The KSU Foundation at 40

Since it was created in 1969, the foundation has raised nearly $500 million for the university

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President’s Message

Dear Friends of Kennesaw State University:

The 2009-2010 academic year arrived with a set of extraordinary accomplishments, opportunities and challenges for our university. In the midst of an economic downturn that has impacted every level of our society, Kennesaw State’s march toward our vision of a world-class institution remains unabated. As you will see in this edition of *Kennesaw State University Magazine*, the university continues to hit new targets of excellence and growth.

KSU’s success is due in large measure to the generosity, commitment and hard work of the Kennesaw State University Foundation, which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary. Since its inception, the foundation has contributed half a billion dollars to support the university, providing student scholarships, faculty grants, academic program subsidies, and building and infrastructure improvements.

The foundation and its leadership have been instrumental in shaping a vision of Kennesaw State as a thriving, more traditional, destination campus with outstanding housing, parking, dining and recreational facilities to accommodate the growing number of students — more than 22,500 this year — who entrust KSU with their futures.

In August, we were delighted to open a new student culinary center, whose name is not merely an attempt to add cachet to student dining hall. Rather, it reflects the truly phenomenal, state-of-the-art facility that is the capstone of the recent student-centered campus expansion in which our foundation partners have played a pivotal role. As our enrollment continues to swell, we believe “The Commons” – the multipurpose facility that encompasses the new culinary center – will become a preferred campus gathering spot for residential and commuter students alike.

As we near the midpoint of our five-year strategic initiative to elevate global learning to the top tier of the university’s academic priorities, we are pleased to highlight the dynamic nature of global learning at Kennesaw State.

We hope these stories will inspire and assure you that even in times of economic uncertainty, Kennesaw State has every reason to anticipate continued and sustained growth and success.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Papp
President, Kennesaw State University
Bagwell College receives NSF grant

The Bagwell College of Education at Kennesaw State University has been awarded a $890,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to attract mathematics and engineering students to the teaching profession.

The Increasing Mathematics Teachers for All Students (IMTAS) project, in collaboration with the College of Science and Mathematics, will offer annual $10,000 scholarships to 36 juniors and seniors to pursue careers as secondary school mathematics teachers in Georgia’s highest-needs schools. The Georgia Institute of Technology also will provide information about the IMTAS program to its students who are interested in teaching grades six through 12.

“This program provides an opportunity to expand our current partnership with the College of Science and Mathematics and the Georgia Institute of Technology,” said Arlinda Eaton, dean of the Bagwell College of Education. “Together we have the capacity to increase the number of certified high school mathematics teachers, which are sorely needed in Georgia and particularly in the metropolitan Atlanta area.”

Scholarship recipients must teach in a high-needs school district two years for each year of support.

First Clendenin Graduate Fellows named

Kennesaw State University has awarded Clendenin fellowships to six master’s and doctoral students funding their graduate studies for this academic year. The recipients, selected from a pool of 60 applicants, are the first students to receive the prestigious awards that were established last June by members of the John Clendenin family with a $1 million endowment — the largest single gift for scholarships received by Kennesaw State.

“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 program. “The Clendenins have been very generous with us and have continued to show confidence in our ability to manage philanthropy. This fellowship allows us to attract individuals who are going to be tied to Kennesaw because we are helping them continue their education.”

The 2009 Clendenin Graduate Fellows:

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, Doctorate in Information Systems

Maryan (Beth) Rogers
Georgia State University, Doctorate in Teaching and Learning Mathematics

For more information on the Clendenin Graduate Fellows program, please visit www.kennesaw.edu/scholarships.

Katrina commander promotes emergency preparedness

First-year students in the new learning community “Emergency: Are You Prepared?” spent Sept. 14 learning from one of the best. Retired Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore, the commander of the government’s response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in 2005, spoke of the importance of planning for any emergency, either a natural disaster like a hurricane or a man-made one like the shootings on the Virginia Tech campus.

“Students enrolled in this learning community are receiving disaster awareness training and an understanding of what’s required to act as immediate responders to emergencies and disasters,” said Kathy Lynn, English instructor in the first-year program.

In addition to the learning community, a new student organization, Student Branch of Crisis Management, has been formed.

“This crisis management student organization has been approved and will be populated with experienced first responders,” Lynn said. “The long-term goal is to have 250 - 300 students on campus who have been trained as first or immediate responders.”

KSU offers 33 learning communities to first-year students through University College. The program has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges for seven consecutive years as one of the top 40 first-year programs in the nation.
KSU launches Intensive English Program

An Intensive English Program (IEP) designed to accelerate English proficiency for prospective international undergraduate and graduate students opened this fall at Kennesaw State University.

“The new IEP will be a tremendous resource for KSU as we continue our efforts to make the university truly global in reach and perspective,” said Richard Vengroff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “As we expand our graduate programs, IEP provides the opportunity to recruit top quality graduate students from around the world who need to perfect their English before starting formal graduate work at KSU. As a result, we will be more competitive internationally and more global domestically.”

Currently, international students must demonstrate that they speak, read and understand English sufficiently to study at the college level.

The center will accept full- and part-time students into the program. To qualify, applicants must be at least 18 years old and legal U.S. residents or international students with educational visas. Program participants must also take an English proficiency test for placement. The tuition for full-time students is $1,850 per eight-week session. Part-time students must pay $500 per class. Each class meets five hours a week.

More than 1,700 international students from 142 countries are enrolled at KSU.

KSU launches new dual M.B.A.-M.P.A program – first in Georgia

A Kennesaw State University dual degree M.B.A.- M.P.A. program, the first of its kind in Georgia, was recently approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

KSU will offer a Master of Business Administration/Master of Public Administration degree, a collaboration of the Coles College of Business and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, to prepare professionals for leadership positions in a world where public and private sectors are increasingly interdependent.

The three-year program is designed for professionals working in either the private or public sector, including government-regulated industries, as well as administrators of federal and state regulatory agencies.

Students enrolled in either the M.B.A. or M.P.A. may participate in the joint program.

KSU pumps $660 million into the local economy, creates 6,000 jobs

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 during fiscal year 2008, according to a report released by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

The study 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 year 2008, up from $11 billion during fiscal year 2007.

“As one of the 10 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.”

At Kennesaw State, which boasts more than 22,500 students, explosive growth in enrollment over the past few years has fueled student spending accounting for $328 million in economic impact, an increase of 9.3 percent over fiscal year 2007.

Kennesaw State, Atlanta Ballet forge partnership

Kennesaw State University has launched an exclusive partnership with the Atlanta Ballet to provide a venue for collaborative dance education between the two institutions.

Under the partnership, students at KSU, one of the only schools in the state offering a Bachelor of Arts in Dance, will have opportunities to audition for roles with the Atlanta Ballet or gain administrative experience through internships at the Ballet’s Centre for Dance Education. The partnership also provides Atlanta Ballet dancers and students a chance to pursue a bachelor’s degree while company and fellowship dancers may apply for advanced professional credit toward their degrees and pursue both professional and academic careers at both institutions.

“This partnership will enable the university to provide even stronger academic and professional opportunities for our students, as well as help strengthen the vibrant arts community of Cobb County, metropolitan Atlanta and northwest Georgia,” said Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts. “We look forward to many productive years working together with the Atlanta Ballet to create an excellent environment for dance in the region.”

Housed in the college’s Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, the dance program has received several regional and national recognitions, including being selected in June 2008 to represent the Southeast at the National American College Dance Festival in New York City.

For information on KSU’s dance program, please visit www.kennesaw.edu/theatre/dance.

For information on the Atlanta Ballet, please visit www.atlantaballet.com.

Honors program enhanced by new curriculum options

First-year students enrolled in Kennesaw State University’s honors program were offered two unique curriculum tracks this fall which allowed them to accelerate completion of their general education requirements.

The Great Books program features a pantheon of literary thought.

The Emerging Scholars Learning Community, a global leadership track, includes an integrated study opportunity in Salvador, Brazil, with instruction in Portuguese. Students from the College of Science and Mathematics were offered a companion emphasis under this track, with a study-abroad Maymester in Guadalajara, Mexico. Both programs include a civic engagement project.

The Great Books program, a foundational literature track that includes a five-week Maymester in Montepulciano, Italy, features a pantheon of literary thought — including works by Homer, John Maynard Keynes, Leo Tolstoy, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and war strategist Sun Tzu — in the tradition of renowned institutions such as the University of Chicago, Columbia University and Boston University.

“This is a program modeled on an approach used at top-flight Ivy League schools,” said Jack Moran, associate professor of political science and head of the Great Books program.

Admissions Scholars — freshmen representing the top 5 percent of the incoming class — are eligible for automatic admission into the honors program upon completion of one of these tracks.
Campus 

Briefs

Tenth anniversary fundraiser triples goal for College of the Arts

Despite tough economic times, College of the Arts supporters recently invested in the school’s future.

