

Letter from the Interim Chancellor

January 2006



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
"Creating a More Educated Georgia"



Interim Chancellor
Corlis P. Cummings

Hello and Happy New Year!

As we enter 2006 and eagerly anticipate the arrival of Chancellor-Designate Erroll B. Davis Jr., I cannot help but be proud of all the continuing accomplishments and recognition received by University System of Georgia faculty, staff, administration and students. Here are some examples of recent good news that has crossed my desk:



- ▶ **Dr. Betty L. Siegel** has received a prestigious award as she winds down her nearly 25 years as president of *Kennesaw State University*. The Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel bestowed on Siegel the Howard Washington Thurman Ecumenical Award, reserved for individuals who have made significant contributions to humanity in interfaith, interdenominational and interracial spiritual and ethical development. Howard Thurman, a 1923 Morehouse College graduate, was a pastor, poet, critic and educator identified by *Life* magazine as one of the 12 greatest preachers of the century. The younger generation of civil-rights-movement leaders – people like Martin Luther King Jr., Vernon Jordan and James Farmer – regularly sought his guidance and political counsel.
- ▶ The landscape architecture program administered by the *University of Georgia's* School of Environment and Design was recently ranked No. 1 in the country by *DesignIntelligence* magazine. This is the second year the magazine has conducted an analysis of the 85 landscape architecture programs offered throughout the United States. Last year, *DesignIntelligence* placed UGA's three-year professional master's degree program fourth nationally and its five-year undergraduate program second (Ohio State University was No. 1). This year, the bachelor's degree program placed first nationally and the master's degree program placed third – behind Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, where undergraduate programs are not offered. UGA's programs are among the oldest and by far the largest landscape architecture programs in the country.
- ▶ Fifteen *Medical College of Georgia* physicians were included in the fifth edition of *America's Top Doctors*, an annual reference guide representing the top 1 percent of physicians in the nation within every medical specialty. The doctors – many of whom have been on this prestigious list for the past three years – were selected for their excellence in patient care and expertise in their discipline. Another guide compiled through a peer-review-based evaluation of the medical profession, *Best Doctors in America*, listed no fewer than 78 MCG physicians in its 2005-2006 edition. "Best Doctors" included more than 33,000 U.S. physicians, representing the top 3 to 5 percent of physicians in the country.
- ▶ During the month of December, the website maintained by Columbia University's Atlanta alumni club spotlighted a club member well known to the University System. **Dr. Beheruz Sethna**, president of the *University of West Georgia*, earned two degrees from Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; a master of philosophy degree in 1975 and a doctorate in business and marketing in 1976. Answering a question on how he spends his free time for the website's profile, Sethna quipped about the UWG presidency, "You're kidding, right? This is a 24-7-31-12 job!"
- ▶ **Scott Routsong**, children's services coordinator for the Three Rivers Regional Library in Brunswick, was one of 27 librarians in the nation selected recently from among 1,200 nominees to receive *The New York Times* Librarian Awards. This is the fifth year the newspaper has honored the contributions of librarians by awarding those it recognizes with a check for \$2,500 and a plaque.
- ▶ **Dr. Richard Sutton**, director of the University System's Office of International Programs, was one of five administrators in international education selected recently to receive a Fulbright Award to participate in the Japan-United States Educational Commission's International Education Administrators Program. The grant enabled Sutton and the other administrators to spend three weeks traveling in Japan, where they visited a variety of universities, high schools and organizations involved in international education. The educators met with university presidents, faculty and administrators, Japanese and foreign students, as well as with Japanese and American Fulbright scholars, to achieve a better understanding of Japan's educational system.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corlis P. Cummings".

Corlis P. Cummings
Interim Chancellor