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Cobb Close-Up

TUCKER MCQUEEN, AIXA M. PASCUAL

KATRINA: THE AFTERMATH: Friendship born of despair

Debbie Richardson plans to drive her new friend, Jean Ruiz, to New Orleans this week. It will be their second trip to retrieve possessions from the Ruiz home in St. Bernard Parish. There isn't much left.

Ruiz, 76, can accept losing material things. For four days after Hurricane Katrina, she thought she might lose her husband, Frank. He was scheduled to have triple bypass surgery the day the hurricane hit New Orleans. Instead, the couple waited as conditions inside the hospital deteriorated.

Frank Ruiz was evacuated by helicopter early on the fourth day afterward. His wife, who had volunteered at the hospital for 17 years, was told her husband would go to a hospital in either Texas or Alabama. The next day, she and other staff members were plucked from the sixth-floor roof. Ruiz eventually made it to Louis Armstrong International Airport, where she tried unsuccessfully to find her husband's destination.

Exhausted, Ruiz plunked down on top of a garbage can. Then she looked across the terminal and saw her husband. His hospital orders were tucked under his arm.

Seven hours later, they were on a C-17 headed to Dobbins Air Reserve Base. It was just after midnight Sept. 2.

"I realized it was our 33rd anniversary," she said. "I told Frank he wasn't off the hook. He still had to buy me a gift."

After landing in Marietta, the couple was taken to WellStar Kennestone Hospital, where Frank Ruiz, 75, had surgery four days later. Richardson, a registered nurse in the open-heart unit, helped care for him and befriended his wife.

"Jean's not the type of person who accepts help," Richardson said. "But I had to do something. All she had left was Frank."

At first, the nurse helped the couple settle into new digs at a retirement home behind the hospital. She helped outfit their apartment at Atherton Place and brought them stamps and other personal items they had lost.

As Ruiz's health improved, Richardson decided to drive Jean Ruiz to her home in Louisiana.

Richardson donned boots, gloves and a mask to dig through 3 feet of muck inside the house. The first thing she brought out was a crucifix and the last was a concrete statue of the Virgin Mary that had stood in a grotto in the backyard.

The statue now stands outside the Ruizes' apartment door. Mixed among the new furnishings inside are Belleek china and Llardo figurines Jean Ruiz collected throughout the years.

Richardson and Ruiz hope to find more mementos on this week's trip. The house will be leveled.

MARIETTA: History of city brought to life

The Marietta Center for Advanced Academics will bring Marietta's history to life in a "living history museum" that will feature notable Mariettans who played a role in molding the city's history. "A Walk Through Time" will be on the Marietta Square at 7-10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Volunteers will impersonate historical figures in period costumes and tell stories about Marietta's history. Storytellers include Emily Lembeck, Marietta City Schools superintendent; Bill Bruton, city manager; and Dan Cox, director of the Marietta Museum of History.

The Strand Theatre also will open its doors to the public for the first time in almost 30 years. Ron Carter, with Friends of the Strand, will wear a period costume and talk to visitors about the history of the theater and restoration plans.

Visitors can have their pictures taken in a vintage photo booth, go on carriage rides Friday night, and listen to music.

The event will raise funds for MCAA, Cobb County's first elementary math, science and technology magnet school.

- More information: co-chair Karen Denovich at 770-672-0506.

-- Aixa M. Pascual

KSU EXHIBIT: Rare books spotlighted

Kennesaw State University is showcasing a selection of books from its collection in a new exhibit titled "A Mirror on the Millennium: 1,000 Years of Paper and Ink at the Bentley Rare Book Gallery."

The exhibit, on display until Dec. 22 at the Sturgis Library, includes a facsimile of a famous copy of the Gutenberg Bible and early printed editions of Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales," William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and John Milton's "Paradise Lost," among others.

The exhibition is a tribute to retiring KSU President Betty Siegel.

-- Aixa M. Pascual

BOOK SIGNINGS: Photographs highlight 6 cities' pasts

Cobb natives Rebecca Nash Paden and Joe McTyre will appear at two book signings this week.

The journalist and photojournalist, a former Journal-Constitution staffer, have written a third book on local history, highlighting the county's six cities.

The 128-page pictorial history, "Cobb County," has about 200 photographs dating more than a century. The pair also collaborated on "Marietta 1833-2000" and "Historic Roswell Georgia."

- The book signings are 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the Root House, at North Marietta Parkway and Polk Street; and 5-7 p.m. Nov. 10 at Barnes & Noble Booksellers at the Avenue shopping center on Dallas Highway in west Cobb.

-- Tucker McQueen

Photo

BEN GRAY / Staff

A statue from Frank Ruiz's Louisiana home stands outside his and his wife's apartment.

Photo

BEN GRAY / Staff

New friends Ruth Price (from left), Jean Ruiz and Kay Avery play poker at the Atherton Place retirement community behind WellStar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta. Ruiz and her husband, hurricane evacuees from Louisiana, have resettled in Marietta.

Atlanta Business Chronicle - October 3, 2005

<http://atlanta.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2005/10/03/daily8.html>



LATEST NEWS

Atlanta Business Chronicle - 11:49 AM EDT Monday

Betty Siegel joins One Georgia Bank

[Kennesaw State University](#) President Betty Siegel has been added to the board of the proposed [One Georgia Bank](#).

The bank, which will be based in Midtown, is [expected to open](#) in the first quarter of 2006 with plans for a downtown Atlanta branch to follow. The bank's strategy includes establishing between \$15 million and \$25 million in capital and focusing on serving small- and middle-market businesses.

"Atlanta's fast growing business market and diverse population provide the ideal location for this venture," Siegel said. "The economic potential of the community continues to grow and creates the perfect climate for launching a community bank."

Siegel has been president at Kennesaw State University since 1981, is the first woman to head an institution in the 34-unit University System of Georgia and is the longest serving female college or university president in the United States.

One Georgia Bank's leadership includes President and CEO Willard "Chuck" Lewis and proposed board members Sam Banjee, Maxine Burton, Arthur B. "Skin" Edge IV, Jeff Kerker, Ron Kirschner, Stephen A. Opler, Sunny Park, Gordon Sherman and Philip Swindall.

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

briefs

As she prepares to step down as one of the nation's longest-serving university presidents, **Betty L. Siegel** says she has no intention of retiring; rather, she is stepping up her efforts to retool higher education using ethical leadership as a transformational force to address the global challenges of the 21st century.

Siegel launched this grassroots movement in September, convening American university presidents in Oxford, England. The Oxford Conclave on Global Ethics and the Changing University Presidency was an exploration of higher education's role in producing a generation of ethical leaders capable of functioning effectively in an increasingly complex world.

This ongoing collaboration of participating universities is now focusing on ways institutions around the nation can more aptly cultivate students' ethical leadership, moral reasoning and conflict resolution capacities. The conclave participants are drafting a statement of beliefs and responsibilities to present to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities for its endorsement in the fall.

An educational pioneer with many firsts on her resume (first woman dean at the University of Florida; the first woman academic dean at Western Carolina University; and the first woman president in the University System of Georgia), Siegel believes that academics have an obligation to help society. Her legacy at Kennesaw State University and beyond is a challenge to the academic community to offer educational programs that assign ethical meaning to what each student takes from his or her collegiate experience.

Her philosophy is that as many courses as possible should have a service learning component; international programs designed to make people globally responsible should be emphasized; and faculty should be good academic citizens, committed to their students, their colleagues, the institution and the common good. In her vision, students will experience what it is that drives one to engage in community service.

The acts of learning and serving are crucial, but the assigning of meaning is even more essential. The central question is: "Why do these acts of service matter?" Siegel's answer: "Because we all drink from a well that we did not dig." In modeling service and leadership, teachers implicitly assign ethical meaning.

Posted on Wed, Jan. 05, 2005

Kennesaw State moves up to Atlantic Sun, may add football

CHARLES ODUM

Associated Press

KENNESAW, Ga. - The Atlantic Sun Conference officially announced the addition of Kennesaw State Wednesday even as school officials already were plotting the next big move for the athletic department.

Kennesaw State's move from NCAA Division II to I-A was announced in November. The school will add three sports - women's golf and men's and women's indoor track - to meet the I-A minimum of 14 intercollegiate sports.

Speculation about adding another sport - football - almost overshadowed Wednesday's announcement.

"We have an extraordinary interest in football, especially by our students," said Kennesaw State president Betty Siegel. "We will explore the possibility of football. ... There is strong community and trustee support."

The Atlantic Sun also announced the addition of North Florida Wednesday. East Tennessee State will be a third new school in the conference next fall.

The Atlantic Sun, based in Macon, had openings as three schools left the league to compete in football in other conferences.

Atlantic Sun commissioner Bill Bibb said Central Florida will move into Conference USA and Troy will join the Sun Belt Conference. Bibb said Florida Atlantic plans to leave for the Sun Belt within two years.

Also, Georgia State is leaving the Atlantic Sun to join the Colonial Athletic Association next summer, but that move was not based on football.

Gardner-Webb will be the only remaining Atlantic Sun member which competes in football.

Siegel and Kennesaw State athletic director Dave Waples said the Atlantic Sun is a good fit for the school, which as a member of the Peach Belt Athletic Conference won the 2004 NCAA Division II men's basketball championship after previously winning national championships in soccer, baseball and softball.

That could change if Kennesaw State adds football, however.

"Obviously that concept was resounding through this room," said Kennesaw State trustee Stan Dysart after Wednesday's press conference. "The community wants football. Students want it. Trustees want it. The faculty support it. The president wants it."

Dysart is heading the school's feasibility study for adding football.

"I think this conference is a really good fit, but if we do add football we'll have to see if it's a fit for us going forward," Dysart said.

Dysart said financial support must be found and an on-campus stadium would have to be built for football, but he said the school could commit to football within five years.

"It will energize this campus," Dysart said.

Robert Connelly, a senior who is vice president of the Kennesaw State student government, said students have "a very high interest" in adding football and recently agreed to a small increase in student activity fees in anticipation of the move to Division I-A.

"The hope is within five or six years we'll have a football team," Connelly said. "The main concern is where to get the funding and where to put the stadium. The land is running out fast around here."

Football was not a factor in the talks between Kennesaw State and the Atlantic Sun. Bibb said the conference, originally known as the Trans American Athletic Conference, hopes to enter an era of stability with schools that won't leave to compete elsewhere in football.

"You throw the football factor out, and the stability has been good," Bibb said. "It's going to be stable from that standpoint."

Kennesaw State, North Florida and East Tennessee State will immediately join Atlantic Sun schedules and will be eligible for conference championships beginning next fall, but the new league members will have a five-year waiting period before they will be eligible for NCAA championships.

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

Outgoing KSU president launches new county bank

From staff reports

MARIETTA - Outgoing Kennesaw State University President Dr. Betty Siegel has joined other business and community leaders from metro Atlanta to launch a new county bank.

Dr. Siegel has been named as a proposed member of the board of directors for One Georgia Bank, I.O. and will bring to the proposed bank a well-known name in Georgia. She has been president at Kennesaw State University since 1981, is the first woman to head an institution in the 34-unit University System of Georgia and is the longest serving female college or university president in the United States.

Organizers for One Georgia Bank, I.O., aimed at serving the business market in Midtown and other areas of metro Atlanta, plan to establish the new bank to fill the service gap in the banking community created by major bank consolidations and mergers.