The “10 for 10 Campaign,” a fundraiser celebrating the college’s 10th anniversary, asked supporters to give just $10. And give they did, raising more than $34,000 in six months.

“I am so thankful for the success of the campaign,” said COTA Dean Joseph Meeks. “We did not know what to expect when we set our target at $10,000. With so many people struggling in today’s economy, we were concerned that we might have set the goal too high, but we have received such generous support.”

Donors could designate their gifts to support particular scholarships or programs. Nearly half opted to give to scholarships or the Dean’s Fund, which helps, among other things, students who experience unexpected financial challenges.

“This campaign demonstrates that every dollar makes a difference,” Meeks said. “None of the ‘10 for 10’ donors could have made a $30,000 gift, but when they gave what they could, no matter how small it may have seemed to them, it added up very quickly to become a significant amount.”

Comings & Goings

Barry J. Morris, director of cabinet strategic projects, has been named executive director of KSU’s Institute for Global Initiatives, replacing Akanmu Adebayo, who stepped down in July to return to teaching, research and writing. Morris has served as a dean at American University Nigeria, where he helped establish one of the first American-style universities in sub-Saharan Africa. He received his master’s and doctorate in international relations and international political economy from Emory University and a certificate in Russian language and culture from Moscow State University. Morris also studied Chinese and economics at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He will retain his current strategic projects post.

Jorge Perez, associate professor of information systems and associate director of the Center for Hispanic Studies at KSU, has been named faculty executive assistant to the president, replacing Sarah Robbins, who accepted an endowed chair at Texas Christian University. In his new role, Perez will provide a faculty voice on the president’s cabinet and lead special projects. Perez earned a bachelor’s in English and a master’s and doctorate in management information systems from Florida State University. Perez has taught a range of information technology courses, including e-business, Web design, systems analysis and design, quantitative analysis and data communications. His current research focuses on IT literacy — identifying, measuring and expanding skills needed by computer and Internet users.

Harry Price was named director of the School of Music in the College of the Arts. Prior to joining Kennesaw State, Price served as department head and professor of music education at the University of Oregon. In the past, he has held positions as acting associate dean and director of graduate studies at the University of Oregon and department head and program chair of music education at the University of Alabama. Price earned a bachelor’s and a master’s of music education from Florida State University and a doctorate of education from Syracuse University.

Jerome Ratchford, who was tapped last spring to serve as interim-vice president for Student Success and Enrollment Services, has been permanently appointed to the position. Ratchford joined KSU in 1988 as director of Student Development and later was named interim dean of student success. Prior to joining KSU, he held academic and administrative positions at Talladega College, Emory University and Lincoln University. He received a bachelor’s in education in history and political science from the University of Kentucky, a master’s in counseling and guidance from Indiana University and a doctorate in educational leadership in higher education from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.
As president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006, Vicente Fox was a champion of democracy and free trade. Now, as president of Centro Fox, his presidential library and think tank, he is bringing those ideals to a wider audience.

Fox came to KSU in May to deliver the keynote speech at the inaugural meeting of the Commission for North American Prosperity – also known as North America 2050 – to promote his new vision of a unified North America. Fox, whose grandfather migrated to Guanajuato, Mexico, from Cincinnati in 1895, urged business leaders, government officials and scholars from the U.S., Mexico and Canada to take the trilateral relationship “up to the stars,” ushering in a new era of collaboration in North America.

While the 15-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) has been a boost to Mexico, Canada and the U.S., Fox said the three countries could solve many of their problems by collaborating more closely. "If we are together, the U.S., Mexico and Canada, no doubt we’ll be No. 1 – the No. 1 economy, the No. 1 market, No. 1 consumer market – in the world," Fox told the audience gathered at KSU’s Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center during his keynote speech. "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 the Guanajuato-based Centro Fox.

"Kennesaw State University was honored to be the host facility for these collaborative 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 investments 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.

Call for cooperation

KSU served as the stage for former Mexican President Vicente Fox to promote his vision for a unified North America

By Aixa M. Pascual
A celebration of cultures

By Sabbaye McGriff

Amid the pageantry and artistry of Chinese ribbon and lion dances, the melodic strains of traditional Chinese instruments and ceremonial protocol, the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State University officially opened Aug. 17.

The grand opening celebration launching the institute — a joint initiative of the Chinese government, Yangzhou University in China’s Jiangsu Province, and Kennesaw State to promote Chinese language and culture — brought top officials from partnering institutions together with local government, civic and education leaders for a series of events.

“This is a milestone for our university,” President Daniel S. Papp said. “We are pleased to be a conduit for enhancing awareness about China’s rich culture and its expanding international role in our global society. We look forward to forging a long and successful relationship with all of our partners over the coming years to make the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State one of the best.”

According to the Chinese consulate, KSU is home to one of 60 institutes in the U.S. — one of only two in Georgia — and among some 300 in 61 countries worldwide funded by Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International.

The opening also was the backdrop for the announcement of a new partnership between the Confucius Institute and Bright from the Start, Georgia’s Department of Early Care and Learning, to teach Chinese language to 4-year-olds in pre-K centers across the state, the first such state-funded program in the U.S.

With faculty from Yangzhou and KSU, the institute will offer academic and professional development classes and workshops on Chinese language, customs, business practices, economics, medicine, nutrition, cooking, martial arts, painting and calligraphy.

“The Confucius Institute will offer a range of Chinese cultural programs for learners of all ages and help local companies that want to do business in China,” said Ken Jin, the institute’s executive director. “With the financial and material support we’ve received from Hanban, and the commitments from Dr. Papp and our many local supporters, the bar has been set very high for us.”

K.K. Liu performs a rope show.

Dancers perform a lion dance.
Dean W. Ken Harmon wants the Coles College of Business to be relevant to the business community.
Last July, W. Ken Harmon started his job as dean of the Michael J. Coles College of Business. As director of the School of Accountancy (known as the accounting department until 2008, when the school was created), Harmon played a key role in drafting the college’s strategic plan and in building ties with Atlanta’s business community. Now, as dean, the former auditor wants to raise the profile of the state’s second-largest business school by making it more relevant to the needs of Georgia businesses.

Harmon, a longtime accounting professor and business school administrator, is thrilled to lead what he calls “the most exciting business school in the country.” Unfazed by the rankings game, which drives many business schools, Harmon is working to make the Coles brand “top of mind” in the Atlanta marketplace. He answered questions posed by the staff of KSU Magazine.

KSU Magazine: Atlanta is a very competitive market when it comes to business schools. How does the Coles College differentiate itself from Terry, Robinson and others?

Harmon: This is one of the most competitive education markets in the country. But, frankly, I love the competition. I like to think that a great differentiator for the Coles College is the way we connect to the greater Atlanta business environment. We certainly have programs that are renowned nationally and internationally, such as our Cox Family Enterprise Center, our Center for Professional Selling and our new Doctorate of Business Administration (D.B.A.), but our primary mission relates to the metro Atlanta region.

KSU Magazine: What can the Coles College do to become more relevant to businesses and their needs?

Harmon: We need to do something that business schools have not done very well over the years: listen to the business community’s needs. I think people in the Coles College listen exceptionally well. When we were developing a strategic plan, we ran focus groups involving a number of business leaders. We asked them what they expected from a leading business college. They want a business college that not only provides great graduates, but one that helps them solve problems and meet their near-term and strategic business needs.

KSU Magazine: How has the economic crisis impacted business schools?

Harmon: The economic crisis has had a profound effect on us. And yes, we will have to do some things differently. We already have to look at new programs differently. That is, if we consider bringing on a new program, we have to consider its effect on our strategy, on our capacity and on our financials.

KSU Magazine: Where do you see the Coles College five years from now?

Harmon: I have no doubt we will be recognized in Georgia as an amazing success story; maybe even a Cinderella story that started a number of years ago. My vision is that in five years we are a multidimensional business college known for meeting needs and solving problems. We will have a few flagship programs that will be recognized all over the world, and we will be counted among the best business schools in the South.

KSU Magazine: What are your top three goals as dean?

Harmon: My first goal is to maintain a supportive culture in the Coles College. We have amazing people, and I want to do everything I can to make them successful and want to stay here.

Another goal is to become a top-of-mind business school in metro Atlanta. When any business person in Atlanta makes a list of the top business schools in the area, I want us to be in the very top group.

Third, I want to expand what we do in order to meet various needs in the community. We also have to produce relevant research and offer cutting-edge executive programs.

KSU Magazine: Why did you take this job?

Harmon: When people hear me say, “This is the most exciting business school in the country,” they probably think it is just hyperbole. There is truly no other place like the Coles College of Business, or even a university like KSU.

