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Robert Smith, Ph.D., Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Jonathan Lambright, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Sciences and Technology

Elazer J. Barnette, Ed.D., Planning Dean, School of Teacher Education
Last year as I welcomed faculty and students back to campus, I had a message that I hoped would guide us through the 2013-14 academic year: Responsibility + Results = Rewards: Let’s Get it Right!

Thanks to support from students, faculty, staff, the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Regents, the SSU Foundation, our devoted alumni across the world and our extended Savannah community, we got it right on so many different levels.

Academics are at the heart of what we do at Savannah State, and several new programs were added to enhance student learning. The School of Teacher Education has returned with STEM-focused teacher education programs, offering students the opportunity to become certified teachers in secondary education in the areas of biology, civil engineering technology, electronics engineering technology or mathematics. Our new major in global logistics and international business launched in fall 2013, and a second degree major in interdisciplinary studies was approved by the Board of Regents in 2014.

To keep pace with our growing academic programs, we are constantly assessing our physical needs. To that end, we have received initial funding from the State of Georgia for the planning and design of a new Marine Science and Technology Lab building.

Our students and faculty participated in numerous conferences around the country in 2013-14, winning prestigious awards for their scholarly work. Many of these achievements are highlighted in the pages of this publication.

We continued to welcome new students to campus and enrollment increased from 4,582 in 2013 academic year (AY) to 4,772 in 2014 AY. We also congratulated a record number of graduates during the 2014 AY: 519 students, the largest number of graduating students in a single AY year.

But our journey is only beginning. Let us continue to build the momentum and make Savannah State University the very best it can be. The university will celebrate its 125th anniversary. It is my hope that through the engagement of students, alumni, civic leaders, parents, friends, faculty, benefactors, retirees, neighbors and staff, the celebration shall lead all in the reflection upon and reaffirmation of Savannah State University’s legacy of preparing students for lives of leadership and service, and its value to higher education through research and community engagement for the betterment of society.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Davenport Dozier
About Title III
Savannah State’s Title III program continues to be one of the major sources of funding for the university and is essential to the continued growth and building capacity of SSU. Title III funds are used to develop academic programs, improve institutional and fiscal stability, and expand student service programs across campus. Title III’s funded activities are aligned with the university’s strategic plan, and the majority of projects are tied to increasing retention and graduation rates. For the 2013-14 budget period, Title III was awarded more than $3.9 million from the Department of Education via two grants.

Title III-Funded Activities
• SSU’s Journalism and Mass Communications Student Media Center & Learning Lab hosted the 63rd annual Southern Regional Press Institute February 20-21, 2014, with more than 200 participants. The annual event engages students in mass media while providing them with professional tools that will train them to be competitive in the television, radio and/or video industry. During the two-day conference, students from high schools and colleges throughout the southeast region participated in more than 30 workshops on a variety of topics.

• Title III provided support for the first-ever SSU Media High multimedia residential summer camp program for high school students. During the two-week camp, held in June, media professionals taught the students how to report and write news stories on multiple platforms, shoot and edit photos and videos, and promote news content through social media.
Title III Funds Help SSU’s Forensic Science Program

SSU’s Title III program provides funds to support the university’s Forensic Science Program Development initiative. SSU’s forensic science major was launched in fall 2011 and has seen an increase in enrollment over the past three years. Students in the four-year, interdisciplinary degree program choose a concentration in either chemistry or biology and are prepared for positions in toxicology, law enforcement, criminal justice, forensic science laboratories, graduate-level research and related fields.

Title III’s Forensic Science Program Development initiative included disseminating forensic science information to the university and community, training faculty members on the latest forensic laboratory techniques and engaging forensic science students in research. Over the course of the academic period, several forensic workshops were conducted for student and faculty participation on topics such as drug analysis and forensic DNA fingerprinting.

The majority of the funds provided support the acquisition and installation of new equipment, which will enhance the teaching capacity of the forensic science program. The ultimate goal is for forensic science students to have hands-on experiences in smaller groups to improve their student learning experience and outcomes. In addition, forensic science students are afforded the opportunity to be involved in faculty cutting-edge research, with the aim of inspiring further interest in forensic science-related research fields, increasing retention and graduation rates, and preparing students for future careers.

- The Center for Academic Success (CAS) provided advisement for all incoming freshmen in an effort to increase retention and track students during their freshman and sophomore years before being assigned to an academic college advisor. CAS also provided tutoring services for all SSU students.

- The STEM 360 program worked throughout the year with K-12 students and SSU undergraduate STEM students to increase awareness of STEM programs, majors and careers. Outreach programs included on-campus STEM-related competitions, workshops and summer enrichment activities. The STEM 360 annual summer camp was held in June for rising 4th-8th graders and brought 112 students from 15 different local schools to campus.

- Financial literacy is a new initiative supported by Title III to provide guidance to students and parents on the resources and methods to cover the cost of attending SSU from their freshman year through graduation. During the grant year, a financial literacy brochure, Web page and portal were developed to be utilized by students in the First Year Experience (FYE) courses. Additionally, training workshops were offered during fall and spring semesters in FYE classes. The financial literacy project also launched the “Renew HOPE” campaign, an initiative to educate students about Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship program and its eligibility requirements.
Creating a Safe Online Environment at SSU

Savannah State’s Information Technology Services (ITS) department is committed to creating a safe online environment for SSU students, faculty and staff. During the past year, the position of information security officer (ISO) was created and an experienced ISO was hired in August 2013 to improve the technology security environment on campus and strengthen technology audits at SSU.

