Miller named executive director of GSW Foundation

The Georgia Southwestern Foundation, Inc. has named Boyce E. “Stick” Miller, III as its executive director, effective Jan. 3. Miller succeeds Bev Pankey, who recently retired.

Miller and his wife, Elise, recently moved to Americus from Atlanta where, for the last 25 years, he was self-employed in the financial services industry.

Ginger Starlin, chair of the Board, said that she is excited about the new executive director appointment.

“Mr. Miller is known to many of GSW’s alumni,” Starlin said. “The Board of Trustees believes that he has a strong vision for Georgia Southwestern to become a premier institution in Georgia. He intends to steer a course that will make the GSW Golf and Conference Center a facility that we can all be proud of and a financially stable entity. Enrollment growth at the University is also a priority with Mr. Miller. It will take an executive director with a strong business sense and experience in the financial sectors to accomplish both of these goals. We are fortunate to have someone with his experience as the director of our Foundation.”

“I believe in Georgia Southwestern State University and want to see it grow and prosper,” Miller said. “I also believe that effective management of our assets is vital to the well-being of the University, and is mandated by the generosity of our benefactors. To that end, I pledge to continue current fund-raising efforts and to enhance existing plans with some new approaches. I plan to reach out to the Alumni of Georgia Southwestern State University for our first effort. I think that, given the improving economy and the plans for new residence halls, we have a huge opportunity to effect change both on campus and in the community.”

Miller is a 1971 alumnus of Georgia Southwestern where he was a member of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and where he received a B.S. in Political Science. He also holds a law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law. He and his wife have three adult children.

Green Campus initiative eyes environmentally friendly options, resource conservation

GSW is examining new strategies for environmentally friendly planning. A Green Campus Committee has completed a campus environmental audit to aid in the discussion.

“In the fall of 2004, we asked faculty and staff to respond to a number of questions, covering a range of topics,” said Dan Askren, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Geology and Physics, and a leader of the Green Campus Committee. “The questions dealt with everything from waste disposal, to energy consumption, to pest control,” Askren said.

The answers to those questions are laying the foundation for future discussions of environmentally friendly decision-making, he said.

“The justifications for ‘going green’ center around issues like energy conservation, water conservation, storm water management and waste management,” said George Smith, director of the Physical Plant and a leader of the Green Campus Committee. “This idea of creating and maintaining a ‘sustainable campus’ means working smarter, and remembering the importance of conservation.”

GSW is the only institution in the University System of Georgia currently pursuing an initiative of this nature.

“Georgia Southwestern is pleased to take a leadership role in this critical area,” said President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. “Informed decision-making designed to preserve our campus’ natural beauty, while simultaneously making the most efficient use of limited resources, translates into good sense for the future of our University.”

The University is investigating a new collaboration with the Georgia Department of National Resources to measure water consumption and examine conservation strategies.

Going Green– Campus Pride Day, where faculty, staff and students volunteer to enhance GSW’s natural beauty, has been a tradition for years.
The University has a growing initiative designed to promote healthy decision-making.

Gaining momentum since last fall, the Healthy Campus 2010 program is encouraging students, faculty and staff to pursue healthful options in all aspects of their lives—from diet and exercise to buckling up in the car.

“Responsible, healthy choices must be conscious decisions made in our everyday lives,” said Monica Taylor, co-chair of the Healthy Campus committee. “Then, after a period of time, hopefully those healthy decisions become habits.”

“Education is key to helping everyone make healthy decisions,” added Michelle Parnell, co-chair of the Healthy Campus initiative. “By giving individuals all of the information we can, we show them the importance and the long-term impact that healthy choices will have on their lives, and the lives of those around them.”

The Healthy Campus Committee, composed of representatives from across GSW, continues to organize a range of activities to involve faculty, staff and students in wellness education. In November, the group helped organize a bicycle “Ride for Diabetes,” in cooperation with Sumter Regional Hospital. In conjunction with the Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, child safety seat training and inspections were held in February; a seasonal allergy clinic, alcohol screenings and a health and wellness fair have also been in the works.

“Georgia Southwestern is committed to health and wellness promotion for our students, faculty and staff,” said President Michael L. Hanes, Ph.D. “Healthy Campus 2010 is a long-term, strategic initiative for our campus community. We look forward to expanding this enriching dialogue, already in progress.”

The Healthy Campus 2010 program has established guidelines distributed by the American College Health Association.
Students, faculty, staff and alumni build Schley County Habitat house as part of centennial celebration

A new partnership forged between Georgia Southwestern’s Habitat Campus Chapter and New Horizons Habitat for Humanity is resulting in new housing options for those in need in Southwest Georgia. This partnership comes at a time of increased activity as New Horizons has expanded its service area from just Sumter County to a six-county region (Schley, Macon, Marion, Webster, Dooly and Sumter).

According to U.S. Census data, more than 25 percent of the families in these low-income counties live in properties with rents that average $350 per month. Profit-driven construction and maintenance of these units in combination with other factors can result in many hard working families spending a majority of their income on substandard and unsafe housing.

“As the University approaches its Centennial Celebration, the Campus Chapter and New Horizons are working together to sponsor a Habitat home in Schley County,” said Tom Weiland, Ph.D., campus chapter adviser. “This project, called the GSW-Schley County Centennial House, is part of an effort to get faculty, students, staff and alumni more involved in community service and outreach.”

Martha Howard and her daughter, Sebrena, have been selected as homeowners for the GSW-Schley County Centennial House, Weiland said. Martha works as a teacher’s aid at Schley County Elementary School. She volunteered often with the first Habitat Schley County home, not knowing that she would be chosen for the next New Horizons Habitat home. Sebrena is a sixth grade student that loves sports.

Initial construction is planned for Fall 2005 with several Build Days to be scheduled for different University groups including alumni. GSW’s Habitat Campus Chapter has more than 100 members.

Approximately $25,000 of the $40,000 needed to build the Centennial House has been raised. Donations are appreciated. Please make checks payable to New Horizons-GSW Centennial House and mail to New Horizons Habitat, 512 Spring Street, Americus, GA 31709.

For more information, contact Dr. Tom Weiland at (229) 931-2327 or e-mail: tjw@canes.gsw.edu. The Web site is here: www.gsw.edu/~gswhfhc/.

Fund Raising Events

■ Inaugural Drive It Home Golf Tournament and Dinner at the GSW Golf and Conference Center was held Nov. 12, 2004. This event raised over $3,000 as more than 70 golfers supported the effort. A similar event is planned for next year and alumni are encouraged to participate.

■ 12th Annual Run-Americus May 14. The 5-K road race follows a course through town that begins and ends at GSW’s Education Center. Habitat for Humanity International and GSW’s Habitat Campus Chapter sponsored the event with all proceeds benefiting the GSW-Schley House.