Leisure learning offers fun, noncredit courses for employees

By Wendy Bigham
wbigham@gsu.edu

DeLa Kearse thought she was a pretty good gift wrapper. But after an expert wrapping class she took last semester through Georgia State's new Leisure Learning Program, she found she had a lot to learn.

"After taking the class, it became quite obvious I had been merely an amateur all this time. And during Christmas, it became even more evident, based on the overwhelming admiration of all the gifts I wrapped," said Kearse, the business manager at the Student University Center.

Classes in the Leisure Learning Program, which kicked off last semester, are geared to provide fun opportunities for people like Kearse, who are interested in personal development, financial skills and hobbies. The program, offered through Student Services, provides the noncredit classes to faculty, staff, students and the Atlanta community.

Mary Esther, the program's coordinator, was hired a year ago to start the program in an effort to encourage more student involvement on campus. After classes began, Esther noticed most of the participants were area business people looking to network with other professionals. About 60 people registered in the program's first semester.

"Classes, which cost faculty and staff anywhere from $15 to $120, include tango dancing with the Stars," she said. This spring, more than 20 classes are offered, ranging in size from six to 50 students. Teachers are required to have work expertise in the course subject, an educational background associated with the subject or prior teaching experience.

In the future, Esther plans to add classes such as writing, art and scrapbooking. The program is so new and flexible at this point, it can go into so many different directions," she said.

"That's good news for Kearse. After watching Dancing with the Stars, she's ready to take on ballroom dancing. "I think I dance fairly well. However, I might be proven wrong after attending one of these classes," Kearse said.

To register for classes, visit www2.gsu.edu/learnforfun.

Maya Angelou keynote speaker at Cultural Competence Conference

By Leah Harris
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Author, poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou will be the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Cultural Competency Conference at 6 p.m. March 20 in the Rialto Theatre.

Angelou is one of five speakers known nationally for addressing issues of multiculturalism. Themed "Diversity vs. Multiculturalism: The Ethical Transformation," the two-day event is cosponsored by the Counseling Center and the Division of Student Services.

It highlights Georgia State's efforts to promote multiculturalism on campus as well as addresses the needs of various populations in the United States, according to Michelle Lyn, clinical assistant professor in the Counseling Center.

As a Hilliard III, professor of educational policy studies and Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Urban Studies, also will speak at the conference, which, except for Angelou's address, will take place in the Student Center Ballroom.

"Anyone working with people in a helping or human services capacity where multicultural issues arise should attend," Lyn said.

"The focus is to really de-emphasize diversity, which simply talks about numeric representation of different groups, and look at how to have a deeper appreciation and incorporation of different types of cultures, to make a truly multicultural environment." The Counseling Center's mission is to counsel and support students in academic, personal and career development, but the center also provides training for mental health professionals.

"With more diversity represented in the United States population, there has been a shift in the field of psychology to talk more about how we should serve different populations," Lyn said. "The theories that were more Eurocentric-focused are not always fitting for all populations that we sit down with and meet face-to-face.

Besides Angelou and Hilliard, speakers include Gerald Wing Sue, professor of psychology and education at Teacher's College, Columbus University; Thomas Parham, assistant vice chancellor for counseling and health services and director of the Counseling Center at the University of California-Irvine; and Joanne DeMark, associate director and a caucus leader of the National Coalition Building Institute.

Campus culture: Maya Angelou will discuss multiculturalism on campus and in the United States during the 2nd Annual Cultural Competency Conference, which begins March 20.

Dreamy delights: Chocolate brings a smile to Georgia State University students Gladys Reyes-Huaca (left) and Claire Dufresne as they devour Cupid's work in "Sweet Treats for Two Valentine's Day Desserts," one of the university's leisure learning classes.

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Flag flap: Dread Scott’s “What is the Proper Way to Display the U.S. Flag?” is one several pieces on display at “Potentially Harmful,” an exhibit of works that have been subjected to censorship. The exhibit runs through March 10 at the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery.

Timely exhibit examines censorship in America

By Melanie Medina
mmedina@gsgu.edu

Censorship. Not enough of it, and we run the risk of exposing our children to “wardrobe malfunctions.” Too much of it, and we risk trampling on First Amendment rights.

Personal beliefs aside, there’s no question that the topic of censorship sparks heated debate between those who want more of it and those who demand less. To help audiences understand the role of artistic controversy, Cathy Byrd, professor of the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design Gallery, and Susan Richmond, visiting lecturer in art history, created the exhibit “Potentially Harmful: The Art of American Censorship,” on display through March 10.

“It’s really important for people to think about censorship, whether or not they agree with it, to think about the results of societal or government or economic interest on art,” Byrd said.

Each of the works showcased in “Potentially Harmful” has been censored or became the subject of debate due to its sexual, religious, racial or antipatriotic nature. Some are well-known, including Dread Scott’s installation “What is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag,” in which a U.S. flag is spread on the floor. On the wall above the flag is a book in which viewers can comment, though they must step on the flag or lean over it to write in the book.

Others are more obscure, such as “Critical Art Ensemble: Body of Evidence Video Still, 2004,” which shows news footage from July 7 through July 10, 1996.

“That’s a really important thing to think about, discussing power and authority,” Byrd said.

