



Mary McElroy,
athletics director



How has it been since your move here from Georgia Tech this past June?

It's been somewhat hectic making the transition from Georgia Tech to Georgia State. I haven't made the mistake of saying Tech when I should have said State, other than on my first day. I have that under control. I know where I am.

How do you feel about Georgia State's move to the Colonial Athletic Association?

We're trying to get the coaches to make the transition mentally that we've entered a more competitive league. They're excited about that.

Are you a sports fan outside of your job?

I am. I remember rooting for the Washington Redskins and the Baltimore Orioles in my youth, and we watch professional sports in my house. I live with three guys — two sons and a husband — so I don't have a choice. They're even into NASCAR. We run the full gamut of sports. I also play softball when I can.

What position do you play?

Outfield, mostly left field. I have a co-ed team. I play anywhere from right field all the way across to left. On my women's team, I play left. It's a good outlet, and it keeps me fit.

What do you do when you're not focusing on sports?

I go to church and do things at home — typical homebody stuff. I don't do much other than that. I participate in sports as a player and a spectator, and other than that I'm usually resting or reading.

Risk management program ranks second best in nation, says *U.S. News* *Top ranking supports program's efforts to attract top students, teachers*

By Leah Harris
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The department of risk management and insurance was recently ranked the second best program of its kind in the nation in the 2006 *U.S. News & World Report's* survey of America's Best Colleges. The department, part of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, ranked first among public universities.

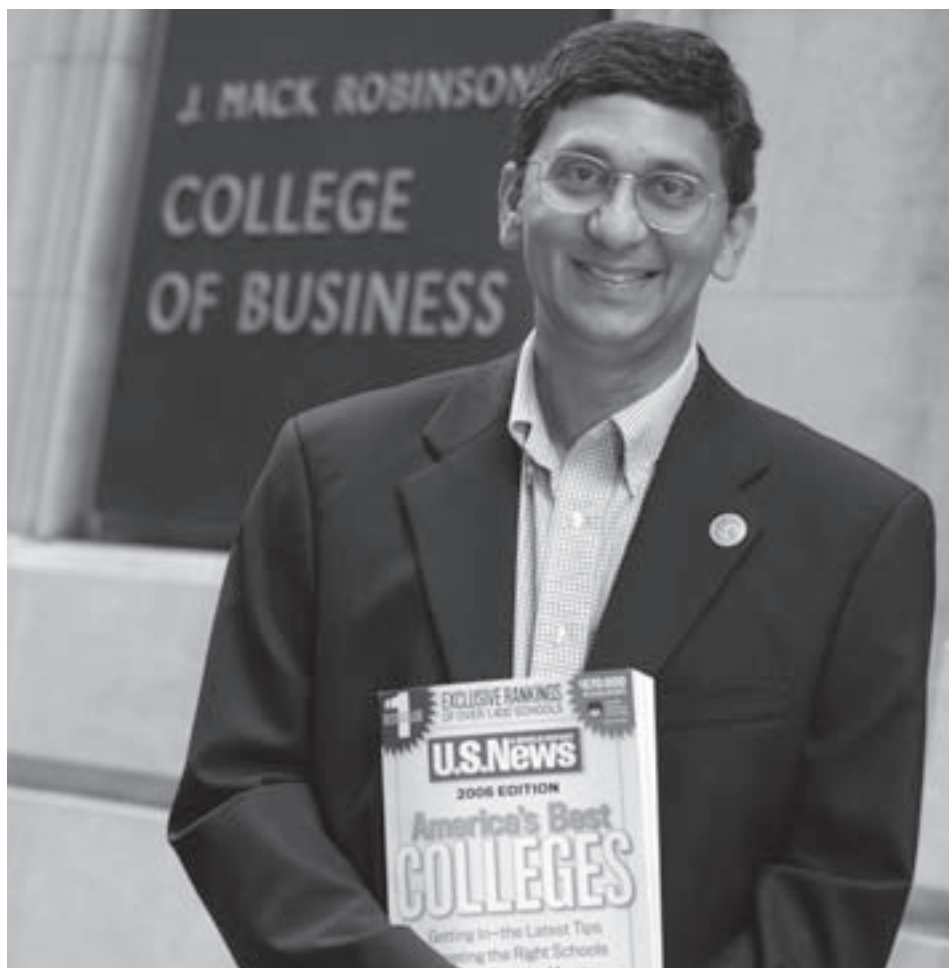
"We have a strategic plan to become the top risk management group anywhere," said Sanjay Srivastava, chair of the department. "Various universities were really good at one piece of risk management, but we decided to take a bold step and be really outstanding across the board."

