

April 2005



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
"Creating a More Educated Georgia"



Chancellor
Thomas C. Meredith

Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings:

Scarcely a day goes by that I do not learn of honors and accolades earned by our colleges and universities, administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Here are a handful of recent examples illustrating the depth and breadth of these accomplishments that I thought you'd want to know about:



- ▶ Two departing University System presidents – **Dr. Jacquelyn Belcher** of *Georgia Perimeter College* and **Dr. Portia Shields** of *Albany State University* – recently were honored by the Georgia Senate for their leadership and service to higher education. Dr. Belcher, who will retire on June 30 after 10 years at Georgia Perimeter, was saluted by the Senate in mid-March for her outstanding service to GPC. She also was honored for her 33 years of service to two-year colleges on April 10 at the annual conference of the American Association of Community Colleges, in Boston. A resolution honoring Dr. Shields for the “valuable and lasting mark” her leadership has left on Albany State during her nearly nine years as its president was read in the Senate on March 29. Dr. Shields will leave ASU at the end of the current semester.
- ▶ This spring, the *University of Georgia* can boast one Marshall Scholar, two Carnegie Research Fellows and two Barry M. Goldwater Scholars. *Georgia Tech* has a Rhodes Scholar, a Marshall Scholar and a Gates Cambridge Scholar. The *Medical College of Georgia* has three medical illustration students who have received prestigious scholarships from the Vesalius Trust for Visual Communication in the Health Sciences.
- ▶ The University System continues to do well in national rankings. According to *U.S. News & World Report's* report on “America’s Best Graduate Schools 2006,” *Georgia Tech* now is No. 4 among engineering schools, and its business school jumped an impressive 10 slots up to No. 32 among the nation’s best business schools. *Georgia State University* rose from No. 7 to No. 6 on the magazine’s list of highly rated part-time MBA programs. The *University of Georgia's* College of Pharmacy ranked No. 22 on a list of pharmacy programs nationwide, and its College of Education is tied at 27th. The *Medical College of Georgia* grabbed the No. 40 spot on a list of the “Top 50 Schools of Medicine (Primary Care),” a list it had slipped off of last year. The London-based *Financial Times* recently ranked *Georgia Tech's* College of Management 84th out of the world’s top 100 full-time MBA programs, a 10-position jump since the newspaper’s 2004 survey. In addition to the overall ranking, the 2005 survey listed the *Georgia Tech* College of Management as among the best value for the money and in graduates’ career progress. Meanwhile, the Center for Digital Education’s Digital Community College Survey reveals that *Dartton College* has moved up four places since the last survey to No. 6 among large/urban community colleges excelling in their use of information technology.
- ▶ Our graduate students and undergraduates remain nationally competitive. Three students from the *Medical College of Georgia* were among 20 medical students nationwide honored with leadership awards from the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation in association with the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative and the AMA Medical Student Section. A *Clayton College & State University* senior received two national awards for his undergraduate research in pulmonary toxicology from the Society for In Vitro Biology. Student leaders at *Coastal Georgia Community College* took home an award for Campus Activities Programming Board/Student Government Association of the Year from the recent national conference of the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities.
- ▶ For the third time in the five years the American Association of Community Colleges has conducted an All-USA Academic Team competition, the highest-scoring student from Georgia is a *Waycross College* student. Referred to as Georgia’s New Century Scholar, this year’s honoree is **Amber Friedrichs**.
- ▶ Students from *Albany State University* earned a total of eight awards for superior performances in speech and theatre during the recent annual conference of the National Association of Dramatic & Speech Arts. They were saluted for their abilities in extemporaneous speaking, poetry interpretation, dramatic monologue, playwriting and acting.

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- ▶ A team of two faculty members and three doctoral students from the *University of Georgia's* College of Education has been awarded the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education's (SITE) 2005 U.S. National Technology Leadership Initiative (NTLI) Fellowship in Science Education and Technology.
- ▶ **Dr. Kenneth Sajwan**, a *Savannah State University* professor nationally recognized as a leading scholar and researcher in environmental science, recently received the Richard Nicholson Excellence in Science Teaching Award at a national conference of the organization Quality Education for Minorities in Math, Science and Engineering.
- ▶ **Dr. Melissa Cahnmann**, an assistant professor of language and literacy education in the *University of Georgia's* College of Education, won the top prize of \$10,000 in a national contest for poets under age 40, the first annual Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Contest.
- ▶ **Floyd Phoenix**, coordinator for recruitment at *Coastal Georgia Community College*, recently was awarded the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Award for Excellence in the Community College from the National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA). Phoenix is an active participant in programs aimed at promoting greater diversity within the college community and serves on the executive committees of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents Minority Advising Program and a statewide organization for minority recruiters. Phoenix also works closely with the Sapelo Foundation to supply scholarships to deserving African-American students, and he helped establish the Torchbearers Club, made up of CGCC students who are mentored by the Fourteen Black Men of Glynn.
- ▶ The Board of Regents is partnering with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to develop a pre-disaster hazards mitigation program for each of the 34 institutions in the University System of Georgia. Staffers from each institution will work with state and local government officials on a coordinated planning process that will help to identify hazard exposure and mitigation measures. The mitigation planning effort will serve to reduce hazard exposure to both students and faculty members and potential disaster damage to campus facilities and research assets. The development of local Hazard Mitigation Plans that meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements will ensure that USG institutions are eligible for post-disaster funding when disasters do occur. The Board of Regents was awarded \$100,000 by FEMA for this effort under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation–Disaster-Resistant Universities Program.
- ▶ Last, but not least, a few items involving the University System Office staff: **Dr. Jan Kettlewell**, associate vice chancellor for P-16 Initiatives, and I were invited participants in the recent National Governor's Association meeting on "Redesigning the American High School" in Washington, D.C. **William Wallace**, associate vice chancellor for human resources, was invited to join the national University Pathfinder Group, an organization made up of the nation's "thought leaders" in higher education regarding healthcare and employee-benefit issues. **Phillip Allen**, director of Georgia LEADS, our continuing-education initiative, has been invited to serve on the board of directors of the University Continuing Education Association, the nation's premier association for continuing education. **Nancy Nolan**, a project director for Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) who also is manager of prospect services for the *Georgia Tech* Economic Development Institute, recently earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer. This national recognition denotes mastery of principle skills in economic development, professional attainment and a commitment to personal and professional growth. **Brad LaJeunesse**, who heads up the software development team for the Public Information Network for Electronic Services (PINES) at the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS), was featured among the "Movers and Shakers" in the March issue of *Library Journal*. **Beth Brigdon**, a former member of the USO's Office of Information & Instructional Technology staff who is now vice president for technology and chief information officer at the *Medical College of Georgia*, was saluted for her technology innovation in an article in the March issue of *TechLINKS* magazine, a publication read by more than 52,000 technology professionals across Georgia and beyond.

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

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Meredith
Chancellor