Putting ethics in leadership

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - She's back.

Despite retiring in July after 25 years as Kennesaw State University's celebrated president who more than quadrupled the school's enrollment, Dr. Betty Siegel continues to shake things up at KSU, moving the nearly 20,000-student university to greater heights.

Dr. Siegel is promoting a pilot program at KSU this year where students who hold the HOPE scholarship are challenged to do more than simply earn good grades.

"The HOPE scholarship has become something of an entitlement," Dr. Siegel said. "If you have a gift, then I think you're supposed to do something with it. It's the idea of 'to whom much is given much is expected.'"

The pilot program, called New HOPE, encourages KSU freshmen with HOPE scholarships to take a course in ethical leadership in their first year. The second year, they go to schools in the metro area to mentor struggling students. In their junior year, they travel overseas and learn what it's like to work with students from other countries. And in the fourth year, they write a research paper on "ethical leadership in action," she said.

KSU senior Adam Casey, 22, said he's jealous that the program is arriving as he prepares to graduate.

"I wish we had something like that when I was a first-year student," said Casey, a Lassiter High School graduate who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and hopes to teach at a Cobb elementary school.

An international donor has agreed to pay for travel expenses of New HOPE students who go to China and house them in one of her hotels when they get there, Dr. Siegel said.

"What we're hoping is we'll have colleagues around the world who will help our students go and become leaders of New Hope," she said.
Dr. Siegel said the pilot program, which has 100 students, has received favorable reviews from Gov. Sonny Perdue and Dr. Erroll Davis Jr., chancellor of the University System of Georgia.

"We're hoping to be a model for the state," Dr. Siegel said.

Now retired from the presidency, Dr. Siegel devotes much of her time to the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Character and Ethics, which is housed on the KSU campus and is where she has an endowed chair in her name.

Sober beginning

During convocation at KSU after Sept. 11, 2001, Dr. Siegel recalled how the noted educator and philosopher Parker Palmer shared with students the story of a man who, after he escaped from one of the attacked buildings, was surrounded by people who asked him if he was in shock.

The survivor denied being in shock, telling the group, "I'm fully cognizant for the first time in my life about what's important," the New York Times quoted the victim as saying.

"I consider that to be the seminal moment in my life in which we asked 'what can we do to transform a university community and other university communities into thinking about what we should be fully cognizant of,'" Dr. Siegel said.

Ethical leadership, she decided, is the subject to explore. The Siegel Institute began in 2002 with a gift from RTM, which has since been bought out by Arby's.

Institutes are different from centers, Dr. Siegel explained, noting that a center is discipline-oriented, whereas an institute is university-wide.

Among the Siegel Institute's projects is ethics workshops for Perdue's various boards, hosting classes for KSU professors to learn how to integrate ethics into lectures, and partnering with the Cobb School District for conferences on sharing "best practices" and resources for students from pre-school through university level.

Inspiration at Oxford

Once the Siegel Institute was established at KSU, Dr. Siegel began to reach out to other universities interested in pursuing global ethics and leadership.

Dr. Siegel likes to use the metaphor of the various arms of a starfish that can open up an oyster shell.

She told the American Association of State Colleges and Universities of her goals and received a flood of inquiries. So she decided the best place to meet with other university
presidents to address the role of ethics in higher education was England's Oxford University, home of the oldest English-speaking college in the world, Balliol College, founded in 1263.

For the first Oxford Conclave, her group explored the role of higher education, crafting their vision in 2005 and talking about how to implement it during a second trip earlier this month, said Dr. John Knapp, a KSU professor of ethical leadership.

"In order to transform society and make for a better world, the university has to change, and it has to move away from what Betty calls 'a collection of courses or a ticket to a trade,'" Knapp said. "The university cannot do its job effectively by remaining ensconced in an ivory tower."

University presidents from across the country attended the conclave this month, from the University of Alaska at Anchorage to the University of North Dakota.

Dr. Siegel wants to develop an alliance of those universities and have each school adopt a theme, such as leadership, and hold a conference on that theme where papers can be presented and ideas exchanged.

Young Casey was one of the lucky students who attended the trip this year. Casey said he and Dr. Siegel know each other from various campus activities, and when he heard of her 2005 trip, he convinced her to bring him and a group of other students along this year.

Casey said it was worth every penny.

"We talked about 'what is civic engagement' and 'how can we get our community involved.' We decided that our community is what drives our school," Casey said, noting how he got to talk one-on-one with such leaders as Frances Hesselbein, former head of the Girl Scouts of America.

"The Institute's emphasis on principle-centered leadership, its profoundly positive influence on the larger community and its enormous benefit to our students, are values that clearly reflect the values of the larger institution," Dr. Siegel said. "And (that) points to our continuing effort to make Kennesaw State a true 'university of meaning,'"
'Spaceship' finds its landing place

AIXA M. PASCUAL

As construction of the social sciences building forges ahead on the Kennesaw State University campus, a rather conspicuous quartz-and-bronze sculpture with a circuitous history is also taking shape.

When finished, the 22-foot-tall sculpture will be a welcome addition to the flourishing college. And it should be the last stop for a piece of art carved in Brazil, debated and derided in California, and brought to Cobb County by a Las Vegas-based Finnish-American sculptor with ties to Jasper. He goes by one name -- Eino -- which at least makes something in this tale a bit simpler.

"Isn't that fabulous?" asked Eino as he looked at the 88 pieces of marbled cerulean quartz scattered on a parking lot at KSU. "You can see the clouds, the sea, the oceans and the land."

The sculpture, "Spaceship Earth," his most ambitious project, was commissioned in 2000 by the founders of the California-based PowerBar to honor environmentalist David Brower. The Helsinki-born sculptor spent a total of 18 months over four years in a small town in Brazil sculpting his piece out of the rare quartz. The pieces spent at least two years in a park near the Golden Gate Bridge with nowhere to go, turned down by the cities of San Francisco and Berkeley.

In April, Eino drove his pickup truck from his home and studio outside Las Vegas for the 36-hour trip to Kennesaw. Last week, he started assembling the globe-shaped sculpture, stitching together the fragments with stainless steel pins and resins. A life-size bronze sculpture of Brower, which Eino also made, will accent the globe when it's put together. He expects the sculpture to be ready by the end of August.

"Spaceship Earth" was inspired by "moon shots of the Earth," Eino said. That's why he chose the varicolored quartz from Brazil. The globe, 15 feet in diameter, is being assembled atop a black granite base; together they weigh 408,000 pounds. He carved "Spaceship Earth" out of quartz, which is harder than marble, because he wants it to last indefinitely. "It's a monumental sculpture," he said.

Consensus lacking

Kennesaw is a long way from the work's intended home in California, where artistic and philosophic differences of opinion doomed it.

Three years ago, the city of San Francisco turned down "Spaceship Earth," even after the Board of Supervisors expressed support. According to minutes from an April 2003 meeting of the city's Visual Arts Committee, members "felt that the sculpture is ostentatious and aesthetically awkward."

"Spaceship Earth" then was offered to the city of Berkeley in mid-2004. Although the city's public-art committee and the mayor supported it, an appropriate site was never found, said David Snippen, chairman of the committee.

Works in Georgia marble

Larry Peterson, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Kennesaw State, met Eino in the spring of 2002. Shortly after, the artist visited the campus and liked the lobby of the college so much that he placed about two dozen of his works there. The pieces remained there for about three years.

Eino, who has been carving Georgia marble since 1967, moved to Jasper in 1997. During his stay, Eino engineered the move and restoration of a deteriorated obelisk to the city square. During his time there, he exhibited some of his sculptures around town, including one of a sun crescent known as "the waffle" by residents.

Hundreds of pieces

Eino moved to the United States at age 22 and started sculpting a year later. Over the past 40 years he has carved "hundreds, many hundreds" of pieces, mostly in marble, bronze, quartz and onyx. Eino came to Atlanta in the 1990s to work on a sculpture for the 1996 Olympics. The piece, "Last Meter," depicts four athletes running and is on display at Piedmont Park.
"Spaceship Earth" is made of seven multipiece layers that stack up, and the light blue rock turns bluer when wet or polished, Eino said.

He's happy to have found a home.

University President Betty Siegel said his sculpture is a great fit for the university.

"It is a globe, and of course, our university is becoming so international," she said. "This is part of our culture."

Photo
ANDY SHARP / Staff
Sculptor Eino
Photo
ANDY SHARP / Staff
Sculptor Eino -- who uses the one name only -- works on "Spaceship Earth" on the Kennesaw State University campus.

He expects the piece to be finished by the end of August.

Graphic
MEET THE ARTIST: EINO
• Eino moved to the United States at age 22 and started sculpting a year later. Over the past 40 years he has carved "hundreds, many hundreds" of pieces, mostly in marble, bronze, quartz and onyx.
• He came to Atlanta in the 1990s to work on a sculpture for the 1996 Olympics.

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KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY: COLLEGE LEARNS HOW TO CRAM

'Breaking point': Incredible growth has catapulted the school to become the state's third largest university and left it bursting at the seams.

AIXA M. PASCUAL

Kennesaw State University sophomore Ashley Hughes says she should be taking genetics or anatomy this semester, but she's stuck in physics because the biology classes she needs are jampacked.

"I'm a biology major and I haven't been able to get into biology for a year," said Hughes, 20.

Growth has been nonstop at Kennesaw State for 35 years, propelling the Cobb County college to become the third largest among the state system's universities. Interest isn't waning. Admissions officials can barely keep up with applications, which are up more than 30 percent from last year.

Georgia teenagers are flocking to the school, attracted by its suburban Atlanta location, variety of liberal arts programs and growing reputation for majors such as nursing, education and management.

KSU has been recognized in U.S. News & World Report's annual best colleges issue for its freshman experience. New student apartments on campus, with private bathrooms, are the envy of other colleges. And the Owls' sports teams now compete in the top-rated Division I of the NCAA.

"I'm not getting enough money to adequately replace and keep this equipment modernized," said Randy Hinds, KSU's chief information officer, referring to classroom technology and desktop computers. "We are right on the breaking point."

At public universities, there's never enough money to go around, but at KSU the situation can be seen as more dire without the fund-raising muscle of its peers or the hundreds of millions of dollars in research money that top-tier universities such as Georgia Tech or the University of Georgia get.

KSU officials can only dream of a $43.6 million student learning center like the one UGA opened in 2003. Until then, Georgia had a problem with classroom space, too, said UGA spokesman Tom Jackson. Now, "in most cases we're able to assign classrooms," Jackson said.

Incoming KSU President Daniel S. Papp, who will take over in May, is well aware of the problems growth has brought to KSU. The school hasn't had a major capital project authorized by the Georgia Board of Regents since 1998, according to KSU officials.

"The resources have not grown as fast as enrollment has," said Papp, who is senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs for the Board of Regents.

One of his challenges, he said, will be to improve quality as the growth continues. "We need to maximize funding and look at efficiencies as well," Papp said.

"Very little space left"

He may have to build another campus to do it. KSU sits on 183 acres, about the same space it occupied when Betty Siegel arrived as president 25 years ago, and there's little room for expansion.

Buildings now dot much of the campus, and students driving in and out throughout the day generate a lot of traffic on and around Chastain Road. "We have very little space left, and we want the campus to be green," Siegel said.

In the late 1990s Siegel had to choose between building a convocation center or a classroom complex. She now sees it as one of the toughest decisions in her tenure.
Siegel chose a $17 million convocation center, which also has some classroom space. That was one of the last major capital projects approved for KSU. A social sciences building is under construction.

"We need more space. Our growth is assured," Siegel said. "We're very creative in the use of our space, but we need more space."

Meanwhile, students are scrambling to get into classes. Junior Mariah Russell has a sneaky way to get what she wants. She meets with friends who work on campus -- which gives them higher priority at registration -- and gets them to sign up for the classes that she needs. During drop-add period she sits at a computer as her buddies drop the classes, then quickly adds them to her list. Otherwise, Russell said, she wouldn't get the classes she needs.

Opening satellite campuses is an option, said Wesley Wicker, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the KSU Foundation. He said that when the school tightened admissions requirements several years ago, the result was the opposite of what they expected: an increase in applications.

Georgia State University, on 28 acres in downtown Atlanta, expanded into the Fairlie-Poplar district in the mid-1990s and, more recently, opened classroom centers in Alpharetta and Brookhaven.

Every inch is coveted

Inside cramped buildings at KSU, some professors share office space and science labs are used nonstop from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. Saturday labs and Sunday afternoon classes are not uncommon.

"It is true that our lab space and our classroom space is pretty much utilized," said Ronald Matson, chairman of the department of biological and physical sciences. "It limits our ability to offer more sections of some classes or [new] classes."

**Kennesaw State** is "the most constrained in space of any institution I'm aware of," said Krisan Osterby, a Minneapolis-based architect who's visited more than 50 college campuses. KSU has less square feet per student than half a dozen other comparable institutions, including the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Portland State University and Northern Kentucky University, said Osterby, who is associate vice president for HGA Architects and Engineers.

"I cannot see how they can use space more efficiently than they currently are," she said.

The KSU library occupies 60,000 square feet of a 105,000 square-foot building that has not been renovated since 1981, according to director Robert Williams. The library also houses an art gallery and about 50 faculty offices in carrel-sized spaces, which Siegel said is inadequate. The stacks have been drawn closer to fit more books, and Williams is buying more electronic books for space reasons. The library's budget for buying books and materials has been flat for the past five years, Williams said.

Extracurricular activities also are suffering.

A room on the top floor of the Student Center houses 48 Greek and other student organizations in cubicles. Sororities such as Delta Phi Epsilon, with its booth decorated in lilac, and other groups are the lucky ones. They got spots of coveted real estate through a lottery. Seventy student organizations don't have any space they can claim as their own.

"Sometimes you get 20 girls in there, and we're just smashed," said junior Brittany Whiten, Delta Phi Epsilon's director of finance. "It's not fun."

Photo

**ANDY SHARP / Staff**

Lynn Patterson's world geography class is jampacked with 66 minds ready to learn. The semester began with 80 students, but seats remain hard to come by.

Photo

**ANDY SHARP / Staff**

**WORN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Furniture in the Carmichael Student Center shows its mileage. Officials say the **Kennesaw State** University campus is being updated to keep up with the inflow of students.

Photo

**ANDY SHARP / Staff**

**SQUEEZED SPACE**

Even the faculty is strained for space. Associate Professor Sutham Cheurprakobkit shares office space with other instructors, and some analysts say there's little room to grow.

Photo

**ANDY SHARP / Staff**

**CROWDED CLASSES**
Sophomores Lindsey Bloodworth (left) and Krista Ruda team up in a chemistry lab. The labs are busy places, and weekend and nighttime labs are not uncommon.

Photo
ANDY SHARP / Staff

With more than 18,000 students battling for classroom space, parking is always at a premium at the Kennesaw State campus.

Graphic
DALE E. DODSON / Staff

KENNESAW STATE GROWTH
Graph shows enrollment from 1970 to 2005.
1970: 1,570
2005: 18,556
Source: Kennesaw State University

GRAPHIC STUDENT DIVERSITY
Here is a racial breakdown of the 18,556 students who enrolled last August at Kennesaw State University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, non-Hispanic</td>
<td>14,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black, non-Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian, Pacific Islander</td>
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<td>3.7%</td>
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<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
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</table>

Source: Board of Regents

Graphic
DALE E. DODSON / Staff

CRAMPED QUARTERS
Kennesaw State University is the third-largest school in the University System of Georgia. In the past five years, KSU has grown faster than any other of the state system's top five universities.

University of Georgia
Annual budget: $1.1 billion
Student/teacher ratio: 20:1
Growth since 2001: 4%
2005 fall enrollment: 33,660

Georgia State
Annual budget: $463 million
Student/teacher ratio: 25:1
Growth since 2001: 0.9%
2005 fall enrollment: 25,967

Kennesaw State
Annual budget: $139 million
Student/teacher ratio: 37:1
Growth since 2001: 33%
2005 fall enrollment: 18,556

Georgia Tech
Annual budget: $671 million
Student/teacher ratio: 20:1
Growth since 2001: 10%
2005 fall enrollment: 17,135

Georgia Southern
Annual budget: $220 million
Student/teacher ratio: 25:1
Growth since 2001: 16%
2005 fall enrollment: 16,646

Sources: State Board of Regents, universities
Note: UGA, Georgia State and Georgia Tech are research universities, which means they receive more in state funding than their peers and get millions of dollars in federal and other grants. Georgia Southern is a regional university. KSU is a state university.
All faculty listed, including lecturers and instructors

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When Betty L. Siegel steps down as president of Kennesaw State University this semester, she'll be among a small group of University System of Georgia retired presidents with more than 20 years tenure. Siegel became president of what was then Kennesaw College in 1981 and has led the Cobb County school through a period of spectacular growth.

But she's not riding off into the sunset just yet. Siegel, 75, will stay at KSU in an endowed chair in ethical leadership, a subject she is passionate about. Drawing diagrams and sprinkling her words with quotes from Ralph Waldo Emerson and management experts, Siegel sat down with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for a Q&A, to reflect on her tenure and ponder the school's future.

Q: Describe what the president's office you had for years looked like.
A: It was a little building. The former president [Horace W. Sturgis] was a very big man. He had a big desk, a small office and a small conference room. His desk was quite big for the room and it didn't have any bookshelves, so we redesigned the office, I guess after about two or three years, and rearranged it so that the conference room was made smaller. But I had to have bookshelves.

Q: It was cramped?
A: It wasn't as much cramped. It didn't reflect me; it reflected him. He was very organized and very Spartan. I remember that he did not allow coffee at the conference table, [he had a note that said] no food or beverage. And, of course, the first thing I [did] when I met with my new staff, I said, "I'd like my cup of coffee," and they almost fell over. They went, "Wow!" [Siegel laughs.]

Q: What's your favorite place on campus?
A: I think the campus green. There used to be highways. I'm in my office late in the evening and the sun goes down across the campus and I absolutely love to stand in the balcony and watch the sun go down. And the lights come on around the green and students are leaving or coming to classes and some of them wave to me, they'll see me up there.

Q: What was your best year at KSU?
A: Every year has been for me a joy. Emerson said, I think, "Every year is a good year if we but know what to do with it." I think we've been blessed with really good long-range planning, so every year has been very special. See, we do themes every year.

Q: What's the theme for this year?
A: Growing into greatness. Jim Collins [best-selling author of "Good to Great"] speaks of good to great. So each year the theme is an important one. We had the year of the arts in 1996. Then we did the year of service. The next year was the year of collaboration. The next year was the year of engagement. [Then] we did from success to significance. And then the next one the courage to lead. Then the next year I think it was dream and do.

Q: Which accomplishments are you most proud of?
A: Of course we've grown dramatically in programs and degrees and buildings. I'm most proud of what we've done for student success, what we've done in diversity, what we're doing in ethical leadership, what we've done in engagement with the communities we serve. All of that, of course, is predicated on building a great faculty, wonderful responsive programs, very timely and relevant. That's a given; those have to be a part of the underpinnings of the university. Those are the things that go beyond what is the regular aspects of the university.

