Blogs becoming valuable teaching tools

Electronic diaries now a part of the curriculum at Georgia State

By Wendy Bigham
wbigham@gsu.edu

The blogging phenomenon – no longer the domain of the technologically savvy – has made its way to college campuses, as many professors have begun incorporating the electronic diaries into their lesson plans.

But Georgia State jumped on the bandwagon early. The university was one of the first academic institutions to use blogs as a supplement to course instruction, starting in 2003, according to George Needham, vice president of member services for the Online Computer Library Center, which locates and preserves materials for libraries in 96 countries.

Today, approximately 103 university libraries list blogs on their sites, according to www.blogsmithsoulibrary.net, a blog about library blogs.

Blogged Down

At Georgia State, 10 of the 16 librarians mine news in their respective areas each day and post related articles on their blogs. “It’s just another tool to communicate,” said Doug Grans, Georgia State’s Web development librarian. “It’s effective and current.”

The blogs are easy to access for students, who just have to go to the library’s main Web page and click the “research guides” icon. If a blog is available on the University Library site, a corresponding button will direct users to the corresponding subject area, such as education news.

Blog readers may subscribe to certain blogs without visiting the library's site. They also can download software from Web sites such as www.bloglines.com.

Inside...

See Page 2 for a list of blogs available via the University Library Web site.

Trio of speakers set for commencement ceremonies

Georgia State alums among those addressing new grads

By Leah Harris
lhh@gwu.edu

As 2,751 Georgia State University students prepare for that much-anticipated stroll across the graduation stage, they’ll be encouraged by a trio of speakers successful in both the private and public spheres.

Jerry Dempsey, retired CEO of PPG Industries Inc.; Renee Lewis Glover, CEO of the Atlanta Housing Authority; and Rep. Glenn Richardson, speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, will be featured at the three separate graduation ceremonies May 14.

Dempsey and Richardson are Georgia State graduates, while Glover holds a master’s degree from Yale University and a law degree from Boston University. Dempsey retired from PPG Industries in 1997 after working nearly five years at the company, which manufactures a variety of products worldwide including industrial and specialty chemicals, sealants and adhesives. Richardson, elected as a state representative in 1996, just completed his first year as House speaker.

Former Georgia State librarian Teii Vogel began blogging for the library nearly two years ago, focusing on science news, the oldest and most popular of the university’s blogs. “I try to find anything that would be interesting to students studying in that area,” Konata said.

Some of the more recent documents she added to her blog included the history of the U.S. income tax, a report from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and a journal article about cities that use convention centers to fuel economic development.

“I know most people love the Internet, but now they don’t have to search all over,” Konata said. “We have fished the information out for them.”

Since the university’s blogs debuted in 2003, other universities have contacted Georgia State’s librarians for information about the program, which anyone can download upon signing a license agreement. The program won’t be marketed, Grans said.

“We built what we wanted,” he said, although revisions are ongoing. “Next year, the mission will be the same, but the tool may be different.”

Staff writer Joe Schulman and Leah Harris contributed to this story.

When did you start working at Georgia State?

I came here in 1981. Before that, I worked at the Ford Motor Co. on the assembly line as fast as they do on the freeway. And you’ve got to put parts on one and then go back and put parts on the next. That’s the only job I’ve had that I had to lie down to eat my lunch. That’s pretty tired.

I hear you enjoy golfing. How did you become interested in the sport?

Back in the 1950s, I was looking in the newspaper and I saw this ad. They wanted some caddies in Brookhaven. I said to my brother, “What do we know about caddying?” Nothing. But we went out there just to see what it was all about. I got to meet some influential people … judges, doctors, lawyers, a governor and movie stars like Dean Martin. It was great.

How often do you get to play?

