 20 percent of the first-year seminar classes have launched fundraising projects as part of their required civic engagement activity. So far, KSU students have raised more than \$13,000, assuring that Mortenson's Central Asia Institute can build a school honoring KSU. It typically takes \$12,000 to build a school in Pakistan, Mortenson said.

Among the students attending the tea were freshmen Kristy Montgomery and Kim Watson who came up with the idea to stage a world-record-breaking game of "Duck, Duck, Goose" on the KSU green Oct. 30. They are leading the KSU 2290 class activity that will try to top the record of 1,400 players held by the University of Georgia.

"It's great to hear someone who is inspiring, who makes sense and who's willing to go into dangerous places to make it better for people," Montgomery said. "I'm glad to see that he places a premium on educating women. It seems a good way [to create change]."

Educating poor children is the focus of Mortenson's life work, but he is especially committed to building schools for girls. He frequently quotes an African proverb, which says: "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual; but if you educate a girl, you educate a community."

Arlean Haider, a KSU graduate student from Afghanistan, praised Mortenson's focus on building school for girls. She has studied six years in the U.S under "The Initiative to Educate Afghan Women."

"It gives me hope to hear him," Haider said. "Afghan women suffer a lot, but a bird without one wing cannot fly."

Mortenson, who estimates he has visited more than four dozen college campuses and 400 elementary, middle and high schools in the past two years, made an impassioned plea for students to travel and see poverty first-hand.

"A lot of people are down on this generation," Mortenson said in an interview between sessions. "But I'm very inspired to know there are so many students — ones I've just met today here at Kennesaw -- dedicated to making the world better."

His inspiration was not just for the young, however. Marjorie Magee, 82, of Marietta, attended the evening session that was open to the public with reserved seating. She read the book six months ago with her book club. "I was just fascinated by him and I wanted find out what's happened to girls' education with all that's going on over there now."

For more information about First-Year Programs and the Common Reader, visit www.kennesaw.edu/fyp

To learn more about Greg Mortenson, visit www.threecupsoftea.com

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for September is down sharply

Latest monthly reading shows big declines in new orders, production and employment, says KSU...

Georgia (Oct 3, 2008) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for September is down sharply

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for September is down sharply

Latest monthly reading shows big declines in new orders, production and employment, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (Oct. 2, 2008) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia contracted sharply in September, reinforcing a declining trend evident for the past few months, according to the Econometric Center at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business.

Georgia's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reading of economic activity in the state's manufacturing sector — for September was 39.6, a decline of 8.3 points from August. This reading, reflecting a faster rate of decline than in previous months in 2008, reveals continued weakness in the manufacturing sector.

Sharp decreases in new orders, production and employment yielded a lower PMI reading for September. Production declined by a staggering 21.2 points, to 28.8, and new orders, decreasing for the third straight month, were down 13.1 points, to 32.7. Employment remains anemic, declining by 10.9 points to 30.8, with none of the survey participants reporting increased hiring in September, said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business.

Georgia manufacturers are dealing not only with a faltering domestic market, but also with slower global growth and credit concerns related to the serious credit and liquidity problems facing the banking and financial sector, Sabbarese said.

"Current problems in the financial sector are not only magnifying the level of uncertainty, but also making it much more likely that these manufacturers' markets will not improve in the near future," Sabbarese said.

The Georgia PMI provides a snapshot of manufacturing activity in the state, just as the monthly PMI released by the Institute for Supply Management provides a picture of national manufacturing activity. A PMI reading above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is contracting.

The latest Georgia PMI reinforces a downward trend for both Georgia and the nation as both surveys have fallen well below 50. The national PMI registered 43.5 percent for September, a decline of 6.4 points from August.

The Georgia PMI reading is a composite of five variables — new orders, production, employment, supply deliveries and finished inventory. A sixth variable, commodity prices, is compiled by the Coles College’s Econometric Center but doesn’t go into the PMI calculation.

September’s underlying PMI variables do not offer a clear sign that manufacturing activity will improve anytime soon. The deterioration in new orders over the last three months and simultaneous sharp reductions in production and employment suggest that a large majority of survey participants have no confidence that their current market conditions will change. Broader weakness in the economy and financial sector gives additional credence to this observation.

“Manufacturing employment is frozen, with no participants reporting increased hiring for September. This, more than any other variable, demonstrates the level of pessimism in manufacturing,” Sabbarese said. “Georgia’s manufacturers show no sign that they see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

The PMI, compiled from a monthly survey of manufacturers, is the earliest indicator of market conditions in the sector. Since manufacturing is sensitive to changes in the economy, it can also reveal changing macroeconomic trends, even if manufacturing accounts for only 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The PMI’s value is in its timeliness and sensitivity to variables such as interest rates, global markets and other economic changes. The Georgia PMI provides valuable data used by institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to assist in their analysis of current economic conditions, along with many other data sources, to get a picture of economic activity.

For a full report of the September PMI or to schedule an interview with Professor Don Sabbarese, please contact Aixa M. Pascual at 678–797–2549 or at apascual@kennesaw.edu

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KSU's Coles College of Business to host Economic Summit Oct. 14

Panel of experts to discuss deepening U.S. economic crisis in town hall meeting

Georgia (Oct 9, 2008) — KSU's Coles College of Business to host Economic Summit Oct. 14

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

Kennesaw State's Coles College of Business Hosts Economic Summit

Panel of experts to discuss deepening U.S. economic crisis in town hall meeting

KENNESAW, Ga. (Oct. 9, 2008) — How is the financial crisis on Wall Street affecting Main Street? What can small business owners do to keep their heads above water during these times? Why are banks not willing to lend to each other?

Kennesaw State's Coles College of Business and the Georgia Small Business Development Center are sponsoring an Economic Summit with a panel of guest experts addressing these and other pressing questions small business owners are facing.

WHAT:

The Small Business Development Center and the Econometric Center at Kennesaw State's Coles College of Business are hosting an Economic Summit Town Hall Meeting to discuss the U.S. economic crisis. The public is invited. Please RSVP by calling 770-423-6450 or emailing cmille72@kennesaw.edu, as space is limited.

WHO:

Don Sabbarese, director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College, will join Joe Brannen, president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Bankers Association, and Gene Henssler, president of G.W. Henssler & Associates, in the panel discussion.

WHEN:

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the KSU Center, Room 400, 3333 Busbee Drive, Kennesaw.

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“Year of Turkey” opening ceremony captures vibrant culture, importance of Turkey

Kennesaw State's "Year of Turkey" opening celebration draws students, visitors and Turkish dignitaries. For complete story, please click on headline above.

Georgia (Oct 9, 2008) — Rain may have driven the “Year of Turkey” opening ceremonies indoors at Kennesaw State University Oct. 8, but an enthralled group of about 250 students and visitors crammed into the Village Center to enjoy an array of Turkish culture — music, food, art and folk tales — and hear greetings from Turkish dignitaries, a U.S. Congressman and university officials.

Following a formal welcome and lunch at KSU’s Jolley Lodge for a Turkish delegation led by State Minister of Trade and Customs Kursad Tuzmen, President Daniel S. Papp joined U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey in officially launching the “Year of Turkey.”

