

## Wilson wins teaching award for third time



Dr. Liz Wilson

Liz Wilson, Ph.D., PHR, professor in the School of Business Administration, has won the

Excellence and Commitment to Teaching Award from the graduating class of 2003. The honor was presented at the 2003 commencement exercises in May.

Wilson previously won this award in 1993 and 1995.

"I view this as confirmation of why I started teaching," Wilson said. "Nothing means more to me than a student who comes back and says 'Thank you, you taught me something.' It is a very humbling experience."

Wilson said she values that interaction, and strives to give students the personal attention they need. "I take my commitment to our 'caring community of learning' very seriously," she said.

The criteria for the teaching award, which includes a \$1,000 stipend from the Alumni Association, encompasses the faculty member's quality of classroom teaching and performance, dedication to the profession and his or her impact on students through the teaching and learning process.

Wilson holds her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, and her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has been on faculty at GSW since 1991.

# Batson appointed to chief development position with Camp Coca-Cola Foundation

Steve W. Batson, Ed.D., vice president for University Relations, has accepted the chief development position with the Camp Coca-Cola Foundation, effective in November.

"This is a wonderful career opportunity and I am truly honored to be chosen for this new challenge," Batson said. "The difficult part of my decision was to leave my hard-working staff and our outstanding President at a time when the University is making great progress in the advancement area. GSW is a unique institution with a solid history and an exciting future. I will certainly continue to support its programs however I can in my new position."

"We have been fortunate to have Dr. Batson as a member of the University community," said GSW President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. "With limited resources and a small number of dedicated staff, he has created an effective public relations and advancement operation at Georgia Southwestern. We offer our best wishes as he tackles a new set of challenges."

"President Hanes has been extremely supportive of me and my involvement with national and international professional fundraising organizations," Batson added. "He is a president who truly understands fundraising and public relations. This has made my job much easier."

"I look forward to hearing about the



Dr. Steve Batson

success of the next few years, especially the centennial celebration in 2006 and the year-long calendar of events," Batson added. "GSW is a strong part of this community and will continue to be for at least another hundred years."

Camp Coca-Cola is a new program founded on the concepts of positive youth development. Working closely with local

schools, youth organizations and community leaders, Camp Coca-Cola provides opportunities for young people to discover and explore their interests, values and talents.

Batson's career in education spans 33 years, 24 of those in higher education administration and fundraising. He is immediate past chair of the Board for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), an international organization that represents 26,000 members in 167 chapters throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs.

A Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), Batson has served as vice president of university relations at GSW since 1997. His wife, Kathy, works as compensation manager for Habitat for Humanity International, having earned her MBA from GSW in 2003. The Batsons are also members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



**International Experience—**Members of a GSW team battle river rapids during a summer trip to Costa Rica. In May, 15 students and four professors spent 11 days volunteering in a Habitat for Humanity building project and exploring the country. Participating students were enrolled in a spring semester course that highlighted the culture, language and geology of Costa Rica.

Photo courtesy Nathan Crenshaw

# Community signals support as GSW launches new academic year

Blue and gold yard signs popping up throughout the Americus community in August were one visible way local citizens and businesses demonstrated support for their hometown university.

The City of Americus and the Americus Sumter County Chamber of Commerce issued proclamations declaring Aug. 11-15 as “We Support Georgia Southwestern State University Week.” Faculty returned and joined staff for “Planning Week” during that time, in preparation for the Fall Semester that began Aug. 19.

“Georgia Southwestern is proud of its nearly 100-year history in this community, and pleased with the ongoing support from alumni, friends and neighbors throughout this area,” said President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. “Our faculty, staff and students are full partners in the future of Americus and Sumter County. We’re excited about what’s to come.”

“University expansion and beautification continues to enhance not only the campus ‘caring community of learning,’ but also to enrich Americus and Sumter County,” said Steve W. Batson, Ed.D., vice president for University Relations. “Construction of a \$22 million Student Success Center, a \$3.2 million renovation of Crawford Wheatley Hall, a \$2.7 million renovation of Jackson Hall and nearly \$1 million in other campus beautification are just some of the projects adding value to the institution and the surrounding community.”

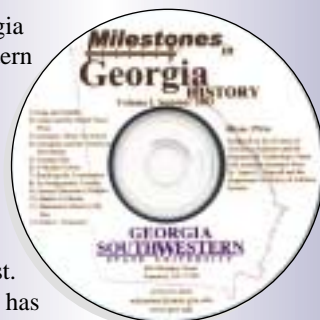
The Chamber of Commerce proclamation read, in part: “Georgia Southwestern is a cornerstone of the educational, cultural and economic life of the region. Its economic impact on the area is estimated at more than \$60.2 million, with an employment impact of 774 jobs for the community. In particular, its School of Computer and Information Sciences, School of Business Administration and Small Business Development Center are actively engaged in the economic development of the region.”



