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

PMI reading at lowest level since 1990; production, employment and commodity prices slide further,...

Georgia (Jan 6, 2009) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for December continues sharp decline

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

PMI reading at lowest level since 1990; production, employment and commodity prices slide further, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (Jan. 5, 2009) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia continued to slide in December, reaching its lowest level since the monthly survey was launched in 1990, 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 December was 26.8, a decline of 5.9 points from November. This reading is consistent with the last recession in 2001 and augurs an even sharper drop in fourth quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) than the 0.3 percent contraction registered in the third quarter.

"The latest numbers reveal just how broad this downturn extends across the manufacturing sector," said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "As illustrated also by national data, the weakness is not only broad but also deep across the manufacturing sector."

Manufacturing employment in Georgia dropped by 18.2 points to 20.5, its lowest level since 1990. Production, which shrank by 9.1 points to 18.2, also reached its lowest level. New orders were up by 2.3 points, to 22.7. However, 63.6 percent of survey participants reported lower new orders and only 9.1 percent reported higher new orders.

The extremely low level of new orders continues to strain revenue and profits, forcing manufacturing companies to lay off workers and/or not hire. "Many manufacturers are trying to survive by slashing labor costs," 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 is in sync with the national PMI for December, which declined by 3.8 percent to 32.4, its lowest level in 18 years.

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 previous months, the only bright spot in the December PMI was the drop in commodity prices, which lowers production costs for manufacturers. Commodity prices declined by 4.5 points, to 18.2, a historical low. However, the broad decrease in commodity prices indicates excess capacity, which reflects the sharp drop in global demand.

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.

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

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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.

KSU to host international U.N. Alliance of Civilizations conference on Turkey

"Year of Turkey" event will bring to campus leading scholars and dignitaries to discuss Turkey's global role

Georgia (Jan 6, 2009) — Kennesaw State University will host on Jan. 29–31 the first United Nations Alliance of Civilizations International Conference dedicated to an examination of Turkey's unique role in promoting world peace and eradicating extremism.

Co-sponsored by Kennesaw State, Istanbul Center and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the conference marks a highlight of the "Year of Turkey" at KSU. The U.N. Alliance of Civilizations is a global initiative launched by Turkey and Spain in 2005 under the auspices of the United Nations.

More than 40 scholars from universities in the U.S., Turkey, Cyprus and Algeria will participate on panels and present papers on the theme "Turkey at the Crossroads of Cultures." Turkish government and U.N. officials — including former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Mark Parris, and Mehmet Aydin, state minister and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations co-chair — will address the conference.

Turkey straddles Europe and Asia and its culture is a unique blend of East and West. The country's rich history encompasses the rise of major civilizations in the area comprising modern Turkey, including the Hittite, Byzantine and the Ottoman empires. Today, Turkey is a democratic, secular republic with a majority Muslim population.

The three-day conference, to be held in the Social Sciences Building, will cover topics including Turkey's unique role and experience in promoting peaceful coexistence and multiculturalism; the role of media; the impact of migration; the plight of youth; separating mosque and state in educating to promote peace; and the tension between modern and traditional values in gender relations.

Through its 85-member Group of Friends — governments, regional and international organizations, foundations and private donors — the Alliance of Civilizations works to improve understanding and cooperation across cultures and religions and to counter the forces of polarization and extremism.

To view a preliminary conference program, please visit:

www.kennesaw.edu/globalinstitute/aocprogram.html

To learn more about conference co-sponsors, please visit:

Kennesaw State University

<http://www.kennesaw.edu>

Istanbul Center

www.istanbulcenter.org

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

www.unaoc.org

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New KSU Magazine available

The Fall/Winter edition of the KSU Magazine is now available online

Georgia (Jan 6, 2009) — A new KSU Magazine hit the stands this week. It features articles on KSU's ties to China, its designation as an All-Stienway School and the first KSU graduates to earn higher than a master's degree.

Read exciting news about an alum's unusual art collection and a group of them leading a \$1.2 billion financial services company. A faculty research profile reveals how a distinguished KSU biotechnology professor leads in the study of enzymes to help improve human health. And discover the world with KSU students as they study and work abroad. In this "The Year of Turkey," President Dan S. Papp and other KSU officials trek across this modern country with ancient roots, situated at the crossroads of East and West. An exhibit offering a rare glimpse into the ordinary life of a young Czechoslovakian girl on the eve of Hitler's "final solution" expands KSU's Museum of History and Holocaust Education's reach with a traveling exhibit. In sports, the Owls track team wins back-to-back national championships.

See these and other regular KSU Magazine columns, including Athletic Briefs, Alumni News and Notes, and Outstanding Owl .

View, download or print your favorite articles at

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/ur/downloads/Mag%20fall08.pdf>

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Kennesaw State hosts events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Events to focus on the legacies, traditions and history of African–American people

Georgia (Jan 16, 2009) — Kennesaw State hosts events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Kennesaw State hosts events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Events to focus on the legacies, traditions and history of African–American people

KENNESAW, Ga. (Jan. 14, 2009) — On the eve of the inauguration of the country's first African–American president, Kennesaw State University will kick off a series of events honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrating the legacies, traditions and history of African–Americans.

On Monday, Jan. 19, activist, best-selling author and artist Sister Souljah will serve as the keynote speaker for the annual observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The event will be held at 1 p.m. in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center.

"The intention of this event is to honor the legacy and struggle of Dr. King and other important leaders during the civil rights movement, as well as to showcase Kennesaw State University's commitment to establishing a campus environment that safely facilitates diversity for all," said Nicole Phillips, assistant director for Minority Student Retention Services.

