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Forum to address how media shape perceptions of the Middle East and the West

Kennesaw State hosts Atlanta's first Egyptian–American dialogue

Georgia (Apr 1, 2009) — Forum to address how media shape perceptions of the Middle East and the West

Sabbaye McGriff

Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Forum to address how media shape perceptions of the Middle East and the West

Kennesaw State hosts Atlanta's first Egyptian–American dialogue

KENNESAW, Ga. (April 1, 2009) — Two journalists working in Egypt and America will tackle sensitive issues of the media-fueled stereotypes and negative perceptions Middle Easterners and Americans hold about each other during a public forum at Kennesaw State University on Sunday, April 5.

What:

The forum — a joint project of Kennesaw State's Center for Conflict Management, the Washington, D.C.-based Hands Along the Nile Development Services (HANDS), and Egypt's Forum for Intercultural Dialogue — is part of an ongoing series of American– Egyptian dialogues held in the U.S. and Egypt since 2004. Kennesaw State is hosting the first gathering of university professors, journalists and civil activists who participate in the periodic dialogues in metro Atlanta.

Hosting the dialogue reflects Kennesaw State's university-wide global learning goals and its expanding relationships with Egypt. Last spring KSU signed an agreement with the Egyptian University Sports Federation (EUSF) to advance athletic opportunities for persons with disabilities in Egypt and partnerships with two Egyptian universities to promote faculty and student exchanges. Linda Johnson, director of the university's Center for Conflict Management and a HANDS board member, took 22 students on two study-abroad trips to Egypt last year.

Who:

Featured journalists participating in the forum:

Amina Shafik, a columnist with Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper, who served as the Egyptian Press Syndicate's first female secretary-general and is active in the country's National Council on Women.

Mona Eltahawy, a New York City-based syndicated columnist and journalist of Egyptian descent, is an international public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. Eltahawy was the first Egyptian to report for a Western news agency in Israel. Her columns have appeared in the International Herald Tribune, The Washington Post, the pan-Arab Asharq al Awsat newspaper and Qatar's Al-Arab. Eltahawy appears frequently as a guest analyst on cable and network television and radio programs on ABC, PBS, CNN, MSNBC, VOA, Fox, NPR and the BBC.

When and Where:

KSU professor receives Board of Regents' Hall of Fame Award

Environmental science professor recognized for scholarship excellence

Georgia (Apr 1, 2009) — KSU professor receives Board of Regents' Hall of Fame Award

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KSU professor receives Board of Regents' Hall of Fame Award
Environmental science professor recognized for scholarship excellence

KENNESAW, Ga. (March 30, 2009) —Matthew Laposata, an associate professor of environmental science in Kennesaw State University's Department of Biology and Physics, received the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia's highest honor for research that leads to innovative teaching techniques that enhance student learning.

"Hall of Fame" awards were presented at the fifth annual Regents' Awards for Excellence in Education ceremony March 28 in Atlanta. The annual celebration recognizes excellence among USG faculty, students and alumni.

Laposata, who lives in Kennesaw, was one of two scholars among faculty from the 35 University System of Georgia institutions cited for scholarship in teaching and learning. Three other USG faculty members received awards for their teaching excellence.

"The 2009 Regents' Award to Dr. Laposata for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning acknowledges the high quality and broad impact of his work in the field of science literacy," said Larry Peterson, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Kennesaw State. "The award also recognizes the importance and value of this form of scholarship within our college and this university."

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."

Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for March continues upward trend

Index is up for third consecutive month; new orders, production and employment show dramatic...

Georgia (Apr 6, 2009) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for March continues upward trend

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for March continues upward trend

Index is up for third consecutive month; new orders, production and employment show dramatic increase, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga., (April 2, 2009) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia continued to improve for the third consecutive month, driven by healthy increases in new orders, employment and production, 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 March was 45.4, an increase of 5 points from February. This reading illustrates that manufacturing is contracting, but at a slower rate than it was last year, and caps three months of gains for the Georgia PMI. The PMI is up 18.6 points this year.

"The latest numbers reveal that manufacturing shrank at a slower rate in the first quarter of 2009," said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "The gradual improvement in the sector, after months of decline, is good news."

Double-digit increases in new orders, production and employment drove the rise in the PMI. New orders were up by 10.7 points, to 51.8; production was up 12.5 points, to 51.8; and employment was up by 10.7 points, to 41.1. Considerably fewer of the survey participants reported lower levels in new orders, production and employment. (The PMI is a diffusion index, so it does not measure the quantitative size of increases in the variables, but the percentage of survey participants experiencing increases versus no change and decreases.)

Employment remains low and firms will need to be convinced that this uptick in new orders will continue over a longer period of time before they start reversing layoffs and hiring freezes. "We are not close to that point yet," 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 it is contracting.

Georgia's PMI of 45.4 is now 9.1 points above the national PMI of 36.3. Georgia's new orders,

KSU's economic impact in Cobb County rises 12.8 percent in fiscal year 2008

University pumps \$660 million into local economy, creates nearly 6,000 jobs

Georgia (Apr 6, 2009) — KSU's economic impact in Cobb County rises 12.8 percent in fiscal year 2008

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KSU's economic impact in Cobb County rises 12.8 percent in fiscal year 2008
University pumps \$660 million into local economy, creates nearly 6,000 jobs

KENNESAW, Ga. (April 2, 2009) — Kennesaw State University continues to be a key economic engine in Cobb County, pumping \$660 million into the local economy and generating nearly 6,000 jobs on and off-campus during fiscal year 2008, according to a report released this week by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The economic impact of KSU on the local economy was up 12.8 percent over fiscal year 2007, when the university contributed \$585 million.

KSU's 2,661 employees generated an additional 3,219 jobs in the community during fiscal year 2008. Initial spending of \$432 million by the university in personnel services and operating expenses, as well as money spent by students, resulted in the \$660 million economic impact, according to the report.

