

System Supplement

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“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

Willis Potts Elected Chair of Board of Regents; Felton Jenkins to Serve as Vice Chair for FY 2011

At its June meeting, the Board of Regents elected Regent **Willis J. Potts Jr.** to a one-year term as the board's chair and Regent **Felton Jenkins** to a one-year term as the board's vice chair. They will hold these offices from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.

Potts, who lives in Rome, Ga., was appointed to the 18-member governing body for the University System of Georgia by Gov. Sonny Perdue in March 2006 to represent the eleventh Congressional district. Perdue had appointed Jenkins, a resident of Madison, to the board two months earlier to serve in an at-large capacity.

“I am honored that the board has chosen me as its leader,” Potts said. “These are extremely challenging times for public higher education, and although this board already has countless accomplishments of which to boast, much work remains to be done. I look forward to the task.”

Regent **Doreen Stiles Poitevint** chaired the committee that developed nominations for board officers for the coming year. Committee members were regents

W. Mansfield Jennings Jr. and **Kessel D. Stelling Jr.**

Willis J. Potts Jr.

Potts retired in June 2004 as the Vice President and General Manager of Temple-Inland Corporation, based in Rome, following a 35-year career in the international pulp and paper industry. He began his career as an engineer at the Union Camp Corporation's Savannah pulp and paper mill in 1969.

Over the course of his career, Potts served as chairman of the Paper Industry Management Association and chairman of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, both international in scope.

Potts also is active with the Floyd County March of Dimes, Mercy Senior Care in Rome, the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce; and, the mentoring program Communities In Schools (Rome-Floyd).

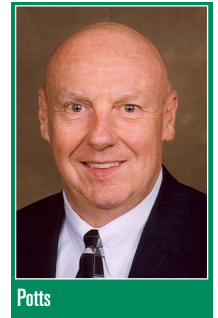
Potts earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering with highest honors from the *Georgia*

Institute of Technology and completed the University of Virginia's Executive Program. In 2008, he was named to Georgia Tech's Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni and, in 2009, he received the Dean Griffin Community Service Award from Georgia Tech's Alumni Association.

Felton Jenkins

Jenkins, who just completed a term as vice chair of the University System of Georgia Foundation, is a retired partner with the law firm of King & Spalding, where he served as co-chair of the firm's Litigation Section.

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Potts



Jenkins

Regents Revise Governance Among MCG, Teaching Hospitals, Physicians Group

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) approved at its June meeting a new governance structure for the **Medical College of Georgia** (MCG) and its associated hospitals, clinics and physicians in Augusta.

The new structure took effect on July 1 with the formal signing of documents at MCG by Gov. Sonny Perdue, Board Chair **Willis Potts**, Chancellor **Erroll B. Davis Jr.** and other officials.

This new structure is set forth in 16 documents approved by the regents and related MCG organizations. It will take effect on July 1, 2010, and supersedes the current governance structure

adopted by the board in 1998.

Out of the board's actions, a new, private, non-profit tax-exempt corporation, named MCG Health System, Inc. (MCGHS) will be formed. This new corporation will provide governance for MCG, MCG Health, Inc. (MCGHI), which is the corporate entity for the hospitals and clinics, and the Medical College of Georgia Physicians Practice Group Foundation (PPG).

As part of the new structure, the president of MCG will serve as the chairman and CEO of MCGHS, as well as the chairman of the existing MCGHI board. The president/CEO of MCGHI will report to the MCG president in the MCG president's

role as chairman of MCGHI.

“Our intent is to strengthen the accountability for and the governance of the entire MCG operation through a more coordinated approach,” said Regent **Felton Jenkins**, who chaired a study of the existing governance structure through the work of a special MCG Governance Subcommittee. “This new structure achieves this goal and will enhance the ability of all parties to provide improved and more efficient clinical and educational services.”

The new bylaws call for the creation of a 16-member board of directors for MCGHS. The board

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National Immigration Debate Within USG

Residency Verification of Citizenship for In-State Tuition Under Review

The issue of residency verification of students attending USG institutions has come to the forefront this summer, sparked by the case of an undocumented student at Kennesaw State University who had received in-state tuition.

While the situation of the KSU student has been resolved in terms of the reclassification of the student as a non-Georgia resident for tuition purposes, there have been additional questions asked regarding the USG's overall policies on the verification of information provided by applicants and the status and numbers of undocumented students enrolled in the USG.

"At issue for many in the public is the admission of undocumented students," noted **Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.** "This is not just a Georgia, but a national issue."

But the residency verification issue for the USG is larger than undocumented students and must include the entire USG student population, said Davis.

As a result, immediate past Chairman **Robert F. Hatcher** announced in June the formation of a new Residency Verification Committee, charged with a review of the residency verification processes for all (current and incoming) USG students, regardless of immigration status. Regent **James R. Jolly** chairs

the committee. (See sidebar for committee membership).

"We must ensure that all students – whether a legal resident or not – have been classified correctly for purposes of tuition," said Hatcher.