Other highlights of the celebration include:

*Jan. 19

Keynote address for the annual observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday
1 p.m., Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center

A reception hosted by the Black Alumni Society
2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m., Carmichael Student Center, University Rooms

*Feb. 8

The Negro Spiritual Celebration – A Concert
3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Zion Baptist Church, Marietta

*Feb. 19

The 4th Annual Black History Bowl
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Social Sciences Building, Room 2039

*March 19

Poetic Expressions

7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m., Carmichael Student Center, Leadership Room

For more information on these and other events, contact Nicole Phillips at 770-423-6443 or nphill10@kennesaw.edu

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Kennesaw State to offer Master of Science in International Policy Management

Board of Regents approves new degree designed for global managers

Georgia (Jan 16, 2009) — Kennesaw State to offer Master of Science in International Policy Management

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Kennesaw State to offer Master of Science in International Policy Management
Board of Regents approves new degree designed for global managers

KENNESAW, Ga. (January 15, 2009) — Kennesaw State University will begin this fall offering a Master of Science degree with a major in International Policy Management, designed to help corporate and public sector managers and professionals understand the impact of global policy on management practices.

The new master's, approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia at its January meeting, will emphasize how the international policy process works, how it impacts the private and public sectors, and the interrelationship of political, economic and regulatory components of a global environment. The new program brings to 22 the number of master's-level programs offered at Kennesaw State.

"The complexities of conducting affairs in an increasingly global environment means knowledge of international policy is no longer the primary domain of those in the diplomatic arena," said Richard Vengroff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Kennesaw State. "This is an applied degree program that will give students practical knowledge about global issues relevant to business, governance and the public sector."

Courses in the new program — covering topics such as trade policy and practice; international political economy; development policy and practice; political risk management; international conflict management, strategic negotiations and decision-making; world politics and governance; and comparative regulatory politics — will be taught through a combination of standard online courses, streaming video, interactive teleconferences and face-to-face instruction.

"We've designed the program to make it more accessible for those working in various fields at the level of global management, many of whom travel a great deal," said Chien-Pin Li, chair of the Department of Political Science and International Affairs.

For more information on the Master of Science in International Policy Management, call 770-423-6227 or send inquiries to cjinn4@kennesaw.edu

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State awards KSU \$18,000 grant to promote driver safety

Grant will fund awareness campaign to help reduce traffic fatalities

Georgia (Jan 16, 2009) — State awards KSU \$18,000 grant to promote driver safety

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State awards KSU \$18,000 grant to promote driver safety
Grant will fund awareness campaign to help reduce traffic fatalities

KENNESAW, Ga. (Jan. 14, 2009) — The Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) has awarded Kennesaw State University a grant for \$18,000 for an awareness campaign aimed at reducing the number of traffic fatalities among 18- to 24-year-old drivers, a high-risk group.

The grant — Kennesaw State's second award from GOHS — funds the Georgia Young Adult Program, a high-profile peer-education campaign that seeks to convince young motorists that crashes are preventable.

Traffic crashes are one of the leading causes of death and injury among 16- to 24-year-olds. The state's latest data show that more than 23,000 16- to 24-year-olds were injured in auto crashes, and almost 270 of them died.

Kennesaw State will use grant funds to promote seatbelt use and prevent impaired driving, according to Sherry Grable, director of KSU's Center for Health Promotion and Wellness.

The campaign seeks to influence student behavior on buckling up and staying sober on the roads by placing banners and posters in prominent places, such as parking deck entrances on the KSU campus. Also, postcards reinforcing that message will be mailed to specific populations, such as first-year students, during critical periods such as spring break. The goal is to change what students perceive as the norm.

"Perception of the norm is a powerful prediction of personal behavior, whether it's alcohol use, cigarette smoking, substance abuse, seatbelt use or bullying," Grable said. "The social norms model proposes that many problem behaviors may be due to the desire to fit within one's social group. With repeated exposure to a norm, misperceptions are reduced, and the target population begins to act in accordance with the true norm of their peers."

Grant funds also will be used to purchase student access to mystudentbody.com, a Web site that helps assess high-risk behaviors and educates students about the hazards of drinking. Funds will also be used to train student peer-health educators at Kennesaw State to help fellow students understand the dangers of drinking and driving and the importance of seatbelt use.

Cobb County traffic accident data show a clear need to boost highway safety among 18- to 24-year-olds. Vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities among drivers in this age group represented 38 percent of crashes

in Cobb County from 2003 to 2005. The number of traffic fatalities during that same time period among 18- to 24-year-olds increased 22 percent.

“Our state’s teen drivers represent a disproportionate number of drivers involved in crashes that involve injuries and deaths on Georgia’s roadways,” said Bob Dallas, director of the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. “Our hope is to have every high school and college student graduate without being involved in an injury or fatality crash.”

For more information on the Georgia Young Adult Program through the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, visit www.gahighwaysafety.org/youngadult

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Kennesaw State students launch dialogue with Iranian counterparts

Georgia (Feb 1, 2009) — 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

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KSU honored for work with sports and persons with disabilities

Georgia (Feb 1, 2009) – Against the backdrop of “a new era of cooperation” between the United States and Libya, the Libyan Paralympic Committee has awarded Kennesaw State a gold medal recognizing its work with persons with disabilities.

On Jan. 29, Ali Elgerbi, of the Libyan Paralympic Committee, and Fatma Bin Sofia, of Libya’s Today International Center, presented WellStar College of Health and Human Services Dean Richard Sowell with the gold medal for work being done by the college’s Global Center for Social Change.

“We recognize how much KSU is doing for the disabled,” Elgerbi said through an interpreter. “This is the beginning of our relationship, one of respect. What we see here is not only the work you are doing with sports and the disabled; we see the American people, and we will transfer that to the Libyan people -- all of the emotion and feeling.”

Last spring, KSU entered into partnerships with Alexandria University and Helwan University in Cairo, Egypt, to establish a center for educating persons with disabilities and those who teach, coach, live and work with them.

As a result of those partnerships, Ben Johnson, associate dean of community partnerships and global initiatives at the WellStar College and director of the Global Center for Social Change, gave a presentation last fall at a conference in Egypt attended by representatives of universities, nongovernmental organizations and Paralympic committees, including the Libyan Paralympic Committee.

“We look forward to having collaboration, not only with disabilities, but a relationship with America,” Elgerbi said.