I try to play every day. On Saturdays, I help out with the kids. They call me “Poo.” When they see me pull up, they come running. They’re just like my little kids. They’re so cute. You’ve got to appreciate it. Because when I came up you didn’t see that in the black community. Not black golfers. You know, everybody is caught up on this Tiger Woods bandwagon, but I was playing before Tiger Woods. We were out there trying to do what Tiger’s doing before he was even born. We were the originals.
Grammar patrol on call

By Joe Schulman
jschulman@gsu.edu

Not sure to who or whom a letter concerns? For those who often find themselves wrestling with the intricacies of grammar, Georgia State University’s Center for Writing and Research can help. Formally a phone hotline, the center now uses e-mail (writing.gsu.edu) for the grammatically challenged, which allows for quicker responses, according to Richard R. Burmester, the center’s director and an assistant English professor.

Burmester said she hopes more people will begin using the service, which is just for students.

“We have outside businesses who e-mail us,” said Burmester, counting several banks and Chick-fil-A among the center’s clients.

Professors are also welcome to drop the center a line if they have any questions. Meanwhile, students are encouraged to make an appointment if more thorough grammar tutorials are needed.

Throughout the year, the center is filled with students dragging in folders and notebooks looking for help. And with exams approaching, the office coffee machine is working overtime.

“Often the e-mail is just a question about a line,” Burmester said. “Others send us a list.” When the e-mails do come in, Burmester or one of the students working at the center tries to reply within 24 hours.

The students operating the center are typically English majors. If they don’t know the answer, questions are sent to a professor. E-mail is a great way for students to get quick answers during a busy rush, such as during finals when the center is packed with anxious students, said Josh Neal, a freshman during finals when the center is packed with anxious students, said Josh Neal, a freshman.

J. MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Accounting students win top honors

A team of six undergraduate accounting students from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business won first place in the Sixth Annual Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting Regional Case Study Competition. The event was held in Miami last month, and the team will move on to face national competition in August.

Graduates to receive dual degrees

Atlanta has served as a virtual classroom for three law students who are about to graduate with degrees from Georgia State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Jeff Haymaker, Shannon Sams and Joe Cooley spent the past few years studying in Atlanta and related legal issues, problems and solutions. They will each receive a law degree from Georgia State along with a master's degree in city and regional planning from Georgia Tech, becoming the first graduates of the university’s dual degree program.

“This program gives our law students an opportunity to get an advanced degree in planning and thereby be more competitive in the local and national market for urban land-use planning and land employment possibilities,” said Julian Juergensmeyer, a Georgia State law professor who helped develop the program, one of about 20 in the United States. “These days, the leading land-use plan and planning firms want associates with training in law and planning. One specialty is no longer enough.”

Georgia State blogs available via the library’s research guide:

- African-American Studies
- Alpha Eta Rho Center Library
- Alpharetta Center Library
- Economics
- Environmental News
- Education
- Government Information and Maps
- Health Sciences
- History
- Issues in Scholarly Communication
- Jewish Cultural Studies
- Middle East Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Public Administration
- Public Health
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Special Collections News
- Sociology
- Special Collections News

*Note: Blogs without a specific link can be accessed from the library’s main page.

The experience was exhilarating,” said Charles Fuhr, a junior accounting major and leader of the group, which includes Henna Noorani, Elizabeth Names, Matt Sooy, Michael Ericson and Emmanuel Munaneyze.

“We put a lot of preparation into the presentation and met five or six times before the competition to plan and prepare,” said Fuhr, whose team defeated separate teams from the University of Miami, the University of Southern Florida and the University of Central Florida. “I’m sure we’ll do well in the national competition.”

Exchange brings fellow Georgians overseas

The J. Mack Robinson College of Business bid farewell recently to three businesswomen visiting from the Repub-

lic of Georgia.

Keri Borulava, Maia Aladashvili and Mariam Kikakhapidze were awarded one month of mentoring at Georgia State after submitting the most promising business plans during the Businesswomen’s Leader-

ship Training Program at the Caucasus Business School of Tbilisi, Georgia’s capital. The program, which is managed in partnership with the Robinson College of Business, was created to raise the econom-

ic status of Tbilisi women.

“When I come to the United States, I am filled with so much energy,” said Tamuna Gahisobina, an administrator at the Caucasus School of Business. “There is such a feeling that you can do any thing here … that nothing is impossible. I try to keep that feeling alive when I go home to Tbilisi.”

