

A Remarkable Year for Dalton State

By President John O. Schwenn

It was a remarkable year for Dalton State College.

Against the backdrop of sluggish economic recovery and the continuing flood of financial cuts, we accomplished many amazing things on our campus. From the introduction of new academic programs to progress on physical facilities to honors and awards, 2012 was a banner year of achievement for Dalton State.

We broke ground on our first new academic building on campus in more than a decade and will soon have new labs, research, and lecture spaces for growing programs in chemistry and biology.

We introduced a new bachelor's degree program in nursing, providing a valuable education option for working nurses who wish to move up the ladder to a higher degree and meet the standards of our medical community.

We welcomed a cohort of Belgian students from a sister university in Brussels. They took classes at Dalton State and gained work experience interning with local companies. In addition, we entered into agreements with two Korean universities for educational and cultural exchange and during the fall welcomed our first Korean exchange student.

Acting on the expressed wishes of our students, alumni, and members of the community and following the results of a feasibility study, we launched an intercollegiate athletics program and hired **Athletic Director Derek Waugh**. By year's end, we had coaches in place for men's basketball, women's volleyball, tennis, competitive cheer, golf, and cross country.

In addition to whipping up enthusiasm for Roadrunner athletics, Derek has been successful in creating partnerships with sports venues and practice facilities around town that will bond the College tighter with our community. *(Continued on page 4)*

*Dalton State awarded 274 degrees and certificates during fall commencement ceremonies at the NorthWest Georgia Trade & Convention Center on December 14, with more than one-third of the graduates earning bachelor's degrees. Pictured with **Dr. Larry Johnson**, Interim Dean of the School of Business, far right, are the College's first international graduates, from left: **Albert Mathenge** of Kenya, **Eloa Menezes** from Brazil, and **Abyoung Han** from South Korea.*



Above: Our first international grads recognized their home countries by decorating their mortar boards with the flag of each graduate's nation.



Dr. John O. Schwenn

New Regents Announced by Office of the Governor



Regent Jim Jolly

On Thursday, January 3, the office of Governor Nathan Deal announced that **Mr. Scott Smith** of Ringgold will replace **Mr. Jim Jolly** as Regent for Georgia's 14th Congressional District.

"As a Regent, Mr. Jolly has been a faithful friend and tireless champion of Dalton State," said President John Schwenn, "and we will miss him. At the same time, we welcome Regent Smith and look forward to working with him."

Mr. Smith is president and chief operating officer of Northwest Georgia Bank. He serves as board member and secretary of NW Services Corporation, as board member of the Catoosa County Economic Development Authority, and past chairman of the board of Junior Achievement of Chattanooga. He has served as a trustee for the Dalton State Foundation, as board member of the Georgia

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Fall Semester in Review

By Dr. Sandra Stone, VP for Academic Affairs

By Dr. Sandra Stone, Vice President for Academic Affairs

The following observations were shared by Dr. Stone at the Fall Faculty/Staff Assembly.

While we continue to have challenges that confront us, a lot of really good things happened this past semester and we have much to celebrate. Consider the following:



Dr. Sandra Stone

- **Dr. Christy Price** was named U.S. Professor of the Year for Baccalaureate Institutions by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In her acceptance speech, Dr. Price said she feels strongly that this award belongs to all the faculty and students at Dalton State as they have supported and inspired her work. To show her appreciation, she has donated a portion of her award money to the Foundation for student scholarships and faculty development;

- We had positive QEP pilot results: first time pass rates for ENGL 098 rose from low 50s% to 75%;
- Retention rate for first-time, full-time students is up from 59% to 64%;
- The percentage of students dropping at least one course decreased 27%;
- The percentage of students totally withdrawing decreased 50 percent;
- We sponsored the 6th Annual Domestic Violence Conference in October and co-sponsored a health education workshop with the Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center;
- We established a relationship with Murray County and are offering classes on-site there for spring;
- We established a Faculty Senate;
- The School of Business sponsored an Entrepreneur Resource Rally as well as brought Michael Chriszt from the Federal Reserve to town where he spoken on campus, at Rotary and at City Hall, then wrote an article about Dalton praising the resilience of the community. In addition, the School of Business's Center for Economic Research and Entrepreneurship published its premiere issue of *Business Analytics* on the economic status of the five-county region;
- The School of Education was named the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education by the Georgia Association for Teacher Educators and former School of Education student **Mr. Corey Baxter** was named Teacher of the Year for Gordon County;
- In the School of Education, each faculty member is adopting a local school for their personal outreach project, and two School of Education students participated in the Georgia Partnership for Education's annual bus tour of model schools in Georgia. Two students presented at the Southeastern TESOL Conference in Knoxville were invited to submit a proposal for an upcoming conference in Florida, and five faculty members made professional presentations and two had publications. One faculty member received his doctorate – congratulations, **Josh!**

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CAMPUS WATCH

Please submit professional news (after the fact) for the February issue by January 24. Items received after that date will be held for the next issue. Thank you.

