Take flight, mighty Owl! Your KSU journey begins here. Your legacy starts now.

Your territory is the third largest in the Georgia state system, with almost 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students representing 132 countries. That's a lot of landscape – but with your four-foot wingspan, acute nighttime vision, networked communication, and your impressive ability to digest massive amounts of information in one sitting – we know you're up for the challenge.

In your powerful talons you carry a living piece of history. Presented by the Kennesaw State University Alumni Association, The Black and Gold Book is the University’s official student traditions book – chronicling the past, informing the present, and championing the future. This book is your go-to guide and instant resource for useful information designed to enhance your campus experience and make it even more meaningful and memorable.

You’re part of the parliament now! Get involved in as many diverse experiences as you can. Join a student organization. Get to know birds of a different feather. Build on-campus nests and explore virtual terrains. Study at Sturgis and relax on the Campus Green. Take a photo at Thinking Rock and enjoy Fried Chicken Thursdays at The Commons.

Celebrate your University’s rich traditions and make your own history – then extend the KSU legacy to the next generation.

And that’s how we fly here in Owl Country.
Chapter 1 | Welcome to Owl Country

Message from KSU President, Dr. Daniel Papp................................. 8
Message from KSU Alumni Association President, Billy Hayes ......... 9
Become a Traditions Keeper................................................................. 10
Your Tradition Begins Today .............................................................. 11
Sink your Clutches into KSU Traditions: Clutch Council.............. 12

Chapter 2 | Your New Nest

Message from KSU Dean of Students, Dr. Michael Sanseviro ......... 14
Campus Experience: Expand Your Wings.......................................... 15
Campus Housing: Feather Your Nest.................................................. 17
Campus Hot Spots .............................................................................. 18
Campus Locations: Explore Your Terrain ......................................... 20
Campus Events & Ceremonies: Reach New Heights....................... 21
Words of Wisdom from Wise Owls: KSU Deans ......................... 22

Chapter 3 | Join the Parliament

KSU Alma Mater.................................................................................. 24
KSU Fight Song .................................................................................. 25
KSU Mascot: Scrappy the Owl............................................................. 26

Chapter 4 | KSU History

KSU Timeline (1963-present).............................................................. 28
KSU Presidents.................................................................................. 30

Chapter 5 | KSU Traditions

KSU Student Traditions...................................................................... 34
Traditions Checklist........................................................................... 35
KSU Fun Facts.................................................................................... 40
Lost Traditions .................................................................................. 44
Campus Legends & Superstitions....................................................... 46

Chapter 6 | Keeping Traditions Alive

Owl Over The World.......................................................................... 50
Owls In Service .................................................................................. 51
Programs For The Parliament.......................................................... 52
Owl Nests ........................................................................................... 54
Special Thanks and Acknowledgements......................................... 55
Chapter One

Welcome to OWL COUNTRY!
You’ve joined one of the most talented and diverse student bodies in the great State of Georgia, and over the next few years you’ll interact with some of the most accomplished faculty and staff in the nation. I hope you’ll be as proud of your relationship with Kennesaw State as I am.

Your University’s legacy is built on a foundation of academic excellence and student engagement. Because effective teaching and student-focused learning are KSU’s primary institutional priorities, you’ll find that faculty, staff, and administrators are passionate about creating a challenging environment. Beyond your academic preparation, you’ll develop global and multicultural perspectives as well as lifelong skills in critical thinking, effective communication, conflict management, social responsibility, and leadership.

I encourage you to make the most of your college journey by taking advantage of all Kennesaw State has to offer. You’ll be challenged intellectually and stretched in new and exciting ways, and you’ll be supported along the way by every member of the KSU community. Perhaps more importantly, you’ll be supported by the friendships you’ll make here – some of which will last a lifetime.
Welcome to Owl Country!

From its beginning in 1963 as Kennesaw Junior College to today, KSU has achieved remarkable growth and excellence. I am proud to call this University my own and honored to serve as President of your Alumni Association.

The mission of the Association is to build relationships, provide value, and support the University. I encourage you not to wait until you leave our hallowed campus to learn about and get involved with us. Engagement in Association activities both now and in the future will help you build relationships and will contribute to the value of the degree you’ll earn.

As a lifelong member of Owl Country – a growing network of more than 63,000 graduates active locally and around the world – I hope you will join me in supporting your university by getting involved with the KSU Alumni Association today.

Billy Hayes, MBA ‘01
President
Kennesaw State University Alumni Association
Keep Traditions Sacred: Become a KSU Traditions Keeper

KSU maintains a dynamic and enduring culture; take full advantage of the opportunity to contribute to its story and leave your legacy for future generations. You can use your Black and Gold book to help you stay on track!

Your Black and Gold book gives you dedicated space to record your favorite KSU traditions. It's the place where you'll capture your experiences AND make your own memories!

Here's how to do it in four easy steps:

Step 1:
Become a part of Clutch Council, the Alumni Association’s student group.

Step 2:
Complete the traditions checklist in Chapter 5. Memorialize your history by snapping photos of you and your friends as you check off each tradition.