Think your events aren’t getting the publicity they deserve? Get the word out!

The Villager accepts paid advertising from a variety of internal and external clients.

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Staff Council looks to build on successful year

By Wendy Bigham
wbigham@gsu.edu

Can you name your Staff Council representative? Though its 16th year was a success, the organization that serves as a bridge between Georgia State staff and the university’s administration is still working on building a relationship with many of its constituents. It’s clear the Staff Council remains an enigma to some of the people it’s designed to serve.

No surprise, then, that the newly re-elected top officers plan to step up their efforts to increase awareness about the organization that serves as a bridge for personnel policy information.

Familiar Roles: B.J. Yergens, left, and Debbie Rupp were re-elected as Staff Council vice president and president, respectively.

2005 Faculty & Staff Annual Giving Campaign

Invest in the Best

Georgia State faculty and staff have reached 71% participation towards the 85% goal!

2,187 have already given and it will only require 425 more to make a gift in support of the university.

Giving is a tradition at Georgia State. It’s never too late to give.

• All donations/forms received by June 30th will count in this year’s campaign. Turn in forms to your college/area volunteer or to the Office of Annual Giving at One Park Place, Suite 742 or give online at www.gsu.edu/giving.
• Considering a payroll deduction? All new payroll deductions will begin the first pay period of the 2006 fiscal year, July 1, 2005.
• Still undecided and looking for a great cause to support? The Georgia State University Fund (02377) - Support of the GSU Fund strengthens the institution in its entirety because it supplements support to all areas of the university.

GSU Funds for the Colleges provide unrestricted support and promote programs of excellence to the designated college(s). GSU Fund for Arts & Sciences (02030), Business (02032), Education (02034), Health & Human Sciences (02031), Law (02029), Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (02095).

GSU Fund for Athletics (02381), the Rialto Center (02465) and the University Library (02149).

Georgia State’s graduating students are giving back to the university. We hope that you will too.

Please make a gift today.
Office of Annual Giving • One Park Place, Suite 742 • 404-651-1130 www.gsu.edu/giving

Annual Giving TRADITION

Famous cheerleaders.

Dabney Dixon, chemistry professor; Dabney Dean, associate professor of criminal justice; and Bill Waugh, professor of public administration and urban studies, will advise the university’s president and provost and will be charged with setting the agenda for senate meetings.

University temp agency offers assistance in a pinch

Georgia State’s temporary employment service is now available for all university departments. Since the Panther Temps program launched in November, the internal agency has placed part-time workers in more than 15 departments on campus. The temporary employees offer software skills and are available for flexible periods of time, be it one day or one month.

The Panther Temps office is located at One Park Place, Room 344. For more information, call Ext. 1-3190.

University Senate approves new executive committee members
Six new members were added to the University Senate’s executive committee, Siva Nathan, associate professor of accounting, Paul Alberto, research professor in educational psychology; Carol Winkler, chair of the communications department, Dabney Dixon, chemistry professor; Dabney Dean, associate professor of criminal justice; and Bill Waugh, professor of public administration and urban studies, will advise the university’s president and provost and will be charged with setting the agenda for senate meetings.

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University CALENDAR

- Through Friday, May 13
All day. Books for Africa Drive. Donate textbooks new and used for students living in Africa. Aderhold Building, Sparks Hall. University Center information desk, main library computer lab, One Park Place South. 404/463-9034.

- Through Friday, May 27
9:45 a.m. Yoga Class. Room 260, Sporns Arena. $64, or $10 per class. Pre-registration required. 404/651-4741.

- Through Saturday, May 14.
All day. Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design Graduation Exhibit. Student University Center Gallery, 3rd Floor. 404/643-4652 or artgallery@gsu.edu.

- Tuesday, May 10
6 p.m. Baseball: Panthers vs. Georgia Southern. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card.

- Wednesday, May 11
4 p.m. Baseball: Panthers vs. Georgia Southern. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card.

- Wednesday, May 11 and Thursday, May 12
8:30 a.m. “A Second Chance for Children: Embracing the Future” Conference. Sponsored by the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Wyndham Atlanta Hotel. Registration required. $175 for each session. 404/651-1409 or nationalcenter@gsu.edu.