During Dr. Siegel's tenure at KSU, the university has evolved from a four-year college with 4,000 students and 15 baccalaureate degree programs to a university with enrollment exceeding 18,000 students and 55 undergraduate degree programs.

As a lecturer and motivational speaker, Dr. Siegel has delivered keynote addresses at conferences around the world on leadership, education and the concerns of women.

One Georgia Bank, I.O. has plans to headquarter in Midtown Atlanta and expects to open in March 2006 with plans for another metro Atlanta branch to follow.

Its primary focus is "relationship banking" and will include business lending, commercial real estate, deposit vehicles, consumer checking services, investment products and consumer loans.

"Atlanta's fast growing business market and diverse population provide the ideal location for this venture. The economic potential of the community continues to grow and creates the perfect climate for launching a community bank," Dr. Siegel said. "This unique group of successful, self-made entrepreneurs and civic leaders are committed to reaching out to their constituencies to attract a broad base of investors and customers."


Willard "Chuck" Lewis will be the proposed bank's president and CEO. Along with Dr.

Siegel, the bank's proposed board of directors includes Sam Banjee, Maxine Burton, Arthur B. "Skin" Edge, IV, Jeff Kerker, Ron Kirschner, Stephen A. Opler, Sunny Park, Gordon Sherman and Philip Swindall. W.E. "Billy" Lovett is the proposed bank's marketing director.

The Bank's strategy for success includes establishing a critical mass of between \$15 million and \$25 million in capital and a focus on serving small and middle market businesses.

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Kennesaw State's Siegel to step down

> Next, she'd like to teach at the university

> By [AIXA M. PASCUAL](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

> Published on: 05/15/05

Two months ago, Betty Siegel wrote a letter to the chancellor of the University System of Georgia telling him that she planned to step down as president of Kennesaw State University.

But it was not until commencement day, as she walked around campus on "a beautiful day," that she decided she would let everybody know. So at the end of the ceremony on Thursday, waving her passports, she stunned a crowd of about 4,000 when she announced she would leave the presidency after 24 years.

The scene of her announcement — an audience of deans, administrators, teachers and students — was in keeping with Siegel's style, her colleagues say. "That's classic Betty Siegel," said Lendley Black, KSU vice president for academic affairs, who found out about Siegel's decision minutes before commencement. "It was emblematic of her style and the grace she has with public speaking and dealing with people."

Siegel, 74, came to Kennesaw State in 1981, becoming the first female president to serve in the University System of Georgia, which has 34 schools. In the past quarter-century, she led the suburban college's transformation from a sleepy, four-year commuter institution of five or six buildings into a university of nearly 18,000 with 55 degree programs.

She created academic departments, raised private funds to build the school's first dormitories and fought to build the university's own convocation center.

"We will lose somebody who's a legend in higher education," said Dan Papp, senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs of the University System of Georgia. "It'll be very difficult to get someone to fill Betty's shoes."

On campus, Siegel, who wears oversized, red-rimmed glasses, seems omnipresent. She often lunches on tuna salad and a Diet Coke at the student center. Colleagues describe her as "the spirit of the campus." This past semester, she spent Wednesday nights at one of the college's new dorms, eating pizza and popcorn with students until past midnight, she said, to "understand what they're like, what they care about."

"I want them to be avid learners," she said.

Off campus, her presence was hard to miss. She had breakfast almost every day at the Waffle House on Frey Road across from the Cobb County college, where she is known as "Miss Betty."

"This is her Waffle House," boasted manager Miranda Nolte, who has fixed Siegel her signature dish — a tomato omelette with light oil, half-order of bacon and black coffee — just about every morning for 16 years. "She knows everyone by name, and I mean every single person. She never forgets them. We're going to miss her so much."

And so will a lot of others. "She is just so nice to every teacher, every worker, every student — everyone," said food-service employee Deanna Cioffi, 19, a sophomore.

The oldest daughter of a coal miner and a wife who never went to college, Siegel was valedictorian of her high school in Kentucky. She said her parents, who eventually became coal mine owners, raised her to be "tenacious in spirit."

She first attended a two-year college and went on to receive a Ph.D. in education from Florida State University. Education, she said, "was a window to the world in a little coal-mining town."

Siegel may be stepping down from the university's top post effective January 2006, but she's not retiring.


She wants to teach ethical leadership at Kennesaw, and she's putting together a panel on spirituality and leadership. She'll continue giving speeches and traveling, and she'll spend some time at Oxford University in England.

As for how she would like to be remembered, she already knows what she wants for her epitaph. Her father's has the words "a man much loved." Her mother's reads "a perfect woman." Siegel wants hers to say "beloved wife, mother, grandmother and a minister for education."

—Staff writer Chandler Brown contributed to this article.

Find this article at:

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/0505/15siegel.html>

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Atlantic Sun takes a shine to Kennesaw

GUY CURTRIGHT

Staff

Kennesaw State University will make its move to NCAA Division I next fall as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference.

The fast-growing Cobb County school will give the A-Sun a continued metro area presence after the departure of Georgia State to the Colonial Athletic Association.

"The Atlanta market is very important to us," commissioner Bill Bibb said Wednesday.

"**Kennesaw State** is a perfect fit."

The Owls are moving to Division I after winning five Division II national titles in 10 years. In the 2003-04 school year, **Kennesaw State** won titles in men's basketball and women's soccer.

"It's going to be a little scary," athletics director Dave Waples said of the move to the NCAA's highest classification. "But we plan to keep on winning."

The Atlantic Sun also is losing Troy State and Central Florida this fall, and Florida Atlantic the following year. East Tennessee State and North Florida are joining with **Kennesaw State**.

Founded as a junior college in 1963, **Kennesaw State** has grown to more than 18,000 students and will have the largest enrollment in the Atlantic Sun after Florida Atlantic departs.

When Betty Siegel arrived at Kennesaw as president in 1981, the school didn't have athletics. It joined the NAIA in 1982 and moved to NCAA Division II as a member of the Peach Belt Conference after the Owls' baseball team won the 1994 NAIA title. Baseball and softball facilities have been upgraded and a 4,500-seat arena is nearly complete.

"Division I is a symbol of what we are [as a university] and a sign of the company that we fit in with and want to be inspired by," Siegel said.

"The A-Sun is exactly the kind of group we wanted to work with and offers exactly the teams we wanted to play at this stage of our development."

The women's soccer and men's golf teams are playing Division I schedules this school year, and the other nine programs will make the move in 2005-06. To meet Division I requirements, KSU is adding women's golf along with men's and women's indoor track and field. Volleyball is scheduled to start a year later.

Although a feasibility study is under way about adding football, the selection of the A-Sun over a conference like the Big South likely indicates that football is not in the immediate future.

"Yes, we want football," Waples said. "But we don't have the money right now."

The A-Sun, which has its office in Macon, has never had football as a conference sport. It offers competition in baseball, softball, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, soccer, track and field, cross country, golf and tennis.

Graphic: THE A-SUN'S NEW LOOK

Kennesaw State will move up to NCAA Division I as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference, which is losing Georgia State and two other schools:

2005-06 members

Kennesaw State

Mercer
Belmont
Lipscomb
Campbell
Gardner-Webb
East Tennessee State
Jacksonville
North Florida
Stetson
Florida Atlantic*

* -- Will leave in 2006-2007

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Posted Thursday, September 8 at 10:17 AM

United Way kicks off campaign, collects hurricane relief donations

by Lindsay Helton

GAINESVILLE - United Way of Hall County kicked off their 2005 campaign with a breakfast meeting Thursday at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Martha Nesbitt, President of Gainesville College, and this year's fund drive chairperson, acknowledges that the \$1.9 million goal is lofty but says, "we are optimistic that we can make it because we need to for this community." This year's campaign goal is \$500,000 more than last year.

The meeting got underway with breakfast and a word from Dr. Betty Siegel, President of [Kennesaw State University](#). Dr. Siegel is the first woman to head an institution of higher education in the 35-unit University System of Georgia. She has also served on the United Way Board in Atlanta.

Dr. Siegel spoke during the meeting on the importance of service and the importance of giving back to the community. She also feels good about reaching the goal, "knowing this wonderful town and knowing this community of giving I feel certain that they will exceed their expectations."

The Salvation Army was also on hand with a truck in the parking lot, accepting non-perishable food items for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Misty Tidman with the Salvation Army says that people were dropping off a wide variety of items that included canned goods, dried goods, bottled water and snacks that will be distributed to victims now staying in the Gainesville area.

Tidman was excited about the donations. "We weren't sure what to expect, so we're just delighted at people's generosity this morning."

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United Way Kicks Off Campaign

Heather Jensen
NewsChannel 32
Thursday, September 8, 2005

It's a celebration of service. Hall County united way brought out more than 200 donors and volunteers to kick off its 2005 campaign.

"All of us must be committed to something, some goal that's bigger than just our own personal needs," says [Kennesaw State University](#) and guest speaker Betty L. Siegel, Ph.D.

The United Way needs community support to meet this year's fundraising goal.

"We're trying to raise \$1.9 million to support our partner agencies and programs in Hall County," says Fund Drive Chairwoman Martha Nesbitt. "But some of these partner agencies actually serve northeast Georgia, not just Hall County."

Nearly 25 percent of this year's goal has already been met by company supporters.

Programs like the Red Cross, Salvation ARmy, and CASA all get money from the local United Way. Putting that money to good use is why people like Kelly Miles continue to give.

"They touch so many different people," Miles says. "The agencies that they help fund touch babies, the elderly, the homeless, the abused...the whole gamut of the needy in our community."

But in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many charitable donations are going to fundraisers for the gulf states. Local organizers hope this kick off celebration will remind people of the needs at home.

"We really want people to be very sympathetic and give to relief efforts," Nesbitt says. "But at the same time understand our needs aren't going away and will in some way increase with some of the agencies."

Some of the local agencies will likely care for evacuees in Hall County. But those who came to celebrate with the United Way know this community will rise to the challenge with their donations.

"I think what you're going to see is donors giving over and above to help out hurricane victims," Miles says. "(They're) going to dig deeper into their pockets to give to them but still keep the same contributions locally."

And as long as the community is willing to dig deep to help their neighbors, the United Way will move closer to its goal.

Monday, October 8, 2005

Judges made history by giving OK to laptop jury

THURSDAY'S DECISION by the Cobb Superior Court judges to summon a special grand jury to investigate former Cobb school superintendent Joe Redden's laptop initiative was an historic occasion.

No courthouse official can recall a special grand jury being impaneled in recent history. That means District Attorney Pat Head must have serious concerns a criminal act might have occurred. The Superior Court judge's council directed Court Administrator Skip Chesshire to have a grand jury ready Nov. 4, which will be impaneled by Judge Jim Bodiford.

Redden's now-defunct \$100.8 million laptop Power to Learn laptop initiative was slanted toward Apple. The school board subsequently hired the New York-based forensic accounting firm Kessler International to conduct an investigation into the bidding process.

Legal officials are saying that Bodiford is the correct choice since he is a veteran of other high-profile cases. He presided over the Fred Tokars murder case and the Lynn Turner antifreeze murder trial, which received more publicity than any other case in Cobb history. Bodiford also received high marks for his calm, judicial demeanor in handling the press. There is no time limit on the length a special grand jury can meet.

Community leaders and elected officials are concerned about the negative publicity the school system is receiving and its impact on the morale of teachers and principals. Is a high-profile person needed to serve as school superintendent on an interim basis? Several officials say a proven administrator with community ties and a strong political network is needed on an interim basis until a thorough search can be conducted.