Many other measures have been taken to improve online security, including the implementation of a packet shaping solution for the campus network called NetEqualizer, a cost-effective bandwidth-shaping product designed to optimize Internet connections for students’ wireless devices while giving priority to important business and data applications.

ITS also implemented ‘SANS Securing The Human,’ a campus security awareness program that goes beyond just compliance and focuses on changing human behavior through a variety of training and testing tactics and ‘Safe-Connect’ Network Access Control from Impulse Point, which provides network access control for the campus-wide user community. With an emphasis on higher education, Safe-Connect is one of the most flexible network access control solutions available and offers an easy-to-implement and end-point policy management system. The system will help control what computers and mobile devices are allowed on Savannah State University’s campus-wide network and provides an additional layer of protection for all end-point systems accessing the SSU network, providing real-time visibility of who is on the network at all times.

Information Technology Services (ITS)

- The ITS and Human Resources departments collaborated to implement an online learning portal for technology training for campus stakeholders. Building a Better U2 (BBU2) features a comprehensive catalog of more than 3,500 free non-credit business and technical professional development courses, simulations and access to a full library of resources available 24/7 through an Internet connection. BBU2 enables learners to create customized learning plans to address individual and departmental professional development goals as well as earn continuing professional education credits from recognized professional associations and agencies.

- The Banner Revitalization Project, now in its second year, continues to provide business process modeling, process improvement, data governance and functional training support for enrollment management. Many successes have been reported in enrollment management including the configuration of recruitment and financial aid communications plans in Banner, the development of an admissions workflow for the admissions processors, documented process models for core Banner processes, and functional training activities necessary to update processes and skill sets. More than 500 faculty and staff participated in Banner trainings and functional workshops. As a result, more than 80 process improvements were made, including updated technical and functional controls and business process enhancements.
Athletics

• SSU softball player Torrian Wright was named the 2014 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Player of the Year.

• Savannah State’s baseball team returned to the MEAC Championship for a third consecutive year in 2014.

• Four Savannah State outdoor track and field student-athletes qualified for the 2014 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Preliminary Championship. The SSU track and field program has qualified members for the NCAA Preliminaries every year since the school was elevated to NCAA Division I in 2002-03.

• Savannah State’s women’s golf team competed in 10 NCAA Division I Golf Invitational Tournaments. The men’s golf team competed in 11 NCAA Division I Golf Invitational Tournaments and finished in second place at the MEAC Golf Championship Tournament.

• Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams posted double-digit conference wins for the 2013-14 season. The women’s squad ended the season with a winning record of 19-14.

• Jolanta Graham was named head volleyball coach, and Ken Coggins was hired as head strength and conditioning coach. Assistant coaches were hired in baseball, football, softball, volleyball, tennis, academics, and strength and conditioning.

• Twenty percent of SSU’s student-athletes had grade point averages of 3.0 or higher, including 17 members of the baseball team, 15 members of the football squad, nine softball players, seven members of women’s track and field, seven members of men’s track and field, seven tennis players, five volleyball players, four members of the women’s basketball team, four women’s golfers, three men’s golfers and three members of the men’s basketball team.

• Savannah State’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) engaged in numerous community service projects during the past year, including raising funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which were presented during the university’s Volleyball “Pink” game, and donating 45 pounds of toiletry items to Savannah’s SAFE Shelter. In addition, 25 SSU student-athletes volunteered their time at Thunderbolt Elementary School, reading to students for Dr. Seuss Day as part of the Read for America program. Student-athletes from the football and basketball teams traveled to East Broad Street Elementary School twice a month to read to students as part of the Read with Tigers Program, a partnership between the SSU Athletics Department and Chatham Area Transit.

• The SAAC offered numerous professional activities for student-athletes in 2013-14, including a resume/cover letter workshop, networking/dress for success workshop, financial awareness workshop and alcohol awareness program.
Academic Programs

- The School of Teacher Education (SOTE) opened its doors in fall 2013. Housed in Morgan Hall, SOTE is charged with preparing teachers who will go on to serve the needs of students in STEM subjects. In November 2013, the program received approval from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission following a review by the organization’s Board of Examiners.

- The College of Business Administration (COBA) launched a new bachelor of business administration degree program in global logistics and international business in fall 2013.

- In spring 2014, the University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree, a program that allows students to take advantage of Savannah State’s many offerings and to customize a program of study that suits their academic study goals.

- Savannah State University’s bachelor of business administration in management degree became the first to be offered online at SSU.

- SSU’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) launched a Certificate in Nonprofit Organization (NPO), an innovative four-course, 12-credit sequence for professionals with baccalaureate degrees and relevant experience.

- Savannah State’s Office of Online Education’s recruitment enhanced its efforts for eCore faculty, growing the number of faculty members from two to 19.

