

**Board of Trustees***William B. Dupree, III*  
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The mission of the SGTC Foundation Board of Trustees is to support the mission of the college; to promote the college within the designated service area and the state at large; to serve as advisors in the advancement for the college; and to plan and implement resource development activities.

**SGTC Foundation Hosts Donor Appreciation Dinner**

The South Georgia Technical College (SGTC) Foundation paid tribute to the Late Roy L. Parker, III, at its Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner recently.

Parker was a member of the first graduating class at South Georgia Technical College in 1949 and was a faithful supporter of his Alma Mater. He was a charter member of the SGTC Foundation and served on the Board of Trustees continuously until his death on July 4, 2006. He served as chair of the Foundation Board of Trustees in 2003 and 2004.

"At this time, I would like to recognize the Late Roy L. Parker, III, for his outstanding service to the South Georgia Technical College Foundation," said SGTC President Sparky Reeves as he presented Liza Parker with the Distinguished Excellence Award for Outstanding Service in memory of her husband. This is the highest honor bestowed by the Foundation.

"South Georgia Technical College lost a dear friend and supporter when Mr. Parker passed away. We will miss him. It is only fitting that he be recognized

with this award," said Reeves.

Following the presentation to the Parker family, State Representative Mike Cheokas, immediate past president of the Foundation, presented Mrs. Parker with a special framed resolution from the Georgia House of Representatives honoring the life and accomplishments of her husband.

In addition to the tribute to Roy Parker, the SGTC Foundation also recognized emeritus trustees Anna Cheokas and Betty Pope.

Cheokas, an outstanding local artist who served on the Foundation Board from 1990-1995, presented Pope and South Georgia Technical College with one of her original hand drawings of the John M. Pope Industrial Technology Center. The framed drawing is on display in the Pope Center. Pope was awarded Emeritus Trustee membership in 2001.

The SGTC Foundation's Donor Appreciation Dinner utilized the theme "Growing in Education at SGTC."

Reeves welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation to contributors for their support not only to SGTC but also to the students that the college serves.

William "Ben" Dupree, chair of



Liza Parker accepts the Distinguished Excellence Award for Outstanding Service presented by SGTC President Sparky Reeves in memory of her late husband, Roy L. Parker, III.

the Foundation, highlighted the 2006 accomplishments and the financial impact the Foundation has had on the college over the past year.

"During this past year alone, the Foundation provided SGTC with services valued at approximately \$500,000," said Dupree.

Projects funded during the year included but are not limited to: raising over \$350,000 during the TechForce 2006 campaign to fund renovations to the existing residence halls that will add private bathrooms and efficiency kitchens, and awarding 46 scholarships to students on the Americus and the Cordele campuses.

The Foundation also purchased state-of-the-art equipment for new programs on the Crisp County campus, assisted with expenses to send a student to the state Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy (EAGLE) Competition, hosted the annual Griffin B. Bell convocation, and purchased a parcel of land at the corner of



SGTC President Sparky Reeves, Betty Pope and Anna Cheokas are shown above with the original hand rendering of the John M. Pope Industrial Technology Center that Anna Cheokas presented to SGTC and Betty Pope.

*Continued on page 2*

# Scholarships Awarded

January-June 2007

## Culinary Arts Book Scholarship

Melisha Aldrige  
Doris Angry  
Willie Lee Dennard, Jr.  
Curtis Moore  
Carolyn Reddick  
Alicia Tyrer

## CCHS Class of '65 Scholarship

Alishia Gibbs

## Dr. Harold Holloway Scholarship

Pamela Harden

## Sumter Co. Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship

Melinda Davis  
Ami Dozier

## Leon F. Strickland Scholarship

Jon Donnelly

## CAT Excellence Scholarship

David Cox  
Bobby Prince  
Thomas Robison

## Jimmy Carter GED Scholarship

Rachel Gejger  
Judith Riddle  
Karem Jamal Volley  
Donnie Faye Patterson  
Earl J. Smith

## JETS Bucks Scholarship

Te'Keysia S. Thornton  
Caron Hodgins  
Gussie M. Franklin  
Brandon Pool  
Taneka Bentley  
Lisa T. Allen  
Beverly Goodman  
Sloane Sanford  
Brandon Poole  
Smantha Combs

## Country Cruisers Car Club

Scholarship  
Travis Goodin

## Roy Lee Smith Scholarship

Tony Watson  
Angela Jordan  
Brandon Mathis  
Dontrell Sol

## Elizabeth Duke Redmond

Scholarship  
Thomas Mayberry

## J. Sullivan Scholarship

Keith E. Bell, Sr.

# Patrick, Torbert Named to Trustee Board

Daniel L. Torbert of Americus and Willie J. Patrick of Cordele were elected to serve as members of the South Georgia Technical College Foundation Board of Trustees earlier this year and attended their first quarterly meeting of the Foundation on June 5.

William B. "Ben" Dupree, Chairman of the South Georgia Technical College Foundation and South Georgia Technical College President Sparky Reeves presented Torbert and Patrick with a copy of the SGTC Foundation Board manual complete with by-laws, policies and procedures, at their initial meeting and welcomed them to the Board.