In September, then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a historic trip to Libya in an attempt to bridge gaps between the two countries and establish a framework for building formal relations. Rice was the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Libya since 1953.

“We’re humbled by this worldwide recognition,” Sowell said. “Ultimately, our relationships with other countries are about us getting to know each other as people outside of politics. It’s a whole lot easier to fight a stranger than a friend.”

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U.N. conference reveals Turkey's global importance, complexities

Georgia (Feb 1, 2009) — Turkey is uniquely positioned to play a key role in achieving peace and stability in the Middle East and in America's foreign policy in the region, even as it undergoes continuing internal transformation, scholars and diplomats concluded during a historic three-day conference Jan. 29–31 at Kennesaw State University.

The Alliance of Civilizations: Turkey at the Crossroads of Cultures international conference, cosponsored by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the Atlanta-based Istanbul Center and Kennesaw State, drew more than 200 participants from leading universities in the U.S., Algeria and Turkey.

In conjunction with the conference, Kennesaw State signed an agreement to initiate faculty and student exchange programs with Fatih University in Istanbul, the first such partnership with a Turkish institution of higher education.

"This agreement and the partnerships demonstrated by this conference is exactly what the Alliance of Civilizations envisioned — to have people get together with other people for intercultural exchanges that lead to practical steps like this new partnership between KSU and Fatih University," said Thomas Uthup, research manager for the Office of the Secretariat at the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations.

During the three-day conference, more than 40 scholarly presentations and talks by Turkish and U.S. diplomats addressed Turkey's evolution as a secular democracy with a largely Muslim population, and as a regional partner with Europe, the Caucasus and its Islamic neighbors.

"Turkey is a place where you will need to get over, or through, to help Georgia, support or withdraw forces from Iraq, develop alternative supply routes for Afghanistan, nudge Russia, or build coherent strategy toward Iran or Syria," former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Mark Parris said during the keynote address on U.S.–Turkish relations under the Obama administration. "It's a very important country that belongs to some really good clubs — the U.N. Security Council, NATO, OECD, the IMF and the World Bank, and a candidate for the European Union."

Parris, a visiting foreign policy fellow at The Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., characterized U.S.–Turkish relations as "sub-prime" under the Bush administration, but he was hopeful at the prospects under the new administration, given Turkey's strategic importance.

"Elections in democratic societies are refreshing; new leaders are an opportunity to look ahead," he said. "The crisis of the moment for the Obama administration is the economy, and they know that history will judge them on how they handle it. But life and geography will get it on their screen in due course. They will find, as have their predecessors, it's always easier to work with Turkey rather than around Turkey."

Turkish officials addressing the conference included Suat Kiniklioglu and Cuneyt Yuksel, members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, who will meet in Washington this week with Obama administration officials.

The conference also surfaced some of the complexities that characterize Turkey today, such as tensions between conservative and liberal reformists, between secular and religious ideologies, as well as the country's policy of cooperation with its Middle Eastern neighbors, which some say is at odds with its inclusion into the European Union.

A session on Turkey's ban on women wearing headscarves in public — one of the conference's most vigorous discussions — illustrated the dynamics of Turkey's internal struggles with secular reforms

and its cultural and religious identity, as did a session on religious education in Turkey.

The headscarf ban, imposed at Turkish universities in the 1990s by staunchly secularist forces, is viewed by many as an exaggeration of the reforms advocated by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, whose principles defined the Turkish nationalist movement in the 1920s and 30s and guided the formation of the Republic of Turkey.

“The very philosophies that created a modern state and improved the status of women, giving them the right to vote and participate freely in society, are now being used to deprive them of their right to express their religious identity by wearing the scarf,” said Sandra Bird, a Kennesaw State University assistant professor who chaired the discussion on women and gender issues.

The same contradictions are seen in the status of public education, according to Ahmet T. Kuru, a Columbia University scholar and assistant director of its Center for the Study of Democracy, Tolerance and Religion.

“The state includes religious instruction in the schools but excludes religion in the ban on headscarves and the restrictions over Imam–Hatip graduates and Qu’an courses,” he said. “These contradictions will continue unless there is a decline of societal religiosity and a replacement of assertive secularism by a more passive form of secularism.”

But scholars like Turkey’s Metin Heper, a professor at Bilkent University in Ankara, see the marriage between Islam and a liberal democratic state in Turkey as evidence of the tolerance that an Alliance of Civilizations requires.

“Most of Turkey’s Muslims are living and practicing religion at a personal level,” he said. “But they prefer secular politics. That’s why Turkey maintains harmonious relations with all its neighbors, Muslim and non–Muslim alike.”

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for January reverses long decline
New orders, production and employment are up; commodity prices increase after a four-month decline, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (Feb. 4, 2009) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia showed some improvement from a steep decline that started last summer and hit bottom in December, 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 January was 35.4, an increase of 8.6 points from December. This reading was supported by healthy increases in new orders, production, employment and finished inventory.

"The latest PMI signals a possible turnaround from its low point in December," said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "But, at the same time, the reading paints a picture of a very weak manufacturing sector."

More survey participants reported higher levels of new orders and production in January than they did in the last five months. New orders were up by 10 points, to 32.7.

While it is encouraging to see a rise in new orders, the fact remains that only 19.2 percent of participants reported higher new orders, Sabbarese said. Unless more participants report increases in the coming months, this improvement may not be sustainable. Until then, the manufacturing sector remains in a state of contraction.

Production also edged higher, expanding by 10.7 points to 28.8. More participants also reported higher employment — which was up by 14.2 points — but it remains very weak at 34.6. Employment is not expected to increase much over the next few months.

"Many manufacturers today are operating at minimal levels and will respond to short-run upticks in business while remaining cautious in the long term," 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 mirrors the national PMI for January, which remains weak at 35.6, an increase of 2.7 points.

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.

After four months of steady decline, commodity prices reversed direction in January, increasing by 12.6 points to 30.8. The excess supply of commodities may be slowly rebalancing. Commodity prices still remain at a relatively low level, indicating excess capacity created by the sharp drop in global demand.