High rankings bolster the department's efforts to attract expert faculty, better students and employers, Srivastava said. The department of risk management and insurance, currently with 28 faculty members, has ranked among the top five programs for the last seven years.

U.S. News publishes rankings each year to help students and families compare educational programs at America's colleges and universities, according to its Web site. To rank the colleges, the magazine places each school into a category on the basis of the school's mission and region. After data are gathered from participating institutions, the schools are measured by 15 indicators, including student selectivity, financial resources and graduation rate. *U.S. News & World Report* uses the composite weight score of each factor to rank the schools.

The department of risk management and insurance, which used to focus mainly on insurance, now offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees in majors including actuarial science, personal financial planning and risk management and insurance.

However, Srivastava said many people still don't understand the important role risk management plays in the lives of individuals, organizations, and society. For example, corporate risk managers identify



Making the grade: Professor Sanjay Srivastava, chair of the risk management and insurance Department in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, shows off the 2006 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual listing of America's best colleges. The department was ranked second in the country behind the Wharton School and first among public universities.

potential risks and assess their impact on companies; individuals take personal risks with their investments, retirement planning and taxes.

"There's risk in almost every facet of life, and we want to make sure our students have the skill sets to be qualified to take jobs whether it's in banks or nonfinancial companies," said Srivastava, noting that risk management is one of the fastest growing areas in the job market.

J. Mack Robinson College of Business' Real Estate program ranked eighth, the Management Information Systems program 10th

and the overall undergraduate program in the top 50 business schools in the nation.

H. Fenwick Huss, dean of the Robinson College of Business, said the fact that the Robinson College has again been recognized among the top undergraduate business programs in the nation is a testament to the quality of the college's students, faculty and staff.

"The college's top marks in three specialty areas further illustrate our strengths, and these rankings place us among an elite group of business schools nationwide," he remarked in a written statement.

Panthers prowl into new athletic conference

Georgia State faces tougher competition in the Colonial Athletic Association

By Joe Schulman
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The Georgia State University Panthers open the 2005-2006 season in a tougher athletic conference than last year with the team's move to the Colonial Athletic Association. Georgia State officially left the Atlantic Sun conference for the CAA July 1.

With its jump to the 12-team league, the Panthers face stronger competition, Mary McElroy, Georgia State athletics director, says. The CAA, which organizes championships in 21 men's and women's sports, includes members along the East Coast such as Virginia Commonwealth University, Hofstra University near New York City, Northeastern University in Boston and the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

"[The coaches and players] are excited about it indeed," McElroy said. "You play to the level of your competition. Anything that's tougher gets us better prepared for the NCAA championships. And that's the ultimate goal."



The CAA will add football in 2007, though McElroy said no decision has been made as to whether Georgia State will form a football team.

"It's out there. The alums have definitely made it known, or at least a vocal minority, have made it known that they want to see football," McElroy said. "It is a possibility, but there is no commitment either way."

The big date on this year's basketball schedule is Dec. 6, when the Kentucky Wildcats come to Atlanta. Kentucky is one of the powerhouses of college basketball, and the crowd for the game is expected to be so large that the game will be played in Philips Arena. On Dec. 10, the Panthers will take on the University of Georgia Bulldogs in the Arena at Gwinnett Center.

"We played them really tough last year," McElroy said. "We would encourage every single Georgia State fan that has any modicum of interest in basketball to come out and support us against Kentucky."

Sound BITE

"The Georgia State University community has great compassion for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. And, we want to help the students who were enrolled in universities closed by the hurricane avoid a break in their education."

— Georgia State President Carl Patton, as quoted during an interview with CNN Headline News on September 1. The president was interviewed about Georgia State's invitation for students who attend universities closed by Hurricane Katrina to attend Georgia State this fall.

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

College offers math boot camp

The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies kicked off its Essentials of Mathematics for Economics Summer Program Aug. 18.

This is the first year AYSPS has hosted the three-week program, which will prepare 19 economics and public administration and urban studies Ph.D. students for their first year of economics.