Step 3:
Bring your Owl Legacy book to the Alumni House on TRADITIONS DAY (follow us on social media to know when this is) and have it stamped. Complete any 10 traditions and you’ll earn an Owls key chain (a long-standing tradition you’ll read about later…). Complete any 20 traditions and you’ll earn a Traditions T-shirt.

Step 4:
Complete all traditions to become an official KSU Traditions Keeper. You’ll receive a pewter license plate frame so you can ride with pride.
Your Traditions Begin Today!

It is up to you to make the most of your college years in **Owl Country**. Make it your goal to experience as much as you can – every day – and take full advantage of the legacy that has been left for you to embrace and enhance.

**Whoooo doesn’t love great swag?**

**Owl Country** is full of great swag! The more you participate in campus activities, the more you get. Start the process by joining Clutch Council today and get your first swag bag.

**Owl in!**

Owls fly with other members of the parliament and mingle with local and regional partners. Owls also gain valuable leadership opportunities through their involvement with Alumni Association groups. There is always a place for active Owls to engage and grow. Fill out the Clutch Council application near the end of this book to start the process.

**Then, get involved!**

Immerse yourself in these traditions and create new ones. As a part of Clutch Council, share what you’ve learned and take on the task of adding it to the next edition of *The Black and Gold Book*, helping to share KSU’s enduring culture with your fellow Owls.
Sink Your “Clutches” Into KSU Traditions

Aptly named because clutch is the term given to a group of young owls, Clutch Council is a registered student organization that pulls together KSU’s youngest Owls to begin their affiliation with the Alumni Association while still a student.

Clutch Council:

- Creates a strong network of students and alumni committed to supporting special groups, programs, and events;
- Identifies and supports mentoring and networking opportunities between alumni and students; and
- Establishes a legacy of leadership among current students and future alumni through planning campus events, service projects, and program initiatives.

Clutch Council is the best way to become a campus leader, embrace your alumni community, and make Kennesaw State your own!
Chapter Two

Your NEW NEST
Congratulations, and welcome to Kennesaw State University! As Dean of Students, my role is to assist you in experiencing everything that university life has to offer, which includes promoting and enhancing campus traditions. Your alma mater is student-centered, which is why we have a division called “Student Success.”

Just as each academic college has a dean to ensure outstanding in-class experiences, the dean of students supports your academic experiences by fostering learning beyond the classroom. Your holistic college experience must include a strategic balance of academic, co-curricular, social, and civic engagement.

Think of my office as the “concierge” of the university. If you or your parents need assistance and are unsure where to turn, start with us! We are here to help.

I look forward to helping you create success here at KSU and beyond!
Campus Experience: Expand Your Wings

There’s a lot to see and do, Great Horned One, but you’re a remarkable creature: your talons will hold up to three times your body weight and you can rotate your head 360° without cutting off the blood supply to your brain. So rock those plumicorns, stretch those stealth-wings, and start flying!

During your time in Owl Country, your journey will take you in many directions and to many places. While this is just a glimpse of what your campus has to offer, landing in these places will set your flight path for excellence and engagement.

EXCEL

The Bentley Rare Book Gallery serves as a dynamic learning space and a repository for rare items such as a lunar map and one of the 20 original copies of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

The Center for Student Leadership focuses on leadership education and experience to prepare you to become engaged citizens.

Education Abroad allows you to earn credit hours while discovering new cultures…for a summer or a semester!

First-Year and Transition Studies will help you build the foundation necessary to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

The Lifelong Learning Center enhances the University experience by providing resources, programs, and services specifically designed for students returning to college or starting college later in life.
Student Assistance for Leadership in Teaching (S.A.L.T.) provides student assistance to faculty who wish to work on projects that contribute to their instructional and professional development.

Student Success Services helps with educational, career, and personal concerns from a trained staff of counselors, specialists, and advisors.

Sturgis Library offers a wealth of resources from resource books to research assistance.

ENGAGE

Clutch Council pulls together KSU’s youngest Owls to increase student awareness and engagement with the Alumni Association.

DisABLEd Support Services helps students with disabilities with their academic work.

Greek Life’s four governing councils serve as the umbrella organization for the 20 different fraternity and sorority chapters on campus.

KSU Athletics is a competing member of the Atlantic Sun NCAA Division I Conference, with 17 different men and women’s intercollegiate sports.

Residence Life is your on-campus living community and offers many programs, activities, and leadership opportunities.

Student Alumni Recruitment Society (STARS) perpetuates and promotes the traditions of KSU through prospective student recruitment.

Student Ambassadors act as official hosts for KSU and represent the University at a variety of special events throughout the year.

Student Government Association represents and legislates student body interests and issues.

Student Life supports and encourages participation in co-curricular activities as an integral part of your total education.

Student Media operates under the umbrella of the Student Media Board and includes The Sentinel, Talon Monthly, SHARE Art & Literary Magazine, OWL Radio, OWL TV, and the student-run marketing team.

The Student Recreation and Wellness Center fosters the holistic integration of your physical, social, and leadership development through sport and recreation activities.

The Veteran’s Resource Center develops and implements outreach programs focusing on military veterans, service members, dependents, and survivors.
Campus Housing: Feather Your Nest

Living on campus offers many opportunities to experience your new territory. KSU Resident Assistants serve as mentors, leaders, conflict managers, programmers, community builders, policy enforcers, resource referral agents, helpers, counselors, and friends to approximately 3,500 residential students living on campus. Students have a lot of options, including KSU Place, University Place, University Village, and University Village Suites.