Q: Which one thing would you have done if you'd had several million dollars at your disposal?
A: I would have built our performing arts building sooner. Right now we're breaking ground for it. But the arts have figured so prominently in my appreciation of what Kennesaw State can be. The arts are so important, I think, to the communities that we serve so I've always wanted a great place, like a Spivey Hall [the 400-seat music venue on the campus of Clayton State University in Morrow], to be on our campus and I early, early wanted that, but we had other demands. We've always been short on buildings. But now we're finally getting there. We had other priorities. We have a nice little theater, but it's basically an acting theater.
Q: Do you think KSU grew too fast at the expense of quality?
A: Never. Never. Now, that's a very flat answer. Quality has always been uppermost in our minds, academic credibility. So what it prompted us to do was to be innovative in ways that other universities might not have had to do.
Q: For example?
A: If you know that you got a heavy influx of students and you're teaching classes from 8 to 1, then what do you do? We were one of the first universities, I think, to go to Saturday classes, Sunday classes, all-evening classes, all afternoon. So we became absolutely skillful at knowing how to schedule.
Q: Why is now the right time for you to leave?
A: Well, one of the things I'm aware of is that I am psychologically 39. But I'm not chronologically 39. It's an unusual presidency that goes on to my age, so I never think of my age until it's in the paper. It doesn't mean anything to me, really. I like to think that each age is a dream that is dying or coming to birth, so all my life I've been, as a psychologist, talking about seizing the moment and that there're periods of growth in your life. I do speeches on the third act of life and the third act has two scenes. I love to talk about this. What I would like to do would be to use this third act of my life in very creative ways, doing exactly the kind of things that I now do partly. I love to work with groups. I want to spend my time lecturing, talking, writing, consulting about the passions that I have in my professional life.
Q: And for fun?
A: True creativity is work that goes someplace joyfully. If your work goes someplace joyfully then you're not just doing work. I love the fact that I can walk across the campus and in five minutes, I can be in a classroom that is having the most exciting [discussion]. In 10 more minutes I can be in a conference that's going on that's just as exciting. In 10 more minutes I can watch the athletics. See, it's the fullness of the university experience. To me, all of those relate to a full life, something to learn, some way to play.
Q: Where do you see KSU 10 years from now?
A: We'll be 25,000 students, maybe 30,000. We'll have some off-campus sites. We'll have football. We'll have several doctorates. The professional schools will continue to just be outstanding. We'll be doing a lot of exciting work in business, nursing, health-related sciences.
Q: What new majors or programs do you see?
A: When you look at what's happening in the country today, a real emphasis on baby boomers, we're going to see growing programs in gerontology. We're going to be looking at social services. The university's got to be a player in bringing together community leaders for sustainable communities. We're going to be looking at ways in which the quality of life can be [improved].
I was at Yale three years ago, and I was there with a group of invited presidents [who came to talk] about Islam. You know what? I didn't know a thing about it, nothing. I think today we've got to be looking at world religions. And that's why our institutes are right on target. Our international programs are outstanding. And it's not that we're sending people over abroad to study. We're talking about ways to interact. In the last year and a half I've been to Cuba, twice, I've been to Morocco. I've been to China. We're wanting to know what it's like to be in Morocco where it's the threshold to Africa, it's the threshold to Islam, it's a portal. Those are the things that we've got to be concerned about.
Q: What would you like to be remembered for at KSU?
A: Not for the buildings. Not for just the programs but [for] what does it mean to students. We have to have student success as a part of our legacy. But we want the impact of the education to be not a collection of courses or not a ticket to a trade. You understand the difference, don't you?
Q: What piece of advice would you give to your successor?
A: I would not dream of doing that [laughs].
Q: What was your most difficult decision as president?
A: We have a shortage of buildings. There was a time in which we could have one building on the campus, we could make one request. We didn't have enough classroom space. [But] I made the case, we have a little gym where we'd have as many as three commencements a day [at graduation time]. It's too little. It was built for a campus of 1,000 students. And we were told, "You cannot have a building where there's not a classroom."
We had made the case for a new convocation center. I remember I was driving in my car and the phone rang and it was Dr. [Stephen] Portch [the chancellor from 1994 to 2001] on the cellphone. "Betty, I'm telling you, you can only get one building. What [is it] going to be? You need a classroom building." I said, "I really need the convocation center. We'll put some classrooms in it, but give me a break." And he said -- and this is when this TV show was going on -- "Is that your final answer?" I said, "Chancellor, it is." [And he said] "OK" and he did it. Look at that [she points at it]. What would we do without it? These are fabulous additions to the campus. To me that was a very difficult decision.
Q: There was a time in your tenure when you faced complaints of discrimination from faculty members and complaints that you were not hiring enough African-Americans, that there's anti-Semitism. Do you feel today that KSU has enough minority faculty?

A: Oh, my goodness. I have an African-American advisory committee. They have helped me dramatically, oh my. And they've helped me shape this university. Our vice president for diversity has helped us shape this university. I would [give] our programs for diversity very high marks. Did you know I won the award [the NAACP Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award] . . . representing our progress with minorities?

Q: Do you think KSU provides a good environment for minority faculty?

A: You've got to ask them. I think so. In our view there has not been any justification for the charges. But again, if you want to get into all that, you'd have to interview a lot of people on the campus. You do know that my husband's Jewish? I'm a minority. I was the first woman president in the state University System.

Q: Do you leave with regrets?

A: I've tried to be a steward of the place. I like that term. I've learned from any obstacles that we've had. A number of people here have been an inspiration to me. [I hope] I've done a good job. All I can hope is that what I've done was perceived as a positive experience. I don't have any regrets.

ON AJC.COM

• More on Betty Siegel at ajc.com/metro/cobb

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Betty L. Siegel became president of Kennesaw College in 1981, a year after its four-year accreditation, and has led it to larger enrollment, a bigger campus and university status.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel

Photo

KEITH HADLEY / Staff

The social sciences building under construction last fall at KSU is one symbol of the school's growth.

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

In early 2002, Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel, known for walking the campus, demonstrated the golf cart she sometimes used to get around as the school increased in size. She expects it to have 25,000 to 30,000 students in 10 years. After retirement, Siegel will remain at KSU in an endowed chair and hopes in her "third act" to do those things she now "enjoys partly."

Photo

Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the U.s. House of Representatives

Photo

ANDY SHARP / Staff

University Village on the Kennesaw State campus, the university's second student housing complex, opened in 2004. The first such facility opened in 2002.

Graphic

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY: A TIMELINE

1963

The Georgia Board of Regents approves the creation of Cobb County Junior College. Name is changed to Kennesaw Junior College two years later, when its first president takes office.

1966

College opens in temporary quarters with 1,014 students.

1978

Junior year is added to what now is known as Kennesaw College. The senior year is added one year later.

1980

70 students receive the college's first baccalaureate degrees. Kennesaw College becomes fully accredited as a four-year institution by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1981
Betty L. Siegel arrives at Kennesaw College, becoming the first female president in the University System of Georgia.  
1985
First graduate programs introduced.
1987-1988
First capital campaign launched, raising $633,000. Name changed to Kennesaw State College in its 25th anniversary year.
1990
Student enrollment surpasses 10,000.
1996
Kennesaw State College granted university status by the Board of Regents, and name changes to Kennesaw State University.
1998
Frey Road rerouting completed, adding 30 acres to the campus.
2002
First student residential apartments on campus open.
2003
Admissions standards raised: 2.5 high school GPA and combined SAT verbal and math scores minimum of 950.
Women's soccer team wins NCAA Division II national championship. A year later, the men's basketball team wins NCAA Division II national championship.
2005
Siegel announces she's leaving the presidency of KSU.

Graphic
WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING:
"She dances to the beat of her own drum. . . . She acts like she's 20. She's full of life."
-- Miranda Nolte, manager of the Waffle House on Frey Road, where Siegel has breakfast almost every day

"You can't replace her. She needs to stay indefinitely, forever and ever."
-- KSU freshman Andrea Dibben, who was recently invited by Siegel to the Waffle House for breakfast

"She literally hit the ground running as the new president of Kennesaw and began to immediately introduce herself to people in the area."
"It takes a special individual to serve as a president for that number of years."
-- Tom Lewis, vice president for external affairs at Georgia State University and who's known Siegel for 25 years

"It has been a tremendous thrill for me to have worked in the past with Betty, and all the work she's done at Kennesaw State and the tremendous amount of growth they've had there. It is just a thrill to see the kind of civic leadership you have given this entire community."
-- Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, at the Cobb Chamber of Commerce's Chairman's Club luncheon last week.

"She's been very open to students' needs and concerns. She's very student-minded. . . . She's pretty accessible. She's always around campus and she's usually walking around and talking to students."
-- Senior James Touchton, vice president of KSU student government

"She's got an energy level that just doesn't cease. It's an energy level that exhausts other people just to observe. For me personally to observe it, makes me exhausted."
-- Son David Siegel, 39

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September 3, 2006

Football at KSU? New president Papp is ready to ...

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets began their football season this weekend by taking on Notre Dame at home in Atlanta on Saturday night, and the University of Georgia Bulldogs kicked off its season in Athens Saturday afternoon against Western Kentucky.

Georgia's third-largest public university, Kennesaw State University, has no football team. But new college President Dr. Dan Papp is hoping to change that. Dr. Papp, who took the reins at KSU from retiring President Dr. Betty Siegel on July 1, had a "get-acquainted" session this week with the MDJ editorial board. And one of the topics that came up was football.

MDJ: Dr. Siegel always said she wanted a football team for KSU. What about you?

Papp: It is very much a matter of finances. We are Division 1. There are three different versions of football at that level: Division 1 non-scholarship, then D 1-AA, then D 1-A, and the financial needs for each of the three vary tremendously.

"Let's start with entry to the 'club.' We've got zero infrastructure for football right now. If you look at what you need for weight rooms and training facilities and medical facilities and land to practice on, the numbers range from $1.5 million to $3 million. And that's before you start hiring coaches.

"Then, depending on which of the three versions you're going, the cost of hiring coaches goes from $500,000 to $600,000 for non-scholarship coaches, a cumulative figure for five or six coaches, up to the Division 1 level, where UGA Coach Mark Richt just got a contract for $4 million. So the range is astronomical.

"Then, with the scholarships, with D 1-A or D 1-AA you're talking about $750,000 to $1 million worth of scholarships per year. So again, you just add up the dollars. And I haven't even talked about a stadium yet."

MDJ: Would KSU football look like a UGA or Georgia Tech-scale program, or more like, say, LaGrange College's new program?

Papp: "My guess is that LaGrange is Division 3. As far as I know, it has no stadium limitations, i.e., no minimum number of seats that have to be in a stadium. Division 1, even at the non-scholarship level, has a minimum, I believe, in the 6,000 to 7,000-seat
"Conceivably, you could look at some high school stadiums and do a sharing agreement with one of our high school stadiums - we put in a little money and build out, and they put in a little money and build out, so that would be a possibility. But also, when you're talking Division 3, that's non-scholarship. So you're talking probably just three or four coaches, maybe one of whom is at the $100,000 level and the others are part-time volunteers, so you're talking about coaching at a much more constrained level.

"You're also not talking about having a super-golly-gee-whiz weight room, which will run you $500,000 minimum.

MDJ: So given the financial constraints, do you want to try to bring football to KSU?

A: "I would love to be able to find a way to do it. I do not see, right now, given the financial constraints, see how we can do it, but if somebody out there can figure out a way to solve the economics, let us know."

MDJ: You've said KSU's enrollment could go as high as 35,000 students. How soon would that happen?

Papp: Realistically, if we can get the land and building and a football team real quick, we can do it within 10 years.

MDJ: What's the advantage of having a football team?

Papp: "Prestige and fun."

MDJ: What do you say to those who say, 'All this money and these resources you're putting into football you could be putting into academics?"

Papp: "They are absolutely right, if the assumption is that those who give to football would also give to academics. That's my roundabout way of saying I'm not sure they're absolutely right.

"Let's take a look at UGA just as an example. UGA just completed the best athletic association fundraising campaign year in its history - $35 million. And $24 million of that $35 million was for the right to stand in line to buy football tickets. It's just stunning. Twenty-four million bucks not to buy tickets, but just for the right to stand in line to buy tickets. It's not just UGA and Georgia Tech, but just about every one of the D 1-As does exactly that.

MDJ: The preacher just asks you to tithe, but if you're going to be a Bulldog fan, we guarantee you that you're going to 'tithe.'

Associate editor Bill Kinney's column also runs on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
Ex-Kennesaw State head joins Life University
Diane R. Stepp - Staff
Thursday, August 3, 2006

Former Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel, who officially retired July 1 as president of the four-year institution she led for 25 years, continues her involvement with higher education in Cobb.

On July 26, she was elected to the board of trustees of Life University.

In accepting the position, Siegel said Life University's core values "are so robust that they exemplify the university of the future ... but they are doing it today.

"It is Life's commitment to academic excellence and Dr. [President Guy] Riekeman's leadership that led me to accept the invitation to join the board of trustees," she said in a press release.

Life's enrollment, which dropped to a low of 600 a year-and-a-half ago in the wake of accreditation issues, has more than doubled to 1,500 under new leadership and restoration to good standing by the Council on Chiropractic Education.

Riekeman said Siegel's "background, vision and expertise will be a great asset to the university's effort to complete its strategic initiatives."

Life offers associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees.

Marietta to have kids practice bus rides

Marietta City Schools kindergartners will have a chance to take a practice ride on their school bus route in a "Kindergarten Kruise" during regularly scheduled route times today. Parents or guardians who want to ride along can board with their child from any posted bus stop. Buses will return riders to their original pick-up location upon completion of the route.

Students and parents will get to meet their bus drivers and get a feel for their "first time" bus riding experience.

Bus schedules will be available after today at the schools and on the Marietta City Schools Web site, www.marietta-city.org.

Adams to take part in CDC program

The Walker School science teacher Emily Adams has been selected to take part in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Science Ambassador Program. She is one of 16 participants selected nationwide for the national weeklong workshop for middle and high school science teachers.

Teachers in the program will work directly with CDC scientists on public health topics that directly relate to science curriculum. Topics include genomics and family history, diabetes prevention, birth defects prevention, epidemiology and autism.
Ryan to begin job for Marietta schools

Donna Ryan, the former director of special education of the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency and the Metro West Georgia Learning Resources System, begins her new job this month as assistant superintendent for special services and assessment for the Marietta City Schools.

In other personnel changes, Margaret Sims, high school literacy coach for Marietta City Schools, becomes director of secondary curriculum and instruction for the district. Other appointments include Karen Smits as director of school improvement, Cathy Magouyrk as director of elementary curriculum and instruction and Rona Roberts as administrative assistant for special services.

OPEN HOUSES

> On Monday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. open houses will be held at A. L. Burruss, Dunleith, Hickory Hills, Lockheed, Park Street, Sawyer Road and West Side elementary schools. Morning open house is scheduled Monday from 9 a.m. to noon at Marietta Center for Advanced Academics.

> On Tuesday parents and students can visit Marietta Sixth Grade Academy from 9 to 11 a.m. Elections for two-parent representatives will be held.

> Marietta Middle School holds an afternoon open house from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

> At Marietta High, ninth-grade orientation/open house for students will be from 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday. That night at 7 parents and guardians are invited to the school.
Kennesaw State University to host event honoring president

By Erin J. Murrin

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

Approaching the end of an era that developed one of the nation's fastest growing universities, Dr. Betty L. Siegel will celebrate 25 years as Kennesaw State University's president in celebrity-style and red-carpet elegance.

Dr. Siegel's beloved school will hold "A Silver Salute" at 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta to honor both her silver anniversary with KSU as well as her love for the silver screen.

Wes Wicker, vice president for University advancement and executive director of the KSU foundation, explains the celebration is not a retirement dinner, but rather a tribute to Dr. Siegel's years of service.

The theme of the evening will echo her love for movies by rolling out the red carpet, featuring Academy-Award style table seating and presenting awards dubbed "Bettys," instead of Oscars.

"(Dr. Siegel) grew up in the coal mining country of Kentucky," Wicker explains. "Movies were her escape. When she wants to get away from things, she goes to the movies."

In addition to the award-night theme, the salute will feature KSU's 20-piece jazz band playing Big Band and '40s-era music; spoken tributes to Dr. Siegel by alumni, trustees, faculty and staff; and surprise, celebrity guests.

For a personal touch, Dr. Siegel's two sons, Drs. David and Michael Siegel, will emcee the night's proceedings.

One can only expect a bit of roasting and ribbing from the sons who know their mother better than anyone.

"There's probably going to be a little bit of that, I'm sure," Wicker said. "Only her sons can get away with that, though."
Sure this event sounds like fun, but Dr. Siegel's colleagues and co-workers should do their best to keep a copy of this publication out of her hands. She has been kept completely out of the "Silver Salute" loop. We wouldn't want to spoil her fun.

"I'm usually very well-informed by my colleagues about significant university matters," she said. "But they are keeping me in the dark about this one. They just said show up and that I'd have a great time."

By the sounds of it, it would be nearly impossible for her not to have a great time. Wicker said the black-tie gala is expected to sell out.

Wicker said there are still some tickets left, but they will only be available until noon Jan. 6. Ticket information and sponsorship levels are available on the KSU Web site.

All proceeds from the event will go to benefit the Betty L. Siegel Chair for ethical leadership and to establish a scholarship in honor of Drs. Joel and Betty Siegel.

Despite not knowing the exact details of her party, Dr. Siegel said she feels honored that that her community continues to support her.

"Well, of course, the one thing you feel is how blessed you are to be in a community that is so supportive of (my family)," she said. "And that certainly includes the campus community."

To RSVP for "A Silver Salute," e-mail RSVP@kennesaw.edu or call (770) 423-6027.
March 5, 2006

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Park Street Elementary faculty honored

MARIETTA - Leigh Colburn, former principal of Park Street Elementary, was recently honored at Kennesaw State University for leadership. Ms. Colburn, the current principal at Marietta High School, received The Georgia TESOL Outstanding Educational Leader Award for effective practice and work with the TELL Training Program for her work at Park Street.

After visiting ESOL classrooms, the media center and family support programs in place at Park Street, Dr. Judy Holzman, a KSU professor, along with Dr. Evelyn Barker, state coordinator for ESOL, wrote a grant to create teaching modules of best practices in ESOL programs. These modules will be used as a video stream in ESOL staff development programs across the state which will be accessible on the Georgia Department of Education Web site. Ms. Colburn received the award for excellence in practice regarding the instructional initiatives and student achievement at Park Street.

In addition, Park Street ESOL teachers accepted the Excellence in Teaching Award Dedicated to the Education of English Language Learners on behalf of the Park Street teachers. The teachers and Ms. Colburn were recognized and able to meet with Dr. Betty Siegel representing KSU and the newly founded KSU Center for Ethical Leadership, Dr. Evelyn Barker, Georgia's education program manager ESOL/Title III and Kathleen Leos, director and assistant deputy secretary at the Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Dept. of Education.

Lassiter High School will host academic pep rally

MARIETTA - Lassiter High School will host this year's academic pep rally "The Class is Right" at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in celebration of students' academic achievement.

Lassiter students with a 3.0 GPA or above, and students who have raised their GPA .5 over the course of the semester receive either an Honor Card or Hi-Card, respectively, from the staff.

Only current card holders are admitted to the show.