**Sign of Support**—City of Americus Chief Administrative Officer Sybil Smith (‘74) and Chamber of Commerce Chairman Paul Farr place the first “We Support GSW” sign in front of the Chamber. Citizens and local businesses displayed the yard placards as part of the community “We Support Georgia Southwestern State University Week” Aug. 11-15.

## *GSW develops, distributes educational ‘Milestones in Georgia History’ PSA’s to radio stations across the state*

Georgia Southwestern is giving radio listeners a refresher on the Peach State’s past.



GSW has produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) series dubbed “Milestones in Georgia History,” designed as an educational and informative glimpse into pivotal moments of the state’s 270-year saga.

“At Georgia Southwestern, we take our commitment to provide educational information to the state’s citizens very seriously, and view this project as a unique way to bring some interesting stories to a diverse audience,” said President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. “Our goal is to add to the knowledge base of all Georgians.”

The dozen 60-second PSA spots were researched by History Professor James E. Bagwell, Ph.D., and produced by the Division of University Relations with assistance from the university’s Instructional Technology Center. GSW has distributed the free PSA’s to 214 FM and AM radio stations across Georgia. Topics include milestones in the Civil War, the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the accomplishments of former President Jimmy Carter, and more.

GSW is surveying radio stations to gather information on usage, and seeking input from station personnel on how future installments may be formatted to better serve their programming needs.

For more information on the “Milestones in Georgia History” Radio PSA Project, including downloadable audio clips, visit [www.gsw.edu/~univrel/news/milestones.html](http://www.gsw.edu/~univrel/news/milestones.html).

## University recognizes importance of Chapman Property

GSW and community leaders gathered this summer to acknowledge a significant acquisition in the history of the institution—the 1997 purchase of the Chapman property at the University’s entrance on Simmons Drive.

The 16 acres, formerly belonging to Americus dentist Dr. Charles K. Chapman and his family, are now home to a park, and the GSW softball and soccer fields. One of the university’s three new brick entrance signs with accenting iron fence also sits on the property.

Native Sumter County resident and State Sen. George Hooks (D-Americus) helped coordinate the purchase of the land when the Chapman heirs sold it six years ago. “My basic goal was to secure this property for the university, because I felt like if we let this slip by, it would be one of the greatest property losses in the history of Georgia Southwestern,” said Hooks.

GSW President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D., echoed the land’s importance.

“Georgia Southwestern is pleased to count this prominent piece of property among its assets, and particularly grateful to Sen. Hooks for his leadership role in securing its purchase,” Hanes said. “Speaking on behalf of our students, the active support of our state delegation, including Representative Jimmy Skipper, as well as alumni and friends in the community is greatly appreciated and is important to our future success.”

Chapman lived in Americus for 87 years. He graduated from the Southern Dental College (now Emory University)



**Important Acreage**—Standing around the Chapman historical marker, left to right: Hurricane Head Softball Coach Eddie Ward; Dr. Louis Riccardi, local dentist and Psi Omega member; GSW President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D.; Tricia Flowers, softball player; Rep. Jimmy Skipper; Sen. George Hooks; Dr. Cecil Myers, local dentist and GSW alumnus; and Christie Ward, softball player.

with honors in 1890, and was a brother in the Psi Omega dental education fraternity.

The historical marker on the property reads: “The family of Dr. Charles K. Chapman occupied this park for many years. Dr. Chapman was born in Americus in 1867 and lived here until his death in 1954.”

“I’m glad the university is using the land,” said Marjorie Patrick Pollock of Leslie, granddaughter of Chapman who also grew up living on the property. “It’s a very pretty area, and Georgia Southwestern keeps it looking nice.”

## New Human Resources degree launched

The School of Business Administration is now offering a new degree designed to meet the 21st century needs of a changing work world.

The new Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree in Human Resource Management was approved in August by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, said John G. Kooti, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business Administration. The degree program updates and replaces the former BBA degree in Management with a Human Resources concentration.

“GSW is one of the few institutions in the nation to offer the BBA in Human Resource Management and we know of no other University System of Georgia institution that offers this exact program,” said John G. Kooti, Ph.D., dean

of the School of Business Administration. “The approval of the BBA in HR Management is just the latest addition to the quality business programs at GSW, as last year we added the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. We believe we are the first choice of business programs in this area.”