Ms. Jami Hall, Director of Student Life, and **Ms. Donna Lee Sullins**, Associate Director of Student Life, presented in November at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee. Their presentation, "Practical Applications of CAS Self-Assessment Guides (SAGs)" showed attendees four different personal examples of using the Council for Advancement of Standards' Self-Assessment Guides on three different college campuses. The presentation gave attendees step by step information on how to find a method that works best for their campus and office to conduct such a voluntary self-evaluation, as the Office of Student Life did over the past two years at Dalton State. ■

New Regent named

(Continued from page 1)

Banker's Association and the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce. Smith earned a bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University and a master's degree from Georgia State University.

He and his wife, **Melanie**, have three children. They reside in Ringgold.

Regents for the University System of Georgia by Congressional District (CD) include:

- CD 01: Vacant
- CD 02: **Doreen Poitevint**
- CD 03: **Tommy Hopkins**
- CD 04: **Dean Alford**
- CD 05: **Larry Ellis**
(previously at large)
- CD 06: **Kessel Stelling**
- CD 07: **Richard Tucker**
- CD 08: **Rusty Griffin**
(previously CD 01)
- CD 09: **Philip Wilheit**
(previously at large)
- CD 10: **Ben Tarbutton III**
(previously CD 12)
- CD 11: **Neil Pruitt, Jr.**
(previously CD 05)
- CD 12: **Lori Durden** (new)
- CD 13: **Ken Bernard**
- CD 14: **Scott Smith** (new)

At large: **Dink NeSmith**
(previously CD 10)

At large: **George Hooks** (new)

At large: **Larry Walker**

At large: **Rogers Wade** (new)

At large: **Don Leeburn**



Fall Semester in Review (continued from page 2)

By Dr. Sandra Stone, VP for Academic Affairs

- Within the School of Health Professions, the Social Work program had a record high enrollment for fall and will graduate its 100th social worker in May. The Social Work program will also have a record number of students participating in its summer immersion program in Costa Rica next summer;
- Radiologic Technology students had a 100% pass rate on the national licensure exam, and based on past performance, the LPN and Respiratory Therapy programs expect similar results;
- The BS degree proposal in Respiratory Therapy is being re-submitted to the Board of Regents for review;
- The ASN nursing program has its largest freshman class since the 1980s this fall, with 94, and they expect to graduate 20 BSNs in the spring;
- One faculty member in nursing will graduate from UTC in December with her doctorate of nursing practice, another will graduate with her doctorate in May from Mercer, and a third has enrolled this fall in a doctorate program at the University of West Georgia in nursing education;
- In the School of Liberal Arts, the Department of Humanities' Theatre program produced *Muscadine Wine*, an original play by **Dr. Nancy Mason**.
- **Dr. Ellie Jenkins** is organizing a Dalton/Whitfield Community Band for community members, faculty, staff, and students to come together for recreational music-making;
- We sponsored four concerts this fall that were open to the campus and community;
- The prospectus for the BA degree in Interdisciplinary Studies was submitted to the BOR for review;
- Three communications students presented at the Albany State University Symposium on Undergraduate Research, with one receiving an award for oral communication;
- The Bandy Heritage Center partnered with the Dalton Civil War 150th Commission to present a symposium on Exploring the Confederate Medical Service and also partnered with Roberts Library and the Georgia Humanities Council to present a five-part Civil War book discussion series locally;
- The Bandy Center staff also completed an educational outreach on American History to more than 500 K-5 students at Eastside Elementary School, and were invited to serve on the board of the West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail, led by the University of West Georgia;
- The Roberts Library was invited to join the Georgia Digital Knowledge Repository, the only institution invited to join this year;
- Seventeen faculty from the School of Liberal Arts made presentations at conferences and engaged in other professional activities;
- **Drs. Veve** and **Ellinger** engaged in a political debate as part of the Foundation's Lunch & Learn series;
- **Mr. Matthew Hipps** was named a Global Studies Fellow with the AASCU 7 Revolutions program and was invited to be a member of the Steering Committee for AASCU's American Democracy Project;
- Construction began on our new Science Building; opening is anticipated in 2014;
- With many thanks to the Mashburn Charitable Trust, we will be able to construct a new greenhouse since the old one had to be taken down for the new building;
- A computer networking student made it to the national finals in the Cisco Netriders competition;
- Three math faculty members attended a USG-sponsored workshop on re-designing remedial math and are planning a total re-design of our remedial math instruction for next fall;
- As part of our participation in the Adult Learning Consortium, we held two Quick Admit Days for non-traditional students this fall which resulted in 22 students enrolling. We also received internal approval for a collaborative, online bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership that we will offer with Valdosta State University; we are preparing the prospectus to send to the BOR for review;
- We had our first exchange student enrolled from South Korea;
- The Center for International Education sponsored its second annual International Week as well as its annual Study Abroad Fair;
- All schools now have designated professional advisors who specialize in their school's particular programs;
- First Year Experience was revised with a stronger emphasis on academic skills, and as part of the QEP, each ENGL 098 class was paired with an FYE class to reinforce academic skills application; obviously it had a positive effect;
- Ryan Provost conducted a Safe Zone training session involving 16 faculty and staff;
- The Center for Academic Excellence sponsored 31 different events, with 534 faculty and staff attending (172 unduplicated count); the CAE also hosted four lunchtime workshops with speakers; 234 attended;
- **Dr. Barbara Tucker** produced three newsletters for the CAE;
- There were 12 faculty learning community meetings discussing the book *Student Engagement Techniques*, with 52 faculty and staff participating;
- Roberts Library and Educational Technology Center staff conducted 13 library/technology training sessions with 164 faculty and staff attending.