McEachern culinary team takes home another gold
POWDER SPRINGS - For the third consecutive year, the McEachern ProStart Culinary Team has brought home gold medals and is a state champion. The sixth annual Georgia ProStart Student Invitational was held Feb. 17 at the Art Institute of Atlanta. The MHS Hot Foods Team and Knowledge/Management teams participated. McEachern's Knowledge/Management team took first place. Students in this team are: Natalie Still, (captain), Blanca Cervantes, Jody Bayne, and Caleb Prater. The team was awarded gold medals as well as scholarship money to culinary colleges. The students will be representing Georgia at the National ProStart Student Invitational at Johnson and Wales University from April 30 through May 2 in Charlotte, N.C., according to Dorothy Wiltshire, who established the ProStart program at McEachern and is the ProStart Instructor.

Campbell High student scores perfect on SAT

SMYRNA - Campbell High School junior Keru Cai has made a perfect score on the SAT - 800 on each section. Keru is part of the International Baccalaureate program, according to Doug Goodwin, school district spokesman.

Kell High School wins state recycling award

MARIETTA - Kell High School is one of ten statewide recipients of the Weyerhauser Excellence in School Recycling Award. Kell received $1,500 from the Weyerhauser Foundation to be used for recycling education and awareness. Jeffrey Gersbach, a sophomore in James Brigham's leadership class and member of the Kell Varsity Lacrosse Team, submitted the award-winning application. Jeffrey, along with sophomore Garrett Kamins, Mr. Brigham, and Lacrosse coach Brian Krupa, accepted the honor at a ceremony at the Georgia State Capitol last month. Weyerhauser is one of the nation's leading paper manufacturers.

Cobb school's audiological department relocates

KENNESAW - Cobb School's Audiological Services department recently moved to a new, state-of-the-art facility at 6975 Cobb International Blvd. in Kennesaw. Staffed by four licensed audiologists, Audiological Services provide free hearing evaluations for Cobb children from birth through the end of high school. Audiologists Dr. Melissa Cohen, Dr. Angie Perryman, Dr. Donna Lynn Wallis and Karen Mobley have the most current equipment at their disposal, helping to identify children with hearing deficits.

The Audiological Services department is hosting an open house from 4:00-6:30 p.m. March 28. Appointments for the audiology clinic are made by calling (678) 581-7400.

Smitha Middle students recognized at science fair

POWDER SPRINGS - William Austin II, 8th-grader; and Alexander Pszczola and
Hannah Woolsey, 7th-graders at Smitha Middle School were first place winners at the Cobb-Paulding Regional Science and Engineering Fair held last month at Wheeler High School. In addition, Austin and Ms. Woolsey also received the Kemira Award for Excellence, awarded to six individuals demonstrating exemplary work, said Doug Goodwin, district spokesman.

Campbell teacher named Outstanding Teacher of Excellence

Smyrna - Melyn Roberson, Spanish teacher in the Campbell High International Baccalaureate Program, has been selected as the 2005-06 Outstanding Teacher of Excellence by the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT). She was formally recognized Feb. 17 at the National SCOLT Conference in Orlando. Roberson was previously honored as 2004-05 Teacher of the Year for the Foreign Language Association of Georgia (FLAG).

Campbell teachers named Citizens of the Year

Smyrna - Campbell High School teachers Brett Hardin and Ron Wendt have been selected as 2005-06 Citizens of the Year by the Smyrna Rotary Club. Both were awarded $1,000 certificates at a luncheon held in their honor at the Smyrna Community Center. Robert Hall, district governor of Rotary Club, named Hardin and Wendt as Paul Harris Fellows, an honorary award established by Rotary International in 1957.

Mt. Bethel students awarded

Marietta - Fifth graders at Mt. Bethel Elementary recently 'out quizzed' the competition in the 2006 Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl. Fifth and sixth graders from across Georgia compete with one another on 100 questions ranging from sports to civics, math to literature, and beyond. The faster students respond with a correct answer, the higher number of points they receive. Mr. Morris's class won first place among all fifth grade classes at the bowl, with Ms. Perry's class shortly behind in third place, Doug Goodwin, district spokesman, said.

East Side raises money for Heart Association

Marietta - Student council members at East Side Elementary School raised $563.48 for the American Heart Association in less than a half hour during their school bake sale last month. All of the baked goods were donated by parents and staff members at East Side.

Simpson and Hightower Trail place at math tournament

Marietta - Simpson and Hightower Trail middle schools finished first and second at the regional MathCounts tournament on Feb. 18. Both schools will continue to the state competition on March 25, said Doug Goodwin, district spokesman.
Chattahoochee Technical College on Wednesday saluted Dr. Betty Siegel, who retired from the presidency of Kennesaw State University last week after a 25-year term, with a resolution in her honor for being a friend of the college.

"I've been here 23 years and Betty Siegel's been here 25," said Dr. Harlon Crimm, president of the nearly 6,500-student Chattahoochee Technical College.

"She's been a great friend to the college. She's always been open to everything," Crimm said. "I don't ever remember her saying, 'I can't do that.' She always said, 'Let's get it done. Let's find a way,'" Crimm said.

Kennesaw State, during Dr. Siegel's tenure, was the first to accept transfer credits from Chattahoochee Tech in the 1980s, Crimm said.

"That was not the accepted thing to do among her colleagues. The other colleges and universities in Georgia were certainly not doing that. She stepped out and supported our students, which was just a marvelous thing for her to do."

Chattahoochee Tech spokesman John Furman said students began transferring to KSU in 1988 when the college first earned its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"There may have been some transfers earlier, but I don't have any detail on that," Furman said.

He said about 200 to 300 students transfer from Chattahoochee Tech to KSU annually.

"You see some students come to our college and take 45 hours and transfer," Furman said.

Another reason CTC saluted Dr. Siegel was for founding the Cobb Education Consortium.
Crimm said Dr. Siegel and he are the only two original board members left on the consortium, which is an association of Cobb's two universities, two technical colleges and two school systems.

"We've just had a very good partnership," Crimm said.

The resolution awarded to Dr. Siegel honors her achievements as the first woman to head an institution in the 25-unit University of Georgia System, and the longest-serving woman president in the nation as president of KSU since 1981.

Under her administration, KSU has evolved from a four-year college with an enrollment of 4,000 students and 15 bachelor degree programs to university status with enrollment exceeding 18,000 students and 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Dr. Siegel also was instrumental in securing approval of a Doctor of Education in Leadership for Learning earlier this year.

jgillooly@mdjonline.com
OBITUARIES: ATLANTA
Larry Lowenstein, press agent to stars, charities

Kay Powell

Since he'd been in the business practically from the beginning, it was all right with Larry Lowenstein to call him a press agent.

That's what Elizabeth Taylor, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Arthur Godfrey, Benny Goodman, Leon Uris and Dr. Joyce Brothers called him. He was the first press agent for Crest toothpaste and Zest soap, too.

He delighted in telling about the time Miss Taylor threw him out of her honeymoon suite or the time he served Roy Rogers bourbon in a teacup to preserve his public image.

"He was such a funny, fine person and so ethical in a business not known for ethics," said entertainment lawyer Darryl Cohen of Marietta, an officer in the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The memorial service for Kenneth Lawrence Lowenstein, 86, of Atlanta, who died of a heart attack Tuesday at St. Joseph's Hospital, is at 3 p.m. Oct. 15 at The Temple. The body was cremated. Cremation Society of the South, Marietta, is in charge of arrangements.

Name a professional organization, Mr. Lowenstein had been its president. Name a charity, he had served on its board. Name an award, it had been presented to him.

"I met him at so many functions. He seemed to be everywhere," said Dr. Betty Siegel of Marietta, president emeritus of Kennesaw State University. "He knew people who were interesting and exciting."

Mr. Lowenstein had worked in continuing education at KSU since 1992 and handled special projects for Dr. Siegel during her tenure. He is credited with the success of KSU's "Meet the President" television show, its University Press and its program to keep people active in retirement.

That was after he left New York for Atlanta in 1974 and was the information officer for Atlanta Public Schools, executive director of the Atlanta Partnership of Business and Education and promoted radio and television stations here.

"He must have been actively retired 15 times," Dr. Siegel said. "He was a man who had the capacity to live life well."

"He was such a cheerleader for all of us. He loved the university," said Barbara Calhoun of Kennesaw, KSU's dean of continuing education. "Larry was revered. He was much, much a visionary. He gave us greater exposure to the community."

At KSU, he taught a popular class on "Write a Book and Get It Published" and gave talks on "Famous People Who Knew Me," the title of his book, she said.

Mr. Lowenstein created WXIA's ongoing Community Service Awards program. He is responsible for televising Atlanta's Emmy awards, Mr. Cohen said. As producer of the first show, he lined up Mayor Maynard Jackson and comedian Phyllis Diller as emcees.

"He brought humor and ethics to everything he did," Mr. Cohen said. "He was so self-effacing. When he told a story, it was never, 'I did this.' He was there and he just related what happened."

He dominated a weekend Algonquin Round Table-style gathering at Goldberg's Bagel Co. & Deli on West Paces Ferry Road, Dr. Siegel said.

"It was witty sayings and friendship and great laughter, and he was at the center of it," she said.

There he would tell of the night he wound up in Elizabeth Taylor's bedroom, a story he shared with Atlanta Journal-Constitution readers in a 1999 article.

Miss Taylor had just married Eddie Fisher, arrived at New York's Waldorf-Astoria hotel and was dismayed to find twin beds in their suite.

Mr. Lowenstein, whose public relations firm represented the two stars, quickly solved the honeymoon problem.
"So I pushed the beds together and made up the bed," he said. "When I was done, I just stood there and she said
goodnight. But I said, 'I'm not leaving now; I'm going to watch!'"
Wish not granted. End of story.
Survivors include his wife, Joyce Lowenstein; two daughters, Barbara Dubois of Greenwich, Conn., and Caryl Komornik
of Stamford, Conn.; two stepdaughters, Penny Siskin of Great Neck, N.Y., and Patricia Arnow of Jerusalem; a sister,
Lorraine Broxmeyer of Great Neck; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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Around Town 2

THERE WILL BE good and bad news coming from Dr. Betty Siegel's retirement party at 7 p.m. tonight at the Galleria Centre as she launches plans to step down in May after 25 years at the helm of Kennesaw State University.

The obvious bad news is Dr. Siegel's "retirement." But the good news is that she will fill the newly endowed Ethical Leadership chair at KSU that will be announced at the black-tie event. The festivities, called "A Silver Salute," will kick off with a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing and entertainment. Proceeds from the evening honoring Dr. Siegel and her husband, Dr. Joel Siegel, will go to a $500,000 endowment to underwrite the KSU chair.

A number of Georgia's leading corporations and individuals have contributed, including Coca Cola, $25,000; Bobbie Bailey and Audrey and Jack Morgan, $15,000; and Holder Construction, WellStar Health Systems, Equifax, Georgia Trend magazine, and Mrs. Winner's Chicken, $10,000 each. Individual tickets cost $250 each.

The Siegels' sons, Michael and David, will be emcees and are the hosts.

In her new endeavor, Dr. Siegel will head a leadership program for Hope Scholarship recipients that encourages them "to give back." She sees KSU moving from being just a successful college to one of significant achievement.

In 20 years, Dr. Siegel predicts KSU will have 40,000 students and double its current enrollment, with a broad doctorate and research program.

Because of its tremendous growth, observers say the college has grown without adequate infrastructure, having from eight to 10 fewer buildings than the average college its size, despite holding Saturday and Sunday classes.

SPEAKING ON "The State of the County" at the Cobb Chamber breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Monday will be Cobb Commission Chairman Sam Olens. The event is at the Atlanta Marriott Northwest at the Windy Hill Road exit off I-75, just south of I-285. Cost is $15 for Chamber members, $50 for nonmembers. Call (770) 980-2000 or visit cobbchamber.org.
THE COBB CHAMBER will honor its 2005 board of directors and give prestigious awards at its annual banquet Jan. 21.

The Chairman's Award is an excellence in leadership award presented to someone for outstanding leadership, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to the Cobb Chamber.

The Len Gilbert Award, named for a past leader of the Chamber, is presented to an outstanding Chamber board member who through leadership, commitment and dedication has achieved new heights in program development.

The Mack Henderson Public Service Award honors retired BellSouth exec James E. "Mack" Henderson who has dedicated much of his time to volunteering in Cobb. This award is presented to someone who is outstanding in his or her commitment and dedication to the quality of life for the citizens of Cobb.

The Marietta Daily Journal also will announce its Cobb County Citizen of the Year. This award has been presented at the Cobb Chamber Annual Dinner since 1963.

For more information on the black-tie optional event or to purchase tickets, contact Shannon Huff at (770) 859-2329 or shuff@cobbchamber.org.
January 8, 2006

Cobb salutes Dr. Siegel

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

SMYRNA - Cobb's finest turned out in their tuxes and furs to honor Kennesaw State University President Dr. Betty Siegel for her 25 years of university leadership Saturday night.

More than 600 people paid $250 a ticket for the Betty Siegel Silver Salute fund-raiser in the ballroom at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel at Cobb Galleria.

"I'm feeling absolutely awed as you can imagine, wouldn't you be feeling awed by this?" Dr. Siegel said. "I'm really pleased with this affirmation, but it goes double, I've got to tell you. Everyone in this room is very special to the university and to me, so I'm very grateful that they came to meet with me on this night, of course."

Country music star Patty Loveless serenaded the crowd with the several songs, including "Georgia," saying how she identified with Dr. Siegel, as both of them grew up in eastern Kentucky as the daughters of coal miners.

"I do know, lady, that you've come a long, long way," Ms. Loveless said. "You are definitely an icon, Ms. Betty. And I think we all should applaud you. You go, Kentucky girl!"

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-east Cobb) said he has known Dr. Siegel since she arrived in KSU in 1981.

"We go back since Betty arrived," he said. "She's had a tremendous impact on me personally and on the community. She is such a positive force number one. She's a great visionary number two. Three, she's a caring and compassionate person. I've learned a lot from her. I guess the thing I've learned the most - she's probably the most gifted public speaker I've ever known, and I have used an awful lot of stuff I have borrowed from her in my particular profession. Secondly, in terms of what she's done for Kennesaw, Kennesaw had two great leaders - (Founding President) Horace W. Sturgis and Betty Siegel and both were the right persons at the right time."
"Horace laid the foundation and Betty has built a beautiful edifice on that foundation, which is now Kennesaw State University. Without either one it could not be what it is today. She was in the right place at the right time and has done a magnificent job. I'm sorry to see her step down, but I'm also happy to see her take the chair of ethics and leadership.

"The next president is going to have her legacy to build on, her guidance, if they want it. One thing about Betty Siegel is Betty Siegel doesn't quit, Betty Siegel doesn't retire, Betty Siegel doesn't go away, Betty Siegel persists and she perseveres and her grandest days are ahead, you just watch."

Her longtime friend, a longtime Democratic activist Juanelle Edwards of Marietta spoke about her personality.

"She's the most remarkable women I ever met - I'm going to change that. She's the most remarkable person I ever met. As Kipling said, she can walk with kings or she can walk with anybody else."

Ms. Edwards said she has seen Dr. Siegel interact with the wives of American and Egyptian presidents and seen her at church picnics, and her personality never changes.

"She makes everybody so glad they're in her presence. I call that a remarkable person, don't you?"

Secretary of State Cathy Cox said she is a role model.

"Her reputation is worldwide," said Ms. Cox. "She broke a lot of barriers becoming the first female president we had in the state. You know, the average tenure of university presidents is not very long, so to look at the length of her service and all that she has accomplished over the years is beyond remarkable. No one will ever be able to fill the big shoes that she's leaving, but she set a great example and has grown this school into a world renown university," Ms. Cox said. "Dr. Siegel has been the kind of president that let's things happen out of the box. I hope she stays around Georgia for a long time. She has a lot to offer and we just want to tap into that in other ways now."

Dr. Siegel was saluted on screen by Gov. Sonny Perdue, Isakson, Reps. Phil Gingrey and Tom Price from the U.S. House of Representatives on C-Span, Kennesaw Mayor Leonard Church, and Marietta Mayor Bill Dunaway.

The university provided her with an office suite complete with an executive assistant for as long as she cares to have it, along with a Lexus, whose keys her husband, Kennesaw Associate Magistrate Court Judge Dr. Joel Siegel, came to the podium to collect, dressed in a chauffeur's hat. The evening provided scholarships for 20 music students.

"She's been a soft spoken player that's accomplished much in a very short time," said Cobb Commission Chairman Sam Olens. "She's got the respect of everyone, not only in
Cobb but in Atlanta and she's just a real educated leader for all of us and we need that. It's going to be very big shoes to fill."

gillooly@mdjonline.com
Kennestone Hospital honored by Solucient

From staff reports

MARIETTA - WellStar Kennestone Hospital has been recognized by Solucient as a five-time winner of its annual 100 Top Hospitals National Award.

"This is a testament to the consistency of the performance of the board, the executives and the hospital's medical and hospital staff in meeting high standards of care and high-quality patient outcomes," said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president of Solucient's Center for Healthcare Improvement, which is responsible for the 100 Top Hospitals program.

The Solucient "100 Top Hospitals: National Benchmarks for Success" study annually examines changing performance levels in U.S. hospitals across five critical performance areas: Outcome of care, patient safety, efficiency, financial performance and growing community service.

Call (770) 956-STAR or visit www.wellstar.org for more information.

Synovus in top Georgia Trend list

MARIETTA - Synovus, its subsidiary TSYS and 16 of Synovus' banks and other companies have been named by Georgia Trend magazine to its first annual list of the "Best Places to Work in Georgia."

"It is a special honor to be recognized as a great place to work in the state, especially when team member feedback is the driver for Georgia Trend's ranking," said Richard Anthony, chairman and CEO of Synovus. "This honor affirms that we are taking many of the right steps to create a work environment that positively impacts our team members both professionally and personally."

Georgia Trend magazine selected the companies based on responses from employees on
what made their companies great places to work, including comments on work environment, training and opportunities for career advancement.

WellStar Physicians names doctor

MARIETTA - David R. Elwood, M.D., recently joined WellStar Physicians Group, a group of more than 275 primary care providers, specialists and advanced practitioners.

Elwood will begin accepting patients Monday at WellStar Surgical Associates in Marietta, located at 790 Church St., Suite 570.

Elwood obtained his medical degree in 1999 from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine in Farmington. He completed an Anatomic Pathology Fellowship through the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and his residency in general surgery from the Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington, Mass.

Prior to joining the WellStar Physicians Group, Elwood was a clinical instructor in surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. Elwood has his board certification with the American Board of Surgery.

Elwood will be joining Felton Hagood, M.D., Waights Henry, M.D., Madhavi Jordan, M.D. and Steven Walters, M.D., who are already practicing surgeons in Marietta.

Awards to showcase local leaders

KENNESAW - Atlanta-based Turknett Leadership Group and longtime partner Kennesaw State University's 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 at the annual statewide Leadership Character Awards.

TLG also announced that W. Thomas Smith, founder and managing partner of Total Technology Ventures, will serve as a member of the advisory group that will select the honorees at the annual statewide Leadership Character Awards.

