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CONNECTION

Savannah 2006 Southern Style

By Karin Turer

"I did not know that such perfection existed in America." These are the words of noted author and world-traveler Bill Bryson, about the charming city of Savannah, Georgia. The same could have described the recent Cambridge College Savannah Commencement ceremony. This is the eighth annual celebration to take place in this gracious city, but the first formal Commencement in which degrees were conferred.

A festive multitude of family and friends crowded into the Johnny Mercer Theater at the Savannah Civic Center on Sunday, February 19th to watch over 450 graduates receive their diplomas. Over fifty Cambridge staff and faculty were in attendance, but the celebration had a decidedly Southern flavor. Graduates came from all points of the Southeast, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. And, for the first time ever, over a hundred students from the new Cambridge College location in Augusta, Georgia, were present to receive their degrees.



one of the most popular traditions of the graduation ceremony is the "Greetings from Savannah," a welcome from the city's Mayor, Dr. Otis S. John. Dr. Reed says that it was a "particular treat" to have two charismatic mayors together at this year's event, as the 2006 keynote speaker was Shirley C. Franklin, the Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.

According to Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Joseph Reed, the atmosphere in Savannah during the Celebration weekend gives one the impression that it is "Cambridge College Weekend." With so many graduates, family and friends, the College "takes over the town — all the restaurants and hotels are full of our people." As such,



Mayor Franklin was honored for being a trailblazer: she is the first African-American woman to serve as mayor of a major southern city. In 2001, after years in city administration and high-level project management (she was a chief organizer for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics), Shirley C. Franklin was elected Mayor of Atlanta. With a partnership-based style of governance, Mayor Franklin has transformed her vision into a better Atlanta and has made the future brighter for thousands of its citizens. She is a living example of the tremendous power a dream can have—especially when it is transformed into reality by hard work, commitment, and courage. In her address, Mayor Franklin spoke eloquently about the importance of education. Cambridge College Trustee James S. Hoyte commented later that Mayor Franklin's dynamic speech was "outstanding and timely."

Mayor Franklin also received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters in recognition of her work. She was joined in this honor by Vicki R. Palmer, the highest-ranking woman in Georgia-based Coca-Cola Enterprises. Since 1999, Ms. Palmer has been the Senior Vice President, Treasurer, and Special Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer. During her tenure with Coca-Cola, she has led the effort to shape and implement a highly successful diversity and inclusion program that has achieved breakthrough results in hiring and promotion.

Savannah continued on page 4

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Cambridge College Welcomes Advisory Board

The inaugural meeting of the Cambridge College Advisory Board was held during the recent Board of Trustees retreat in Pocantico Hills, New York. This Advisory Board meeting took place under the direction of Co-Chairs Steve Grossman of MassEnvelope Plus, Somerville, and Jay Veevers of Veevers Associates, Brookline.

The focus of the Advisory Board's meeting was on building the future of Cambridge College. Advisory Board members also attended panel presentations on issues, trends, and finances in the future of higher education in America. During the meeting, special recognition was given to panelists Janet Whitla, Cambridge College Trustee and President and CEO of the Education Development Center, Inc.; Allan Cohen, Cambridge College Trustee; Steve Grossman, President of MassEnvelope Plus; and John Bell, Senior Vice President of Domestic Telecom-Human Resources for Verizon. ©



Steve Grossman, Advisory Board Co-Chair,
Chancellor Eileen Moran Brown, and
Jay Veevers, Advisory Board Co-Chair

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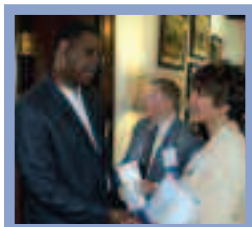
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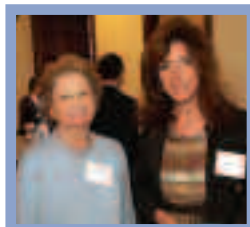
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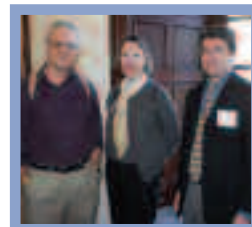
Craig Underwood,
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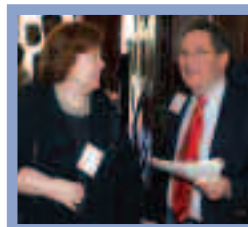
Advisory Board Member
and Former Trustee John M.
Bell talking with Trustee
Vivian C. Beard



