



GSW President Michael L. Hanes

A proud past, a bright future

When Crawford Wheatley and his colleagues sketched the original plans for the campus of Georgia Southwestern, no doubt they envisioned an institution that would become an important force for educational, economic, and cultural growth in the region. From the very beginning, the design and development of the campus facilities and grounds at Georgia Southwestern have been driven by the mission to provide post-secondary educational opportunities on a residential campus.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Student Success Center provided an opportunity to review our progress in improving the campus facilities. In recent years, we have been fortunate to receive the necessary funding to renovate some of the oldest buildings on campus and to upgrade a number of facilities. For example, Crawford Wheatley Hall was originally constructed as the campus dining hall. The current renovation is scheduled for completion by 2003 and will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratory space for the School of Computer and Information Science. The original President's House now serves as the Newman Alumni Center following a restoration/renovation supported by a generous gift from Jerry and Marjorie Newman. Sanford Hall, originally constructed as a residence hall, has been renovated to provide office and classroom space for the Center for Asian Studies, the Upward Bound Program, the Registrar's Office, the Office of Financial Aid as well as a number of other programs. In the current session of the Georgia General Assembly, we received funding for the renovation of Jackson Hall that originally housed the science programs and has been occupied by the music program for many years. Meanwhile, changes to the campus landscape, funded by a Georgia Department of Transportation grant, are enhancing the physical beauty of the campus as well as improving the residential experience for students who live and learn here.

The campus has evolved in many visible ways over the years, but some of the most important changes may be less obvious. These enhancements concern the classroom and the learning experiences available to our students. In recent years we have experienced a significant influx of fresh faculty dedicated to expanding educational experiences beyond the confines of the

classroom. As described in the accomplishments of our faculty in this issue, our recruitment efforts have been successful in attracting broadly experienced scholars who are dedicated to teaching and learning.

The instructional tools available to our faculty have been enhanced by the campus-wide optical fiber computer network and by the significant investments in computer technologies providing access to information and the Internet across the campus. We have seen a growing interest in the interdisciplinary study of issues and problems. Each semester, many of our faculty are involved in building a community of learning around a specific scholarly work and engaging students in making connections across disciplines to have a greater understanding of contemporary issues and concerns.

With all of the changes that have taken place at Georgia Southwestern, there remains one constant: the faculty and staff continue a commitment to the education of students. That commitment can be seen in our efforts to build a campus learning environment, both in the development of physical facilities as well as in the design and support of learning experiences. This strengthens the preparation of our students to contribute in productive ways to this region and our society.



Covering the Construction—WRBL-TV reporter Jason Miles interviews President Michael Hanes following groundbreaking ceremonies for the Student Success Center.