The combination of the Atlanta marketplace and the very entrepreneurial atmosphere in the Coles College gives us unbelievable opportunities to try new things and to respond to the ever-changing needs of the business community. The bottom line is this is an incredibly fun place, and I very much wanted to be a part of it.
In a world obsessed with instant gratification, Shevon Jones appreciates the simple reward of a hard-won smile from a frightened boy.

Through a unique program that requires juniors and seniors to participate in internships, students in Kennesaw State University’s human services degree program are helping people across metro Atlanta overcome difficulties.
Job Satisfaction

Tao Bartleson, Human Services, ’03, M.S.W., ’06, carries her heart, the human service program’s hallmark, into the workplace every day. It just so happens she works at the KSU Health Clinics as the campus’ first social worker.

“My job is to assess a student’s needs and link them with resources here and in the community,” the one-time nursing major said. “It satisfies my love of helping people and my love of the medical world.”

On a typical day, Bartleson may provide food to a hungry student, find free medication for a student with a chronic condition, or help a student find a less expensive alternative to going to the hospital.

“At least 40 percent of students on campus are uninsured,” she said. “At the hospital, a CT head or brain scan costs between $1,500 and $2,000. A student can get that same service at a specialty center for a self-pay of $250. Most students don’t know that.”

As part of her job responsibilities, Bartleson also oversees the Feed the Future program, initiated with the Staff Senate as a community service project in 2006.

“At the time, we had students coming into the health clinic that were tired, lethargic, fatigued,” Bartleson recalled, “and we’d ask if they had been sick or had a history of illness and a lot of times the answer would be, ‘no,’ and if it was Thursday, we’d ask, ‘when was the last time you ate?’ and they would say, ‘Sunday.’”

Any student with a current school ID is provided cereal, macaroni and cheese, tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit and spaghetti, as well as $10 gift cards for perishable items. The Feed the Future program, which operates entirely on donations, fed 100 students last year.

Jones, Human Services ‘09, interned at Family Ties, Inc., a Cobb County-based nonprofit that provides intensive, home-based counseling and community integration services for families in crisis in several counties, when she met the shy 9-year-old who mumbled when he talked and refused to make eye contact.

“It was a very, very good experience for me,” she said. “When I was able to go out by myself everything I had learned in the classroom started making more sense, and I was able to learn from my mistakes, just like a regular employee.”

With one of only four human services degree programs in the state, KSU has nearly 400 undergrads enrolled.

“The difference between social work and human services is the human services coursework can be tailored to meet the needs of the community,” said Judith Slater, associate professor of social work. “There’s a heart for this field that most people don’t see.”

Slater maintains a database of more than 200 nonprofit agencies from which students can choose an internship or suggest one of their own. Juvenile court, hospitals, hospice programs, adoption agencies and homeless shelters are just a few of the organizations where students can do internships.

“We try to instill in our students that it is not enough to just get a degree,” Slater said. “They have to go out in their communities and advocate for programs and resources.”

It is that selfless compassion that Hugo Mullins, executive director of Family Ties, has come to rely on from KSU interns.

“KSU interns are much more focused, much more prepared,” Mullins said. “With the type of work we do, it's very difficult for me to look at an intern and say, ‘I'm going to put them in the field,' if I can't trust what they're doing when they're out there. I trust interns from KSU.”

Trust was also the key to Jones’ success with the shy 9-year-old who eventually held his head up when he spoke and smiled when he saw her.

“I worked with him once a week for about five months,” Jones said. “In this profession you may not see a change right away, but gradually change comes and it feels really good.”

K
The concept of “global learning through engaged citizenship” would hardly faze Nigerian preschoolers previously excluded from the country’s education system. Nor would it faze hundreds of PK-12 students receiving bilingual education in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Belize, or women and persons with disabilities throughout Africa and the Middle East struggling for equal rights. Many won’t even register the name Kennesaw State University.

Still, as beneficiaries of key international programs, projects and partnerships driven by the universitywide goal embodied in that concept, they are central to the university’s continuing efforts to assure that global learning rises to the top-tier of its educational priorities and outcomes. For KSU students, faculty and some 40 partner institutions in 23 countries and the communities they serve, the stakes are high and rising.

“We’ve moved things up a notch and created new and improved global learning opportunities,” said Mike Salvador, director of executive education programs in the Coles College of Business, where some 160 students this year are engaged in eight-month, cross-continental projects with students of Romania’s ASEBUSS Business School.

Midway through a five-year strategic plan implemented in 2007, the initiative’s concise mandate — “Get Global” — is packing a big institutional wallop with students, faculty, departments and colleges moving aggressively toward the university’s global learning vision. Keeping track of it all is a Global Learning Coordinating Council which meets bimonthly to map Kennesaw State’s international course.

The university continues efforts to create global learning opportunities

Some of the university’s global initiatives are having far-reaching implications. For example, a four-year exchange project bringing educators from three Nigerian universities to KSU and sending KSU faculty there to conduct workshops and faculty development training resulted in the creation of early-childhood education departments at Nnamdi Azikiwe University-Awka, the University of Jos and the University of Ibadan.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of KSU’s nearly three decades of global education leadership, and its current five-year initiative to make global learning an academic priority, is the multiple opportunities that have been created for students to learn and interact with other cultures.

Those interactions help build students’ intercultural skills and impact their world views, according to Sandra Bryan, a KSU associate professor who has coordinated the Bagwell College of Education’s student teaching in Belize for six years, and also coordinates the school’s Teaching English in Korea initiative. Student teachers live in local homes in the communities where they teach and are expected to complete community service projects during their semester abroad. Twelve of the 17 KSU students receiving the first Global Engagement Certification awards last spring were Bagwell college’s international student teachers.

“The growth of our international programs and the transformation of campus culture have been phenomenal,” said Barry Morris, who chairs the GLCC and serves as executive director of KSU’s Institute for Global Initiatives and director of cabinet strategic projects.
In addition to the 740 students who studied abroad and 50 faculty members engaged around the world in teaching, research and service, other notable international milestones for the university included:

- Approval of a new $14 per student fee to fund study abroad scholarships
- Partnership agreements with two Egyptian institutions — Cairo’s Ain Shams University and the Egyptian University Sports Federation
- Opening of the Confucius Institute at Kennesaw State, one of two in Georgia and 60 nationwide, to promote Chinese language and culture
- The first Global Engagement Certification awarded to 17 students, recognizing their achievements in learning global perspectives, developing intercultural skills and demonstrating global citizenship
- A global summit, featuring Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico, and other thought leaders discussing the future of Canada, U.S., Mexico relations
- A new center to provide intensive English language classes to help international students and others fast track their English proficiency.
- In the 26th year of the “Year of” program, KSU concluded the “Year of Turkey,” launched “The Year of Korea” and began planning the 2010-2011 “Year of Romania”
- A third cohort of Chinese government officials earning Master of Public Administration degrees at KSU
- A series of international conferences and forums, including the first U.N. Alliance of Civilization International Conference on Turkey
- The statewide collegiate Model African Union competition
- A regional award-winning student Model Arab League team that met personally with the Syrian ambassador during national competitions in Washington, D.C.
- A series of contacts — classes and student dialogues via teleconference and frequent telephone discussions — between professors and students at KSU and the Islamic Republic of Iran’s University of Kashan, a step towards “academic diplomacy”
Kennesaw State University’s remarkable growth is due in large part to the efforts of the KSU Foundation. The 38-member foundation, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this fall, has raised more than $350 million for infrastructure projects in the last decade. From the KSU Center to the Town Point office complex to University Village Suites, the foundation has helped KSU become a thriving destination campus of 22,500 students.

The foundation — which made its first acquisition on behalf of the university in 1999 — has made possible KSU’s growth and rising stature by endowing it with student residences, parking decks, office buildings, classrooms and land. Thanks to the foundation, the university now stretches over 320 acres of land.

“To date, the foundation has added a staggering $350 million in capital projects to our campus,” said Norman Radow, chairman of the board of trustees of the KSU Foundation. “Due to our initiatives, our previously landlocked 180-acre campus has added 140 acres. With the addition of our new sports park and stadium, we will have simply the best facilities imaginable.”

In early August, The Commons Student Culinary Center, a project supported by foundation bonds but financed by student fees, opened its doors. As students, staff and guests gathered outside for the opening ceremony, indoors the 53,466-square-foot dining hall bustled with activity. The smell of freshly baked chocolate croissants scented the air. Fresh corn-on-the cob roasted on the grill. Whole chickens sweltered in the rotisserie oven. The baristas were getting ready to whip up cappuccinos and lattes. A chef lectured his staff on the hormone-free pork and the organic watermelon salad with balsamic they would be serving.

The grand opening of the university’s first and only dining hall this fall was a momentous occasion for Kennesaw State – and not just because it elevates campus cuisine to a higher level, nor because the state-of-the-art, “green” facility is a national model for college dining. The significance of the new dining hall goes beyond that: it marks a giant step in KSU’s decades-long evolution from a commuter college into a residential, more traditional university.