Names mentioned are former Cobb Commission Chairman Earl Smith, incoming Cobb Chamber President Kessel Stelling, former WellStar CEO Tom Hill and court administrator Chesshire. The community leaders say those individuals could surround themselves with top-notch school administrators while repairing the community ties and raising the morale among teachers and principals. It remains to be seen if any of those individuals would be interested in such a position. WHO WILL succeed Dr. Betty Siegel, retiring long-time president of Kennesaw State University? As a search committee shapes up and a Jan. 7 fund-raiser is planned for KSU at the Waverly hotel, among the first mentioned as wanting to succeed Dr. Siegel are Dr. Tim Mescon, head of the College of

Business, and Dr. Dan Papp, senior vice chair of Fiscal Affairs in Atlanta. Meanwhile, Dr. Siegel has agreed, if needed, to remain as president until June 1. Dr. Siegel will join a group of top-level business and community leaders from metro Atlanta to launch a new banking group called One Georgia Bank, I.O, whose aim is to fill the service gap in the banking community caused by major bank consolidations and mergers.

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WHAT IS the status of the murder case of Brett Lanier, a young Marietta college student who was slain in a random, senseless killing in a DeKalb park?

There was supposed to be a probable cause hearing Thursday, but it was canceled. The alleged killer was Anthony Bonner, 17, who waived his right to an arraignment. His accomplice, Joseph Reynolds, 18, had requested a probable cause hearing, but withdrew the request and also waived his right to an arraignment. So now the state awaits the next hearing date, currently not scheduled.

KENNEDAW MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD PARK at 7 p.m. Monday is presenting a program entitled "Duty Well Performed, the 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry." It will be presented by Brad Quinlin. The lecture is free and open to the public and will be held in the Visitor Center.

Quinlin moved to Georgia in 1982 and with the abundance of Civil War history in the Atlanta area, he soon fell under the spell of this conflict. He began studying the Civil War in 1983 and joined the 21st Ohio, with a particular interest in letters and diaries the men wrote. After 12 years of research, he found almost 500 letters, five complete diaries and several photos. For more information call (770) 427-4686, ext. 0 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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MOTOR VEHICLE tag and title transactions will be suspended statewide for the Columbus Day holiday weekend while state officials relocate the Georgia Registration and Title Information System (GRATIS). "Residents will not be able to tag or title their vehicles on Monday or renew on the Internet or by phone from 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, until 7 a.m. Tuesday" said Cobb County Tax Commissioner Gail Downing. The Tag Helpline will be fully staffed and the county tag offices will remain open Monday with staff present to answer questions and review paperwork. pThe helpline, (770) 528-TAGS, will remain manned all day Oct. 10.SOME POLITICOS expect sparks to fly when the watchdog group IMPACT hosts a candidate forum for the Marietta school board's contested races in Wards 2, 3, 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. Thursday. The forum will air on Cobb TV Channel 23 and is in the Cobb County Commission meeting room at 100 Cherokee St.

Controversy has risen over the selection of former IMPACT President Dan Valentine as moderator because he led voters for years to think he could hardly wait until candidate

qualifying time to open, then shortly before it did so announced he would not run. Politicos thought he'd give as the reason that his children were attending private school. Instead, he said he bowed out because of a change in job status.

Marietta native and airline pilot Mickey King of IMPACT wants Valentine to step aside, saying his serving is akin to Richard Gephardt moderating the John Kerry vs. George Bush debates. He wants an undisputed neutral party as moderator. "If you have to pay for a pro, I think it would be money well spent for this very important election," he said.

"With (Valentine) controlling the flow and focus, there will be a perceived and unavoidable slant toward Dan's positions. I have had numerous e-mail debates with Dan prior to his dropping out of the race. He has some strong opinions regarding key issues, not to mention he has stated some disparaging remarks about our school system in the newspaper as he was preparing to run. Dan has no doubt formed opinions about various candidates."

Each candidate will have two minutes to make opening statements and then be permitted two minutes to respond to questions from the moderator as well as to other candidates' statements as allowed by the moderator. The questions used by the moderator will come from the audience and some questions also have been collected from IMPACT members. An IMPACT member will screen the questions to prevent repetition, said group spokeswoman Mary Helen Bernknopf.

The candidates: Ward 2 - Tony Fasola and Cindy Crane Suto. Ward 3 - Pam Flournoy and Randy Weiner. Ward 4 - Jill Crowe Mutimer and Mike Nugent. Ward 5 - Jeanie Carter and Martina Goscha.

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POLITICAL PATTERN: Former Powder Springs Mayor Brad Hulsey telephoned to say add his name to the growing list of those considering running against Western District Cobb Commissioner Helen Goreham next year. Hulsey served as mayor from 2000 to 2003, then did not seek reelection. - Elizabeth Melville, past president of the Cobb County League of Women Voters chapter, will discuss the league's fight against the voter ID bill at today's 8 a.m. Democratic breakfast at the Piccadilly Cafeteria at 536 Cobb Parkway, reminds party chair G.W. Hall.

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BERRY COLLEGE has honored four alumni for career achievement and community service who have brought distinction both to themselves and to the institution. The 2005 Alumni Award winners include Mark W. Maguire, an award-winning writer and poet currently serving as managing editor for Neighbor Newspapers Inc., in the offices of the Marietta Daily Journal, where he provides leadership and direction for a group of 11 weekly newspapers in metro Atlanta. A 1995 alumnus, Maguire has been honored by the Georgia Sports Writers Association, the Georgia Associated Press and the Georgia Press

Association, and his poetry has appeared in several literary reviews.

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DECEMBER IS WEEKS away, but the Marietta Pilgrimage Home Tour Committee is at work. Co-chairs Sarah Bullington and Haley Meaders announced the homes to be spotlighted for the 2005 Tour December 3-4. The homes are located in the Whitlock Avenue National Register Historic District. Featured are: The Trammell House, c. 1887; the Baker-Mayes House, c. 1925; The Methodist Parsonage, c. 1934; The Hutcheson-Vaughan-Mayfield House, c. 1939; The Armstrong-Cox-Kiesler House, c. 1900 and Oakhurst, c. 1871. Also this year, the Merry Olde Marietta Tea Room will be located in the McDonald-Lawrence House, c. 1870. To volunteer as a docent, contact the Marietta Welcome Center at (770) 429-1115 or Cobb Landmarks at (770) 426-4982.

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October 10, 2005 09:00 AM US Eastern Timezone

Turknett Leadership Group Calls for Nominations; November 1st Deadline for 2005 Annual Leadership Character Awards

ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 10, 2005--Turknett Leadership Group (TLG) is seeking nominations for the third annual statewide Leadership Character Awards. Atlanta-based TLG in partnership with **Kennesaw State University's RTM Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character** will honor four individuals and two organizations that best exemplify the standards set forth in the Turknett Leadership Character Model. Anyone may nominate a deserving individual or organization through November 1, 2005 at www.leadershipcharacter.com.

"The Turknett Leadership Character Award is the ultimate recognition in business today," said Jim Huling, CEO of MATRIX Resources, Inc. "This award acknowledges the individuals and organizations that have made the utmost principles, ethics and values the cornerstone of their success, regardless of financial achievement. I strongly encourage those professionals and companies who adhere to the highest levels of integrity, ethics and values to also seek this ultimate honor in Georgia business." MATRIX was one of the 2003 winners of the Organization Character Award and Huling was a nominee for an individual Leadership Character Award.

The categories for the Leadership Character Award are: Associate/Individual Contributor, Executive/Manager, President/CEO/Partner, and Non-Profit/Education. Categories for organizations are divided into two groups by size: over 500 employees, and under 500 employees.

Nominees will be evaluated based on the degree to which they exhibit the qualities of Leadership or Organization Character. Leaders with character possess unquestioned integrity, treat others with respect and take personal responsibility for the success of the organization. Organizations with character also have unquestioned integrity, treat their customers, suppliers and each other with respect, and maintain a culture in which everyone takes responsibility for achieving results and upholding the values.

All nominees and winners will be recognized at a luncheon ceremony on February 6, 2006 at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Buckhead.

Members of the advisory group who will select the honorees include Oz Nelson, retired chairman and CEO of United Parcel Service; Conchita Robinson, CEO of C. Robinson Associates; Dr. Betty Siegel, president of Kennesaw State University, and Frank Skinner, retired president of BellSouth Telecommunications.

Turknett Leadership Group is a character-based management and consulting firm that focuses on aligning strategy, leadership and culture by providing services in the areas of Executive Development, Selection & Integration; Succession Planning; Team Assessment and Development; Ethics, Retention and Culture Consulting.

December 10, 2005

People

PEOPLE: A salute to Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel is Jan. 7 at the Waverly Hotel. Dr. Siegel, one of Georgia's longest-serving university presidents, will retire in 2006. For ticket info and table sponsorships, call Southern National Bank Executive Vice President Joe Daniell at (770) 424-2000, ext. 234. - The hottest report in business circles is that Home Depot co-founder and multimillionaire Arthur Blank is buying the Atlanta Braves from AOL. Blank already owns the Atlanta Falcons. ... Architect Marshall Cavitt has replaced the late Dr. Bob Hayes as a director of the Aviation Museum at Marietta, says President Bob Ormsby. Cavitt will work on the Building and Grounds Committee. - Dermatologist Dr. Robert Harper is new president of the Cobb County Medical Society. Dr. Harper received his UGA undergraduate degree and medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Elizabeth Street, an OB/GYN, is president-elect and daughter of Dr. William McLean. Dr. Edward Lloyd, a family practice physician, is secretary-treasurer. ... If you miss MDJ syndicated columnist Bill Shipp Sunday on "The Georgia Gang" TV program it's because he's going to rest for a month before January's legislative session.

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THIS AND THAT: There will be a double outside lane closure on Interstate 20 eastbound from milepost 45 to milepost 51 - or Factory Shoals Road overpass bridge to Interstate 285 - from 6 a.m. today thru 5 a.m. Monday. Drivers should plan an alternate route. - The public is invited to the Georgia Department of Transportation's open house from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Marietta Fire Headquarters, 112 Haynes St.

nnn

POLITICAL PLATTER: For the fourth time, east Cobb pol Charlie Bailey is seeking the Republican secretary of state nomination. Democrat Cathy Cox is the incumbent. But don't knock it. In his last outing, Bailey won the GOP bid and ran a credible race against Cox, who next year is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

nnn

LOOKING FOR a special Christmas gift? Look no further than the Marietta Welcome Center to fill up your Christmas stocking. A new shipment of the Limited Edition Historic Marietta Stoneware in Blue and Cranberry has arrived. Other gift ideas include

the new book, "Images of America: Cobb County", the Marietta collage ornament, the Marietta Depot ornament made of Georgia marble, the Marietta Pilgrimage ornament sandstone sculptures of the Depot, note cards and Marietta T-shirts and golf shirts. The Welcome Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call 770-429-1115

nnn

The choirs of Marietta First United Methodist Church have prepared music to accompany the ancient story at 5 p.m. Dec. 18 in the sanctuary at First Methodist. To order complimentary tickets, call the church office at (770) 429-7800.

