

September 2005



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
"Creating a More Educated Georgia"



Chancellor
Thomas C. Meredith

Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings:

It is difficult to focus on good news in the face of the shocking disaster that has befallen our neighbors in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana over the last 10 days. However, you should know that the University System is reaching out in many different ways to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, and I am very proud of us for that. The fact is, our colleges and universities, administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni continue to shine, no matter what. Here are some examples in which I thought you'd be interested:



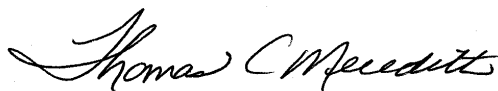
- ▶ The combined resources of the campuses of the University System of Georgia in responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina is phenomenal. Many of our colleges and universities have joined in the state's efforts to offer both humanitarian aid and academic assistance to those in need. By Thursday afternoon, our staff had established a web portal on the University System's homepage (www.usg.edu/katrina) that serves as a clearinghouse of resources for displaced students seeking assistance. This was a fantastic, rapid response to a gripping tragedy, and new opportunities to get involved are emerging and being met every day. I hope you are as impressed as I am with the concern and generosity of spirit displayed by people throughout the University System and the state of Georgia.
- ▶ The University System of Georgia once again fared well in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual guide to "America's Best Colleges." Georgia is one of only four states with two or more institutions on the magazine's latest list of the Top 20 Public National Universities. *Georgia Tech* moved up one slot on the list to No. 9 and the *University of Georgia* is No. 19 in the nation among public institutions. *U.S. News* also ranks Georgia Tech as the nation's sixth best undergraduate engineering program among all public and private institutions whose highest degree is a doctorate (and third best among solely public institutions). The business programs at UGA rank 20th among the nation's public institutions and those at Georgia Tech rank 21st. UGA also received high marks in the report for its affordability, ranking sixth nationally among public institutions on a list of "Great Schools at Great Prices" and it is among the Top 25 national universities whose students graduate with the least amount of debts from student loans.
- ▶ Georgia's revolutionary virtual library, *GALILEO*, a University System initiative that stands for GeorgiA Library LEarning Online and is will celebrate its 10th anniversary this month. Invitations to the Sept. 21st event at the Twin Towers Building will be mailed shortly. This celebration marks the anniversary of a major collaborative project and service to the citizens of Georgia. Thanks to GALILEO, all Georgia citizens have universal access to a core level of materials and information resources, regardless of geographic location or local community funding. GALILEO was the impetus for providing Internet connections to many libraries and media centers and for improving bandwidth for existing connections. GALILEO is currently available through 2500 libraries and can be accessed by home computers, using a password furnished by a public library. Usage has climbed from over 5 million transactions (searches, full text articles displayed, etc.) in FY 1996 to almost 50 million transactions in FY 2005.
- ▶ *GeorgiaHIRE*, the University System of Georgia resource that offers employers online access to the resumes of students and alumni of 57 public and private higher education institutions in Georgia, is expanding to include the 34 technical colleges under the Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE). This partnership will make GeorgiaHIRE the most comprehensive and unique online recruitment tool available in any state in the nation. In FY 2005, GeorgiaHIRE set a record by adding 900 new employers to the database, bringing the total number of employers actively using this resource to more than 2,600. The number of student and alumni resumes they previewed via GeorgiaHIRE increased 45 percent from FY 2004 to total more than 100,300.
- ▶ **Gov. Sonny Perdue** delighted the staff of the Georgia Public Library System (GPLS) by making a surprise visit to the Rabun County Library in Clayton last week to announce plans to fund the library's renovation and a much-needed addition to the building. Perdue was accompanied by **State Sen. Nancy Schaefer**. At the conclusion of a tour of the facility, the library's quick-thinking manager, **Jewell Eller**, signed the Governor and senator up for PINES library cards.
- ▶ The *Medical College of Georgia's* Comprehensive Epilepsy Program recently was named a Level 4 specialized epilepsy center by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers, a designation distinguishing it as a center that offers the broadest range of complex medical and surgical treatments possible for epilepsy.
- ▶ The *University of West Georgia* has achieved a coup of sorts for a non-research university. Working with undergraduate students, eight faculty members from the sciences have successfully synthesized and analyzed carbon nanotubes on campus.

- ▶ UWG President **Beheruz Sethna**, under whose leadership the university has been nationally recognized for undergraduate research, authored an excellent guest column in the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution* on Aug. 16. The article advocates electric cars as opposed to gas-powered vehicles, and calls for more research – and particularly undergraduate research – on alternative fuels.
- ▶ **Diane Payne**, publications director for the Board of Regents, turned a painful personal experience into a nationally published article when she authored the “My Turn” column in the Aug. 22 issue of *Newsweek*. Her essay detailed her frustration in trying to obtain information from doctors in the weeks before she lost her husband to a sudden illness last spring.
- ▶ Three graduate students at the *University of Georgia* recently received notable recognition. **Sergio Fernandez**, who recently received a Ph.D. in public administration from the School of Public and International Affairs, received the Best Dissertation Award from the Public and Nonprofit Division of the Academy of Management AND the American Political Science Association’s Leonard White Award for Best Dissertation in Public Administration. **Jennifer Hartwig**, a student in the College of Education, was one of only five young scholars in the nation to have received a College Board Research Grant (worth \$24,000) for the 2005-2006 academic year. **Sarah Hemmings** was awarded the 2005-2006 National Estuarine Research Reserve System Graduate Research Fellowship (a \$20,000 award) while earning her master’s degree in conservation ecology and sustainable development at the Institute of Ecology.
- ▶ Another graduate student, **Miller Oberman**, a candidate for the master of fine arts in creative writing at *Georgia College & State University*, was one of two students in the nation honored recently with a prestigious national poetry award, the 2005 Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship. The fellowship carries with it an award of \$15,000 to help recipients continue their study and poetry writing.

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

As this is my last board meeting, this will be my last monthly report to you on the wealth of good news shared by our colleagues and students. I am incredibly honored to have been associated with all of the talented and forward-thinking people throughout the University System of Georgia I’ve written to you about in these letters. I know my successors will have no dearth of additional news to report at future meetings.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Meredith
Chancellor