Smith joins Oz Nelson, retired chairman and CEO of UPS; Conchita Robinson, president and CEO of C Robinson Associates Inc.; and Betty Siegel, the former president of Kennesaw State University.

The categories for the Leadership Character Award are associate/individual contributor, executive/manager, president/CEO/partner, and nonprofit/education/public sector. Categories for organizations are divided into two groups by size, over 500 employees and under 500 employees.

Anyone may nominate a deserving individual or organization through Nov. 15 at www.leadershipcharacter.com. All nominees and winners will be recognized at a
luncheon ceremony Feb. 5 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead. Visit www.acteva.com/go/turknett to register for the event.
'Stars' come out for Siegel

AIXA M. PASCUAL

In the company of Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" and Scarlett O'Hara from "Gone With the Wind," a crowd of about 600 people gathered Saturday night to honor outgoing Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel.

The "Silver Salute Gala" was a movie-themed send-off for Siegel, who is leaving the presidency this year after 25 years at the helm of the fast-growing Cobb County school. Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox, U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and Marietta Mayor Bill Dunaway were among the professors, deans, alumni and others at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel on Galleria Parkway.

Siegel, who calls herself a movie fan extraordinaire, said she has seen "Gone With the Wind" 44 times in theaters. She came by her love of films as a child when her mother played piano at movie houses in Kentucky. She said "GWTW," "Oz" and "Casablanca" are her favorites, hence the characters dressed as Dorothy and Scarlett wandering among the guests.

Siegel was looking forward to an evening full of surprises. One of them was "Coal Miner's Daughter," which Siegel is, sung just for her by country singer Patty Loveless.

"I feel wonderful," Siegel said.

A successor should be named by mid-February.

KSU Coles College of Business Dean Tim Mescon, one of five candidates for the school's presidency, said Siegel "has led phenomenal growth."

Under Siegel, KSU has grown from a commuter campus into the third-largest school in the University System of Georgia, with 18,500 students.

Photo

Outgoing Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel was honored at a movie-themed gala.
Cobb Close-Up
TUCKER MCQUEEN

All dolled up for the big night

Cobb County cast its own march of the penguins Sunday, as the black-tie set turned out for "Diamonds Are Forever," the Oscar-night gala benefiting the Center for Family Resources. The event, at the Cobb Galleria, included dinner, dancing, a silent auction and live broadcast of the Academy Awards. The crowd included politicians from all levels: Marietta city councilwoman Holly Walquist, state Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta) and U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-Ga.).

The Junior League of Cobb-Marietta, a supporter of the Center for Family Resources, was well represented. Leaguers in attendance included President Catherine Castaldo, past President Nerissa Jackson and President-elect Angie Green.

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel beamed with the bliss of upcoming retirement, and working the crowd with style was Jeri Barr, CEO of the Center for Family Resources. Gala co-chairs were David and Pam Connell and Sam and Margaret Kelly. Cassy Ferrell was auction chair.

The Center for Family Resources provides emergency food, housing and assistance to those in need, along with career counseling, job skills training, youth mentoring and other programs to strengthen families.

• More information: www.thecfr.org.

MARIETTA: Painters chase the sun for right look to nature scenes

On a warm, breezy day last week, women with palettes and easels followed shadows around the Marietta Square.

Plein Air Painters of Georgia -- the name comes from the French term for outdoors -- travel around the state painting outdoor scenes. This month, when the weather is pleasant, artists will work around the square for an April exhibit at the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art.

Plein Air President Debra Nadelhoffer said darting shadows and changing light make painting outdoors difficult, but springlike days make it worth the effort. She was pleased that 14 of the group's 23 members showed up to paint recently.

"We are always chasing light, trying to catch it," Nadelhoffer said. "You have to lock it in when you start or you may ruin what you have."

Lynda McMorris of Decatur figured out the shadows in her painting by first taking a photo of the south side of the square. Sandra Anderson of Marietta sketched a worker painting the fountain in the square. Susan Smith of Powder Springs captured Schillings restaurant in pastels of plums and golds.

Mikki Root Dillon is painting outdoors this month but hopes her indoor painting of the Root House kitchen will be part of the exhibit. The 1850s museum, off the Marietta Square, was once the residence of her great-great-grandfather William Root.

Nadelhoffer said the goal is to have about 65 paintings of Marietta and Georgia in the show. The exhibit will be April 8-June 10 in the museum's first-floor galleries. At the same time, the Portrait Society of Atlanta's juried show will be featured on the second floor.


COBB: Young Marine likes being 'squared away'

Katherine Crawford swears she isn't a tomboy. But she says when she was younger, she preferred G.I. Joes to Barbie dolls.
The Whitefield Academy sophomore was expected back in Atlanta on Tuesday after traveling to Guam and Japan for the 61st anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Crawford and Torri Preston, 17, of Conyers are in a group of 13 Young Marines from around the country. One of their duties, she said, was to escort WWII veterans.

She left for Japan two days after returning from New York, where she and 11 other girls attended a forum on the status of women at the United Nations. Crawford, a lance corporal in the Gen. Raymond Davis Young Marines of Metro Atlanta, said the Young Marines was the only youth group there.

Janis Damante, executive officer of the group, said Crawford, 15, was chosen for the honors because she is the model of a Young Marine or, in military terms, squared away. "We knew she would represent us well," Damante said. "She is never sloppy. Her hair is always perfect, her boots shined and her uniform pressed. And she is well mannered."

Crawford would like to go to military college and dreams of a career in the Marines. "Some kids play soccer, others are good in the arts," she said. "I like standing at attention. ... When they say I'm squared away, I say, wow. I'm good at this."

Junko Rothwell, a member of Plein Air Painters of Georgia, paints a colorful array of daffodils. The group, part of a national organization, travels the state painting nature scenes.

Junior League of Cobb-Marietta President-elect Angie Green (above left) and Mamie Ramsey enjoy the festivities Sunday at the Cobb Galleria.

Mitzi Smith of Marietta spends some time with George Fergus of Kennesaw.

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Monday, January 9, 2006
Siegel springboards to global ethics wor
LaToya Cole
Contributing Writer

Many a morning, Betty Siegel can be found sitting at the Waffle House on Frey Road in Kennesaw, reading not one, but two morning newspapers.

The Kennesaw State University president's routine is so familiar to students that they know the next step: When she puts the papers down, it's time to talk.

It is through this kind of interaction with students that Siegel sees the impact instructors have on students and their education.

After asking students about their favorite professors, she then makes a note of the professor's name and sends him or her a letter and certificate for a free breakfast, or what she calls a "Waffle House moment."

"It is important that they know of the lives they touch," she said.

Siegel announced last May that she would leave the university in January. She plans to stay on until a new president steps into her shoes -- which are formidable. Siegel leaves a legacy of significant progress and unprecedented growth for the university. When she came to Kennesaw in 1981, there were 3,700 students enrolled, and the school had held its first four-year graduation after having been a junior college since its founding in 1963.

As the new president (and first female university president in the state's university system), Siegel's challenge was to build on the school's potential.

"KSU was a college of promise," said Siegel, who has seen the student body increase to more than 19,000. "The goal was to create a fully functional four-year college."

Siegel said resources were limited at the time.

"There was limited classroom space, and we had to build in new majors," she said.
Over the years, the campus has added three housing communities, the Health and Wellness Center and a convocation center.

Siegel attributes the school's growth to the "futuristic vision" of its administrators, and relates it to hockey player Wayne Gretsky's strategy of "skating to where the puck will be."

Described by her colleagues as motivational and optimistic, Siegel practices what she calls "invitational" leadership.

"You don't motivate anybody, all you do is invite them," she said.

Her colleagues are struck the most by her optimism.

"She is one of the most invigorating people I have ever met," said Charles Bowen, dean of student success at Kennesaw State University. The two worked together at Western Carolina University, and later reunited at Kennesaw when Bowen arrived in 2002. He said he has always been impressed by Siegel's interest in the students, and that her leadership and speaking style set her apart from the rest.

"She is the epitome of ethical leadership," Bowen said.

It is her leadership style that Siegel is using to launch the next phase of her career -- with a focus on ethics.

In September, Siegel traveled to Oxford, England, where she chaired the Oxford Conclave on Global Ethics and the Changing University Presidency. The event was intended to explore higher education's role in nurturing ethical leaders in a world of increasing complexity.

Siegel plans to continue her work with KSU's RTM Institute of Leadership, Ethics and Character, which received a $1 million endowment from RTM Restaurant Group in 2003.

The goal, she said, is to teach students "to use who they are, not just what they know."

After a yearlong sabbatical and a 2006 Oxford Conclave, Siegel plans to teach in the doctoral ethics program with an endowed chair named for her.

Education runs in Siegel's family. Her sons are both college professors.

"As a coal miner's daughter, to be educated was the highest honor in my family," she said.

Aside from being a wife, mother and daughter, she would liked to be remembered as a "minister for education."
Her philosophy on life will not allow her to slow down.

"I have been in a great growing, dynamic and spirited college that is now a university," she said. "I have been supported by people I admire and respect, and I am very appreciative."

Siegel says numerous people contributed to her successful tenure and the significant growth of the university.

"We are altogether better because we are all together."
Oscar night gala benefits family center

By TUCKER MCQUEEN
Published on: 03/09/06

Cobb County cast its own march of the penguins Sunday, as the black-tie set turned out for "Diamonds Are Forever," the Oscar-night gala benefiting the Center for Family Resources.

The event, at the Cobb Galleria, included dinner, dancing, a silent auction and live broadcast of the Academy Awards. The crowd included politicians from all levels: Marietta city councilwoman Holly Walquist, state Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta) and U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-Ga.).

Junior League of Cobb-Marietta President-elect Angie Green (above left) and Mamie Ramsey enjoy the festivities Sunday at the Cobb Galleria.

Mitzi Smith of Marietta spends some time with George Fergus of Kennesaw.
The Junior League of Cobb-Marietta, a supporter of the Center for Family Resources, was well represented. Leaguers in attendance included President Catherine Castaldo, past President Nerissa Jackson and President-elect Angie Green.

Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel beamed with the bliss of upcoming retirement, and working the crowd with style was Jeri Barr, CEO of the Center for Family Resources. Gala co-chairs were David and Pam Connell and Sam and Margaret Kelly. Cassy Ferrell was auction chair.

The Center for Family Resources provides emergency food, housing and assistance to those in need, along with career counseling, job skills training, youth mentoring and other programs to strengthen families.

• More information: www.thecfr.org.
Hand a camera to DeKalb County junior Carey Williams and he's happy. Throw in a computer and the chance to produce and edit, says instructor Larry Steele, and he "would rather do this than breathe."

Williams, for his part, calls it "a dream," the chance to hone broadcasting skills both in front of a camera and behind the scenes as the school system launches its PDS TV channel and -- it hopes -- students' careers.

"While we all have a shared goal of reinforcing the curriculum, we also have a vocational goal -- we want these students to be actively recruited [by colleges] for this," Steele, the channel's chief video engineer, said recently, pointing to an ambitious production schedule that will be heavily influenced by students' hands.

The PDS stands for Premiere DeKalb Schools and it's available to all DeKalb Comcast cable subscribers on Channel 24. Student-produced news shows, documentaries, instructional series -- the channel soon expects to throw all of them into its rotation.

Its handlers have spent three years preparing students and teachers, offering training and television production classes. Steele and his general manager, Joe Phillips, estimate that 400 students systemwide have received at least some sort of instruction in the field.

The channel itself, born out of a franchise agreement the county has with Comcast, started broadcasting Feb. 13. It's what Phillips calls a "soft launch," meaning its initial programming is from outside sources, such as NASA and the U.S. Department of Education.

Soon, however, more programming will come from within the system.

Five high schools -- including Williams' school, Miller Grove, home of the channel's master studio -- have a broadcast studio. Chamblee High, DeKalb School of the Arts, Stephenson High and DeKalb High School of Technology-South are the others.

Ten other high schools partner in the program and are expected to provide programming and do fieldwork. Eventually, Steele said, DeKalb's middle and elementary schools will also be in the mix, with Oak Grove Elementary and Lithonia Middle expected to lead the way. Students in the program say they never imagined the effort required to get their work done, although they also can't say enough about how accomplished they feel.

"I thought I just wanted to be on TV, but I've learned about pre-production, post-production . . . I just directed my first [short] film," said Alex Phillips, a junior at Miller Grove High. They "make sure we really know our stuff. I'm so surprised at what I've done."

To broaden the channel's efforts, Joe Phillips (no relation), who was previously principal of the DeKalb High School of the Arts and used to be a TV producer and talk-show host, has developed connections with local TV stations and national groups like the Radio-Television News Directors Association.

He and Steele also point to work already finished by students including "Herstory," a pilot series completed last spring, featuring such women as retiring Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel and WSB television personality Monica Kaufman.

"We're trying to set it up to be national, so we can interview Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Condoleezza Rice," Steele said of the series. Speaking of the channel's expected content, he added: "We want our students to appreciate what's happening in their community, but to think in context of what's happening globally."

To that end, they hope to begin streaming the channel over the Internet by next school year, potentially bringing DeKalb students to a worldwide audience 24/7.

Photo

JOEY IVANSCO / Staff

Leevon Daniels (right) counts down for cameraman Carey Williams (left) to start shooting the interview Demetrius McCoy and Taylor Adams (center) conducted of Miller Grove High School student Breea Mitchell for the DeKalb school's TV
Student Carey Williams (second from right) explains one of three studio cameras to fellow PDS TV colleagues Taylor Adams (from left), Leevon Daniels, Demetrius McCoy, Jamaal Henry and Alexandra Phillips. Miller Grove is home to the DeKalb school system channel's master studio.
Ethics are Key

... to moral development

Dr. Betty Siegel is departing this year as longtime president of Kennesaw State University, but she's not falling far from the tree. She'll play an instrumental role in the RTM Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Character, based at KSU.

The Institute's executive director is Dr. Deborah Britt Roebuck, who was guest speaker at Thursday's Marietta Rotary Club meeting.

"Dr. Siegel and many of us believe that ethics can be embedded into our education system and that it can be caught as well as taught," she said.

Dr. Siegel had a cutting-edge idea when she created the Center for Leadership, Ethics and Character back in 2001, Dr. Roebuck said.

"It sprang from a great need to address a crisis in the lack of ethics in the management of some of our largest companies, like Enron and WorldCom. While they juggled the books and squandered billions of precious shareholder dollars, our country was set back economically as their companies went into bankruptcy and people lost faith in the stock market, she said. That center now has grown into the RTM Institute."

Its primary goal is to develop and promote ethical leadership among individuals and organizations. It does that through education, providing opportunities for service and applied research, said Dr. Roebuck.

Under Dr. Siegel's tutelage, faculty and staff developed the KSU Model of Ethical Leadership based on core values of trust, respect, optimism, intentionality and service. At the center of the model is character, defined as knowing one's values, beliefs, strengths, skills and personality.

"We believe that people who start with a clear concept of who they are and what they stand for have the best chance of leading from ethical stances," Dr. Roebuck said. "No one can be a leader until he or she has examined his or her own strengths, weaknesses, values and beliefs."

As for ethics, they require critical thinking and an understanding of moral development,
she told the club.

"Some would argue that ethics cannot be taught, but we believe that we can expose individuals to the dimension of ethics that will cause them to think more deeply about the decisions they will face as leaders. Thus, character leads to ethics and ethics leads to leadership - the third sphere of our model," she said.

"Are leaders made or born?" she asked. "While we are all born with native strengths and weaknesses, I think by and large leaders are made. Because change comes at lightning speed in our world, those who would be ethical leaders must recognize that all change involves loss as well as gain and that there is a natural tendency to hold onto what we know and to find comfort in the familiar. Therefore, as a leader, one must challenge the status quo and welcome change, share your vision, model the way, enable others to act and inspire them to make the journey."

Dr. Siegel retired from KSU earlier this spring and after a six-month sabbatical in England, will return to the RTM Institute to hold the Siegel Distinguished Chair in Ethical Leadership. The Institute has been primarily funded by the RTM Foundation of the RTM Restaurant Group, which prior to its recent sale owned and franchised hundreds of restaurants, primarily Arby's and Mrs. Winner's. Other donors have included the state Board of Regents and KSU, as well as Dr. Siegel herself and retired Lockheed Vice President Micky Blackwell and his wife, Billie.

Its advisory board members include Micky Blackwell, former Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Chairman Joel Cowan, Jack Pinkerton of Pinkerton and Laws, Northstar Church Pastor the Rev. Ike Reighard and Dr. Jamil S. Zainaldin, president of the Georgia Humanities Council.

Upcoming events sponsored by the Institute will include the "Oxford Conclave on Global Ethics and Leadership: The Collaborative University" at prestigious Balliol College in Oxford, England, this year. It will build on a smaller, similar event held there by the Institute last year. Also planned for this year is the annual "Phenomenal Woman Conference." This year's will be titled, "Leading Ladies: Truths and Myths about Women and Leadership" and will address the challenges that women face as leaders. The Institute also will help oversee the annual Ethics Bowl, in which KSU students debate ethical issues with students from other universities. And let's not forget the Institute's Character Education partnership with the Cobb County School District to develop and highlight successful character education initiatives.

"Since its founding in 2002, the Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Character has come to define what is best about our university," Dr. Siegel has said. "The Institute's emphasis on principle-centered leadership, its profoundly positive influence on the larger community and its enormous benefit to our students are values that clearly reflect the values of the larger institution and point to our continuing effort to make Kennesaw State a true 'university of meaning.'"
There's no question that many of us could use some brushing-up when it comes to ethics, and that the Institute is doing valuable work.

Associate editor Bill Kinney's column also runs on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
Betty Siegel has presided over what she describes as "dozens and dozens of graduations" during her 25-year tenure at Kennesaw State University.

But Thursday and Friday, Siegel, 75, will officiate her last commencements as president of the Cobb County college.

"It's not sad. I'm very grateful," Siegel said last week. "I don't anticipate being sad. I anticipate being joyful, frankly."

Siegel arrived at Kennesaw College in the summer of 1981, right after the 4,000-student school became a four-year college. She led the school through a period of spectacular growth, turning it into the third-largest among the state's 35 public universities, with more than 18,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

Siegel will be succeeded by Daniel S. Papp, senior vice chancellor of academics and fiscal affairs of the University System of Georgia.

Before she leaves her terraced, fifth-floor office on July 1, Siegel will work on bringing "some things to fruition." Among them is a program she calls "New Hope," in which HOPE scholars who enroll at the college will be encouraged to get involved in community service locally and work abroad with young people.

She wants HOPE scholars to be "very much concerned with social issues" and ethical leadership, a subject she's passionate about.

After stepping down this summer, Siegel will maintain her links to the university as an endowed chair in ethical leadership. First, she will travel to England. There she will
spend a few months at Oxford University, where her husband, Joel, spent some time studying and where she is putting together a "big program on ethical leadership" for this fall. She will come back to Georgia after the holidays.

Siegel said she will miss KSU. "This university means everything to me, and it will continue to mean everything to me," she said. "It's been a wonderful place to serve and I'm very happy that I've served a good long time."

KSU'S 80TH COMMENCEMENT

• **When:** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Friday  
• **Where:** KSU Convocation Center

• **Speakers:** Kent C. "Oz" Nelson, retired chairman of UPS; Sunny K. Park, CEO of Global Sun Investments; Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president of Coca-Cola.