Student/Faculty Collaborations

- Research conducted by Karla-Sue Marriott, Ph.D., an associate professor of chemistry and forensic science, and two of her undergraduate students was included as payload on the SpaceX CRS-3 rocket launch to the International Space Station in April. The research is part of a $276,000 NASA University Research 1 grant on the Investigation of Countermeasures to Modulate and Augment the Immune System on the International Space Station.

- Anshu Arora, Ph.D., an associate professor of marketing, received an honorable mention at the 2013 Instructional Innovation Award Competition at the Decision Sciences Institute Conference in Baltimore, Md. Arora, along with Amit Arora, Ph.D., received an honorable mention in the conference’s Instructional Innovation Award Competition for their pedagogical research paper.

- Associate Professor Deden Rukmana, Ph.D., coordinator of SSU’s master of science in urban studies and planning program, was elected to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Governing Board as ACSP Regional Representative from the Southeast Region. He will represent 24 planning schools from several East Coast states.

- Yousef Jahmani, Ph.D., a professor of accounting, was invited to serve as a board member of the International Journal of Accounting and Taxation in spring 2014 and was invited to serve as auditor-in-chief for The Journal of Islamic Banking and Finance in spring 2014.

- Mathematics Professor Mulatu Lemma, Ph.D., was named the 2013 Georgia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

- Susanne Toney, Ph.D., an assistant professor of economics, served as president of the Southwestern Society of Economists, 2013-14, and was selected as a Duke University Diversity in Tenure in Economics Fellow.

- Jun Wu, Ph.D., an assistant professor of management and marketing, received the 2013 MBAA International McGraw-Hill/Irwin Distinguished Paper Award.

Faculty Achievements

- Amit Arora, Ph.D., an assistant professor of logistics and supply chain management, was awarded SCOR-S (Supply Chain Operations Reference-Scholar) certification, which is awarded by the Supply Chain Council to academicians and students in the field of supply chain management.
Department of Journalism and Mass Communications Makes Headlines

Savannah State’s Department of Mass Communications has long been one of the university’s programs of distinction. In 2013, the program earned reaccreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, the agency responsible for the evaluation of professional journalism and mass communications programs in colleges and universities across the United States. In 2014, the program was renamed the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications in an effort to emphasize the foundational values of journalism in the curriculum.

During the 2013-14 academic year, students had an opportunity to engage in hands-on learning on campus and in the field. Six students worked alongside a world-class television producer during the summer 2014 semester, producing a television pilot for the Arizona-based Canyon Ranch Institute. Led by Channel 96 Production Director Will Martin, the students met weekly with the program participants for interviews and shooting and participated in post-production to complete the work. The project was supported by a grant from local philanthropists Charles and Rosalie Morris.

Visiting online journalism Professor Lester Sloan led a group of students, faculty and staff to Summerton, S.C., to document the stories of descendants of the first parents to challenge school segregation, a legal action that later merged with the lawsuit that ended with the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education decision.

Reginald Franklin, an associate professor of audio and video production, along with five mass communications majors attended the Broadcast Academy at Morgan State University in February. SSU was one of five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) represented at the four-day training session for students in the audio and video production concentration.

One of the highlights for mass communications majors each year is the annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI), a two-day mass media conference that provides training and career preparation for future media professionals. Keynote speaker for the 63rd annual SRPI in February was Hollywood producer and casting director Reuben Cannon.

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications also boasted numerous faculty achievements during the 2013-14 academic year. Department Chair Wanda Lloyd received a fellowship to attend the Scripps Howard Academic Leadership academy at Louisiana State University’s Manship School of Journalism and Mass Communications in June. She also was recently elected to a three-year term to serve on the Accrediting Committee of the Accrediting Council on Education for Journalism and Mass Communications.

Jessica Sparks, who teaches multimedia journalism, was one of five journalism instructors selected from around the nation to receive a “Back in the Newsroom” fellowship funded by the Knight Foundation to spend the summer working at the Wall Street Journal.

Student Achievements

- Freshman Sarah Dillard, a civil engineering technology major, was one of 75 students named to the inaugural HBCU All-Star class by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Students were selected based on their academic achievement, leadership and civic engagement. She and the other All-Stars will serve as ambassadors for the White House Initiative by providing outreach and communication with fellow students to promote the value of an HBCU education and the networking resources of the initiative.

- Five COBA students successfully completed their sustainability certification at Nottingham Trent University in Nottingham, U.K., during the 2014 summer semester.

- Numerous undergraduate students from the College of Sciences and Technology (COST) participated in undergraduate research with SSU faculty, with many presenting at regional and national conferences and several winning awards.

- Six undergraduate and three graduate COBA students competed for Best Paper Awards at the 2013 Southeastern INFORMS Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Seventeen papers written by COBA students were accepted for presentation at the 44th Annual Meeting of Southeast Decision Sciences Institute in Wilmington, N.C.

Special Events, Awards and Accolades

- Savannah State was named a finalist in the 2013 Georgia STEM Education Awards. The announcement was made by the Technology Association of Georgia, the state’s leading association dedicated to the promotion and economic advancement of the state’s technology industry.

- The master of science in urban studies and planning program hosted the second annual Urban Planning Conference in April, drawing 70 planners and professionals from Georgia, Florida and South Carolina and 200-plus students and faculty members from SSU and the Savannah College of Art and Design.
• COBA and the Global Logistics and International Business Education and Research Center of Excellence hosted the 2013 Globe-Without-Borders Annual Symposium in September.