“The dining hall continues KSU’s transformation to a full-service residential campus and enhances the vibrant living-and-learning community that has become a hallmark of our university,” said President Daniel S. Papp. “It is a new place for eating, greeting and meeting.”

The Commons, located between the Burruss Building and the still-under-construction Health Sciences Building on the northern edge of the burgeoning campus, ushers in a new era for Georgia’s third-largest university. Its opening coincides with the Owls becoming full-fledged members of NCAA Division I – collegiate athletics top-tier as
growth
Over the past 10 years, the KSU Foundation has acquired or built properties – residential, dining and parking facilities, as well as other infrastructure – that have been key in transforming the university into a 24/7 campus.

- KSU Center building on George Busbee Parkway acquired 1999
- The KSU Place apartment complex adjacent to campus, featuring four-bedroom apartments, is purchased and renovated into student housing with 358 beds 2002
- University Place – the first phase of new housing created by the foundation – opens, adding 700 beds and offering students private bathrooms in two- and four-bedroom apartments 2004
- East, west and north parking decks open on the periphery of the main campus, adding nearly 4,000 parking spaces.
- University Village – an apartment facility for upperclassmen with private bathrooms for each resident – is built, adding 785 beds.
- Renovation of KSU Place finished, bringing total beds at KSU Place to 582.

The university becomes more of a destination for top students and student athletes.

With a 1,200-seat dining hall on campus, KSU has now come full circle. When Kennesaw Junior College opened its doors in 1966, classes were held elsewhere as the college had no buildings. For decades, student enrollment grew as the commuter college added degrees and programs and acquired land and buildings; it did not achieve university status until 1996.

But in the past decade, KSU has gradually evolved into a more traditional college, attracting more 18- and 19-year-olds than ever before. In 1999, the average student age was 26, and 35 percent of students took only day classes. Today, the average student age is just under 24, and the number of students taking only day classes has increased to 45 percent. Having a dining hall on campus will help to continue attracting younger students who are just graduating from high school.

“A real dining hall makes KSU a more complete campus for parent expectations,” said Joe Head, assistant vice president for enrollment.

The Commons is a state-of-the-art eating facility that offers high quality, fresh food cooked in small batches in an open kitchen and stations

1,058 residential students
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services and dean of university admissions. “KSU may have added the final notch to be fully competitive in the eyes of traditional shoppers. There are several key measurements that visitors look for when searching for colleges: quality of housing, affordability, dining, sports programs and academic programs. Now with dining we have completed the model.”

About 3,050 students – 1 out of 7 – currently live in university residences, with nearly 500 students on the waiting list before the fall semester kicked off. As recently as 2002, there were no students living on campus. “Seven years ago this was a commuter college. Nobody lived here,” said Radow, at the dining hall opening. “It was dark at night.”

Kennesaw State became a residential campus in fall 2002, when the KSU Place apartments were converted to student housing and the new University Place apartments were constructed. Two years later, University Village, offering students apartments with interior hallways, full kitchens and private bathrooms – as well as classrooms and retail spaces – was built. Last fall, the University Village Suites, a residential complex with 913 beds that accommodates first-year students in a more communal setting, opened, bringing the number of beds on campus to 3,046. The student residential area now boasts a new walk-in health clinic, a coffee shop and an art gallery featuring student art.

For as long as KSU has been a residential campus there has been talk of living and learning communities and a push for a dining hall to be built on campus. Until this year, when enrollment topped 22,500, the main eating facility on campus was housed in the Carmichael Student Center, a 1960s building equipped with an old kitchen meant to serve no more than 5,000 students. The old dining facility looked more like a mall food court than a college chow hall.

“The Commons brings the students together in a more meaningful way than the old student center did,” said Michael Sanseviro, director of residence life. “There are just so many options that students have now.”

For students, the new dining hall could not have come soon enough. Some feel it brings KSU to the level of other Georgia universities that have long had dining halls, and that it will put the university on the map. Mannie Rivers, a resident assistant, said that most first-year students who live on campus end up eating out a lot because they are so busy. Many freshmen live in suites with kitchenettes equipped with no more than a small refrigerator and a microwave. With a dining hall nearby, these students will now be able to share more time together outside the classroom.

“When students are eating together and socializing together, they’ll be more social and start to develop deeper bonds with each other and interact in different ways,” Sanseviro said.

Since The Commons will be open until 8 p.m. during the week and will also serve brunch, lunch and dinner on Saturday and Sunday, the campus will be alive during weekends.

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Global Trek

Korea
Over the past year, KSU officials have crisscrossed South Korea, laying the groundwork for an ambitious 2009-2010 “Year of Korea,” the university’s 26th annual, curriculum-based study of a country or region. From the megalopolis of Seoul in the heart of the Korean Peninsula, to Ulsan in the Southeast and Daegon in central South Korea, Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp and Barry Morris, executive director of the university’s Institute for Global Initiatives, met with government officials and university administrators during separate excursions in December 2008, and March and April 2009.

No strangers to the cultures of Asia — KSU has maintained long-standing relationships in China for almost 30 years — the university’s global emissaries are fully cognizant of the value of face-to-face contacts.

“We were able to create and cultivate relationships with partners in academia, government, and the civil and private sectors that already have begun to have a positive impact for KSU students, Korean students and communities in North Georgia and Korea,” Morris said.

Those contacts also have translated into a dynamic “Year of Korea” line up. The year-long study and celebration of Korean culture kicked off in August with an exhibit of Korea’s exquisite ceramic arts and is proceeding through a schedule of weekly forums featuring scholars from top universities in the U.S. and Korea; cultural performances; an interactive conference demonstrating the latest Korean-led electronic game technology; and a two-day academic conference.

“This is by far the most ambitious ‘Year of’ program to date, and it rivals the outstanding success last year with the ‘Year of Turkey,’” said Dan Paracka, director of International Services and Programs and planning coordinator for the “Year of” program. “Our friends, colleagues and partners in Korea have been invaluable in guiding us to outstanding resources.”

Morris followed Papp’s tracks to Seongdong-gu, a borough of Seoul, “Year of Korea” partner Hanyang University and Woosong University in Daejeon. Papp’s meetings with university presidents and officials from Seoul’s five boroughs were followed by more substantive talks with Morris. He also held “very beneficial” talks with officials in the U.S. Embassy’s Educational and Cultural Affairs office in Seoul.

While visiting Korea, Morris ventured deeper into Korea’s culture and history on a 12-day tour jointly organized and funded by the Korean Society, based in New York and the Center for Information on Korean Culture.

- Sabbaye McGriff
Last June, 14 KSU students visited Japan for three weeks to study how the Japanese use technology. Accompanied by Donald L. Amoroso, chair of the department of computer science and information systems, the students traveled to Nagoya, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tokyo, visited an automobile manufacturing plant in Toyota City and presented technical papers at several prestigious universities.

For senior Edwardo Loza, an information systems major, visiting the “Land of the Rising Sun” was a dream come true. He has studied Japanese martial arts for four decades, and words such as samurai, kamikaze and bushido have come to symbolize the warrior code of honor and self-discipline. So when professor Amoroso presented the opportunity to travel to Japan on a study-abroad trip, Loza jumped at the chance. Here are excerpts from his trip diary.

Upon our arrival at Tokyo’s Narita International Airport, we were reminded how high-tech and modern Japan is. Our first brush with Japanese technology was the ride to Nagoya, Japan’s fourth largest city, on the shinkansen, or bullet train. These high-speed, aerodynamic trains travel as fast as 186 miles per hour, and the ride is as smooth as if traveling on glass.

While in Nagoya, we visited the first of many castles – massive fortifications built with huge boulders – some as large as a living room. It was no surprise to me that these castles were designed and built with the same skill and precision as samurai swords.

From Nagoya, we traveled to Toyota City. The assembly plant was about the size of the KSU campus, and the Toyota complex literally encompassed the entire city.

The key to Toyota’s success in reducing costs is the use of JIT or “Just In Time” manufacturing. As we toured the plant, we saw the required products delivered to the shipping docks and sorted into kits – each tagged to a specific car frame – to be used for the production quota of the day. With
JIT, only the parts necessary for the automobiles scheduled to be assembled are delivered, nearly eliminating the cost of inventory.

The most moving experience for me was our visit to Ground Zero in Hiroshima. Here is where history was made. The fear of duplicating the events of Aug. 6, 1945, has been the single biggest deterrent for using nuclear weapons again. I was surprised to see that the Ground Zero marker is an unassuming marble stand.