Living on campus also makes you a beneficiary of **FYRE**: the **First Year Residence Experience**. FYRE is a year-long series of events which begins with a conference covering everything from life skills to academic processes, including personal tours of campus which guide students through their daily schedule so they know just where to go for each class. The culmination of the program is a celebration at the end of the year, recognizing the successful completion of a year of coursework and personal growth!
A sense of time and place is important to all dynamic and enduring cultures. The KSU campus offers meaningful locations for you to study, explore, dream, and relax with friends. And, of course, to sleep.

A note to the wise Owl: This pictorial of hot spots is meant to inform where you might perch, not as a flight guide since it is not a true campus map.

Waffle House
Where KSU’s second president, Dr. Betty Siegel, has a table named in her honor.

Alumni House
...63 Days Until.. The go-to spot for student-alumni programs and initiatives.

Thinking Rock
The Alpha and Omega rock.

Prillaman Hall
Owls love the outside patio of this LEED Gold-Certified Health Sciences Building.

Sturgis Library
Be a wise owl: Study hard.

Convocation Center
Hoot for our fantastic athletic teams!

Music & Entertainment Business Programs
Zac Brown Band bassist, John Driskell Hopkins, teaches here.

International House
Expand your horizons.

Waffle House

A sense of time and place is important to all dynamic and enduring cultures. The KSU campus offers meaningful locations for you to study, explore, dream, and relax with friends. And, of course, to sleep.

A note to the wise Owl: This pictorial of hot spots is meant to inform where you might perch, not as a flight guide since it is not a true campus map.

Waffle House
Where KSU’s second president, Dr. Betty Siegel, has a table named in her honor.
WAFFLE HOUSE

Spot

Art Galleries & Museums
Zuckerman Museum of Art. KSU creative hub.

Bailey Family Performing Arts Center
Michael Alexander, GSO music director, teaches here.

Legacy Gazebo
Amphitheater of the gazebo built by faculty and staff in honor of retired faculty/staff.

University Village
Fountain
Pitch a penny, make a wish.

Carmichael Student Center
Indoor hub for student activity.

Campus Green
Outdoor hub for student activity; every great university has one.

The Commons
Fried Chicken. Thursdays. Need we say more?

Student Recreation Center
Work those wings.

Student Health Services
Be a healthy owl: Get your shots.

Legacy Gazebo
Amphitheater of the gazebo built by faculty and staff in honor of retired faculty/staff.

Art Galleries & Museums
Zuckerman Museum of Art. KSU creative hub.

Thinking Rock
The Alpha and Omega rock.

Convocation Center
Hoot for our fantastic athletic teams!

Prillaman Hall
Owls love the outside patio of this LEED Gold-Certified Health Sciences Building.

Thinking Rock
The Alpha and Omega rock.

University Village
Fountain
Pitch a penny, make a wish.

International House
Expand your horizons.

Music & Entertainment
Business Programs
Zac Brown Band bassist, John Driskell Hopkins, teaches here.

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The Alpha and Omega rock.

University Village
Fountain
Pitch a penny, make a wish.
The Commons

STUDENT CULINARY CENTER

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Campus Locations: Explore Your Terrain

Food that just might be even better than Mom’s {gasp!}

The Commons is an award-winning dining facility that’s so much more than a place to eat: it’s a central gathering place and a social hub. It’s the public square where the KSU community convenes to share good conversation and novel ideas over home-cooked style and culturally diverse meals.

Other Campus Eateries:
Campus Events & Ceremonies:
Reach New Heights

Events and ceremonies provide important rituals and rites of passage that are critical to preserving culture and extending traditions. Make it a priority to experience as many of these activities as you can, and others that aren’t listed below.

Bazaar on the Bricks – Held annually, this event offers vendors the opportunity to interact with students, and revenue generated goes to student scholarships. Free food, Owl loot…

College Colors Day – Black-and-gold feathers flock together.

Commencement - Celebrate your success.

Cram Jam – A tradition that begins the last night of classes: Unwind and party in The Commons!

Crawfish Boil – Owls eat anything, including 500 pounds of Louisiana crawfish, jambalaya, corn, potatoes, and King Cakes at this annual event held in April at an Owls baseball game.

First-Year Convocation – A 12th-century tradition, a 21st-century induction.

Get in Gear (GIG) – Hosted by Residence Life, GIG begins the minute check-in opens.

Homecoming – This KSU tradition includes concerts, Owl Prowl, a parade, games and more.

Hoot-a-Palooza – Town Center Mall’s KSU Appreciation event held each fall.

KSU Day – Celebration on the Campus Green hosted each spring by the Kennesaw Activities Board (KAB).

KSU Day at the Braves – Hoot it up for the Atlanta Braves!

Lectures (American Democracy Project, College-sponsored, Year-of Events…the list goes on!) – Year-long programs exist for you; find your area of interest and participate in the offerings!

Monster Ball – A huge Halloween party that offers students a forum for socializing beyond the classroom.

Orientation – Owls get acclimated to Owl Country.