I'm sure this is only a partial list of all the wonderful things that occurred during the semester. Everyone is really doing a phenomenal job and, as you can see by the data, all your efforts are beginning to make a measurable difference. I sincerely appreciate all that each of you does every day and I hope you will join me in feeling very proud of these accomplishments. ■

A Remarkable Year for Dalton State *(Continued from page 1)*

By President John O. Schwenn

During 2012, the College hosted 50 concerts, lectures, screenings, plays, guided hikes, and conferences that were open to the community. Most were free; all were illuminating, enlightening, and entertaining.

Work was completed on a network of hiking trails on the mountain-side of our campus. The trail system not only serves as an outdoor learning environment but is also a valuable recreational resource for the College and community.

The Terry College of Business Selig Center for Economic Growth reported that Dalton State provided a record \$122 million economic impact to the northwest Georgia region, up 6.7 percent from the prior year.

Our School of Education was named The Distinguished Program in Teacher Education for 2012-2013 by the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators.

Dr. Christy Price was named the 2012 U.S. Professor of the Year for baccalaureate colleges by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education for her transformative work engaging millennial learners in the classroom. Only four professors receive this honor each year.

The extraordinary value of a Dalton State education was recognized for a second time by the U.S. Department of Education which listed us again on its Transparency and Affordability List for low tuition and low net cost. In addition, Dalton State was named a Low Debt School by the Institute for College Access and Success in its report, "Student Debt and the Class of 2011."

It has been said that the virtue of adversity is fortitude, and I have witnessed that time and again within the Dalton State community. Amidst the challenges that have confronted us, I have seen strength and resilience that is inspiring.

Michael Chriszt, Vice President of the Atlanta Federal Reserve's research department, visited our community last month as a guest of our School of Business's Center for Economic Research and Entrepreneurship. He spoke on campus, to the Rotary Club, and in town at City Hall. After leaving here, he blogged about his visit which he had expected to be bleak based on his research on how the recession has impacted our area.

However, Chriszt wrote: "I travelled to Dalton fully expecting to find a city depressed and its people disheartened. What I found was quite the opposite...I found a vibrant spirit of resilience and realism...If we can find such a great spirit in the hardest-hit metro area in the Southeast, there's good reason to be optimistic about the future."

That strong resilient spirit is alive and well on the campus of Dalton State College; we are prepared to meet the challenges of 2013.



To have College-sponsored events posted to the online **Campus Calendar** or included in the **Bulletin Board** or **eQuill**, email Imassey or call 4587.

CALENDAR for JANUARY 2013

Monday, [Jan. 7](#)

First day of A and B session classes

Monday and Tuesday, [Jan. 7 and 8](#)

Late registration and drop-add

Thursday, [Jan. 10](#), 11 am to 5 pm

Blood Assurance Platelet Drive

Info: alesicko/2595



Thursday, [Jan. 10](#), 6:30 pm

Everyone is invited:

Roadrunner Basketball Club Meeting

The James E. Brown Center

First three new players to be announced!