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 January PMI, or to speak with professor Sabbarese, please call (770) 423-6094.

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KSU competition attracts future entrepreneurs from M.B.A. programs

Student teams present novel business ideas, vie for best team Feb. 6–7

Georgia (Feb 6, 2009) — KSU competition attracts future entrepreneurs from M.B.A. programs

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

KSU competition attracts future entrepreneurs from M.B.A. programs
Student teams present novel business ideas, vie for best team Feb. 6–7

KENNESAW, Ga. (Feb. 5, 2009) — A patented technology that allows blood on small wounds and arterial bleeds to clot fast. An industrial wastewater treatment tailored for the needs of small Indian manufacturers. A coating for implants that makes breast augmentation surgeries safer. These are just some of the novel business and entrepreneurial ideas that M.B.A. students from universities in five states will be presenting at the 2009 Georgia Bowl Business Plan Competition being held at Kennesaw State University Feb. 6–7. Other ideas include a retinal prosthetic that may restore sight to those blinded by age-related macular degeneration; a microbrewery selling nitrogenated beer with a creamier flavor; and an online search portal with data on auto mechanics.

WHAT

The 2009 Georgia Bowl Business Plan Competition, an annual contest among teams of M.B.A. students from leading universities throughout the Southeast and beyond, features student teams vying against each other for the best new business idea.

The Georgia Bowl, sponsored by KSU, is the oldest regional business plan competition in the U.S. and now includes teams from universities in eleven states in the Southeast. It was founded by Charles Hofer, Regents professor of strategy and entrepreneurship at the Coles College of Business at KSU.

WHO

M.B.A. students from the University of Georgia; the University of Virginia; Georgia Tech; the University of Illinois, Chicago; the University of Louisville; the University of Texas, Dallas; and Kennesaw State University.

WHEN

Friday, Feb. 6 and Saturday, Feb. 7. Competition goes from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:45 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. on Saturday.

WHERE

Coles College of Business, Burruss Hall, 1000 Chastain Rd., Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Ga. 30144

For more information, please contact Aixa Pascual at 678–797–2549.

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Kennesaw State University, Georgia Highlands Paulding site moves a step closer

Board of Regents accepts buildings and land from Paulding County

Georgia (Feb 12, 2009) — Kennesaw State University, Georgia Highlands Paulding site moves a step closer

Sabbaye McGriff

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Kennesaw State University, Georgia Highlands Paulding site moves a step closer
Board of Regents accepts buildings and land from Paulding County

KENNESAW, Ga. (Feb. 11, 2009) — The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has accepted Paulding County's donation of two buildings and a parking lot, clearing the way for the opening of a satellite location with courses offered jointly by Kennesaw State University and Georgia Highlands College .

Paulding officials will turn over the nearly 11,000-square-foot Henry Winn Community Development Building, strategically located on the town square in Dallas, and an adjacent parking lot. The now-vacant two-story building, which formerly housed Paulding County's administrative offices, will undergo extensive renovations. Once complete, the refurbished building will accommodate six classrooms and multiple administrative offices. It will be the anchor facility for the new satellite site, which both institutions are working toward opening next fall, pending approval of proposed academic programs by the Board of Regents. Current projections estimate 300 students will be enrolled at the site.

Paulding County's gift also includes the nearly 31,000-square-foot Bagby Building, which also sits on the town square site. Plans call for renovating the second building as enrollment in the satellite programs increase.

To launch programs at the new satellite location, Georgia Highlands College is seeking approval from the Board of Regents to offer 15 core curriculum classes for entering freshmen and sophomore students. Kennesaw State is seeking the regents approval to offer upper-level undergraduate business classes for juniors and seniors and graduate classes in educational leadership. The Board of Regents at their March meeting will consider both institutions' proposals to offer academic programs at the site.

"We are extremely appreciative of the generosity and support this partnership has received from Paulding County commissioners, which will go a long way in allowing this project to move forward," said Daniel S. Papp. "This site will allow us to extend our programs to an under-served area of the state to improve higher education access for a fast-growing community."

Students in the Dallas/Paulding County area, which is expected to almost double in population by 2020, presently have to travel more than 35 miles to the nearest associate degree-granting institution and more than 20 miles to access undergraduate and graduate programs.

"We have had such enthusiastic interest from community members that I feel confident the site will

grow quickly to meet the needs of Paulding County,” said Georgia Highlands President Randy Pierce.

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New Doctorate of Nursing Science approved by the Board of Regents

Research-based degree program aims to prepare more nurse educators, address health disparities

Georgia (Feb 12, 2009) — New Doctorate of Nursing Science approved by the Board of Regents

Jennifer Hafer

Abstract

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New Doctorate of Nursing Science approved by the Board of Regents
Research-based degree program aims to prepare more nurse educators, address health disparities

KENNESAW, Ga. (Feb. 10, 2009)— A new doctoral program at Kennesaw State University aims to boost production of nurses and nurse educators to help alleviate a nationwide shortage of both.

On Tuesday, the Georgia Board of Regents voted to approve the university's third doctoral program, a Doctorate of Nursing Science (DNS). As part of the approval process, the board asked the WellStar School of Nursing to enroll 10 – 12 students annually in the program.

"KSU continues to expand its doctoral offerings, providing high-demand programs in critical areas of need for our state," said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. "This new doctorate will contribute greatly to addressing the dire shortage of nurses by enabling us to educate a greater contingent of highly qualified nursing faculty, which is sorely needed."

The new Doctorate of Nursing Science is the only program of its kind in the state of Georgia.

"The DNS degree is listed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) as a research-based degree, unlike a practice degree," said WellStar College of Health and Human Services Dean Richard Sowell. "There are only a limited number of similar programs nationwide. We feel our program adds a new option for potential students seeking a doctorate."

A Board of Regents nursing education task force previously identified nursing faculty as a critical element in increasing the number of nurses in Georgia. According to Sowell, "There's an even greater shortage of nursing faculty than of nurses." He said, KSU "can never grow the number of nurses we produce unless we have the faculty to teach them."