• COBA launched its own journal, the *International Marketing and Management Research* journal series, in partnership with Palgrave Macmillan, UK. The first issue was published in August 2013 and distributed to scholars around the world. Several SSU students and faculty members received awards for their contributions to the journal.

• COST hosted the 2014 Savannah Regional Science and Engineering Fair in February. The regional fair gives middle and high school students a setting to develop important critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork and personal management skills.

• COBA’s Center for the Advancement of Creativity and Entrepreneurship sponsored Global Entrepreneurship Week in November 2013. The second annual event gave students an opportunity to create, design and present a product to a panel of local entrepreneurs.

• SOTE hosted the first Secondary Schools Honors Program in April. Students from 13 high schools representing three county school systems participated in the honors program ceremony, which publically recognized the academic achievements of student scholars.

• SSU’s Office of Graduate Studies hosted the Georgia Council of Graduate Schools’ first Annual Meeting in April at the SSU Student Union.

**Grant Programs**

• SSU presently has approximately $38.6 million approved external funding for multiple years (2013-18) of which $9.5 million was received in fiscal year 2013. These grants support curriculum enhancement, faculty and student research, student scholarships, presentations at conferences and other scholarly activity.

• SSU was the recipient of a $1.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. The five-year grant, which will be implemented through a collaboration between SOTE and COST, along with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System and Savannah Technical College, will prepare STEM teachers for high-need middle and high school classrooms. The unique program will give students an opportunity to complete the bachelor of science degree at SSU while becoming certified to teach in STEM disciplines. In addition, STEM professionals who already have a bachelor’s degree and are currently working in the field may qualify for a stipend through the Noyce Scholarship Program; the professionals will have an opportunity to return to SSU for one year to receive quality preparation for careers as certified STEM teachers. The Noyce Scholarship Program also includes a Summer Educational Internship Program for qualified rising sophomores.
Faculty members in COST received several grants in 2013, including an $881,468 incrementally funded grant to Kenneth Sajwan, Ph.D., professor and coordinator of the environmental science program, from the U.S. Department of Energy for “the Environmental Justice, Community Education and Advisory Project” (2012-17), and $194,214 to Chandra Franklin, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, from the Georgia/Department of Natural Resources for “A Plan of Action to Assess the Extent of Damages Caused by Coastal Hazards to Marsh Vegetation” (2013-14).

Faculty members in CLASS received several grants in 2013, including a $900,000 grant to Johnnie Myers, Ph.D., an associate professor of criminal justice, from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for “Get In The Know’ HIV and Substance Abuse Awareness” (2013-16), and $25,000 to April Gentry, Ph.D., director of the Center for Academic Success and an associate professor of English, from USA Funds for “Financial Literacy Experts Squad” (2013-15).

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Savannah State grants for $1,048,561 for the continuation of SAFRA and $2,908,647 for the continuation of Title III through 2014. Dedra N. Andrews, director of Title III, serves as principal investigator for both grant programs. The U.S. Department of Education also awarded SSU $2,866,885 to continue the Upward Bound program through 2018. Bobby Roberts, Jr., director of Upward Bound, serves as principal investigator of the grant program.

International Programs

The Department of Homeland Security, through its School Certification Branch of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, approved the English as a Second Language program at Savannah State University in June 2014.

In November 2013, Savannah State signed an agreement to establish the Confucius Institute. The institute will expose students and the community to Chinese language and culture and provide valuable information for the local business community. In addition, educational trips to China will be sponsored by the institute for students who excel in Chinese language, while various cultural groups from China will come to perform for the community. The institute will be inaugurated in fall 2014.

Six students were enrolled in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, for the spring 2014 semester, while five students from Chaitanya College in India spent the fall 2013 semester at SSU and five students from Babcock University in Nigeria were enrolled at SSU for the spring 2014 semester.

In summer 2014, SSU had study abroad programs in Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom and Liberia.

In February 2014, President Dozier traveled to Liberia, where she signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Liberia. In June, African Methodist Episcopal University in Monrovia, Liberia, became SSU’s 26th foreign partner. In addition, a collaborative partnership was established between Savannah State and the Université de Montplaisir in Tunisia. In June 2014, Savannah State signed an MOU with the Caucasus University in Georgia, bringing SSU’s total number of MOUs with foreign institutions to 28.

Fall 2013 enrollment

While the overall enrollment of the University System of Georgia’s (USG) 31 institutions in fall 2013 declined by 1.6 percent from the previous year, Savannah State University was one of 13 institutions that recorded an increase in enrollment. Savannah State's full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment increased from 4,335 in fall 2012 to 4,563 in fall 2013, a 5.3 percent increase. Savannah State was one of just four USG institutions with FTE enrollment increases at or above 5 percent. Total enrollment for fall 2013 was 4,772, an increase of 4.1 percent over the 2012 enrollment of 4,582.
About CCG
Complete College Georgia (CCG) is a 2012 initiative under the direction of Governor Nathan Deal that seeks to increase the number of young adults in Georgia with certificates and degrees. All University System of Georgia (USG) and Technical College System of Georgia institutions are participating in CCG by creating new forms of collaboration and accountability, working with the Georgia Department of Education to increase the number of college-ready students graduating from high school, and reevaluating and envisioning anew the performance of completion-related aspects of higher education.