"It's an important class for them beyond just knowing math, but for them to get to know each other and get into the swing of things," said Shelby Frost, director of the three-week program, which is often referred to as "Math Boot Camp."

Universities partner to improve child well-being

The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Child Policy Partnership will host a Child Policy Symposium Sept. 30 at Clayton College and State University. The symposium, which is free and open to the public, will address the needs of the whole child, from birth to adolescence, and focus on issues that affect the healthy development and well-being of children.

The day-long conference will highlight research and best practices from a variety of dimensions including health, school readiness, school success, communities, strong families and future self-sufficiency.

The Child Policy Partnership is a new collaboration launched to improve the well-being of Georgia's children. Georgia State's AYSPS and University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government aim to introduce a new way of looking at children's issues by linking research and practice, and facilitating discussions to strengthen both throughout the state.

For more information, and to register for the symposium, contact Sallie Barker at sbarker@gsu.edu.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

CBN forms neuroscience initiative with other Southeast institutions

The Center for Behavioral Neuroscience has joined forces with researchers from other institutions in Georgia and South Carolina to form a Regional Neuroscience Initiative. Representatives met Aug. 12-13 in Augusta to discuss how the schools could work more closely together to advance the field and attract new funding.

"The wave of the future is multi-institutional, multidisciplinary research," said Elliot Albers, CBN director. "I think it's critical that our programs collaborate and capitalize on each other's strengths."

Joining Albers in Augusta were representatives from the Medical College of Georgia, University of Georgia, University of South Carolina and Medical University of South Carolina. The long-term goal of the group is to enable regional neuroscience researchers to compete more effectively against larger, better-funded research programs in other parts of the country. Additional meetings and activities are planned.

Religious Studies program branches out, adds master's degree

Religious Studies split from Department of Philosophy, forming its own department on July 1. The Religious Studies faculty has doubled in size over the past four years, and this fall the newly formed department launched a master's program. The religious studies master's degree is the only one offered in Georgia.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

High school students get chance to earn college credit

The College of Education started a pilot program in August to help at-risk high school students earn two years of college credit.

Early College High School gives ninth-grade students who typically test well but do not do well in school an opportunity to take college courses. These

students have personal challenges, are absent from school too often, and receive poor grades. About 100 Atlanta high school students selected will be able to earn as many as 60 hours of college credit through Georgia State University. The program is based at Carver High School in southeast Atlanta.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Divisions combine to form School of Health Professions

On July 1, the College of Health and Human Sciences reorganized three academic units into the School of Health Professions, encompassing the Divisions of Nutrition, Physical Therapy and Respiratory Therapy. Lynda Goodfellow, who previously served as the acting chair for the former Department of Cardiopulmonary Care Sciences, is the director of the new school and head of the respiratory therapy division. Missy Cody and Leslie Taylor will serve as division heads for nutrition and physical therapy, respectively.

The School of Health Professions offers a bachelor of science degree in both nutrition and respiratory therapy, a master of science degree in health sciences with a concentration in nutrition or respiratory therapy, and a doctorate in physical therapy. The school will continue to offer the dietetic internship program.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Law professors honored for outstanding research

Professors Mark E. Budnitz and Douglas H. Yarn have been named recipients of the College of Law's first annual Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship.

The award, created in 2002 in memory of the late Professor Morgan, recognizes two faculty members who compiled a substantial and continuing record of outstanding research, scholarly activity and publishing within the previous two years. The award consists of a \$12,500 summer research grant and a course release during the next academic year.

"It is indeed a privilege to receive this award named for Patricia Morgan," Professor Budnitz said. "Professor Morgan's achievements were many here at the College of Law, and it's an honor to be recognized with a scholarship that was created as a tribute to her many contributions."

Morgan, who joined the College of Law faculty in 1988, was honored as Professor of the Year by students in 1993 and 2002. She passed away in 2002. Her textbooks, "Tax Procedure and Tax Fraud in a Nutshell" and "Cases and Materials on Tax Procedure and Tax Fraud," are used at law schools throughout the country.

J. MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dhawan's economic forecast: A-

Despite negative factors such as Iraq, oil prices and economic malaise in Europe, the current economy actually earns a solid A-, according to Dr. Rajeev Dhawan, director of the Economic Forecasting Center at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business. The grade is due to high marks in construction, tax collections, real dividend growth, bank loan activity and corporate revenue growth. However, the A- will decrease to a B+ as the economy begins its "orderly moderation" in mid-2006 through mid-2007.