A rousing, colorful performance by the Turkish Janissary Mehter band, playing military march music and wearing traditional Ottoman costumes — a preview of a free concert they will give Saturday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. in KSU’s Bailey Performance Center — opened the Village Center ceremony, which was open to the public.

“KSU has concentrated on helping students, faculty, staff and students learn about different parts of the world,” Papp told the gathering at the Jolley Lodge. “This year, we are extremely pleased to focus on the history, culture, government, people and life of Turkey, with its long and storied traditions. We have established incredible relationships with our partners, and look forward to a great ‘Year of Turkey.’”

U.S. Rep. Gingrey, whose northwest Georgia district of 750,000 encompasses Kennesaw State, praised the university for its vision in choosing Turkey for its 2008–2009 “Year of” study and celebration.

“Turkey is a unique blend of Eastern and Western cultures,” Gingrey said. “It is a strong ally of the U.S., and its economy is growing exponentially, with exports rising from \$36 billion to \$130 billion in six years.”

Tarik Celik, executive director of the Atlanta-based Istanbul Center, noted the phenomenal growth in Turkey’s economy, especially its exports. “We want to bring the magic of this growth to this region via the minister,” he said. Istanbul Center is Kennesaw State’s leading partner in the “Year of Turkey” program.

Tuzmen, who earlier in the day spoke with Atlanta business leaders at a breakfast forum, projected that Turkey’s exports — primarily agricultural products, steel and other metals, textiles, transport equipment and electronics — would grow to \$200 billion by 2012 and its total trade volume to more than \$500 billion.

“Right now, we’re the 15th biggest economy in the world and we are steadily moving up in the global rankings,” he said. “Our goal is to help make the world more peaceful and prosperous — to unite people of different countries, nationalities and faiths. Trade is the unique formula to achieve that goal. In the 21st century, economic trade will lead [in influence] over international politics.”

Accompanying Tuzmen were other Turkish officials, many of whom greeted guests at the Jolley Lodge and Village Center ceremonies. Among them was Mona Diamond, the honorary consul for Georgia.

The event drew attendance and participation by several Kennesaw State students engaged in studying Turkish history and culture.

Members of the “KSU Tellers” performed three folk tales from “Tales Alive in Turkey” by Warren Walker and Ahmed Uysal, reflecting Turkey’s wit and wisdom. The students are part of an audition-only

practicum directed by Hannah Harvey, assistant professor of theater and performance studies.

First-year student Nayasia Coleman and fellow classmates in Professor Jessica Stephen's Art in Society class (KSU 1107) stopped by to see the colorful puppet figures the class had made to display at the opening ceremony. As part of a "learning community," they are also writing scripts, making puppets and staging a Karagoz and Hacivat puppet show, based on the traditional Turkish shadow play, popularized during the Ottoman period.

"I love the diversity and international focus at KSU," said Coleman as she sampled from the wide variety of Turkish foods supplied by the Istanbul Center and its supporters.

Kamela Jackson and Lauren McGhee attended the "Year of Turkey" opening ceremony as part of an assignment for their first-year seminar class. Both said they liked being exposed to international cultures and plan to study abroad in Europe.

"I really liked the music and trying something different," Jackson said, referring to the food.

It was the more than 100 Turkish visitors and guests that impressed McGhee. "Everyone seems so nice and welcoming."

Referring to the students, Trade Minister Tuzmen said: "If you don't open minds (and parachutes!), they will not work. If you open minds, students will see the reality in the world; see real history. I am most proud of what students here have been learning about Turkey."

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Bailey ups the ante for Sir Elton's AIDS fundraiser

Bobbie Bailey gives largest gift ever received by Sir Elton John's AIDS charity event; challenges others to match

Georgia (Oct 14, 2008) — Longtime Kennesaw State University supporter and KSU Foundation trustee Bobbie Bailey helped Sir Elton John's Advanta WTT Smash Hits charity tennis event raise more than \$400,000 on Sunday, Oct. 12. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Atlanta AIDS Partnership Fund. The event was held at KSU's Convocation Center.

Bailey opened a pre-match reception — attended by 600 VIP ticket holders — with a \$100,000 challenge grant prior to the opening of a live auction. Bailey's gift was the largest one given by an individual in the event's 16-year history.

"We're Georgians, and this foundation helps people in Georgia with HIV/AIDS," Bailey said. "We appreciate Sir Elton John and his foundation for everything they've done, and we're going to help them today."

According to John, the South has become a "boiling point for AIDS in America."

"All of the money raised here today will stay here in the Atlanta market and in Georgia," John said at a press conference during the Oct. 12 fundraiser. "Forty six percent of AIDS cases are now being reported in the South. We are distinctly aware of the problems here and the South will continue to be a priority for the foundation."

The first item up for auction was a black piano bench John used on a recent concert tour.

"If you buy it, I'll sign it for you, and I'll sit on it again for you," he said, driving the final bid up to \$8,500.

Tennis legend Billie Jean King co-hosted the tournament with John, who was also joined by tennis superstars Andy Roddick, Anna Kournikova and Martina Navratilova, as well as up-and-coming players Jesse Levine and Marietta's Melanie Oudin.

Other auction items included two Wimbledon packages with King's personal center-court seats, which sold for \$21,000 each; a Super Bowl package; artwork created by Navratilova; and a private, hour-long tennis lesson with Roddick, which fetched \$15,000 from a female fan.

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“Sleep Out” highlights plight of the homeless for Kennesaw State students

“Homelessness Week” is underway at Kennesaw State, giving students a chance to learn what...

Georgia (Oct 14, 2008) — “Sleep Out” highlights plight of the homeless for Kennesaw State students

Sabbaye McGriff

Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

“Sleep Out” highlights plight of the homeless for Kennesaw State students

More than 100 will experience living without a roof for two nights

KENNESAW, Ga. (October, 13, 2008) — A week of activities — culminating in a “Sleep Out” Oct. 16-18 — designed to sensitize students to the problems and issues of the homeless is underway at Kennesaw State this week.

What:

Kennesaw State’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences has organized “Homelessness Week” to provide students realistic views of what homeless people face. Organizers hope to raise students’ consciousness and promote their involvement in eradicating homelessness through an intensive week of activities that include sleeping outside overnight; a poster contest; documentaries; presentations on mental illness and substance abuse, hunger and global poverty; and student dialogues with those who work daily with the homeless.

Who:

Homeless advocates and representatives of service organizations including Cobb Family Resources; Travelers’ Aid of Metro Atlanta; Hosea Feed the Hungry; the Fuller Center; Family Life Restoration; Trinity Life-Big Bethel; Must Ministries; Seamless Garment and Able will participate with students in dialogues and presentations.

When and Where:

Homelessness Week “Sleep Out,” from 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16 through noon, Saturday, Oct. 18 in the area between the Social Science and Pilcher buildings on KSU’s campus. For a full list of Homeless Week activities, beginning Monday Oct. 13, visit: <http://hss.kennesaw.edu/about/news-events>.