In addition to producing more nurse educators, the research component of the new KSU doctoral program will focus on understanding and addressing health disparities, according to Tommie Nelms, director of the doctoral program initiative.

"In general, we will be preparing nurse scholars and researchers to advance the profession of nursing and to advance health-care knowledge," Nelms said "We hope to educate nurses in how to deal with the vulnerable populations that are being seen more and more in the health-care system."

Dealing with populations who are at risk when it comes to health outcomes is not new territory for the WellStar College of Health and Human Services.

KSU's Center for Community Health Care Services, under the auspices of the nursing school, operates the KSU Clinic at MUST Ministries. The center conducts office visits, phone consultations and provides prescription refills to the uninsured. The clinics provide access to health care to approximately 2,500 to 3,000 contacts per year.

The WellStar School of Nursing also conducts Project IDEAL – the Initiative for Diabetes Educational Advancement for Latinos – a program that so far has helped more than 1,000 Latinos in metro Atlanta learn about diabetes and preventative health care.

“There is a lot of literature out there about dealing with vulnerable populations in the health-care system, but there is still a good bit that we don't know,” Nelms, said. “This program will be a combination of teaching what we know and trying to learn more about those populations and their access to health care, while enhancing their health care.”

With a waiting list of potential students already formed, the new degree program could be launched as early as this fall.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for us,” Sowell said. “Approval of this program really does speak to the quality of the faculty and the growth of the university, and of the significance of the role KSU is playing in educating the next generation of nurses and nurse educators.”

Kennesaw State also offers doctoral degrees in business administration and education.

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for February shows slight improvement

Index is up for second consecutive month; new orders, production and finished inventory continue...

Georgia (Mar 3, 2009) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for February shows slight improvement

Aixa Pascual

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for February shows slight improvement
Index is up for second consecutive month; new orders, production and finished inventory continue slow recovery, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 3, 2009) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia continued to improve slightly after a months-long decline that hit bottom last December, 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 February was 40.4, an increase of 5 points from January. This reading, which illustrates continued weakness, was supported by healthy increases in new orders, production and finished inventory.

"The latest numbers reveal that manufacturing may have reached bottom in the fourth quarter of 2008," said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "While this is certainly good news — should the recovery continue in the coming months — the manufacturing sector remains anemic due to growing domestic and global economic weakness."

Most manufacturers continue to operate in an uncertain environment, which means these short-term improvements do not indicate a shift in their pessimism about current market conditions, Sabbarese said.

"Firms will respond to a jump in new orders by boosting production without hiring more workers or buying new equipment," he explained. "When they are finally convinced that a bump in new orders is permanent, then they will be willing to hire more workers and buy more capital. That point is a long way off."

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.

Georgia's PMI recorded its first reading above the national PMI, which was 35.8 percent for February, since April 2008. Georgia's sharp improvements for new orders — up 8.4 points, to 41.1 — and production — up 10.4 points, to 39.3 — are the reason for this upswing. Finished inventory also

got a lift, in response to new orders and production. Since the Georgia PMI historically has been more volatile than the national PMI, more data is needed to verify if this is a trend or just an aberration.

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.

It is still too early to tell if Georgia's PMI improvement for January and February, while encouraging, marks a sustainable rebound from its fourth-quarter lows. Employment remains very weak at 30.4 points, but is still higher than December's all-time low of 20.5.

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 February PMI, or to speak with professor Sabbarese, please call (770) 423-6094.

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Kennesaw State presents “Southeastern Economic Insights Forum”

Atlanta Fed President Dennis P. Lockhart to address 200 select participants

Georgia (Mar 4, 2009) — Kennesaw State presents “Southeastern Economic Insights Forum”

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Kennesaw State presents “Southeastern Economic Insights Forum”

Atlanta Fed President Dennis P. Lockhart to address 200 select participants

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 4, 2009) — Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Dennis P. Lockhart and RBC Chief Economist Craig Wright will deliver keynote speeches at the “Southeastern Economic Insights Forum,” presented by Kennesaw State University and RBC Bank on Thursday, March 5 at the Cobb Galleria Centre.

The current economic crisis has adversely affected all Southeastern states, some more than others. “Georgia and Florida have been hit particularly hard by the current recession, with record foreclosures and unemployment rates,” said Govind Hariharan, chair of the Department of Economics and Finance at KSU’s Coles College of Business.

Lockhart will share his views on the current state of the economy and Fed policy. Forum attendees include leaders from the financial, real estate, education and health care industries.

WHAT:

The “Southeastern Economic Insights Forum,” presented by RBC Bank and KSU, will offer insights from economists and policymakers on current economic conditions, trends and prospects. Attendance is by invitation only. News media are welcome to attend; please RSVP to Aixa M. Pascual at 678-797-2549 or apascual@kennesaw.edu

WHO:

Keynote speakers:

- Dennis P. Lockhart, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Lockhart has been president of the Atlanta Fed since 2007 and serves on the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), the Fed’s chief monetary policy body. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta covers the Sixth Federal Reserve District, which encompasses Alabama, Florida and Georgia, as well as parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- Craig Wright, senior vice president and chief economist, RBC. Wright leads a global team of economists and strategists out of Toronto. He has been chief economist at RBC, one of the top 10 financial institutions in North America, since 2001. RBC owns RBC Bank, one of the largest banks in the Southeast.

- Don Sabbarese, economics professor and director of the Econometric Center, Coles College of Business at KSU. Sabbarese directs the Georgia Purchasing Managers (PMI) survey, a monthly indicator of manufacturing activity in the state. His research specialties include financial institutions and macroeconomics.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Thursday, March 5, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Cobb Galleria Centre, Ballroom F, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30339.

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Board of Regents approves \$4.5 million in equipment funds for KSU's new Health Sciences Building

Monies will fund equipment, labs; facility groundbreaking set for April

Georgia (Mar 18, 2009) — Board of Regents approves \$4.5 million in equipment funds for KSU's new Health Sciences Building

Jennifer Hafer

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Board of Regents approves \$4.5 million in equipment funds for KSU's new Health Sciences Building
Monies will fund equipment, labs; facility groundbreaking set for April

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 17, 2009) — As pre-construction work continues on the site of the new Health Sciences Building at Kennesaw State University, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia today voted to approve \$4.5 million to fund equipment and labs for the 200,000-square-foot, \$60-million facility.