Dhawan said while the U.S. economy has weathered a storm of high oil prices, rate hikes and insufficient job growth, Georgia's economy is suffering from a rise in unemployment and very slow job growth.

"Overall, the blame for Georgia's growth pause in 2005 can be laid on certain sectors that are either taking a breather or still working out a post-recession business structure," Dhawan said. "We expect that for the 2005 calendar year only 45,000-plus jobs will be created. However, the good news is that this pause should work itself out by next year and annual growth should return to the more respectable number of 70,000 to 80,000 new jobs by 2006 and 2007."

Alumnus captures Georgia State's history in dissertation

By Leah Harris
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A picture on the wall of David Smith Jr.'s office is evidence of the work he's done to share the story of Georgia State University's history.

Smith, assistant director of Career Services in the College of Law, recently completed a dissertation and picture book titled, "The History of GSU from 1913 to 2002." In the picture on his wall, Smith stands in front of Lyman Hall, the building on the Georgia Tech campus where Georgia State's first classes were held. Smith worked on the university's history for five years beginning in 1998; the picture was taken in 2002.

"We have a great institution and we should all be proud of it," said Smith,

Ph. D. '05. "We as students and alumni should know the prominent role this institution has played in Georgia and that this was a hard fought battle."

Smith's 238-page dissertation details the school's struggle to become Georgia State. For instance, in 1947, the State Board of Regents decided the school should become the Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia. In 1955, the school re-

gained its independence and became the Georgia State College of Business Administration. As the school expanded, it later would become Georgia State College in 1961 and Georgia State University in 1969.

Smith's dissertation will be displayed until Sept. 27 in his exhibit, "GSU History Exhibit, 1913-Present," in the Student Center, Room 346. The Student Center is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.

to 11 p.m. and weekends, noon to 9 p.m.

Pictures in Smith's book include those of Marybelle Warner, the university's first African American full-time student; Annie T. Wise, the first female graduate; and six students in the university's first graduating class.

Georgia State hasn't had a book published about its history since the 1950s, although several articles have been written about the school, according to Laurel Bowen, university archivist.

"There's information in this dissertation that we were not fully aware of before, and I think it's very useful," Bowen said. "The last history was worked on during the tenure of our very first president, and a lot of time has gone by. The documentation has been here, but it's a major undertaking to write a history of a university."

"We as students and alumni should know the prominent role this institution has played in Georgia and that this was a hard fought battle."

- David Smith Jr.

University BRIEFS

Rialto Concert Series tickets now on sale

From bluegrass tunes and jazz rhythms to Mexican dance and comedy performances, the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts has something in store for everyone this season.

Tickets are on sale now for the 2005-2006 Rialto Concert Series, which kicks off with *Sounds of the South: National Heritage Award Concert* on Oct. 22, featuring bluegrass favorites Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, known from the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

The series continues on Oct. 28 when Alicia Sanchez y Compania take the stage with contemporary dance from Mexico. Jazz piano legend Ahmad Jamal performs on Jan. 28, and on March 31 the Rialto welcomes the Second City Comedy Troupe. Comedians including Chris Farley and Bill Murray have performed with the group.

Other highlights include the Music of Miles Davis, featuring Eddie Henderson, Gary Bartz and Jimmy Cobb on Nov. 19, and the Holiday Gala Concert on Dec. 3 and 4. The series concludes with "American Idol" runner up Diana DeGarmo on May 12.

For more information, call the box office at 404/651-4727.

Office of Community Service receives national recognition

Georgia State University's Office of Community Service recently received the Partners in Progress Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The annual award recognized the office for its role in developing an exemplary model partnership with a community-based organization.

The office worked with Operation P.E.A.C.E., an Atlanta nonprofit organization, in offering community policing classes, sending students to work in neighborhoods, and sending law students to present anger-management workshops for 50 children in after-school programs.

Labor union historian, singer takes center stage at Rialto

Georgia State University will present a free showing of *Labor's Troubadour*, a documentary about the life and works of Joe Glazer, a folk singer and historian known for his support of labor unions, at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday (Sept. 8) at the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts.

The 35-minute documentary, timely because of the recent AFL-CIO strife, explores American labor history, immigration and politics through Glazer's songs and commen-

tary. After the screening, stay for a discussion and musical performance by Glazer.