Savannah State’s CCG Plan and Progress
SSU’s CCG plan called for the establishment of goals to increase access, retention and completion. Globally, the university committed to raise the four-year graduation rate by 16 percent and to raise the six-year graduation rate by 15 percent. The goals require acceleration of the rate of successful exit from learning support courses and an increase in the progression rate of students moving toward degree completion. The following five areas were identified in Savannah State’s CCG plan, and the university is working toward reaching each goal:

- **Use predictive analytics to guide students toward timely completion.**
  SSU is in the early stages of implementing Educational Advisory Board’s Student Success Collaborative predictive analytics tool to support academic advising and student degree completion.

- **Decrease the number of students who are unable to complete their degree due to financial difficulties in their final semester.**
  The “Closing the Gap” initiative was launched to provide small scholarships to students in their final semester who do not otherwise have sufficient funds to enroll and complete their degree. On average for the past two years, SSU has provided 50 Closing the Gap grants of $1,000-$1,500.

- **Increase first- and second-year retention through high-touch academic advising and mentoring.**
  All students under 60 earned credit hours are now assigned to professional advisors in the Center for Academic Success (CAS). The advisors mentor students, assist with major and course selection, and provide outreach to connect students with resources that support their success, with the anticipated outcome of increased retention. Additional advising staff was hired to meet student needs.
**Decrease time to degree and increase access through co-requisite learning support.**
In conjunction with the USG’s Transforming Remediation initiative, SSU is in the process of restructuring delivery of learning support. Curriculum for combined English/reading courses at both foundations and co-requisite levels was developed and approved, and a working group to develop new math courses was established, among other initiatives.

**Increase access and completion for Latino students through targeted recruitment and specialized programming.**
SSU has expanded its recruitment of Latino students and established specialized programming to support their success on campus. To meet the growing need of the Latino population, SSU hired a Latino recruiter in admissions and a coordinator for multicultural outreach in the CAS. SSU also energized its participation in the CAMINO initiative, a grant-funded partnership with Armstrong State University, Savannah Technical College, and numerous local non-profits and businesses, and launched the SOMOS Tigres College Transition program, a first-year success program and summer bridge program for Latino students supported by USG Hispanic-Latino College Completion Grants.

**Additional Areas of Progress**
To address issues of low graduation rates, SSU has implemented the following measures:

**Reexamination of advisement and learning support.**
SSU implemented the Grade-First early alert module in all courses during the 2013-14 academic year. DegreeWorks is also being implemented to monitor student academic progress and curriculum planning.

**Warnings and probation.**
SSU has reviewed its academic policies on issuance of warnings and probation. As a result, an academic hold will apply to students on probation, along with a requirement that they will be enrolled in a “learning skills” course, under the auspices of the CAS. The objective is to assure that these students are under close guidance of professional advisors and that their impediments are being addressed.

**Adult learning.**
SSU has convened its Adult Learning Committee, which will aim to develop its initial set of policies and practices for comprehensive prior learning assessment.

**Partnerships.**
SSU maintains partnerships with Savannah Technical College, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, the Housing Authority of Savannah and other organizations throughout the community. Many of these partnerships were created to help prepare students from low economic backgrounds and/or first-generation college potential students for higher education.
Leadership

• President Cheryl D. Dozier named F. Carl Walton, Ph.D., vice president for Student Affairs effective July 7, 2014. As vice president and a member of the president’s executive leadership team, Walton provides governance for various units including counseling and disability services, career placement, residential life, student life, health services, student judicial process, intramural sports and wellness, and student government. Walton came to SSU from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania where he worked for 10 years, first as professor of political science and director of the Honors Program before transitioning to the chief of Student Affairs role in 2010.

Student Activities

• The SSU Campus Activities Board implemented and executed 31 on-campus events/activities for students, staff and community. Activities ranged from large-scale to medium-sized events and included a Welcome Back Bash, Foam Party, a 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina Observance Program, Arcade Night, Movie Night, Homecoming festivities, Spa Night, Spring Fling and more.

Clubs and Organizations

• Seventy-four student organizations registered for the 2013-14 academic year, among them several new organizations including SSU SOMOS, the first Latino student organization; Engineers Without Borders; the Forensic Science Club; and the Tigers on Patrol Program. Twenty-eight student organizations participated in the Fall Student Organizational Fair, while 26 organizations participated in the Spring Organizational Fair.

Department of Military Affairs Office and the Military and Veterans Resource Center

• SSU’s Department of Military Affairs Office and Military and Veterans Resource Center celebrated Armed Forces Day with a service and flag changing ceremony on May 1. On May 20, the department successfully completed a VA five-year compliance survey.
Disability Resource Center: Equal Access for All

Savannah State’s Disability Resource Center assists in the coordination of appropriate services based on students’ individual documented needs. The center seeks to enhance understanding of disabilities and provide support within the campus community, and the staff is committed to assisting each student reach his or her maximum potential through the pursuit of educational goals. The Savannah State Disability Resource Center strives to assure equal access to all aspects of the college experience for students with disabilities through reasonable accommodation.