We met the youngest survivor of the blast (his mother was four months pregnant with him when the bomb exploded) and he offered to be our guide for the day. He took us to a cemetery adjacent to the last surviving building, where we were able to see the effects of the blast. The cemetery was less than 100 yards from Ground Zero, and all exposed marble headstones were changed by the intense heat – it now had the rough texture of a concrete sidewalk – but any place that was shadowed from the blast was still very smooth. We also could see the effects of black rain caused by the mushroom cloud and the ensuing rain that brought all the ash back down to earth. It is ironic that a cemetery – a place for the dead to rest – would record this historic event forever. K
From self-proclaimed juvenile delinquent to the toast of the contemporary art scene, Assistant Professor of Photography Matt Haffner’s art brings the gallery to the streets of Atlanta and urban cool to the art world.

Haffner combines elements of film noir, comic books and graffiti to create what he calls “ambiguous narratives” through a wide variety of media, including paintings, drawings, public works and installations.

“I always have these narratives, this little storyline in my head for each piece, and some of them are very specific and some are just kind of loose, but I’m not interested really in revealing that – those little stories – what I’m really interested in is people kind of investigating that themselves,” he said.

“Like, ‘why is this character touching this person on the shoulder,’ or ‘why are these hands about to touch in front of this background of Union Station?’ “I’m really interested in people asking themselves, ‘why is this happening?’”

The son of school teachers, Haffner was born in Akron, Ohio. Expected to go to college, he dabbled in studying architecture before a friend’s enthusiasm for a photography class helped chart his course.

“I had this friend who was taking a photography class with a professor he loved,” Haffner recalled. “I didn’t really have that, so I signed up for the class.”

While experimenting with street photography as an undergrad at the University of Akron, Haffner heard the call of the urban jungle.

“I loved that seedier side of town,” he said. “That’s where I would go to take pictures.”

In 2006, as part of Atlanta Celebrates Photography’s first public art project, Haffner created “Serial City,” a series of giant photographic blowups of characters from his paintings that were wheatpasted on the back sides of buildings, old businesses and other sites around downtown Atlanta. Haffner received KSU’s prestigious Foundation Prize for the project.
Assistant professor Matt Haffner’s photos lend **urban cool** to the contemporary art scene

“I think it transcends what people’s idea about what graffiti is, but it also transcends what people’s idea about photography is too, and where those things can meet,” he says. “This is like street art with the volume turned way up.”

After completing his Master of Fine Arts degree in 1998 at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, Haffner was building cabinets and shipping crates for museum exhibits when he was “coerced” by his alma mater to teach a photography class. “I decided to go to grad school to be a better artist, and it was a big decision for me because it meant that I was committing myself to being an artist,” he said. “The decision to teach was a bit more accidental. I was coerced into teaching a class, and I just fell in love with it instantly.”

Just as a passionate professor once inspired him to pursue photography as more than a hobby, Haffner is inspiring a new generation of artists at KSU. “I like his teaching style, and he’s passionate about the art,” said senior fine art photography student Geoffrey Smith. “He’s made me think about photography as more of an art form and less as a craft.”

Working as a student intern, Smith helped install the public art project “Pushcart Vendors,” as well as serving as a studio assistant on Haffner’s recent solo show, “Tales of a Sleeping Giant” at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia. The spring solo show was the climax of a Loridans Award Haffner received from the museum.

“Professor Haffner pushes his advanced students for something deeper conceptually,” Smith said. “It’s very challenging to come up with a new and original way of looking at something and that’s what he encourages us to do.”

Haffner’s work is represented by Lyons Weir Ortt Contemporary in New York and Pentimenti Gallery in Philadelphia. Works by Haffner are included in the collections of: KUNSTWERK Museum, Berlin, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta; Alston and Bird LLP, Atlanta; Charles McDougall, director, Desperate Housewives; Anglo Irish Bank, Dublin / New York; Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, Ala.; Temple Gallery, Philadelphia; Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia; University of Akron, Akron, Ohio; as well as in various private collections. He has also been invited to participate in Art 40 Basel in Miami Beach next summer. Art Basel is the world’s most prestigious show of modern and contemporary art.

“It’s really kind of funny when you reach the point where you can’t even afford your own artwork,” Haffner laughs.
Call it serendipity.

Jennifer Priestley, an associate professor of applied mathematics at Kennesaw State University, was beginning to see an unmet need in her department for a class in financial modeling — for credit scoring in particular. “I had been thinking about building a course and coincidentally was having coffee with Brian Stone, the chief risk officer with CompuCredit,” she said.

Stone told Priestley how the KSU grads he hired saved his Atlanta-based company roughly $60,000 in training costs thanks to their immediate savvy with Statistical Analysis Software (SAS), CompuCredit’s primary tool.

Stone wanted to know if there was some way he could contribute to her program for sending such well-prepared people. “What can you guys use?” he asked.

Priestley’s answer: data.

What Priestley knew from her own real-world experience is that KSU’s applied stats program would be carving its niche by doing statistical analysis using real-world data representing actual people, not the antiseptic educational data sets they had been working with.

When she finished her M.B.A. in finance at Penn State in 1990, Priestley went to work for AT&T in New York and quickly moved to the credit card division, where she managed various aspects of their Universal Credit Card portfolio.

After a stint doing business development for MasterCard in New York, she moved to London to take a position with Visa. “It was kind of a perfect storm,” she explained. “They had a VP position open and they needed someone who had a credit-based background instead of a debit-based background, because most of Europe at that point was debit-based.”

Priestley worked with Scottish and Irish banks, helping them transition from debit-based portfolios to credit-based. “They didn’t have the equivalent of TransUnion, Equifax and TRW, so I was applying a quantitative scoring system for them to determine people’s credit-worthiness,” she said.

“When my husband and I moved back to the United States, I was burned out. I had a million frequent-flyer miles by the time I was 35. So, I went back and got my doctorate at Georgia State. Now I’ve settled in as a professor at Kennesaw State University, and I’m very happy.”

Priestley’s chance exchange with Stone opened the door to the solution for the one thing about her job that made her less happy.

“I felt like we were doing our students a disservice in giving them data sets that were so clean and textbook,” she said. “We were leading them down the primrose path of thinking that data really looks like this — but it doesn’t.”

After legal review and stripping out any private, identifiable information, CompuCredit provided Priestley’s statistics 7900 class (Credit Risk Modeling Using Binary Logistic Regression) with a massive data set from Equifax consisting of 10 million observations, representing 10 million real people and approximately 355 pieces of information for each person.

“We were given around 1 million observations in our group’s subset and it was messy — very sparse, lots of missing data and lots of coding issues,” said Erin O’Connor, a master’s student in Priestley’s statistics 7900 course. “That’s what it’s going to be like. If you have one person and one missing variable when you run the analysis, SAS will throw that person out. So, in this job market, it will come down to someone who

By Shawn Jenkins

KSU math professor trains students for the real world

Let’s make a deal
knows the theory and someone who has worked with a real-world data set. We have that leg up.”

When applied statistics was offered as a minor three years ago, Priestley said “there were some who snickered” at the thought that undergraduates would seek out 3000- and 4000-level statistics classes to fill in their interdisciplinary electives.

“Well, guess what? We have anywhere from 150 to 200 students who are declared undergraduate minors in statistics in any given semester,” she said. “I would put those numbers against any minor on campus any day.”

Much of that success Priestley attributes to the high demand for KSU’s applied stats skill set in the workplace.

“We don’t just derive formulas,” she said. “These courses are contextual and project-based, not just theoretical. And Kennesaw State is the only institution in Georgia that offers undergraduates training in SAS. Ninety-five percent of Fortune 500 companies use it.

“In this economy, we have a 100 percent placement rate for our master’s students, and our undergrads are in demand too. I hear people talk about how there are no jobs out there. You don’t hear our students say those words.” K
Six Owls drafted to ‘The Show’
For the first time in the university’s history, two Kennesaw State baseball players — pitchers Chad Jenkins and Kyle Heckathorn — were selected among the first 50 picks of the 2009 Major League Baseball Draft.

Jenkins, the Atlantic Sun Conference Pitcher-of-the-Year, was selected 20th in the first round by the Toronto Blue Jays and, according to Baseball America, signed for $1.359 million, the 12th highest in franchise history. Heckathorn, a preseason All-American, was picked 47th by the Milwaukee Brewers, who inked him with a $776,000 bonus.

Four other Owls were chosen, including left-handed pitchers Kenny Faulk, who was taken by the Detroit Tigers in the 16th round, and Justin Edwards, who was selected in the 28th round by the St. Louis Cardinals. Catcher Jace Whitmer was selected in the 17th round by the Toronto Blue Jays and second baseman Tyler Stubblefield was chosen in the 33rd round, both by the Atlanta Braves.

Five inducted into KSU Hall of Fame
KSU inducted professional golfer Larry Nelson; Dr. Nancy King, former vice president for student success and enrollment services; and men’s basketball players Tony Williams, Columbus Ballard and Israel Brown into the Hall of Fame.