Info: Lane Newberry at 706.581.3900

Monday and Tuesday, [Jan. 14 and 15](#)

Blood Assurance Blood Drive

10 am to 5 pm, info: alesicko/2595

Thursday, [Jan. 17](#), 7 pm, Goodroe

Concerts on Campus:

The Notables (jazz combo with vocalist)

Sponsors: School of Liberal Arts and Fine Arts and Lecture Series/Office of Student Life

Free/open to the public

Seating first-come, first-served

Info: ejenkins/2528

Friday, [Jan. 18](#)

**Furlough day for College faculty/staff
Classes held as usual; College offices closed**

Monday, [Jan. 21](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

No classes; College closed

TRANSITIONS

Welcome to:

Rolland Dale Fields, School of Business

Ben Rickett

Coach, Men's and Women's Golf

Farewell to:

Becky Budynkiewicz, Housing

Kristi Casey-Hart, Academic Resources

Nichole Potzau, School of Education

iPads Awarded to Faculty and Staff

Forget the Powerball – at Dalton State, it's all about the iPad.

The College purchased 28 iPads this past fall and invited faculty and staff to tell how they might use one of the coveted tablets creatively to enhance teaching and learning or improve other essential services of the College.

A selection committee, comprised of **Dr. Andy Meyer**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Pat Horton**, Instructional Technology Specialist; **Mr. David Brown**, Librarian; **Ms. Jackie McGintis**, Desktop Manager/Lab Coordinator, OCIS; and **Ms. Katie Pridemore**, Instructor of Mathematics and incoming Director, Center for Academic Excellence, developed a rubric that was used to evaluate each application on four criteria:

- the extent of student benefit that would be derived from the faculty/staff member having an iPad;
- the level of innovation the user would employ in his or her daily use of the iPad;
- the number of different and valid uses the user would put the device through, and
- the number of students that would benefit from a particular faculty or staff member having an iPad.

Applying the rubric to the applications submitted, iPads were recently awarded to:

- **Dr. Baogang Guo**, Professor of Political Science;
- **Dr. Jason Schmurr**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics;
- **Dr. Marina Smitherman**, Assistant Professor of Biology;
- **Ms. Carol Jones**, Director of Financial Aid;
- **Ms. Jami Hall**, Director of Student Life;
- **Dr. April Kay**, Assistant Professor of Biology;
- Roberts Library: iPads for Librarians **Mr. David Brown** and **Ms. Melissa Whitesell**;
- **Mr. Matthew Short**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics;
- Enrollment Services: two iPads to **Dr. Angela Harris**, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services;
- **Ms. Lisa Hunt**, Instructor, LPN;
- **Ms. Cheryl Owens**, Assistant Professor of Medical Assisting;
- **Dr. Jenny Crisp**, Assistant Professor of English;
- **Dr. Mike Hilgemann**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics;
- **Ms. Cathy Hunsicker**, Associate Professor of Reading;
- **Ms. Annabelle McKie-Voerste**, Instructor in Biology;
- **Ms. Veronica Summers**, Financial Aid Counselor;
- **Dr. Gina Kertulis-Tartar**, Chair, Natural Sciences & Associate Professor of Biology;
- **Ms. Susan Burran**, Assistant Professor of Biology;
- **Dr. Tom Gonzalez**, Chair, Mathematics & Associate Professor of Mathematics;
- **Ms. Traci Bramlett**, Assistant Professor of Nursing;
- **Mr. Jeff Allotta**, Instructor in Mathematics;
- **Dr. Kim Hays**, Temporary Assistant Professor of Biology;
- **Dr. John Gulledege**, Associate Professor of Biology;
- **Dr. Molly Zhou**, Assistant Professor of Education;
- **Mr. Fernando Garcia**, Instructor in Business;
- **Ms. Katie Pridemore**, Instructor in Mathematics.

Happy apping!

Dalton State Annual Fund Concludes with Record Departments Contributing



*Among Dalton State employee volunteers for the 2012 Annual Fund Faculty and Staff Campaign were, from left, **Ms. Heather Wolff**, Enrollment Services Customer Service Representative; **Mrs. Donna Lee Sullins**, Associate Director of Student Life for Student Conduct and Student Development; and **Ms. Constance Morris**, Office of Computing and Information Services Portal Administrator.*

The Dalton State Annual Fund Faculty/Staff Campaign concluded recently with a record number of departments on campus reaching 100% giving participation.