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Economic Summit addresses financial crisis, attracts small business owners

There is some good news about the economy, Economic Summit panelists conclude

Georgia (Oct 23, 2008) — Economic Summit addresses financial crisis, attracts small business owners

Aixa M. Pascual

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Economic Summit addresses financial crisis, attracts small business owners

KENNESAW, Ga., (Oct. 2, 2008) Amidst the doom and gloom of the financial and economic crisis, there's actually some good news: Georgia is better positioned than other states to ride the turmoil, according to panelists at a Coles College of Business forum on Oct. 14.

"There's good news," said Joe Brannen, president of the Georgia Bankers Association, which represents 380 banks. "Georgia's growing twice as much as the national average. Georgia's going to come out (of the crisis) faster."

The Economic Summit & Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by the Econometric Center and the Small Business Development Center at the Coles College, gave about 50 small business owners the chance to ask Brannen and others about the economy. The other panelists were: Tony Britton, senior vice president of Wachovia; Gene Henssler, president of G.W. Henssler & Associates; and Don Sabbarese, director of the Econometric Center.

Sabbarese said that Georgia's manufacturing and construction jobs are disappearing at an increasing rate, with a decrease of 37,000 jobs in August, compared to August 2007. A series of factors created the perfect storm for the current crisis: people losing jobs, income and housing values falling, and banks hurting and tightening credit standards as their asset values dropped and their capital dried up. Exports, the only bright spot in the economy, will slow down as economic growth in Europe decelerates.

"This is a real challenge," Sabbarese said. "You're seeing historic actions by the federal government."

But there's reason for optimism, at least in Georgia. Two-thirds of Georgia banks are profitable, Brannen said, and they are well capitalized. And 500 people continue to move to the state each day.

Henssler said that home prices in Atlanta haven't fallen nearly as much as home prices in other cities, like Miami, Phoenix and Las Vegas.

"It's a good news situation as it relates to Atlanta," Wachovia's Britton said. "There are lots of opportunities here in Atlanta. It's a trying time. We know it's a tough time."

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Kennesaw State professor and campaign analyst to appear on ABC's "The View"

KSU political science professor Kerwin Swint, author of "Mudslingers: The 25 Dirtiest..."

Georgia (Oct 23, 2008) — Kennesaw State professor and campaign analyst to appear on ABC's "The View"

Sabbaye McGriff

Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Kennesaw State professor and campaign analyst to appear on ABC's "The View"
Expected to discuss tone of the presidential race

KENNESAW, Ga. (October 22, 2008) — Kerwin Swint, a Kennesaw State University professor who has literally written the book on nasty political campaigning, has been invited to join co-hosts on ABC's "The View" Friday to discuss the negative tone of the current presidential election, which pundits predict will only heat up in the final weeks before Nov. 4.

Who:

Swint, who teaches political science at Kennesaw State, specializes in campaigns, elections and mass media. He is the author of "Mudslingers: The 25 Dirtiest Political Campaigns of All Time" and the recently released "Dark Genius: The Influential Career of Legendary Political Operative and Fox News Founder Roger Ailes." He has appeared on CNN, Fox News, National Public Radio, syndicated radio programs, and in The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, National Journal, Roll Call, The Hill, Campaigns & Elections, The Chronicle of Higher Education and The Atlanta Journal/Constitution.

What:

Swint is likely to share insights from his analysis of public campaigns, going all the way back to the election of 1800, when Vice President Thomas Jefferson defeated President John Adams after hiring a character assassin to attack his opponent. Negative campaigns work, Swint contends.

When:

Swint will appear on "The View" segment airing locally Friday, Oct. 24, at 11 a.m.

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“Sleep Out” simulates the plight of the homeless

During Homelessness Awareness Week “Sleep Out,” students get glimpse of what it's like to be without a roof; learn about real life issues of homelessness

Georgia (Oct 23, 2008) — More than 165 students got a glimpse of what it would be like not to have a roof for one night during a “Sleep Out” that culminated “Homelessness Awareness Week” activities at KSU October 13–18.

While most of the participants endured the cool temperatures and lack of amenities for shorter periods, a smaller group of about 30 stuck it out for the entire 42-hour period, braving even the rainy conditions of Friday night.

“This was a real-life experience for students, but not real as far as what it is like for millions of people around the world who have no home and are forced to ‘sleep out’,” said Lana Wachniak, associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences who helped organize the event.

Sociology major Natasha Harris, a senior, had the best intentions of sleeping out on Friday, but in the end, the rainy weather and spiders got the best of her.

“I tried to stay til 8 a.m., but I just couldn’t do it,” Harris said. “I left around 3 a.m. because I could not get to sleep. I was taking cat naps, maybe for about 15 minutes at a time, and then I’d wake up. When a spider crawled into my box, that’s when I decided to leave.”

Still, Harris says, the experience motivated her to volunteer with Hosea Feed the Hungry, an Atlanta-based food bank and service organization. Also, the sleep out has made her value her own home even more.

“I know there are people out there that are in need of help from people who are understanding and compassionate,” she said.

Harris’ outcome reflects what organizers envisioned for the week’s activities, which were patterned after similar events staged on college campuses around the country since 1972 when the National Coalition for the Homeless co-sponsored a successful one at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

Joining in planning the week’s activities were Janese Thompson, administrative coordinator for the Adult Learners Program; Robin Crawford, sociology instructor; and Rian Satterwhite, assistant director, in the Center for Student Leadership and Sgt. Bernadette Haynes of Public Safety.

“Our intent was to enhance civic engagement through education,” Wachniak said. “The academic component included presentations ranging from a big picture view of the issues to street level engagement. Collaborative learning took place as students discussed their reactions to new ways of seeing this often stigmatized and diverse group of people who are homeless.”

Throughout the week, which also included a student poster display and videos on global hunger and homelessness, students heard from representatives of 20 agencies and organizations that work with metro Atlanta’s hungry and homeless populations.

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University System of Georgia chancellor connects with students, faculty, guests during campus visit

During his annual visit to campus, University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll Davis assures constituents of KSU's strong strategic position in the face of economic uncertainties. To view complete story, click on headline.

Georgia (Oct 23, 2008) — Despite tough economic times, University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis assured key Kennesaw State constituent groups that KSU continues to be one of the system's strategic focal points during his annual visit to the campus Oct.21.

Davis' day-long visit and tour of the campus included a marathon of back-to-back meetings that started with KSU President Dan Papp, followed by the president's cabinet. At Jolley Lodge, the chancellor greeted members of the KSU Foundation, university administrators, and business and community leaders, including four Cobb County mayors and the Cobb County and Marietta school superintendents. Davis also met separately with faculty, staff and student group leaders. In each setting, the chancellor offered brief, unscripted remarks, then opened himself to questions.

"Kennesaw is in the sweet spot of our strategic plans," Davis said, referring to the investments the system and its Board of Regents have made in KSU, including a 12 percent increase allocated for its 2008-09 budget. "This university has done many things right, and we see the results in the continued increase in the number of students that come here."

The chancellor explained Kennesaw's alignment with a key strategic goal for the University System of Georgia: the redistribution of enrollment among the system's 35 institutions.