"As one of the ten largest employers in Cobb County, we are pleased to have such a positive impact on the economy, especially during these tough economic times," KSU President Daniel S. Papp said.

"Kennesaw State is also proud of its many other contributions as a leader in higher education and as a partner in the cultural, intellectual and economic life of the county."

The study was commissioned by the Board of Regents and conducted by the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. The Selig Center analyzed data collected between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, to calculate the impact of the USG's 35 institutions on the state's economy. Together, the universities generated an economic impact of \$12.1 billion during fiscal 2008, up from \$11 billion during fiscal year 2007.

"While our research has consistently shown the important economic contributions public colleges and universities make to communities and the state, this latest study supports the argument that the University System can play an important role in helping Georgia's economy recover," said Jeffrey M. Humphreys, author of the study and director of economic forecasting for the Selig Center. "These economic impacts demonstrate that continued emphasis on colleges and universities as a pillar of the state's economy translates into jobs, higher incomes and greater production of goods and services for local households and businesses."

For each job created on a campus, Selig explained, there are 1.6 jobs that exist off-campus because of

KSU-led partnership receives additional \$830,000 to continue preparing science educators

Two-year professional development program will reach 150 teachers, seven school systems...

Georgia (Apr 13, 2009) – KSU-led partnership receives additional \$830,000 to continue preparing science educators

Shawn Jenkins

Abstract

KSU-led partnership receives additional \$830,000 to continue preparing science educators
Two-year professional development program will reach 150 teachers, seven school systems in northwest Georgia

KENNESAW, Ga. (April 13, 2009) – A popular Kennesaw State University-led program that trains Georgia elementary and middle school science teachers was recently awarded \$830,000 in additional funds by the Georgia Department of Education.

KSU's Tom Brown, an associate professor of education science in the Bagwell College of Education, and Greg Rushton, an assistant professor of chemistry education with the College of Science and Mathematics, launched the Northwest Georgia Math/Science Education Partnership (Northwest Georgia MSP) in 2007 with a \$600,000 grant from the state Department of Education. The program addresses the growing need for teacher competency in the physical sciences.

In recent years, changes in elementary and middle school science curriculum have necessitated a more in-depth knowledge of scientific concepts – and cross-training in different content areas – specifically in the fourth, fifth, and eighth grades. The new grant allows professors Brown and Rushton to continue with their successful program, which has trained 120 science teachers so far.

The novel program fits with KSU's College of Science and Mathematics' and the Bagwell College of Education's efforts to improve education for science and mathematics teachers. KSU is working to become one of the nation's top producers of teachers in the fields of math and science.

“What [Brown and Rushton] are doing is probably the most effective way, short-term, to impact science and math teaching,” said Laurence Peterson, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. “The program focuses on giving educators who are interested in upgrading their skills in the classroom an inquiry-based approach that is very effective.”

The second round of the two-year program will begin in July 2009 and go through June 2011. It will incorporate the sixth-grade science curriculum, and has added two additional school districts – the city of Cartersville and Floyd County – bringing the total to seven.

Two other educational partners, the Northwest Georgia Science Museum in Cartersville and the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, have been recruited to offer educators hands-on field teaching opportunities.

In the first iteration of the Northwest Georgia MSP, 120 science teachers from five school districts – Bartow, Chattooga, Cobb and Polk counties, as well as Rome city schools – completed 160 hours of training with the assistance of experienced teaching mentors and support from Georgia Tech and Georgia Highlands College, as well as with educational partners like the TigerFlight Foundation and Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers, among others.

In its first two years, the program saw an unusually high 93 percent completion rate among its participants, and was highly lauded by education professionals who were hoping it would be continued in order to address the changing curriculum needs of science teachers in elementary- and

Students from eight metro Atlanta high schools compete in 10th Geography Bowl at KSU

University geographers design competition to boost world geography education among Georgia high...

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Students from eight metro Atlanta high schools compete in 10th Geography Bowl at KSU
University geographers design competition to boost world geography education among Georgia high school students

KENNESAW, Ga. (April 13, 2009) —Students from eight metro Atlanta high schools will face off in the 10th annual World Geography Bowl sponsored by Kennesaw State University's Department of Geography & Anthropology on Friday, April 17 at the Carmichael Student Center at KSU.

What:

The annual competition, funded by the National Geographic Education Foundation and the Georgia Geographic Alliance, pits teams of ninth graders in three rounds, patterned after successful college-level bowls sponsored by the Association of American Geographers. The competition is designed to stimulate interest in the study of geography among high school students in Georgia, where only about half of all high schools offer courses in world geography.

Who:

Competing students are from Cherokee, Creekview and Woodstock high schools in Cherokee County; Hillgrove and Walton high schools in Cobb County; Hiram High in Paulding County; Riverwood High in Fulton County and Atlanta's Grady High. Judges and officials are drawn from KSU faculty and students majoring in geography and anthropology.

When and Where:

Friday, April 17, 9 a.m.– 3 p.m., with championship rounds beginning 1:00 p.m., in University Rooms A through E in the Carmichael Student Center at Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, Ga. 30144.

Why:

KSU geographers started this competition as a community-outreach program to promote the education of geography. In Georgia, teaching geography is a local option at the high school level for school systems. Recent research shows that 37 percent of young Americans could not find Iraq on a map, and one in three could not place Louisiana on a U.S. map following Hurricane Katrina. A bill now before Congress would ensure comparable federal support for the teaching of geography, the only one of nine other core academic subjects identified in the "No Child Left Behind Act" that has received no federal funding.