“This BBA degree in HR Management has been designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter Human Resource management positions such as health and safety administration, and recruiting and training for profit and not-for-profit organizations,” said Liz Wilson, Ph.D., PHR, primary professor for the HR program. “Human Resources management is such a growing and

quickly-changing field, we feel students will benefit greatly from this type of concentrated curriculum.”

Wilson said a wealth of HR issues are covered in the program, including employment law, compensation and benefits and labor relations.

“We also have a strong internship component to this program, and that’s another important factor,” Wilson said. In the past, business students have gained experience with wage and salary surveys, produced a sexual harassment training video for a local company and done other “real world” projects that involved hands-on learning, Wilson said.

Wilson said approximately 35 students are enrolled in the program.

# GSW earns SACS reaccreditation, commendation

Georgia Southwestern has earned a 10-year reaccreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). GSW's accreditation was reaffirmed at the June SACS meeting, and one commendation has been awarded.

"Nearly three years ago, the faculty, staff, and students at Georgia Southwestern began preparing for a comprehensive SACS review," said President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. "The review, which is conducted every 10 years, provided an opportunity for us to complete a comprehensive assessment of the University and to identify ways we can improve our programs and services."

The assessment included two major components—a compliance audit of GSW's performance on more than 400 criteria for accreditation and an analysis of issues critical to the future improvement of the University, Hanes said.

In November 2002, a team of 11 professional educators from other states visited campus to validate the outcomes of GSW's self-assessments and offer counsel on the future.

"This isn't the first time we've prepared for a comprehensive review, since Georgia Southwestern has been accredited by SACS for 70 years," said Cathy L. Rozmus, DSN, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Nonetheless, we began preparing with a preliminary review followed by the appointment of a steering committee of faculty, staff, students and community members to guide the formal review process. Almost all of the faculty and staff on campus along with a number of students and community members were involved in documenting our performance on the accreditation criteria. In addition, the entire campus community was involved in an analysis of strategic issues related to improving institutional productivity through the identification of best practices as well as a greater emphasis on assessment."

The SACS Visiting Committee made 13 recommendations and three suggestions regarding the campus and its programs, all of which GSW has subsequently addressed, Rozmus said. SACS awarded one commendation:

"The Committee commends the University for its outstanding demonstration that its posture and practice are truly consistent with and support of its mission statement built around the concept of being a 'caring community of learning.' The Committee was particularly impressed by the dedication and engagement by the University faculty and staff to this theme as witnessed throughout the Committee's visit."

The Committee's complete report is available upon request, Rozmus said.

"The ultimate goal for Georgia Southwestern is to provide academic programs of distinction for our students and the communities we serve," Hanes said. "This SACS reaffirmation speaks strongly to the distinctive educational environment we seek to maintain for all of our students, faculty and staff. As we move forward with strate-

gic plans for the future, maintaining that 'caring community of learning' will remain our top priority."

Georgia Southwestern State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, bachelor, master and specialist degrees.

## Gendernalik Cooper, Barnett appointed deans



Gendernalik Cooper

GSW is welcoming two new deans to campus.

Mary Gendernalik Cooper, Ph.D., brings 30 years of experience to her new post as dean of the School of Education, spanning K-12 and higher education. Most recently, she served as a visiting professor at San Diego State University's Center for Educational Leadership, Innovation and Policy.

Richard-Laurent Barnett, who holds two doctorates, brings expansive administrative and leadership experience to his new position as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. He has been the founding director of several centers and institutes throughout higher education, including the Institute for Undergraduate Research, the Center for the Comparative Study of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute for Mentorship Studies.

Cooper said several factors attracted her to Georgia Southwestern.

"The quality of the School of Education faculty is a wonderful asset," Cooper said. "They are committed to educator preparation, and very innovative with the use of technology. Secondly, I was impressed by the community's support of the university. And thirdly, Georgia Southwestern is clearly a university that is moving forward with a coherent focus."

Cooper's philosophy of education emphasizes collaboration and the professional development of teachers.

"Fostering collaboration among school systems, parents, teachers, the university and the community at large is critical to the field of education," Cooper said.

"Teacher leadership is probably closest to my heart," Cooper added. "We must do more to 'professionalize' teaching. Teachers must assume more leadership positions in schools in order to make bet-

ter use of their experience and knowledge, and further improve the educational process for students."

In addition to Georgia Southwestern's attractive, expanding campus and "caring community of learning" approach to education, Barnett said he was particularly drawn to GSW's history of achievement and promise for the future.

"I perceive enormous faculty and programmatic potential," Barnett said. "I foresee opportunities for compelling, inter-disciplinary and cross-divisional growth."