The film is presented by the Georgia State University Library with support from The Usery Fund: Improving the Lives of American Workers, and the Atlanta/North Georgia Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Call 404/651-2477 for information.

U.S. News counts Freshmen Learning Communities among top 25 programs in nation

Georgia State University's Freshmen Learning Communities program is one of 25 institutions recognized in *U.S. News & World Report's* list of "Programs to Look For."

The Learning Communities program has made the list since it was established four years ago to highlight academic programs that are believed to lead to student success. The programs, selected from top learning communities nationwide, were nominated by college presidents, chief academic officers, deans of students and deans of admissions.

Freshmen Learning Communities offer first-year students an opportunity to connect with Georgia State University during the fall semester. Students who participate in learning communities take a group of core courses related to a common theme with students who share their interests during their first semester at Georgia State.

Philosophy professor named director of the Center for Ethics

Andrew Altman was named the new director of the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics. This fall the center will host its third annual Ethics-in-Film movie series with faculty panelists at a series of films shown at Georgia State University's Village. The center has planned numerous events and conferences in the coming year, including one on the work of Bernard Williams, and another on "Ethics and Africa," cosponsored with the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

New buses shuttle students across campus

Georgia State University's PantherExpress shuttle system has six new buses and four temporary buses. The entire fleet eventually will consist of 13 buses. Administrators also plan to implement an automatic vehicle-tracking system that will estimate arrival time, which will be displayed at each bus stop and in several buildings. The buses are used primarily for students, but also may be used at university events and activities. For more information, visit www.gsu.edu/shuttle.



Sign from above: A student passes under a Georgia State University welcome sign that was recently installed outside Alumni Hall on Courtland Street. Officials plan to place a total of nine signs along the campus's perimeter to enhance the university's identity and calm traffic.



Giving directions: Thomas C. Lewis, vice president of external affairs, directs a new student to his next class. Lewis volunteered at one of Georgia State University's Ask Me Booths, which were set up on campus during the first week of classes to help newcomers find their way.

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• Thursday, Sept. 8

7 p.m. What's love got to do with it? **The Phenomenon of Relationships.** A faculty panel will facilitate a discussion about relationships in 2005. Free. Speaker's Auditorium, Student Center. 404/463-9031.

• Through Monday, Sept. 12

10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or by appointment. **Charles H. Nelson Jr.'s Random Access Exhibit.** Rialto Center Lobby. Free. Georgia State University's Rialto Center for the Performing Arts begins its 2005-2006 Visual Arts Series with the drawings of Charles H. Nelson Jr. Nelson's work has been related to Afrofuturism due to his references to technology and conceptualism. Afrofuturism is a movement related to artists of the African Diaspora whose works reference futurism, science fiction, and technology. 404/651-2981.

• Tuesday, Sept. 13

7:30 p.m. **neoPhonia.** Kopleff Recital Hall. Free. Special guest: Craig Hultgren, cello, featuring the 2005 Hultgren Solo Cello Works Biennial Concert of Finalists, including performances of seven new works for cello. At the conclusion of the concert, audience voting will determine the winner of the Atlanta prize. 404/651-INFO.

• Tuesday, Sept. 13, through Thursday, Sept. 15

9 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. **St. Joseph's Mobile Mammography Unit.** Gilmer Street near Spark's Hall. Female employees age 40 and older can receive a mammogram. The program is free for employees with the BOR Indemnity plan, BOR PPO or BlueChoice HMO. Kaiser participants can pay \$69 to participate. Registered, certified female technologists will perform the screenings. 404/651-1347.

• Wednesday, Sept. 14

12:15 p.m. **Lunch and Learn: One Campaign.** This seminar will bring an awareness of hunger and poverty in our society. Free. The first 30 people will get lunch. Student Center, Sinclair suite. 404/463-9031.

• Thursday, Sept. 15

7 p.m. **Kaiser Permanente Corporate Run/Walk.** Downtown, Turner Field. Join the Georgia State Team for the 5K run/walk through downtown Atlanta and the "world's largest office party." 404/463-1507.

