

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Pooler Elementary and Savannah Arts Academy Receive State Recognition

Announced by Governor Sonny Perdue and State Superintendent Kathy Cox, Pooler Elementary School and Savannah Arts Academy are among more than 275 schools in the state to be recognized for student achievement and academic improvement.

The schools are being recognized under Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), which awards schools based on their performance on state curriculum exams and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status.

Schools from all across the state were selected for the awards based on 2007-2008 performance on state curriculum assessments, the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) or Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT).

Pooler Elementary School received the platinum award in the greatest gain

category for showing the greatest improvement in scores on the CRCT and for remaining above "Needs Improvement."

For the second consecutive year, Savannah Arts Academy received the platinum award, the highest level award, for achieving AYP for three or more years in addition to demonstrating the highest achievement on the CRCT or GHSGT.

The awards are being announced as part of the release of the 2007-2008 K-12 Public Schools Report Card. The award winners are determined by the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Education.

For more information about the Georgia Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS), visit The Georgia Department of Education website at <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us>.

SSU Reaches Highest Enrollment in its History

The Savannah State University total enrollment figure for fall 2008 is 3,453 students, representing the largest enrollment in the university's history. Total enrollment, including graduate and undergraduate students, is up 9% from the fall of last year, representing a 4% increase from the projected enrollment of 3,250 students.

Savannah State's total enrollment, according to the University System of Georgia's (USG) fall 2008 "Semester Enrollment Report," ranks third among state universities, and ninth among all 35 institutions for percentage increase in enrollment and full-time enrollment.

"The enrollment increase is largely due to the extraordinary efforts of our admissions, enrollment management and financial aid offices, as well as the campus-wide commitment of faculty and staff, who continue to support efforts to bring students with diverse backgrounds into the Savannah State family," said Adrian Cornelius, dean of Enrollment Management.

Starting spring 2008, Savannah State began revamping its outreach

efforts to new students. These initiatives include Open Campus Day events and New STAR (New Students Testing, Advisement, and Registration), a revised program that drew hundreds of newly admitted students--another record for the university--to campus for early summer matriculation. Another program, "College Opportunities for the Adult Learner," drew adults contemplating a return to college or enrollment for the first time.

These outreach efforts emphasize attendance at new-student orientation with sessions on developing academic skills and joining campus activities. Cornelius explains that securing record attendance at these recruitment programs translated into the enrollment of new students, representing an increase of 48% over last year, or an increase of 364 students. This boost in new students ranks Savannah State second among state universities and second among all USG colleges and universities. Likewise, the number of beginning freshman increased at an impressive rate of 49% over last fall. This increase ranks

Savannah State second among state universities and second among all USG colleges and universities.

This year, the USG enrollment report shows Savannah State at 85% full-time enrollment, placing the university in fifth place for the entire USG system, and second place among the state universities. Over the last decade, the university has ranked consistently in the upper 15% among all USG institutions and first or second among state universities.

"Together our campus, alumni, and community supporters are doing a remarkable job reaching out to incoming students, said Earl G. Yarbrough Sr., president of Savannah State University. "Our improved recruitment programs highlight our nurturing environment, high academic standards, and the value added to every individual who attends



Earl G. Yarbrough Sr

our institution." Established in 1890, Savannah State is on the move to become the best value-added university in the nation. The university's approximately 3,400 students are enrolled in 23 undergraduate degree majors and five graduate programs in three colleges: Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Business Administration and Sciences and Technology.

S.P.A.C.E. Expands Offerings in Visual & Performing Arts Classes

Savannah's Place for Art, Culture and Education (S.P.A.C.E.) is now registering students for its winter visual and performing arts classes and workshops. Day and evening sessions are offered for children, teens and adults in all skill levels. Sessions begin Jan. 20 and are held at the S.P.A.C.E. studios, located at 9 W. Henry St.

S.P.A.C.E. has expanded its offerings to include classes in performing arts in addition to its popular visual arts programs. Visual arts offerings include ceramics,

glass, printmaking, jewelry and metals. Performing arts offerings include carpentry, auditioning techniques, choreography, playwriting, costume design and more.

Four, six and eight week classes are available, as well as one-day workshops. Class fees include instruction, use of studio space, use of equipment and all materials and tools required. Space is limited and advance registration is encouraged. Class schedules and registration forms are available online at www.savannahga.gov/arts or by calling (912) 651-6783.

Cooks Love... *Continued from page 1*

go on after I am gone. I'm just starting the legacy... my children will continue it."

Book signings and product samplings will take place December 12, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Kroger store located on 311 East Gwinnett Street. An additional book signing will take place on December 13, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Kroger store located at 318 Mall Boulevard.

For more information on the Shrabcakes product or to learn more about the author of "The House That Cooks Love," please visit www.mabellesbrand.com.

Kroger, one of the nation's largest retail grocery chains, is honored to celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2008. Kroger's Atlanta Division is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia and is one of the southeast largest retail grocery chains with over 216 stores covering, Georgia, Eastern Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina. The Company focuses its charitable efforts on hunger relief, K-12 education, women's health initiatives and local organizations in the communities it

serves.

Freedom's March: Photographs of the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah by Frederick C. Baldwin

Exhibition on view at Telfair's Jepson Center for the Arts, through January 11, 2009

The Telfair presents its final major program celebrating the Freedom's March exhibition with a panel of local civil rights legends and a rare film about the Savannah movement. Presented in cooperation with the newly revived Savannah Chapter of the SCLC, this program includes a panel of Savannahians who played important roles during

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RA-LIN & Associates, Inc., Construction Managers
will receive sealed proposals from subcontractors, at RA-LIN and Associates, Inc. Office, 101 Parkwood Circle, Carrollton, GA 30117 until 2:00PM, Eastern Time on December 30, 2008, for renovation and addition to Windsor Forest Elementary School. There will be a pre-proposal meeting on December 11, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. to be held at [To be determined]. All interested proposers should attend. Contact Brian Fritts at (770) 834-4884 for all information pertaining bid room location and proposal document procurement. Proposal documents may be examined at the Construction Manager's office, RA-LIN & Associates, Inc., 101 Parkwood Circle, Carrollton, Georgia and at the following plan rooms:

THE SAVANNAH ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER
P) (912) 652-3582;
CLAYTON DIGITAL REPROGRAPHICS
P) (912) 352-3880 or P) (912) 447-5445;
MCGRAW-HILL CONSTRUCTION / DODGE
P) (912) 354-6696.

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