Nelson attended Kennesaw State in the early 1970s and is one of golf’s legendary players. He took up the game when he was 21 years old and qualified for the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour at 27. In 1979, he earned two championships and finished second in earnings to Tom Watson. He holds 10 PGA Tour wins, including three major championships and the PGA championship in 1981 and 1987. His victory at the U.S. Open in 1983 saw him come from seven strokes behind at the halfway point to defeat Watson by one stroke. Nelson was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2006.

King worked at Kennesaw State for more than 25 years and is nationally known as the initiator of University’s first-year programs, a series of courses designed to help new students make the transition to college life. King headed the KSU self-study team, which allowed the institution to be accepted into NCAA Division I sports this year. She retired from full-time service in May 2008.

Williams played for the Owls from 1990 to 1994, is ranked third on the Owls all-time scoring list with 1,453 points. In 1994, he was named to the NAIA All-Southeast Region independent team after averaging a career-high 12.8 points. He also played on the Owls 1994 NAIA national championship baseball team and was a career .354 hitter in two seasons.

Brown, the Owls all-time leader in rebounds is ranked sixth on the all-time scoring list with 1,268 points. In 1994, he was named to the NAIA All-Southeast Region independent team after averaging a career-high 12.8 points. He also played on the Owls 1994 NAIA national championship baseball team and was a career .354 hitter in two seasons.

Diamond dolls
Bobbie Bailey knows how to back a winner
A thread runs through the Kennesaw State University softball program reaching back some 40 years.

KSU philanthropist Bobbie Bailey is well-known for her affinity for athletics, having provided significant funding to build the softball and baseball complex that bears her name and for numerous athletics scholarships over the years.

What most do not know about Bailey is that she was an avid fan of the Lorelei Ladies, an Atlanta women’s softball team that played from 1939 into the 1970s. In the 1960s, Bailey’s company, Our-Way Inc., assumed sponsorship of the team, financing all expenses from uniforms and airfare to room and board. Her involvement paved the way for the first softball venue in Midtown at Piedmont Park.

The Lorelei Ladies were renowned nationwide, dominating the professional women’s softball circuit and winning several consecutive national championships. Years later, their legacy carried deeper meaning, as the first professional women’s sports team in Georgia to break the color barrier and as the inspiration for Bailey’s later support of the KSU softball program.

“In the ’90s the university started playing fast-pitch softball, so I approached Betty Siegel and told her I would like to give some money to the program,” Bailey said.

In April, 22 former Lorelei Ladies — representing several decades — gathered for a reunion in the Bobbie Bailey Athletic Complex to reminisce over old photos and news clippings of their winning seasons together. They were also honored in a ceremony preceding the KSU game versus East Tennessee State University.

“It was a great day,” said head softball coach Scott Whitlock. “Our players were genuinely touched and moved by seeing players from generations past talk about how they still love the game that some of them played 30 years ago or more.”
After only eight years, KSU’s ice hockey club is a force to be reckoned with

Morrison, a product of Winnipeg, Manitoba, earned this same distinction two years previously, and both were also selected to ACHA All-Star teams.

The KSU hockey team plays 22 home games at the Town Center IceForum this season. To check the 2009-2010 schedule, read player bios or find out more about Owls hockey, visit their Web site at http://www.ksuicehockey.com/
Matt Nagy’s wake-up call

KSU golfer Matt Nagy found himself rubbing elbows with golf’s elite when he qualified for the 2009 U.S. Open.
Such was the introduction to the golfing world of Kennesaw State University’s first-ever golf team member to qualify for a Professional Golf Association major tournament.

In a media whirlwind, Nagy, a rising junior on the KSU golf team, was practically everywhere the week of the U.S. Open Championship this summer, including the Golfweek.com blog where the collegiate amateur kept a daily journal of his experiences in the big show. The New York Daily News also ran a prominent sports feature on Nagy and his seemingly predestined journey to Farmingdale, New York’s Bethpage Black course.

In his local qualifying tournament for the Open, six players were gunning for three spots. “One guy didn’t show up,” Nagy said. “Then it was two of us (playing) for the second alternate spot. I ended up beating him in seven holes and we played the last four holes in the dark. We didn’t really think that much of it, getting the second alternate spot. The night before the sectional qualifier, I talked to my roommate about whether or not I should even make the trip to the course the next day.”

When his alarm clock rang the next morning, Nagy turned it off and went back to sleep. “Luckily, I had set another alarm,” he said. “I decided I might as well try; it’s the U.S. Open.”

When Nagy arrived at Hawk’s Ridge golf course in Ball Ground, Ga., the first alternate from his local qualifier had bailed. Then an obscure USGA ruling bumped another first alternate from a different local qualifier who had made the trip.

One more stroke of luck and Nagy would get his chance to compete for a spot.

At one point, he noticed that one of the nation’s top amateurs was not there. It was the stroke of luck he needed.

An excited Nagy notified his mother via text that the player did not make it in time, grabbed his clubs and hit the course cold. He shot a 1-under par 71 in the first round of the 36-hole tournament and followed it up with a course-record 63, tying Matt Kuchar for medalist honors and earning his ticket to the Big Apple.

When he arrived at the clubhouse, Nagy said “Tiger Woods was on the TV. It was just unreal to think that I would be playing in the same tournament as he was.”

Nagy’s dream week at the U.S. Open was shorter than he had hoped as he missed the cut along with several of golf’s more recognizable names. But he made the most of his Open debut, autographing his first banana, performing an impromptu imitation of Happy Gilmore for the raucous fans at the clubhouse and finishing one stroke behind two-time U.S. Open champion Ernie Els.

His Golfweek.com blog probably summed it up best: “… no one even knows who I am. They just know that I’m playing in the U.S. Open and I guess that’s enough for them.”

By Shawn Jenkins

“Hi, my name is Matt Nagy and I’m from Buena Vista, Ga.”

Nagy’s New York State of Mind

[June 16]
We were some of the last people to leave this evening. I spent the evening practicing. I have really been focusing on my game and trying not to let distractions get in my way. I mean, I will be playing against my idols. But this week, I will be walking down the fairways with them. All of us . . . inside the ropes.

[June 17]
I signed over 500 autographs today. I couldn’t even get from the tee to the next green without being bombarded. It was great. I’ve signed unusual items every day, and today was no different.

[June 19]
I was asked to sign a guy’s jacket (while he was wearing it), a rock and a half-full glass of beer.

[June 20]
It is a little difficult to tee off on No. 1 with 47,500 fans watching. I have played in tournaments with big galleries, but nothing like this.

[June 20]
My last day began with a piercing sound at 1 a.m. The fire alarm went off in the hotel. It seems that they were cleaning the stove and it began smoking. Who cleans a stove at 1 a.m.?
The National Science Foundation awarded $896,765 for a program designed to increase the number of science teachers in high-needs areas. The project, Increasing Mathematics Teachers for All Students (IMTAS), is a collaboration between Kennesaw State and the Georgia Institute of Technology to recruit, prepare and retain secondary math teachers in areas with diverse populations.

The Wal-Mart Foundation in July awarded $125,000 to the College of Science and Mathematics to support the university’s long-term commitment to sustainability initiatives. The grant will also support the college’s strong environmental education program. The grant supports a model initiative in which students study solar power and energy and water-conserving technologies for reducing the environmental footprint of homes and businesses. KSU has partnered with Cadmus Construction in Roswell, Ga., to utilize streaming data from their platinum LEED-certified Weatherford Place housing development. The program allows students to experience a real-world case study in sustainability. The gift comes at a time when Wal-Mart has publicly announced its support of sustainability. Most recently, the corporation announced its Sustainable Product Index, which will establish a single source of data for evaluating the sustainability of their products.

The Kaiser Foundation, a long-time supporter of Kennesaw State University, provided $200,000 in scholarship funding through the 2010 spring semester for nursing students and faculty development in the WellStar School of Nursing. In addition, in the spring, Kaiser awarded $100,000 to MUST Ministries to support the building of a new health clinic that will be operated by WellStar College of Health and Human Services faculty and nursing student volunteers.

The Frances Wood Wilson Foundation awarded a $40,000 gift to the Bagwell College of Education to support the establishment of an early learning center. The center will serve newborns to five-year-olds and employ students and professors from across the campus to create a specialized learning environment. The target goal for the center is $7 million.

In May, the 15th Annual Dot Martin Scholarship Golf Classic raised a record-setting $46,000 to help fund student-athlete scholarships. The annual Larry Nelson Collegiate Invitational in March raised $21,000 to support the men’s and women’s golf programs.

Assurant Corp. gave the Coles College of Business $10,000 to create scholarships for juniors and seniors who are interested in working in the private sector.

The Assistance League, a national volunteer and community service nonprofit organization, donated $7,000 for student scholarships. Recipients must demonstrate a financial need and be interested in serving the community.