Owls Making Strides 5K “Race for the Cure” – Owls take care of their own.

Week of Welcome (WOW) - A series of events around campus that kick off the first day of classes and envelope you into Owl Country culture.

Wings Ceremony – Owls honor faculty Owls and family.

63 Days Until Graduation – A series of events to help you prepare to leave the nest.
Wise Owls = Words of Wisdom

The deans of KSU’s nine colleges know what it takes to be successful—they’ve offered a few words of wisdom for our parliament newbies!

“Get involved in the arts on campus: see a play, attend a music or dance concert, or view an art exhibit. It will enrich your overall experience at Kennesaw State and prepare you for success in the future.”
— College of the Arts, Dr. Patty Poulter

“Get to know your professors by going to office hours regularly, but especially in the first two weeks of the semester.”
— College of Science and Mathematics, Dr. Mark Anderson

“Embrace your passion for life and choose a career that supports your lifelong happiness.”
— WellStar College of Health and Human Services, Dr. Richard Sowell

“Pick your passion and pursue it! And you just might find it in CHSS.”
— College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Robin Dorff

“Embrace every opportunity during your college experience...study hard, play hard and invest in others.”
— Coles College of Business, Dr. Kathy Schwaig

“At the end of each day, reflect on what you have learned, both in your classes and outside of your classes.”
— Bagwell College of Education, Dr. Arlinda Eaton

“A postgraduate degree will equate to a higher lifetime salary.”
— Graduate College, Dr. Charles Amlaner

“College should be some of the best years of your life. Find the balance between academics, community service, and social activities. That balance will make your success a reality.”
— University College, Dr. Ralph Rascati

“Students with bachelor’s degrees will earn 85% more in a lifetime than those with a high school diploma. Get your degree.”
— College of Continuing and Professional Education, Dr. Barbara Calhoun
Chapter Three

Join THE PARLIAMENT
Join the Parliament:
KSU Alma Mater and Fight Song

A parliament is a group of owls, and as a brand new Owl you’re officially part of the KSU parliament.

You’re a passionate member of Owl Country and it shows in everything you do. You wear your black and gold with pride everywhere you go. You fly with dignity and soar above the crowd. You heed the call to action and you use your distinct and resounding call to make the world a better place—and to cheer on your fellow Owls!

KSU ALMA MATER

Kennesaw, dear Kennesaw,
Nestled in the Georgia pines,
What a special place you hold,
Treasured in this heart of mine.
For the candles you set burning,
Lighting paths of love and learning,
For the gifts you have given me,
Kennesaw, I will cherish thee.

Kennesaw, dear Kennesaw,
Fairest of the Southland’s fame,
Sons and daughters gathered here,
Stand to praise thy lovely name.
For the friendships that were made here,
For the dreams we dared to dream here,
Kennesaw, we will cherish thee,
Kennesaw, we will cherish thee.

—Lyrics by Cynthia Parks ’82

Though most often sung in formal, respectful environments, the alma mater is important to know to show pride in your University. Those in attendance when the alma mater is played are asked to stand, remove their hats (or caps), and sing along.
KSU FIGHT SONG

We are the owls
And we bring the fight,
All through the South-land,
All know our might!
From the moun-tain
We bring spi-rit, heart, and vic-to-ry!

LET’S GO OWLS!

Our men and wom-en bring
ho-nor and fame,
Strong in the class-room,
Strong in the game.
From the moun-tain
We bring spi-rit,
Kennesaw! It’s on to vic-to-ry!

GO OWLS!
FIGHT OWLS!
K-S-U! K-S-U!
We are the owls and
we bring the fight,
All through the South-land
All know our might.
From the moun-tain
We bring spi-rit,
Kennesaw! It’s on to vic-to-ry!

—Lyrics by James Sochinski (2012)

Download the KSU Fight Song on iTunes
and have it with you on the fly!
Join the Parliament: KSU Mascot

Your alma mater is known as “the Owls” and is based upon the Great Horned Owl.

In 1965, President Sturgis chose the owl to represent Kennesaw Junior College because of the bird’s wise demeanor and scholarly aspirations. In later years a live owl was purchased and literally hatched from a giant egg at a women’s basketball game. Shortly thereafter, Kennesaw College’s Athletic Director Dave Waples renamed the bird “Hooter.” The name didn’t stick—for obvious reasons!

Waples then wrote the word “O-W-L-S” and drew an owl’s face inside the letter “O.” The new bird resembled the University of Kansas “Jayhawk,” which was widely known as a powerful predator. The bird’s transformation caused Kennesaw’s assistant softball coach, Don McKinlay, to proclaim, “Boy, that owl looks scrappy!” The name stuck. In 1993, a new image was created for Scrappy.

Over time, Scrappy’s look has evolved. As you can see, Scrappy’s got a fierce look and he’s a formidable foe!