Trustee Norma Fink and
Advisory Board Member
Katherine Hughes Del Tufo



Advisory Board Members
Tom Snyder and Nancy King
with Trustee Allan Cohen



Chancellor Brown talking
with Advisory Board Member
Richard J. Snyder

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION CONFERENCE



The Cambridge College Institute for Lifelong Learning and Community Building, in association with the National Community Education Association (NCEA), hosted Strengthening Communities Through Education, a public leadership conference to promote educational and social development through community building. The two-day event was held April 7-8, 2006 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Eighty

five participants came from various states in the Northeast (CT, PA, NY, NJ, VT, ME, MA, RI). The participants work at state and city departments of education, higher education, workforce development, community change organizations, youth agencies, and adult education.

Doug Ackley, Director of Teen Empowerment, Rochester, NY

The goal of Community Education is to advocate for the support of all community people and the strengthening of communities, schools and families through the creation of multiple educational services and programs. Programs include early education, adult basic education, after school programs, senior citizen programs, workforce development, etc.

On Friday, the conference offered a full day of training on youth development presented by Jimmy Calloway, Associate Professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Throughout Saturday there were sixteen sessions on a range of community education issues. Sessions included youth development; forming collaborations between schools, families and organizations; working with adult immigrants; higher education as a partner to communities; online education; multiple intelligences; skills running meetings; creating community leaders; involving families in student achievement; and Time Banking.

The participants overwhelmingly had a positive experience at the conference saying that this was "One of the conferences I've enjoyed the most in recent years", "Keep doing this type of training for community leaders", and this conference was "Energizing, reassuring and empowering." For more information on Community Building, please contact Stephanie Renard at 1-800-877-4723 ext 1308 or srenard@cambridgecollege.edu. ☺

HUMANITIES AND FREEDOM

The second summer Graduate Institute "Humanities and Freedom" will begin on June 24 and continue through July 28, 2006. Some comments from last year's students show the excitement and worth of the program:

"The Humanities and Freedom summer program for teachers was terrific..."

"An opportunity to suspend mundane things and for a while you'll find yourself navigating the world of ideas, new, old, and eternal."

"The classes enriched me both academically and personally."

"...an excellent learning experience."

The Institute is designed to satisfy professional development requirements or to lead to a Master's degree with a concentration in either Literature or History. The five week program offers 12 credit hours, which may be extended to 15 hours by an additional Humanities Essay (3 credit hours) to be completed during the following semester.

For the Master's degree, a second summer, continuing the study of the first, is required, which together with two Essays, will complete the necessary 32 credit hours.

In addition to one daily lecture (on the general theory of the humanities and learning) given by Professor John Bremer, who in 1971 designed the philosophic framework for Cambridge College, the program is based on seminars, workshops, and experiential courses.

For more information, contact Robin Laskey at 1-800-877-4723 ext1141. ☺



Steve Parson, Executive Director, NCEA, Pam Shelton, President, NCEA, and Joel Nitzberg, Director, Cambridge College Institute



Ann Ensinger, N YC Department of Education and Paul Montanarello, Principal, Rochester, NY

SAVE THE DATE!

Carl F. Barron's 90th Birthday Party

**Thursday, September 7th at 6:30pm
Marriott Hotel in Cambridge, MA**

To celebrate Carl F. Barron's birthday, Cambridge College will bring Carl's spirit of innovation to a new generation of working adults. Funds raised through the birthday event will support the Carl F. Barron Endowed Chair in Marketing and Innovation.

For more information contact Karin Turer at 617-873-0179 ☺

PUERTO RICO CELEBRATES!

By Dr. Pedro Schuck



Dr. Pedro Schuck, Director the Puerto Rico Center, welcomed the graduates and guests to the Celebration ceremony

President and Dr. Anthony DeMatteo, Dean of the School of Education, greeted the attendants with a cheerful inaugural message.

Verdi's Aida served as the musical background for the solemn procession of faculty members and students. After the procession, Dr. Pedro Schuck, Director of the Puerto Rico Center, welcomed the audience and addressed the

Cambridge College of Puerto Rico held its 3rd Celebration of Achievements on May 7th, 2006. The Ceremony began at 4pm at the Gold Room of the Normandie Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Mahesh Sharma,

graduates with inspiring words: "This Ceremony is in recognition to all the students who have fulfilled the dream of completing the degree of Master in Education, a dream that began more than a year ago. We are celebrating the victory that accompanies knowledge, learning, light, perseverance and sacrifice..."

