

High Tech's New Home

By Wes Sumner

Ninety years ago, Crawford Wheatley Hall was the site of many southern-cooked suppers. Today, it sizzles with the synergy of information technology, as a new generation of Georgia Southwestern students step boldly into the digital age.

Named for an early treasurer of the institution's Board of Trustees, the School of Computer and Information Sciences' new home was originally constructed from 1911-12 and cost \$17,500. The two-story brick structure featured a dining hall on the first floor and a women's residence on the second floor.

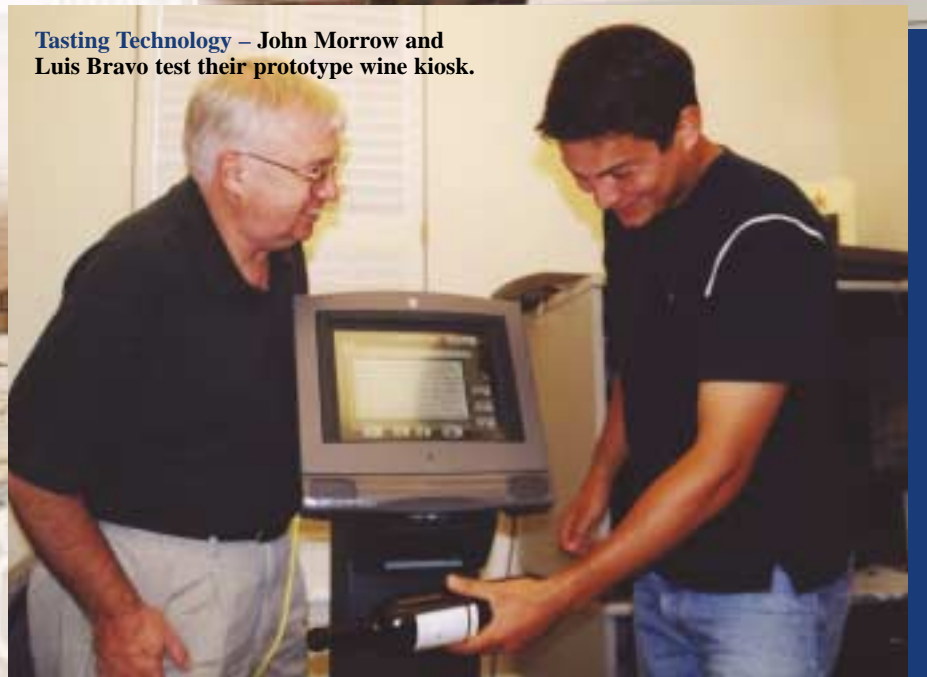
A recently completed \$3.2 million renovation is providing GSW computer majors with new tools and enhanced opportunities.

"This is truly a premiere facility," said Boris Peltsverger, Ph.D., dean of the School of Computer and Information Sciences since 1997. The school's six full-time and seven part-time faculty members moved into their new base of operations in August, leaving behind space they shared in the School of Business Administration's building.

The 14,500 square-foot building features fully wired, multipurpose computer labs, faculty offices and specialized workspace for one of a kind software development, Peltsverger said. The school needed updated space for its growing programs.

"We enroll people who really like computers and computer science," Peltsverger said. "We want to build a unique program, that will give our students the experience they need to succeed in a highly competitive job market."

Tasting Technology – John Morrow and Luis Bravo test their prototype wine kiosk.



The school's Center for Information Technology (GSW I-Tech) has been working for years to give students practical experience working with real-world clients. Their projects have included designing the Web site for Sumter Regional Hospital, and assisting a local entrepreneur to create *www.musiciansfriendly.com*, a Web site for musicians looking to connect with fellow artists and secure work. Student Henok Girma worked closely with businessman John Wilson to develop the site.

"For someone looking to start a business without a lot of overhead, a Web site is the way to go," Wilson said.

But perhaps the school's most unique initiative is the NCR software development project, announced in Fall 2002. The NCR Corporation donated to Georgia Southwestern and Georgia Southern University intellectual property, technology and training totaling more than \$3 million.

Led by project manager John Morrow, a 30-year veteran of NCR, GSW students are gaining hands-on experience developing software for computer kiosks. Recently they've developed wine data kiosks for Atlanta-area Harry's Farmers Markets, featuring data from world-renowned wine expert Robert Parker.

Morrow explained that shoppers scan a wine bottle's bar code at the kiosk, instantly accessing background information on the wine, as reviewed by Parker.

"We're charting new territory, and possibly creating a new source of revenue for the University," Morrow said. "And, all

of this is being done with student teams who are gaining insight into the commercial world. It gives them a head start on their competitors, before they even graduate."

The venture, nurtured by the University System of Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), has the potential to spark the economic engine of the region and generate millions in software rights within 10 years.