Formal groundbreaking for the new building, which will house 15 health, science and interdisciplinary labs, is scheduled for April. A significant portion of the funds will be used to equip nursing labs for KSU's WellStar School of Nursing, which will be housed in the facility. The new Health Sciences Building also will include:

- Two 150-seat classrooms
- Two 120-seat classrooms
- Five 80-seat classrooms
- Two 60-seat classrooms
- Seven seminar rooms
- Four computer labs
- A 300-seat auditorium, and
- Faculty offices.

"We are pleased the Regents have approved this important funding, which will allow us to greatly enhance the efforts of the WellStar School of Nursing – including support of our new Doctorate of Nursing Science," KSU President Daniel S. Papp said. "These monies will help pay for lab equipment to support joint faculty and student research – an important component of the D.N.S."

In February, the Board of Regents approved KSU's new nursing doctoral program, which aims to boost production of nurses and nurse educators to help alleviate a nationwide shortage. The university's nursing school, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, produces more than 150 graduates annually.

"With the increased lab space this new facility will provide, the School of Nursing looks forward to supporting more nursing students in our high-demand and highly competitive program," said WellStar College of Health and Human Services Associate Dean Laurie Tis. "We are extremely grateful that this funding will provide for a large expansion of critical nursing simulation labs and other educational needs."

KSU's WellStar School of Nursing – one of the state's top nurse producers – will be a regional nursing simulation lab site, supporting nursing education for northwest Georgia, Tis explained. The simulation labs allow nursing students to gain critical hands-on experience with state-of-the-art equipment and to learn essential, contemporary nursing skills.

In 2007, the Board of Regents approved \$42.5 million for the design and construction of the new Health Sciences Building at KSU. The \$60 million total cost includes construction, design and equipment, with the university raising at least \$13 million from private contributions and other sources toward the project's total cost.

Presently, concrete pilings for the building are being erected and a construction fence is in place. The building is expected to be completed by December 2010.

"For the first time, KSU's departments of nursing and human services will be in one building," said Tis, "and all of the administration will be housed in one building. It really will be a stunning building, and I think it represents a really bright future, not only for the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, but for the university as well."

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Board of Regents approves courses for Georgia Highlands and Kennesaw program in Paulding County

Partnership will expand higher education access in Northwest Georgia

Georgia (Mar 18, 2009) — Board of Regents approves courses for Georgia Highlands and Kennesaw program in Paulding County

Sabbaye McGriff

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Regents approves courses for Georgia Highlands/Kennesaw State program in Paulding County

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 17, 2009) — The Board of Regents today gave their approval to Georgia Highlands College and Kennesaw State University to move ahead with a satellite academic program in Paulding County's downtown Dallas.

Under the partnership, Georgia Highlands will provide core curriculum courses toward an associate's degree, learning support and courses in communication, English, history, mathematics, music, computer studies, psychology, political science, physical education and reading.

Initially, Kennesaw State will offer upper-level undergraduate classes in finance and management and graduate courses in educational and technology leadership. KSU course offerings will continue to develop as the academic program for the Paulding site expands.

"This opportunity to join with Georgia Highlands College to offer academic programs in Paulding County is consistent with the missions of both our institutions," said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp. "We have no doubt that the local residents and the local economy will benefit enormously from greater access to higher education in this growing community."

As the lead institution, Georgia Highlands will manage the satellite site. The college is currently searching for three full-time employees — a site director, test coordinator and library assistant. Faculty positions will be filled by current full-time faculty members, as well as adjunct and part-time professors.

After a capacity study commissioned by the University System of Georgia several years ago, the BOR decided that cooperative efforts between two- and four-year institutions would best address the need for new academic programs in underserved areas like Paulding County, which also is experiencing rapid growth.

This is not the first time that the two USG institutions have joined together to meet the state's growing need for degree programs in the Northwest part of the state. GHC and KSU worked together previously to provide a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a degree program that is in high demand throughout the state. That program is offered on GHC's health sciences campus in downtown Rome, Ga.

"Paulding County officials have worked hard to make this opportunity come to fruition, and the entire Georgia Highlands College family looks forward to a strong presence in the county," said GHC President Randy Pierce. "President Papp and the entire KSU staff have been wonderful to work with, and we are

looking forward to a long and successful collaboration with our colleagues there.”

Last month, the BOR accepted Paulding County’s donation of two buildings and a parking lot that will be the site for the new satellite venture. Both buildings are located in the center of Dallas. The Winn Building is the first one slated for renovation. When finished, it will house five classrooms, a testing center, a laboratory classroom, business office, student services office, conference room and several offices. The second building will be renovated to meet enrollment demands as the student population grows.

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Kennesaw State names university's first vice president for research

Charles Amlaner tapped to expand research and funding (For the complete story, please click on the headline above.)

Georgia (Mar 18, 2009) — Kennesaw State University has named Charles J. Amlaner Jr., a research scientist who has chaired four academic departments at state universities in Indiana and Arkansas, as vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College. Amlaner will start his new job on July 1.

Amlaner, the Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Professor at Indiana State University since 2003, will serve as KSU's very first vice president for research. In this new position, Amlaner, who has conducted extensive research on animal and human sleep physiology, will help KSU secure more external funding for research. As dean of the Graduate College, Amlaner also will lead KSU in further developing graduate programs, implementing doctoral degrees and enhancing research and creative activities.

Kennesaw State Provost Lendley C. Black noted Amlaner's diverse background over 23 years in higher education, which includes teaching, research and administration, as a primary reason he was chosen from among four finalists identified in a national search. He added that Amlaner's background and experience are well-suited to Kennesaw State's academic mission as a teaching institution.