After serving as a chaplain in World War I, Rev. Eric Milner-White became dean of King's College, Cambridge, and compiled a simple service drawn from nine Scripture lessons to "tell the whole story of our redemption." Beginning in the Garden of Eden, the lessons culminate with St. John proclaiming "the Word became Flesh."

nnn

THE COBB CHAMBER'S South Cobb Area Council will host an appreciation luncheon for all south Cobb elected officials at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Coach George E. Ford Center in Powder Springs. The Garrett Middle School chorus also will perform holiday songs at lunch, sponsored by Georgian Bank. Steve Puckett of Puckett EMS is the chairman. RSVP by Monday by calling (770) 980-200 or visit www.cobbchamber.org. For more info, call Slade Gulledge at (770) 859-2322 or sgulledge@cobbchamber.org.

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Monday, October 10, 2005

Building a new home

By David Burch

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA - When Marietta's Zion Baptist Church was first established in 1866, its sanctuary at the corner of Lemon and Haynes streets was a small, wooden structure that reflected the modest means of the 88 former slaves who petitioned local and state leaders to create a church of their own.

Today, the church - which now boasts a membership of more than 1,200 churchgoers - is preparing to begin construction on a \$10.2 million sanctuary and classroom building located two blocks from the Marietta Square.

The 60,596 square foot, red-brick building at the corner of Cherokee and Lemon streets will feature a 1,200 seat sanctuary and a classroom building to house Zion Baptist's nursery and children's programs. Construction of the building is expected to be finished by December 2006.

A groundbreaking ceremony Sunday for Zion Baptist's new sanctuary attracted a variety of elected and community leaders, including Cobb Commission Chairman Sam Olens, Marietta City Councilman Anthony Coleman, state Rep. Judy Manning (R-Marietta) and Kennesaw State University President Dr. Betty Siegel.

Planning for the new sanctuary has been ongoing for the past seven years as the church negotiated with neighboring property owners to purchase land and raised the first \$1.5 million needed for construction.

"This is truly a God-sized project," said Tom Webster, chairman of Zion Baptist's board of directors. "We know that God has told us that if we take the first step - God will show us the way."

The new sanctuary will be the fourth worship place for the 139-year-old church, which is the oldest black Baptist church in Cobb County. A brick sanctuary built in 1888 - on the site of the original wood church which was destroyed by fire - is now preserved as a church museum. Zion Baptist's current sanctuary was built in 1978 and has a capacity for

only about 350 worshipers.

Senior Pastor Rev. Harris T. Travis said the church's growing membership in recent years has required the establishment of two Sunday services and an "overflow area" outside the sanctuary where worshipers are forced to watch services on closed-circuit television.

"We're over capacity," Travis said. "(The new sanctuary) will allow us to accommodate more ministries."

Located on a high-profile corner within sight of the Square, the new Zion Baptist sanctuary joins other nearby redevelopment projects like the renovation of the historic Strand Theater down the street.

Travis said the church has worked with the City of Marietta to make sure the design of the new building fits in with the overall redevelopment plans for the blocks surrounding the Square. He also said he hopes the visibility of the new building will help build the church and its programs.

"One of the keys is location, location, location," Travis said. "Hopefully from the location there will be people that will just drop by - We believe that the location will definitely help."

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Thursday, October 13, 2005

Group requests nominations of leaders

From staff reports

KENNESAW - Atlanta-based Turknett Leadership Group is seeking nominations for the third annual statewide Leadership Character Awards.

TLG in partnership with Kennesaw State University's RTM Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character will honor four individuals and two organizations that best exemplify the standards set forth in the Turknett Leadership Character Model. Anyone may nominate a deserving individual or organization through Nov. 1, 2005 at www.leadershipcharacter.com.

For the third consecutive year, a group of respected business leaders serve as the advisory group to select honorees. Members of the advisory group include Oz Nelson, retired chairman and CEO of United Parcel Service; Conchita Robinson, CEO of C. Robinson Associates; Dr. Betty Siegel, president of Kennesaw State University; and Frank Skinner, retired president of BellSouth Telecommunications.

The categories for the Leadership Character Award are: Associate/Individual Contributor, Executive/Manager, President/CEO/Partner and Non-Profit/Education. Categories for organizations are divided into two groups, more than 500 employees and less than 500 employees.

Nominees will be evaluated based on the degree to which they exhibit the qualities of leadership or organization character. Leaders with character possess unquestioned integrity, treat others with respect and take personal responsibility for the success of the organization. Organizations with character also have unquestioned integrity, treat their customers, suppliers and each other with respect, and maintain a culture in which everyone takes responsibility for achieving results and upholding the values.

"We know that Georgia is home to many dynamic businesses that have people who show outstanding leadership regardless of their position or title," said Bob Turknett, co-founder and CEO of Turknett Leadership Group. "We look forward to reviewing entries from across the state."

All nominees and winners will be recognized at a luncheon ceremony Feb. 6 at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Buckhead. To register for this event, visit www.acteva.com/go/turknett.

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Cobb

BUSINESS BRIEFS

LESLIE EVERTON BRICE

271 words

13 October 2005

The Atlanta Journal - Constitution

Home

JF9

English

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Kennesaw State president joins board of bank

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel has joined the board of directors of One Georgia Bank, I.O. (In Organization).

The bank, which is scheduled to open in March, aims to serve the business market in Midtown and other areas in metro Atlanta.

Siegel has been president of Kennesaw State since 1981, and she is the first woman to head an institution in the 34-unit University System of Georgia. She plans to retire next year.

Cook wins blue ribbon for blueberry jam

Amy Phillips, co-founder of Amy & Tammy's Boxed Lunch Co. in Marietta, recently won the blue ribbon for her blueberry jam at the North Georgia State Fair.

Phillips said she learned all she knows about cooking from her grandmother, who also is the inspiration for the Boxed Lunch Co., which she co-founded with Tammy Cohen.

Amy & Tammy's serves freshly prepared sandwiches, pasta and potato salads and homemade desserts.

More information: 678-202-0168 or www.boxedlunchcompany.com .

Georgia Birth Network to present seminar

The Georgia Birth Network will present a free seminar 2-4 p.m. Oct. 23 at Marietta Central Library, 266 Roswell St.

Local mothers, a lactation consultant and a financial planner will give advice to help women make the transition from having a paid job to being a stay-at-home mom, and to help moms return to the work force after the baby is born.

More information: 678-264-4944

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Thursday, September 15, 2005

Summit aims to level playing field in sports

By Erin J. Murrin

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

Positively changing societal views on gender equality is an ongoing and arduous task. This battle will nevertheless rage on in Cobb County's backyard as great thinkers and leaders from across the world will appear at the 2005 International Summit on Effecting Social Change Through Women's Leadership in Sport.

The conference will be held from Oct. 20 through Oct. 22 at the Cobb Galleria Centre. It will be hosted by Kennesaw State University's College of Health and Human Services in association with the United State Olympic Committee (USOC) as part of the United Nation's International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005).

"I think the main purpose is to highlight the possibilities for using sport as a vehicle for social change and how women's leadership really exemplifies that," said Mike Spino, director of the conference and director of international sports education at KSU.

In 2000, the 191 United Nations member states pledged the completion of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015.

Spino said 2005 was named the International Year of Sport and Physical Education to address MDG the third goal of promoting gender equality and empowering women.

"KSU was kind of a pioneer in recognizing that sport can be used as a vehicle of change," Spino said. "This is really a vision of (KSU) president Betty Siegel. She and Dr. Richard Sowell were the force behind this."

The two and a half day conference is the only one of its kind in the United States. It will focus on the progression of social changes and how women can influence these changes.

The program will include a keynote address by Adolf Ogi, special adviser to the secretary general of the United Nations on sport for development and peace.

Other presentations will feature Donna de Varona, 2-time Olympic gold medallist and founder member of the Women's Sports Foundation; Erica Terpstra, former Olympic swimmer and president of the Netherlands Olympic Committee and Netherlands Sport Foundation; Tina Sloan

Green, president and co-founder of Black Women in Sport Foundation; Lesley Visser, longtime CBS sports analyst and pioneer of females in broadcast journalism; and Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin.

Registration is still open for this event. The conference fee is \$329. Spino encourages everyone involved in social or athletic fields to attend.

"The conference creates a constituency," Spino said. "We'd like people who are involved in athletics, athletic directors, people involved in social work and sport and development to all attend. And the main thing is that we've organized an incredible amount of experts and speakers from all over the world. This is a first for Cobb County and it's really a Cobb County event."

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Monday, October 15, 2005

KSU plan for hockey put on ice

By David Friedlander

Marietta Daily Journal Sports Writer

The plan to elevate **Kennesaw State's** club hockey program to Division I varsity status is officially frozen - at least, for now.

That was made clear with a statement released by KSU athletics director Dr. Dave Waples on Friday afternoon in which he announced the school had "regrettably declined the offer of the College Hockey USA Conference to join the CHA and commence a Division I competition in Fall 2006."

"The University is unable at this time to provide the financial resources necessary to internally support the hockey program at a level commensurate with KSU's expected standards of excellence and on a parallel footing with our other programs," Waples said in the statement.

Reached later in the day, Waples specified the main financial sticking points to adding hockey as being the costs of KSU's move to Division I and the Atlantic Sun Conference in all its other sports programs, plus the addition of other sports over the next two years.

"Essentially, student funds were unavailable," Waples said. "And due to the upgrade to Division I and the addition of (men's and women's) outdoor track and field and women's golf this year and (women's) volleyball next year, plus the uncertainty about funds in the future, we couldn't make it happen."

The decision by KSU not to elevate its club hockey program to Division I varsity means CHA will now have to look elsewhere to fill a vacancy that will occur when the U.S. Air Force Academy leaves for the Atlantic Hockey Association next year.

The CHA still has through the end of the 2006-07 season as a grace period to find a sixth member before it risks losing its automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"We made a sincere and concerted effort to help Kennesaw (State) elevate its club program to Division I," CHA commissioner Bob Peters said. "Unfortunately, they were unable to reach a comfort level to do that. College Hockey America will continue to

pursue (a new) active conference member."

And while Waples' statement put to rest any attempt for KSU to drop the puck for the 2006-07 season, he wouldn't totally close the door on reviving the effort in the future if financial circumstances change

"We would not rule anything out," Waples said. "We made a real hard run at it this year. Right now, we can say we won't be pursuing a (varsity) hockey team through 2006-07. That's the way we have to leave it for now.

"Commissioner Bob Peters and the member institutions of the CHA worked cooperatively with us and responded to our every request throughout this process. (KSU) President (Dr. Betty) Siegel and I will forever be grateful for their effort, the respect they have shown for our University and their keen interest in bringing NCAA Division I hockey to Georgia."

Peters also wouldn't shut the door on KSU joining the CHA someday in the future, though he added the conference is now looking at other options.

"That is their question to answer," Peters said. "It's been our sincere hope to bring Kennesaw up to Division I hockey. - We stand ready to help college hockey throughout the country. - We're certainly hoping to bring Division I college hockey to Georgia or elsewhere in the Southeast. There are all sorts of club teams in the Southeast."

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950 receive degrees at **Kennesaw State** Ceremonies may be last for outgoing president

AIXA M. PASCUAL

The ceremony had all the trappings of a typical college graduation -- the sound of bagpipes, the alma mater hymn and the conferral of degrees.

But **Kennesaw State** University President Betty Siegel decided to give the nearly 1,000 students graduating Thursday more than a diploma. She offered them a chunk of speckled granite wrapped in black tulle. She called it the "KSU Remembrance Rock."