"We are trying to leverage our advantages," Morrow said. "We are a smaller university in a rural environment, able to develop high quality software with low cost. It's a much better option than out-sourcing this type of work overseas."

Recent graduates Luis Bravo and Joao Paulo Clementi are helping lead the NCR software project.

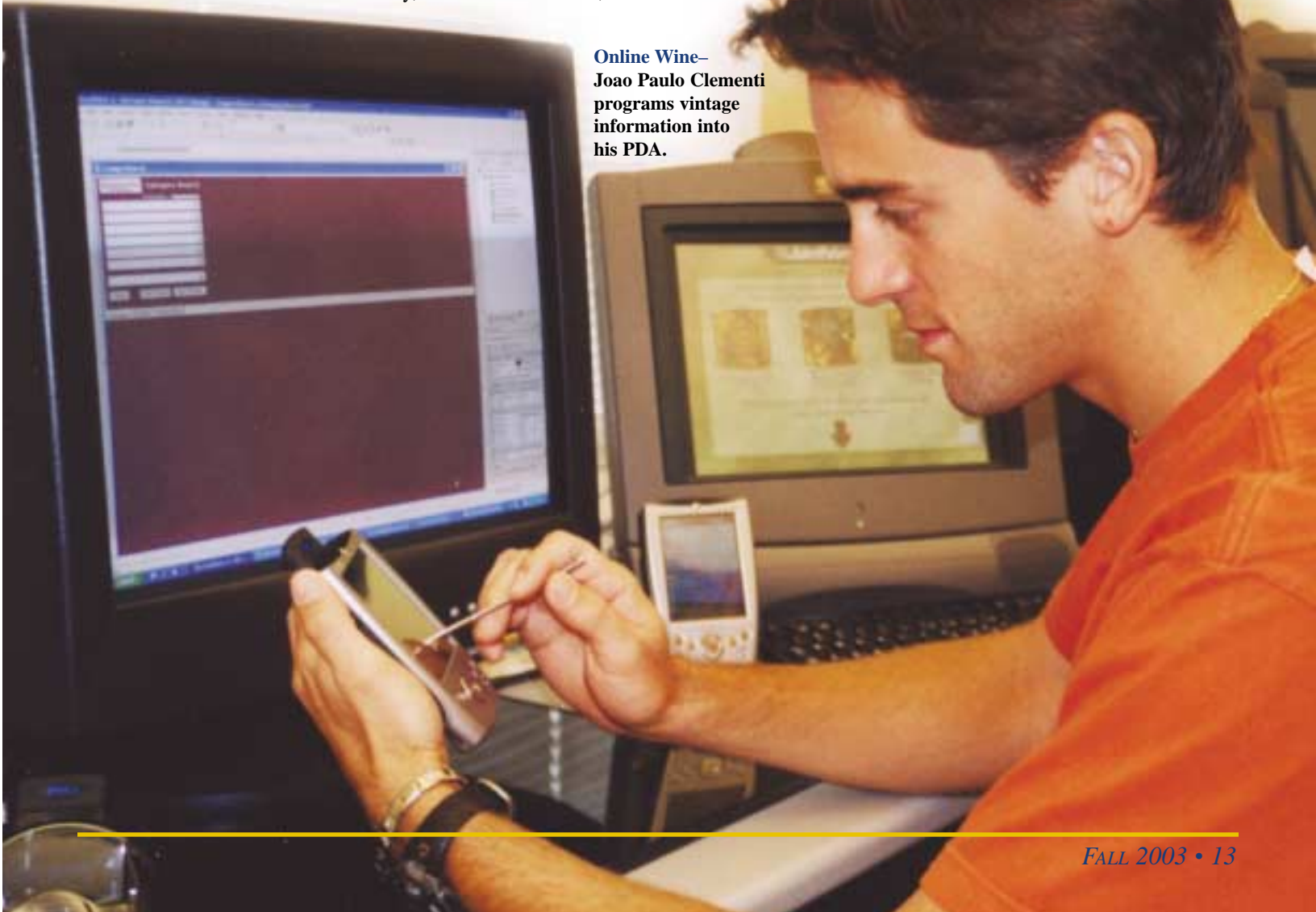
"It's very exciting to apply the skills that we've learned in our classes," Bravo said. "It's an interesting project to work on," Clementi added, who is working on a PDA version of the wine software.

After a test run of the wine kiosk software, the team will move on to developing bill payment kiosks for telecommunications customers in rural Russia.

"The opportunities are almost endless," Peltzverger said.

"We have wonderful aspirations for the future."

**Online Wine—
Joao Paulo Clementi
programs vintage
information into
his PDA.**



In The Field: 101001

101101010 Brenda Hines



GSW alumna Brenda Hines is one of the School of Computer and Information Sciences' shining stars.