Torbert and Patrick join 19 other members in assisting the South Georgia Technical College Foundation in carrying out its mission to support and promote South Georgia Technical College as well as serve as advisors in the advancement of the college and to plan and implement resource development activities.



Chair Ben Dupree (l) and SGTC President Sparky Reeves (r) present Dan Torbert and Willie Patrick with Board packets.

With the focus of serving as college ambassadors, the Board of Trustees is vital in keeping the college linked to the community. Through an annual drive and other initiatives, the Foundation focuses on raising friends and funds for scholarships, equipment, state-of-the-art facilities, and other projects that provide students the capability to be successful.

## Annual Donor Dinner Continued from page 1

Highway 19 and South Georgia Tech Parkway for a second directional sign for the college.

SGTC President Sparky Reeves and Su Ann Bird, director of Resource Development and Marketing, presided over the awards ceremony in presenting several awards to individuals and companies who made substantial contributions during 2006.

Award recipients at the Silver Club level for lifetime giving included Georgia Power Company, Liza and the Late Roy L. Parker, III, Roy Lee and the Late Susan Smith, Weyerhaeuser, and MetroPower Company.

Andrea and Russell Thomas, Jr. were presented with the Bronze Club award; and Hinkle Metals of Columbus, the Junior Service League and Wal-Mart SuperCenter of Americus were awarded the Scholar's Club for lifetime giving.

Twenty-three donors were awarded the President's Club recognition for annual giving. These donors included: Americus-Sumter Payroll Development Authority, Aramark Services, Caterpillar Foundation, Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund, Inc., A. James Clark, Crisp County Board of Commissioners, Crisp County Power Commission, Crisp Regional Hospital, Inc., Flint Energies Foundation, Georgia Power, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Harris, Sr., Hinkle Metals and Supply Company, Lockheed Martin Assembly Services, MetroPower, Norbord, Mrs. Liza and the late Roy Parker, III, Mrs. John M. Pope, Mr. Roy Lee and the late Susan Smith, Sumter Electric Membership Corporation, Andrea and

Russell Thomas, Weyerhaeuser, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Wheeler, and a donor who wished to remain anonymous.

Two endowed scholarships were also initiated in 2006. Reeves presented Betty Pope and Mr. and Mrs. William S. Harris, Sr. with framed certificates for the new endowed scholarships. Pope funded the Pope Construction Scholarship in memory of her late husband, John M. Pope. Bill and Ann Harris founded the Harris Scholarship for students in the business programs at SGTC.

Three individuals representing seven different Caterpillar dealers made a presentation of \$25,000 to the SGTC Foundation at the dinner in support of the college's Diesel Equipment Technology and the Caterpillar Think BIG programs. Jeff Cornwell of Yancey Brothers in Albany and Austell; Kyle Sims of Thompson Tractor in Birmingham, AL; and Rick Krinock of Kelly Tractor in Miami, FL made the presentation on behalf of their three dealerships as well as Ring Power in St. Augustine, FL; Thompson Machinery in Laverne TN, Stowers Machinery Corporation in Knoxville, TN, and Puckett Machinery in Jackson, MS.

The Caterpillar Foundation will present the SGTC Foundation with a matching \$25,000 donation.

Decorations for the event were provided by Ruth Jones and Gail Hooks. For the evening's entertainment, pianist Tom Wheeler of Americus performed a variety of arrangements while guests dined.

# Loudermilk Speaks at Bell Convocation

R. Charles Loudermilk, Sr., chairman and CEO of Aaron Rents, Inc., spoke to a standing room-only crowd at the eighth annual Griffin Bell Convocation held in the John M. Pope Center at South Georgia Technical College.

"I am in love with the rental business," said Loudermilk, who shared with the crowd that he started his multi-billion dollar business with a \$500 loan.

"This has been a great ride and I still love the rental business today as much as when I first started."

Aaron Rents grew from a humble beginning. Loudermilk started the business by renting Army surplus folding chairs for a dime a day at auctions and other events. The company is now the leader in rental, sales, and lease ownership and specialty retailing of residential and office furniture, consumer electronics and home appliances. Loudermilk chose the name Aaron because he wanted to be the first one in the phone book.

Today the company has more than 1,400 stores in 47 states and Canada and has several manufacturing companies that make the furniture he rents in his stores.

"When I was just starting out, a friend of mine remarked that in the United States if someone was willing to work hard and get an education,



Pictured at the Griffin Bell Convocation are (l to r) Rick Whaley, SGTC President Sparky Reeves, Griffin B. Bell, Charles Loudermilk, and Mike Cheokas.

there was no reason why they can't become a millionaire. I remember that exact moment. I also thought to myself, that I will work hard enough to become a millionaire."

Loudermilk surpassed that goal and this year his company reported over \$2 billion in revenue.

In closing, Loudermilk said that it was an honor for him to be able to share the stage with his good friend Griffin Bell, a great American.