Fall 2009 per-credit-hour tuition will remain the same for KSU students

Regents also allocate \$19 million in funding for new science lab addition at KSU

Georgia (Apr 15, 2009) — Fall 2009 per-credit-hour tuition will remain the same for KSU students

Staff

Abstract

Fall 2009 per-credit-hour tuition will remain the same for KSU students

Regents also allocate \$19 million in funding for new science lab addition at KSU

KENNESAW, Ga. (April 15, 2009) — Kennesaw State University's tuition rates have been established for the 2009–2010 academic year, and students should welcome the good news that the per-credit hour tuition is not slated to increase this fall.

The new tuition rates were set Tuesday by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia at their April meeting, during which the governing body approved an overall package of tuition and fees for the state's 35 public colleges and universities.

The regents determined that KSU's per-credit-hour tuition of \$134 would remain frozen for fall 2009, in response to the current economic climate that USG students are facing. Both new and returning KSU students — including those on the USG's "Fixed for Four" tuition plan — will pay the same credit-hour tuition rate that was charged to attend the university during the 2008–2009 academic year. However, the USG's "Fixed for Four" — or Guaranteed Tuition Plan (GTP) — will be phased out beginning this year for all new incoming and transfer students.

"The Board of Regents recognizes the tough economic climate Georgians face, and they have responded by holding the line as much as possible on tuition increases," said KSU President Dan Papp. "Freezing the per-credit-hour rate and minimizing the full-time rate increase will greatly assist our students in meeting the cost of attendance."

While the per-credit-hour tuition at KSU will remain the same, the regents changed the number of credits needed to enroll at the "full-time tuition rate" at all USG institutions — which now moves to 15 credit hours from the present 12. This move is aimed at accelerating full-time USG students' progression toward graduation, encouraging them to complete their degree programs on time in four years.

Students not presently enrolled under the USG's guaranteed tuition plan now will pay the per-credit-hour rate for all classes taken up to 15 hours. Previously, KSU students were only required to pay for a maximum of 12 hours at the per-credit rate before being allowed to pay the full-time rate, which last year was \$1,598 at KSU. Under the new policy, students will be required to pay the \$134 KSU credit-hour rate for up to a maximum of 15 hours before being allowed to pay the new full-time rate of \$1,998 for 15 or more credits.

Students who currently fall under the USG's "Fixed for Four" program will not be affected by this change, as the Board of Regents committed to honoring the tuition plans of all students currently enrolled in the guaranteed tuition plan. The GTP was implemented by the Board of Regents in fall 2006 to allow incoming freshmen to lock in tuition rates for four consecutive years as a means of assisting Georgia families with the cost of college attendance. However, the board can no longer freeze the tuition of incoming students for four years due to declining state revenues and budget cuts.

Both the University System's \$275.6 million budget reduction for the upcoming fiscal year, combined with evidence that the guaranteed tuition program has not resulted in an anticipated increase of students who graduate in four years, were cited as reasons for the board's decision to discontinue the program.

KSU hosts Egyptian journalists, activists and scholars

Forums focus on media's role in shaping perceptions and Egypt's civil society

Georgia (Apr 23, 2009) — The growing influence of Egypt's civil sector — as many as 33,000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by some estimates — and the role of media in shaping how Egyptians and Americans view each other were part of discussions during the first Egyptian-American Dialogue held at Kennesaw State earlier this month.

The dialogue — a joint project of KSU's Center for Conflict Management, the Washington, D.C.-based Hands Along the Nile Development Services, and Egypt's Forum for Intercultural Dialogue — was the latest in a series held in the U.S. and Egypt since 2004 to promote "citizen diplomacy" and foster better cultural understanding. Most of the sessions held during the three-day dialogue at KSU were reserved for the academics and activists who periodically attend the dialogues.

Two of the dialogue's public forums featured Amina Shafik, a reporter and columnist for Al Ahram, a state-owned newspaper considered the most widely read in Egypt, and the first woman to head the Egyptian journalists' syndicate.

Shafik said the media has helped further the causes and influence of civil society organizations, which until the early 1980's primarily concerned themselves with issues like feeding the poor. With the advent of organizations like the Arab Association for Human Rights, a segment of the NGOs began tackling the issues of democracy, human rights, community development and civil rights.

As the number of NGOs assuming the role of rights advocates has increased, more journalists — especially those working for privately-owned media — are covering them. Shafik estimates that about 1,000 of the estimated total of NGOs are engaged as advocates and activists, and their leaders sometimes run into opposition from the government.

As a result, Shafik said, "NGO leaders have become as recognizable as politicians and government leaders. There are now reporters who specialize in [covering] civil society."

Shafik was joined by Fathy Abou Ayana, former dean and professor of human geography at Alexandria University. He estimated that there are some 1,800 NGOs working in Alexandria alone, primarily on the problems of the growing number of homeless in Alexandria that has resulted from population explosion.

"The high rates of poverty and illiteracy have reduced the influence of newspapers, Ayana said. "They don't read papers, books and magazines, just listen to radio all day and watch films."

Ayana explained that satellite dishes make it possible for locals follow world events more closely than they follow local news and issues. However, independent and government owned newspapers like Al Ahram, continue to be widely read among the intelligentsia.

As an outspoken journalist and advocate for women's rights, Shafik has criticized the government and its news media — even her own Al Ahram — "too many times to cite" on human rights, women in electoral politics and the rights of religious minorities, suffering repercussions along the way.

"I was fired under [former president Anwar al-] Sadat," she said. "But when you choose your way, you choose it with all its ups and down."

Even so, there is no "tangible censorship," Shafik said, noting that her writing was only once refused — a column she wrote criticizing the government on the Palestinian issue.

"I later read the article and determined that it may have been too aggressive," she said. "We have to remember that the freedom of the press is not the freedom of the journalist, but the freedom of the owner."

KSU's Model Arab League scores in nation's capital

Students' diplomatic instincts and savvy land them on Embassy Row

Georgia (Apr 23, 2009) — A couple of bold, smooth moves netted 17 members of Kennesaw State's Model Arab League a two-hour tea with Syria's ambassador to the U.S. at his Embassy Row home in Washington, D.C. and a favorable showing at the national competition held there last month.