• **Graduate of note:** Emilia Trejos, the consul general of Costa Rica in Atlanta, will receive her MBA from the Coles College of Business.
NOTE: The text below is presented in its entirety without any changes.

Betty Siegel's night with stars
Bogart was there -- Judy Garland, too -- as 600 toasted KSU chief (and movie buff)

AIXA M. PASCUAL

Growing up in eastern Kentucky, Betty Siegel loved going to the movies. Her mother played the piano at the theater during intermission, so Siegel and her sister could watch movies for free. At age 8, she watched "Gone With the Wind" seven days in a row.

Siegel's ardor for cinema took center stage Saturday night at a gala dubbed "Silver Salute" to honor the president of Kennesaw State University. At the movie-themed extravaganza, about 600 people gathered to say goodbye to Siegel, who is leaving the presidency of the fast-growing school after 25 years.

"This has been rather an enchanted evening," Siegel told the audience gathered at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel on Galleria Parkway. "I've absolutely been charmed."

The evening -- a fund-raiser for the Betty L. Siegel Chair for Ethical Leadership and the Drs. Joel and Betty Siegel Scholarship Fund -- was filled with references to "Gone With the Wind," "The Wizard of Oz" and "Casablanca," Siegel's favorite movies. Video montages of the movies and others were shown, with Siegel's likeness taking the place of Dorothy with the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion and the Tin Man.

She was also Ilsa in "Casablanca" with Humphrey Bogart at Rick's Cafe and Tootsie, among others. Country singer Patty Loveless, who, like Siegel, is a coal miner's daughter from Kentucky, serenaded Siegel with two songs. Loveless gave her a rose and drew parallels between the two. "I do know, lady, that you've come a long, long way," Loveless said from the stage. "You are definitely an icon, Miss Betty. You go, Kentucky girl."

Siegel announced in May that she was stepping down as president of KSU, which under her leadership has become the third-largest university among the University System of Georgia's 35 schools. Five candidates vying to replace her were announced last month, and a successor is expected to be named by mid-February. The candidates are visiting campus this week and next.

Siegel, who turns 75 this month, will remain at KSU as a chairwoman of ethical leadership. On Saturday night, school officials named Siegel a "worldwide ambassador" for KSU and announced the school would be giving her a campus office, an executive assistant and a speechwriter.

Photo
BRET GERBE / Kennesaw State University

Kennesaw State President Betty Siegel was guest of honor Saturday for a fund-raiser and a rousing farewell from 600 friends and colleagues. She is retiring after 25 years in her post but will remain at KSU.
KSU produces a gala for retiring president
School officials named Betty Siegel a "worldwide ambassador" for Kennesaw State.

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BRET GERBE / Kennesaw State University

Kennesaw State President Betty Siegel was guest of honor Saturday for a fund-raiser and a rousing farewell from 600 friends and colleagues. She is stepping down after 25 years in her post.
State chancellor agrees Kennesaw State needs cash

MARIETTA - The University System of Georgia's new chancellor Monday declined to say when, or if, Kennesaw State University would receive a much-needed financial boost from the state.

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. said he's still learning the ropes of the job he took over Feb. 6 and doesn't clearly understand how university funding works.

Money provided to students, he said, "is all over the map."

"I don't know why," he said. "What is the basis for those numbers?"

As he looks to allocate budgets for fiscal year 2008, his task is to understand how such funds work.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to make some more intelligent judgments on how to allocate resources based on the needs of institutions, and also done in a more equitable manner," he said.

Davis said he is aware that KSU needs financial help.

"Clearly, this is a fast-growing organization. Its resources are strained," he said. "In many ways, you've been wildly successful here. Almost too successful."

Davis said he is perplexed about why of the 30 institutions he has visited, "all of which have some indicator that they're under funded."

"I'm beginning to think this is Lake Wobegon where everybody is funded under average instead of children being over average," he said.

While noting that funding needs are different at each state university, Davis applauded the state Legislature for its commitment to higher education.

"Last year, this system received 11.5 percent of state general purpose revenues. It's up from 11 percent. That's an amazing statement in today's times when in the other states you're seeing the amount to higher education decrease," he said.
Davis met with student leaders at KSU on Monday, along with incoming president Dr. Dan Papp, and outgoing president Dr. Betty Siegel.

With a grin, Dr. Siegel, who introduced Davis, said having served on the search committee to hire him, she takes full credit for bringing him to Georgia.

Before taking office in February of this year, Davis served as CEO and chairman of the board of Wisconsin-based Alliant Energy Corporation, an $8.3 billion energy holding company. As chancellor, he is responsible for the state's 35 public colleges and universities, with 253,500 students, 35,000 faculty and staff, and an annual budget of $5 billion.

Fortune magazine has named him one of the "50 Most Powerful Black Executives in America." He is married to Pittsburgh native Elaine Davis.

Students quizzed him about such topics as distance learning, the Hope Scholarship, and science and math curriculum in grades K through 12.

Davis said he is concerned that the state is far behind others with distance learning.

"It's an area I have great concern with. I think the train is pulling out of the system and leaving us behind," he said.

 Asked how to promote more grade-school math and science classes, Davis said it means working closely with state superintendent of schools, Kathy Cox. However, he said, the interest in math and science comes in cycles.

"We had a math and science boom in the country when the Russians put up Sputnik."

Today, he said, everyone glamorizes "money and toys" and thus promotes business degrees.

Davis said while he sees structural problems with the Hope Scholarship, the money is not running out.

"It's turned into just a massive entitlement," he said.

He strongly defended the Board of Regents' recently approved four-year set rate tuition program.

"If the student is going to take longer than four years to graduate, then they are going to pay more. It is a signal that we are trying to send that we would like students to get through the system more quickly."

Davis pointed to private colleges, where students pay up to $40,000 a year, and where most students graduate on time. He said the difference between private and public
schools is that they are heavily subsidized.

"(In state schools,) students are paying, at most, 25 percent of the cost of their education," Davis said. "If you go beyond the four years, then we need to start to ask the questions, 'how long is it appropriate for your education to be subsidized?'"

But simply setting a four-year fixed tuition rate doesn't solve all the problems, though.

"We need to make sure we have the ability to offer all the coursework in a timely manner to allow people to get through the system," he said.

Another key is working with grades K through 12 to make sure students are prepared for college-level work.

Davis described himself as a straight-talking businessman.

"In my position, it's less, quite candidly, of an academic position than it is a complex organizational management position," he said. As a former CEO of a major global business, he said his expectations would be different.

"I've had to use General Honore's quote more than once, which is, 'You're looking at your calendar and I'm looking at my watch.' I expect things to move more quickly. I have no doubt that the institution will run a bit more efficiently."

jgillooly@mdjonline.com
Thursday, April 13, 2006

Siegel appointed to Commission for A New Georgia

KENNESAW - Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel has been appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue to the Commission for A New Georgia, a business-led "smart government" council that saved more than $38 million in state operations last year.

Siegel joins 24 CEOs and senior executives from across Georgia who serve on the independent nonprofit commission.

Perdue established the Commission for A New Georgia early in 2003 to engage leaders of the state's most successful enterprises in breakthrough thinking about how state government can improve its cost efficiency and other performance measures. The commission recommends management strategies that prepare Georgia for emerging economic trends and result in significant cost savings in government services.

The commission hosts a public Web site that provides access to reports, recommendations, results and information about members and task-force participants at www.newgeorgia.org.

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Alice Faye Kesler, 63, will walk across the Classic Center stage to receive her GED on Saturday evening.

Kesler is on of 663 students who attended Athens Technical College's GED program and passed their exams within the last year. The GED graduates will be honored for their achievement at a graduation ceremony at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Classic Center.

"It's good to give people closure to the GED process," said Athens Tech's GED coordinator, Amy Wheeler. "It allows them to have their families cheer when they walk across the stage. ... It gives them a chance to be publicly recognized."

Kesler joined the working world at the age of 17, but more than 40 years later, the sewing plant where she had been working for 33 years outsourced its labor and laid off Kesler and her co-workers, she said.

"I will have to change professions, and I needed to get my GED to do that," said Kesler, who started the GED program when she was 61 years old.

Kesler spent more than six months studying to take the GED, giving herself extra time to focus on math - her greatest challenge, she said.

The extra effort paid off, and she received high scores all around, she said.

Kesler said making it through the GED process was easier than she thought because "the teachers were just great ... and I made a lot of friends," she said. "I enjoy learning and reading."
Kesler hasn't decided whether to pursue higher education at Athens Tech or find new work, "but either way, I need the diploma," she said.

Also Saturday, Athens Tech will honor its 802 graduates who hail from Hart, Madison, Clarke, Oconee, Morgan, Elbert, Wilkes and Oglethorpe counties.

The degrees awarded will include 35 associates in nursing, 220 associates in applied technology, 265 diplomas and 282 technical certificates, said Athens Tech spokeswoman Andrea Daniel.

Retiring Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel, the first female to lead a University System of Georgia institution, will give the keynote speech at the 2 p.m. commencement ceremony.

Published in the Athens Banner-Herald on 061306
May 13, 2006

Siegel's swan song

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - Legendary Kennesaw State University President Dr. Betty Siegel, who is stepping down after leading KSU for 25 years, presided over her final commencement Friday morning for the class of 2006, with her successor, Dr. Dan Papp, at her side.

"It felt very affirming to see so many graduates - so many more than we've ever had. This is our largest commencement," Dr. Siegel said after the ceremony. "I feel grateful. I feel blessed."

Friday marked the last of three KSU ceremonies held over the past two days for 1,300 graduates.

Dr. Siegel, 75, turns over the presidency to Papp, the outgoing senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs for the University System of Georgia, on July 1, after which she will go on sabbatical for a year before returning to teach in a KSU character, ethics and leadership doctoral program.

"I think that will be a very rich and satisfying third act for my life," she said.

She characterized the many commencement ceremonies over which she has presided as "dreams."

"Perhaps about going away and a new dream set in its place. That's what education is all about - the promise of something better," she said. "I like to think of my stepping down as leading me into the classroom - that's what I'm going to be doing - and I'll find some significant ways to be of service."

Following the ceremony, graduates said Dr. Siegel would be missed.

Jasmine Benson, 22, of Gainesville, who earned a degree in finance, called her an inspiration.

"She inspires us by leading by example," Ms. Benson said. "You know, just by hearing
her testimony - the things she's been through - it inspires us to want to continue our success, continue our education, and be all that we can."

Lilian Cadore of Powder Springs, who said she is "over 40," earned a degree in finance and agreed.

"She's just very inspirational and she encourages you," Mrs. Cadore said. "I think personally, as a non-traditional student, I look up to her and she's there all the time."

Friday's keynote speaker, Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president for the Coca-Cola Company and chairwoman of the Coca-Cola Foundation, called Dr. Siegel a legend.

"I think being a legend is a rich compliment, frankly. It indicates that a person can make a difference independently of your work. I think we're more than the sum of our work. I think we're more than the sum of our beliefs, vanities and values," Dr. Siegel said. "So a legend, if it's meant positively, then I would be honored," she said.

Papp, 58, said he did not think having the "legend" continue to work at KSU would interfere with his own vision for the university, which she brought from an enrollment of 4,000 to more than 18,000 under her leadership.

"It's not a worry for me," Papp said. "Betty and I have talked about that. Betty is retiring as president and she said I will be president and I fully intend to be president. So no, that is not a worry for me in the least."

Papp, who lives in east Cobb, said he has been visiting KSU almost daily now, although he does not yet have an office.

"Betty, she still has all of her stuff in her office," he said, laughing. "She's going to start packing that up or have it packed up in the middle of June."

Papp said Dr. Siegel would move to an office in the KSU Center.

During his daily visits, Papp has met with faculty and students, among other administrative dealings on campus.

"My first official act was beginning the sack race for the staff Olympics two days ago," he said.

First on his agenda, he said, is to lead KSU through accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a process it undergoes every 10 years.

Next, "we're going to look at programs that are of a large need for the state," he said.

That includes more nursing programs, allied health programs, business programs and possibly even looking at a master of fine arts degree.
"There are some very clear targets we're going to be shooting at," Papp said. "I've been talking with the faculty about the need to increase the graduation rate for first-time, full-time students. We're going to be doing some things that haven't been done at Kennesaw."

In her commencement address, Ms. Jones urged graduates to "remember just how blessed you are."

"We all have an obligation to make this world a better place," Jones said.

Dr. Siegel bestowed an honorary doctorate on Jack Dinos, retired CEO of the Southern Tea Co.

Dinos has endowed two Eminent Scholar Chairs in KSU's Coles College of Business, including the chair of private enterprise and the chair of entrepreneurial management. He is a trustee of the KSU Foundation.

jgillooly@mdjonline.com: Friday's commencement ceremonies at Kennesaw State University marked the last official duty of school president Dr. Betty Siegel before she leaves office July 1. Below: KSU dean of the College of Arts Professor Joseph Meeks and other members of KSU's faculty file in during the final spring commencement.

Bottom: Clinton Turner enthusiastically shows off his marketing degree to family and friends during spring commencement at Kennesaw State on Friday morning.

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Staff photos by Damien A. Guarnieri
WellStar president praised for his work
Dr. Robert A. Lipson killed in motorcycle accident

By BILL HENDRICK
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 11/13/06

He touched people, with his hands as a physician, their spirits with his acclaimed photographic art, and their souls with his generosity, all while building the Marietta-based WellStar Health System into one of the most powerfully healthy health care organizations in the state, friends and colleagues said Sunday of Dr. Robert A. Lipson.

Lipson, who died Friday night in a motorcycle accident, was president and chief executive officer of WellStar, a chain of five hospitals: three in Cobb County, one in Douglas County and the fifth in Paulding County. A public memorial is 4 p.m. Monday at the Kennesaw State University Convocation Center.

A private burial service will be held earlier in the day with his family.

WellStar Kennestone Hospital operated the second busiest emergency room in the state after Grady Memorial Hospital in downtown Atlanta, said Marsha Burke, former chief financial officer who was named interim CEO of WellStar after Lipson's death on a 2007 Harley-Davidson motorcycle he bought earlier this year at a charity event to help underprivileged children. The money went to charity.

In addition to building WellStar into one of the strongest health organizations in the state, said Cobb County Commission Chairman Sam Olens, he also forged it into a financially stable organization that claimed a virtual monopoly over the marketplace in Atlanta's northwest suburbs.

Since Lipson took over the leadership of WellStar, it received the nation's first certification for management of multiple chronic diseases from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the main health standards-setting agency in the U.S. He also brought an open heart surgery program and a $68 million, 84-bed patient care tower to WellStar Kennestone Hospital.

His friends, colleagues and family were stunned by his death, but praised his dedication
to provide better and more available health care to all.

Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich said he'd known Lipson for more than a decade, "since I was speaker," and that "he had this ability to keep growing and thinking and learning and to allow the problems to define the solutions.

"He's one of the four or five most visionary people that we worked with at the Center for Health Transformation [Gingrich's organization]," the former speaker said in a telephone interview. "He had the moral courage to follow ideas and facts wherever they led him, and he had the intellect. The team he had assembled at WellStar was just extraordinary. He was just someone I really liked as a human being, world-class, a remarkable photographer."

A showing of 40 of Lipson's photographs, taken all over the world, closed recently at KSU. Former KSU president Betty Siegel said the photos were "awe-inspiring" and "showed his spirit. Our WellStar College of Health and Human Services exists, thanks to him. He got a master's of business here just a few years ago, which pleased him enormously. He healed bodies, touched souls of his friends, colleagues, this university and of course, his family."

Lipson practiced as an internist in Cobb for 25 years before joining WellStar, said his wife, Livvy. "He was supportive of health care, and had a lot of interests besides medicine," she said. "He was always looking for ways to deliver better care more efficiently to more people."

Olens, also a member with the Lipsons of the Etz Chaim Congregation in east Cobb, said he was among the first to join the religious organization when few Jews lived in the Marietta area 30 years ago.

"He just said 'yes' when charities asked for money," Olens said. "He was remarkable. While other hospitals were going in debt, WellStar was profitable. They just started a new cancer program. The Kennestone hospital has had about 1,000 open heart surgeries in the past two years."

Lipson received his medical degree from Tulane University in 1971 and served two years in the Army before moving to Atlanta in 1976.

Burke said he built WellStar Physicians Group, made up of 250 primary care physicians and providers, from the ground up in 1993 when he made the move from private practice.

"That's why he came, to start that," Burke said. "We didn't have enough primary care physicians in the community, so he set out to change that. He built a group that is now responsible for a million patient visits in this community. During his time, WellStar has just grown tremendously, added open heart services, state-of-the-art equipment and attracted world-class physicians. He was a great man."
In addition to the widow, to whom he was married for 38 years, he is survived by son Aaron Lipson of Decatur; daughter Dr. Rachel Lipson of Boston; his mother, Ann Lipson of North Miami.

News researcher Sharon Gaus contributed to this article.

Find this article at:
http://www.ajc.com/search/content/metro/cobb/stories/2006/11/12/1113lipson.html
A force of nature

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - As a young boy growing up, Aaron Lipson viewed his father - the late WellStar Health System CEO Dr. Robert Lipson - as a giant.

"At 5, he was larger than life," said Lipson, an Atlanta attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. "At 25, I realized I underestimated him. He was a force of nature."

Hundreds of family, friends and community leaders joined Aaron Lipson and his family Monday at Kennesaw State University's Convocation Center to pay tribute to his father, who was killed in a motorcycle accident Friday at age 60.

Lipson said his father had a talent for convincing people, whether they were patients or colleagues, to choose his advice, while leaving them to believe it was not him who thought up the decisions, but them.

"He was always steering us, whether we knew it or not," Lipson said.

He recalled how his father taught him how to fish, and when to shop for men's clothes - the day after Christmas.

"He was always, always teaching me things. Last time I saw him a week ago he was as happy as I've ever seen him. He had everything he ever wanted," Lipson said, noting how his father had one hand around his granddaughter and the other around a glass of his favorite Scotch.

"I had 30 years with my father," Lipson said. "I just thought I'd have 30 more."

Lipson's daughter, Dr. Rachel Lipson, who specializes in premature infant care at Boston's Tufts University New England Medical Center, pledged to move back home.

"I'm coming back to Georgia," Dr. Lipson said. "I have a small niece who needs to know who her grandfather was."
The service began with a saxophone and keyboard duet playing James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" near three poster-size photographs of Lipson - one of him smiling alone, one with his wife of 38 years, Livvy Kazer Lipson, and one with his beloved camera.

The song ushered in about 40 of Lipson's family members who sat in the front row near the podium.

About 1,000 people attended the service.

Dr. Robert Jansen, a colleague of Lipson's, who specializes in internal medicine in Marietta, mourned the loss of his friend.

"My life is better because I knew him," Jansen said.

Dr. Gregory Simone, a cardiologist who manages Marietta-based Cardiovascular Medicine, echoed Jansen.

"I feel like I buried a brother today," Simone said. "It's a devastating loss."

Jansen said even now, some 10 years after Lipson stopped practicing medicine to pursue hospital administration, he still receives patients who identify themselves as "patients of Dr. Lipson."