"Right now, Georgia's [college enrollment] distribution looks like a column with a bubble in the middle, with one-third going to research institutions, about 40 percent to comprehensive institutions like Kennesaw and about 30 percent to two-year institutions," he said. "We have to move closer to the norm in most states, which looks more like a pyramid, with junior colleges that serve the most students at the base and the costlier research institutions at the top."

Across the groups meeting with Chancellor Davis, a common concern was the economy and its impact on the university's growth, quality, affordability and stability.

"There's still uncertainty about the extent of the cuts we'll sustain — whether it will be 6, 8 or 10 percent," Davis explained. "It's clear that Kennesaw will absorb decreases in the increase that has already been allocated. Everyone is watching to see what happens with the state's tax revenues over the next couple of months. In the meantime, we're committed to trying to preserve the university system's core mission."

A critical issue in the economic uncertainty is maintaining quality in the face of eminent cuts, Davis said, noting that a high level of cuts could reduce the number of faculty or increase class sizes.

"There are risks we all have to manage in an economic downturn," he said. "I continue to argue that the risks in higher education are greater than for other state agencies. It's not a matter of whether we can get by with less phone service, for example. We are preparing future leaders who need qualified faculty and smaller class sizes to assure interaction sufficient to develop critical thinking skills."

Davis spent almost an hour with about 20 student leaders representing registered student organizations (SROs), Student Government Association (SGA), the Student Advisory and Budget Activities Council (SABAC) and athletics.

Students raised a range of concerns including: restrictions on pay-card use by student organizations; a lack of diversity among faculty; mandatory advisement; the cost of tuition for international students and

the shut down of students' access to the inter-library loan system.

In response, Davis explained the need to enforce reasonable controls on the use of P-cards in the face of reported abuses, and the rationale for establishing lower tuition for in-state students whose families pay state taxes. Regarding diversity, he said the system can put in place incentives for "opportunistic hires," but the reality at the campus level is that "faculty hire faculty." The real solution, he told students, is to communicate expectations "respectfully" to the administration.

Davis took exception to the term "mandatory advisement," an issue raised by students and faculty alike. "What we have done is address the concern students have expressed about the quality of advisement, and tried to make it better and more consistent. We're making sure faculty have a clear understanding that quality advisement is expected." Again, he stressed student responsibility in keeping track of classes and requirements, using tools like the new two-year calendar and peer advisement groups.

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for October continues sharp decline

Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for October continues sharp decline PMI reading at seven...

Georgia (Nov 5, 2008) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for October continues sharp decline

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for October continues sharp decline
PMI reading at seven-year low; production and new orders fall sharply, employment exceptionally low, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga. (Nov. 4, 2008) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia contracted sharply in October, reaching its lowest level since November 2001, according to the Econometric Center at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business. November 2001 was the lowest point in the 2001 recession.

Georgia's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reading of economic activity in the state's manufacturing sector — for October was 34, a decline of 5.6 points from September. This reading is at a seven-year low, and is consistent with the 0.3 percent decrease in third quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and may presage a similar result for the fourth quarter.

"Should the PMI readings remain at these levels, it could be a harbinger that the fourth quarter GDP may register its second consecutive quarter of negative growth, confirming that we are already in a recession," said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "The manufacturing sector remains frozen, waiting for some sign of improvement."

Sharp decreases in new orders (down by 10.2 points) and production (down by 8.8 points) continue to lead the other PMI components -- employment, deliveries and finished inventory -- into a tailspin. Only 10 percent of survey participants reported higher new orders in October. Similarly, only five percent of respondents reported higher production. For the second consecutive month, no survey participants reported growth in employment.

Manufacturers are nervous about tightness in the credit markets and a looming recession in the U.S. and globally. Uncertainty about the extent and duration of economic problems has forced a wide range of survey respondents to put their business decisions on hold, Sabbarese said.

The PMI, as a diffusion index, measures the breadth and not the depth of the state of the manufacturing sector. Weakness has not been this widespread seen since 2001, Sabbarese said.

The Georgia PMI provides a snapshot of manufacturing activity in the state, just as the monthly PMI released by the Institute for Supply Management provides a picture of national manufacturing

activity. A PMI reading above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is contracting.

The latest Georgia PMI reinforces a downward trend, with both the Georgia and national PMIs falling well below 50. The national PMI reading for October is 38.9 percent, a decline of 4.6 points from September. This was the third consecutive month that economic activity in the national manufacturing sector failed to grow.

The Georgia PMI reading is a composite of five variables — new orders, production, employment, supply deliveries and finished inventory. A sixth variable, commodity prices, is compiled by the Econometric Center but doesn't go into the PMI calculation.

The only bright spot in October's PMI: The commodity price index hit its lowest level since November 2001, declining by 39.8 points. But while cheaper commodity prices lower the cost of production, it is symptomatic of lower demand due to a global economic slowdown.

In October, all five Georgia PMI variables showed continued weakness, with no clear sign of a recovery. The deterioration in new orders over the last four months, with concurrent sharp reductions in production and employment, suggests that a large majority of survey participants have no confidence that current market conditions will change anytime soon. Broader weakness in the economy and financial sector gives additional credence to this observation.

The PMI, compiled from a monthly survey of manufacturers, is the earliest indicator of market conditions in the sector. Since manufacturing is sensitive to changes in the economy, it can also reveal changing macroeconomic trends, even if manufacturing accounts for 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The PMI's value is in its timeliness and sensitivity to variables such as interest rates, global markets and other economic changes. The Georgia PMI provides valuable data used by institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to assist in their analysis of current economic conditions, along with many other data sources, to get a picture of economic activity.

For a full report of the October PMI, or to speak with professor Sabbarese, please call (770) 423-6094.

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Kennesaw State to host alumni at Homecoming 2008 Nov. 12-15

Kennesaw State will be welcoming its alumni on campus for Homecoming 2008, Nov. 12-15....

Georgia (Nov 5, 2008) – Kennesaw State to host alumni at Homecoming 2008 Nov. 12-15

Shannon Kennedy

Abstract

Kennesaw State to host alumni at Homecoming 2008 Nov. 12-15
First-ever Homecoming Parade Nov. 1

KENNESAW, Ga. (Nov. 5, 2008) -- Kennesaw State will be welcoming its alumni on campus for Homecoming 2008, Nov. 12-15. This year, Homecoming will feature the first-ever KSU Homecoming Parade in downtown Kennesaw, Nov. 14.

Homecoming provides fun for alumni, the university, the community and the whole family. Talk business and make contacts at the networking reception. Relax and have fun at the Legacy Gazebo concert. Get fired up at the parade and cheer on the Owls at the men's basketball game. Cap off the celebration with an elegant dinner at the KSU Center.

Events are open to alumni, friends and the community (some events require RSVP and/or tickets).

Homecoming 2008 at KSU kicks off in style on Wednesday, Nov. 12 with a networking reception at Georgia Power (241 Ralph McGill Blvd N.E., Atlanta). Alumnus Doug Jones (M.B.A., '90), Georgia Power vice president and KSU Foundation trustee, will host KSU alumni and friends. Please join us from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. to network and connect with members of the KSU community. Food and beverages will be provided. The event is free, but attendees must RSVP with the Alumni Office at 770-423-6333 or <http://www.kennesaw.edu/alumni>.