This year the recipient of the Mission Accomplished Award was Mr. José Munera (Master of Education in Mathematics). Munera was honored for his academic achievements and his significant contributions to the community. Margarita Hernández Pérez, another graduate, motivated her fellow graduates by quoting the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." Hernández expressed deep gratitude for her mentor, Dr. Schuck and to Dr. Astrid Guerra, Prof. Miriam Kronish, Prof. Leon Worthley, Dr. Nancy Ellis, and Dr. Dianne

Harper, who guided her through her study program. She concluded her message by saying, "I hope to be a student for the rest of my life."

Prof. Rosalina Burgos addressed the graduates with a final speech: "The decisions and actions you take with your students from now on are going to demonstrate your professional capacity and preparation. This is the main goal of Cambridge College: to influence your educational work in a direct manner, to offer you a high quality education, to provide you with knowledge, but also with the skills to be an effective teacher in the classroom."

The attendants were delightfully surprised with the musical rhythms of eight musicians who entertained them during the exquisite buffet and gave an enlivened closure to the ceremony. ©

The Band entertained the graduates, families, and guests.



Margarita Hernández Pérez, another graduate, motivated her fellow graduates by her speech



President Mahesh Sharma congratulating Mr. José Munera, the recipient of the Mission Accomplished Award



Savannah continued from cover In addition to honoring these leaders for their dedication to excellence, one of the high points of the ceremony was the student speakers who gave their "Graduate Reflections." This year's student representatives were **Vernon Lorenzo Ryan** (M.Ed., '06) and **Bailey Walker** (CAGS, '05). Dr. Reed referred to these speeches as "always the highlight" of the ceremony; "as in previous years, they were excellent and a proud reflection of Cambridge

College." Indeed, the students themselves were the centerpiece of the Commencement. Not only did they present their thoughtful reflections, but they were involved in many other aspects of the ceremony: **John Christopher Stafford** (M.Ed., 2006) presented the Invocation; **Yvonne Thompson** (M.Ed., 06) was the accompanist for the musical selections; and **Selena V. McFarlane Bailey** (M.Ed. '06) serenaded the



President Mahesh C. Sharma, Keynote Speaker Mayor Shirley C. Franklin, Honorary Degree Recipient Vicki R. Palmer, and Executive VP Dr. Ezat Parnia



CC Alumni catching up at the Alumni Reception held the night before the Celebration

Chesapeake Center Celebration

The Cambridge College Chesapeake Center threw a party to celebrate its 200 graduates on April 21st at the Greenbrier Country Club. The Keynote Speakers were Dr. Ezat Parnia and Dr. Nishikant Sonwalkar. The Celebration included dinner and dancing. As you can see from the photos, all who attended had a fabulous time!



Cambridge staff and graduates dancing the night away!



Jim Waldman, Chesapeake Center's Director, addressing the graduates and their families



Dr. Ezat Parnia, Keynote Speaker, Joan Waldman, and Dr. Nishikant Sonwalkar, Keynote Speaker.

COMMENCEMENT 2006!

Next issue, we will feature Commencement 2006 highlights including pictures and quotes from the event. The 2006 Commencement keynote speaker is Mr. Earl Graves, CEO of Black Enterprise Magazine, Inc. with honorary degrees conferred to Ms. Sheila Johnson, co-founder of BET, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Mr. Carl F. Barron. Commencement will be held in a new location this year at the Bank of America Pavilion along the Boston Harbor. ☺

assembled crowd with a lovely rendition of "You'll Never Walk Alone" from Carousel.

Having a celebration and now a formal Commencement in Savannah is yet another example of Cambridge College's dedication to accommodate the busy schedules of its adult students. Executive Vice President Dr. Ezat Parnia says that the Savannah location was initially chosen to be convenient to

the majority of NITE students who were located in Georgia and nearby South Carolina. Dr. Parnia says that Cambridge College is continuing its efforts to have commencements closer to its centers; ceremonies are planned for 2007 in both Chesapeake, VA; and Puerto Rico. The first graduation in California is set for 2008 or 2009. They will have a wonderful example to follow, as the Savannah event is one that is as delightful and memorable as the city itself. ☺



VP Dr. Joseph Daisy (center) meeting CC Alumni



VP Dr. Joseph Reed, Trustee James S. Hoyte, and President Sharma

The NITE Program: An Historical Retrieve 1991-1994

by John R. Grassi, Ph.D.

