



USG Chancellor  
Erroll B. Davis Jr.



Hello.

I am pleased to share with you some fine examples of the value that University System of Georgia faculty, staff, administration, students and alumni add to the communities and the professional organizations they serve, as well as on other populations in need:


- ▶ Two *University of Georgia* College of Education alumni, both of whom work in Gwinnett County schools, deserve recognition for their work. **Kelly Cowart**, who obtained a specialist in education degree from UGA in 2006, is a school counselor for kindergarten and first grade students at Meadowcreek Elementary School. Cowart is credited with having developed a KinderCamp program to prepare incoming kindergartners and their parents for school. **Brent Henderson**, who obtained a master of education degree from UGA in 2002 and a specialist in education degree in 2004, is chair of the counseling department at Norcross High School. He is credited with having streamlined the registration process for new students at the high school and developing numerous ways to better serve the school's diverse student body and support the staff through innovative guidance programs and services. The Georgia School Counselors Association has honored Cowart and Henderson last week with 2007 Georgia Counselors of the Year awards.
- ▶ Officials at *Albany State University* have been working hard on improving ASU's graduation and retention rates, and these extra efforts are paying off. The historically black university now claims the second highest institutional graduation and retention rates among Georgia's 13 state universities. ASU's retention rate – which improved nearly three percentage points to 79.9 percent during the most recent year tracked – is the fourth highest in the University System overall. The university's graduation rate ranks fifth in the System overall.
- ▶ *Georgia Tech* has launched a new program designed to help Georgia students from families with an annual income of less than \$30,000 to earn college degrees debt free. Known as the Tech Promise, this is the first program of its kind in the University System of Georgia. Picking up where the HOPE scholarship and other financial aid options leave off, the Tech Promise will provide customized assistance to each applicant, including scholarships, grants and job opportunities, allowing students to attend Georgia Tech without the burden of student loan debt. Funded through private donations and supported in its initial stages by the Georgia Tech Foundation, the Tech Promise is expected to make a Georgia Tech education accessible to hundreds of economically disadvantaged students. For more information, visit the program's website at [www.promise.gatech.edu](http://www.promise.gatech.edu)
- ▶ The *Columbus State University* Archives excels in preserving and providing the public with access to historical and cultural materials related to the university, the city of Columbus and the surrounding Chattahoochee Valley, according to the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. The board recently honored the CSU Archives with its 2006 Outstanding Archives Award for Excellence in Archival Program Development, citing its outreach services and cooperation with other agencies, organizations and institutions, as well as its advocacy of the need to compile and preserve historical records.
- ▶ A group of 27 students from the Leonard Leadership Scholars Program in the *University of Georgia's* Terry College of Business commemorated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by spending the three-day weekend assisting New Orleans resi-

dents in their ongoing recovery from Hurricane Katrina. “We conceived the trip as a service retreat, viewing it as an opportunity to both serve and reinforce our experiences in the Leadership Scholars Program,” said **Courtney Doran**, a senior marketing and public relations major and Leadership Scholar who helped organize the New Orleans trip. “After almost two years of studying leadership, developing our skills, and defining our personal goals, we are looking forward to ‘walking the talk.’” Doran noted that two of the Leadership Scholars had family members in the region who were severely affected by Katrina. The group’s activities over the weekend ranged from gutting condemned houses to painting schools.

- ▶ Thanks to a longstanding partnership between *Coastal Georgia Community College* and the Southeast Georgia Health System, current and future students in CGCC’s radiologic science program will graduate with more hands-on lab experience than they have ever had before. Southeast Georgia Health System donated to CGCC a new digital radiography machine valued at \$83,000. The technology employed by the new equipment allows students to view the x-rays they take much more quickly and efficiently than can be done in processing traditional x-ray film. The acquisition of the machine is helping CGCC to educate students to enter the workforce in the radiologic technology field.

Please join me in commending the USG leaders mentioned above on the important work they are doing, work that is helping the University System of Georgia to meet the needs and transform the lives of Georgians.

Sincerely,



Erroll B. Davis Jr.  
Chancellor