



Georgia State University Villager

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

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Blogs becoming valuable teaching tools

Electronic diaries now a part of the curriculum at Georgia State

By Wendy Bigham
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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.blogwithoutalibrary.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 Goans, 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.

Former Georgia State librarian Teri Vogel began blogging for the library nearly two years ago, focusing on science news, the oldest and most popular of the university’s blogs. About 345 people visit the site every day, although it’s unclear how many are students.

Style and Substance

Librarians aren’t known for their sense of humor, but John Russell said he enjoys adding a lighter touch, when appropriate, to his entries for the history department. One of his recent dispatches – on the anniversary of the first edition of the *Dictionary of the English Language* – included a comment about “Black Adder,” a British sitcom.

“Some of it should be kind of fun,” said Russell, who also serves as the library liaison for anthropology and geography. “You don’t want to be serious all the time.”

Russell blogs a couple of times a week, pulling news from numerous sources then adding his own occasionally fractured take. The information and inspiration come from a variety of sources, he said. However, when he needs an idea for a topic, he just looks to the students who come to him for assistance.

“A lot of it is scholars chatting with each other,” Russell said. “But a lot of it is also somebody asking a question, and those resources lead me to other interesting resources.”

Russell said his blog, which has attracted a small following outside the Georgia State community, won’t necessarily qualify its readers as scholars, but those who read it will learn something.

“I don’t think it’s going to be central to their success as scholars and researchers,” he said. “But I think it can help them.”

While Russell’s subjects occasionally allow him to inject some irreverence, La Loria

Konata, a reference and liaison librarian charged with updating the economics and public administration blogs, generally has to take a more serious approach.

“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, Goans 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 writers Joe Schulman and Leah Harris contributed to this story.

Inside...

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

5 minutes with...

Tommy Young,
semi-retired custodial supervisor



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. Those cars come down that assembly line almost 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 “Pro.” 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.

Trio of speakers set for commencement ceremonies

Georgia State alums among those addressing new grads

By Leah Harris
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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.



Mission Accomplished: Students stand in line for their diplomas at last year’s graduation ceremony.

Glover, known for her business leadership and strategic approach to community redevelopment, has been in charge of the AHA since 1994. She previously was chair of the

authority’s board of commissioners after a brief career as a corporate finance attorney.

– See Page 3 for a complete graduation schedule.

SoundBITE

“Georgia State has played an important role in the revitalization of downtown Atlanta. (Downtown’s) fate will rest in Georgia State’s hands, quite frankly.”

– Atlanta Journal-Constitution editorial page editor Cynthia Tucker, who appeared at a forum discussing the city’s future April 28 at the Student Center’s Speaker’s Auditorium.

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

Partnership formed to improve child welfare

Georgia State University and the University of Georgia have launched a partnership aimed at improving the well-being of the state's children.

Through the Child Policy Partnership, Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government plan to introduce innovative ways of looking at children's issues by linking research and practice. The institutions kicked off the initiative April 20 at the Andrew Young School as visiting scholars Richard Rothstein and Taifa Butler presented a thorough review of the factors influencing child welfare on both the national and state levels.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Greek studies chair appointed

Nickitas J. Demos, an associate professor of music and director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, was named the inaugural chair of contemporary greek studies. The chair was founded in memory of Andrew Carlos by his wife, Eula C. Carlos, who remains an enthusiastic supporter of causes benefiting Atlanta's Greek community.

Demos has been the director of the Center for Hellenic Studies since 2004. He is also the founder and musical director of the neoPhonia New Music Ensemble in the School of Music.

"The chair will have an immediate and significant impact," Demos said. "It will

provide ongoing support for the activities of the center and provide a strong foundation for future growth. We are very appreciative of the generous contribution made by the Carlos family as well as the efforts of the American Foundation for Hellenic Studies in support of the center."

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

New group to assist future science teachers

The National Science Teachers Association recently chartered a student chapter within Georgia State's College of Education.

