Major changes proposed with pedestrians in mind

By Wendy Bigham
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It makes for cheap theater, perhaps, but Park Place Bookstore manager Greg Latham knows whenever heavy rains come he'll see at least a few pedestrians enveloped in the splashes generated from the large buses passing by on Decatur Street.

Georgia State’s main thoroughfare has never been known as pedestrian-friendly, one reason why university President Carl Patton has long championed a makeover of Decatur Street, aiming to transform the busy road that intersects the center of the campus by widening the sidewalks and eliminating two lanes of vehicular traffic.

Now it appears the “Main Street” plan is but a year from realization, as Atlanta city officials recently approved the university’s plans to double the size of the sidewalks and decrease the lanes from Jessie Hill Jr. Drive to Peachtree Center Avenue, said Ramesh Vakamudi, director of transportation services.

Trees will be planted along the widened sidewalks to serve as barriers from the traffic, said Ramesh Vakamudi, director of facilities and planning for the university. Pending approval by city officials, the crosswalks will be painted in prominent colors to make them easily visible.

“The pedestrians can coexist peacefully with the cars,” Vakamudi said.

Construction bids could go out as early as December for the project, budgeted at about $2 million. Road work is expected to start around the first of next year.

With part of the street being narrowed, a right-turning lane will be installed at Decatur Street (westbound) and Piedmont Avenue.

Professor honored by governor during Holocaust remembrance

In speech, Friedmann remembers parents imprisoned by the Nazis

By Leah Harris
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Georgia State criminal justice professor Robert Friedmann doesn’t wish to be viewed as a victim. His parents, survivors of the Holocaust, wouldn’t stand for it.

“Survival against such unfathomable odds is the sweetest revenge anyone can have against atrocities committed on us,” said Friedmann, whose parents were imprisoned in separate concentration camps during World War II. “If you want to ensure the existence, safety and liberty for generations ahead, you must first learn from the struggles in the past and continue to fight.”

Friedmann’s ongoing fight for peace through education was honored recently as he received the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust’s Humanitarian Award, presented to him at the Capitol in conjunction with Days of Remembrance, an annual observance.

“We are recognizing his efforts from throughout the year standing up for what’s right,” said Sylvia Wysoda, the commission’s chairman emeritus.

“The writing is on the wall, but this time in a different language,” said Friedmann, referring to the struggle against Islamic fundamentalism.

“Racism is the same nature, but of a far more ominous and sinister scope, than the one that pervaded Germany between 1933 and 1939.”

What does your job at the center entail?

I’m the lead teacher in the infant room. I wouldn’t trade it for the world. You see them grow and develop, and you get very attached to them, just like they get attached to us. Today, I arrived later than usual, and when they looked up and saw me, they all started smiling and clapping.

How long have you been working there?

I started at the center in December 1979. My plan was to be here for five years. And then I got married and had a daughter in 1983. And I thought, once she completed the center’s preschool, then I’d leave. Well, she went through elementary school and is now a senior in college, and I’m still here.

Do you have any tips for calming a crying baby?

Pick them up and give them a reassuring smile. A child can sense calmness from an adult by their body language. And there’s something about holding them on the left side and letting them feel your heartbeat that calms them down. If you’re tense, or your mind is somewhere else, they can sense that.

My daughter and I were trying to calculate that the other day. But what I’d really like to know is how many diapers I’ve changed in 26 years. I can change a diaper with my eyes shut. In fact, I bet I could be in the Guinness Book of World Records.

SoundBITE

“Let me remind you that losers visualize the futilities of failure, (while) winners visualize the rewards of success.”

– Jerry Dempsey, retired CEO of PPG Industries Inc., advising graduates in his commencement address May 14 at the Sports Arena.
History prof researches forgotten chapter in Atlanta’s history

By Joe Schulman
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Nearly a century ago, one of the vilest chapters in America’s troubled history of minority disenfranchise-ment occurred in downtown Atlanta, although most people know little—if anything—about it.