HOOTIE HOOT HOOT!
Chapter Four

Our KSU HISTORY
KSU History: The First 50 Years

Who would have guessed 50 years ago that a small campus at the intersection of Chastain and Frey roads in rural Cobb County would become home to one of the University System of Georgia’s fastest-growing, comprehensive, doctoral degree-granting universities? The last half century of progress began with a group of politically savvy visionaries of the early 1960s who understood the importance of higher education in meeting the needs of a growing population. In the 1962 gubernatorial campaign, the successful candidate, Carl Sanders, promised to build a junior college in neighboring Cartersville rather than Cobb County. But leaders from the Marietta-Cobb area had other ideas, and their superior arguments and political clout won over the Board of Regents and led to the creation of Kennesaw Junior College. (Read more of KSU’s exciting history at www.georgiaencyclopedia.org).

—Courtesy of Dr. Thomas A. Scott, KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY: THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS, 1963-2013
1982
KSC donor's Day celebration
1992
KSC is accepted by NCAA at Div. II level

1989
KSU raises $75.1 million during first-ever capital campaign
1992
Board of Regents approves KSU request to add football

1985
First Country Study programs begin with Year of Japan
1986
First individual (Golf) and team (Women’s Track) NAIA championships

1982
Intercollegiate athletics begin
1983
KC launches First-Year Experience Program
1985
KC offers first graduate programs
1988
Board of Regents approves KC name change to Kennesaw State College

1982
KC selects Gaudeamus Igitur as school alma mater.
1986
First individual (Golf) and team (Women’s Track) NAIA championships
1988
Board of Regents approves KC name change to Kennesaw State College

2007
KSU offers first doctoral degree program
2009
KSU attains NCAA Div. I status
2011
KSU raises $75.1 million during first-ever capital campaign
2012
Board of Regents approves first Ph.D. program
2013
Board of Regents approves KSU request to add football
KSU Presidents: Horace W. Sturgis

Dr. Sturgis became the first president of a yet unnamed north Georgia junior college on July 1, 1965, less than a year after the Board of Regents and city officials broke ground on the new campus in Kennesaw, Georgia.

While some decisions came easily to the new president, others did not. It was easy to determine school colors everyone would agree with – black from the University of Georgia and gold from Georgia Tech. It was equally easy to choose the owl as the school mascot so as to maintain an emphasis on scholastics.

Determining a name for the school proved to be a more difficult decision. In the tradition of several other schools around the state, Dr. Sturgis erroneously assumed that citizens would want the college to be named after the closest city. When he first ordered stationery it read “Marietta College,” which upset newspaper editors, mayors, and citizens alike. After much debate a consensus was reached; the school would be called Kennesaw Junior College.

The school opened its doors in 1966. The three main college buildings were not yet ready for occupancy, so those first students attended classes on the campus of Southern Tech (Southern Polytechnic State University). By the time Dr. Sturgis retired on December 31, 1980, the school had added buildings, dropped “junior” from the official name of the school, and awarded its first bachelors degrees. Kennesaw State’s first president concluded, “we set out to build a quality institution and I think we have done that.”

Courtesy of Dr. Thomas A. Scott, History of Kennesaw State University
KSU Presidents: Betty L. Siegel

Betty Siegel was the first woman president in the history of the University System of Georgia. If President Sturgis brought dignity and credibility to Kennesaw State, Dr. Siegel added energy and enthusiasm at a time when the college’s story was not well known.

She devoted much attention to public relations, maintaining a full calendar of speaking engagements in the metropolitan area and throughout the country. She also worked to achieve a more inviting atmosphere on the Kennesaw campus. Her management style put great emphasis on teamwork. She established committees to discuss virtually every aspect of college life, including The View of the Future Committee, which produced a major institutional self-study. Out of this effort came a number of innovative programs and services such as the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Kennesaw State University Freshman Seminar (KSU 101).

Dr. Siegel’s commitment to ethical leadership, character education, and invitational learning extended beyond the classroom and into the larger community. As president of KSU, she founded the Center for Leadership, Ethics, and Character. In 2003, KSU renamed the center the Siegel Institute in her honor.

Dr. Siegel envisioned Kennesaw State University as a “University that matters, not just for what we teach, but how we teach people to live the good life, which is a life of service.”

Courtesy of Dr. Thomas A. Scott: History of Kennesaw State University and Kennesaw State University Office of President Emeritus
Daniel S. Papp became the third president of Kennesaw State University on July 1, 2006. As president of the third largest institution in the University System of Georgia, Dr. Papp brings the vision and leadership skills critical to enhancing KSU’s prominence nationally and internationally, in the areas of education, engagement, innovation, and economic expansion.

Under Dr. Papp’s leadership, KSU continues to attract highly qualified faculty, staff, and administrators to provide students with robust educational programming relevant to today’s marketplace. KSU has been recognized by Businessweek, Forbes, and U.S. News & World Report for its nationally ranked and accredited educational and business programs including first-year, data science, and part-time MBA programs. In May 2013, KSU awarded its first Ph.D. in International Conflict Management.

In addition to expanding academic programs, KSU has expanded on-campus housing, transitioning the university from a commuter college to a destination campus as part of its strategic plan to recruit and retain high caliber students and improve graduation rates. Recent campus development includes the completion of Prillaman Hall, the first LEED Gold-certified building in the Georgia system, and the $20.3 million addition to Bagwell College of Education, which is now under construction.

While continuing to emphasize a student-centered academic focus, KSU’s intercollegiate athletics and intramural programs have grown to include 17 NCAA Division 1 teams and more than 40 club sports. In 2013 the USG Board of Regents approved the 2015 launch of KSU football.