"Many a patient has sat in my office and cursed WellStar for taking him away from the profession," Jansen said.

A medical doctor and lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Lipson began a medical practice in Marietta in 1976. Joining WellStar Health System in 1993, he founded the WellStar Physicians Group, the largest non-academic medical group in Georgia. In October 2001, he was named president and CEO of WellStar Health System, a job he began Jan. 1, 2002.

Simone spoke of Lipson's winning personality.

"He had the mind of a scientist, the resolve of a businessman and the soul of an artist," Simone said.

Rabbi Shalom Lewis of Congregation Etz Chaim in east Cobb led invocation.

"We all serve God in different ways," Lewis said, noting some climb to the top of mountains, while others sequester themselves in prayer.

"Rob served God by serving humanity," Lewis said. "His was indeed a sacred mission."

Besides his work with WellStar, Lipson was active in community service.
In May 2006, Gov. Sonny Perdue appointed Lipson to the board that oversees the Department of Community Health, the agency that administers Medicaid in Georgia. In May 2005 Lipson was appointed to the board that studies the health care Certificate of Need program.

"Gov. Perdue respected Dr. Lipson as a visionary in health care, spokeswoman Heather Hedrick said.

"He was a community leader, a philanthropist, an astute businessman, a family man and a talented doctor. Gov. Perdue was proud to ask him to serve on several advisory boards and will truly miss his advice and counsel."

Among notable Cobb leaders attendance were state Sens. Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), Judson Hill (R-east Cobb), and John Wiles (R-Kennesaw).

Representing leaders in education were present and former KSU presidents Dr. Dan Papp and Dr. Betty Siegel; Southern Polytechnic State University president Dr. Lisa Rossbacher; North Metro Technical College President Steve Dougherty; and retired Dickerson Middle School Principal Carole Kell.

Cobb government representatives included County Commission Chairman Sam Olens and District 1 Commissioner Helen Goreham. Cobb Chamber of Commerce leaders David Connell and Fred Bentley Jr. and community leaders former commissioner Butch Thompson also were in attendance.

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Clayton State University holds record-setting graduation

Published: December 14, 2006 11:44 pm

— By Curt Yeomans
cyeomans@news-daily.com

Clayton State University set a record Thursday when 327 students participated in the school’s seventh commencement ceremony.
The school’s fall graduation was its largest ever for a single, fall ceremony. During the ceremony, Clayton State President Dr. Thomas Harden commended “the dedication of the students and the faculty in the pursuit of excellence in higher education.”
Clayton State had 580 graduates all together, Harden said.
“Commencement is a time for ending one period of your life and a time for beginning a new phase,” he told the graduates. “As you graduate, I sincerely hope you will take with you the knowledge and skills to excel in our modern and complex world. We take pride in your accomplishments and wish you all success in the future.”
The commencement was held at First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, the first time a graduation ceremony has been held off-campus. In the past, the university has held two commencement ceremonies each semester on campus, either in the Athletics and Fitness Center, or outside where the James M. Baker Center is now located.
Retired Kennesaw State University President Dr. Betty L. Siegel gave the commencement address. Siegel was the first woman to become the head of an University System of Georgia institution when she became Kennesaw State’s president in 1981. She remained at the school until her retirement this year. During her tenure, she was named one of the 100 most influential Georgians nine times by Georgia Trend magazine.
“Dr. Siegel has been an exemplary leader in higher education and a superb speaker, who always delivers an inspirational message,” Harden said before the ceremony.
Siegel spoke to the graduates on the importance of family, teachers and service to the community. She holds the endowed chair of Leadership, Ethics and Character at Kennesaw State.
“It’s important to be a life-long learner and to give something back to others,” Siegel said before the ceremony.
Among the Clayton State students earning their degrees was Ben Hopkins, 26, who attended the school for eight years and went through 11 majors, including nursing and political science before settling on Communication and Media Studies. Hopkins said he
doesn’t feel sad about graduating with his Bachelor of Arts degree. “I took so much time getting to know the school that it’s not like I’m breaking up with a girlfriend, but rather I’m changing the nature of the relationship,” he said. “I’ll be an alumni now, but I’ll still be involved with the school.”

Hopkins was a member of the graduation committee and said students at Clayton State have wanted to get graduation out of the Athletics and Fitness Center for several years, because of the limited space.

“We were trying to find someplace else to hold it when the administration came to us and said ‘What do you think of holding it in a church,’” Hopkins said. “So I went around asking students of Muslim faith, Jewish faith, Christian faith and students from that classic ‘Other’ category, and they all said ‘As long as you can get me six tickets, I don’t care where you hold it.’”

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Photos

Photos by Jeffrey Leo Clayton State graduates line up to get collars put on their gowns before graduating Thursday night at the First Baptist Church in Jonesboro.

Ann Oriaku of Hapeville gets a collar placed on her gown by her friend Myra Copeland of Stockbridge. They were two of 327 who graduated from Clayton State University Thursday night.
Her memory will endure at KSU

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - Democratic activist grand dame Juanelle Edwards of Marietta died Thursday, but her legacy will endure at Kennesaw State University, which boasts the Juanelle Edwards Endowed Chair of American Politics.

When Mrs. Edwards wasn't writing speeches for President Jimmy Carter or serving as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, she supported Kennesaw State University, where she served as a trustee.

Mrs. Edwards and former KSU president Dr. Betty Siegel were the best of friends and enjoyed everything together from trips to Europe to eating Chinese takeout on Mrs. Edwards' porch.

"She was appreciated for her unconventional wisdom and her generosity of spirit," Dr. Siegel said, calling from Oxford University in England on Thursday.

"I've never known a finer human being in my life. She was a woman of integrity, and we're going to miss her. We need people like her around us, people who are wonderful stewards and stalwart friends."

In an interview with the Marietta Daily Journal earlier this month, Mrs. Edwards recounted how she came to learn about the endowed chair.

It was the weekend after Pope John Paul II died in April 2005. She and Dr. Siegel had previously visited Rome, where they celebrated mass with the pope. When he died and Dr. Siegel came over to visit, Mrs. Edwards lit the candle the pope had blessed for them, and Dr. Siegel asked Mrs. Edwards if she might create a chair in her honor.

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing," Mrs. Edwards said, pointing to an actual chair Dr. Siegel and others had signed and given to her. "People have asked us how we became so close, but I think anyone who had an opportunity would build a friendship with Betty Siegel. They wouldn't be worth the friendship if they didn't."
Former Gov. Roy Barnes, who serves on the steering committee for the chair, finds the idea fitting.

"A chair of politics - this would be like establishing a chair of journalism for Henry Grady. Establishing a chair of politics for Juanelle Edwards is in the same vein," Barnes said. "There is no person who understands the intricacies of politics better than Juanelle, but her interest in politics was born out of a sincere love for her state and her nation, and that's the way it should be."

Dr. Siegel agreed.

"The chair is going to represent the integrity of a woman who was totally involved in social responsibility," Dr. Siegel said.

The endowed chair will benefit KSU political science students, university spokeswoman Frances Weyand said.

Look for a book by Mrs. Edwards to be published in the near future, as well. Mrs. Edwards was hard at work on a collection entitled "The Wit, Wisdom and Plagiarism of Juanelle Edwards" before she died. The book, which will be published by Kennesaw State University, is expected to hit bookshelves next year.

KSU's Department of Political Science and International Affairs offers two undergraduate and two master's degree programs, has 352 political science majors, and 227 international affairs students and has sent graduates onto law schools at Harvard, Duke, Georgetown, UNC and UGA, Ms. Weyand said.

Steering committee members include former U.S. Congressman Buddy Darden, Bob Prillaman and the Rev. Greg DeLoach of First Baptist Church in Marietta.

Contributions may be made to The Juanelle Edwards Endowed Chair of American Politics at Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Road, Box 90102, Kennesaw, GA, 30144.

jgillooly@mdjonline.com
from Betty to Betty

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

ATLANTA - Cobb's two most celebrated Bettys - school board member Betty Gray and Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel - presided over the third annual Betty Gray Teacher Education Scholarship Luncheon on Tuesday to award scholarships to three seniors who plan to be teachers.

"Betty, thank you for being an extraordinary servant-leader," said Dr. Siegel, who served as the event's keynote speaker at the Atlanta Marriott Northwest.

Ms. Gray, the senior member of the Cobb school board, who is a retired teacher and principal, said the event was not about her.

"This is about, perhaps, one of the most important tasks that we have before us, and that's to encourage teachers to come into the classroom of Cobb County, Georgia," Ms. Gray said. "Only as we have teachers who are willing to come into a classroom and to teach and to feel good about teaching will we make it."

Sponsored by Foundation 2000 for Children, a community group in south Cobb that supports education, the Betty Gray Scholarship was created to honor Ms. Gray's more than 50 years of service to children. Seniors from the three high schools that Ms. Gray represents, McEachern, Pebblebrook and South Cobb High, who plan to major in education at a state school, compete for the three $1,500 scholarships.

This year's winners are Katherine Willis, a senior at McEachern High School; Alicia Allen, a senior at South Cobb High School; and Aimee Twagirumukiza, a senior at Pebblebrook High School.

"I would wish you, first of all, that at the end of your career, you feel about teaching like I do. It has been so joyous. Teaching is very challenging, and we hear teachers talk about money and the long days and so on, but the art of teaching, I think, is about giving. And, you know, you receive more than you give," Ms. Gray said.

"I'm frequently asked 'What's a good teacher? What does it take to teach? Why would I
want to teach? How do I know I want to teach?' And I always say you've got to have the
cognitive ability to do it. You've got to go to a good school so you get the techniques,
content, strategies, but more than that, you've just got to have heart. You just have to be
willing to share, to hurt, to share the joy and to dream another day."

Dr. Siegel, who Cobb Schools Superintendent Fred Sanderson introduced, said the only
thing Sanderson didn't mention in his introduction was her age, which she says is
reported whenever she appears in the Atlanta press.

"They give my age and I'm psychologically younger than I really am. I'm psychologically
39," said Dr. Siegel, who is 75. "Betty, neither you nor I, I think, will ever be
psychologically old because we're about the business of education."

Ms. Gray, who is 72, agreed.

"I don't like to talk about age," Ms. Gray said. "I told someone at the table when you have
this much gray hair and cellulite, and you're invited to something, the first thing you say
is, 'Will there be candlelight?' It's very helpful."

In her speech, Dr. Siegel touched on her education growing up as a coal miner's daughter
in the Kentucky hills.

"Loretta Lynn and I are coal miners' daughters," Dr. Siegel said. "She got all the money
and I've got all the education."

She recalled how as a fourth-grader, her teacher discovered she had cheated on a spelling
test because she couldn't spell the word "kitchen."

"My husband swears it's prophetic," Dr. Siegel said with a grin.

"How many of you ever cheated?" Dr. Siegel asked the audience, eliciting only a handful
of hands in the air.

"The rest of you lie," she said, noting how her teacher, rather than embarrass her in front
of the class, spoke with her later, encouraging her not to cheat again because she was too
smart to do so.

"She could have ruined me that day," Dr. Siegel said. "How in the world do teachers
know instinctively through caring, loving relationships with students, what to do to a
child to give them hope?" she asked.

Dr. Siegel spoke of how her parents and grandparents instilled in her a passion for
education, despite lacking a college degree themselves. She cited their epitaphs, such as
her great-grandmother's, which reads, "She served her country well."

Dr. Siegel said during one KSU commencement she couldn't think of anything to say to
the graduates, until she thought about the epitaphs in her family.

"Students, it's not your birth date that matters," she told them. "It's not the death date that matters. It's the hyphen."

Asking Ms. Gray what her epitaph should say, Ms. Gray said, "Betty Gray - teacher."

"Applaud that teacher right there," Dr. Siegel said, pointing to Ms. Gray. "She has reminded us all of the importance of education as a profession."

Among the several hundred guests at the luncheon were Marietta City Schools Superintendent Dr. Emily Lembeck, Marietta Board of Education Chairman Tom Smith; former Marietta school board member Pam Flournoy and her son, Cobb Superior Court Judge Rob Flournoy; Deane Bonner, president of the Cobb branch of the NAACP; Dr. Stanley Wrinkle, retired Cobb Schools assistant superintendent; community activist Wallace Coopwood; Barbara Hickey, president of the South Cobb Business Association, as well as principals and teachers in south Cobb.

"I'm here today because I think Betty Gray epitomizes what we, the NAACP, stand for when we talk about quality education," Ms. Bonner said. "She advocates for the kids that we know need it the most. Betty Gray epitomizes being an advocate for kids."

Cobb School Board Vice Chairman Curt Johnston also praised Ms. Gray.

"She's a good resource for the rest of us, you know, because she has so much accumulated experience in the education business. She always brings us back to focus on children when we get off that."

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Kennesaw gets its first doctoral degree program

AIXA M. PASCUAL

As president of Kennesaw State University for 25 years, Betty L. Siegel presided over a four-year college and, since 1996, a full state university.

Now, on the eve of her departure, Kennesaw State is kicking it up a notch. Today the Board of Regents is expected to approve the school's first doctoral degree program.

The Cobb County college will offer a doctor of Education starting in January.

"It really propels us into a whole new stature academically," said Lendley Black, KSU's vice president for academic affairs.

The doctorate in education is a logical step for a university that graduates one out of seven new teachers in Georgia at the undergraduate and master's levels, Siegel said.

"What's exciting about it is we've got the fastest-growing college of education in the state," Siegel added.

"We've been wanting this for about 10 years."

Siegel, who retires as president July 1, called the new program "a developmental milestone for us."

The KSU doctorate is applied, meaning its focus is not theoretical research, Black said.

The degree will be a doctor of education in leadership for learning and should take three to four years to complete, according to KSU officials. The university plans to offer more professional doctorates soon.

The University of Georgia and Georgia State University are research institutions and offer doctorates in education and philosophy.

KSU becomes the state's fourth nonresearch institution to offer a doctor in education along with Valdosta State University, the University of West Georgia and Georgia Southern University, said Board of Regents spokesperson Arlethia Perry-Johnson.

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KSU gets OK to start its first doctoral program

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - The president's office at Kennesaw State University was in high excitement Tuesday as the state Board of Regents moved to grant the school its first doctoral program, which will be in leadership.

"When it happened, we instinctively turned to each other and shook hands and high-fived," said KSU President Dr. Betty Siegel, who is retiring July 1 after 25 years as president. "We have been working so hard to bring our university to this place of prominence, and to be in the constellation of universities that offer the doctorate, it really makes us feel, and act, and be, a university on the move."

The Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning will be offered next year.

"What that means is the doctorate is going to be uniquely focused on school transformation, and to do that it focuses on preparing teachers to become leaders," said Dr. Lendley C. Black, KSU vice president for academic affairs. "It also focuses on principals and administrators to become more effective leaders, and to grow their own leaders in their schools."

Being a leader does not depend on earning a title, Dr. Siegel said.

"It really gets at the fact, does it not, that the leadership role is not a title, it is a stance, and we'll be working with teachers to help them be leaders," she said. "They may not have a title of a department head or a principal, but they will nonetheless be a force for leadership in the school."

Doctoral students will be able to concentrate in one of five areas: Adolescent education and mathematics, elementary and early childhood education, instructional technology, inclusive education or educational leadership and policy. Teachers who want to remain in the classroom but also assume a school leadership role are among those KSU plans to target for the first four concentrations, Black said.

The fifth program, educational leadership, is designed for those who want to become
school administrators. Kennesaw State has waiting lists of students for the areas covered under the new doctorate.

Kennesaw State has the second-largest university in the state for education studies, behind the University of Georgia. It awarded 787 education degrees last year and expects to award 1,000 this year, said Dr. Yiping Wan, dean of the KSU Bagwell College of Education.

Dr. Siegel said she wanted KSU's first doctoral program to be in leadership because of the need.

"With the great demands on teachers today, they need more work in diversity, they need more work in collaboration, they need more work in how they can transform working together, so this is why we started with this one," she said.

Black said it is a good fit with the state's needs considering the challenges teachers face today.

"We're not talking about just tweaking what people do in the school system," he said. "We're really looking at major change and reform, and to do this we need people who are well prepared."

Black said the Board of Regents also is working to approve a Doctor of Science degree in Leadership and Ethics, for which, Dr. Siegel has an endowed chair.

The difference between the two programs is that the doctor in education focuses on leadership in the schools and the doctor of science degree would focus on leadership in society, such as projects like MUST Ministries and the Red Cross, he said.

After she returns from a one-year sabbatical, Dr. Siegel will teach classes for both programs, he said.

Black said the doctoral degree elevates KSU to a new level.

"It places us in a different arena," he said. "We join Georgia Southern, Valdosta and the University of West Georgia in a new category of classes that are different from the four research institutions."

The university's programs are more practical, rather than research-focused studies, he said.

Dr. Siegel said the leadership doctorate is something she has wanted to do for 10 years, when she formed the Cobb Education Consortium, composed of KSU, Southern Polytechnic State University, North Metro Technical College, Chattahoochee Technical College, Marietta City Schools and Cobb Schools.
"We've been creating an army of people from all those institutions to come together to take leadership programs," she said. "There's a movement here."

She said seeing approval of the program is particularly special as she steps down.

"This is a watershed moment for us. This is an amazing odyssey from a two-year college to a four-year college to a four-year state college to a four-year state university and now a doctoral program," she said.
September 17, 2006

**Education Notebook**

Abercrombie garners 2006 education award

Compiled by Jon Gillooly

ACWORTH - Maria Abercrombie, director of Early Childhood Care and Education at North Metro Technical College, has been named the 2006 Rick Perkins Award winner.

The award honors outstanding instructors who make significant contributions to technical education through excellence, superior leadership qualities and dedication to the mission of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education, college spokeswoman Kim Crowe said.

Mrs. Abercrombie has been an instructor at North Metro Technical College for three years. Before coming to NMTC, she was the child development associate program coordinator and director of the child development lab at Chattahoochee Technical College.

Mrs. Abercrombie earned an undergraduate degree in human services and criminal justice at Mercer University in Atlanta and completed a master's thesis in early childhood care and education through Concordia-St. Paul's College.

She spends a lot of her time volunteering in the community and through the court system in childcare-related programs, such as CASA, parenting classes and family mediation. She enjoys being in a position to provide people who work with children an opportunity for professional growth.

Mrs. Abercrombie and her husband, David, live in Temple and have two children, Heather, 19, and Tyler, 14.

Siegel Institute hosting ethics in society conclave

KENNESAW - The complex challenges of a global society are testing the capacities of leaders in every sector, from governments to businesses to social services. How can these leaders collaborate to address global ethical issues, such as population, resource management, economic integration and conflict?
The Oxford Conclave on Global Ethics: The Collaborative University brought together representatives from government, business, higher education and the nonprofit sectors to examine that question from Sept. 10 to 14 in Oxford, England.

The Betty L. Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Character at Kennesaw State University is hosting the conclave.

The first Oxford Conclave was held last September. At Siegel's invitation, several leaders of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities joined together to focus on higher education's role in producing a generation of ethical leaders capable of functioning effectively in an increasingly complex world. Faculty, staff and administrators from six AASCU institutions participated in the conclave, where a statement of beliefs and responsibilities was drafted.