Robyn Smith, owner of Bullfrogz restaurant and bar in Kennesaw, established a scholarship in her brother’s memory. The Michael Lips Memorial Scholarship will support students enrolled in College of the Arts degree programs. Robyn and her husband, Jamal, plan to host monthly benefit concerts at Bullfrogz to raise funds for the scholarship.
KSU Foundation gives awards to faculty, staff

Nearly $200,000 awarded at opening of school ceremonies

Mary Garner accepts the Distinguished Professor Award.

Associate math professor Mary Garner won the Kennesaw State University Foundation’s 2009 Distinguished Professor Award, the university’s top faculty award, which includes a $17,000 prize – $8,500 in cash and an $8,500 faculty development stipend. In all, the foundation awarded more than $193,000 in cash and stipends to outstanding faculty members during the annual opening of school ceremonies.

“Our 2009 Foundation Distinguished Professor recipient exemplifies excellence in all areas of faculty performance and a deep commitment to blending her faculty work seamlessly across them,” President Daniel S. Papp said. “She is an outstanding classroom teacher, a recognized scholar of teaching and the assessment of learning at the institutional, regional and national levels and a tireless contributor and leader in institutional and regional professional service.”

A team of faculty and foundation committees reviewed the nominations and selected the award recipients.

“Kennesaw State University is grateful to the KSU Foundation for the various recognition programs and the amount of cash and faculty development funding,” Provost Lendley C. Black said. “This funding exceeds that of any other university at any level.”

Here’s a list of additional 2009 faculty award winners:

- **Philip C. Preston Award for Distinguished Community Service**
  Keisha Hoerrner, associate professor of communication, chair, first-year programs

- **Tommy & Beth Holder Faculty Awards**
  Kimberly S. Ligon, associate professor of adolescent education
  Elke M. Leeds, assistant professor of management information systems
  Jim M. Elledge, M.A.P.W. director and English professor
  Akanmu G. Adebayo, history professor
  Marina C. Koether, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry
  Valerie A. Dibble, associate professor of art
  Brian M. Wooten, director, Center for Student Leadership

- **Foundation prize for publications or creative activity**
  Oral L. Moses, music professor
  Brett E. Katzman, economics professor
  Alice W. Terry, associate professor of social studies education
  James R. Piecuch, assistant professor of history
  John R. McLester Jr., associate professor of health, physical education & sport science
  Sean F. Ellermeyer, math professor

- **Distinguished Professional Service Award**
  Hope Baker, associate professor of decision sciences

- **Distinguished Scholarship & Creative Activity Award**
  Lucy Ackert, finance professor

- **Distinguished Teaching Award**
  Sabine Smith, associate professor of German

- **Staff members recognized for exemplary service were:**

  - **Academic Support**
    Barbara Witt, English department

  - **Administrative Support**
    Denise Martin, admissions

  - **Campus Support**
    Jan Wilson, postal services

  - **Administrator of the Year**
    Kim West, registrar

  - **Staff Employee of the Year**
    Karen Gardner, financial services
Marc Fitten’s novel approach

Debut novel
As a graduate student at Kennesaw State, Marc Fitten wrote a novel inspired by the years he spent living in post-communist Hungary. That novel, about the love adventures of an irascible woman in her 60s, was published in the spring to critical acclaim, with Publishers Weekly calling it a promising debut. “Valeria’s Last Stand” is now in its second U.S. printing and is a bestseller in Germany. It is being published in Italian, French, Spanish and Hebrew. “I feel spectacular,” said Fitten, who is also an occasional op-ed writer for The New York Times. “I thought I’d sell a couple of copies in Europe and get to talk about it at parties.”

From communism to capitalism
Fitten was in Eastern Europe just after the collapse of communism and he witnessed first-hand the chaotic transition to capitalism, when people had lots of choices at supermarkets but could not afford to buy anything. He was struck by how this change affected the elderly, who had lived their entire lives based on a set of rules that became null when communism fell. “People had to reinvent their lives. It wasn’t very easy. Good or bad, socialism provided a certain standard of living, even if it was a meager one,” he said. “For old people, it was like an earthquake.”

Editor and novelist
Fitten’s day job is as editor of The Chattahoochee Review, a literary journal based at Georgia Perimeter College. He started working at the Review as an intern and in 2005 he was named editor. Fitten knew he wanted to be a novelist at age 15. His favorite writer was Henry Miller. “I read his books and discovered that he had gone to Europe. That’s what a lot of my favorite American writers did.” James Baldwin, George Orwell, Milan Kundera and Gabriel Garcia Marquez also served as inspiration. “I wanted to write with a global perspective. I wanted to be a global writer, not just an American writer.”

The world is his oyster
The son of Panamanian immigrants, Fitten was born in Brooklyn and grew up in the Bronx, where he attended Catholic school. His family moved to Atlanta when he was in the 10th grade. After graduating from the Marist School, he wanted to travel the world. “I’d been in Catholic school most of my life. I wanted to go out and see the world. I was headed to Bulgaria.” With $10,000 in his pocket, he ended up in Budapest, Hungary, instead. “I really wanted to get off the map. I ended up in the furthest eastern city I could find, Debrecen, and I loved it there. I stayed there for five years and came back in 1998. I loved it,” he said. “I’d spent all my money in six months.”

Years at KSU
When he returned to the states, Fitten enrolled at KSU. His colleagues at The Chattahoochee Review told him that if he wanted to be a writer, he should meet writers. So he came to Kennesaw State because author Tony Grooms was teaching here. Fitten majored in English and graduated at age 29. He came back to KSU for his master’s in professional writing.
With Grooms as a mentor, Fitten wrote the bulk of “Valeria’s Last Stand” while pursuing graduate studies. “The book was mostly done by the time I finished,” he said. “It’s not as magical as [the works of] Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It is not magical realism but there’s a tone about [magical realism] that I tried to emulate.”

**Long road to success**

By the time he got to KSU, Fitten had been writing short stories for years and was tired of getting rejected by literary publications. So he decided to write a novel. He submitted the first chapter of “Valeria’s Last Stand” as a short story to a literary journal and it was accepted. That led him to a German agent who loved his manuscript and tried to sell it in Europe. Though the deal fell through, the novel had generated enough buzz at the 2008 London Book Festival. “Valeria’s Last Stand” was purchased in several European countries earlier this year. Fitten is now working on his second novel, due next year. “Now I just have to do it again and do it again and do it again.”

- Aixa M. Pascual
1980s

**Ann Staebell Bertsche** (Business, ’87) is a property manager for Warehouse One, LLC.

**Tricia Graves Laws** (Management, ’88) is the human resource manager for Homrich Berg, a wealth management firm in Buckhead. Laws has been in human resources for 20 years and with Homrich Berg for six years. She is currently pursuing a master's in human resources at Georgia State University.

**Karla Moore** (Accounting, ’84) traveled for six years with Dart & Kraft as an internal auditor and moved to Orlando, Fla. in 1988. Currently she serves as a quality assurance/release manager for Relayhealth (a division of McKesson). She and her husband, Michael Moore, have a daughter, Sarah, and live in Marietta, Ga.

**Rebecca Teem** (Music, ’89) is in the middle of a three-year engagement playing the role of Brünnhilde at Stadttheater Lübeck in Germany, performing in “Die Walküre” in 2008, “Siegfried” in 2009 and “Götterdämmerung” in 2010.

1990s

**Cedrick Anderson** (Management, ’99) is a management consultant in the area of risk management and strategic planning at T&T Consulting Services, Inc. in Kennesaw. He and his wife, Theresa, completed the school year as agape prayer leaders for their son Isaiah’s K-4 class at North Cobb Christian School.

**Terry Autry** (Political Science, ’92) is captain and commander for the Rome Police Department detective division. He received his M.P.A. in justice administration from Columbus State University in December 2008.

**Andy Azula** (Art, ’90) has been appointed to a two-year term on the board of directors of The One Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in advertising and design. He also gave a presentation to the Atlanta Ad Club earlier this year.

**David Chiprany** (P-12 Health & Phys Education, ’94) was named principal of Wheeler High School in Marietta. He was also named the 2009 East Cobb Rotary Club Educator of the Year.
Robert Henry (Music Performance, '99) performed a solo piano recital at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta. The program included works by Mozart, Bach-Busoni, Faure, Vine, Sakamoto and Liszt.

Becky Peters (Theatre/Communications, '98) recently formed a new company, Wandering Souls, in the Washington, D.C. area, which offers exposure to the arts to those that have previously had little or no access. (www.wanderingsouls.org).

Robert Shaw (Social Science Education, '96, Pre Med, '05) has been named principal of Hillgrove High School in Powder Springs, Ga.

Chris Wilson (Art, '94) installed a sculpture, “Midnight Owl,” on the Campus Green to memorialize KSU students who have passed away. The sculpture was commissioned by the KSU student government.

2000s

Curtis Barnett (Psychology, '08) is currently vying for a spot on the U.S. Olympic taekwondo team.