A parting present, perhaps.

Siegel, who has led the Cobb County college for almost 25 years, will likely be stepping down next semester. And this commencement, the school's 79th, might be her last if her successor takes over before May.

"It may be or may not," Siegel said after the morning graduation ceremony in KSU's new \$17.5 million convocation center. A second graduation was held in the afternoon, with a total of 950 students getting their bachelor's or master's degrees.

Siegel, who presided over the commencements Thursday wearing her trademark round, red eyeglasses, said she hopes her successor takes KSU to new heights.

"All one can hope for is that you built well and that others take the university to new levels," she said.

When she arrived on campus in 1981, the school was called Kennesaw College and had just become a four-year institution with 4,000 students.

Siegel, a coal miner's daughter from Kentucky who was the first in her family to go to college, transformed the commuter school into a university of 18,500 students with 41 baccalaureate programs and 16 master's programs.

KSU, now the third-largest university in the University System of Georgia, boasts NCAA Division I sports teams, residential halls and an endowment of \$20 million.

The quality of freshman life on campus has been highlighted in U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges issue for the past two years.

Siegel, who turns 75 in January, announced unexpectedly in May -- during a graduation ceremony -- that she was stepping down as president. She has said she will stay in the post until her successor is found.

The search to fill her job is in full swing, and a replacement is expected to be named by mid-February at the latest, said Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts at KSU and chairman of the 12-member KSU presidential search and advisory committee.

The committee is down to five finalists, and their names may be released as early as today, pending consent from all the candidates, Meeks said.

The five contenders, who will visit the campus in January, come from all over the country, Meeks said. His committee will forward the information on the candidates to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, which narrows down the search and makes the final decision.

Even if Thursday's graduation is her last as president, Siegel will remain at KSU in a new role after her successor is named. She'll hold an endowed chair in ethical leadership.

Her gifts to the graduating class Thursday -- the small pieces of granite -- are emblems of the school's "Remembrance Rock," a huge piece of granite that sits outside the convocation center.

The rock, Siegel once told the KSU student newspaper, was an idea she borrowed from poet Carl Sandburg, and his novel "Remembrance Rock." It's a place where students can go to reflect on life, as Sandburg's character did.

Her little gifts of granite, Siegel said Thursday, are mementos for the graduates to take with them, so they never forget what really matters as they leave the university.

Attached to the gift with a golden ribbon is a piece of paper, signed by Siegel, with five questions -- three from Sandburg's novel, and two she added:

Who am I?

Where do I come from?

Where am I going?

What is the meaning?

How do I matter?

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

A swan song?

President Betty Siegel gives a rousing speech Thursday to students, families and faculty attending commencement ceremonies at **Kennesaw State** University. Her graduation speeches -- two services were held -- could possibly be among the last ones Siegel delivers as school president. She is expected to step down next semester. (Teaser)

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel presided Thursday over what might be her last graduation ceremonies at KSU. Siegel will step down once a successor is named.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Gwendolyn Louise Eagleson, 65, earned a degree in African and African Diaspora studies.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Accounting major Annessa Montenegro, 24, excitedly attends graduation Thursday.

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KSU in bloom

Kennesaw State forges new identity as growing campus life helps attract top students

AIXA M. PASCUAL

Standing in her on-campus apartment, cooking home-made waffles in her grandmother's waffle iron, 18-year-old Kelly Albertelli doesn't look the part of a typical **Kennesaw State** University student. Or at least what used to be typical as recently as two or three years ago.

In her spacious and fully equipped kitchen, the freshman from Lilburn is making breakfast after walking back from chemistry lab. She lives with three roommates in a four-bedroom apartment where each has her own private bathroom. It's a far cry from **Kennesaw State**'s old commuter school atmosphere, with traffic-harried students jockeying for parking spaces.

Indeed, her roommate Adrienne Barrett of Marietta wouldn't have attended the school if it didn't have such accommodations. She didn't want to live at home. She wanted to get "the college experience."

"I probably would have gone to Georgia State" University instead, Barrett said.

Like Georgia State, the Kennesaw campus is coming of age and becoming an in-demand residential school for traditional college-age students. This year's freshman class has more 17- and 18-year-olds than any before. And a record 1,173 freshmen live in the school's new dormitories. "We're joining the ranks of a more traditional college culture," boasts Admissions Director Joe F. Head.

With about 18,500 students, the school is now larger than Georgia Tech. What started as a junior college in 1963 -- it didn't become a university until 1996 -- has grown into the third-largest public university in the state, behind the University of Georgia and Georgia State.

The influx of students straight out of high school has changed the 183-acre campus.

"It feels younger to me," said Kathy Alday, director of student life, who has been at the school 16 years. "There's more people on bicycles."

Students move in

The campus was a commuter school until it opened its first residence halls, University Place, three years ago. Last year, the school inaugurated its freshman housing. The sleek brick buildings with a decidedly urban look contain nearly 900 apartments, including 96 units that opened in August.

And KSU has provided the requisite amenities to cater to those new residents.

Across from Kennesaw Hall, the main administration building, students play Frisbee or toss footballs on a huge green that has replaced a worn intramural sports field and a through road. Surface lots have given way to multilevel parking decks. A late-evening hip-hop aerobics class taught at the new recreation center, which is open until midnight, keeps the campus rocking late into the night.

"There's a whole energy . . . that extends out into the evening," said KSU President Betty Siegel, who has led the school since 1981.

University officials credit the shift toward a more traditional university to on-campus housing and to success in sports, both of which appeal to the younger college students. In 2003, the women's soccer team won the national title in Division II of the NCAA. The next year, the men's basketball team won the Division II title.

This year, the school jumped to Division I. Though Division I doesn't mean the school has better sports teams, it does add to its prestige, Athletics Director Dave Waples said. By being Division I, "we are going to attract attention" among a younger population, he added.

The HOPE scholarship program, which gives financial aid to Georgia's top high school graduates, also has helped bring in highly qualified students. The number of HOPE recipients rose 80 percent, to 6,605, from the 1999-2000 school year to the 2004-05 school year, said Michael Roberts, KSU's director of student financial aid. The HOPE scholarship "has helped [attract] extraordinarily good students to Kennesaw," said Dan Papp, senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs for the University System of Georgia.

KSU first saw a dramatic surge in freshman applications from younger students for the fall 2002 semester, Head said. Applications soared 32 percent, to 4,183. As a result, the admissions office raised standards "to manage our enrollment," he said. In 2003, KSU raised the minimum grade-point average to 2.5 and increased the required minimum SAT score from 830 to 950.

Reputation 'stronger'

The result is that KSU has become a more selective university and a first-choice school for many good students, high school counselors say.

"Their reputation is much stronger than it used to be," said Anne Carlson, counselor at Walton High School in east Cobb County. Before, high school seniors would apply to KSU as their safety school, but "I don't get that at all anymore. . . . It's attracting much stronger students."

The first year tougher standards were in effect, families crowded the admissions office to appeal rejections like never before. "It was a shocker," Head said. "Over 100 families insisted on an appointment [to] appeal. I was worn out." KSU still sees double-digit increases in freshman applications, at a time when Georgia Tech reported an almost 7 percent increase and UGA showed a decrease of 7 percent. **Kennesaw State** received a record 6,177 freshman applications, up 24 percent from 2004.

Retention a top goal

What's going on at Kennesaw is not unique. With a boom in the college-age population and a surge in for-profit institutions, such as DeVry University, snagging the adult population, state universities are working to attract a younger population, said Travis Reindl, director of state policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

And once they enroll, **Kennesaw State** wants to make sure they stay four or five years. All freshmen who live on campus, about 43 percent of the class, must participate in a "learning community," in which about 25 students take two to four classes together their first semester. Besides giving them a close-knit group, the learning communities improve retention, satisfaction and academic performance, said Mary Lou Bryant Frank, KSU's dean of undergraduate studies. Research shows that students who live on campus are more likely to go into their second year and complete their undergraduate degree, said Patrick Terenzini, senior scientist at Pennsylvania State University's Center for the Study of Higher Education.

This is because students who live on campus have more opportunity to mix with others and participate in out-of-classroom activities. "A student's level of engagement is a powerful predictor of student success," Terenzini said.

Even without the studies and fancy research language, Head said, the business decision is pretty simple.

"The 18-year-old market is conditioned to go to school. So why would we not want it if they're interested in us?" Head asked. "You don't turn a market away."

A version of this article also may appear in today's Metro section.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Sophomore Sam Bottoms rides across the **Kennesaw State** University campus. He's from Alpharetta but is living in a student dorm.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Residence halls aided KSU's transition to a more traditional campus.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Freshman Kelly Albertelli, who is from Lilburn, makes waffles in her residence hall suite.

Graphic

CHANGE COMES FAST

.....Prospective

.....freshmen

.....applying ...Noteworthy

Semester.....to KSU ...that year

Fall 2005.....6,177 ...Record in freshman applications

Fall 2004.....4,973 ...New freshman residences open

Fall 2003.....5,440 ...KSU raises freshman admissions standards

Fall 2002.....4,183 ...First university housing opens

Fall 2001.....3,158 ...Admissions standards raised; more highschool math required

Fall 2000.....4,912

Fall 1999.....2,883
Fall 1998.....2,767 ...SAT requirement is 830, GPA is 2.0
Source: KSU

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December 18, 2005

Time for new generation of visionaries

Last Thursday, I sat in the back of a packed auditorium at Kennesaw State University and listened as deans awarded diplomas to a thousand fresh graduates, including my older daughter Edie Miles.

Our family, including Edie's husband Ron and daughters Kati and Hillary, yelled like a bunch of yahoo rednecks when Edie's name was called. She smiled faintly and waved barely. I pounded my walking stick on the floor.

Regents Chairman Tim Shelnut of Augusta delivered an eloquent commencement address, recalling that he is a high school dropout who now heads one of the South's stellar university systems. At the end of a splendid career as KSU president, Betty Siegel presided with perfection. At the close of the ceremony, I stepped outside into a cutting wind and a cold, cold rain. My younger daughter Michelle steadied my arm. My wife Reny could not attend.

I felt a tear in my eye and a moment of sadness. My mind raced back 50 years. Kennesaw State University did not exist.

Just before Christmas 1955, a cutting wind and a cold, cold rain whipped across the turret of an abandoned castle in West Germany. From that high vantage point, Army PFC Shipp looked eastward and northward across the rolling plains, wondering about his future and trying to guess when (not if) a Soviet tank division would come thundering toward him.

The Cold War was near its peak. The Korean War had ended. The occupation of Germany had been officially lifted five months earlier, but the American Seventh Army was still there, armed to the teeth. Vietnam lay ahead, though no one yet knew it. PFC Shipp pondered whether to re-enlist so he could get military permission to wed that perky little Czech girl he had met a few months earlier.

Christmas 1955, one of the coldest on record in central Europe, came and went. I did not re-enlist. The Soviets never came. I shipped out for home the following summer and sent for my Czech lady once I was back in civvies. Reny and I have just marked wedding anniversary No. 49.

How different times were. In 1955, Dwight Eisenhower, who had led us to victory in World War II, was president. He understood completely the potential horrors of another

world war. In Congress, some leading lights captured headlines almost daily by labeling dissenters traitors for being "soft on communism." In Atlanta, legislators tried to outdo each other with vows to keep Negroes "in their place," even as Martin Luther King Jr. began his crusade for equality in nearby Montgomery, Ala. King's movement would shortly spread like fire across the South.