By invitation of Gov. Sonny Perdue, the Siegel Institute is conducting ethics orientations for members of state boards, including the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, the Department of Community Health, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (BRIGHT from the START) and the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole. To date, 55 of the state's 300 boards have completed these orientations.

Other institute initiatives include the launching of an international journal, the Journal of Ethics in Leadership, and an ethical leadership certificate program for faculty, staff, students and the community.

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Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Siegel stands up for a Dream

By Kimberly Starks

MDJ Staff Writer

MARIETTA - Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel is the recipient of this year's NAACP "Living the Dream" Award and was one of four keynote speakers during the 20th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

As she addressed a record crowd of nearly 800 people Monday, Dr. Siegel said "we remind ourselves today of what's fully important in our lives."

"This day, at this place, this is the celebration to be at," said Dr. Siegel, who spoke at the Cobb County Civic Center's Jennie T. Anderson Theatre. "Martin Luther King left us something to be fully cognizant of: The great service of life, to spend it for something that outlasts us."

The event, called "Continuing the Legacy: Unity through Diversity," was co-hosted by the Cobb chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Cobb County government.

Gospel and dance performances were part of the three-hour event during which, for the first time, city officials from the county's six municipalities attended.

Kennesaw Mayor Leonard Church said citizens and officials have a responsibility to promote and teach King's dream for peace.

"Together, we will make a difference," he said.

In addition, Cobb's state legislators and county commissioners were present. County Manager David Hankerson emceed.

Rep. Alisha Thomas Morgan (D-Austell) said it's time for citizens to act on the life and legacy of King.

"If we don't act, we will not do what is necessary to protect the right to vote for African-Americans in this country," she said, referring to the renewal of the 1965 Voting Rights
Act next year. "We must stand, we must do what is necessary to make sure we remember, celebrate and act on what Dr. King stood for, and that is justice and equality for all people."

First held on Jan. 20, 1986, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the federal holiday and Cobb NAACP's annual ceremony. Sunday would have been King's 77th birthday.

"We've come a long way," said the Rev. Oscar Freeman, former Cobb NAACP president and contributing keynote speaker. "This day of celebration didn't happen by waving a magic wand."

Remembering Dr. King's call for justice and equality is appropriate because "laws alone will not make Dr. King's dream come true," said Commission Chairman Sam Olens.

"Our hearts must also require that justice and equality," he said. "For if we listen to each other we will surely discover there is much more that unites us than divides us."

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GSU plans new law, business buildings downtown

MARIA SAPORTA

Staff

Georgia State University is making plans to develop a four-building complex that would include buildings for the J. Mack Robinson College of Business and the College of Law, a new classroom facility, and an auditorium.

A task force has been formed to consider possible locations with one condition -- that the buildings are located downtown.

GSU President Carl Patton said this project would solidify the close relationship between the business and law schools and provide them both with dedicated classrooms and a shared auditorium. "We are looking at downtown sites in space contiguous to our campus," Patton said. "We're already raising money for this."

Business Dean Fenwick Huss said the project -- known as the GSU Professional Center -- is expected to cost between $100 million and $120 million. The site would need to be 2 to 3 acres, and Huss said he hopes construction will start within three years.

The business school also has a new board chairman -- Thomas D. Body III, who has been an entrepreneur in the wireless phone industry for 25 years and currently is chairman of Wirefree Partners.

Body, who took classes at GSU, graduated from the University of Georgia. But he became involved with GSU because of his interest in the revitalization of downtown. A new business school would only add to the university's contribution. "I think it's going to be a fantastic thing for downtown," said Body, who will serve a two-year term as chairman. He succeeds Scott Seydel, who was board chairman for 10 years but who is spending most of his time outside of Atlanta. Reached by phone while in Turkey on Wednesday, Seydel said he and his wife, Pat Mitchell, plan to retire in Atlanta. They just bought a residence in the Four Seasons.

Stadium wish

When Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank recently spoke of $30 million of planned improvements to the Georgia Dome, he repeated his desire to have a new stadium in the next decade.

Blank said he would listen to fans to hear what kind of stadium they wanted, but he acknowledged that he would love one with a retractable roof. It just so happened that architect Tom Ventulett, who designed the Georgia Dome and the proposed improvements, was in the room.

Could the dome's roof be replaced with a retractable roof? "No," Ventulett quickly answered. Later he qualified his answer. "Anything is possible if you can pay for it," said Ventulett, who proudly described the Dome's current roof. "It is a very, very light roof. It weighs nothing [10 pounds actually]. It's a marvelous structure for its weight and span, but it's not designed for another roof to sit on top of it."

And after thinking about it a moment more, Ventulett said: "They are finding more and more ways to build lightweight roof systems that can move."

Nice rings for all, someday

Speaking of sports teams, Atlanta Spirit Chief Executive Bernie Mullin was the luncheon speaker of the Atlanta chapter of the Ireland Chamber of Commerce this week.

While it might seem unusual for someone born in Liverpool, England, to speak to an Irish group, Mullin explained that he is a third-generation Englishman of Irish descent.

During his speech, Mullin shared his hopes for the Atlanta Hawks and the Atlanta Thrashers to get "championship rings for each team and get to profitability in five years." If the teams do win a championship, Mullin said every Atlanta Spirit employee would receive a championship ring. Currently, the organization has 320 employees.
Record store to close
A downtown music icon will soon be closing its doors after three decades. Howard and Judith Cohen, who own International Records at Peachtree Center, will retire Sept. 30 after 22 years there. Before that, the Cohens spent eight years running the Rizzoli book and music store in what is now CNN Center. Cohen said he and his wife decided that instead of selling the business, which specializes in audio recordings from around the world, they would just call it quits. They plan to travel the world to visit friends they made through their business.

Life lessons
Betty Siegel, retired president of Kennesaw State University, offered life lessons Wednesday during the ninth annual Atlanta Interfaith Business Prayer Breakfast. Every tombstone has the date of birth and date of death separated by a hyphen. "It's the hyphen that matters," she told the crowd of 1,100 at the Hyatt Regency. The breakfast, which is put on by the Atlanta Rotary, was dedicated to the late Walt Sessoms, a BellSouth executive who chaired the first prayer breakfast. By the way, Sessoms also was honored this past week by the Wofford College Atlanta Alumni Association. Sessoms was an alum of Wofford, which is in Spartanburg, S.C., and also served on the school's board of trustees.

Love of giving back
Retired Georgia-Pacific CEO Pete Correll told a gathering of the Inner City Economic Forum this week why he got so involved in civic causes. "I love Atlanta," Correll said in explaining his involvement and his partnership with Mayor Shirley Franklin. "It's probably not logical, but I really care about what happens here. I gave of my free time to this city because I wanted to." Asked whether his motives were ever questioned, Correll explained that Georgia-Pacific, although based in Atlanta, really didn't have any business interests with the city. And he also said: "I was CEO for a long time. I was CEO when people thought CEOs were honest."
KSU's 'coolest' president
Students get Siegel's ear at sleepovers

AIXA M. PASCUAL

Sipping Diet Coke and munching on popcorn, Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel looked at home one night last week as she chatted with students in their dorm about student loans, football and George Foreman grills.

On this particular night, she was home. About 10 p.m., after four hours of dinner, snacks and good conversation, Siegel called it a night and went upstairs to an apartment in the University Village, where about 800 KSU freshmen live.

Just about anywhere else, a president in PJs would be an unusual guest in a university dorm. But for Siegel, who's retiring this semester after 25 years on the job, it's become routine. She started spending occasional nights on campus in fall 2004, two years after fast-growing KSU became a residential university, attracting younger, more traditional students.

She said the six or seven sleepovers have helped her to hear the students' voices. "This is in their turf," said Siegel, a grandmother of two.

As she celebrates her 75th birthday today, she's well aware she's nearly 60 years older than many of the freshmen on the 18,500-student campus. Are they good sleepover buddies?

"I love it. Are you kidding?" Siegel said. "I'm impressed with how open they are."

Students seem to love the visits, too.

"The fact that I get to speak to the president of a huge school, you usually don't get to do that," freshman Andrea Dibben said.

Staff members follow the president around and have taken more than 200 pages of notes on the sleepovers. Siegel will talk about her experiences at a national education conference in Atlanta next month that is expected to attract about 1,400 college and university officials.

It will be a different perspective for most.

While school presidents have lunch with students, invite them to their box during football games, take undergrad courses and even serve students breakfast before finals, overnight stays are pretty much unheard of, judging from an informal survey among Georgia colleges and universities.

"The sleepover thing . . . that's really cool," said Matt Winston, assistant to University of Georgia President Michael Adams, who does not stay overnight in student housing.

Roommates, work, grills

Four years ago, KSU was a commuter school with older students and no dorms. The new residence halls at University Village -- a sleek, brick complex with suites and private bathrooms for each student -- have attracted more 17-, 18- and 19-year-olds to the Cobb County school.

Siegel "needed to understand what their needs were and how they look at the world, because they look at the world differently than we do," said Michael Sanseviro, KSU's director of residence life, who joins in on the nighttime conversations with Siegel.

The president stays overnight in an apartment that doubles as the model to show prospective residents. The apartment is scattered with photos from past sleepovers.

So what has Siegel learned about the "Millennial Generation" in her late-night discussions?

They have problems with roommates, prefer to work long hours instead of taking out student loans, and would like KSU to have a football team.

They love to use George Foreman grills in their dorms, even though they have fully equipped kitchens. Intrigued, Siegel went out and bought herself one. "She was shocked [at] how fast it was. She was amazed," said Sanseviro, 36, who taught her how to use it.

Last week's sleepover started at 6 p.m. with dinner with a dozen upper-class resident assistants. They sat next to Siegel on sofas and chairs in her small living room, answering her questions as she listened intently.
There were business, nursing and sociology majors. "What's the biggest discipline problem?" she asked. "Roommate problems," said senior Saima Islam, explaining that they usually don't get resolved. Siegel asked how students select their roommates, and she heard stories about some parents filling out their children's online roommate questionnaires. "You've got to be kidding," Siegel said. "I guess I don't understand why the parents are so solicitous.

The president asked what they'd like to see in a meal plan on campus. "Would it help if you had food services?" she asked. "What would you like to have served?"

"I think like mom's cooking. Green beans and mashed potatoes," sophomore Corey Nolan said.

At 8 p.m., Siegel went to the Village activity room, where she sat next to the fireplace to continue chatting with about two dozen students eating pizza and brownies. One student shared with Siegel that she can't stand other people's germs and that's why she loved KSU's suites with private bathrooms.

Waffle House regular

The president forgot her alarm clock last week, so a student knocked on her door at about 6:45 the next morning. Wearing a KSU sweatshirt and a KSU scarf around her neck, Siegel was ready to go to the nearby Waffle House, where she met up with about 10 students she'd invited for breakfast.

Siegel, who lives in east Cobb, eats breakfast at the Waffle House on Frey Road across from the KSU campus almost every morning. When she stays overnight at the University Village, she invites students to join her. At the Waffle House, where a plaque will be going up soon on her booth, she is known as Miss Betty. "I've been waiting on her for 19 out of 25 [years]," said manager Miranda Nolte.

Siegel wanted to hear all about two students' backstage experience at the Bon Jovi concert the night before. The conversation shifted to country music. "I would pay over $400 to see Garth Brooks," junior Ryan Anderson said. "Four hundred dollars?" asked Siegel. "What's his appeal?"

Freshman Nicole Birk, who met Siegel the night before, came to the Waffle House despite getting only four hours of sleep. "I think it's cool that she offered us breakfast," Birk said.

After about an hour, Siegel picked up the check and headed for the register. "She's like the coolest person I've ever met," Birk declared.

Photo
ANDY SHARP / Staff
Siegel checks out the room she will sleep in after an evening of interacting with students to find out what's on their minds.

Photo
ANDY SHARP / Staff
KSU President Betty Siegel visits with students Becky Sowemimo, a sophomore from Nigeria, and Kenn Hughes, a freshman from Austell, while staying at University Village.

Photo
ANDY SHARP / Staff
Ryan Anderson, a junior from Savannah, was one of the students joining Kennesaw State University President Betty Siegel on Wednesday for breakfast at the Waffle House after one of Siegel's sleepovers on campus Siegel is a regular at the restaurant.

Graphic

UPDATE: THE STORY SO FAR
• Previously: KSU President Betty Siegel announced that she is retiring after 25 years on the job.
• The latest: This week a KSU search committee is finishing interviews with five candidates vying to replace Siegel.
• What's next: The chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia are expected to select a president over the next several weeks.
Customers spook would-be robber

POLICE

MYRTLE BEACH

A clerk at a Pantry convenience store in the 1400 block of U.S. 501 told police a man tried to rob the store just after midnight Wednesday but he fled with no money after customers came to the store.

Police said the man approached the store about 12:25 a.m. Thursday with a handkerchief around his neck and a gas can in hand. He asked the clerk to turn on the gas pumps, and the clerk, who said she didn't see a car, told the man he had to prepay. He walked away.

The same man returned a few minutes later, she said, when no customers were in the store. This time he had his handkerchief covering his face up to his eyes, and he told the clerk "give me all your money." The man also was pointing something black at her when he demanded money. She said she thought it was a gun.

The woman said the man fled when other customers came to the store.

One customer said he noticed the man was holding a black nozzle, possibly from a gas can, as he left the store.

The woman told police she didn't give the man money because "the suspect requested all of the money, and because she couldn't give him all of the money she gave him none," according to a police report.

LITCHFIELD BEACH

Fire damages two-story golf villa

A fire early Thursday damaged a golf villa in the Litchfield Beach area, according to Midway Fire Department firefighters.
No one was injured in the fire that started about 1:30 a.m. at 177 Club Circle Drive, said Bob Beebe, public information officer for the Midway Fire Department.

He said the fire was located in one of four units in a building. A neighbor in the only occupied unit in that building smelled smoke and reported the fire, Beebe said.

Firefighters determined the cause of the blaze was an electrical problem in the unit. The fire began in the first and second floors of the two-story unit, Beebe said.

LOCAL

GEORGETOWN COUNTY

Sunday alcohol sales pass second reading

A bill that will allow continued Sunday sales of beer and wine in stores in Georgetown County and five other communities passed the second reading Thursday in the Senate on a voice vote with no discussion.

The House has passed the bill, and the third reading in the Senate is routine. The bill could go to the governor next week.

The measure corrects a discrepancy in state law resulting from a court ruling over the wording of Sunday alcohol sales referendums. Georgetown County's was among six that were found not to specifically include stores when elections were held to allow cocktail sales in restaurants.

The communities would have to have another referendum to allow the store sales, but the bill excuses them from doing so. Horry County was not affected because its referendum included store sales.

CONWAY

College of education holds ethics symposium

The Spadoni College of Education at Coastal Carolina University will host its annual symposium on ethics in education at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Wall Auditorium.

Betty Siegel, president of Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga., will serve as keynote speaker of the event, which is free and open to the public. The topic of Siegel's talk is "Ethical Leadership in Education."

The annual symposium focuses on issues relating to ethics and education. This year the emphasis is on the development of ethical leaders in the teaching profession.
Siegel has been president at Kennesaw State since 1981. She was the first woman elected to head one of the 34 schools in the University of Georgia system and is the longest-serving woman president in the nation.

For information, contact Kathy Ward-Graham at 349-2373.

GRAND STRAND

Sierra Club holds quarterly meeting

The Sierra Club will hold its quarterly get-together from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

The Coastal Carolina/Conway area meeting of the Winyah Sierra Club will be at the Burroughs & Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies at Coastal Carolina University.

The program will be the short video "The True Cost of Food" by the national Sierra Club's Sustainable Consumption Committee. The video explains the food tax hierarchy and big-box stores, and highlights organic farming practices.

Visitors are invited to attend this program, the first to be held in the Coastal Carolina-Conway area. The Winyah Sierra Club has 400 members in Horry and Georgetown counties. For information, call 267-1478.

CONWAY

Downtown art walk set for April 1

The first in a series of art walks through downtown Conway will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1.

Conway Area Chamber of Commerce and Main Street program officials are partnering with Conway's Historic District Artisans to host the first art walk. Artists who will participate include Lon Calhoun of Moegans, Kimberly Clayton of Black Water Gallery, Bill Strydesky and Sharon Willick of Gifu Art Xchange, Eddie and Barbara Streeter of Pop's Glass Station, Chris Thomas of Upriver Studio, Jack Cayton of Jack Cayton Art Studio and Gallery, Joanne Adams of J Adams Art Studio & Gallery Plus, Ruth Cox of RC Enterprises, Jennings Chestnut of Chestnut Mandolins and Shirley Terry of Terry's Custom Framing.

For information, call the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce at 248-2273, or Conway Main Street USA at 248-6260.
New KSU president will be ready to start July 1

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA - Incoming Kennesaw State University president Dr. Daniel Papp said Thursday he plans to start his new job July 1.

Cobb's education leaders welcomed Papp with a luncheon at Southern National Bank. Papp will take the reins from KSU president and collegiate giant Dr. Betty Siegel after more than 25 years on the job.

By all accounts, the transition from the Siegel administration to the Papp administration is going well.

"This is going to be a wonderfully smooth transition," Dr. Siegel said. "Besides the fact that we know each other and respect each other's work, I think we both share a similar view of what Kennesaw can be and what it has been. He's watched our progress and he's been a part of our progress."

Papp, 58, said he is wrapping up loose ends at his job as senior vice chancellor for academics and fiscal affairs for the University System of Georgia. At the same time, he's working hard to learn the ropes at KSU.

He said Dr. Siegel has yet to give up her posh offices that overlook the campus green.

"I will not have my office until President Siegel moves out," Papp said. "I've chosen the furniture, though."

Dr. Siegel said she hasn't quite gotten around to packing.

"Dan will be taking my office and I'll go to another office," she said. "I haven't packed up anything."

Dr. Siegel said she plans a final bow at three KSU commencement ceremonies she will oversee May 11 and 12, before taking a yearlong sabbatical.
"That will be my goodbye. I'm really looking forward to that," she said of the commencement ceremonies.

She plans to head to Oxford University in England for a few months to continue her work in global ethical leadership. A KSU chair has been endowed in her honor and the KSU Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character has been named for her.

Then it's back to the U.S. where she will serve as scholar-in-residence for several months at an as-yet-unknown university, before returning to KSU to teach in a doctoral program.

Dr. Siegel acknowledged that it is unusual for a change from one president to another to go so smoothly.

"Oh, you betcha," she said. "It's a compliment to the high regard with which he holds for what we've been doing and certainly the high regard we hold for him."

She said she and Papp have been close friends for the past 25 years, often comparing notes over breakfast on the Marietta Square.

Before Papp was named president, he had been considering another job, Dr. Siegel said. So, as soon as he was appointed, she called him with a message.

"Let's go for the better job," Dr. Siegel recalled telling Papp.

She said she admires Papp's transparency.

"Personally, we've been great friends and what I like about Dan is his transparency. That's a good term, isn't it? - In the business world, transparency? And I think of his integrity," she said. "They're very much related. When I think of Dan, I think you can go to the bank on his integrity; you can go to the bank on his transparency."

Dr. Siegel assured the luncheon that the university is "in very, very good hands."