Hines, who graduated in 2002 with a Master of Science degree in Computer Science, is the head of the Automated Information Systems (AIS) Support Branch for the Marine Corps Systems Command, housed at the Marine

Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Ga.

"I supervise teams of computer specialists who provide technical support in the areas of database administration, management and programming, configuration management and technical documentation throughout the life cycle of the Automated Information Systems," Hines said.

Her work includes database support for Marines and their IT needs.

Hines has worked for the federal government for 19 years, 14 of those in Albany. She and her husband, Melvin, have three children—Melvin Jr., Marcus and Breana.

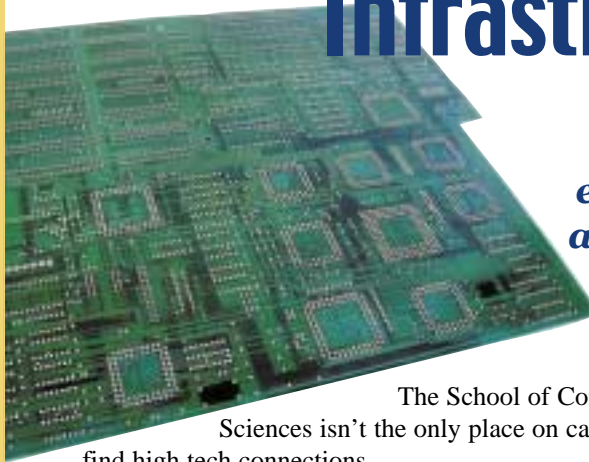
A person of deep faith and family commitment, a few years ago Hines found herself looking for a new challenge. In 1997, she decided that she wanted to advance in her field and expand her knowledge, so she enrolled in a database class that GSW held in Albany.

"Looking at the courses that were offered, Georgia Southwestern was certainly up to date on the technology," Hines said. "But I was most impressed with the small class sizes, and the personal attention given by the faculty of the School of Computer and Information Sciences. They were always interested in me and in helping me to achieve my goals."

Hines said she is excited that the school has moved into its new facility, and expects great things from her alma mater.

"I would highly suggest a GSW computer degree to any of my friends or colleagues," Hines said. "It was a wonderful experience."

Campus Computer Infrastructure



Technology enhancements across campus benefit students

The School of Computer and Information Sciences isn't the only place on campus where students find high tech connections.

"GSW has invested more than a quarter of a million dollars during the last fiscal year improving the campus information technology infrastructure," said Anthony Ianno, Ph.D., director of Information and Instructional Technology. "New, state-of-the-art computers for computer labs, faster servers, and more network bandwidth on and off-campus provide an exceptionally technology-rich teaching and learning environment."



Dr. Anthony Ianno

Under the guidance of Ianno, who joined GSW in the fall of 2002 as chief information officer, funding has been secured to upgrade all major aspects of the campus's technology.

"New computers have been purchased for several of the academic computer labs," Ianno said. "There are approximately 250 terminals on campus available to students to check e-mail, surf the Web and research classroom assignments.

"Implementation of a new e-mail server has facilitated the use of e-mail communication among students, faculty and staff on and off campus," Ianno added. "Meanwhile, Internet access is available for each student's room in the residence halls. Several halls provide access via wireless network connections. Labs in each hall are equipped with Internet access and printers for research and term papers."

Network security has also been addressed.

"Information security, one of the foremost concerns in the Information Technology industry, is given a high priority at Georgia Southwestern," Ianno said. "Networks and servers are routinely monitored for security issues and are secured using the industry's 'best practices' in keeping with the policies and procedures of Georgia Southwestern and the University System of Georgia. The use of virus protection is advocated for each and every computer on the campus network."

Additional infrastructure enhancements are planned for the future.

"The network is currently being upgraded to a 'switched gigabit backbone,'" Ianno said. "This will provide 10 to 100 times more bandwidth on campus. A faster Internet connection is expected to be in operation within the next year."

Nineteen-year-old Brandon Fogerty may be a freshman, but he's no newbie to the complexities of computer programming. At 13, the Augusta, Ga., native decided he wanted to one day become a computer science major. His particular interest: game programming.

"I love it," Fogerty said, "And I love computer science because you get to define your own rules. You decide the boundaries in the games you design." But for Fogerty, it's not been all fun and games—he takes his science seriously. As a student at John S. Davidson Fine Arts

Magnet School, where he also focused on music and graphic art, he found time to intern for three summers at Augusta's Fort Gordon. There, he helped write PDA software for battle command/battle lab combat simulations. He did everything from making satellite antennas to uploading code to satellites.

At 16, he worked with a European software outlet to code and publish his own hand-to-hand combat simulation game, *Warrior's Mind*, sold commercially at outlets like Fred's Discount Store. He was even profiled in the April 2002 Augusta Chronicle.

