

Letter from the Interim Chancellor

October 2005



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
"Creating a More Educated Georgia"



Interim Chancellor
Corlis P. Cummings

Hello:

As interim chancellor, I intend to continue to call your attention to the best of the many outstanding achievements of the University System's faculty, staff, students and alumni. Here are some excellent examples of how hard work and dedication do pay off:



➤ First, I want to add my heartfelt thanks to the two immediate past presidents of USG campuses who are being honored by the Board of Regents this month for their outstanding service to the University System of Georgia. **Dr. Jacquelyn M. Belcher** of *Georgia Perimeter College*

and **Dr. Portia H. Shields** of *Albany State University* continue to make headlines, despite having stepped down earlier this year – they each have earned national recognition. The American Council on Education's Center of Racial and Ethnic Equality gave Belcher a Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award during a national conference on improving minority participation in higher education last week in Phoenix, Ariz. Shields will be a guest of honor next month at an awards dinner in New York hosted by the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, where she'll accept the fund's Educational Leadership Award for having furthered the transformation of youth into future leaders.

- **Dr. Granville Wrensford**, associate vice president of research and sponsored programs at *Albany State University*, was honored as a national role model among faculty mentors during a Minority Access National Faculty Mentor Role Model awards program last month in Las Vegas. Wrensford started a seminar series for all Albany State science, technology, engineering and mathematics students. He also initiated the university's Health Careers Opportunity Program, the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program, and the Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy.
- **Dr. Edmond F. Ritter**, plastic and reconstructive surgeon at the *Medical College of Georgia*, has had his contributions to academic medicine recognized in the Congressional Record of the 109th U.S. Congress. U.S. Rep. Edolphus "Ed" Towns, a member of the congressional Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, recognized Ritter for his expertise in reconstructive microsurgery, his role in training more than 30 plastic and reconstructive surgeons and his research to better understand tumor biology.
- **Antonio Roberto Vieira**, a candidate for the Master of Public Health at the *University of Georgia*, received one of only seven fellowships worldwide known as the Marie Curie Host Fellowship for Early Stage Research Training. Vieira is scheduled to graduate from UGA's College of Public Health in December and already holds a doctor of veterinary medicine degree. The fellowship will enable him to complete a Ph.D. in epidemiology at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The National Institutes of Health have awarded **Jason Davidow**, a fourth-year doctoral student in the *University of Georgia's* College of Education, a two-year, \$41,000 grant to fund research on understanding and treating stuttering. Davidow, who along with his brother has had to overcome stuttering, wants to help others avoid the problems this speech impediment have caused him.
- For the third consecutive year, the *University of West Georgia* has been named a "Best Southeastern College" in *The Princeton Review's* guidebook to the 100 best colleges in each region. UWG also made *The Princeton Review's* guide to "America's Best Value Colleges" in the Southeast, which includes tuition, financial aid awards and the level of student satisfaction among its criteria.

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

Sincerely,

Corlis P. Cummings
Interim Chancellor