KSU's team represented Syria in this year's Model Arab League contest in which competing teams from universities throughout the country represent countries in the League of Arab States. Two of each team's members are assigned to participate on a committee with members representing other Arab League countries to write resolutions in the areas of social affairs, economic and political issues, joint defense, global environment, the Arab Court of Justice and the Arab ministers of justice. The teams are judged by peers, judges and competition alumni on how well they represent their respective countries.

Coming off an impressive win — the top award as "outstanding delegation" — at the Southern regional competition at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., in early March, team captain Abdullah Burgeba, a senior majoring in international affairs, contacted Syrian Ambassador Imad Moustapha via e-mail and letter, asking for an audience.

Burgeba had met Moustapha briefly last December when the ambassador participated on a panel hosted by Atlanta's Istanbul Center, KSU's partner in the "Year of Turkey." That chance meeting gave him the introduction he needed.

"The ambassador's cultural affairs liaison set it up right away," Burgeba said. "We really didn't expect to get invited to his residence."

Meanwhile, with the invitation extended, team member Jeffrey Drennan, a junior majoring in political science and next year's captain, made the rounds at Kennesaw State, soliciting letters from President Daniel S. Papp, Linda Morrisson, faculty adviser to the Global Society, the umbrella student organization for the Model Arab League, and one signed by all the team members.

"We wanted to make a nice presentation to the ambassador from our campus," Drennan said. "Everyone obliged."

During their meeting in a basement den at Moustapha's residence, KSU's team members took turns asking questions to elicit his views on issues being presented by the various committees — the renewal of free trade agreements halted under the Bush administration and peace agreements with Israel among them.

"He was very frank, honest and humble," said Drennan, who served on the committee dealing with the issue of free trade. "We used his analogies and the information he gave us in every speech during the competition."

Drennan said he was unclear on Syria's position on the renewal of free trade agreements with the West prior to their meeting. The ambassador clarified it for him: Syria would like to improve relations and reduce trade barriers with the West.

"The Model Arab League is a great chance for students to see Arab affairs through Arabs' eyes, Drennan said.

The KSU team fared well at the national competition, with two members — seniors Jonathan Edmond and Rebecca Gallegos — winning outstanding delegate and committee chair awards, respectively, and Eric Holmes winning the court case at the Arab Court of Justice.

Burgeba, who plans to graduate in May, takes some measure of pride in the way things turned out. He not only finessed the meeting with the Syrian ambassador this year, but also scored the team a meeting

About

Kennesaw State University (KSU), the third-largest university in the University...

Georgia (Apr 27, 2009) – Kennesaw State University (KSU), the third-largest university in the University System of Georgia, is a comprehensive university with expanding undergraduate and graduate programs in Kennesaw, Georgia, one of metropolitan Atlanta's burgeoning northwest suburban communities.

Founded in 1963, Kennesaw State is located in Cobb County on a beautifully landscaped and pedestrian-friendly campus of 384 acres within easy access of Interstate 75 and the northwest quadrant of Georgia. Kennesaw State has seen tremendous growth in its facilities in the last decade and now boasts nearly 1.5 million square feet of space for administration, instruction and student support facilities. Some of the newest facilities include the more than 160,000-square-foot Social Sciences Building, the largest building on campus, and a 4,800-seat Convocation Center - the largest venue of its kind in northwest Georgia.

The university's dedication to fostering excellence in public service brought it recognition from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities as one of the nation's top publicly engaged universities in its study "Stepping Forward as Stewards of Place." In addition, the American Council on Education selected KSU as one of eight institutions in the country for a study called "Global Learning for All," which will focus on good practices in promoting international student success. KSU was also named one of 12 founding institutions in a project called "Foundations of Excellence in the First Year of College" by Dr. John Gardner and the Policy Center on the First-Year College Experience. For this study, KSU is conducting a comprehensive analysis of its own policies and programs related to the freshman experience. In addition, KSU's First-Year Experience has been named a "Program to Look For" by *U.S. News & World Report* for six consecutive years.

The university is committing itself to expanding the global experience of students, faculty and staff through its Quality Enhancement Plan, known as the "Get Global" initiative. The QEP is part of KSU's continuing efforts to reaffirm its accreditation with the Southern Association's Commission on Colleges (SACS). The plan focuses on increasing opportunities for international learning experiences. In spring 2009, KSU awarded its first Global Engagement Certification to graduate and undergraduate students. The certification recognizes their achievements in learning global perspectives and developing intercultural skills.

Nearly 21,500 commuter and residential students, including more than 1,600 from 141 countries, pursue their undergraduate and graduate studies at Kennesaw State. The student body is a mix of traditional and nontraditional students with an average age of 25. Approximately 20 percent of students are members of ethnic minorities.

Kennesaw State students can choose majors from more than 65 bachelor's and master's degree programs, including undergraduate degrees in education, health, business, the humanities, the arts, science and math. Graduate degree programs are offered in professional concentrations including nursing, business, information systems, conflict management, public administration, education and professional writing. KSU continues to expand its graduate programs adding a Doctorate of Education in Leadership for Learning, Doctorate of Business Administration and Doctorate of Nursing. Additionally, nursing students from Kennesaw State have one of the highest passing rates on the statewide licensing exam and are highly sought-after in the medical community, while the College of Education is the second-largest preparer of teachers in the state. The Executive MBA program, housed in the Coles College of Business, is the second-largest program in the country and has been recognized by *BusinessWeek* with top 10 ratings in e-business and teamwork.

Students have a myriad of opportunities to experience campus life by participating in more than 150 student groups and organizations, including student government, sororities and fraternities, social and special-interest organizations, student publications and honor societies.

The Kennesaw State Owls recently completed the transition from NCAA Division II and now compete

Georgia Purchasing Managers Index for April up for fourth consecutive month

PMI continues upward trend, fueled by sharp growth in finished inventory, says KSU economics...