"The beat goes on and on. I believe, with a steward who loves the state, loves this university system, and loves Kennesaw, we (will) love having him there," she said.

Papp said he would be installed as the new president sometime in the fall.

"Dr. Siegel laid such an incredible foundation having initiated so many wonderful programs. We're going to continue to build on that base," Papp said.

One potential area for growth is in the health field because Georgia needs more nurses, he said.

"I am looking forward tremendously to coming and - I can't say replace, you just can't replace Betty Siegel," Papp said.
Papp, a Cobb County resident for 33 years, served as interim president of Southern Polytechnic State University from 1997 to 1998. He lives in east Cobb with his wife and two stepsons, who attend Mount Bethel Elementary and Dickerson Middle School.

"The future of Kennesaw is incredibly bright. Yes, the Board of Regents does expect it to grow considerably and there are challenges in place with that growth. Challenges in the area of funding, challenges in the area of land, challenges in building," Papp said. "We will meet those challenges."

Among those in the intimate crowd Thursday was former state Sen. Fred Bentley Sr. of the Marietta law firm Bentley, Bentley & Bentley, who recalled how, in the early 1960s, he refused to move from the door of then Gov. Carl Sanders, until Sanders agreed to locate what was then Kennesaw Junior College in Cobb, rather than where it was slated to go in Bartow County.

Southern National Bank executive vice president Joe Daniell recalled how his father, Herman Daniell, who served on the Cobb school board, had the board sponsor a bond issue to raise $1.9 million in 1964, along with the city of Marietta, which raised $425,000 to buy the KSU property to give to the Board of Regents.

County Commission Chairman Sam Olens lives in the same neighborhood as Papp.

Olens said he is grateful that Papp's dog tolerates his own two smaller dogs.

"His experience downtown will really help the university with its financial needs to have more buildings, to have more teachers," said Olens.

Earl Smith, chairman of The Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority, agreed.

"I think it's good for the community," Smith said. "Betty's going out on a high with her successes and then Dan has been a part of this community for so long."

Cobb Schools Superintendent Fred Sanderson spoke of the close relationship the school district has with KSU as Cobb sends its graduates there and KSU sends teachers to Cobb.

"It's been a good relationship," Sanderson said. "I don't know that it will be any different."

Others who attended included Marietta Mayor Bill Dunaway, Marietta City Schools Superintendent Dr. Emily Lembeck, former Marietta Superintendent Harold Barnett, state Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs) Tax Commissioner Gail Downing, Steve Dougherty, president of North Metro Technical College, Chief Deputy Sheriff Linda Coker and Acworth Mayor Tommy Allegood.

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Cobb Close-Up

MARIETTA: Police join Chamber of Commerce in honoring courageous officer

By Yolanda Rodriguez, Aixa M. Pascual, Cicely Wicks, Lakendra Scott
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Published on: 09/28/06

Marietta police Officer Matt Buehler, who won a medal of valor from the Cobb Chamber of Commerce this month, has won another award. This one is from his peers in law enforcement.

On Sept. 19, the Peace Officers Association of Georgia gave Buehler, 36, the Officer of the Year (for Valor) Award. The award was given at a conference on Tybee Island.

Both awards honored Buehler, a seven-year veteran of the department, for pulling two people from a burning car on I-75 last year.

—- Yolanda Rodriguez

KENNESAW: Newly retired university president to take helm of safety institute

Betty Siegel is not sitting idle after stepping down as president of Kennesaw State University this summer.

Siegel, 75, has been named president of the newly created SafeAmerica Institute, the training and research arm of the SafeAmerica Foundation, a nonprofit that raises awareness of safety issues. She will assume the post effective Sunday.

A child psychologist, Siegel said her involvement with SafeAmerica is a natural fit.

"While SafeAmerica works tirelessly to increase the safety of all people, many of its programs are aimed specifically at protecting our children," Siegel said in a press release.

As president of KSU for the past 25 years, Siegel transformed the college into one of the biggest in the state.

—- Aixa M. Pascual

MARIETTA: Shorter shower power!
Do you ever get tired of losing precious minutes of sleep to morning showers? If so, then Georgia's "Take a Shorter Shower Week" may be the perfect solution to your problems.

Gov. Sonny Perdue declared Sept. 25-Oct. 1 as Take a Shorter Shower Week in Georgia, encouraging residents to use indoor water conservation techniques.

The Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority's waterSmart program, along with the Cobb County Water System, originated Take a Shorter Shower Week in response to Georgia's lack of an indoor water campaign. The state's primary focus in response to Georgia's drought has been on outdoor water conservation.

An average shower lasts 10 minutes, but waterSmart suggests cutting shower time to five minutes.

WaterSmart also advises using a low-flow showerhead, which can save 18,000 gallons of water per year, the equivalent of about 450 bathtubs full.

The Take a Shorter Shower Week Kick Off was held Sept. 21 at the North Georgia State Fair, where shower timers and 800 low-flow showerheads were passed out. According to waterSmart spokeswoman Mary Eva Tredway, the showerheads given away at the fair have the potential to save 14 million gallons of water per year.

— Cicely Wicks

MABLETON: Chinese-American adoptees celebrated

Reunion to be Saturday

The Georgia chapter of Chinese Children Adoption International will hold its sixth annual reunion Saturday at the Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre in Mableton.

The event will celebrate the U.S. citizenship of children, from 6 months to 10 years old, adopted from China. The agency helps with many aspects of the adoption process, including organizing paperwork that the Chinese government uses to match each family with a child.

One parent, Anne McSweeney, said, "We knew that Lai was meant to be our daughter."

In some cases, it can take up to two years to adopt children from China, but families say it's worth waiting. Christy Stasko of Marietta adopted her daughter, Audrey, in 2003. She said that she was "extremely fortunate to have such a healthy baby."

The reunion will include speeches on the importance of citizenship. (770-973-3575, or ccaiga@chinesechildren.org)

— Lakendra Scott
KENNESAW: Watercolors to be on display at Civil War and locomotive museum

If you've seen the General and the military uniforms on display at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, you might want to go back soon to take in something considerably different: an exhibit of watercolors.

From Oct. 1 to Nov. 17, the Kennesaw museum will display about 60 watercolor paintings, including pastoral landscapes and portraits, as it hosts the Georgia Watercolor Society's Annual Show.

The watercolors will range in style from realism to impressionism to contemporary and abstract, according to the museum.

For more information, call 770-427-2117.

— Aixa M. Pascual
Cumberlands Alumna Retires from Presidency of Kennesaw (Ga.) State University

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. – Dr. Betty L. Siegel, a 1950 alumna of Cumberlands, recently retired from being the president of Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. She was the first woman to head a school in the University System of Georgia and the longest serving female president of a public university in the United States. During her 25-year tenure, the university went from being a four-year college with 4,000 students to its current university status with more than 18,000 students.

Dr. Siegel received an associate’s degree from Cumberlands and a Ph.D. from Florida State University. She also holds honorary doctorates from several schools, including Cumberlands, and has been named one of Cumberlands’ 100 most distinguished alumni.

Over the summer, Dr. Siegel traveled to Oxford University, in Oxford, England, to, according to the KSU Sentinel, “develop further a program on ‘Global Ethics and the Changing University President.’” When she returns she will teach in the doctorate program at Kennesaw’s Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character.

University of the Cumberlands congratulates Dr. Siegel for her accomplishments.
Western Carolina University is co-sponsoring a gathering of educators from across the globe who will convene for the 23rd annual meeting and world conference of the International Alliance for Invitational Education in Asheville Thursday, Sept. 21, through Saturday, Sept. 23. The conference, which will feature 45 concurrent sessions and workshops, is co-sponsored by WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Kennesaw State University and Radford University College of Education and Human Development.

"The International Alliance for Invitational Education conference will provide a host of professional development experiences for educators at all levels," said A. Michael Dougherty, dean of WCU's College of Education and Allied Professions and a past presenter at the conference. "Attendees will leave the conference remembering that all education must begin and end with the dignity and worth of the individual in mind." Featuring the theme "Education as an Inviting Work of Heart," the conference is designed to bring together educators, school administrators, business and community leaders, and other service professionals for discussions and exploration of issues and solutions within an invitational education framework. Internationally acclaimed educators William Purkey and Betty Siegel, co-founders of IAIE, will speak during general sessions Sept. 23. The conference will feature program sessions that detail engaging practices in teaching for understanding, responding to the diverse needs of students, developing democratic classrooms and integrating the arts in education. David Strahan, who holds WCU's Taft B. Botner Distinguished Professorship in Elementary and Middle Grades Education, will present a session along with representatives of several of Western's public school partners. Western's program, the School-University Teacher Education Partnership, received national recognition earlier this year when it was named the 2006 Distinguished Program in Teacher Education award recipient by the Association of Teacher Educators. For more information about the conference or to register, visit www.invitationaleducation.net.
Thursday, November 30, 2006

Cobb promotes character

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

KENNESAW - Cobb Schools and Kennesaw State University joined Wednesday to sharpen their skills on teaching students about character.

Cobb teacher Suzy Pepper, whose book "Termite" tells the story of her childhood friend from Houston who went on to form an Olympic Iraqi boxing team after the capture of Saddam Hussein, was the keynote speaker.

Now in production as a movie, the book describes how her friend, Termite Watkins, gave up his job in Houston to volunteer as an exterminator for the American military in Iraq. Once word spread that Watkins was a former boxer, he was approached to train 24 Iraqi men in Baghdad for the Olympics.

"It's about overcoming tremendous obstacles," said Ms. Pepper, who began teaching in Floyd Middle School in Mableton six years ago before she became a mentor teacher for Lindley Middle and Pebblebrook High School.

Her book promotes compassion, sportsmanship and tolerance, character traits she said students should learn.

Ms. Pepper shared with the teachers and professors her experiences teaching Cobb children who were homeless and who practiced "cutting" or self-mutilation.

She said although she remained focused on teaching, some students had other things on their minds.

"I'm thinking about adverbs and they're thinking about something else," she said.

Among participants at the conference were Cobb Superior Court Chief Judge James Bodiford and Cobb Juvenile Court Chief Judge Joanne Elsey.

"If we had more character education I think there would be certain individuals who would take a different path, and maybe then it would be less work for us," Bodiford said.
"(Character education) is something we took for granted years ago and I think we need to have a focus on it."

Cobb Schools Superintendent Fred Sanderson said character education is something schools now must also teach.

"You can learn the basics of math and English and writing and all those kinds of things, but if you've got integrity and you've got compassion and you've got character that's something that nobody can ever take away from you," he said. "I think it's extremely important that we weave those in because it's part of being educated."

Former KSU president Dr. Betty Siegel and the KSU Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character sponsored Wednesday's conference.

Others who attended Wednesday were Jill Kalina, chief leadership officer for Cobb Schools; Dr. Yiping Wan, dean of KSU's Bagwell College of Education; Kennesaw Police Chief Tim Callahan, and various principals and teachers such as Wheeler High School teacher Dr. Cheryl Crooks, wife of Post 6 school board member-elect the Rev. Dr. John Crooks, who brought members of her student leadership club to the event.

jgillooly@mdjonline.com
Kennesaw State president will be inaugurated Oct. 24

By Jon Gillooly

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA - Kennesaw State University President Dr. Daniel S. Papp, who took office in July, said his No. 1 challenge is handling the school's exploding growth as the third-largest state university in Georgia.

Papp is the university's third president and follows the enormously popular and successful 25-year veteran president Dr. Betty Siegel. Papp will be inaugurated at 10 a.m. Oct. 24 in the university's Convocation Center.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Marietta Daily Journal's editorial board Tuesday, Papp talked about plans for new campus housing, pushing students to graduate on time and new degree programs on the horizon.

"The students just keep on coming," Papp said. "Over 20,000 have now registered. Assuming that 100 percent of the ones who registered pay, we'll stay over 20,000."

Kennesaw's typical attrition rate is 300 to 400 students, Papp said, estimating this year's enrollment would settle between 19,700 and 19,800.

"It's a credit to Betty Siegel," Papp said. "It's a credit to the faculty, staff and administrators. It's a credit to the city fathers and mothers and regional fathers and mothers who saw what Kennesaw State could become."

Asked if he has heard anyone say, "That's not the way Betty did it," Papp said, "Once or twice, but very, very rarely so far. I had a lot of people ask where my glasses are."

Papp said there is no cap on student enrollment, although the university is hamstrung by its physical assets.

"Unless we acquire some more land and some more buildings and some more faculty,
we're going to run into a facilities-imposed and a faculty-imposed cap," he said.

Papp said he is in the process of searching for land and buildings in the Kennesaw area and locations farther away from campus. For example, last June the university opened an MBA program at Dalton State College.

Another place he's looking is Georgia Highlands.

"If we are restricted to our current footprint, I don't see how we can go much above 24,000 or 25,000," Papp said. "If our footprint expands in ways the foundation is working on right now, on campus or near campus enrollment could go up to 30,000 or 35,000," he said, noting that the college could reach that number in 10 years.

Any growth beyond the 35,000 would be off campus, he said.

Papp said KSU could always build up, although that is not a favored option.

"In the absence of acquiring more land or in the absence of acquiring additional site locations from remote locations, we'd have to either go up or put a freeze on growth. We don't want to put a freeze on the growth, and we don't want to go up."

A campus in the Franklin Road area of Marietta is one option he is exploring.

"We have talked with folks in Sen. (Johnny) Isakson's office about the possibility of going with that," Papp said, adding that details are still premature.

Papp said growth in the state takes place in four areas - northwest Georgia, the Georgia coast, the southern crescent of Atlanta, and along the 316 and 85 corridors stretching toward Clemson.

"Somebody is going to have to serve northwest Georgia and who better than Kennesaw?" he asked.

Campus housing

At the moment, Papp said KSU has about 2,200 beds on campus, although there are plans to add more.

"We're at the very preliminary stages to build another 700 to 800 beds and then eventually want to go up to about 5,000 beds," Papp said. "We have over 800 students on the waiting list this semester."

Papp said the fastest those 800 beds could be created is by fall 2008. The new housing would be located on the north side of campus by the congregation of student residence halls, where the university owns some land.
Asked about the Pine Tree Country Club, which KSU has been reported for years to want to buy, Papp waived that option away.

"My comment on buying the Pine Tree Country Club is exactly the same as my comment on football at Kennesaw: Somebody come up with $20 (million) to $30 million bucks, we can do it. We just don't have the $20 (million) to $30 million."

Despite plans for more campus housing, Papp said he does not plan to phase out part-time students from attending the university.

"(Not) by any phase of the imagination," Papp said. "We are increasing the number of our full-time students, but we still want our commuter students to come. We still want to serve part-time students, not only on campus, but also at remote sites."

Papp said he would like to create a co-op program to allow students to work a quarter and then attend school a quarter.

"I would like to see us work on ways to really put a formalized co-op program in place. That's a wonderful way to combine a students' education with students' real-world experience."

Graduating on time

Papp said he supports recent Board of Regents' action to freeze tuition rates at state universities for four years, and increase that rate after the fourth year, to give students incentive to graduate on time.

Under the program, incoming students pay the same tuition each year for four years. Tuition rates still could rise each year for incoming students, but that rate would be locked - like a fixed-rate mortgage - through four years of college.

In-state tuition this year at KSU is $3,242, while out-of-state tuition is $10,850.

In past interviews, Papp said only 15 percent of first-time, full-time undergraduate students at KSU graduate in four years, while another 33 percent take an average of six years to earn a bachelor's degree.

The average graduation rate within six years at Georgia's four-year state universities is 32.2 percent. Kennesaw State's number dives to only a 24-percent graduation rate in five years and only 15-percent in four years.

"We're increasing the number of faculty advisors and mentors. We think that's a major, major issue, making sure students know what the courses are they need to take," he said.

The university also is expanding its faculty.
"We've had about 80 or 90 new faculty come onboard this year, about half of whom were replacements and about half of whom were growth faculty," he said.

Told that his friend, Atlanta business executive Herky Harris, said freezing revenues for four years while expenses continue to rise is shortsighted, Papp laughed.

"I'm trying to think of a way to say 'no comment' without saying 'no comment.' For this one, can I just let Herky speak for me?" Papp said.

Funding

On funding, Papp said he believes the university is not getting its fair share from the state.

"Kennesaw State should receive additional funding through the allocation process," Papp said. "There are a number of historical reasons why Kennesaw and other institutions receive either less than perhaps they should or more than they should."

For example, there are significant differences in mission, Papp said, noting that research universities like the University of Georgia receive more aid for full-time students than non-research universities like Kennesaw.

Another reason, he said, is that KSU jumped from a two-year college to a state university quite quickly.

"I blame part of this on the rapid, historical evolution of Kennesaw State," he said.

Papp said Kennesaw has two peer groups, the "competitor" peer group, schools that KSU competes with today, such as Appalachian State and Georgia Southern. Then there are "aspirational peers," or schools Kennesaw wants to be like in 10 years, such as the University of Cincinnati.

Last year, the state gave Georgia Southern $4,926 per student and KSU only $3,932 per student, Board of Regents spokeswoman Arlethia Perry-Johnson said.

While he worked at the Board of Regents, some say Papp was the one who "rode herd" over Georgia's university presidents.

"Let's just say I worked very closely with them," Papp said. "I think most of them would say I worked very fairly with them."

Papp said he worked behind the scenes to ensure UGA received a few more engineering degrees so there wouldn't be an explosion that created animosity in the state.

"Lo and behold, the way that worked, UGA got three more engineering programs and there wasn't a ripple in the whole state," he said.
Papp defends Georgia as having one of the better university systems in the country. If it weren't he would have accepted an offer to become chancellor of the University System of Florida four years ago, he said.

When told that some say Papp will be the next chancellor, he said, "I'm going to play Sgt. Shultz on that one."

New degrees, new administration

Several potential degree programs are under review by the state university system, including a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a doctorate in leadership and ethics, Papp said.

He hopes to bring a doctorate in business administration to KSU, a doctorate in nursing, and doctorate degrees in computer science and information security. He'd also like to bring a bachelor's degree program in environmental science and environmental policy.

"We're pretty well convinced that environment is going to remain an issue," he said.

One of the three finalists with Papp for the presidency of KSU earlier this year was the dean of the Coles College of Business at KSU, Dr. Timothy Mescon. Dr. John Dunn, provost and vice chancellor at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale was the other candidate. Although Papp beat Mescon, he said they still work well together.

"Tim is an absolutely wonderful dean, and I hope we can keep him there forever," Papp said.

In restructuring his new administration, Papp named Dr. Lendley Black, vice president for academic affairs, as KSU's provost. Papp said the move meant Black is the No. 2 person in charge.

"He is the Arnett Mace of Kennesaw," Papp said, referring to Arnett C. Mace Jr., the University of Georgia's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Papp earns a salary of $214,000 and also receives a car allowance and deferred compensation from the KSU Foundation.

The university's annual budget this fiscal year is $129,305,874.

KSU Foundation holdings include $25 million under investment with $19 million endowed (permanently restricted) and $6 million un-endowed.

The KSU Foundation also holds $205 million in real estate assets, Ms. Harrison said.

There are 707 full-time faculty and administrators who are faculty status and about 400 part-time faculty and administrators.
The total number of staff under Papp is 820 full and part time who are not faculty status and 255 temporary employees.

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