On second thought, perhaps times were not so different. Of course, we have no war-wise Ike in the White House, though the present occupant shows signs of increasing wisdom. Congress hasn't changed much. Demagogues and plain fools still call dissenters traitors. In Atlanta, illegal aliens have replaced blacks as the despised underclass. State lawmakers are trying to eclipse each other with plans to chase the illegals out of Georgia, even as KSU awards stacks of diplomas to men and women with Latin surnames. (The betting here is that many of the new Hispanic graduates and certainly their parents fit to a T the Legislature's definition of "illegal alien.")

Of course, in the South of 1955, elective leadership slots were occupied by dedicated Democrats. Today, those positions are held by steadfast Republicans. No matter what they called themselves then and now, their politics are nearly identical.

Even so, opportunity abounds in the South as never before. In 1955, the future home of KSU was pastureland and woods with a view of Kennesaw Mountain. Today, KSU is a thriving university of close to 20,000 students. Nearly every community in Georgia has a similar institution offering either academic or vocational degrees.

Georgia leads the region and perhaps the nation in the expansion of higher education. In the Peach State, no child or adult - regardless of race or economic background - who desires a college degree or a vo-tech certificate is left behind. Fifty years ago, few such prospects existed, though the GI Bill was a kind of forerunner to the HOPE Scholarship.

When I returned from the Army, the state's economic engine was just beginning to crank up. A generation of progressive and aggressive political and business leaders was taking charge. A half century later, Georgia's motor is still running at high speed, though a faint sputtering can be heard. It may be time for a tune-up and for another generation of visionaries to step up and take over.

You can reach Bill Shipp at P.O. Box 440755, Kennesaw, GA 30160.

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Colleges say they need more space

With enrollment booming statewide, questions linger about funding for buildings.

Brandon Larrabee
Savannah Morning News

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At the Medical College of Georgia, a new cancer research facility is set to be finished by the first part of next year. A structure for the nursing and allied health sciences programs is being built. And more construction could be on the way.

"We have two cranes up right now," said Dr. Daniel Rahn, the college's president.

But like other school heads around the state, Rahn also sees looming needs for his campus that the legislature should consider funding.

"If you find a president who says, 'this'll be enough,' I'll be stunned," Rahn said.

Across the University System of Georgia, colleges say they're cramped for space or working out of old buildings that don't fit their needs. A parade of presidents recently made the annual pilgrimage to Atlanta to press their case for new facilities before the State Board of Regents.

In many cases, the school chiefs hit the same refrain: current buildings were too old, too dilapidated or too small for the coming onslaught of students that the system is set to absorb in the next decade or so.

Regents expanded the size of the list of projects they would send to legislators and said the General Assembly needs to come up with more funding for the buildings.

But the numbers are staggering. According to Regent Martin NeSmith, who chairs the board's real estate committee, the most pressing needs of the university system total nearly \$1.2 billion.

All told, the state's colleges and universities need about \$7 billion, system officials told the regents.

Some state officials say they want to do more.

"I would like to see it increase, considering what we're facing in the way of growth that's going to be coming into the system in the next 10, 15 years," said Sen. Brian Kemp, an Athens Republican who chairs the higher education subcommittee of the upper chamber's budget-writing panel.

But Kemp and others point out there are other state needs as well. Rapidly rising health-care costs are squeezing the Medicaid budget; the state is revamping its formula for funding elementary and secondary schools; and some lawmakers are already queasy about endangering the state's highly regarded bond rating.

"It's not just a matter of writing checks," Rahn said, pointing to the huge tab. "That would be unrealistic."

'The need was so big'

At the beginning of each summer, a select group of college presidents trek to Atlanta to plead their case for new buildings. This year, 14 projects were presented in the hopes that they would make the priority list the regents submit to the General Assembly each year to help guide lawmakers' decisions.

By the time the regents voted, their staff had already pared the proposals down to the most urgent of more than 57 that had been submitted by the schools.

But the list was already 22 projects and an estimated \$559 million long when the regents met this year; both board members and presidents said that even though the list is officially a five-year plan, it could take a decade for proposals at the bottom to get funded.

Last year, the General Assembly provided design funds for eight of the projects; no project got construction money. The system hopes to get building funds for the designed projects next year, but that would require issuing more than \$200 million in bonds.

Some of the presidents, such as Savannah State chief Carlton Brown, pointed to buildings that still had asbestos.

Kennesaw State President Betty Siegel said her school lacks enough space - 919,000 square feet - at a campus with less than 750,000 square feet to begin with.

Rahn told regents that the School of Dentistry is housed in a building built in 1970 that isn't even equipped to handle the new dental equipment needed to teach students.

"We need more electrical capacity, and we also need more space for chairs," he said in an interview last week.

Rahn told the regents that his institution needed to produce more dentists to meet a rapidly growing state population and the fact that, since Emory University closed its dental school 16 years ago, the number of dentists coming out of Georgia's schools fell by more than 60 percent.

He said the program needs to substantially increase the number of students in most of its programs, but the current building won't allow it.

"We can't increase the class size," he said. "We've absolutely maxed out what we can do."

The money

But the question facing the state is how to fund more projects despite nagging needs in other areas. A state bond package for the coming fiscal year that includes hundreds of millions of dollars in projects, from ports to roads to university building designs, made some lawmakers jittery in the session that ended last April.

Even so, NeSmith said a large bond package targeted at university construction wouldn't be a bad idea.

"We think that would be very wise," he said.

Rahn said he thought more cooperation was needed, including input from the regents, the Department of Education and state officials.

"I want funds allocated to health care, too," Rahn said. "Unfortunately, you can only spend a dollar once."

Kemp said he didn't know if the state's bond rating would be endangered by a massive spending initiative for Georgia colleges and universities. He hopes the economy will continue to turn around and free up more money to meet the system's needs.

"I think it's going to be hard," Kemp said. "But I think we can do it."

Click here to return to story:

<http://www.savannahnow.com/stories/062005/3109961.shtml>

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Five contend for Kennesaw job New university president to be named soon

AIXA M. PASCUAL

Daniel S. Papp, senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs for the University System of Georgia, is one of the five finalists vying for the presidency of **Kennesaw State** University.

The names of the five finalists were released late Tuesday afternoon in a memo from the dean heading the search to the KSU community. All candidates will visit the KSU campus next month. Betty Siegel announced last May that she was leaving the presidency of KSU in January 2006. During her almost 25 years at the helm, KSU grew into the third-largest university in the University System of Georgia, with 18,500 students enrolled.

A replacement is expected to be named by mid-February, Dean Joseph Meeks, chairman of the 12-member KSU presidential search and advisory committee, told the AJC last week. The Board of Regents will make the final choice. Siegel will stay in the presidency until her successor is installed.

Papp was one of three finalists for the position of chancellor of the University System of Georgia. Erroll Davis, chairman of a Wisconsin energy company, was named chancellor on Dec. 8. He will assume the post in early 2006.

The other four candidates for the presidency of KSU are:

- John Dunn, Ed.D. -- provost and vice chancellor, Southern Illinois University;
- Thomas Hanley, Ph.D. -- former provost, Auburn University;
- Stephen Lehmkuhle, Ph.D. -- interim chancellor of University of Missouri-Kansas City and senior academic vice president for academic affairs, University of Missouri System;
- and Timothy Mescon, Ph.D. -- dean of the Coles College of Business, **Kennesaw State** University.

Photo

Daniel S. Papp of the University System of Georgia is one of five finalists.

December 21, 2005

School's longtime leader, Betty Siegel, set to retire soon

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - The five finalists vying to replace Dr. Betty Siegel as president of Kennesaw State University range from a chief academic officer of Auburn University to KSU's own business school dean.

The finalists are John Dunn, Ed.D., provost and vice chancellor of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., who will visit KSU on Jan. 20; Thomas Hanley, Ph.D., former provost at Auburn University, which is the position of chief academic officer, who will visit Jan. 18; Stephen Lehmkuhle, Ph.D., interim chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and senior academic vice president for Academic Affairs for the University of Missouri System, who will visit Jan. 17; Timothy Mescon, Ph.D., dean of the Coles College of Business at KSU, who will be interviewed Jan. 9; and Dan Papp, Ph.D., a former executive assistant to the president of Georgia Tech, former interim president at Southern Polytechnic State University and current senior vice chancellor for Academics and Fiscal Affairs for the University System of Georgia, who will visit Jan. 12.

Names of the five men were released to KSU staff in an e-mail Tuesday from Joseph Meeks, dean of the KSU College of Art and chairman of the presidential search committee, who said he was pleased to announce that the five finalists have accepted an invitation to visit the campus next month.

During their visits, the candidates will meet with a group of about 150 community leaders, before the selection process is handed over to the Board of Regents, who picks the finalist, according to Frances Weyand, KSU spokeswoman.

Dr. Siegel, who has served as president since 1981, has agreed to stay on to help with the transition until the finalist officially takes over, Ms. Weyand said.

A farewell fund-raiser party for Dr. Siegel, called the "Siegel Silver Salute" will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Renaissance Waverly located at the Cobb Galleria Centre.

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Monday, October 23, 2005

briefs

County board member plans series of forums

ACWORTH - Cobb school board member Laura Searcy has announced her next series of community forums.

The forums will be held in the media center at Pitner Elementary School in Acworth on Tuesday, on Dec. 5 and Jan. 23. All three meetings begin at 7 p.m. and will be open to the public.

The school is located at 4575 Wade Green Road in Acworth.

KSU student earns first Betty Siegel Scholarship

KENNESAW - James Carter of Kennesaw, a graduate of the North Metro Technical College Basic Computer Technician Certificate program, has been awarded the first Betty Siegel Scholarship, named after Kennesaw State University President Dr. Betty Siegel.

Carter plans to use the scholarship to further his information technology training by completing the Access Database Certificate program through KSU's Continuing Education program.

Carter was nominated for the award by Melissa Vickery, assistant director of continuing education at KSU.

He began his information technology training with KSU's Help Desk Professional Certificate program, successfully earning the certificate covering MS Office, network basics and customer service. Additionally, he earned the HelpDesk 2000 Certificate, a national certification in help desk customer service. His talents earned him a training position with United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Atlanta.

Magnet school at Wheeler set to host an open house

MARIETTA - The Center for Advanced Studies in Science, Math and Technology at Wheeler High School will host an open house for prospective students on at 7 p.m. Nov. 7.

A presentation will be held in the Wheeler auditorium followed by tours of the facilities and laboratories. Current students will be on hand to answer questions about student life. The Center is a specialized magnet program offering Cobb high school students an advanced curriculum in science, math and technology.

Students interested in the program apply during the fall of their eighth-grade year and complete a competitive admissions process.

Additional information is available online at www.wheelermagnet.com.

Local retailer announces donation to North Metro

KENNESAW - The Wal-Mart in Kennesaw recently donated \$2,500 to support the North Metro Technical College Adult Literacy program. The donation will be used primarily to fund GED preparation courses.

For more information on the Adult Literacy program at North Metro Technical College, call (770) 975-4029.

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December 26, 2005

Five strong candidates

to fill two big shoes

Kennesaw State University's search committee has selected five finalists for the presidency of the institution that has emerged as one of the state's leading universities under the direction of President Dr. Betty Siegel.