Georgia (May 5, 2009) — Georgia Purchasing Managers Index for April up for fourth consecutive month

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Georgia Purchasing Managers Index for April up for fourth consecutive month
PMI continues upward trend, fueled by sharp growth in finished inventory, says KSU economics professor

KENNESAW, Ga. (May 1, 2009) — Manufacturing activity in Georgia continued to improve for the fourth consecutive month, driven primarily by a healthy boost in finished inventory, as well as by a slight improvement in new orders, production and employment, 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 April was 48.6, an increase of 3.2 points from March. This reading illustrates that manufacturing is contracting, but at a much slower rate than it was in the fourth quarter of 2008. The PMI is up 21.8 points this year.

"The latest numbers indicate that the improvement over the last four months may indeed be sustainable. Manufacturing is still contracting, but it's doing so at a much slower pace than it was last year," said Don Sabbarese, professor of economics and director of the Econometric Center at the Coles College of Business. "Each month the index improves is encouraging."

Finished inventory grew by a dramatic 13 points in April, to 52.3, the highest level in 11 months. In April, 22.7 percent of survey respondents reported a reduction in inventory, compared to 42.9 percent in March. Inventory, however, can be pretty volatile and it is not clear whether the growth was planned or not. Since new orders and production have been increasing over the last few months, and since inventory reduction in the first quarter GDP report was substantial, it may be possible the inventory increase was intentional.

The April PMI -- unlike the double-digit increases in new orders, production and employment registered in March -- showed increases in all its underlying variables, but most were on a small scale. New orders were up by just 0.5 of a point, to 52.3 points; production was up 0.5 of a point, to 52.3; and employment was up by 2.1 points, to 43.2.

Employment still remains weak, but has shown great improvement over the past few months. In December 2008, 68.2 percent of survey respondents reported lower employment, whereas only 22.7 percent reported lower employment for April. "While only 9.1 percent of respondents are hiring, the sharp drop in the percent of manufacturers laying off workers is encouraging," Sabbarese said.

KSU set to complete transition into collegiate athletics' top-tier, NCAA Division I

Women's basketball program receives perfect score for academic progress of players

Georgia (May 5, 2009) — KSU set to complete transition into collegiate athletics' top-tier, NCAA Division I

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

KSU set to complete transition into collegiate athletics' top-tier, NCAA Division I
Women's basketball program receives perfect score for academic progress of players

KENNESAW, Ga. (May 5, 2009) — Starting in fall 2009, Kennesaw State University will be a full-fledged participant in Division I of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), as the institution culminates its transition into the most competitive level of collegiate sports.

As a result, this fall, all 16 of Kennesaw State's varsity sports teams will compete in NCAA Division I tournaments. During the university's transition to Division I, only the men's golf and women's soccer teams competed in tournaments in this category.

Dave L. Waples, director of athletics for Kennesaw State for more than two decades, recognized the teamwork that helped the program attain Division I status. "The four-year process has been a learning experience for everyone in the athletics program," he stated. "We are proud to say it was a university-wide collaboration that achieved this milestone."

KSU's varsity sports programs have been transformed since the university started its move from Division II during the 2005–2006 academic year. Over the past four years, as required by the NCAA, Kennesaw State increased the number of scholarships awarded to student-athletes, upgraded its sports facilities, enhanced academic advising for student-athletes, and underwent a multi-year accreditation process to assure compliance with Division I academic requirements and other regulations. As it moved up the ranks and upgraded its facilities, KSU also has attracted higher caliber student-athletes.

"The infrastructure is now in place to ensure that we have all the resources that student-athletes need to be successful on the playing field and in the classroom," said Darryl Pope, compliance director for intercollegiate athletics at KSU. "We've already shown that we can compete with the best Division I teams."

Since 2005–2006, KSU teams have won six Atlantic Sun Conference tournaments in five sports, including men's indoor and outdoor track, women's soccer, softball and cross-country, said Pope, whose position as compliance director was created as one of the requirements of the transition.

As part of its Division I requirements, KSU's 16 male and female sports teams undergo a yearly review of the academic progress of the students on their rosters. One of the benchmarks they have to meet is referred to as the Academic Progress Rate or APR, which measures retention and academic eligibility for athletic participation. Pope reported that this year, 15 of the university's 16 sports teams met the NCAA APR requirements, with women's basketball earning a perfect 1,000 in the scoring process.

Division I sports require not only an increased level of athletic competition, but also higher academic requirements. This pressure to compete and be successful does, however, have some consequences. Some student-athletes who competed on KSU teams prior to the move to Division I chose to transfer down to lower divisions. This was more pronounced in KSU's popular men's basketball program, and was the main reason that program did not meet the NCAA's APR minimums. During the first two years of KSU's competition in Division I, nine students on the basketball team transferred to Division-II level schools. KSU coaches assisted them, as needed, in transitioning to other programs.

More than 1,900 students graduate from Kennesaw State

Spring commencement features first master's degree-only ceremony

Georgia (May 13, 2009) — More than 1,900 students graduate from Kennesaw State

Jennifer Hafer

Abstract

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MEDIA ADVISORY

More than 1,900 students to graduate from Kennesaw State this week
Spring commencement features first master's degree-only ceremony

KENNESAW, Ga. (May 12, 2009) — Kennesaw State University will celebrate spring commencement this week with four ceremonies, including its first graduate degree-only ceremony and the graduation of 20 Chinese government officials earning Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degrees. In all, more than 1,996 students will be receiving degrees this spring.

WHAT:

Kennesaw State University spring commencement. More than 1,800 KSU students from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Bagwell College of Education, the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, the Coles College of Business, the College of Science and Mathematics, the College of the Arts, the University College and the Graduate College will receive their degrees.