As a former college football player, Dr. Papp has always envisioned football at KSU. “We think that a football program adds to the overall student experience at a university. And we believe that it demonstrably helps improve retention and progression rates for students as well. Students get more involved with the institution, so the students are more likely to stay in school and are more likely to concentrate on their academics so they can stay in school.”
Chapter Five

Our KSU TRADITIONS
KSU Student Traditions

Share your pride in being a part of the parliament by participating in as many KSU traditions as possible. Traditions create a common bond and a unified community: some are rites of passage, some extend the KSU legacy, and many are just plain fun!

Start your journey today…seek out companions and fellow traditions-keepers to experience each of KSU’s enduring traditions in an order unique and personal to you. Don’t forget to check in with the Alumni Association to get your rewards and help us add more traditions to the list for future Owls. Enjoy the adventure!

Traditions Checklist
Check box. Take photo.
Preserve memory. Carry on.
**OWLS TAKE FLIGHT**
- Get oriented at orientation
- Join Clutch Council
- Enjoy at least one activity during Week of Welcome (WOW)
- Get inducted at First-Year Convocation
- Complete a First-Year Seminar course or Learning Community
- Live on Campus
- Study at Sturgis
- Work out at Recreation Center
- Visit the Bentley Rare Books Gallery
- Sit under the stars at a Legacy Gazebo concert
- Pose with a professor (Share your photos please!)
- Join a registered student organization or club
- Eat Fried Chicken (Thursdays at The Commons)
- Study abroad

**OWLS EXPLORE**
- Ponder deep thoughts at the Thinking Rock
- Land on Spaceship Earth
- Listen to Owl Radio
- Hang out with Leaning Man
- Discover The Phantom & The Worm
- Find the Midnight Watch Owl
- Lounge on The Green
- Visit the Concrete Canopy
- Run the Turkey Trot
- Take part in a COPE experience (Hint: ROTC)
- Meet the TURTLE (Hint: Center for Student Leadership)
- Learn the Alma Mater
- Sing the Fight Song (Like you mean it)
- Make Owl Eyes
- Give a Shirt About KSU (T-shirt swap)
- Have fun at Homecoming
- Attend KSU Day at the Braves
- Go to an Owls game
- Join in the fun at Bazaar on the Bricks
- Race for the Cure: Participate in Owls Making Strides 5K
- Pose with Scrappy
- Eat some crawfish with KSU Athletics
- Be a monster at Monster Ball
- Attend KSU Day at the Hawks
- “Chirp” with some owls (Hint: Residence Life)
- Fly a frisbee on the Green

**OWLS SUCCEED**
- Wear your First-Year Convocation pin with pride
- Participate in 63 Days Until Graduation
- Get help at Career Services
- Network at an Alumni Association event
- Get pinned (a gift given to you at Commencement)
- Leave the nest (Graduate!)
- Be an active and participating alumnus
Memories of your KSU Traditions
Preserve your memories here.

Black and Gold, Proud and Bold!
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Black and Gold, Proud and Bold!
KSU Fun Facts – Did You Know?...
Here are just a few interesting facts that you might not know about your university:

- The KSU Fight Song was composed in 2012 and first sang by students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the men’s basketball game against Mercer.

- The campus houses a 2,500 sq. ft. garden between the Commons and the Burruss Building.

- In 2001, the KSU public safety department added two new weapons to the arsenal – a mounted patrol starring a quarter horse named Pac-Man who was used for special occasions and events, and a European Shepherd trained to sniff out illegal drugs.

- KSU Center was originally an outlet mall. In 1999, the KSU Foundation purchased and renovated it to house the Division of Continuing Education and Coles College Executive Education Programs.

- Ever wonder why you can always find a spot in the Central Deck? Two parking decks were connected making the Central Deck the largest in the state.

- Wanna go for a swim? There once was a swimming pool in the recreation center, but due to mechanical and budget difficulties it was deemed unsafe. KSU turned the area into aerobics rooms. Don’t worry. The recreation center will soon have indoor and outdoor pools.

- First editions of works from Twain, Dickens, Kipling, Hemingway, and Tennyson are found in the Bentley Rare Books Room.

- Spaceship Earth was attacked by aliens! In reality, the piece of art didn’t have any support beams (rebar) inside, and the wrong type of adhesive was used, causing it to collapse.
KSU was built by faculty and staff members—well, not all of it, but faculty and staff came together to pitch in on last minute needs for the campus to open in 1967.

The first two sororities on campus were Delta Phi Epsilon and Phi Mu, both in 1989. Today we have 20 chapters of fraternities and sororities that make up our Greek life.

“Midnight Watch”, a bronze owl sculpted by an alumnus and perched by the Green, is a tribute to fallen Owls. In an annual ceremony, SGA reads the names of our lost.

The Rock at 575 is a Greek tradition. The painting of the rock is a rite of passage that is specific to each chapter yet shared by all 20 Greek organizations. Hundreds of layers of paint coat the rock.

A “locavore” is one who eats locally grown foods. It is also a term used for one who frequents the Commons.