Dr. Siegel will retire next month after 25 years at the helm of KSU, the longest tenure of any woman university president in the country, having led the institution through an era of dramatic growth - from a four-year college with 15 baccalaureate degree programs and 4,000 students to a full-fledged university offering 55 undergraduate and graduate degrees with more than 18,000 students, third largest in the Georgia University System.

The new president will be chosen from a group of candidates with strong academic backgrounds. The list includes a pair of "favorite son" candidates:

n Dan Papp, Ph.D., senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs of the University System of Georgia, former executive assistant to the president of Georgia Tech and former interim president of Southern Polytechnic State University. Dr. Papp also was a finalist this fall for the role of Chancellor of the University System of Georgia.

n Timothy Mescon, Ph.D., the dean of the Coles College of Business at KSU.

The other three candidates are:

n John Dunn, Ed. D., the provost and vice chancellor of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill.

n Thomas Hanley, Ph.D., a former Auburn University provost, or chief academic officer.

n Stephen Lehmkuhle, Ph.D., the interim chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and senior academic vice president for academic affairs of the Missouri University System.

The candidates will visit the KSU campus next month as part of the selection process. We are confident they will be even more impressed with this outstanding university that was started from scratch by visionaries here in Cobb County in 1963 and opened as a junior

college with 1,014 students in 1966.

Clearly, the Board of Regents faces a challenging assignment in choosing the next president of Kennesaw State from the five top candidates, at least two of whom we know personally to be outstanding.

And clearly, the next president of KSU will face a challenging assignment in following high-achiever Betty Siegel and leading the university to higher levels of academic achievement.

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2005: A look back

News that kept us talking

DIANE STEPP, YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ, DON PLUMMER, CHANDLER BROWN, AIXA PASCUAL, RICHARD WHITT, BRENDEN SAGER

Evolution

Evolution dominated the headlines for Cobb County Schools at the beginning and end of 2005. In January a federal judge ordered the school district to tear disclaimer stickers calling evolution "a theory, not a fact," from almost 35,000 biology textbooks.

U. S. District Judge Clarence Cooper said the stickers improperly endorse religion and violate both the U. S. and Georgia constitutions. He said the disclaimers send "a message that the school board agrees with the beliefs of Christian fundamentalists and creationists."

Federal appeals court judges seemed less certain of that after hearing arguments in the case this month. While their ruling is not expected until next year, appeals judges seemed poised to overturn the lower court decision based on their skeptical questioning following arguments in the case.

Judge Ed Carnes of the 11th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the three-sentence disclaimer seemed to him to be "literally accurate."

Laptops

The school district waded into more hot water this year over a failed take-home laptop computer program for middle and high school students that ultimately led to the resignation in August of Superintendent Joe Redden and his top deputy, Donald Beers.

A special grand jury is investigating whether any laws were broken in the bidding process when school officials awarded the laptop contract to Apple Computer. The deal was potentially worth more than \$88 million.

In the wake of Redden's departure, the school board stuck close to home in naming his replacement. Cobb teacher, principal and administrator Fred Sanderson was sworn in last week to the top post. Board members said they were looking for a return to calmer waters.

But parents in east and west Cobb were making waves at year's end over redistricting plans. The proposed west Cobb reshuffling in preparation for next year's opening of a high school and two new middle schools brought howls from parents over the racially drawn lines to balance black and white enrollments between McEachern High and the new Hillgrove High, opening in August.

Hearings on the boundary plan will continue in January.

Jan. 17: A soldier dies

Army Pfc. Jesus Fonseca died after a car bomb exploded in Ar Ramadi in central Iraq.

Fonseca, a 2003 graduate of Sprayberry High School, was 19 years old.

His body was returned to Cobb for one day for a public viewing and Mass at Transfiguration Catholic Church in east Cobb. He was buried in his hometown of Degollado in Mexico.

Born on the Fourth of July, Fonseca once wrote in a school paper about patriotism: "I think the best way I can love my new country is to serve my new country."

The year has been a rough one for the family, said Patricia Rodriguez, 25, his sister.

"Every time we have a family reunion, we have an empty space," Rodriguez said recently. "It's painful to hear on the news how many other soldiers have died. When we watch the news it does hurt. It brings up memories."

Feb. 22: New top cop

George Hatfield is confirmed as Cobb County's new police chief. The Cobb officer, who has been on the force since 1971, was appointed interim chief after former Cobb Chief Lee New was fired Nov. 23. New, a former Atlanta police officer, was fired by County Manager David Hankerson after seven years as Cobb's chief. Hatfield, who was deputy chief of the Uniform Bureau, beat out four other senior officers for the position, which pays \$105,000 a year.

Hatfield, 54, set several goals for his tenure. One was to add officers to the gang unit. "We can't ignore that we have gang activity," Hatfield said. On Aug. 7, Hatfield doubled the size of his nine-member antigang unit by transferring nine officers from the department's tactical squad.

Another goal Hatfield set -- requiring all of the county's 575 sworn officers to have more interaction with the citizens they serve -- remains a work in progress. "We may not be able to go back to the days when everyone on the block knew the beat cop, but we can do more to know and be known to the citizens we serve," he said.

May 12: Stepping down

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel, one of the longest serving female university presidents in the country, says she will step down in 2006.

Siegel -- wearing her usual colorful, oversized glasses -- made her surprise announcement during a commencement ceremony on the Kennesaw campus. "I want to announce on this glorious day that I will be stepping down in my 25th year," Siegel said.

Named president of **Kennesaw State** in 1981, Siegel was the first female president of a public university in Georgia. In her 24 years as president, she has overseen the school's transition from a commuter campus to a residential university that offers 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Enrollment has increased from 3,500 to 18,000 students during her tenure.

Sept. 12: Kidnapping, murder

Kimberly Diane Boyd, 30, a 1992 Wheeler High School graduate and mother of two children, was kidnapped at gunpoint by Brian O'Neil Clark shortly after leaving the truck rental store she and her husband, Michael, owned in Acworth.

Several passers-by called 911 to report Boyd involved in a violent struggle as her car careened down U.S. 41. Minutes later, the car turned in front of a cement truck, killing her instantly.

Then, police said, witness Shawn Roberts shot and killed Clark as he ran from the crash scene.

Police later said Clark, a convicted sex offender, tried to rape a woman in the same area a week earlier. That woman escaped.

Michael Boyd was furious because Clark was not listed in the database of convicted sex offenders. He vowed to lobby state officials to change procedures that he said could prevent such crimes.

Police said Roberts, the man who shot Clark, acted lawfully.

Sept. 13: Recruit killed

A 23-year-old Kennesaw Police Department recruit was shot and killed during training at the North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy in Austell.

Tara Drummond was shot once in the chest during the first day of firearms training. Cobb Sheriff's Deputy Al Jackson shot her while conducting the course.

Cobb police investigated the shooting and turned over the results to District Attorney Pat Head's office. Jackson has not been charged. He has been placed on "restricted duty" with the Sheriff's Department, which means he receives full pay but is no longer in uniform and does not teach at the academy, said Cobb Sheriff's spokesman Nancy Bodiford.

Jackson was a 10-year instructor at the academy. He was the class coordinator for the 30-member class that draws recruits from Cobb, Paulding, Douglas, Cherokee, Pickens, Gilmer, Fannin and Carroll counties and for the cities of Alpharetta, Roswell and Villa Rica.

Sept. 20: New tax

In an atmosphere swirling with controversy over laptop computers, Cobb voters went to the polls and approved a new sales tax to relieve road congestion and build a new jail and courthouse.

The measure will increase the sales tax from 5 percent to 6 percent beginning Sunday.

Supporters ran a quiet, although well-funded campaign while the opposition wasn't well-funded or organized. Still, the measure barely squeaked through by just over 100 votes out of nearly 20,000 cast.

The county expects to collect \$826 million before the tax expires Dec. 31, 2012.

County officials expect to begin some construction projects by early spring.

The first priority for funds will be the jail and some much-needed road projects, according to county officials.

Sept. 30: Politics, maps changing

The U.S. Department of Justice signed off on Georgia's new congressional maps, which will dramatically change Cobb's political landscape. When the maps take effect in January 2007, nearly a third of the county will be in the 13th District, currently held by U.S. Rep. David Scott, a south metro Atlanta Democrat who's already campaigning here.

"I know there are important issues facing the people of this district, and I need to get out and find out what those issues are," Scott said in a recent interview with reporters and editors of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Cobb County bureau.

The new map means that the 5th District, held by longtime Democrat John Lewis, will no longer include Cobb. The 6th and 11th districts (currently held by Republicans Tom Price and Phil Gingrey, respectively) will continue representing north Cobb.

The congressional primary elections are July 18.

Nov. 21: Lights are on

After a one-year hiatus, the Lights of Life were back on at Life University this Christmas season, signaling continued progress as the Cobb County college emerges from financial and accreditation troubles.

In November, the Marietta university, known for its chiropractic program, was accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education. Life had lost its accreditation in June 2002, after the CCE placed the school on probation. The school, under court-ordered accreditation since January 2003, suffered a drop in enrollment and financial health.

"This is the last piece of the puzzle," said Life President Guy Riekeman, who was hired in March 2004 to turn around the university's fortunes, referring to the CCE accreditation.

This year, the Lights of Life, a 2 million-light extravaganza, were back on, thanks to the school's return to health.

Enrollment is also on the rise. After a low point of 830 students in 2002, the school now has 1,433 students.

Dec. 8: A free man

A man wrongly convicted in a rape walked out of a Cobb court a free man after being cleared by DNA evidence. Robert Clark Jr., 45, served nearly 25 years for the crime committed by a friend, according to a DNA test which had not been invented when Clark was convicted. In 1982, after a year in jail awaiting trial, Clark had been sentenced to life in prison for a kidnapping and rape.

"The truth is finally out, the truth you knew all along," Cobb Superior Court Judge Dorothy Robinson said during a short hearing. "And that truth has now set you free."

Of the 164 people across the country whose convictions have been overturned by DNA tests, Clark served the longest sentence, said Peter Neufeld, a lawyer with the New York-based Innocence Project, which uses DNA evidence to clear those who have been wrongly convicted. Authorities in Cobb have since charged Floyd Antonio Arnold, who is in a Georgia prison on unrelated charges, with raping the woman who identified Clark as her attacker. In Fulton County, Arnold has been indicted in the rape of another woman, attacked after the Cobb assault, and DeKalb authorities say Arnold may have committed a third rape there.

Photo

Joe Redden

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

County police Chief George Hatfield doesn't smile on gang activity.

Photo

BOB ANDRES / Staff

Roses honor the memory of Kimberly Diane Boyd at the truck rental store she owned with her husband in Acworth.

Photo

Kimberly Diane Boyd

Photo

BOB ANDRES / Staff

Evolution disclaimers are scraped from science texts at Sprayberry High School after a federal judge ruled in January that the stickers endorse religion.

Photo

Robert Clark Jr.

Photo

Obverse of a Lincoln penny

Photo

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel

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Monday, August 1, 2005

Fund-raisers for KSU chair to commence

By Aaron Baca

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA - Cobb politicians and community leaders Sunday will be announcing a fund-raising campaign to establish an endowed chair of political science at Kennesaw State University to honor longtime Cobb Democrat and activist Juanelle Edwards.

Former Gov. Roy Barnes and former Congressman Buddy Darden have signed on to help lead the campaign, university officials have said. KSU, they said, hopes to raise \$500,000 for the endowment.