7:30 p.m. **Creative Writing Reading Series: Aleksandar Hemon.** Troy Moore Library. Free. Aleksandar Hemon's "Nowhere Man" follows the circuitous path of a young Bosnian refugee with an appropriately circuitous narrative form; the work's seven sections shift back and forth between first-person narrators and move freely in settings from Chicago to Sarajevo to Kiev to Shanghai. Hemon teaches part-time in the M.A. Program in Creative Writing at Northwestern University. The Department of English and the New South's Writing Workshop cosponsor this series. www.english.gsu.edu.

• Friday, Sept. 16

2:30 p.m. **Chemistry Seminar: Yi Lu.** 218 Natural Science Center. Free. Lu is a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 404/651-3120.

4 p.m. **Women's Soccer.** Lady Panthers vs. Kennesaw State. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card. Info: 404/651-3166.

7 p.m. **Volleyball.** Lady Panthers vs. Northeastern. Sports Arena. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card. 404/651-3166.

• Saturday, Sept. 17

3 p.m. **High School Honor Chorus Concert.** Alan Raines, conductor. Rialto Center for the Performing Arts. Free. 404/651-INFO.

7 p.m. **Men's Soccer Home Opener vs. Lipscomb.** Silverbacks Park. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card. For directions, visit www.atlantasilverbacks.com/complex/directions.php. Info: 404/651-3166.

• Sunday, Sept. 18

1 p.m. **Volleyball.** Lady Panthers vs. Hofstra. Sports Arena. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card. 404/651-3166.

2:30 p.m. **Women's Soccer.** Lady Panthers vs. Jacksonville. Panthersville. Free for faculty and staff with valid ID card. 404/651-3166.

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.

Janet Burns, associate clinical professor of middle and secondary education, and **Jessie Hayden**, clinical instructor of middle and secondary education, made a presentation in July at the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education. Burns also was elected as a university director to the 2005-2006 Board of Directors of Trade and Industrial Education of Georgia.

Robert Eger, assistant professor of public administration and urban studies, was appointed to a Fulton County task force to study the future of Fulton County.

Neil Kinkopf, professor in the College of Law, served as a panelist for the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy 2005 National Conference in late July in Washington, D.C. The conference, themed "The Constitution in the 21st Century," focused on the ACS's Constitution in the 21st Century project, a multiyear initiative to promote positive change in the legal and policy landscape.

Glenn Landers, senior research associate in the Georgia Health Policy Center, wrote an issue brief on "Peer Support for Georgia's Elderly."

Lisa Martin-Hansen, assistant professor of middle and secondary education, presented her research, "First-Year College Students' Conflict with Religion and the Nature of Science," at the International History and Philosophy of Science and Teaching Conference in July in Leeds, England.

Jennifer McCoy, associate professor of political science, received two grants to work on a book about her experiences over the last three years mediating the Venezuelan political conflict. One is a grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace, the other a residency award from the Rockefeller Bellagio Center.

Rod Nave, associate professor of physics, won the 2005 Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching Classics Award in physics for exemplary online learn-

ing resources. The award, an engraved bottle of wine (Merlot, of course) and a certificate, cites Nave for his work, HyperPhysics, an interactive physics exploration environment that is written in HTML with Javascript calculation routines.

Sarah Pallas, associate professor of biology, received the 2005 Evolution Education Award, presented annually by the National Association of Biology Teachers. The award recognizes innovative classroom teaching and community education efforts to promote the accurate understanding of biological evolution.

Ted Poister and **John Thomas**, professors of public administration and urban studies in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, were awarded a \$516,527 contract to develop and pilot stakeholder surveys for the Georgia Department of Transportation. Poister and Thomas will analyze the DOT's performance from the perspective of key stakeholder groups such as planning consultants, highway contractors, local government officials, state legislators, the driving public and professional drivers.

Sociology Department faculty members **Don Reitzes** (professor and chair), **Ralph LaRossa** (professor), **Wendy Simonds** (associate professor and director of undergraduate studies) and **Romney Norwood** (assistant professor) presented a total of six papers at the 100th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association Aug. 12-14 in Philadelphia. Topics included the cost of being poor, racism in Atlanta's construction industry, fatherhood during World War II, self-esteem and health, and sexual identity among major league sports employees.

Mark Rider, associate professor of economics, was appointed to an independent, nongovernment panel to analyze alternative service delivery approaches for Fulton County. **Donald Ratajchek**, Regents Professor Emeritus at Georgia State University, also was appointed to the panel.

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



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