



USG Chancellor
Erroll B. Davis Jr.



Hello.

I am pleased to share with you some examples of the many impressive awards, honors and accolades earned recently by University System of Georgia faculty, staff, administration, students and alumni:

- ▶ **North Georgia College & State University** recently received a high-profile boost of attention when the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ran a feature on "FROG Week," the university's grueling biannual six-day boot camp for new cadets. More than 270 graduated from the Army-style freshman orientation in August. Many of the upperclassmen that led this year's program are veterans of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 50 student veterans returned to campus this fall after serving a year in Iraq. That, along with the unique status within higher education held by NGCSU as one of only six four-year senior military colleges in the nation, helped attract the *Chronicle's* attention. The 670 ROTC cadets make up a minority of the university's 4,800 students, yet the institution's culture includes a strong military tradition. *Chronicle* reporter Kelly Field spent two days living and training with the new recruits in the Freshman Recruit Orientation Group (FROG) program. Her story, "Hooah! Freshman Orientation, With Blisters," and photographs of were published on Sept. 29 under "Notes from Academe." The article may be accessed at <http://chronicle.com/temp/reprint.php?id=zq9w539vjnn0xc7dstjlm0y2g5xp3rs2>
- ▶ **Georgia Tech** has been chosen by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to house a \$10 million nanomedicine lab for researching the inner mechanics of the human cell. This is just the latest step in the cutting-edge work in this field being done by Georgia Tech in collaboration with Emory University – the two institutions already have received funding for an \$11.5 million nanocardiology lab and a \$19 million nanocancer center. When the new lab is built, Tech and Emory will have the only program in the nation with three nanomedicine centers. The lab will be headed by **Dr. Gang Bao**, a Georgia Tech biomedical engineer, and **Dr. William Dynan**, an Eminent Scholar in molecular biology at the **Medical College of Georgia**. Georgia Tech was one of just eight U.S. universities to receive awards under the NIH Nanomedicine Roadmap Initiative, which seeks to increase understanding of the inner workings of human cells with the goal of being able to intervene when malfunctions occur.
- ▶ A new study of biotechnology transfer conducted by the Milken Institute has named **Georgia Tech** one of the leading universities in the world for technology transfer – bringing technologies from the lab to the market. Tech ranked No. 4 for start-up companies, No. 8 for patents filed, No. 9 in patents issued in 2005, and No. 11 overall for technology transfer in "Mind to Market: A Global Analysis of University Biotechnology Transfer and Commercialization." The study also ranked Atlanta No. 9 among top metro areas in the United States for technology transfer. Technology developed at Georgia Tech – which partnered with Emory University in 1997 to form an interdisciplinary Department of Biomedical Engineering – has resulted in the creation of more than 50 companies since 1990.
- ▶ The **Medical College of Georgia (MCG) Health System** is one of three Georgia hospitals recently named to the Community Value Index Top 100 by Ohio-based Cleverley and Associates, a leading health-care financial consulting firm specializing in operational benchmarking and performance enhancement strategies. The CV Index measures how a hospital rates in the areas of financial strength and reinvestment, cost of care, and pricing. According to the index, a hospital adds value to the community it serves when it is financially viable, appropriately reinvests in itself, maintains a low-cost structure and has reasonable charges. "This award lets us know that we have succeeded in adding value to this community, despite a challenging financial climate," said **Don Snell**, president and CEO of MCG Health Inc.

- ▶ Two campus police officers from the *University of Georgia* (UGA) were recognized for their heroism last month at the 2006 Governor's Public Safety Awards. **Gov. Sonny Perdue** saluted Police Cpl. **Derrick Gregory** and Officer **James Simmons** for their actions on Dec. 3, 2005, when they risked their personal safety to alert occupants of UGA's Tau Epsilon fraternity house to a fire in the building. As a result, all the building's occupants were evacuated safely.
- ▶ *Seaswells*, *Coastal Georgia Community College's* literary and creative-arts magazine, won the Small College Award in the Community College Humanities Association's (CCHA) Southern Division Literary Magazine Competition. Each year, Coastal Georgia enters *Seaswells* in this competition and another sponsored by the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA). Since 1994, *Seaswells* has been named the latter group's Most Outstanding College/Community College Literary/Art Magazine in the country six times. In 2004, CCHA awarded the magazine third place in the South. At that time, all colleges competed against each other, regardless of size, and Miami-Dade Community College – with an enrollment of 37,000 students – claimed first place.
- ▶ Two University System of Georgia faculty members made *Georgia Trend* magazine's 2006 "40 Under 40" feature, which presents 40 individuals under 40 years of age "who will lead our state's commercial, cultural, academic and governmental institutions into the future. **Dr. Raheem Beyah** was the first African-American tenure-track professor in *Georgia State University's* Computer Science Department. Now 29, he was only 26 when he earned his doctorate in engineering from *Georgia Tech*, where he also is an adjunct assistant professor, managing industry research projects in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Beyah is involved in the "Faces of Science: African Americans in the Sciences" program, a national initiative to increase the presence of underrepresented minorities in science and engineering. **Ontario Wooden** is, at 28, the youngest faculty member and administrator at *Albany State University* (ASU), where he is an associate professor of education and director of the Velma F. Grant Honors Program and Academic Success Initiative. He is charged with nurturing ASU's brightest students, particularly the freshmen and sophomores. With his mentoring over the past two years, ASU students have completed internships at Princeton University and the University of California at Los Angeles and gone on to graduate work at Johns Hopkins University.
- ▶ *Kennesaw State University's* Center for International Training in Continuing Education was selected from among 12 nominees to win the 2006 Governor's International Award in the category of international education. The award honors the importance of education to the growth of international business in the state. Kennesaw State was selected for the creativity and unique application of the Center for International Training's programming.

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

Sincerely,



Erroll B. Davis Jr.
Chancellor