The chair will be the first for KSU's political science department. The fund-raising campaign is scheduled to begin Sunday at First Baptist Church in Marietta. An announcement will be made at the church's 11 a.m. services.

"Juanelle is very pleased about this. She's been active with Kennesaw State for a very long time. She is honored," said John Edwards, Mrs. Edwards' husband.

Edwards said his wife is being treated for an illness and was unable to comment Friday.

Because of her health, Mrs. Edwards will not be present at Sunday's fund-raiser kickoff, Edwards said. However, Edwards and other family members will attend on her behalf, he said.

"The whole family will be there," Edwards said. "We're very proud."

Former Congressman Darden said the chair is an "appropriate and exciting way to commemorate the wonderful contributions Juanelle has made to our county and our state."

"My wife and I could not be more proud to support this. We plan to be very active in the campaign," Darden said.

Mrs. Edwards served as a spokeswoman and as a speechwriter for former President Jimmy Carter. She spoke often for the former president during his unsuccessful 1980 re-election campaign.

Mrs. Edwards also was a four-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention and she was

a member of the Governor's Club of the Democratic Party of Georgia.

Additionally, Mrs. Edwards served as president emeritus for the Cobb County Democratic Women and she received the President's Award for outstanding contributions to Democratic women in Georgia.

She was an announced candidate for the U.S. House in 1983 but withdrew her name after Darden agreed to run in a special race to fill the seat of the late U.S. Rep. Larry McDonald, who was killed in the downing of Seoul-bound Korean Air flight 007 over international waters by Soviet fighters.

Outside of politics, Mrs. Edwards has served as a KSU trustee and has done volunteer work for the Salvation Army.

"Juanelle has been an extraordinary trustee," said KSU President Dr. Betty Siegel, who plans to speak at Sunday's announcement.

"This is really about recognizing her political service and her contributions.

"When I told her about (the chair), she was just thrilled," Dr. Siegel said.

Mrs. Edwards has asked that the chair be named for both her and her husband, Dr. Siegel said.

Mark Hellman, KSU's director of development for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, said the fund-raising campaign will last for about one year.

The endowed chair, he said, will support a teaching position for American politics.

"One of the things I love so much about creating a chair is the perpetuity, the fact that it does not go away. That makes it a truly wonderful way to honor someone," Dr. Siegel said.

10/31/05

Kennesaw State President Continues Work of Global Women's Sports Conference

The results of a United Nations-endorsed conference on women's leadership in sports held in Atlanta last week include Kennesaw State University's outreach to businesses and organizations to affect social change in countries worldwide, according to the university's president, Betty Siegel.

"Business, with its strong support of diversity and best practices, is really a force for social change, and this conference was about social change through women's leadership," Dr. Siegel told GlobalAtlanta in an interview following the conference that took place Oct. 20-22 at the Cobb Galleria. "The beliefs and values learned from sports accompany women into the business, government and diplomatic world."

The conference, "Effecting Social Change through Women's Leadership in Sports," focused on women's sports as a vehicle for promoting human rights, international cooperation and economic development as part of the U.N.'s International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 program.

Kennesaw State, which organized the conference, is the only American university to be part of the International Labor Organization's Universitas program, a network of higher education institutions worldwide that are participating in programs aimed at achieving the U.N.'s Millenium Development Goals.

Although Dr. Siegel is stepping down from her position as president of Kennesaw State in January, she said she will still be working with Kennesaw State and around the world to further women's leadership in sports and other fields.

Dr. Siegel will be taking an endowed chair position at KSU focused on ethical leadership. Through this role, she will help to plan a conference next fall at Oxford University in England that will involve business leaders, presidents of universities and nonprofit organizations addressing ways their institutions can affect social change.

Dr. Siegel already participated in a similar conference this year, the Oxford Conclave on Global Ethical Leadership, with six U.S. universities to discuss how universities can develop leaders of character.

Kennesaw State will also open in January the Center for International Women's Leadership in Sport, which is to focus on encouraging women to take leadership positions in sports and physical education as a means of transforming developing communities domestically and internationally.

Speakers at the Oct. 20 opening ceremony of the Atlanta conference included U.N. Under Secretary for Development and Peace Adolf Ogi, U.N. special adviser to the ILO Giovanni diCola and several Olympians and International Olympics Committee staffers, in addition to Dr. Siegel.

“When you get so many countries represented in one meeting, the change that results will not be just in faculty exchanges or academic programs, but will impact social change in those participating countries, so that is the exciting part,” Dr. Siegel said.

“We’re going to spread the message,” she said of her plans to follow-up on the conference that drew more than 600 participants from 37 countries to discuss ways for women’s sports programs to alleviate poverty, despair and violence in developing countries.

Dr. Siegel said the university plans to distribute a monograph on physical education, sports and character resulting from the recent conference that could be used as a text in educational institutions or as a resource for anyone interested in international sports and social change.

She added that the conference has already resulted in new partnerships between Kennesaw State and universities in Germany, Italy, Korea and Switzerland to collaborate on academic programs, conferences, writing and research, as well as community service related to women’s leadership and sports.

For more information about Kennesaw State’s University's program, contact its director, Michael Spino, at (678) 797-2032 or sport2005@kennesaw.edu. Visit www.kennesaw.edu/Sport2005 to learn more about the conference.



Dow Jones & Reuters

**Accreditation Extended for Kennesaw State University's Business and Accounting Programs;
Programs Accredited by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International**

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Ascribe News

English

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KENNESAW, Ga. -- AACSB

International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, has notified the Coles College of Business at **Kennesaw State** University that it will continue to accredit the school's business and accounting programs.

"This re-accreditation is a symbol of the ongoing excellence of KSU's business and accounting programs," said KSU President Betty Siegel. "This is positive recognition of the excellent job the Coles College does on a daily basis," she added.

AACSB International is a not-for-profit corporation of educational institutions, corporations and other organizations devoted to the promotion and improvement of higher education in business administration and management. Organized in 1916, it is the premier accrediting agency for bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs in business administration and accounting.

Accreditation is designed to ensure quality and promote excellence and continuous improvement in undergraduate and graduate education for business administration and accounting. The AACSB International accreditation review thoroughly examined the school's mission, faculty, curricula and instruction.

"Accreditation is essential to our mission of preparing students for productive careers that will strengthen both the economy and society," said Coles College Dean Tim Mescon. "We are thrilled and proud to have surpassed the demanding criteria required to be counted among the best business and accounting programs in the world. Indeed, few business schools in Georgia have received separate accreditation for their accounting programs," he added.

Kennesaw State University is a comprehensive, residential institution with a growing student population of 18,000 from 129 countries. The third largest university in the state, and a member of the 34-institution University System of Georgia, KSU offers more than 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

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Print Page

Sen. Isakson selected as top Georgian

By David Burch

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA - As if his election to the U.S. Senate wasn't enough, Georgia Trend magazine named Johnny Isakson its 2005 Georgian of the Year.

Isakson topped the magazine's annual "The 100 Most Influential Georgians" list and was one of six business and political leaders with Cobb ties on the list.

In choosing the 60-year-old Isakson as its Georgian of the Year, Georgia Trend pointed to the former U.S. Representative's "decisive election" to the U.S. Senate in November and the fact that the state will have two Republican U.S. senators for the first time in modern history.

The magazine described Isakson as "cut from the same cloth as longtime (former Georgia) Sen. Sam Nunn" and as someone with "a reputation as a hard-working bridge-builder who prefers to spend his time finding areas of agreement rather than dwelling on differences."

Georgia Trend even used the "M-word" that Isakson shied away from during the campaign, describing him as the "ardent moderate."

Isakson was sworn in to the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, replacing outgoing Democratic Sen. Zell Miller.

In the midst of a reception in his honor in Washington on Tuesday night, Isakson said being chosen Georgian of the Year was "a great honor."

"I am very humbled. I don't think I deserve it," he said. "It just puts much more pressure on me to perform."

Other Cobb residents named among the most influential in Georgia were James A. "Micky" Blackwell of Marietta, chairman of the Georgia Military Affairs Committee and members of the Marietta Redevelopment Corp.; Cobb Commission Chairman Sam Olens of east Cobb; John Mellott of Marietta, publisher of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution; Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel and Jim Wooten of Smyrna, associate editorial page editor for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Blackwell, 63, is the retired executive vice president of Lockheed Martin in Marietta. His current position on the Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee places him in the position of promoting the state's 13 military bases and trying to spare them from the Department of Defense's next round of base realignments and closures.

Olens, 47, was first elected chairman to the Cobb Board of Commissioners in 2002 and was re-elected to the position in November. He also elected last year as the new chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Mellott, 47, was named publisher of the AJC in April, replacing Roger S. Kintzel. He spent 12

years in senior management at the paper, including positions as controller, vice president and general manager.

Dr. Siegel, 73, has served as university president at KSU since 1981 and was the first woman to lead one of Georgia's 34 public colleges and universities. This year marks Dr. Siegel's ninth consecutive time on the most influential list.


Wooten, 59, served as editorial page editor for the Atlanta Journal until the evening paper merged with the morning Atlanta Constitution in 2001.

Georgia Trend also compiled a list of 58 "Notable Georgians" that included Steven G. Anderson, president of Kennesaw-based CryoLife Inc.; Mableton resident, Marietta attorney and former Gov. Roy Barnes; Marietta resident Tom Watson Brown, president of the Watson-Brown Foundation Inc.; Cobb Chamber of Commerce president Bill Cooper; Harlon Crimm, president of the Marietta's Chattahoochee Technical College; Marietta resident and former U.S. Rep. George W. "Buddy" Darden and Marietta Daily Journal publisher Otis Brumby.

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- Staff writer Dan Shuman contributed to this report.

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Kennesaw State president to step down

> By [KELLY SIMMONS](#), and [ANDREA JONES](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

> Published on: 05/13/05

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel, one of the longest serving female university presidents in the country, will step down Jan. 2.

Siegel announced her decision Thursday during an afternoon commencement ceremony on the west Cobb County campus.

"I want to announce on this glorious day that I will be stepping down in my 25th year," Siegel said at the ceremony. The crowd burst into applause.

A search for Siegel's successor is expected to begin soon. She indicated she is willing to stay at the university until the end of the 2005-06 academic year if no one has been hired by January, KSU spokeswoman Karen Kennedy said.

Named president of Kennesaw State in 1981, Siegel was the first female president of a public Georgia college or university. In her 24 years as president, she has overseen the school's transition from a commuter campus to a residential university that offers 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Enrollment has increased from 3,500 to 18,000 students during her tenure.

The stature of the school also has increased since Siegel arrived in 1981. Kennesaw has been nationally recognized for its first-year program that helps freshmen become acclimated to college.

Siegel joined Kennesaw State from Western Carolina University, where she was the first female academic dean in the School of Education and Psychology. Before that, she was the first woman to serve as dean of academic affairs for continuing education at the University of Florida.


University System Chancellor Thomas Meredith on Thursday called Siegel an "icon among American university presidents."

"Her record is truly outstanding," he said. "She has led and remained at the helm of Kennesaw State's metamorphosis into a great university."

Though she's stepping down, Siegel is not retiring from education. She plans to head a program in ethical leadership at Oxford University in England in the spring.

Known for her colorful, oversized glasses, Siegel is a fixture in Cobb County. During the 1996 Olympic year, she chaired the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. She was the first woman and the first educator to hold a leadership position in one of the country's largest chambers of commerce.

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