During the 2013-14 academic year, the office, which was formally called the Office of Disability Services, was renamed the Disability Resource Center and moved to a suite of offices in the King-Frazier Student Center to provide a unified location for assistance, accommodations and testing.

Over the course of the year, the center provided accommodations to 131 unduplicated students and three employees, provided 121 electronic read aloud textbooks from AMAC (Alternative Media Access Center) Accessibility to 30 students with print-related disabilities, and proctored 440 class exams with accommodations. The center also provided training to campus employees, students and community members with presentations on a variety of topics and began using Medicat, a new electronic medical records system.

In addition, the Disability Resource Center oversaw Project ROAR, a transition program for Savannah-Chatham County Public School System high school students with disabilities to prepare for transition to college.
Campus Safety
- McMillan and Associates, a Savannah-based consulting firm, was selected to facilitate a campus safety task force that includes university students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members from the civic, government and corporate sectors. Establishment of the campus safety task force is one of several steps the university is taking in ongoing efforts to enhance a safe campus climate.

- Additional measures to improve safety on campus were established, including adding a three-person Bike Patrol Unit, adding a second K-9 Unit to SSU’s police department and acquiring additional four-wheelers for quicker officer movement across campus.

Physical Plant
- SSU received authorization to complete renovations at the Kennedy Fine Arts Building and Whiting Hall. Phases I and II are the initial phases of this multiphase project, which will be completed over four phases in order to utilize annually available Title III grants and future anticipated Major Repair and Renovation Funds (MRRF). The project will accommodate growing enrollment in the journalism and mass communications and performing arts programs. Phase I will be a 2,484 square-foot addition to the Kennedy Fine Arts Building, which will create a scene shop that will also serve as a much-needed seminar classroom. The project will provide ADA-compliant restrooms and scene access to the adjacent auditorium stage. It will also address several code and accessibility concerns while adding instructional space. Phase II will include renovations to Whiting Hall, which will provide a 2,782 square-foot digital media lab, computer lab and a small digital media lab. Relocating the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications to Whiting Hall will enable students and faculty to have access to digital broadcast technology for instruction. Phases III and IV will include additional classrooms, digital editing studios, seminar spaces, equipment storage and check-out, and conference and office spaces. The final phase IV is scheduled to be completed late 2016/early 2017.
Funds Approved for New Marine Science and Technology Lab Building

The State of Georgia has approved $2.5 million for the design and planning of a new Marine Science and Technology Lab building.

The new building will house STEM programs in the College of Sciences and Technology, including marine sciences, environmental science, chemistry, forensic science, electronics engineering technology, civil engineering technology and computer science technology.

The facility will maximize energy savings over the lifetime of the building.

In addition, the Italian Club property, a property on nearby Livingston Ave. that SSU acquired last year, will be renovated to include a possible new addition and the construction of a boating dock on the same site. The boating dock will allow marine sciences students and faculty to have unrestricted access to local waterways; at the department’s current dock, students and faculty can only access waterways based on the tides, which limits research possibilities.

Design of the new facilities is expected to be completed by late spring and actual construction is slated for the summer of 2015, with a completion date of December 2016 or early 2017. In addition to the $2.5 million in funds from the state, the fiscal year 2016 funding for construction of the Marine Science and Technology Lab building is expected to be $15.6 million.

• Space at the Asa H. Gordon Library has been renovated to accommodate a computer lab and some office space for the Confucius Institute, a new program that will expose students and members of the community to Chinese language and culture.

• Physical Plant completed all projects approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents with MRRF Funds for 2014. Physical Plant also completed other projects around campus, including adding ADA seating to the Kennedy Fine Arts Auditorium and installing a new HVAC system in Hubert Tech D building.

• In conjunction with MRRF expenditures, Plant Operations resumed the overall responsibility for maintenance of student housing and is in the process of doing a major upgrade of all the units across campus, with the main concentration in the University Commons and University Village areas to improve the living conditions for students.

Business and Financial Affairs

• Savannah State’s revenue growth over the last three years has been steady, with increased state appropriations and tuition revenue from enrollment growth. The university’s total revenue increased by 7.7 percent during year 2014 compared to 2013, with revenue increasing by 30 percent since 2010.

• Because of SSU’s growth, the operating costs increased as well. The cost to deliver services increased by 3.4 percent in 2014 compared to 2013, with an increase of 38 percent in operating cost since 2010. The university is addressing top concerns, including access, affordability and accountability, in its strategic plan.

Revenue FY 2014

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<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
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<td>Federal Grants and Contracts</td>
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Expenses FY 2014

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Alumni Relations

• The Savannah State University National Alumni Association (SSUNAA) held two new alumni chapter installations in 2013-14. The East Atlanta Suburban Chapter was chartered in August 2013, with more than 75 guests in attendance. President Cheryl D. Dozier was the guest speaker and inspired alumni to continue to give back to their alma mater.

• The Raleigh-Durham Chapter was chartered in March 2014. Phillip D. Adams, vice president for University Advancement served as guest speaker. Adams enlightened the group on chapter effectiveness and why alumni contributions are the ultimate measure of a university.