On Thursday, Nov. 13 come back to campus for KSU Day! Please join us at 12:30 p.m. for a rockin' concert at the Legacy Gazebo. Legendary Beatles cover band The Return will perform. While you groove to the music, enjoy delicious barbeque from local restaurants. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

On Friday, Nov. 14, don't miss the first-ever KSU Homecoming Parade, to be held in downtown Kennesaw starting at 6:30 p.m! Student floats, marching bands, dancers and more will be parading along Main Street. Attendees at the parade receive a free ticket to the men's basketball game vs. Western Illinois at 7:30 p.m.

The reception and dinner at KSU Center Saturday, Nov. 15 is the culmination of Homecoming festivities. This elegant evening begins with a cocktail reception around the fountain at 5:00 p.m. A gourmet dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Owls men's championship basketball game. Dinner tickets are \$50; a table is \$400. Dinner prices include ticket(s) to the basketball game.

For a detailed schedule of events, or for more information, please visit , <http://www.kennesaw.edu/alumni/homecoming08.htm>

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Board of Regents approves Master of Arts in American Studies at KSU

University now offers 21 master's-level programs

Georgia (Nov 18, 2008) — Board of Regents approves Master of Arts in American Studies at KSU

Sabbaye McGriff

Abstract

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Board of Regents approves Master of Arts in American Studies at KSU

University now offers 21 master's-level programs

KENNESAW, Ga. (Nov. 17, 2008) — Kennesaw State will start offering next fall a new Master of Arts in American Studies, an interdisciplinary degree designed to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse work force in northwest Georgia.

The new degree, approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia at its Nov. 10 meeting, brings to 21 the number of master's-level programs offered at Kennesaw State. KSU is the only university in the USG to offer such a degree.

The Masters of Arts in American Studies — drawing from disciplines that include history, sociology, foreign languages, communications, business, literature and art — is designed to attract professionals working in local cultural sites such as museums, national parks and public history venues and in non-profit and corporate organizations whose programs reach diverse audiences in the U.S. and abroad. The degree also targets high school teachers who want to focus their graduate studies in the humanities rather than on pedagogy, as well as students from abroad interested in studying American culture.

"America is a rich, diverse nation," said Teresa Joyce, associate provost and dean of the Graduate College. "This degree is designed to equip students with knowledge of its history and culture, as well as foster an understanding of the diverse people, regions, groups and institutions that have shaped this nation and its role in the global society. Engaging students in this type of study will be of enormous value in meeting the needs of a diverse workforce."

The new program, which will be administered by Kennesaw State's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, consists of 36 credit-hours and a foreign language requirement. Courses will be taught by existing faculty from across the humanities and other academic departments. Most classes will be offered in the evening to accommodate working professionals.

The interdisciplinary approach to American studies combines the history of U.S. social movements, ethnic groups and various historical periods with "place-based" studies of cities, towns and suburbs, regions and America in a global context. The program will also offer classes aimed at expanding students' understanding of "America" as reaching beyond the United States to include the entire hemisphere. It also includes the examination of cultural phenomena, such as social groups, enterprise and labor, and cultural products such as film, literature and popular culture. Students earning the degree will also be required to apply their learning working in a practicum in local communities.

In proposing the new degree, Kennesaw State’s administrators and faculty relied on input from community advisors representing local business, civic organizations and educational institutions. The program also incorporates best practices advocated by the American Studies Association and curriculum direction from similar leading programs at state universities in Massachusetts, Maine, California and Wyoming.

“Based on these sources, we concluded that an interdisciplinary program in American studies offers advantages compared to traditional area/regional studies programs that prepare students for work in a particular global region,” said Sarah Robbins, faculty executive assistant to the president and a lead designer of the new master’s degree program. “As a field today, American Studies combines a focus on globalization with practical work in a local, domestic context.”

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Enrollment in study-abroad programs at KSU grows 142 percent in five years

University is among state institutions with highest number of students participating in study...

Georgia (Nov 18, 2008) – Enrollment in study-abroad programs at KSU grows 142 percent in five years

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

Enrollment in study-abroad programs at KSU grows 142 percent in five years
University is among state institutions with highest number of students participating in study-abroad programs.

KENNESAW, Ga., (Nov. 17, 2008) – The number of Kennesaw State students participating in study-abroad programs has grown by a dramatic 142 percent over the past five years, according to figures released by the Board of Regents today.

In the 2007–2008 academic year, a record 454 KSU students traveled abroad in approved study-abroad programs, compared to 188 students in the 2003–2004 academic year. KSU ranked fourth in study-abroad enrollment among all University System of Georgia institutions, just behind the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech and Georgia State, which are research universities.

“The new data confirms that our strategy to elevate global learning to the top tier of the university’s priorities and learning outcomes is working,” said Akanmu Adebayo, executive director of the Institute for Global Initiatives at KSU. “Our numbers are increasing so dramatically because many academic departments have worked to integrate study-abroad experiences into their curriculums.”

The impressive growth in enrollment in study-abroad programs at KSU -- now offered in more than 20 locations worldwide -- illustrates the university’s commitment to expand students’ global knowledge. As part of its Quality Enhancement Plan to improve student learning, required for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the university is committed to enhancing the global learning of students, faculty and staff.

The Institute for Global Initiatives has helped institutionalize global learning on campus over the past few years, and a recently implemented global learning fee of \$14 per semester will help grow study-abroad programs. The fee will raise \$700,000 for scholarships to enable a larger number of students to attend these programs.

KSU currently offers more than 40 study-abroad programs in all regions of the world, including:

- southern Mexico, where nursing students work at a children’s hospital;
- Mysore, India, where students work in a biotechnology lab;
- Kenya and Tanzania, where students learn about history and community life in East Africa;
- Chile, where students study history and geography in a colonial city;
- China, where business students get a firsthand look at businesses and financial institutions in one of the world’s fastest growing economies; and
- Thailand, where students learn about criminal justice by visiting prisons and police stations.

“Study abroad is critically important for any student who wants to better understand the complex,

interdependent world in which we live,” said Dan Paracka, director of the Office of International Studies and Programs. “Students gain awareness and skills through these experiences that are hard to develop in a classroom setting only.”

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KSU enrollment grows by 4.1 percent in fall semester, surpassing 21,000

Students attracted to Kennesaw State by growing reputation, innovative graduate programs and state...

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KSU enrollment grows by 4.1 percent in fall semester, surpassing 21,000

Students attracted to Kennesaw State by growing reputation, innovative graduate programs and state-of-the-art facilities

KENNESAW, Ga., (Nov. 14, 2008) — Enrollment at Kennesaw State grew by 4.1 percent in fall 2008, to a record 21,449, according to enrollment figures released this week by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Enrollment in the state's third-largest university kept growing steadily in fall 2008, as KSU has become increasingly attractive to academically competitive in-state and out-of-state students.