Georgia State associate professor of history Clifford Kuhn hopes to change that through his involvement with The Coalition to Remember the 1906 Race Riots. Kuhn was tapped by the group, assembled by the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Site and Southern Truth and Reconciliation, to provide historical perspective to an incident that tainted a well-cultivated image of “(a) city too busy to hate.”

The riots occurred amid a highly charged governmental context, in which race had emerged as a pivotal wedge issue. While politicians exploited- ed prejudice, the city’s four newspapers added to a budding temper by publishing sensationalized accounts of white women being attacked by black men in the downtown area.

With little warning and no organ- ized response, Atlanta’s streets were flooded by angry mobs of white men who began indiscriminately attack- ing the city’s black populace. By the time the state militia regained order, 12 people were dead, although Kuhn believes that number to be higher.

The professor has begun collecting personal histories from locals who had relatives living in Atlanta during the riot. Combined with newspaper accounts, Kuhn said the coalition hopes to present a more thorough account of what really happened that hot September night.

The coalition’s findings will be in- cluded in an exhibit scheduled to open during the centennial anniversary of the riot next year, according to Kuhn.

“We hope to have a symposium and walking tours,” he said.

Well Done: Susan Kelley, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, congratulates a graduate at the university’s commencement ceremony May 14.
University gets a summer makeover

By Wendy Bigham
wbigham@gsu.edu

While most university employees welcome the subdued pace of summer, those who don hard hats and tool belts will be working overtime making improvements to university facilities.

An estimated $5 million worth of renovations, installations and alterations are expected to be completed before the fall semester begins Aug. 8, according to Mike Faires, the university’s director of design and construction.

The Arts and Humanities Building, located at Peachtree Center Avenue and Gilmer Street, will undergo the most significant changes. New elevators will be installed, and an improved air filtering system will connect the building’s laboratories, while additional lab space will be created for use by the anthropology, geography and film departments.

During the construction, the philosophy and religious studies departments, along with the Middle East Center for Peace, Culture and Development and the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, will temporarily relocate to 34 Peachtree Ave. The Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design’s office also will relocate to the Edgewood Avenue Sculpture Studio for the summer.

Other improvements slated for the summer include new cabs and wiring for the elevators in Kell Hall, the physical education building on Decatur Street and Library North. The elevators in the General Classroom Building also are scheduled for renovation.

Cosmetically, employees can expect to see more Georgia State branding across campus, with new banners erected at all university entrances by the time classes resume.

For more information, or to purchase a series subscription, visit www.rialtocenter.org or call Ext. 1-4727.

A full listing of the 2005-2006 subscription series can be found on Page 4.

Art prof receives top faculty award

Pam Longobardi, an associate professor in the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, was presented Georgia State’s Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award during graduation ceremonies on May 14.

The annual award honors an assistant or associate professor who excels in scholarship, teaching and service. Longobardi balanced her teaching schedule with three solo exhibitions, and will spend this summer studying in Florence, Italy.

Women’s group accepting applications

With their inaugural campaign recently wrapped, Georgia State’s Leadership Academy for Women will begin accepting applications for prospective members from June 1 through July 15.

The academy offers monthly leadership workshops through the academic year, including sessions on effective communication and workplace diversity. Members will be selected from a pool of full-time female employees who have worked at Georgia State since July 1. Applications can be found on the academy’s Web site at www2.gsu.edu/~wwwaow/.

Mr. Speaker:

Glenn Richardson, speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, addressed graduates at the morning commencement ceremony on May 14. “I am fairly well convinced that I know what most of you graduates sitting here right now are thinking,” said Richardson, a former Georgia State student (B.A. ’81 and J.D. ’84). Georgia State President Carl Patton (background, right) presided over the three graduation ceremonies.

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**University CALENDAR**

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

- All day, Welch School of Art and Design Exhibit: LightRoom. Atlanta architect Bill Carpenter collaborates with associates and artists to present drawings, photographs and paintings illustrating an experimental dialogue with architecture. Rialto Center for the Performing Arts. Free. 404/651-0489.

