

Chancellor  
Thomas C. Meredith*Letter from the Chancellor*

Happy New Year!

News of recent honors, achievements and recognition accorded our campuses poured in at the end of 2004. Here is a sampling of this news that gives us a great start on 2005:



- Three University System of Georgia students have received the ultra-prestigious Marshall and Rhodes scholarships for 2005 to study in Great Britain over the next few years. **Jeremy Farris**, an international affairs major at *Georgia Tech*, is our Rhodes Scholar. He is the third Tech student to win a Rhodes Scholarship, which funds two to three years of study at Oxford University. Our Marshall scholars include **Ambika Bumb**, a student of biomedical engineering at *Georgia Tech*, who will pursue her Ph.D. at Oxford, and **Matthew Crim**, who will receive bachelor's degrees in both political science and cellular biology from the *University of Georgia* this spring. Crim, who plans to use his scholarship to complete two one-year master of science programs at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, also received a 2004 Truman Scholarship and is the first *UGA* student to have won both Truman and Marshall scholarships. Bumb is the sixth *Georgia Tech* student to receive a Marshall Scholarship. This is the third consecutive year that a UGA student has earned this prestigious honor.
- There also is good news to report on the teacher-education front. First, *Valdosta State University* has won the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) 2005 Best Practices Award for the Innovative Use of Technology. The award honors VSU's programs in deaf education/interpreting, which prepare educational interpreters and teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students for a 41-county region representing the very rural southern third of Georgia. VSU employs technology both to enhance access to these programs by students from this rural region and to broaden students' experiences while in the program. As a footnote, the university recently received a \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Education grant to support the preparation of 45 additional educational interpreters for Georgia and north Florida over a five-year period. The second piece of good news regarding teacher education involves the Georgia Teacher Center at *Kennesaw State University*, which in 2004 became an affiliate of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and is the only Georgia organization to have earned this distinction. The National Board now has selected the Georgia Teacher Center as one of 10 national models for teacher candidate support the board will showcase on a new Web site it is developing.
- Several University System institutions and individuals have received notable awards recently. For example, *Georgia Tech's* Technology Square won an international award for excellence in land use from the Urban Land Institute. **Dr. Paul M. Bertsch**, director of the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, won the Soil Science Research Award from the Soil Science Society of America, saluting his career in soil and earth sciences. **Melissa Shaw**, a second-year dental student at the *Medical College of Georgia*, won the Outstanding Basic Science Award in a national competition sponsored by the Thomas B. Hinman Society of Atlanta for her research in mercury toxicity. *Kennesaw State University's* ChemCases.com Web site – a resource of curriculum supplements for teaching general chemistry developed through a National Science Foundation grant – was named one of ScientificAmerican.com's Top 50 Science and Technology Web Sites. *Albany State University's* campus radio station, WASU, recently received a Crystal Award of Distinction in the category of radio programs/sports events in the 2004 Communicator Awards national competition for an ASU Rams football broadcast.
- The *University of Georgia* has issued several news releases in recent weeks concerning its standings in national and international rankings. The National Communication Association has named the doctoral program in rhetoric offered by UGA's Department of Speech Communications America's best and the department's doctoral program in health communication fifth nationally. Meanwhile, the university's undergraduate and graduate programs in landscape architecture have been ranked second and sixth in the nation, respectively, in *America's Best Architecture and Design Schools*, a publication of the Design Futures Council. A recent survey on the technological sophistication of college campuses conducted by *The Princeton Review* placed UGA 10th among "America's Most Connected Campuses." Finally, an analysis published this past fall in the journal *Leisure Sciences* of the number of journal articles and conference papers authored in the field of recreation and leisure studies during the 1990s ranked UGA faculty and graduate students third among 41 leading universities in North America.

- *Georgia Tech* also has released updates regarding its rankings. Late this past fall, the *Times of London* issued its first report ranking the world's top universities, and Tech placed 65th among the top 200 institutions. Public and private universities in the United States held 62 of the top 200 spots on this listing, and Tech ranked 24th among them and 11th among U.S. public institutions. In comparison, *U.S. News & World Report* recently ranked Tech 10th among U.S. public universities and 41st amongst all U.S. universities.
- Four University System of Georgia facilities were featured in *American School and University* magazine's recent "2004 Architectural Portfolio." They include: the *University of Georgia's* Student Learning Center, *North Georgia College & State University's* Health and Natural Sciences Building, *Georgia Southern University's* College of Information Technology, and *Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's* Agricultural Sciences Building. The projects can be viewed on the magazine's web site at SchoolDesigns.com
- *Albany State University* recently learned that its sororities posted a cumulative grade point average (GPA) for Spring 2004 semester that was .55 higher than the national average and tops in the Southeast. ASU's fraternities posted a GPA .35 higher than the national average for men. These statistics are compiled by the Gamma Sigma Alpha National Greek Academic Honor Society, founded in 1989 to promote intellectual interaction between Greek students and the academic community.

Please join me in congratulating these USG leaders on their accomplishments!

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Meredith

Chancellor