WHO:

Commencement speakers are:

- Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m., Norman Radow, CEO, Radco and chairman, KSU Foundation;
 - Thursday, May 14, 2 p.m., Tom Key, executive artistic director, Theatrical Outfit, the Balzer Theater;
 - Friday, May 15, 10 a.m., Stephen Dolinger, president, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education;
- and
- Friday, May 15, 4 p.m., Roland Smith, CEO, Wendy's/Arby's Group.

WHERE:

The Convocation Center on the KSU campus, 1000 Chastain Rd., Kennesaw, Ga.

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

countries losing their sovereignty.

Since 9/11, however, North American integration has stalled. Putting up walls and securing the borders, the summit participants agreed, is not conducive to solving problems such as the migration of undocumented workers and the widening wealth gap between Mexico and its northern neighbors.

“Security is about trust, and today we have a lack of trust,” said U.S. Army Col. Eric Rojo, international consultant on border security. “The larger bridge that needs to be crossed is the ignorance among ourselves.”

Peter Appleton, president of the U.S.–Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Chapter, and a self-described Canadian transplant to Mexico and the U.S., said that although Canada lives in the shadow of a giant, it has the same concerns as its neighbor to the south.

“We in Canada have a lot of respect for Americans,” he said. “At the same time, we’re frightened of you. We’re afraid of being consumed by the United States of AmericaIt’s important for Americans to understand the issues Canada is concerned about. Canada is part of the solution.

“We have drugs in Canada too,” Appleton added. “We all have basically the same problems in North America. And we have an opportunity to build something without crossing sovereignty lines.”

For video of Fox's interview with Global Atlanta, go to

http://globalatlanta.com/articlevid/17336/399/#ad_1

For audio of Fox's KSU address, go to

http://www.kennesaw.edu/audio_files/Vicente%20Fox%20-%20Kennesaw%20State...

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Former president of Mexico promotes post-NAFTA initiative at KSU global summit



13.preview.jpg

Former Mexico President Vicente Fox promoted his vision for an ambitious post-NAFTA...

Georgia (May 26, 2009) — Former Mexico President Vicente Fox promoted his vision for an ambitious post-NAFTA tripartite agenda aimed at fostering closer ties between the U.S., Mexico and Canada while addressing a global summit at Kennesaw State University yesterday (May 12). Fox urged business leaders, government officials and scholars from the three countries to work together in building “this new vision of NAFTA.”

Fox, who served as president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006 was the keynote speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Commission for North American Prosperity — also known as North America 2050 — held at Kennesaw State on May 11-12. Fox said that while the 15-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement has been a boost to Mexico, Canada and the U.S., the three countries should partner to take the trilateral relationship “up to the stars,” ushering in a new era of collaboration in North America.

“If we are together, the U.S., Mexico and Canada, no doubt we’ll be number one – the number one economy, the number one market, the number one consumer market – in the world,” Fox told the audience gathered at KSU’s Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center during his keynote

speech at the close of the summit. "My dream is that we will not have a border."

The Commission for North American Prosperity is an initiative of the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, which co-sponsored the summit along with the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Centro Fox, former president Fox's Guanajuato-based presidential library/museum/think tank and non-profit devoted to promoting the values of democracy.

"Kennesaw State University was honored to be the host facility for these collaborative post-NAFTA discussions," said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. "This event reflects the true purpose of a university, which is to facilitate the exchange of diverse ideas and to provide students with the opportunity to interact with a wide range of thought leaders."

NAFTA was launched in 1994, creating what is today a free trade area of 440 million people and the strongest trading bloc in the world. Trade and investment have skyrocketed in North America since NAFTA went into effect, with trade accounting for nearly \$1 trillion. Canada and Mexico are the United States' first- and second-largest export markets, respectively. The final provisions of the free trade agreement were implemented last year.

President Fox, who said his grandfather migrated to Guanajuato, Mexico from Cincinnati in 1895, praised the benefits of free trade, which he says has resulted in lower prices for goods, as well as more jobs and a narrowing wealth gap. Mexico, Fox said, has repeated its free trade experiment "42 times."

"Mexico has more trade agreements than any other country in the world," he said. "It has worked well for us.....Mexico is one of the most open economies in the world and the benefits are very clear."

Academics, government dignitaries and business leaders from the U.S., Mexico and Canada who spoke at the summit sang the praises of NAFTA and pressed for closer relations between the three countries as a way to solve problems ranging from economic development and poverty to illegal immigration and drugs. They called for the nations to move beyond NAFTA and adopt "a vision of a community" where neighbors work together to solve common problems and where relations are deepened without the countries losing their sovereignty.

Since 9/11, however, North American integration has stalled. Putting up walls and securing the borders, the summit participants agreed, is not conducive to solving problems such as the migration of undocumented workers and the widening wealth gap between Mexico and its northern neighbors.

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KSU announces “Georgia Family Business of the Year” award winners, finalists

Annual prizes given by the Cox Family Enterprise Center at the Coles College of Business

Georgia (May 27, 2009) — KSU announces “Georgia Family Business of the Year” award winners, finalists

Aixa Pascual

Abstract

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KSU announces “Georgia Family Business of the Year” award winners, finalists
Annual prizes given by the Cox Family Enterprise Center at the Coles College of Business

KENNESAW, Ga. (May 26, 2009) — The Cox Family Enterprise Center, housed at the Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University, has announced the winners of the “2009 Georgia Family Business of the Year Awards.” The 18th annual awards dinner will be held on May 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, co-hosted by Georgia Trend magazine.

“Since 1991, the Cox Family Enterprise Center has honored the best in Georgia-based family businesses,” said Joe Astrachan, executive director of the Cox Family Enterprise Center. “We are proud to once again have a great group of winners and finalists who have withstood the test of time, have flourished due to strong values and savvy business sense, and who are community leaders and innovators.”

The winners, and finalists, are:

Cox Century Award: Case Veterinary Hospital (Savannah), the only hospital in the world that can boast four direct generations of veterinarians.