“Grad Hats” have become quite the competition at commencement. Graduates decorate their hats with glitter, tape, and anything else to make a statement about their accomplishment.

The Clock Tower at University Place was built to appease those who wanted a Bell Tower built into the master plan.

Golden O Awards, originally a component of the Student Awards Ceremony to recognize student leaders and student organizations for their outstanding contributions to the campus community, are given each spring in a ceremony hosted by the Department of Student Life.
More KSU Fun Facts – Did You Know?...

KSU has a thriving gaming culture and supports gamers via a Game Room in the Student Center. Video games, board games, card games…it’s all here. There is a long-standing tradition that Tuesdays and Thursdays are video fight nights: you’ll find a crowd duking it out but, sorry Owls, you can no longer stay overnight…

Weather permitting, any given day finds students walking a slackline somewhere near The Green. Whether three feet off the ground or 10, you’ll catch fellow Owls performing backflips or other stunts on the inch-wide cord.

Rare in Georgia, the protected flower known as the Pink Lady Slippers (Cypripedium Acaule) grow in the large wooded area south of the Clendenin Building.

You don’t have to be a part of a campus club to enjoy the restfulness available on The Green. Just hang your hammock between some trees and be a part of another KSU tradition.

Proudly display those “Owl Eyes” at your next Athletics event! When originally created, students would display the Owl Eyes during basketball games when we were shooting free throws.

The Turkey Trot is an annual tradition that started in November 1977 when winners received frozen turkeys and/or turkey gift cards. Today, prizes for runners are a little less name specific…

The Teddy Bear Toss is an annual event where fans bring in a Stuffed Teddy Bear (or any stuffed animal really) to toss onto the court during half-time at a basketball game. The collected items are donated to a children’s shelter for the Holidays.
During the Vietnam War, KJC made world-wide news. While many colleges were shown with students protesting, KJC was snapped in a picture with a different view. A local newspaper showed the students on campus enjoying a relaxing day on the quad. The Associated Press ran the photo and it was published in The Stars and Stripes. The soldiers also took a fancy to one of the focal points of the picture, Stella Merritt. Because of the photo, KJC was adopted by at least three military companies in Vietnam as their peacetime counterpart.

Originating in the Junior College days (1974) and now hosted by the Kennesaw Activities Board, KSU Day is typically hosted every spring and is a time for students to come together for a carnival–type festival.

Elliot the Turtle was given to the Center for Student Leadership in honor of Dr. Siegel and her story of the turtle on the fencepost — to accomplish anything, we have to work as a team.

Beat shirts are given to students prior to Mercer games to promote the rivalry between the two Universities.

During the 1980s, graduates received key chains as a reminder of their alma mater from the Alumni Association. The key chain tradition has been revived as students who have petitioned to graduate are given this special token during the Alumni Association's 63 Days Until Graduation, a countdown of the days leading up to commencement filled with events, programs, and rewards.
Lost Traditions

Some traditions are gone forever. Others have been revived. Still others have undergone metamorphoses but the meaning remains the same. Traditions symbolize our collective beliefs, values, and attitudes; they help preserve our shared experiences.

Here are some of KSU’s lost traditions:

An important KSU tradition started way back in Kennesaw Junior College days when political science professor Dr. Ronald TeBeest wrote the KC Chant.

KC Chant

We are the Kennesaw Owls;  
Whoooooo are you?  
We are the Kennesaw Owls;  
Whoooooo are you?  
Well, we may fight and howl and root,  
But it’s because we give a HOOT!!

{Erupt in spontaneous hooting}

We are the Kennesaw Owls;  
Who are you, who are you?  
HOOOOOOOT!!!!!!

Incognito Owls

These mysterious night creatures seem to be everywhere—even when you can’t see ‘em! Though no one can confirm the legend, owls are said to “live” everywhere on campus. They’re carved into trees, traced into concrete, and hang around tree trunks throughout the campus terrain. Look closely…help confirm the legend of the Owl artist.

Colonel Bull’s Bull

No B.S. - Published weekly in The Sentinel, a lively exchange between Colonel Bulford Shite and KJC students. The stately colonel always “visited campus dressed in his full battle uniform, adorned with many medals and ribbons from the numerous battles and conquests that he participated in.” Apparently, the only battle Col. B.S. ever lost was the one at Cesspool Creek.
Ban PCP’s!
Diehard KJC students never wanted to be labeled P.C.P. students: Parking Lot. Classroom. Parking Lot. Dr. Siegel coined the acronym because, “I didn’t want our students to come and just have an in-class experience. I wanted them to have a total experience. I wanted them to have a life changing experience.”

Spring Festival
No phonies - KJC’s Spring Festival began in 1969 and was a weeklong event for students and faculty “during which time many people let down false pretenses of sophistication to try to be real people.”

Nocturnal Owls Never Die
University Place coffins - Shortly after being built, students told administrators that the planting beds at University Place looked like coffins. In that vein, students put colored dye in the coffins around “holidays” to reflect the season though red was a favorite year-round.