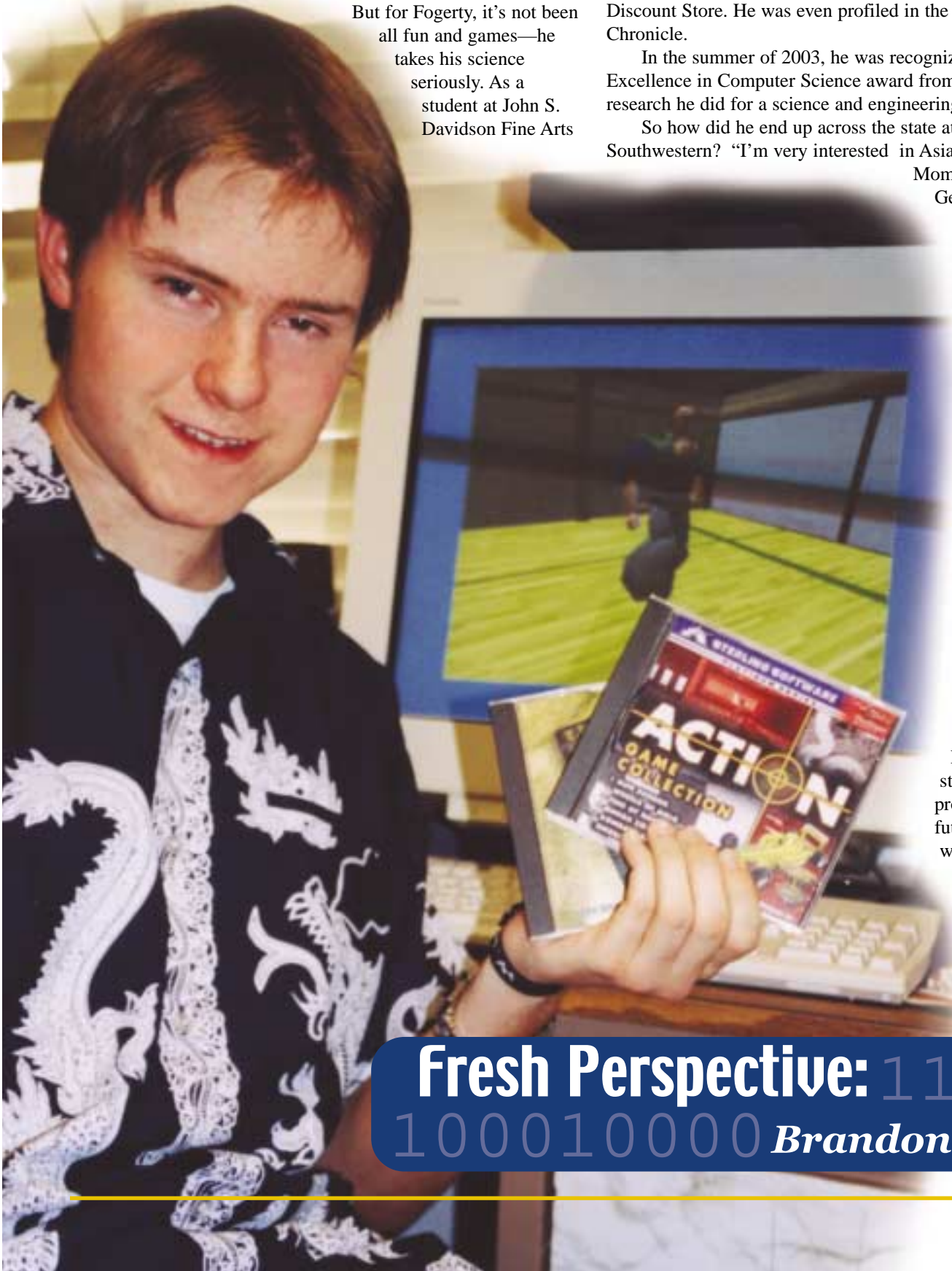
In the summer of 2003, he was recognized with an Excellence in Computer Science award from Intel, based on research he did for a science and engineering fair.

So how did he end up across the state at Georgia Southwestern? "I'm very interested in Asian culture, and my Mom found online that Georgia Southwestern was home to the University System of Georgia's Center for Asian Studies," Fogerty said. "And honestly, Dr. Peltsverger's résumé. He brings a great deal of experience to the school.

"I don't feel like I'm a number at Georgia Southwestern," he added. "Everybody is so nice and willing to help you."

Fogerty is looking forward to joining the Georgia Southwestern NCR Project, and studying Web programming. In the future, he'd like to work on Christian video games.

"Georgia Southwestern is a great university," Fogerty said. "I'm glad I came here."



Fresh Perspective: 1100011
100010000 *Brandon Fogerty*