Each year, the SGTC Foundation presents the Griffin B. Bell Convocation in an effort to bring outstanding individuals with expertise in business, science, or technology to the SGTC campus to encourage and inspire young people. Bell, former United States Attorney General under President Carter's administration, provided an endowment for the initiation and continuation of this program.

## Foundation Makes Donation to Sumter Regional

The SGTC Foundation presented the Sumter Regional Hospital Foundation with a donation in honor of Judge Griffin Bell following the eighth annual Griffin Bell convocation held at SGTC campus recently.

"We are pleased to be able to recognize Judge Bell with a gift to the Sumter Regional Hospital Foundation in his honor," said SGTC President Sparky Reeves. "Judge Bell is a tremendous asset to South Georgia Tech and to our community as well as the entire nation. We know that he realizes how important restoring Sumter Regional Hospital is to our community."

Reeves presented the check in honor of Judge Bell to SRH CEO David Seagraves, SRH Foundation Board member John Argo, and SRH Foundation Chair Brent Williams.

In addition to the gift to the Sumter Regional Hospital Foundation, the South Georgia Technical College Foundation also presented Judge Bell with a certificate for two large dogwood trees for his home here in Americus.

Bell's home was in the direct path of the tornado that hit Americus and Sumter County on March 1. His home sustained damage as well as over 200 fully grown pine trees.



(l to r) SGTC President Sparky Reeves and Griffin Bell present a donation to SRH CEO David Seagraves and SRH Foundation Board members John Argo and Brent Williams, chair.

## Scholarships cont.

**Bill & Ann Harris Scholarship**  
Cassius L. King

**Ruth T. Patterson Scholarship**  
Stephanie Brady  
Evonne McKinnon

**Sullivan Book Scholarship**  
Kenyata Dowdell

## Scholarship Endowments

**Leon F. Strickland Scholarship**  
Endowed by Ruth Jones

**Glover Foods Scholarship**  
Endowed by Glover Foods

**Bill & Ann Harris Scholarship**  
Endowed by Bill and Ann Harris

## Smith Provides Tools for Success



South Georgia Technical College Industrial Electrical Technology (IET) students are benefiting from a special donation made to the SGTC Foundation from Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lee Smith in honor of SGTC IET Instructor William Mathis.

Mathis, who has been teaching IET for the past 10 years, asked that the donation be used to purchase tools for students to use in his classes.

"The Smith's have been extremely generous and I appreciate them making this donation in my honor," said Mathis. "Because Mr. Roy Lee is such a special and unique person, I wanted to purchase tools with his donation that are just as unique."

Mathis invited Smith to the IET classroom to see the new piece of equipment and to enjoy a chili lunch with various SGTC instructors and staff.

# Ground Breaking held for Susan Smith Dorm Wing

The Roy Lee Smith family was recognized for their contributions to help "Build a Brighter Future" on the South Georgia Technical College campus recently. The college held a ground breaking ceremony for the first wing of dorm rooms in James Hall to undergo renovations, which will be named in memory of Susan Kay Rodgers Smith.

Roy Lee and Susan Smith, philanthropists, have been benefactors and supplied grants for Georgia Sheriff's Youth Homes as well as South Georgia Technical College and Georgia Southwestern State University.

Mrs. Smith passed away in December of 2006 and Roy Lee Smith made a donation to the SGTC Foundation in memory of his wife to help provide students with safe, modern, and affordable on-campus housing.

South Georgia Tech is one of only two technical colleges in the state to offer on-campus housing. SGTC's dormitories were built in the 1950's with community-style restrooms. This past year, the SGTC Foundation initiated a fund raising drive designed to help renovate the existing residence halls to include private bathrooms and efficiency kitchens.

"We are here today to honor the memory of Susan Smith," said SGTC President

Sparky Reeves, at the ground breaking ceremony. "Susan Smith was a wonderful lady and the word that comes to mind when I think of Susan is gracious. She truly cared about people, especially young people who needed help."

In addition to the donation for the renovation of the existing dorm rooms, Roy Lee and Susan Smith have provided 22 scholarships to SGTC students through their endowed scholarship fund and additional donations.

After his opening comments Reeves asked members of the Smith family if they would like to say a few words.

"Susan cared a great deal about helping kids get an education," said Roy Lee Smith, who attended the ceremony with his two daughters and son-in-law, Lisa Ann Smith of Cumming and Deborah and Walter Stapleton of Americus.

"Daddy said it all," said Deborah Stapleton. "We appreciate this opportunity to be here today and honor my mother."

Members of the SGTC Foundation Board



(l to r) Walter Stapleton, Deborah Smith Stapleton, Roy Lee Smith, Lisa Ann Smith, and SGTC President Sparky Reeves all took part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and friends attended the brief ceremony held in front of the James Hall wing that is being named in honor of Susan Smith.

The South Georgia Technical College Foundation raised approximately \$700,000 toward the \$2 million renovation of James Hall. The renovation is being done in stages to allow South Georgia Technical College to continue to house students in the other wings in James Hall.

SOUTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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*Look for TechForce 2007 materials arriving  
in your mailbox in September!*