No Waffling!
Want some advice to go with those waffles? President Betty Siegel had her own table at the Waffle House on Frey Road and was said to have made many important decisions on those famous restaurant napkins. She’d then dispatch her trusted breakfast companions to deliver her mandates to the appropriate university employees for implementation. Today, you can sit at her esteemed table….just look for the inscribed gold plaque.
In the early 70s, The Phantom was a student reportedly involved in a series of capers on the KSU (then junior college) campus. He and his trusted wingman The Worm inhabited the storm drains that formed an extensive underground network on campus. The dynamic duo supposedly filled up the back of a campus security pickup with empty beer cans and then screeched in delight when the furious security guard dumped the empty cans onto the campus lawn...only to be called by campus administrators to retrieve his strewn debris from college grounds.

The Worm was a particularly noisy creature, especially in the midnight-to-dawn hours. Crawling through the college’s labyrinthine storm drains, The Worm would shriek an eerie howl, which was easily heard through the dozens of metal gratings strategically located throughout campus and linked to a larger underground system.

The identities of the The Phantom and The Worm have never been revealed. Perhaps they’re still underground?

Courtesy of University Relations
Kennesaw Magazine
Spring/Summer 1989 Vol. 4, no. 1
Gimme Shelter: Kennesaw State’s First Resident-Student

In 1980, campus security officers discovered a makeshift shelter in the woods on the south side of campus. Officers had grown suspicious after observing a young man making daily trips to campus from the woods.

Kennesaw State student Mike Goldberg told officers he’d been living in the shelter since the previous fall, showering in the gym each morning, attending classes, and earning enough money for meals in the Student Center by working on campus.

Courtesy of University Relations
Kennesaw Magazine
Spring/Summer 1989 Vol. 4, no. 1
Leaning Man

Once displayed proudly in the student center rotunda, the Leaning Man was a statue often used as a landmark for students. It was common to hear students say, “Let’s meet at the Leaning Man.” For many students, the Leaning Man also brought good luck; they would put coins in the cracks of the statue to bring them good luck before exams. When the Leaning Man was moved to the lobby of the Zuckerman Museum of Art, the coins were removed from the statue’s hollow legs and went into the Art Museum building fund.
Chapter Six

Keeping TRADITIONS ALIVE
“Owl” Over the World

From New York, NY to Montepulciano, Italy, Owls show their black and gold pride wherever they go!

When you get involved with the Alumni Association, you have opportunities to travel the United States and abroad. Through partnerships and our own hosted travel, the Association Travel Program is a perfect opportunity for Owls and their families and friends to meet new people while exploring new territories and experiencing new cultures. Traveling outside of the Association but have a contingent of Owls participating? Just let the Association know when and where you are going and we’ll send a flag with you. Take some photos (proudly displaying your black and gold!) and send them to us. Owls are a curious bunch; we’d love to share your travels with others!
Owls in Service

KSU Owls serve globally and locally – they make the world a better place by giving back to their communities.

Whether they’ve just returned from active duty or they’re actively involved in community outreach, KSU Owls continue to make a positive impact on the world!
Programs for the Parliament

Once you’ve become an Owl, the KSU Alumni Association is in place to ensure your engagement with KSU is a lasting one. In addition to Clutch Council and STARS, your Alumni Association offers a variety of specialized groups and programs for you to enjoy as a student. The items listed below are merely a few of the many initiatives available to you:

- **The Alumni-2-Student Mentoring Program**, a partnership between the KSU Alumni Association and the Career Center, allows you to select alumni mentors who made their mark on KSU and are now doing the same in their professions.

- **The Alumni Legacy Group** celebrates familial relationships among KSU alumni and students through photo gallery snapshots and freshman send-off events.

- Through mentoring and scholarships, the **Black Alumni Society (BAS)** is committed to the success of students and deepening their connection to KSU.

- **Empower U**, presented by Fifth Third Bank, is a financial empowerment series that includes practical advice about creating a budget, managing debt, and everything in between and beyond.

- **Women’s Council** focuses on leadership development and volunteerism, keeping KSU alumnae connected to each other as well as to the greater Atlanta community.
BLACK AND GOLD

PROUD AND BOLD!
Wherever you fly, your KSU Alumni Association flies with you. Nests connect you to your alma mater and to other Owls around the country. Whether you’re eating ice cream on Savannah’s River Street or hanging around the track at Charlotte Motor Speedway, you’ll always be a part of the parliament. Be sure to visit the Alumni Association website to find networking and social functions, prospective student receptions, community service projects, and more in a location near you!
May the spirit of Kennesaw State live forever in the memories you make today.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

The traditions book has been an exciting project to create and gift to the next generation of Owls. The information enclosed would not be nearly as encompassing without the dedicated support and eagerness of a great Traditions Committee which represented each aspect of the campus community – alumni, students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Additionally, several special groups from the Alumni Association gave their support to the process to make the inaugural book the best it could be; to each group we give our hearty thanks.

To the Clutch Council members, student assistants, and student interns, your input and involvement was invaluable.

We are confident this first edition is just the beginning of another great Owls tradition.

Share Your Owl Perspective

While sincere effort was made to encapsulate the highlights of Kennesaw State’s many traditions, there may be some items that should be considered and added. Think we missed something important? Let us know! We hope the traditions book itself becomes an intricate part of the KSU experience and anticipate that it will grow and evolve along with the campus.

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“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
—Ralph Waldo Emerson