"Kennesaw State University continues to attract an ever-growing student body that is academically competitive, globally aware and diverse," KSU President Daniel S. Papp said. "Our faculty and staff have created an excellent learning community that positions our graduates for leadership roles in their communities and around the world. More and more students are drawn to our campus, and it's no longer a secret that KSU is one of Georgia's newest higher education leaders."

Innovative master's and doctoral programs, as well as recently constructed facilities --including a new 913-bed residential complex, "green" classroom buildings and a high-tech performing arts center with superior acoustics -- are helping to fuel KSU's growth. A state-of-the-art, \$21 million dining hall in the heart of campus is also in the works, as well as a new Health Sciences Building that will break ground next month and open during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Just as the 2008-2009 academic year opened, KSU's reputation got a major boost as it was selected by U.S.News & World Report as an "up-and-coming" university that's "firmly focused on improving the job they're doing." In addition, for the sixth consecutive year, KSU's first-year experience initiative was cited as a "Program to Look For" by the magazine.

This year, KSU will start offering a Doctorate of Business Administration -- the only one of its kind in the state and the university's second doctoral degree program.

Now granting more than 20 master's degrees, the university this summer conferred its first degrees beyond the master's level: the Specialist in Education in Leadership for Learning (Ed. S.). The Ed.S. degree is a milestone in the quest of education students to earn KSU's first doctoral degree, a Doctor of Education in Leadership for Learning (Ed.D.). This past spring, the university also graduated its first

class of students completing a master's of social work. Next fall, KSU will start offering an interdisciplinary Master of Arts in American Studies.

Even at the undergraduate level, KSU continues to enhance its academic offerings. This fall, Kennesaw State began offering a Bachelor of Arts with a major in dance, becoming one of only a handful of institutions in the University System of Georgia to offer the major. The new dance major helps fill the void for college dance programs in the state.

KSU continues to make strides as it grows into a vibrant, learning–living community. A \$45 million, 330,000-square-foot residential facility geared toward first-year students opened this summer, raising the total stock of beds on campus to just over 3,000. A two-story, 1,000-seat dining hall is expected to open next fall.

A new Health Sciences Building is scheduled to open in spring 2010. Currently, KSU's WellStar College of Health and Human Services produces one out of every five Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates in Georgia. However, it turns away more than 80 percent of qualified applicants due to classroom shortages. Upon completion, the new building will accommodate 100 additional nursing students per year. An additional 250 students annually will be able to enroll in the college's other programs.

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KSU professor among two in state cited for excellence in scholarship of teaching

Board of Regents award honors environmental science professor

Georgia (Nov 18, 2008) — KSU professor among two in state cited for excellence in scholarship of teaching

Sabbaye McGriff

Abstract

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KSU professor among two in state cited for excellence in scholarship of teaching
Board of Regents award honors environmental science professor

KENNESAW, Ga. (Nov. 12, 2008) — The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has awarded Matthew Laposata, an associate professor of environmental science in Kennesaw State's Department of Biology and Physics, its highest honor for research that leads to innovative teaching techniques that enhance student learning.

Laposata was one of two scholars among faculty from the 35 University System of Georgia institutions to be tapped for the annual Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards. The Board of Regents also awarded Teaching Excellence awards to three faculty members and one university department.

For the past 10 years, Laposata has developed and evaluated curriculum materials for environmental and preparatory courses for future elementary school teachers, which are used in the U.S. and abroad and are available via online libraries such as the National Science Digital Library. He has authored more than 45 peer-reviewed publications and presentations and has been supported in his research by more than \$525,000 in grants.

Laposata has created materials that he says educates students about environmental issues, engages them with science through real world topics and enlightens them about the impact they have on the environment through detailed analysis of their lifestyle choices. Thus, his teaching philosophy: "Educate, engage and enlighten."

"We face many challenges in the U.S., and one of the greatest is finding ways to promote economic growth while protecting the environment," Laposata said. "It is important to help students understand complex environmental issues so they can propose viable solutions that move our nation towards a sustainable future."

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KSU acquires Corra Harris' 56-acre homestead in Bartow County

University will use the farm that belonged to noted Georgia author for research and educational tours. For complete story, please click on headline above.

Georgia (Nov 20, 2008) — Building on its rich tradition of community outreach, Kennesaw State University has acquired the Bartow County homestead of renowned Georgia author and World War I correspondent Corra Harris.

On Nov. 10, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted to accept as a gift "In the Valley," a 56-acre homestead just north of Cartersville, Ga., on behalf of KSU.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for the university," said Catherine Lewis, associate professor of history and coordinator of the public history program at KSU. "With good planning and strong partnerships, KSU will work to stabilize, preserve and interpret the site for citizens throughout Georgia and the Southeast."

Cartersville business leader and preservationist Jodie Hill donated "In the Valley" to the university. Hill purchased the property in 1996 to preserve Harris' legacy.

"The property had been sitting there for more than 60 years," Hill recalled. "I learned that a farmer was going to buy it, tear down everything and build chicken houses, so I just bought it to save it. I didn't know what to expect, but it was the right decision."

Harris (1869–1935) was a noted Georgia author and wrote 250 articles and short stories and 20 books, including the best-selling novel "A Circuit Rider's Wife," upon which the 1951 movie "I'd Climb the Highest Mountain" is based. She also was the first female war correspondent during World War I.

The historic homestead on Harris' farm is actually two homes in one and contains the original one-room log cabin built in 1820 by Chief Pine Log. The remainder of the home includes original furniture and primitive tools used during the early 1900s. There is also a modest fieldstone chapel that overlooks the valley. Under the floor of the chapel is Harris' grave. Other buildings on the property include a spring house, a carriage house, several barns, a smokehouse and a library.

KSU officials hope students will gain valuable research and field experience by examining the archaeological, environmental, and social and literary history of the site.

"We have a rich tradition of serving the community through public history outreach," said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. "KSU's Museum of History and Holocaust Education attracts more than 35,000 visitors annually; the Center for Regional History and Culture regularly hosts symposia and public programs in the community; and the Public History Certificate Program trains undergraduate students to become museum and preservation professionals. KSU has expert staff and faculty who have worked for many years in these fields. We also have faculty involved in environmental studies and biology that will have an opportunity to use the site as a field school."

The university also plans to host guided tours for K–12 public and home-schooled students, as well as community groups, youth clubs and other organizations. Students and student organizations will likely engage in service-learning projects on the property, in addition to the property serving as a retreat, conference and research center for the university and the surrounding community.

"KSU is excited about this opportunity to continue to expand our reach and public service," Lewis said.

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Kennesaw State arts dean named “International Steinway Artist”

Meeks joins company of some of the world's most noted pianists, including Irving Berlin, Cole...

Georgia (Nov 25, 2008) — Kennesaw State arts dean named “International Steinway Artist”

Cheryl Anderson Brown

Abstract

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Kennesaw State arts dean named “International Steinway Artist”

KENNESAW, Ga. (Nov. 25, 2008)—Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University, has been named an International Steinway Artist, by the legendary piano maker Steinway & Sons. He was presented the honor during the university’s All-Steinway Celebration concert on Nov. 15 in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center.

The International Roster of Steinway Artists includes many of the most prestigious pianists of the last 150 years, such as Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Arthur Rubinstein.