Founder and First Director of the NITE Program

After its Antioch affiliation, the Institute of Open Education became Cambridge College in 1981. During the intervening years, a number of changes had taken place. There were now three separate graduate departments: Education, Counseling Psychology, and Management (HSSP). The Graduate Education Department grew rapidly as a result of the new Master's Degree Completion Program that the Education Department faculty and I developed and implemented that made it possible for many teachers who had taken graduate courses, but who had not matriculated, to transfer up to twelve graduate credits into this new program. It was then possible for most of them to complete their M.Ed. Degree in 2 intensive semesters. We were adding new faculty each semester as a result of the influx of many new students. We were also adding new courses that we had not offered before, including The Teacher as Philosopher, The Teacher as Artist, The History of the Civil Rights Movement, Drama and Improvisation, and Multicultural Diversity. The feedback from the graduate students was very positive. Many said that they were able to use the course content and strategies immediately in their classrooms.

This success led me to wonder whether we could extend these offerings to teachers in other states. I reflected back on our first graduate program designed by John Bremer, Joan Goldsmith and Eileen Brown during the summer of 1971 at Newton College that attracted educators from other states (Illinois, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania for example). I knew that we could probably develop a similar program that would require a one-summer residency using the Master's Degree Completion Program as the core. I created, with input from the core faculty of the Education Department, the model of the NITE Program that is still in use today and that has attracted hundreds of educators to Cambridge College since its first class in the summer of 1991. It retained many structural

elements of the Newton College Program. The program was originally called The Urban Education Program. Teachers came from Chicago, New York City, Alaska, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. There were 28 students in the first class. The original faculty included: Professors Chandler Steiner, Lyda Peters, Peter Bodge, Michael Alexander, Cathy Carroll, Jeannette vos Groenendal, Carol Munnely, Mahesh Sharma, Nancy Ellis, Ethlyn Davis-Fuller, Joe Boston, Joseph Miglio and John Grassi. The program was held at Lasell College in Newton, MA.

In the summer of 1992 the number of participants had doubled as it would each summer thereafter. Classes were now held at Cambridge College which was then located at Miiflin Place, adjacent to Harvard Square. The last class in 1994 had 156 participants and they met at the new Cambridge College building at 1000 Massachusetts Ave. The next summer, the program now called (thanks to Joe Miglio) the N.I.T.E. Program (National Institute for Teaching Excellence) would attract nearly 300 students and would be housed for the first time at Mt. Ida College in Newton, MA. Under the directorship of Dean Mahesh Sharma the program would continue to grow in population until finally it again moved to Endicott College (for one summer) and then to Curry College in Milton, MA.

Before leaving Mt. Ida College, the first 30 C.A.G.S. students were on campus. As newly-appointed Vice President of the Alumni College I was asked to oversee the CAGS Program and we recruited an additional 127 students during that year who joined the N.I.T.E. Program at Endicott College. With 157 CAGS students, nearly 500 NITE M.Ed. students plus over 300 commuters from Massachusetts, it was apparent that we would need a larger campus for the following year. Our next venue: Curry College. (to be continued in the Fall newsletter) ☺



First group of NITE students, summer 1991. Lasell College, Newton, MA



First group of NITE students, summer 1991. Lasell College, Newton, MA



Professor Peter Bodge and Carolyn Saveria, NITE, summer 1991, Lasell College



First NITE Commencement, winter 1992, The Drake Hotel, Chicago.

Alumni News

Elizabeth Sorrell (M.Ed. '93) is the new superintendent for Carver Public Schools. She will begin her post July 1st. She has been the assistant superintendent for the Silver Lake Regional School District for the past two years and the K-12 curriculum director for science, health, and technology for Belmont Public Schools for nine years prior.

Anne Newell, a 1995 Cambridge graduate with a Masters in Urban Education, is now the Founder and President of Performax in Charleston, SC. Performax helps female employees create the life and career they want and helps companies get the very best from their female employees by harmoniously blending professional and personal goals and development. Working collaboratively with individuals and businesses, Performax examines your business and your life in depth, envisions the future you want, determines what you need to take you there, then helps make it happen. In addition to owning her own company, Anne also has two daughters, Caroline and Elizabeth, and is involved in many aspects of her community.