- Friday, May 13
6 p.m. College of Law Hooding Ceremony. Sporns Arena. Free. 404/651-4360 or vdye@gsu.edu.

- Friday, May 13
8 p.m. “I Remember Johnny,” The Songs of Johnny Mercer Featuring Margaret Whiting. An evening of classic songs written by Savannah native Johnny Mercer, whose credits include “Moon River” and “Days of Wine and Roses.” Rialto Center.

- Monday, May 16 through Friday, May 20
All day. Debbie Hutchinson M.F.A. Exhibition. Featuring works from students graduating from the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design. Free. 404/651-2257.

- Monday, May 16 through Friday, May 20
All day. Irakli Imrelishvili M.F.A. Exhibition. Featuring works from students graduating from the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design. Free. 404/651-2257.

- Wednesday, May 18

- Thursday, May 19
8 a.m. College of Law Board of Visitors Meeting. Urban Life Building, 4th Floor. 404/651-4860 or vdye@gsu.edu.

- Friday, May 20
6 p.m. Baseball: Panthers vs. Florida Atlantic. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card.

- Friday, May 20
6 p.m. Baseball: Panthers vs. Florida Atlantic. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card.

- Saturday, May 21
1 p.m. Baseball: Panthers vs. Florida Atlantic. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card.

CALENDAR

Applause

Mark Budnitz, professor in the College of Law, testified before the Subcommit-tee on House Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit in Washington, D.C. Budnitz participated in a hearing regarding the impact of the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, created to facilitate more efficient check processing.


Robbie Friedmann, professor of crimi-nal justice, will receive the Humanitarian Award for 2005 from the Governor’s Commission on the Holocaust. Friedmann was honored at the Capitol on May 6, in conjunction with the “Days of Remembrance” observance.

William Kahneweielt, associate profes-sor in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, recently published a book, “Shap-ing Your HR Role.” Kahneweielt wrote the book with his wife, Jennifer Kahneweiel.

Mark Keil, professor of computer infor-mation in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, will be awarded the Georgia State University Alumni Distinguished Professor Award, presented by the alumni association each spring in recognition of outstanding achievements in scholarship, teaching and service. Keil, a faculty member since 1991, teaches in the college’s undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs.

Debra Snell, lecturer in the Depart-ment of Applied Linguistics and ESL, was awarded a Fulbright Junior Lecturer Scholarship. Snell will join the English department at Cadi Ayyad University in Beni Mellal, Morocco.

Frederick J. Taylor, associate profes-sor of music, was given the president’s award by the National Association for the Study and Performance of African-American Music for loyalty and dedication to the organization.

Jeanie Thomas, senior research associate, is retiring from the Fiscal Research Center. Thomas, whose research focused on eco-nomic development, was one of the center’s first employees and was managing editor of the FRC newsletter, Fiscal Matters.

Roger Weed, professor of graduate re-habilitation counselor training, received a lifetime achievement award from the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Weed specializes in cata-strophic rehabilitation and rehabilitation professional training.

Jack Williams, professor in the College of Law, was recently appointed to serve as an at-large member on the Children and Youth Coordinating Council. The council assesses local communities in preventing juvenile delinquency.

Carol Winkler, communications chair, won the Atlanta Housing Authority President’s Award of Merit for outstanding service and contribution to youth in AHA communities. She was recognized for her work with the Atlanta Urban Debate League.

Alan J. Ziorbowski, associate professor in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, received the Journal of Financial and Quan-titative Analysis’ William F. Sharpe Award for Scholarship in Financial Research for the best paper published in 2004. The award was given in honor of Ziorbowski’s report, “Abnormal Returns from the Com-mon Stock Investments of the United States Senate.”

Indian Creek Pool Memorial Day Bash May 30! Don’t leave town, join us for a day of fun.

Beach Volleyball   Children’s Pool Games
11am-2pm
For more information call Timber at 404-463-1529
www.gsu.edu/recreation

Food provided