Georgia State was one of five universities awarded student chapters this year. The national organization provides networking and professional development opportunities for new science teachers.

Georgia State's chapter has added 15 members thus far. Lisa Martin-Hansen, assistant professor in the College of Education's Department of Middle-Secondary Education and Instructional Technology, serves as faculty adviser.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Physical therapy prof honored

Beth Tieman, assistant professor of physical therapy, has been selected as the 2005 recipient of the Dorothy Briggs Memorial Scientific Inquiry Award by the American Physical Therapy Association's board of directors. This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated the ability to prepare a thoroughly conceived, suitably designed and clearly expressed article published in the association's quarterly journal. Tieman will receive the award at an APTA conference in June.

COLLEGE OF LAW

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 Haymore, Shannon Sams and Joe Cooley spent the past few years studying planning 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 law 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 law and planning firms want associates with training in law and planning. One specialty is no longer enough."

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.

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

"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 squads from Florida State University, 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 Republic of Georgia.

Keti Berulava, Maia Aladashvili and Mariam Kikacheishvili were awarded one month of mentoring at Georgia State after submitting the most promising business plans during the Businesswomen's Leadership Training Program at the Caucasus School of Business in Tbilisi, Georgia's capital. The program, which is managed in partnership with the Robinson College of Business, was created to raise the economic status of Tbilisi women.

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

Grammar patrol on call

University e-mail service assists the grammatically challenged

By Joe Schulman
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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. Formerly a phone hotline, the center now uses e-mail (writing@gsu.edu) for the grammatically challenged, which allows for quicker responses, according to Beth Burmester, the center's director and an assistant English professor.

Burmester said she hopes more people will begin using the service, which is not 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 who works at the center.

"It really is a great resource for students," he said.

The center and the e-mail system are almost always available, with brief breaks in May and December following exams, said Burmester, who hopes the e-mail system will attract more users both within and outside the university.

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

African-American Studies	www.library.gsu.edu/research/aas
Alpharetta Center Library	www.library.gsu.edu/news
Economics	www.library.gsu.edu/research/econ
Education	www.library.gsu.edu/research/edu
Environmental News	www.library.gsu.edu/news/
Gerontology	www.library.gsu.edu/research/gerontology
Government Information and Maps	www.library.gsu.edu/govdocs/
Health Sciences	www.library.gsu.edu/research/health
History	www.library.gsu.edu/research/hist
Issues in Scholarly Communication	www.library.gsu.edu/news/
Jewish Cultural Studies	www.library.gsu.edu/research
Middle East Studies	www.library.gsu.edu/research
Philosophy	www.library.gsu.edu/research/phil
Political Science	www.library.gsu.edu/research/polisci
Public Administration	www.library.gsu.edu/research/paus
Public Health	www.library.gsu.edu/research/publichealth
Religious Studies	www.library.gsu.edu/research/rel
Sociology	www.library.gsu.edu/research/soci
Special Collections News	www.library.gsu.edu/news

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



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the publicity they deserve?
Get the word out!

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

For more information – including specifications, deadlines and rates – call Virginia Brown at Ext. 1-3573.

University BRIEFS

Disney Institute holds Atlanta tutorial

Business professionals wanting to discover the secrets behind the Magic Kingdom business model are invited to attend the Disney Institute on June 22, sponsored locally by Georgia State University.

Program participants will attend four sessions focusing on the Disney business model, including the company's take on leadership, service, management and loyalty.

Registration is required. For more information, call 404/566-2620 or visit www.disneyinstitute.com.

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.

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.1-3330.

Georgia State University graduation

When: May 14

Where: Sports Arena, 125 Decatur St., 3rd floor

College ceremonies:

10 a.m. (Glenn Richardson)

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

College of Health and Human Sciences

College of Education

College of Law

2 p.m. (Renee Lewis Glover)

College of Arts and Sciences

6 p.m. (Jerry Dempsey)

J. Mack Robinson College of Business

Sports Arena doors will open 90 minutes before each ceremony and the student processional will begin 30 minutes before commencement.