Contemporary performers on the list include Lang Lang, Diana Krall and Billy Joel.

“I never would have thought this recognition would have been possible for me,” Meeks said. “I am deeply moved by this honor.”

Meeks, who has served on the KSU faculty for nearly 40 years, is a concert pianist who began playing as a young child. He won numerous piano competitions and graduated from high school early after winning the Walter Spry Memorial Piano Scholarship to study at Converse College School of Music in South Carolina.

Meeks earned Bachelor of Music and Master of Fine Arts degrees in piano performance from the University of Georgia and a Master of Music degree from Georgia State University. He completed additional studies at Yale University and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where he was selected to perform in an international concert during the Salzburg Music Festival.

In recent years, Meeks has been honored as a Lexus Leader of the Arts. He also received the Coca-Cola Lifetime Achievement Award for Arts Leadership at the 2000 Abby Awards in Atlanta.

During the Nov. 15. concert at which he was honored, Meeks performed works by Barber, Bach and Poulenc. The concert was planned to celebrate the university's designation as an All-Steinway School, which places KSU among top music schools including Yale, Juilliard and Oberlin. The designation was made possible by the purchase of 27 pianos by Atlanta philanthropist Dr. Bobbie Bailey. Bailey also donated \$1.75 million last year to name the university's new music performance center.

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Kennesaw State, Coles College of Business host state legislative committees

Panel studying future of Georgia manufacturing to hold wrap-up session at KSU

Georgia (Nov 25, 2008) — Kennesaw State, Coles College of Business host state legislative committees

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Kennesaw State, Coles College of Business host state legislative committees

Panel studying future of Georgia manufacturing to hold wrap-up session at KSU

KENNESAW, Ga. (Nov. 24, 2008) — Kennesaw State University and the Michael J. Coles College of Business are hosting the final session of the Georgia Senate and House Study Committees on “The Future of Manufacturing in Georgia” on Thursday, Dec. 4 at KSU.

The committees were created in April to look into how Georgia can remain attractive to manufacturers and will issue recommendations. This is the last of the committees’ four sessions. The legislative panel is chaired by Sen. Chip Rogers and Rep. Allen Peake.

WHAT:

The wrap-up session of the Georgia State Senate and House Study Committees on “The Future of Manufacturing in Georgia.” The public is invited. For more information, please contact Dimitri Dodonova at dcamargo@kennesaw.edu.

WHO:

Speakers include John L. Gornall Jr., partner at AGG; Richard Kopelman, partner at HA&W; Lydia Jones, director of the Small Business Development Center at KSU; and economics and finance professors Govind Hariharan and Don Sabbarese of the Coles College of Business. Welcome address by KSU President Daniel S. Papp. Also, the committees will discuss the findings from all four sessions.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Thursday, Dec. 4, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Kennesaw State University, 3333 Busbee Drive, KSU Center, Room 300, Kennesaw, Ga. 30144.

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for November continues decline

PMI reading at lowest level in seven years; new orders keep falling, employment exceptionally low,...

Georgia (Dec 8, 2008) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for November continues decline

Aixa Pascual

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for November continues decline

PMI reading at lowest level in seven years; new orders keep falling, employment exceptionally low, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (Dec. 5, 2008) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia continued to decline in November and reached its lowest level since November 2001, the trough in the 2001 recession, according to the Econometric Center at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business.

Georgia's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) — a reading of economic activity in the state's manufacturing sector — for November was 32.7, a decline of 1.3 points from October. This reading is consistent with the 0.3 percent decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the third quarter and raises the likelihood that GDP will contract again in the fourth quarter of 2008.

"The manufacturing sector continues to sink under the weight of a stream of bad news for the U.S. and global economies," said economics professor Don Sabbarese, director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "There are no encouraging signs for manufacturers at this point."

Weakness in new orders continues to put downward pressure on all the other PMI variables. New orders for November were extremely low, with only 9.1 percent of survey participants reporting an increase in new orders. Production actually increased by 7.3 points, but remains very anemic at 27.3, with 63.6 percent of participants reporting lower production. Employment also went up, with 18.6 percent of respondents reporting higher employment, after two months in which no respondents reported growth. Unemployment, however, remains extremely low, at 38.6, Sabbarese said.

Manufacturers continue to operate at a scaled-down level, with little incentive to plan for expansion in the next three months, Sabbarese said. Manufacturers are nervous about tightness in the credit markets and the global slowdown. Uncertainty about the extent and duration of housing and financial problems has forced a wide range of survey respondents to put business decisions on hold, Sabbarese said.

The Georgia PMI provides a snapshot of manufacturing activity in the state, just as the monthly PMI released by the Institute for Supply Management provides a picture of national manufacturing activity. A PMI reading above 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is contracting. The national PMI for November was 36.2 percent, a decline of 2.7 points from October.

The Georgia PMI reading is a composite of five variables — new orders, production, employment, supply deliveries and finished inventory. A sixth variable, commodity prices, is compiled by the Coles College's Econometric Center but does not go into the PMI calculation.

As in October, the only bright spot in the November PMI was the drop in commodity prices, to 22.7 points. While cheaper commodity prices lower production costs, they reflect lower demand due to a global economic slowdown.

The PMI, compiled from a monthly survey of manufacturers, is the earliest indicator of market conditions in the sector. Since manufacturing -- which accounts for 13 percent of GDP -- is sensitive to changes in the economy, it can also reveal changing macroeconomic trends.

The PMI's value is in its timeliness and sensitivity to variables such as interest rates, global markets and other economic changes. The Georgia PMI provides valuable data used by institutions such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to assist in their analysis of current economic conditions, along with many other data sources, to get a picture of economic activity.

For a full report of the November PMI, or to speak with professor Sabbarese, please call (770) 423-6094.

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Kennesaw State students launch dialogue with Iranian counterparts

First video teleconference uncovers common interests, shatters stereotypes. For complete story, please click on headline above.

Georgia (Dec 8, 2008) — College students in the U.S. and Iran share common concerns about grades and getting a good job, a group of 14 Kennesaw State University students discovered last week in the first video teleconference with about 40 students from the University of Kashan in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hanging out with friends and listening to American rock, rap, hip-hop and R&B music also seem to bridge the geographic divide between students attending college at the Northwest Georgia university and those in Kashan, located in Northwestern Iran.

In a step towards “academic diplomacy,” professors at Kennesaw State and the University of Kashan have launched a series of contacts — including teaching classes via teleconference, frequent telephone discussions and engaging students in dialogue — that they hope will lead to more formalized relationships.

Kennesaw State encourages faculty and students to “Get Global,” a key theme in the university’s strategic plan. Over the past five years, the number of Kennesaw State students participating in study-abroad programs has grown by a dramatic 142 percent, and 142 countries are represented among the university’s 21,500 students. Global learning has been integrated across the curricula of the university’s eight colleges.

The exchanges between KSU and Iranian faculty and students are the brainchild of Chris Smith, a KSU sophomore and political science major who served in the U.S. Air Force in Iraq, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, and Ken Hill, a lecturer in the university’s First-Year Programs department. Smith was a student in Hill’s first-year seminar class during fall 2007.

