

# Happy Memorial Day

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# The Savannah Tribune



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## Bleicken Appointed President of AASU



Dr. Linda Bleicken

Linda M. Bleicken, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Southern University, has been named president of Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU).

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia made the announcement Tuesday May 12.

Bleicken will take office July 1, succeeding Thomas Z. Jones, who announced last year that he is stepping down on June 30 after nine years as president.

See AASU, page 4

## Fu to Keynote SEDA Luncheon



Ping Fu

The Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) will host its 5th Annual Luncheon on Thursday, May 28th at 11:30 a.m. at the Savannah International Trade

See SEDA, page 7

## Tourism Council holds Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner



The Savannah Area Tourism Leadership Council hosted its 11th Annual Tourism Awards & Scholarship Dinner on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront. Community leaders were honored for their impact on the local tourism and hospitality industry with several top awards. This year's Herb & Franklin Traub Visionary Award and John P. Rousakis Community Champion Award recipients were Paula Deen, Entrepreneur and Owner of The Lady & Sons and Uncle Bubba's Oyster Bar, and Michael Brown, City Manager of the City of Savannah, respectively. In addition, the recipients of the Service Star William "Bill" Wade, and Service Leader Awards for exemplary job performance in the hospitality industry Cindy Johnson was announced as well as the Tourism Leadership Council Member of the Year, Brendan Ferrara. Five scholarships were presented from the Sheldon Fox Scholarship Program to students pursuing culinary, tourism and hospitality careers. Sonny Dixon, news anchor for WTOC-TV, served as emcee for the evening (Scholarship winners listed on page 7).

## AWWIN holds 10th Annual Awards Gala & Silent Auction



AWWIN, Inc. held its annual awards gala and silent auction themed "Think Pink" on Friday, May 15. The gala honors outstanding women leaders with a record of exemplary service who have advanced the status of women in our community. Those honored included: Government: Dyanne Reese, City of Savannah; Business: Robin Wheeler Pelican Publishing Company; Law: Wendy Owens, Law Office Of Wendy Owens; Medical: Dr. Carla Case-McCorvey, Case Veterinary Hospital; Religion: First Lady Evelyn Roberts, Abundant Life Deliverance Center; Education: Carolyn Wilkerson, Saint Leo University; Non Profit: Deborah D. Cargill, Every Step Counts; Media: Tina Tyus-Shaw, WSAV TV; Entrepreneur: Nina Gompels, Owner of NTG Enterprises (McDonald's Restaurant Group); Founder's Choice: Lori Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr. Association. The keynote speaker for the Gala & Auction was Iris Formey Dawson. Amy Hughes of Hughes Public Affairs served as mistress of ceremony for the evening.

## Flack to Perform at Jacksonville Music Festival



Roberta Flack

The City of Jacksonville has announced an exciting lineup of activities for the 2009 Jacksonville Jazz Festival Thursday, May 21 through Sunday, May 24.

This year's festival will continue the tradition of jazz in Jacksonville with a variety of jazz genres and featured activities in the heart of downtown Jacksonville.

See Festival, page 14

## University of Phoenix Confers Degrees



Willie L. Gadson, Jr.

A commencement ceremony was held on Sunday, May 17 in honor of approximately 150 students who were conferred with

See Phoenix, page 14

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