"He understands well our type of university," Black said. "We're not trying to become a Research 1 institution like UGA or Georgia Tech. We're charting our own course as a university that is heavily involved in research, but maintains a strong focus on teaching and public service."

Since 1981, Amlaner has headed the Animal Sleep Research Group at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind. A biologist and physiologist, Amlaner has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in biology, animal and human physiology, and zoology. He also served as chair of the Environmental and Ecological Sciences, Science Education and Life Sciences departments at Indiana State University, and headed the Department of Zoology at the University of Arkansas.

Amlaner earned his Bachelor of Science in Biophysics and Master of Arts in Biology from Andrews University in Michigan, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Behavior from Oxford University in England.

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Leading scholar to discuss race, class and gender at Kennesaw State conference

Newly published "Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora" will make its Georgia debut

Georgia (Mar 18, 2009) — Leading scholar to discuss race, class and gender at Kennesaw State conference

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Leading scholar to discuss race, class and gender at Kennesaw State conference
Newly published "Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora" will make its Georgia debut

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 17, 2009) — One of the nation's top scholars on Africana and women's studies, Carol Boyce Davies of Cornell University, will be the keynote speaker at a student conference on race, class and gender in the African Diaspora at Kennesaw State University on Thursday, March 19. A new "Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora" will be launched at the conference.

What:

The African and African Diaspora Studies Student Conference is designed to give students an opportunity to hear leading scholars in the field, present their research and participate on panels with the experts. A newly published "Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora," edited by Davies, the keynote speaker, will make its debut at the conference. Several KSU professors contributed to the encyclopedia.

Who:

Davies is the author and editor of several volumes on African Diaspora studies, including "Black Women Writing and Identity," "Left of Karl Marx," and "Ngambika: Studies of Women in African Literature." Boyce Davies is a former professor and director of the African-New World Studies Program at Florida International University and was the Herskovits Distinguished Professor of African Studies at Northwestern University.

When and Where:

Thursday, March 19, noon to 8:00 p.m. in Kennesaw State's Social Sciences Building. Book launch is at 6 p.m.; Boyce Davies will speak at 6:30 p.m. in Room 1019. The public is invited. For more information, visit <http://www.kennesaw.edu/aadssc> or call Jessie Benjamin at 404-824-6233.

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Kennesaw State names new dean for Coles College of Business

KSU accounting professor Ken Harmon brings leadership, wealth of administrative experience to one...

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Kennesaw State names new dean for Coles College of Business

KSU accounting professor Ken Harmon brings leadership, wealth of administrative experience to one of Georgia's top business schools

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 20, 2009) — Kennesaw State University has appointed longtime accounting professor and business school administrator Ken Harmon as dean of the Michael J. Coles College of Business. Harmon, who has held top administrative posts at several business schools in the Southeast for the past 10 years, is director of the School of Accountancy at the Coles College. Harmon will start his new job on July 1.

Harmon was selected to head the Coles College, one of the top business schools in the state, after a national search. He replaces Tim Mescon, who as dean of the Coles College from 1990 until 2008 made a name for KSU's business school.

Before arriving at KSU in 2006 to chair the accounting department, Harmon served from 2004 to 2006 as dean of the Else School of Management at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., where he led successful branding and strategic planning initiatives that raised its profile. Harmon became director of the School of Accountancy at the Coles College when the school was created in 2008.

Lendley Black, provost and vice president for academic affairs at KSU, said that Harmon's leadership abilities in spearheading strategic planning efforts at the Coles College and his extensive administrative experience made him stand out among other candidates.

"He's been an outstanding leader and contributed much to the Coles College and Kennesaw State. His experience is very distinctive," Black said. "He also brings strong connections with the Atlanta business community and has a track record of building bridges."

Kennesaw State University's Coles College, the second-largest business school in the state of Georgia, enrolls more than 5,000 students and offers 12 undergraduate and graduate degrees, including an internationally ranked Executive M.B.A. program. Some of its academic programs and centers — including the Cox Family Enterprise Center and the Center for Professional Selling — are nationally recognized.

This spring, KSU's Coles College will start offering a new Doctorate of Business Administration (D.B.A.) in response to the national shortage of business doctorates. The college is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Harmon, a former auditor with Price Waterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and president of his

own software company, has broad administrative and teaching experience at business schools. Before he was dean of the Else School of Management, he served as chair of the department of accountancy and business law at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, N.C. Previously, he chaired the department of accounting at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. and directed the accountancy program at Arizona State University West in Phoenix. Harmon has led strategic planning, fundraising and accreditation initiatives at these business schools.

At the Coles College, Harmon led the accounting program as it reshaped its mission and strategy, leading to the creation of the School of Accountancy last year. He has also worked with Kathy Schwaig, interim dean of the Coles College, in preparing the college as it works to maintain its accreditation. Harmon created the Internal Audit Center, which has earned a reputation for providing internal audit education to undergraduate students. He serves on the Coles College's strategic planning committee and has assisted in the college's fundraising efforts.

Harmon praised the can-do culture of the Coles College and said he is eager to leverage its brand in the academic and business communities.

"Kennesaw State University's Coles College of Business is one of the most exciting business colleges in the country right now. The Coles College has a culture and a mission that are enviable among its peers," Harmon said. "My vision is to create a business college that is top-of-mind in metro Atlanta and that is internationally renowned for some of its strategic programs."

Harmon, a native of Memphis, earned a B.S. in Accounting, a Master of Accountancy, and a Doctorate in Accounting from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn.

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KSU President Daniel S. Papp to deliver “State of the University” address April 1

Papp to discuss the university’s achievements and challenges at third annual address

Georgia (Mar 23, 2009) — KSU President Daniel S. Papp to deliver “State of the University” address April 1

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MEDIA ADVISORY

KSU President Daniel S. Papp to deliver “State of the University” address on April 1
Papp to discuss the university’s achievements and challenges at third annual address

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 20, 2009) — Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp will deliver his third annual “State of the University” address twice on Wednesday, April 1. He will initially deliver the address at 9 a.m., then again at 2 p.m.