- **Wednesday, May 25**
  8 a.m. Economic Forecasting Quarterly Conference. Rajeev Dhawan, director of the Economic Forecasting Center at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, presents his most recent forecast for the local and national economy. Speaker's Auditorium, Student Center. Free. 404/651-1957 or mwarafili@gsu.edu.

- **Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10**

- **Wednesday, June 15**

- **Thursday, June 16**
  8 a.m. Annual Recreational Services Golf Tournament. Windermere Golf Club, Cumming. www.gsu.edu/recreation.

- **Sunday, June 19**
  7 p.m. Georgia State Opera Studies Fundraiser. Enjoy a gourmet dinner accompanied by arias performed by singers from the 2005 Harrower Opera Workshop. City Grill Restaurant, 50 Hurt Plaza. $75. Reservations required by June 10. 404/651-1326.

- **Wednesday, June 22**
  7:30 a.m. Disney Institute: Keys to Excellence. Learn the Disney style of leadership, management, service and loyalty. Student University Center and Student Center Ballroom. $99 per person. 404/465-9827 or www2.gsu.edu/~wwds/disney/index.html.

- **Friday, June 24 and Sunday, June 26**
  7:30 p.m. (Fri.), 3 p.m. (Sun.) 2005 Harrower Summer Opera Workshop Performances. Includes works from Menotti, Verdi, Beier, Delibes, Strauss and others. Balzer Theater at Herren’s, 84 Luckie Street. $10. 404/651-1326 or www.music.gsu.edu.

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**Applause**

- JaJuan Harris was recently promoted to business manager of the domestic programs office in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

- Miles Irving, assistant professor of educational psychology and special education, and Philo Hutcheson, associate professor in educational policy studies, received a $10,000 research initiation grant to study racial identity and academic achievement in the United States and Jamaica.

- Joyce King, professor of educational policy studies, was appointed co-editor of the American Educational Research Association journal, Review of Education Research.

- Pat Kota, senior research associate in the Georgia Health Policy Center, and Lindsey Lamergan, research associate in the health policy center, delivered presentations at the National Cooperative of Health Networks conference in Chicago.

- Karen Minyard, director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, recently presented an overview of the health status of Georgians to a group of congressional leaders, representatives and health care leaders at the Georgia Health Policy Forum in Savannah on April 18. She also discussed Georgia’s current health policy with a group of community leaders at a luncheon in Macon on April 29.

- Cherise Y. Peters, assistant vice president of enrollment services and university registrar, was accepted into the 2005 class of the Harvard Institute for Higher Education Management in Leadership Education program.

- Inas Rashad, professor of economics, delivered a lecture on “Fast Food Restaurant Advertising and Its Influence on Childhood Obesity” at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Effectiveness Seminar on May 11. The presentation was co-authored by Shin-Yi Chou and Michael Grossman.

- Janet Reckman, professor of public administration and urban studies, received the 2004 Facilitator of the Year Award from the Southeastern Association of Facilitators.

- Walt Thompson, professor of kinesiology and health, was elected to the board of trustees for the American College of Sports Medicine. He will represent constituents of the education and allied health profession.

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**RIALTO SCHEDULE FOR 2005-2006 SEASON**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>National Heritage Award Winners Concert</td>
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<td>Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Sacred Heart Singers and Cephas and Wiggins.</td>
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<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>Alicia Sánchez y Compañia El Teatro de Movimiento</td>
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<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Rennie Harris PureMovement</td>
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<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Noche Flamenca</td>
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<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Music of the Masters: The Music of Miles Davis</td>
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<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Holiday Gala Concert</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Ahmad Jamal</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Hubbard Street Dance Chicago</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Perú Negro</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>The Second City Comedy Troupe</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>Messiah Several Dancers Core with Trinity Baroque Orchestra</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>David Sanchez with the Georgia State University Jazz Band</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Lila Downs</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Season Closer (to be announced)</td>
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**Annual Golf Tournament at Windermere Golf Club June 16**

Faculty/Staff $75

Fees include greens fees, cart, range balls, golf shirt, awards luncheon, goodie bag and more!

Transportation provided from the Student Recreation Center.

Entry forms online at www.gsu.edu/recreation