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 employees, 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 major 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 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 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 opened 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 a 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 powerhouse 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.”

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.

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.”

Georgie State President Carl Patterson, as quoted during an interview with CNN: Headline News on September 1. The president was interviewed about Georgia State’s invitation for students who attended universities closed by Hurricane Katrina to attend Georgia State this fall.
Alumnus captures Georgia State’s history in dissertation

By Leah Harris lh6@gsu.edu

A picture on the wall of David Smith

The picture was taken in 2002.

“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.

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 dissertation details the school’s struggle to become Georgia State University. 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-Pesence,” 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 LaDrew Bowen, Georgia State’s director of libraries. “There’s information in this dissertation that we were not fully aware of before, and I think it’s very useful,” Bowen said. “It is indeed a privilege to receive this award this year,” said Professor Morgan. “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.”
The 35-minute documentary, timely because of the recent AFL-CIO strife, explores American labor history, immigration and politics through Glazer’s songs and commentary. 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 panels 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,” co-sponsored 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.

Project Healthy Grandparents

1995-2005

Celebrating 10 Years of commitment to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Thank you to the members of the GSU community for your support throughout the year.

National Grandparents Day
Sunday, September 11, 2005

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.
7:30 p.m. Creative Writing Reading Series: Alexandar Hemon, "Tony Moore Library. Free. Alexandar 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. Free for faculty and staff with valid I.D. card. Info: 404/651-3166.

Saturday, Sept. 17

Sunday, Sept. 18

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

The Phenomenon of Relationships. 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.

Tel 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 180th 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 Ratjauchek, Regents Professor Emeritus at Georgia State University, also was appointed to the panel.

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

For information call Jennifer at 404-463-1526.


Dates: December 15-21
Cost: $675 Students
$775 Faculty/Staff
$775 Others
Trip package includes round-trip airfare, airport shuttle, six night stay in condos at the base of the mountain and four day lift ticket.