Jeremy Stainthrop Berggren (Art, '04) had artwork displayed in two exhibitions, "Home from the Front" in Berea, Calif., and at the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Jonathan L. Carr (Communication, '03) will graduate in May from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a master's of divinity.

Lindsey Catts (Communication, '07) and Cody Williams (Communication, '07) were married last year at the Marietta Country Club. Cody is working in sales for a medical software company, while Lindsey continues her career in pharmaceutical sales for Abbott Labs. They live in Dallas, Ga.
2000s

James Costen (Sociology, ’07) is attending Georgia State University’s graduate program in sociology, race and urban studies.

Denisha (Ferguson) Davidson (Sociology, ’04) was named the women’s basketball coach at St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Daniel DeKonty (Music Performance, ’04) was named minister of music at First Assembly of God in Bay Minette, Ala.

Steven A. Ellis (Political Science, ’03) is running for the Cobb County Commission District 3 seat for the 2010 election.

Lara Jeanneret (Graphic Design, ’05) is the owner of Lara J Designs in Cartersville, Ga. Her business offers graphic design services from logos and business cards to Web sites and greeting cards. (http://www.larajdesigns.com/)

Hazem Kanaan (Biochemistry, ’05) received a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

John Legg (Business, ’04) is a law clerk at the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. He graduated magna cum laude from Regent University School of Law where he was selected by faculty as the outstanding graduate and served as editor-in-chief of the Regent University Law Review and general editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy. While in law school, he won the regional championship and received a top legal brief award in the American Bar Association’s appellate advocacy competition. He became a member of the Georgia Bar in 2008, and entered the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps in August 2009. He and his wife, Dr. Karen Legg, and his daughter reside in Roswell, N.M.

Joy Mary (McManus) Markford (Biology, ’03) received her doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Georgia.
Leah McRath (Music Education, '02) performed as a soloist with the Ludwig Symphony Orchestra in Roswell, Ga. She sang works by Mozart, Lecouveur-Cleia and Rachmaniinoff.

Cheryl Miller (M.A.P.W., '07) was named program administrator for the master's in American Studies at Kennesaw State. Previously she was the administrative coordinator for the university's Small Business Development Center.

Kimberly Murphy (Modern Language and Culture, '08) is human resources director for Automation Direct in Cumming, Ga. She is participating in the graduate certificate in Leadership and Ethics Program at Kennesaw State.

Elizabeth Neidel (Theatre and Performance Studies, '07) choreographed the Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of “Smokey Joe's Café” at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta, Ga. She also offers PreK-12 workshops through the Georgia Council for the Arts Teaching Artists Bank.

Samuel Parker (Art, '04) was featured in the group exhibition, "Inauguration," at Beep Beep Gallery in Atlanta.

Angela Smith (M.B.A., '05) recently accepted a position as an insurance agent at Mutual of Omaha in Atlanta.

Cheryl Stiles (M.A.P.W. '03), KSU librarian, was awarded the Agnes Scott Literary Festival prize for her poem “No Anointing.” The poem is also featured in the Southern Women’s Review.

Kathleen Thompson (Criminal Justice '06) was recently named director of customer care at Copper Conferencing, an audio and Web conferencing solutions provider.

Katherine Uhle (Music Performance, '07) spent the summer at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria.

Nicholas Voss (Art, '08) is a graphic designer at the design firm eye-Speak.
When Dr. Gregory Simone enrolled in Kennesaw State’s M.B.A. program in the late 1990s, he just wanted to get a better handle on managing his cardiology practice. Being a hospital administrator was not something to which he had aspired.

Fast forward to 2007. Simone took over as president and chief executive officer of WellStar Health System, a Marietta-based health care company with 11,000 employees that spans five northwest Georgia counties, after his best friend and colleague, Robert Lipson – who served as president and CEO of WellStar for five years – was killed in an accident.

Now, Simone – a modern Renaissance man with a black belt in tae kwon do who played bass in a rock band and speaks several languages – is using the lessons he learned at KSU to lead one of the largest health care companies in the Southeast.

“It was a life-changing event. It gave me a whole different way of looking at an organization,” Simone said of the Coles College of Business’ Executive M.B.A. “It’s an entirely different viewpoint on the practice of medicine. It’s a different way of looking at a problem.”

Since he was named to the top post at WellStar, Simone has worked to streamline the $1.4-billion company and make it more efficient. He hired an expert in Six Sigma business strategy from General Electric Co., immersed himself in lean production techniques, and took his leadership team on a tour of the Lockheed Martin aircraft plant in Marietta so they could see first-hand how lean manufacturing processes work. The plant, Simone said, was immaculate and everything was in order. Every employee, he added, was responsible for keeping his space clean.

“All I could see was an O.R.,” he said.

That visit led to changes in how the operating rooms work and how they are booked for maximum efficiency. Simone and his team also looked closely at other processes in the hospital and implemented protocols to reduce infection rates, administer medicines and digitize patient charts, among other initiatives.

Simone wanted to be a doctor because growing up he loved both people and “pure science.” The Chicago native moved to Atlanta to attend medical school at Emory University. Torn between cardiology and psychiatry, he chose the former because it is very scientific.

“There really isn’t a lot of guesswork in cardiology; there is a lot of evidence-based science,” he said. “The difficult part is to make a person understand what’s wrong and what needs to be done.”

After growing his Marietta practice to 200 employees, the opportunity arose in 1997 for him and Lipson to pursue an Executive M.B.A. for physicians at the Coles College. The program taught Simone about more than just contracts, organizational structure and business principles. Classes and study trips to France, Belgium and the U.K., where he witnessed how other health care systems work, helped him see medicine in a new light.

After an extensive search, the WellStar board of trustees selected Simone to succeed Lipson. After 27 years in private practice, Simone left and took the job because he wanted to continue his friend’s legacy. He has worked since to maintain WellStar’s focus on customer value and patient care while delivering healthy operating margins.
Alumni keep in touch with KSU Connection

The Alumni Association at Kennesaw State University has developed a new way for alumni to communicate online. The KSU Connection, http://www.kennesaw.edu/alumni/, offers online communication, an events calendar, access to Class Notes, access to the KSU alumni directory, updated information about Kennesaw State University and most important, networking opportunities with other alumni.

“Our new online community, KSU Connection, is the most significant addition to the Alumni Association’s list of member benefits in the last decade,” Yvonne Wichman, president of the board of the KSU Alumni Association, said. “This resource not only provides alumni with a convenient way to network and socialize, it also allows members to use the system in ways best suited to their individual needs.”

It is very easy for alumni to register and join. Just click on the register link on the KSU Connection page, fill out the search form to access your record and enter your user name and password. It is that simple. Once you have joined, you can connect and stay connected. Why not become part of an online community that will further your goals and increase your exposure to many exciting opportunities while supporting your alma mater? The Alumni Association of Kennesaw State University is pleased that, as result of this new resource, alumni can communicate more easily and effectively than ever before.

Alumni Association winter holiday trip to New York

Spend a winter holiday weekend with the Kennesaw State University Alumni Association in fabulous New York City!

Join the Alumni Association for a weekend trip to New York City for the holidays Dec. 11-13, 2009. This is your chance to travel to New York with us to take part in some memorable events: ice skating in front of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center, enjoying a carriage ride in Central Park and seeing the famous Broadway show “Wicked!” Space is filling quickly. Respond now to reserve a spot for you and your loved one for a most unforgettable weekend vacation with the association. We hope that you will be able join us as part of the KSUAA Holiday 2009 group!

Itinerary and Cost Information:

**Friday evening, Dec. 11, 2009:**
Welcome reception, hosted by a KSU alumna
Ice skating in front of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009:**
**Morning:** Free time for shopping, visiting museums or sightseeing

**Afternoon:** Meet at 3 p.m. for carriage rides in Central Park
**Night:** Dinner at a famous New York restaurant and the Broadway show “Wicked” at the Gershwin Theatre.

**Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009**
**Morning:** A two-hour cruise on the Circle Line ferry
Magnificent views of the world’s premier skyline and a close-up view of Lady Liberty.

Sail down the Hudson River, cruise around the Battery, up the East River and under the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges to the United Nations building and back.

To reserve your space, or for more information, including the costs associated with the trip, please contact Jennifer Coleman, events coordinator for KSU Alumni Affairs, by calling 770-423-6333 or send an e-mail to jcolem42@kennesaw.edu. The Alumni Association is located on the campus of Kennesaw State University on Campus Loop Road in House No. 56.
Class of 2013

Every fall, just as the academic year kicks off, KSU’s first-year students attend a convocation ceremony in the Convocation Center. Though degrees are not awarded, the ceremony— a formal induction—is very similar to a commencement. The students stand as a class as the president walks in with a procession of administrators and faculty, dressed in full academic regalia, and addresses them. Each freshman receives a medallion and as a group they recite an oath pledging their academic and civic commitments. The goal: for the incoming students to see themselves, four years later, graduating as a class.