Who:

President Papp has served as president of Georgia’s third-largest university since July 1, 2006. He joined KSU after serving as senior vice chancellor of academics and fiscal affairs for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia for six years.

What:

In his third State of the University address since being named president of KSU, Papp will discuss the university’s accomplishments of the past year, as well as the challenges it faces in the current economic environment. He also will outline where Kennesaw State is headed in the years to come. Faculty, staff, students and the public are invited to attend either of the two addresses. Media are welcome to cover the event.

When and Where:

Wednesday, April 1 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The two times have been scheduled to accommodate faculty and staff schedules.

Both sessions will take place at the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center at Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Rd., Kennesaw, Ga. 30144.

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African Diaspora student conference attracts more than 300 students

Keynote speaker Carole Boyce Davies launches new encyclopedia at Kennesaw State

Georgia (Mar 25, 2009) — An all-day conference on race, class and gender in the African Diaspora held at Kennesaw State University on March 19 drew some 350 students and scholars and served as the backdrop for launching a new three-volume “Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora.”

Students led conference sessions, participated on panels and presented papers focused on race and gender as portrayed in the media and in African and African Diaspora literature. KSU’s African-American Student Alliance led the session on the media.

“The student attendance and participation throughout the conference has been remarkable — far more than we anticipated,” said College of Humanities Dean Richard Vengroff. “It certainly indicates there is a demand for this type of information and dialogue here.”

Stacie McNeal Flower, who is taking accounting and English classes at KSU, presented a paper at the conference. She was among the many students who stayed until the conference ended around 9 p.m.

“It was just amazing,” said Flower. “I’ll be teaching middle and high school students some of the history and different ways of looking at things I learned here today.”

The day’s highlights included the launching of the newly published, three-volume encyclopedia with 700 entries about the people, events, places, concepts, history and culture of the African Diaspora.

Conference keynote speaker Carole Boyce Davies, a professor at Cornell University, edited the encyclopedia, which draws on the work of more than 300 scholars, including Kennesaw State faculty Jesse Benjamin, associate professor of sociology, and Lucie Viakinnou-Brinson, assistant professor of French.

“This launch is a journey that I started in Florida and am ending here at Kennesaw,” said Davies, formerly director of the African-New World Studies Program at Florida International University. “We’ve labored to produce an authoritative resource text from scholars all over the world that can be used by educators, researchers, organizations, libraries and anyone interested in this growing field.” WHY DID SHE LAUNCH THIS AT KSU?

The encyclopedia is billed as the only single-source collection of the most current scholarship on the political, economic and cultural relations between people of African descent and the world cultures they have encountered over the past 500 years. For example, it features entries about African-influenced communities in India, Iraq and Vietnam.

In her keynote address, Davies presented an unpublished paper on the legacy of activism in promoting black scholarship, beginning with a student uprising at Cornell University in 1969. Since then, she said, black studies programs have become commonplace, but some blacks question the legitimacy of some of the programs and the extent to which they should identify with them, especially at majority institutions.

Davies cited First Lady Michele Obama’s senior thesis, done at Princeton University in 1985, which concluded that even the scant Afro-American studies program in place there was a factor in why black students identified more with the black community than before or after Princeton.

“Activism starts with an institutional challenge contesting Eurocentric knowledge, and where those demands are made, it is a red flag that there is some problem,” said Davies. She charged that some intellectuals who have not been a part of the activism in the U.S. have risen to leadership in African studies departments. In some cases, that has contributed to what she has termed “mulatto studies” — a

hybrid African/European framework.

To fully capitalize on the legacy of activism, Davies said, black intellectuals must assure that majority institutions not just focus on integrating bodies but on integrating knowledge. “It’s important to link black studies’ activism to struggles for international human rights.”

Malika Flowers, a KSU senior majoring in communications, questioned Davies’ charge to young black scholars to educate themselves and remain active in greater causes.

“How do you do all that when you’re just trying to get out of here and find a job — to pay the bills?” Flowers asked. Still, she was glad to be reminded that so many people struggled for her opportunity to be at KSU and attend forums like this one.

“I’ve been inspired by this to keep applying to grad schools so I can eventually work to help children,” she said. “I guess that’s a form of activism.”

For more information on “The Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora,” visit www.abc-clio.com

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Peace conference to explore role of religion in peacemaking

Muslim legal scholar and Kurdish activist are featured speakers at Kennesaw State

Georgia (Mar 25, 2009) — Peace conference to explore role of religion in peacemaking

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Peace conference to explore role of religion in peacemaking

Muslim legal scholar and Kurdish activist are featured speakers at Kennesaw State

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 25, 2009) — Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University, and Kani Xulam, a Kurdish activist, are the featured speakers at the Fifth Annual Peace Conference on Friday, March 27, at Kennesaw State University.

What:

This year's conference examines the role of religion in the peace-making process. The conference features discussions of the religious dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the plight of Iran's Ayatollah Boroujerdi, and the Christian-Muslim divide. Interactive workshops on meditation and interfaith conflict resolution also are scheduled. The public is invited with \$30 registration at https://epay.kennesaw.edu/C20923_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=595. Media are welcome to cover the event.

Who:

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, author of "Secular State: Negotiating the future of Shari'a," "African Constitutionalism and the Contingent Role of Islam," and "Toward an Islamic Reformation: Civil Liberties, Human Rights and International Law," is an internationally recognized scholar of Islam and human rights.

Kani Xulam is a non-violent political activist who has held fasts and vigils lasting several months to bring attention to the plight of the Kurds and Kurdistan. His work was featured in the recent documentary "Good Kurds, Bad Kurds: No Friends but the Mountains." He is founder and director of the Kurdish Information Network in Washington, D.C.

When and Where:

8:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Friday, March 27. All sessions will be held in the Social Sciences Bldg. at Kennesaw State, located at 1000 Chastain Road in Kennesaw, Ga., 30144. Parking is available in the West Deck. An-Na'im will speak at 9 a.m. and Xulam at 3:45 p.m., both in Room 1021. For more information, contact Susan Raines at sraines@kennesaw.edu or by phone at 770-423-6081

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