The committee is expected to provide an interim report to the full board at the August meeting and a final report with any recommendations in October. It held its initial meeting on June 21 and a second meeting on July 13 at Georgia Tech.

Part of the committee's work will be informed by efforts currently underway at all 35 campuses to check the residency verification status of all students. Both a May 26 memo by Davis and a Board directive approved at the regents' June meeting instructed USG presidents to conduct this review.

At the same meeting, the regents also acted to amend board policy to formally prohibit the award of tuition differential waivers to any student unlawfully present in the United States. This new board policy supports and affirms the chancellor's 2006 directive to USG presidents.

Current Law

The University System follows current federal and state laws, which allows for undocumented individuals to be enrolled, if academically quali-

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Special Committee on Residency Verification

Regent James R. Jolly chairs the Special Committee on Residency Verification. Other members include regents **Larry R. Ellis**, **Felton Jenkins**, **William "Dink" NeSmith Jr.**, and **Larry Walker**.

Assisting the committee are four USG presidents: **Dr. Mark Becker** (*Georgia State University*), **Dr. Virginia Carson** (*South Georgia College*), **Dr. Martha Nesbitt** (*Gainesville State College*), and **Dr. Lisa Rossbacher** (*Southern Polytechnic State University*) and from the University System Office staff: **John Fuchko**, chief audit officer; **Burns Newsome**, vice chancellor, Legal Affairs and secretary to the board; **Amanda Seals**, executive director for Government Affairs; and **Mendi Spencer**, chief of staff for Academic Affairs.

Board Officers

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He has served as chair of the Georgia Justice Project and as president of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Cancer Society and the Morgan County Foundation. Jenkins also has served on the Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority, the Georgia Appellate Judicial Selection Commission, the Georgia Judicial Process Review Commission and the Georgia Joint Study Commission on Revenue Structure.

Jenkins earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the *University of Georgia*, where he was chair of the Law School's Board of Visitors and secretary of the University of Georgia Foundation. He is a Life Fellow of both the American Bar Foundation and the State Bar of Georgia. 🏡

MCG Governance

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will contain four directors who are currently members of the Board of Regents (Regents **W. Mansfield Jennings Jr.**, **Larry R. Ellis**, **William "Dink" NeSmith Jr.** and **C. Thomas Hopkins Jr.**), the USG chancellor, the MCG president, the MCG dean of the School of Medicine, the president/CEO of MCGHI, either the chair or the president of PPG, three directors selected by the Governor of Georgia, three directors nominated by the MCGHS chair, as well as a MCG faculty member nominated by the university faculty senate (a non-voting member).

Through a joint operating agreement, also approved at the June meeting of the Board of Regents, MCG, MCGHI and PPG will coordinate strategic planning and direction of the clinical and

educational activities of the broader MCG enterprise, including shared services, capital expenditures and budgetary planning.

Other agreements will govern financial, technical arrangements, clinical, educational and research services, general business services, and personnel agreements among the various parties.

The regents first activated MCGHI in 2000 as a response to the emerging challenges confronting academic medical centers in a rapidly changing healthcare industry. This original governance structure provided the board with a flexible management structure for MCG's clinical operations and was critical in ensuring the long-term economic viability of the hospitals and clinics that support MCG's teaching mission. 🏡

USG Digest

■ Georgia State University has received a \$1.6 million federal grant to launch the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

The grant, in part funded by the Department of Education, was one of three new awards authorized by the federal government in this cycle, bringing the total number of CIBERs in the U.S. to 34.

Created by the U.S. Congress in 1988, these international business centers typically form powerful networks focused on improving U.S. competitiveness and provide services and programs that help businesses succeed in global markets.

CIBER represents a milestone for GSU's evolution, said Tamer Cavusgil, director of the Institute of International Business and the Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair, who proposes 63 projects during the four-year grant cycle.

"This goes a long way towards enhancing our national and international reputation," said Cavusgil. "We are excited about the interdisciplinary collaboration the designation will trigger."

The projects include seven strategic areas, including focused activities for teaching the core international business course, a regional higher education consortium for teaching pedagogy, dissemination of emerging market knowledge and less-commonly taught languages.

■ Augusta State captured the first National Championship in school history when the Jaguars men's golf team took down Oklahoma State 3-1-1 in the championship match of the NCAA Championships just outside Chattanooga on June 6.

The national title is the first for the Jaguars in any of its 11 university-sponsored, varsity sports. With this victory, ASU defeated the No. 3 seed (Georgia Tech), the No. 2 seed (Florida State) and the No. 1 seed (Oklahoma State).

"It means everything. It is a dream come true," said Jaguar head coach Josh Gregory. "It has validated the success of the coaches (that came) before me and the players before them. I can promise you that there is no university or golf program that will appreciate a national championship as much as Augusta State. College golf means something to Augusta, Ga." 🏌️

ON CAMPUS

Healthcare System, Hospital Invest \$1M in Columbus State School of Nursing



Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. speaks at the announcement of the new nursing partnership.