• In December 2013, the Office of Alumni Relations hosted the first Bi-Annual President’s Reception and Pinning Ceremony for the Class of December 2013. More than 150 graduates and 20-plus alumni attended the event to commemorate the graduates’ transition from students to alumni. Graduates were pinned with special commemorative SSU alumni pins by recent and seasoned SSU alumni. SSU President Dozier brought encouraging remarks to the class.

Development

• The annual Bill Davis Memorial Classic homecoming golf tournament was held in October 2013, netting almost $20,000 for scholarships. The tournament was chaired by James Riles (’78) and SSU Foundation board member John Kelley (’77).

• The annual Savannah State Presidential Scholarship Gala was held in April 2014. The event, which was held in the student union ballroom, was moved back to campus to showcase the university’s facilities to guests and sponsors. The ballroom was transformed to reflect the gala’s theme “Bridging Possibilities.” Before a capacity-filled room, President Dozier introduced the Awards of Excellence, commendations that recognize excellence in the areas of philanthropy, service, leadership and scholarship. Recipients included 100 Black Men of Savannah, Inc., Award of Excellence for Service; Savannah Mayor Edna B. Jackson (’68) and United States Marine Corps Lt. Gen. (retired) Walter E. Gaskin (’74), Award of Excellence for Leadership; Margaret C. Robinson, Ph.D. (’52), dean emerita of the SSU College of Sciences and Technology, Award of Excellence for Scholarship; and Louise L. Owens (’39), professor emerita, SSU College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Award of Excellence for Philanthropy.

• The Advancement team held its annual phon-a-thon in spring 2014. The event targeted alumni and supporters around the country, using a systematized approach to identify pledge amounts up to $120,000.
SSU Shines as Tom Joyner Foundation School of the Month

Savannah State University received the distinction of being named the Tom Joyner Foundation’s (TJF) August School of the Month in 2013. Throughout the month, the Tom Joyner Morning Show promoted SSU on air, asking listeners to contribute to the university’s scholarship fund via the TJF.

Savannah State’s TJF campaign, chaired by SSUNAA Vice President and Committee Chair Laura Irwin (‘57), kicked off with the creation of what is now recognized by the Tom Joyner Foundation as the first “Virtual Sky Show.” The event, held on August 10, began with the Pancake Breakfast with a Purpose in the Student Union. Director of Alumni Relations Barbara S. Myers then saw her concept of the Virtual Sky Show come full circle, with lights, camera and action playing out in a riveting way as she moderated and captured the attention of the TJF staff and numerous alumni across the country who tuned in.

During the Virtual Sky Show, audience members were able to hear about all the wonderful things happening at their university and pledge financial support to their alma mater. On-air appearances were made by SSU President Cheryl D. Dozier, Savannah Mayor Edna Jackson (’68), Foundation Chair Charles Young (’76) and many others. Pledges and challenges poured in, with more than $80,000 raised during the event.

During the entire August TJF campaign, alumni, SSUNAA chapters and friends raised more than $260,000 dollars in various campaign-related efforts, more money than any other university during the 2013 TJF campaign year.

• Giving to the university surpassed the million dollar mark. In addition, the actual number of alumni givers increased, with more than 700 donors over the past year. More than 1,467 gifts arrived at the university in the past year from 1,381 donors.

Marketing and Communications

• The Marketing and Communications Department launched the research phase of the university’s marketing/branding initiative. The consultants (Mindpower Inc.) visited campus for a series of meetings and conducted focus groups with stakeholders — faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni and community members — to learn more about Savannah State in an effort to build positive awareness for the institution.

• In August 2013, the department completed a new donor video along with three television spots. The four-minute video highlighted key areas and accomplishments of the university and showcased stellar faculty and students.
August

• Savannah State’s bachelor of business administration degree in management became the first degree program at the university to be offered online.

• Savannah State was named a finalist in the 2013 Georgia STEM Education Awards. The announcement was made by the Technology Association of Georgia, the state’s leading association dedicated to the promotion and economic advancement of the state’s technology industry.

September

• SSU celebrated Hispanic Heritage Week with a parade. Other festivities during the week-long celebration included fine arts performances, movies and a fiesta.

• SSU’s College of Business Administration and the Global Logistics and International Business Education and Research Center of Excellence hosted the 2013 Globe-Without-Borders Annual Symposium.

• The SSU ECO Tigers environmental organization hosted the Georgia Green Economy Summit.

October

• Savannah State received a $900,000 grant to conduct a substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention education program targeting minorities on campus and in the Savannah area. The three-year grant is funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

• SSU celebrated homecoming with a parade and game against North Carolina Central University. Parade marshals were SSU alumnae and Dublin, Ga., residents Laura K. Irwin (’57) and Bernice Thompson Myers (’50).

November

• Mathematics Professor Mulatu Lemma, Ph.D. was named the 2013 Georgia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

• Students in SSU’s School of Teacher Education (SOTE) formed the Savannah State University Georgia Association of Educators, an affiliate of the Georgia Association of Educators Student Program.

• Savannah State’s Center for the Advancement of Creativity and Entrepreneurship held its second annual Global Entrepreneurship Week, considered the world’s largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare.