Andrew Marency (M.Ed. '99) was named head coach of the football program at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School. He has coached at Beverly High for the past three seasons.

Desiree Walcott Lawson (B.S. Human Services '03) received the Presidential Scholarship at Andover Newton Theological School. The scholarship is for entering full-time students who have a GPA of 3.5.

Stephanie A. Martin (M.Ed. '03) was appointed to the Flint, Michigan Board of Education in 2005. She has been selected as the Secretary of the Board, Chairwoman of the Academics Committee and Chairwoman of the Policies and

Procedures Committee. She also owns Martin Psychological Associates which is a full service community counseling center.

Gabriel Manuel Taylor (M.Ed. Counseling/Psychology '05 & B.S. Human Services '03) received the Kelsey Merit Scholarship at Andover Newton Theological School. The scholarship is need and merit based for continuing students who complete 18 credits during the school year with a minimum GPA of 3.3. Gabriel is currently a Master's of Divinity student at Andover Newton.

Leroy A. Messam, C.P.A. (M.Ed '83) was awarded the **Republican Senatorial Medal of Freedom** from the Republican Senate Leadership. Previous recipients of this high honor include President Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and retired general Norman Schwarzkopf. Messam has served as a member of the Republican Presidential Task Force and has been a long-time friend and supporter of Cambridge College.

Faculty News

Dr. Morvin Ngaiyaye was a presenter at the Oxford Round Table Conferency, Oxford University, Oxford, England in July 2005. His topic was "Societal Attitudes towards Teachers: Worthy of Consideration by the Reformers of Education Policy." Dr. Ngaiyaye teaches at the Augusta, Georgia Center.

Vicente Sanabria recently received a promotion to Director of Regional Healthy Communities Center in Worcester. He is an undergraduate faculty member at the Lawrence Center.

College News

President Mahesh C. Sharma was recognized as Education Person of the Year at the IndUS Business Journal's annual award dinner in April.

Cambridge College Schott Fellowship Program and the Institute of Responsive Education received funding to start a Principal's Institute through the NITE program this summer.

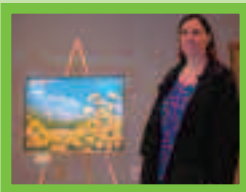
At Cambridge College in Lawrence, students celebrated the publication of "Through the Gate," the school's first-ever literary magazine, with a poetry reading event in April. Students from Professor Meg Harris's Topics in Literature and Critical Thinking classes produced a beautiful magazine full of poetry, personal essays, and artwork. The celebration included readings by students and from **Mark Schorr**, the Executive Director of the Robert Frost Foundation, and **Janaka Stucky**, a published poet who directs a nonprofit publishing company, in front of a full house. Lawrence students are eager to continue expressing themselves through the written word.

Oscar Arocha, a Management student at Cambridge College, was appointed to the Robert Wood Johnson's "Speaking Together" advisory committee. For more than 30 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves, because when it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in our lifetime.

John Bove (M.M. 1999) was honored for 20 years as a Trustee at the Taunton State Hospital, where he was chairman of the board for 17 of them and was awarded for educating the public through classrooms at Cambridge College in mental health issues.

Tracey L. Thompson received the Outstanding Community Service Award on May 5th from the Cambridge/Somerville Salvation Army. Tracey is the Director of Development at the College and offered her expertise and skills to the Salvation Army on various proposals.

Schott Fellowship Executive Director, **Dr. Valora Washington**, received the United Way 2005 Community Leadership Award at the United Way Celebration on April 28th. ☺



Artist Eugenie Johnston with her painting *Two Friends*

Alumni Art Show a Success

Over 100 faculty, students, alumni and friends of Cambridge College attended The Flourishing of the Spirit: Celebrating 35 Years of Enrichment and Growth on Saturday, May 22, 2006. On display were 30 art works of alumni, faculty and friends of the College. Proceeds were donated to the Cambridge College Scholarship Fund. ☺



Artist Edmond Catania with his painting *Homage to Picasso*



Mary LaCue Booker (M.Ed 2000) reports that her new cd *D.U.I.* has been positively received by the public. The cd presents the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol. Copies of the cd may be obtained from Mary by contacting her at (404) 569-3230. ☺