The Cox Century Award is given to a family business that has been in business for at least 100 years.

Large Business (250+ employees): J&J/Invision (Dalton), a leading commercial carpet manufacturer. This is a family business with multiple families involved in ownership and operation since its beginning in 1957.

Finalists: Bennett International Group, McDonough
Butler Automotive Group, Macon

Medium Business (50-250 employees): Turner Furniture Company (Tifton), a fourth-generation retail furniture chain with seven stores in Tifton, Albany, Moultrie and Valdosta.

Finalists: N.A. Williams, Atlanta
Traton Homes, Marietta

Small Business (fewer than 50 employees): Acree Oil Company (Toccoa), a wholesale petroleum-products company with three generations currently involved.

Finalists: Jones Wynn Funeral Home, Douglasville

Orkin & Associates, Milton

The annual awards are presented to Georgia family businesses that demonstrate a strong commitment to both business and family. In addition to business success, those businesses recognized have demonstrated positive family/business linkage, multi-generational involvement, contributions to industry and community, and innovative business practices and strategy.

Winners are nominated for this award each fall and nominees must then complete an extensive application. A panel of independent judges selects the winners and finalists. Each year, the Cox Family Enterprise Center receives more than 100 applications. Winners are chosen in four categories: Small (fewer than 50 employees); Medium (50 – 250 employees); Large (250+ employees); and the Cox Century Award, given to a family business that is at least 100 years old.

The public is invited to the “2009 Georgia Family Business of the Year Awards” dinner May 28. To purchase tickets, tables, or to obtain more information, please call the Cox Family Enterprise Center at 770-423-6045.

About the Cox Family Enterprise Center

Since 1987, the Cox Family Enterprise Center has been dedicated to the education, recognition and research of family businesses. As one of the first university-based centers of its kind, the Cox Family Enterprise Center remains on the cutting edge of family business education and research and has played a critical role in serving family businesses and furthering economic development.

For more information on the Cox Family Enterprise Center, please visit www.kennesaw.edu/fec

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New collection broadens KSU's African-American archive holdings

Digital records of Georgia cemeteries, churches and plantations a KSU archive first

Georgia (Jun 6, 2009) — More than 200 years of Georgia's African-American history, found in cemeteries, oral church histories and plantation remnants, has been added to the growing archive collections at Kennesaw State University's Sturgis Library.

The collection, titled "Oh Freedom: An Epic Journey through Georgia," is the first installment of a proposed five-year project to document historic African-American cemeteries, churches and plantations in Georgia from the 1600s-1890s.

Lawrence E. Walker, a television and film producer who specializes in historical documentaries, created the collection of more than 900 photos and 15 videotaped interviews with church historians and scholars, including several from KSU.

Working as a senior fellow with KSU's Center for African and African Diaspora Studies (CAADS), Walker presented highlights of the collection June 25 to about 50 archaeologists, preservationists and historians, civil rights activists and KSU faculty and students.

"This is a very significant collection for the KSU archives because it complements and adds another layer of context to related holdings in the KSU archives documenting different aspects of the African-American experience in Georgia," said Tamara Livingston, director of archives and records management at KSU.

The KSU archives includes among its unique local, state and African-American historical holdings the Cobb County NAACP Collection; the Gordon, Kruse, Wentzel Collection on workplace integration at Lockheed; the Bell Bomber Collection; the Georgia National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education Collection; and KSU professor Tom Scott's extensive oral history series on the history of northwest Georgia.

Livingstone noted that the new collection also is important because it is the first "digitally born" collection in the KSU archive. Once the work of cataloguing, authenticating and copyrighting the material is completed, it will be readily accessible to researchers via the Web.

Walker, who has produced similar documented histories of African-American graves, cemeteries and landmarks in the Northeast, said he got involved in the Georgia project because no such collective record existed in the state. "It's important to increase awareness about the role of blacks in the state," he said.

The timely transfer of Walker's digitized materials coincides with two recently publicized cases in Clayton County, Ga., and Atlanta's Buckhead community in which developers have initiated actions to raze or relocate historic African-American graves.

Rosa Bobia, KSU professor and CAADS director, said Walker's documentary work is particularly important in light of recent threats to these historical sites.

"The hope is to create a repository of this valuable research to make it available to researchers, scholars and students for years to come, and to do it while we still can," Bobia said.

Scholars and activists attending Walker's presentation said they looked forward to the additional historical resource the completed collection would provide.

In her work as the African-American program coordinator for the Historic Preservation Division of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources, Jeanne Cyriaque said she was encouraged by Walker's emphasis on oral and photographic church history in the collection.

“We’ve found that churches are the best sources throughout the state to find out more about its historic cemeteries and plantations,” Cyriaque said. “The more we document this history, the more we can uncover about the state’s history.”

Suzanne Sammons, an archaeologist with the Douglas County Cemetery Preservation Commission, said the work on cemeteries in that county demonstrates the important history contained in cemeteries. For example, the Basket Creek Cemetery in Powder Springs — recently added to the National Registry of Historic Places and included in the KSU archives — dates back to 1886 and reveals traditions and burial customs slaves brought from the Caribbean and West Africa.

Likewise, Hugh Matternes, an archaeologist with New South Associates, a cultural resources consulting firm, said his company is working to trace links in pre- and post-emancipation mortuary elements, such as the use of broken pottery, silver objects and stones. “These connections are very important historically.”

KSU senior Charlette Corey, an African and African Diaspora Studies major, said Walker’s research was of particular interest to her because of her ongoing research into the little-known phenomena of plantation ownership among African Americans, especially women. “It’s very exciting that I might find out more about black plantations,” she said. “I’ve found that this was prevalent in many southern states, including in my own family here in Georgia.”