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 (02995).

GSU Fund for Athletics (02381), the Rialto Center (02A45) and the University Library (02D49).

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

Please make a gift today.

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www.gsu.edu/giving

Annual Giving TRADITION

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 council, which was founded in 1989 to give staff an organized voice, as well as providing a conduit for personnel policy information.

"You can't fix something you don't know is broken," said returning president Debbie Rupp, in reference to the council, which was officially sanctioned by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in 1992. "Communication is always a challenge on this campus."

Vice President B.J. Yergens also was re-elected to serve a second term. She defines the Staff Council as "(an) organization of people just like you who want to make this a better place to work.

The duo's education initiative kicks off this summer as all employees will be given a survey asking, for example, how they



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

would prefer to be informed of council news items. Otherwise, next year's agenda will focus on the issue of "salary compression," which occurs when starting salaries are increased beyond current employees' salaries. Council members will discuss more goals at their retreat June 17.

The council also will be following up with the human resources department to ensure the new donated leave policy is enacted on schedule. University Senate approval of that policy, which allows employees to donate sick days to a pool that may be used by co-workers needing



additional recuperation time, was a major victory for the council.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to be able to provide assistance to a fellow co-worker in dire need," Rupp said.

Other newly elected officers include Renee Bazemore, secretary, and Charlotte Petrek, parliamentarian. Staff council members also voted in senators Sheila Bradley, Sandra Garber, Mary Anne Gaunt and Yergens.

The Staff Council meets the third Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. Meetings are open to all employees.

Villager

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DEPARTMENT OF
UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

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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, Student 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, Sports 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. 404/463-4662 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.** Sports Arena. Free. 404/651-4360 or vdye@gsu.edu.

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 Cen-

ter for the Performing Arts. Subscriptions available through the Rialto Center Box Office. 404/651-4727 or www.rialtocenter.org.

• 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.

All day. **Irakli Imerlishvili 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

Noon. **Feed Your Senses.** Monthly series featuring guest speaker. Bring your lunch. Rialto Center Lobby. 404/651-1285.

• Thursday, May 19

8 a.m. **College of Law Board of Visitors Meeting.** Urban Life Building, 4th Floor. 404/651-4360 or vdye@gsu.edu.

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.

The *Villager* prints select events from the university's official community calendar, available online at www.gsu.edu/news/calendar. To submit an event listing, e-mail vbrown@gsu.edu or call Ext. 1-3573.

Applause

Mark Budnitz, professor in the College of Law, testified before the Subcommittee 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.

Sharon Cavusgil, lecturer in the Department of Applied Linguistics and ESL, recently co-authored "College Writing" (Houghton-Mifflin Publishing Co., 2005) part of the "English for Academic Success" series.

Robbie Friedmann, professor of criminal 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 Kahnweiler, associate professor in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, recently published a book, "Shap-

ing Your HR Role." Kahnweiler wrote the book with his wife, Jennifer Kahnweiler.

Mark Keil, professor of computer information 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 Department 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 professor 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 economic development, was one of the center's first employees and was managing editor of the FRC newsletter, *Fiscal Matters*.

Roger Weed, professor of graduate rehabilitation counselor training, received a lifetime achievement award from the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Weed specializes in catastrophic 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 assists 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. Ziobrowski, associate professor in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, received the *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis'* William F. Sharpe Award for Scholarship in Financial Research for the best paper published in 2004. The award was given in honor of Ziobrowski's report, "Abnormal Returns from the Common Stock Investments of the United States Senate."

Applause recognizes notable accomplishments of faculty, staff and administrators in the areas of teaching, research and service. E-mail items to cboone@gsu.edu.

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



The pool opens Saturday May 28.

For more information call Timber at 404-463-1529
www.gsu.edu/recreation

Food provided