• SSU celebrated 123 years during the annual Founders Day Observance, held at Tiger Arena. Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., author and pastor emeritus of Savannah’s St. John Baptist Church, was the guest speaker. During the ceremony, Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D., SSU scholar-in-residence and former mayor of Savannah, was presented with the Richard R. Wright Award of Excellence, the university’s highest honor given to individuals for stellar community leadership and service. Beauty P. Baldwin (‘63) of Dacula, Ga., received the Cyrus G. Wiley Distinguished Alumni Award.

• After reviewing SOTE’s degree programs in September, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) Board of Examiners announced that all areas were met with no area for improvement, and the unit received approval from the GaPSC.
December

- Savannah State hosted the Regional FIRST LEGO League Qualifier, welcoming 16 teams of students, ages 9 to 16, from schools in Bulloch, Chatham, Glynn and other counties.

- Two hundred twenty-four students received their diplomas at SSU’s 183rd commencement, held in Tiger Arena. The commencement address was delivered by Lawrence M. Drake II, president and chief executive officer of Leadership, Education and Development Program.

January

- SSU held a Martin Luther King, Jr. observance with guest speaker Ja A. Jahannes, Ph.D., a behavioral neuroscientist, writer, spoken word artist, composer, psychologist and educator.

- Savannah State hosted world-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni at the Student Union ballroom. Giovanni shared some of her written works and spoke on the topic of “Writing and Empowerment.”

- SSU observed National Freedom Day with a program in the Elmore Theater that included a discussion led by faculty. National Freedom Day was established by Richard R. Wright, Sr., Savannah State’s first president.

February

- SSU President Cheryl D. Dozier was the featured guest speaker at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon held in conjunction with the 72nd Annual Observance of the National Freedom Day Association in Philadelphia.

- SSU’s Department of Journalism and Mass Communications hosted the 63rd annual Southern Regional Press Institute. The theme of the two-day event was “Social Media in a Global Society: Ethics, Urgency and Accuracy.”

- The 25th Annual Savannah Black Heritage Festival Grand Festival Day, presented by Savannah State and the City of Savannah, was held at the Savannah Civic Center.

- Three SSU Model African Union Team members earned national awards at the 12th Annual National Model African Union hosted by Howard University in Washington, D.C.

- Savannah State’s College of Sciences and Technology hosted the 2014 Savannah Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

- Georgia Governor Nathan Deal presented a commendation to SSU in honor of the university’s significant contributions to the state and nation. SSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Reynold Verret, Ph.D., accepted the commendation along with a small delegation of SSU National Alumni Association members and legislators during a ceremony at the Georgia State Capitol.

March

- McMillan and Associates, a Savannah-based consulting firm, was selected to facilitate a campus safety task force.

- SSU celebrated “Get in the Know” Black Aids Awareness Day with a lecture by guest speaker Terry Hamilton, assistant vice-president for Corporate Planning Services and director of HIV Services for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

- President Dozier and a small delegation visited several institutions in West Africa to establish research, study abroad and exchange program opportunities.
Junior biology major Asia M. Stinson was recognized as SSU’s 2014 University System of Georgia Board of Regents Academic Achievement Award recipient during the university’s annual Honors Convocation ceremony. She was one of 31 students in the University System of Georgia to be honored by the Georgia General Assembly during its 2014 Academic Recognition Day held earlier in the year.

Governor Deal visited campus, interacting with students and faculty from SSU’s homeland security and emergency management program.

SSU held its day at the State Capitol, with students and faculty showcasing their research projects and interacting with legislators. Several alumni also attended the event.

SSU alumna Jacquelyn W. Stephens, Ph.D. (’60), received the SSU 2014 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Distinguished Alumni Award during the MEAC Basketball Tournament in Norfolk, Va.

April

President Dozier was one of 21 citizens named by Governor Deal to serve on Georgia’s Child Welfare Reform Council, which was recently created to improve the state’s child welfare system.

SSU hosted its fourth annual Research Conference and Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Symposium.

The master of science in urban studies and planning program hosted the Urban Planning Conference. More than 70 planners and professionals and 200-plus students and faculty members attended the second-annual event.

Savannah State held its annual President’s Scholarship Gala at the Student Union ballroom on the SSU campus. Net proceeds from the university’s black-tie fundraiser were used to support student scholarships.

May

SSU hosted the Savannah Early College program convocation in the Student Union ballroom. Forty graduating seniors from seven area public high schools participated in the ceremony.

Savannah State held its 184th commencement ceremony at T. A. Wright Stadium. Two hundred ninety-five students received associate, undergraduate and graduate degrees during the ceremony, which featured a commencement address by Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of African Affairs.

June

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents authorized Savannah State to offer the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree.

President Dozier and African Methodist Episcopal University President Joseph T. Isaac signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a collaborative partnership that will include exchange programs and joint research projects for faculty and students.

Savannah State celebrated the 50th anniversary of the federally funded Upward Bound program with a scholarship banquet and special program for current and former Upward Bound participants.

July

F. Carl Walton, Ph.D., was appointed vice president for Student Affairs. Walton came to SSU from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where he served as chief of Student Affairs.

President Dozier hosted Emmet Dennis, president of the University of Liberia, one of SSU’s international partners.