In a partnership that will ultimately raise the level of health care in the region, **Columbus State University** (CSU) announced in May that St. Francis Hospital and Columbus Regional Healthcare System have together pledged \$1 million to CSU's School of Nursing.

The investment – the most ever received by CSU's nursing program – will help increase the number of nurses with a bachelor's degree. It also will support a new, higher level of nurse education: the master's of science in nursing, a degree that will help area hospitals by producing highly qualified nurses prepared to be effective managers, supervisors or nurse educators.

"Through this partnership for nursing excellence, we will be able to expand

the number of quality nursing professionals for this region, and raise the level of distinction for our programs," said Columbus State President **Tim Mescon**.

"Because of this arrangement between Columbus Regional and St. Francis hospital, we also are, once again, showing the power of public/private partnerships. I would like to thank Columbus Regional CEO Larry Sanders and St. Francis CEO Robert

Granger for their willingness to come together in support of Columbus State University and the betterment of healthcare throughout this region," said Mescon.

The pledge will be paid out over five years and shared equally by both hospitals. Specifically, the support will:

- Maintain the expanding numbers of pre-licensure enrollment in the university's Bachelor's of Science program.
- Increase the numbers of nursing students and graduates.
- Help create a new online, flexible program for nurses with an RN who

See "*Columbus*," Page 4 ...

UGA Education Professor's Math Program Named Among Top 5 in the Nation

A **University of Georgia** education professor's program to improve the mathematics and technology skills of Georgia educators who teach students from special populations has been selected as one of the top five projects in the nation funded by an Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) grant.

Karen Jones, a professor in the College of Education's department of workforce education, leadership, and social foundations, developed the Mathematics and Technology Happen Today program to study whether participation in computer-based math programs would improve work-related math skills of students from special populations.

The program was based on the concept that although every student needs to master challenging mathematics, students from special populations may not be able to meet

national and state mathematics standards.

The idea was to show these students how the math they learn in the classroom is applied to real-world scenarios. This program helps them to see the relevance of what they are learning, while also answering the call from employers to increase the work-based skills of the community's high school graduates, said Jones.

Locating and integrating a computer-based mathematics program into career and technical education programs can offer short-term benefits in relation to retention of course content, as well as long-term work-related employability, she said.

The study showed that students from special populations respond well to nontraditional methods of

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Columbus State

Continued from Page 3...

want to earn a bachelor's degree.

- Establish a master's of science degree in nursing, perfect for managers, supervisors or nurse educators.

"We are very glad we can come together to support this program," said Robert Granger, president and CEO of St. Francis Hospital. "We consider this an investment for our hospital, to ensure we have the best professional nurses to fill our future patient care needs."

Columbus Regional Healthcare System's chairman and CEO Larry Sanders also expressed support.

"We are delighted to make this investment in the CSU nursing program because it truly is an investment in the health of our community and our region," Sanders said. "The challenges of developing and maintaining a pool of highly qualified clinical professionals for our hospitals and other facilities are well documented. The partnership announced here today will ensure our community benefits from a steady supply of accomplished and well-trained nurses for generations to come." 🏡

Math Program Top 5

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instruction. Results showed that upper-class special education males and ninth grade at-risk females had the largest increase in mathematics understanding. Reports from teachers revealed that students with limited English proficiency also benefited from the use of a computer-based program when learning work-related mathematics.

The M.A.T.H. Today project was a three-year study funded by an ITQ grant through No Child Left Behind. The grant program provides Georgia with nearly \$2 million each year to support professional development for teachers in science, mathematics, language arts and social studies. M.A.T.H. Today was selected as one of the top five ITQ projects by the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE).

Jones has spent most of her 25-year career as a UGA faculty member studying teacher education, teacher effectiveness, use and effectiveness of paraprofessionals in career and technical educational settings for students who have special needs. Much of her scholarly

Residency

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fied. Such students cannot receive any federal or state benefits. In-state tuition, which is subsidized by the state, is such a benefit, and thus undocumented students must pay out-of-state tuition, which is set at least at the full cost of instruction.

A 2008 letter from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to the attorney general of North Carolina spells out the accepted interpretation of current law: "Admission to public post-secondary educational institutions is not one of the benefits regulated by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 and is not a public benefit under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996."

All 50 states and the District of Columbia follow this interpretation. Eleven states have acted by statute to provide in state tuition for undocumented students and one state (South Carolina) has acted by statute to bar undocumented students from admission to public colleges and universities. The remaining states, like Georgia, allow admission, but bar any benefits, including in-state tuition. 🏡

activities have been interdisciplinary, combining efforts from vocational education and special education.

She helped write numerous guides and handbooks that are used by special needs coordinators throughout the state, including The Georgia Intervention Guide, a handbook for vocational academic coordinators to use with students who are at risk for failing or dropping out of school, first published for the Georgia Department of Education in 1997 and revised in 2004.

She was named the National Outstanding Career and Technical Educator for 2005 by the ACTE. 🏡



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