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Events

Events

Georgia (Jun 10, 2009) — Events

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KSU's Matthew Nagy will compete against world's best golfers at U.S. Open Championship

Owls junior posts low number in regional qualifier to advance to Grand Slam event

Georgia (Jun 10, 2009) — KSU's Matthew Nagy will compete against world's best golfers at U.S. Open Championship

Jason Hanes

Abstract

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KSU's Matthew Nagy will compete against world's best golfers at U.S. Open Championship
Owls junior posts low number in regional qualifier to advance to Grand Slam event

KENNESAW, Ga. (June 9, 2009) — Kennesaw State men's golfer Matthew Nagy will play alongside golfing greats like Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and defending champion Tiger Woods when he tees off June 15 in the opening round of the 114th United States Open Championship. Nagy qualified for the tournament — held this year at the infamous Bethpage Black Golf Course in Farmingdale, N.Y. — by tying for medalist honors in the sectional qualifier at Hawks Ridge Golf Club in Ball Ground, Ga., June 8.

The KSU rising junior shot a 71 in the first 18 holes of play. After a 30-minute break for lunch, Nagy returned to the course and fired a 63, posting a 10-under par score for his two rounds to tie PGA Tour professional and Georgia Tech alumnus Matt Kuchar for low medalist honors.

"I didn't even know if I was going to get to play today," said Nagy after his magical round was over. "I was an alternate, but then someone else didn't show up. The club pro at Hawks Ridge, Chuck Knebels, told me to come on up in case someone didn't make it. I only got four hours of sleep last night, and my bed looked pretty comfortable this morning, but I figured I may as well head on out and try."

Nagy hit his first tee shot without even warming up on the range. The Buena Vista, Ga., native was able to give himself a chance entering the second round by finishing off a 71.

"We had a break for lunch and I ate half a sandwich and then hit the range," Nagy said. "I knew I had a couple of things to work on. Then I went out and my second shot was a straight shot right at the pin. I teed off on the second hole and hit a straight shot and just felt, 'Okay I can do this.'"

Nagy played the front nine of Hawks Ridge in 32, then improved his back nine score by six strokes when he made six birdies without a bogey over the final nine. The KSU golfer did not make a bogey in his final round.

"We're very proud of Matt," said KSU head men's golf coach Blake Smart. "This is a huge individual achievement that will go a long way towards putting Kennesaw State golf on the map."

Only three spots in the U.S. Open were available to 43 golfers trying to qualify for the event through the sectional qualifier. Overall, 767 golfers were trying to make the U.S. Open field through 13 qualifiers held Monday across the nation.

To read a first-hand account of Nagy's experience at the U.S. Open, go to his blog at

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Multimedia

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Georgia (Jun 10, 2009) — Multimedia

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KSU's Nagy keeping a blog of U.S. Open experience

Kennesaw State men's golfer Matthew Nagy is playing alongside golfing greats like Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and defending champion Tiger Woods at the 114th United States Open Championship and blogging about his experience. To read the blog, click the headline of this story.

Georgia (Jun 17, 2009) — Kennesaw State men's golfer Matthew Nagy will play alongside golfing greats like Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and defending champion Tiger Woods at the opening round of the 114th United States Open Championship. To read a first-hand account of Nagy's experience at the U.S. Open, go to his blog at www.golfweek.com/college/story/matt-nagy-blog-061409

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KSU selects six students for first Clendenin Graduate Fellows Program



KSU selects six students for first Clendenin Graduate Fellows Program \$1 million endowment awards...

Georgia (Jun 22, 2009) — KSU selects six students for first Clendenin Graduate Fellows Program \$1 million endowment awards scholarships for students to pursue advanced degrees

KENNESAW, Ga. (June 16, 2009) — Kennesaw State University has awarded six master's and doctoral students Clendenin Fellowships for graduate studies for the coming academic year. This year's recipients, selected from a pool of 60 applicants, represent the first group of graduate students to receive the prestigious award.

The Clendenin Graduate Fellows Program was established last June by members of the Clendenin family -- longtime KSU supporters -- with a \$1 million endowment, the largest single gift for scholarships received by Kennesaw State. The gift coincides with the expansion of KSU's graduate degree programs, recently adding master's programs in American studies and international policy management, as well as a third doctoral program, a Doctorate of Nursing Science, for a total of 28 graduate programs.

"The Clendenin Graduate Fellows is the first graduate fellowship program of its kind initiated at KSU," said Wes Wicker, vice president of University Advancement and Executive Director of the KSU Foundation, which administers the Clendenin Fellows Program. "The Clendenin family has been very generous with us and has continued to show their confidence in our ability to manage their philanthropy. This fellowship allows us to attract individuals who are going to be tied in to Kennesaw because we are helping them continue their education."

The 2009 Clendenin graduate fellows are:

Helen M. Cauley

KSU, Master of Arts in Professional Writing

Linda Gay

KSU, Master of Science in Nursing

Juanne Greene

KSU, Doctorate of Business Administration

Victor B. Marshall

KSU, Doctorate of Business Administration

Herbert J. Mattord

Nova Southeastern University, Ph.D. in Information Systems

Maryan (Beth) Rogers

Georgia State University, Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning Mathematics

The Clendenin Graduate Fellows Program seeks to attract outstanding individuals interested in pursuing a master's or doctoral degree. The highly competitive fellowship is open to students enrolled at any accredited university, but preference is given to those currently enrolled or teaching at Kennesaw State. The gift supports up to six graduate students annually. Master's-level fellowships are available for up to two years, while doctoral candidates may receive the fellowship for up to three

Joseph H. Astrachan



Joseph Astrachan, associate professor and executive director of the Cox Family Enterprise Center, ...

Georgia (Jun 30, 2009) — Joseph Astrachan, associate professor and executive director of the Cox Family Enterprise Center, at KSU, serves on the boards of six family companies and is an internationally recognized scholar in the field of family business. [Find out more about Astrachan and the center here.](#)

[Link To Website](#)

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