



USG Chancellor
Erroll B. Davis Jr.

Hello.

Once again, I offer for your review a selection of the many fine awards, honors and accolades earned recently by University System of Georgia faculty, staff, administration, students and alumni:



- ▶ **Georgia Tech** Emeritus Professor **Stephen L. Dickerson** and his wife, Jane, have provided \$1.5 million to create the first endowed chair to reside in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), pending final approval from the Board of Regents. The chair, which would be named the Frederick R. Dickerson Chair in honor of Dickerson's late father, is intended to serve as the foundation for major CEE research and education efforts in urban transportation systems, particularly the application of advanced communications and computing to facilitate congestion reduction and energy efficiency. The chair's research will help alleviate traffic and air pollution through real-time communications and data processing that enhances public transit, ride-sharing systems and car rentals. Although officially retired, Dickerson remains an active researcher.
- ▶ *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* recently ranked the **University of Georgia** (UGA) 13th in the nation for doctoral degrees conferred on African-American students. Enrollment of African-American graduate students at UGA increased 10 percent from Fall 2004 to Fall 2005, and minority enrollment in general grew 1.5 percent during the same time span, according to UGA.
- ▶ **Darton College** was one of 16 "Campus Technology Innovators" selected from among 480 nominees to be featured in the August issue of the monthly publication *Campus Technology*. The magazine, which focuses on the use of technology across all areas of higher education, recognized Darton College for using true 3-D stereoscopic technology to bring human organs to life, allowing students equipped with either polarizing glasses or LCD shutter glasses to view an image of a beating heart from multiple angles or even dissected slices. These graphics can be viewed both in the classroom and on computers, allowing students to see anatomical relationships never before possible.
- ▶ **Steven Harrison**, who has chaired the Department of Medical Illustration at the **Medical College of Georgia** (MCG) for the past 13 years, has been selected to receive the 2006 Award for Excellence in Education from the Association of Medical Illustrators. The award recognizes Harrison's educational contributions to the profession and is the highest educational achievement award given in medical illustration. Harrison earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in medical illustration from MCG and is pursuing a Ph.D. in art education at UGA. He is a member of the Association of Medical Illustrators, the BioCommunications Association, the Vesalious Trust for Visual Communications in the Health Sciences and Alpha Eta National Allied Health Honor Society.
- ▶ **Sandra Bunn**, coordinator of **Coastal Georgia Community College's** (CGCC) Tech Prep Consortium, recently was chosen as the 2006 Georgia Guidance Counselor and Technical Educator of the Year by the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Association of Career and Technical Educators. Bunn was selected for this award over all other Georgia high school technical and career guidance counselors.
- ▶ An **Albany State University** (ASU) professor has received a \$350,000-plus Department of Defense grant to determine whether high-tech nanoparticles can be used to detect deadly chemical warfare agents invisible to the naked eye. **Dr. Seong S. Seo**, an assistant professor of chemistry in the Department of Natural Sciences, is putting together a three-person team to design and develop new chemical sensors of nerve agents and organophosphorous compounds, using nanoparticles – microscopic motes that are measured to the billionth of a meter. Nanotechnology, the building of extremely small machines, is an emerging science, and Seo says not much research has been done at this point on using it to combat chemical warfare agents.

- ▶ **University of Georgia** Ph.D. candidate **Laura Jen Shaffer**, a former high-school teacher of environmental science and biology, has received a Fulbright research scholarship to work on her dissertation in ecological and environmental anthropology in Mozambique during the 2006-2007 academic year. Shaffer, a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology, will be investigating the regional impact of wild-plant consumption by the Ronga, a group that has occupied the coastal savannah of southern Mozambique for at least 500 years. She is the sixth UGA student to receive a Fulbright scholarship this year.
- ▶ Two University System of Georgia graduates are among 77 students selected from 1,100 applicants nationwide to receive Jack Kent Cook Foundation Graduate scholarships this year. Created in 2000 to give college students with outstanding potential the financial means to achieve their dreams by continuing their studies, the scholarships are among the most generous academic awards offered in this country. They cover tuition, room, board, fees and books – up to \$50,000 annually – for up to six years. **Teresa L. Velzy Bowers**, who graduated from **North Georgia College & State University** in August, will use her scholarship to pursue a dual master's degree in nursing with a focus on gerontology and a master's in public health in behavioral sciences at Emory University. She intends to specialize in geriatrics and to focus on Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. **Westin M. Amberge**, an honors graduate of **UGA** who received bachelor's degrees in microbiology and cellular biology in May, worked in the laboratory of **Dr. Steve Stice**, a noted biomedical cloning researcher and director of UGA's Regenerative Bioscience Center. Amberge will use his scholarship to pursue graduate studies at the University of Chicago, and intends to focus on the global healthcare crisis when he becomes a doctor.
- ▶ Five graduate students from the Department of Real Estate at **Georgia State University's** (GSU) J. Mack Robinson College of Business received the Silver Shovel award and \$5,000 in scholarship money at the 13th Annual National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) Georgia School Challenge. Each year, this national competition attracts teams from each state's major universities. In Georgia, GSU's competition consists of Emory University, **Georgia Tech**, **Kennesaw State University** and the **University of Georgia**. This year, teams were asked to identify and develop a real estate investment opportunity near the proposed Beltline railway. Robinson students **Amy Curry**, **Gina Corey**, **Michael Sauer**, **Vivek Sah**, and **Reginald Mackey** impressed the judges with a proposal for a mixed-use property located on the west side of Midtown. The project, Waterworks Lofts, consisted of two high-rise buildings offering residential and commercial spaces overlooking a lake. The property included easy access to entertainment venues and major highways, a view of the Atlanta skyline and competitively priced units.

Before I close, I want to tell you about a unique pilot program that is furthering our goal to "Create A More Educated Georgia." **Albany State University** and Albany Technical College have signed an agreement with the state Department of Corrections to provide teachers and college-level courses for the guards at four Southwest Georgia prisons. Prison guards who earn college degrees will qualify for bonuses. Corrections officials know that better-educated guards are better equipped to handle prisoners and the stress of their jobs.

Please join me in congratulating the USG leaders mentioned above on the national and international recognition they have received.

Sincerely,



Erroll B. Davis Jr.
Chancellor