Barnett said his vision for the School of Arts and Sciences is one that enhances the role, relevance and power of liberal studies for students in all fields; one that creates or spotlights programs that are as distinctive as they are distinguished; one that prioritizes outreach, globalization and diversity and that brings the values intrinsic to those priorities into the very center of the curriculum; and a vision that provides enhanced development options for all to learn or to teach.

"I believe that American university education must find infinitely more effective means of fostering the development of critical thinking and communicative skills so that graduates are prepared for the ever-increasing challenges and rewards that await them in the world of work," Barnett said. "I embrace the concept that 'the arts of critical thinking and honed self-expression are irreplaceable tools of self-empowerment.'"

Author or editor of 15 books and collective volumes, and of more than 170 refereed journal articles published in more than 35 countries, Barnett has won multiple national and international awards in recognition of scholarly distinction. He is also the recipient of nine teaching awards at both the institutional and national levels.



Barnett

## GSW joins national team collaborating to improve the freshman experience

Georgia Southwestern has been named one of 12 “Founding Institutions” selected to participate in a national project known as the “Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year.”

GSW is one of only two institutions in the Southeastern United States invited to participate.

The project, jointly sponsored by the Policy Center on the First Year of College and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), will develop a model of excellence for the first college year. This model can be used by public colleges and universities to develop and refine their overall approach to educating new students.

“We are pleased to partner in this national initiative,” said GSW President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. “Improving how colleges and universities meet the needs of first year students is a critical goal in today’s higher education environment. Georgia Southwestern faculty and staff are actively engaged with our freshmen, offering innovative programming and support. We look forward to this collaboration.”

“Our faculty and staff have been partnering for the past five years to specifically assist first year students with their special needs,” said Cathy Rozmus, DSN, vice president for Academic Affairs. “Insuring that students have a supportive introduction to college life improves their chances for academic success as they continue their education.”

At GSW, that introduction includes a special residence hall designated for freshmen, so that they can “live and learn” together, Rozmus said. It also includes a required “University 1000” class that instructs new students in good study habits and time management skills, as well as reserved seating for freshmen in many core curriculum courses. A freshman advocate is also available to help first year students and answer questions.

Research has long indicated that new students who are successfully integrated into college are much more likely to graduate, Rozmus said. Many colleges, therefore, work especially hard to create a first-rate first year.

According to Randy Swing, co-director of the Policy Center, attention to the first year will benefit students by helping them to graduate and will benefit institutions by helping them retain students through graduation.

Since February 2003, the Foundations of Excellence project has involved 125 universities across the country in identifying the Dimensions of Excellence that constitute a model first year. Of the 125 institutions that participated in spring 2003, 12 were selected through a competitive application process to continue work with the Policy Center and its research partner, the Center for the Study of Higher Education at The Pennsylvania State University. Criteria for selection included a strong campus commitment to the first year and readiness to engage in evaluation and improvement. During the next 15 months, these institutions will further refine and pilot use of the Dimensions. Specifically, colleges and universities will measure their effectiveness in recruiting, admitting, housing, orienting, supporting, advising and teaching new students. They will then be able



**FYE Team**—Lisa Cooper, Ph.D., Lynda Lee Purvis, Tom Johnson, Ph.D., John N. Gardner, Cathy Rozmus, DSN, and Gaye Hayes at a recent meeting to discuss Georgia Southwestern’s role in a new national project, “Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year.”

to make programmatic improvements that will increase student learning, success and persistence to graduation. The blueprint will represent the first holistic examination of the many elements that get students off to the right start.

“While much is known about how a campus can improve first-year learning and retention, this information has never been synthesized or translated into aspirational standards that are reflective of best practice,” said John N. Gardner, executive director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College, located in Brevard, N.C. “The absence of clear standards has powerful educational and financial consequences. This project brings together a number of highly credible researchers, reformers, and practitioners, who, along with their AASCU partners, will create the blueprint that for too long has been missing.”

Funding for the two-year project has been provided by the Lumina Foundation for Education and The Atlantic Philanthropies. Other “Founding Institutions” include Chadron State College, Nebraska; CUNY Brooklyn College, New York; CUNY Medgar Evars College, New York; Illinois State University, Illinois; Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Indiana; Kennesaw State University, Georgia; Missouri Western State College, Missouri; Plymouth State University, New Hampshire; SUNY College at Brockport, New York; Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas; and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Wisconsin.

**Editor's Note**—  
Special thanks to **Sandra Griffin Wardell** ('56, '59) for her contribution of eight rare past issues of the *Aeolian* from the early 1980s. We appreciate her gift.