“There was such a disparity in the reality of who and what 90 percent of the people in the Middle East are and what most Americans perceived from the activities of insurgents in the urban areas,” said Smith, who said he came into close contact with locals throughout his service in the Mideast.

As a project for the class, Hill urged Smith to explore a way to change the perceptions. “I challenged him to do something about it, and he did,” Hill said.

Smith searched the Internet and identified about 30 international studies and English department chairs at universities in Iran, since it was a “hot spot in the news” at that time. The first response to his e-mails came last March from Amin Alipour, a computer science professor at the University of Kashan, an engineering and technical school with about 5,000 students.

After meeting with top administrators, Hill got the green light to respond to Alipour and begin the dialogue. Since then, as many as six faculty members from each university have shared phone calls, e-mails and videoconferences.

In October, KSU students in a globally focused section of the first-year seminar course heard a video teleconference lecture on Iranian culture and history by Abbas Farahati, a University of Kashan theology professor. Anne Richards, assistant professor of English at Kennesaw State, began delivering a series of technical writing classes to graduate-level Kashan students majoring in English.

“I see a real willingness for students and faculty to put aside political and cultural differences to cooperate on building a relationship and achieving mutual academic goals,” Hill said.

While Smith has moved on with his studies and is no longer involved in the process, he is “very excited” about the prospects for a relationship between the two universities.

“On a narrower level, I wanted to generate a chance for more understanding among students from two diametrically opposed cultures,” Smith said. “But on a broader strategic level, I’m hoping to demonstrate that these kinds of conversations can serve as an alternative to military solutions to resolving our differences.”

To view a portion of the students’ video conference, visit:

www.kennesaw.edu/ur/video/ivc1.mov

www.kennesaw.edu/ur/video/ivc2.mov

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Legislative panel attracts experts to KSU

Committee studies manufacturing in Georgia

Georgia (Dec 8, 2008) — Georgia does a pretty good job at attracting manufacturers, but as competition for these jobs intensifies the state can do better at offering incentives, said experts talking at KSU Dec. 4 at a session of a joint legislative panel studying the future of manufacturing in Georgia.

“We just have to be more competitive than ever, work harder than ever in landing the jobs,” said Ken Stewart, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. “We’re competing worldwide now.”

The competition for these jobs, he said, comes not only from neighboring states such as Alabama and South Carolina, but from far away countries like Malaysia and Germany. Plus, some of the incentives offered to manufacturers here — such as jobs credits — are too complicated, and Georgia is the only state in the Southeast that taxes energy for manufacturers, the experts said.

A joint House and Senate committee was created earlier this year to study the future of manufacturing in Georgia. KSU and the Coles College of Business hosted the last of four sessions featuring experts. The panel, chaired by Sen. Chip Rogers and Rep. Allen Peake, will issue recommendations.

Georgia’s manufacturing sector is certainly under pressure. The state lost 20,000 manufacturing jobs from October 2007 to October 2008, Stewart said. Manufacturing now employs 405,000 people in Georgia, and accounts for 10 percent of jobs.

KSU economics professor Don Sabbarese, director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College, said that manufacturing has taken a big hit. Employment is down to recession levels.

“The manufacturing sector in Georgia is pretty much shutting down right now,” he said.

John Gornall, a partner at the law firm Arnall Golden Gregory who assisted the with the successful negotiations for the \$1.2 billion KIA auto assembly plant, said that to become more attractive to manufacturers, the state needs to do a better job at preparing students in science and math and paying more to teachers in these fields. Also, Georgia can offer more aggressive and less complicated incentives to manufacturers, he said.

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KSU receives \$47,500 grant from AT&T for Digital Media Lab

Gift will allow Communication Department to buy high-tech cameras

Georgia (Dec 17, 2008) — A \$47,500 grant from AT&T Inc. will allow Kennesaw State University to purchase state-of-the-art cameras and equipment for the university's Digital Media Lab. The award is the first grant the Department of Communication has received to purchase equipment.

Don Barbour, AT&T Georgia external affairs manager, presented an oversized check to the university Dec. 12 at its Digital Media Lab, located on the fifth floor of the Social Sciences Building.

The lab houses digital equipment that allows communication students to produce audio and video. The new grant will allow the communication department to buy mid-grade and high-end camera kits (including microphones and head phones) for field shoots.

Barbour said the grant fits with AT&T's new education program, Aspire. The company has committed \$100 million through 2011 to schools and nonprofit organizations focused on preparing students for success in the work force.

"We are pleased to help expand opportunities for Kennesaw State students," Barbour said. "The success of our young people is critical to the success of our communities, our state and our nation, and training in the Digital Media Lab should give them high technology skills vital to finding a place in tomorrow's work force."

Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp joined Department of Communication chair Birgit Wassmuth and Leonard Witt, Robert D. Fowler Distinguished Chair in Communication, in accepting the AT&T award.

"As the nation completes the movement of its entire communications infrastructure to a digital platform, this generous gift from AT&T will ensure that our graduates are on the cutting edge of digital media production and well-equipped for the state's work force in this vital industry," Papp said.

Communication is one of the largest departments at KSU, with more than 900 students. The department added a new area of concentration to its offerings this fall — journalism and citizen media. The other areas of concentration are media studies, organizational communication and public relations.

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More than 1,600 students graduate in fall commencement ceremonies

More than 1,600 students graduate in three fall commencement ceremonies

Georgia (Dec 17, 2008) — Some 1,645 undergraduate and graduate students earned degrees from Kennesaw State University — a fall commencement record — during three ceremonies Dec. 11 and 12 at the Convocation Center.

The number of students eligible for graduation increased almost 30 percent over last fall, when 1,279 students graduated. KSU held three fall commencement ceremonies.

Fred Sanderson, superintendent of the Cobb County School District, was the speaker at the commencement ceremony for graduates of the Bagwell College of Education, the WellStar College of Health and Human Services and the College of Science and Mathematics the morning of Dec. 11. Cobb County Commission chairman Sam Olens addressed graduates of the Coles College of Business that evening. On Dec. 12, the College of the Arts, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the University College marked commencement with an address by Tom Scott, a Kennesaw State history professor.

The total undergraduate and graduate degree candidates for each school were: College of Humanities and Social Science, 524; Coles College of Business, 474; College of Science and Mathematics, 218; WellStar College of Health and Human Services 203; Bagwell College of Education 170; College of the Arts 51; and University College 6.

Among those earning degrees from KSU this fall were the first two students to receive a graduate certificate in leadership and ethics from the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character at KSU. Pamela Koeferl and Mark Turcot completed the partner program with an M.B.A. from the Coles College of Business. The graduate certificate in leadership and ethics is a 15 credit-hour program, the only one of its kind in the Southeast.

At the Dec. 11 morning ceremony, a near-capacity audience of classmates, faculty, staff and visitors gave a standing ovation to Kyle Pease, 23, who is confined to a wheelchair as a result of cerebral palsy. Pease was awarded a Bachelor of Science in sports management.

On Dec. 12, Capt. Daniel Allen Hill, who graduated from KSU in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in history, finally was able to participate in a commencement ceremony after two deployments to Iraq.

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