The campaign's success is a direct result of 25 faculty and staff volunteers who solicited their colleagues. "Their leadership through giving and asking others to do the same is the driving force behind the campaign each year," said **Ms. Whitney Jones**, Development Coordinator.

The Dalton State Annual Fund supports the College by seeking private philanthropic support for investment in students, enhancing academic programs, and promoting faculty and staff development and enabling other institutional initiatives that have significant impact on the quality and growth of Dalton State, Jones said.

Last year, the Annual Fund supported 51 student scholarships, 56 academic program enhancements, and 119 professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. ■

*Submitted by Ms. Whitney Jones
Dalton State Foundation
Development Coordinator*

CAE 'Frequent Flyers' Recognized

Just as the airlines reward frequent flyers, so did **Dr. Christy Price**, outgoing Director of the Center for Academic Excellence, reward faculty members who participated in the most CAE events dedicated to course redesign, teaching, and learning.

Dr. Price has designated a portion of her U.S. Professor of the Year winnings to staff development and presented gift cards in varying denominations to faculty members for their attendance at CAE events.

Faculty attending six events were **Ms. Donna Bledsoe**, Assistant Professor of Nursing; **Ms. Sheila Coley**, LPN Instructor; **Ms. Orenda Gregory**, Assistant Professor of Education; **Dr. Natalie Johnson**, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice; **Ms. Cheryl Larsen**, Assistant Professor of Communication; **Ms. Rebecca Lowery**, Assistant Professor of Digital Design; **Dr. Bonnie Semora**, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice; **Ms. Amanda Smith**, Chemistry Lab Coordinator; **Dr. Marina Smitherman**, Assistant Professor of Biology; **Ms. Barbara Tucker**, Associate Professor of Communication; and **Dr. Natalie Trice**, Assistant Professor of English.

Those participating in seven events included **Mr. Jerry Drye**, Assistant Professor of Communication; and **Dr. Celeste Humphrey**, Associate Professor of Biology.

Ms. Joey Cagle, LPN Assistant Professor; **Dr. Mike Hilgemann**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; **Mr. Matt Hipps**, Assistant Professor of Political Science; and **Ms. Cheryl Owens**, Assistant Professor of Medical Office Assisting; each attended eight CAE events.

Gift cards were presented to **Ms. Katie Pridemore**, Instructor in Mathematics and incoming CAE Director; and **Dr. Raina Rutti**, Assistant Professor of Management, who participated in nine events.

Grand prize gift cards were awarded to CAE groupies pictured right: **Dr. Kim Hays**, left, Assistant Professor of Biology; and **Ms. Annabelle McKie-Voerste**, Instructor in Biology, who both attended 10 events.



Receiving gift cards for leading faculty learning community book discussions were **Ms. Orenda Gregory**, **Mr. Jerry Drye**, **Mr. Matt Hipps**, **Dr. Raina Rutti**, **Dr. Marina Smitherman**, **Ms. Annabelle McKie-Voerste**, **Dr. Barbara Murray**, and **Ms. Barbara Tucker**.

Dr. Price also recognized Administrators **Dr. Andy Meyer**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; **Dr. Mary Nielsen**, Dean, School of Liberal Arts; **Dr. Mike D'Itri**, Professor of Operations Management; and **Ms. Ginger Almon**, Academic Advisor, who each attended five events.

Georgia Communication Association to Hold Annual Conference at Dalton State



Dalton State College will host the 82nd Annual Conference of the Georgia Communication Association (GCA) on Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23, in The James E. Brown Center. **Dr. Kris Brown**, above left, Associate Professor of Communication, will serve as Keynote speaker at the conference luncheon on Friday.

Faculty and students from 22 public and private colleges and universities will attend the event, which offers students a unique opportunity to make presentations and sponsors a short film contest for students, with cash awards for the top three films. Concurrently with the conference, members of the Board of Regents Communication Discipline Advisory Council will meet on campus to discuss USG policies on communication studies.

For additional information, visit <http://gacomm.org/> or contact **Ms. Barbara Tucker**, pictured above right, Associate Professor of Communication, at 706.272.4411.



Whitfield and Murray county families that qualified for assistance from the local Family Support Council were the recipients of 109 toys, games, books, dolls, and other gifts donated by College faculty, staff, and administrators during December. Pictured before being turned over to the Family Support Council are some of the toys which were used as table decorations for the College holiday luncheon hosted by President and Mrs. Schwenn on December 5.