Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed an enjoyable holiday, had the opportunity to share time with family and friends, and are ready for the new academic year.

On the heels of the increase in enrollment we had the past fall, the initial enrollment numbers for spring 2017 also show an uptick in enrollment compared with spring 2016. This growth demonstrates that Kennesaw State has established its position as a destination campus and a first choice for students interested in pursuing a college education.

This does not come as a surprise to those of us who have witnessed the incredible growth this university has gone through in a relatively short span of time. New programs, enhanced student services, qualified faculty, increased opportunities for experiential learning, and a vibrant campus life have made Kennesaw State a destination campus.

On the personnel front, we have several announcements:

- After a review of candidates, Lectra Lawhorne has been named chief information officer for KSU. Lectra joined KSU in 1999 and has held several IT positions. In June, she was named interim CIO. Please join me in congratulating Lectra on her appointment.

- Jeff Milsteen joins KSU as chief legal counsel. Jeff previously served as chief deputy attorney general of Georgia for 19 years, where he was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Georgia Department of Law. Jeff's extensive public service background and leadership experience will be a continued asset to the University. Meanwhile, I would like to thank Andrew Newton for his leadership as interim chief legal counsel.

- Andrew has been an incredible partner during the transition, and I am grateful for his hard work and effort. I look forward to continuing to get to know more of you and look forward to the year ahead.

- Sincerely,

President

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Research and Grants Report

- The Peach State State Tobacco Monopoly Reinvestment Committee is offering an ongoing effort to provide support to colleges and universities across the state to increase the number of underrepresented minority students in research, engineering, technology, and mathematics fields. The request will be renewed in 2018 for an additional five years. The Kennesaw State and Kennesaw State University campuses have each been awarded $650,000 over five years.

- The Wicke Foundation renewed support for the Center for Sustainable Practice's online course, “Modern Day Youth Today.” This course is designed to affect youth, including values, justice, youth development, and engagement, and will be open for registration starting soon.

- The Wallace Foundation awarded the Center for Sustainable Practice's online course, “Modern Day Youth Today,” a $250,000 grant to support the course. The Center for Sustainable Practice is a continued asset to the University.

- Associate Professor of Sociology Brian Marks received a $22,778 grant for his research on “The Public and Private Lives of Catholic Bishops in the United States” for a continued asset to the University.

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KSU in the News

Cobb to Focus

- Cobb/Oklahoma Teacher Receives $400 Win

Marietta Daily Journal

- The Oklahoma

- The Oklahoma

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Athletics

- KSU: See It, Seize It

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Good combines passion with obligation

Michael Daugherty, a criminal justice and Honors College grad, looks forward to continuing his work in the field of law enforcement with his passion for dogs.

A Mousett’s Life

- The Mouse is a role model for many at both Southern Poly and Kennesaw State, and Andrew Bougarde has made the most of his years at Kennesaw State.

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Student-athletes score well in the classroom

- The snapshot indicates academic performances from men's tennis and women's basketball. Kennesaw State athletes are expected another successful semester in the classroom this past fall.

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KSU: See It, Seize It

- See KSU students choose to seize opportunities at Kennesaw State.