Additional programming includes:

- “Potentially Harmless,” an exhibit for Grady High School students responding to censorship issues, at the South Arts Connection Gallery through March 17 in Atlanta
- A legal seminar about censorship of theater and performance art at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22 at 7 Stages Theatre in Atlanta
- A film screening of Stanely Kubrick’s Eyes Wide Shut at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Rich Theater in the Woodruff Arts Center. The film will be followed by a talk with Matthew Bernstein, associate professor of film studies at Emory University.

For more details about the exhibit, call 404/651-2257, or visit http://www2.gsu.edu/~mwart/gallery/.

College NEWS

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

Health Policy Center to host health care financing primer

The Georgia Health Policy Center will offer Georgia legislators one-on-one sessions about health care financing. The sessions offer background information about Georgia’s health status and state health spending so policy makers can make informed decisions about health policy. The primer will hinge on three questions lawmakers should ask in evaluating health policy:

1. How will this legislation affect Georgians’ health status?
2. How will this legislation affect state health spending?
3. How will this legislation affect the state’s health care system?

This is the second consecutive year the center has offered the primer. New members of the General Assembly requested briefings on the basics of health financing after HPC director Karen Minyard’s presentation on state health spending at the 2004 Legislative Biennial. Last year, more than 500 pieces of health-related legislation were introduced in the General Assembly.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Margo Brinton, professor of biology, has been named a Regents’ Professor by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. The title is given to the most outstanding senior faculty members at the state’s research universities.

Brinton becomes one of 13 current Regents’ Professors at Georgia State. A microbiologist, Brinton has studied viruses, particularly West Nile virus, since her career began in the 1960s.

“Then, we could have a sequence or clone genes,” she said. “Now, we use molecular techniques to study biological parameters.”

Brinton also founded the biennial Southern Regional Virology Conference, which brings together about 150 researchers from across the country. In 1986, she started the International Positive-Strand Virus Symposium, which she still organizes. The first meeting was attended by about 150 scientists; today, it draws almost 500.

“Dr. Brinton was selected as a researcher, as a leader in her field, and in her service to Georgia State University,” said Lauren Adamson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “I am delighted that the Board of Regents has recognized her work in such a fitting manner.”

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Education professor selected to serve on national education council

Ana Hilliard, professor of educational policy studies, was recently selected as a member of the Professional Advisory Council of the National Association for the Education of African-American Children with Learning Disabilities. The association is a nonprofit organization founded to increase awareness of minority children’s learning differences and promoting parent advocacy. The council is made up of educators and researchers whose work the association relies on for documenting, representing African-American families in the public policy arena.

Hilliard was chosen based on his reputation as an educator and researcher. Hilliard is visiting the Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Urban Education and serves as a co-chair of the National Association for the Education of African-American Children with Learning Disabilities. He is also the current president of the American Educational Research Association. Hilliard has been a leader in the field of education for several years, having served on the board of directors for the American Educational Research Association and as a member of the National Council for the Social Studies.

Hilliard’s research focuses on educational policy and equity, with a particular emphasis on the role of race and ethnicity in educational outcomes. He has published extensively on these topics and has presented his work at numerous conferences and as a guest speaker at universities and educational institutions across the country.

Hilliard’s selection to serve on the Professional Advisory Council is a testament to his contributions to the field of education and his commitment to advancing educational equity for all students. He is a highly respected figure in the field and his selection to this important role will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the organization and its mission.

COlleGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Professor publishes second book on sports nutrition

Dan Benardot, associate professor of nutrition, had another book hit the shelves in January. Advanced Sports Nutrition (Human Kinetics, 341 pages) is a follow up to Benardot’s previous book, Nutrition for Serious Athletes, which was published in 2000.

The new book incorporates much of Benardot’s recent research findings on how to best provide athletes with the fuel and nutrients they need to succeed in competition.

The book extensively covers Benardot’s nutritional philosophy of maintaining the dynamic relationship between energy/ nutrient utilization and intake. This nutrition timing approach helps people avoid large “within-day” energy imbalances that are associated with body composition and weight problems.

Benardot’s research shows that achieving a more balanced regimen of energy output and intake improves performance. His research also debunkes the common myth that power athletes (weightlifters, etc.) require large amounts of protein. Instead, properly timed energy intake enables muscle development while diminishing fat storage.

The book provides a look into menus that can be incorporated into a variety of training plans leading up to competition. It also reviews the essentials of hydration for athletes and compares the many sports drinks currently on the market.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Intellectual property initiative celebrates two years of success

The College of Law will celebrate the onging success of its intellectual property initiative at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 (Saturday) at the Commerce Club on 34 Broad St. in Atlanta. Guests can learn more about plans for further expansion of Georgia State’s intellectual property law program while networking with colleagues, alumni, faculty and students.

The intellectual property initiative officially kicked off, and the advisory board was formed, on Mar. 24, 2004. The goal of the initiative is to have Georgia State recognized as providing one of the top intellectual property law programs in the United States. For more information, contact Debbie Butler 404/785-6949.
University BRIEFS

President Patton unveils updated master plan
At the request of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, Georgia State University President Carl Patton presented the update of the Main Street Master Plan and the University Science Park Plan to the board’s real estate and facilities committees on February 8, 2006.

Using the original 1997 Main Street Master Plan as a starting point, the updated plan continues the theme of becoming the leading urban research university in the country, creating a vibrant campus environment and strengthening the university’s connection to the community. Revisions to the initial plan proved necessary because the 10-year time span the plan covered was coming to an end. All of the projects envisioned by the initial plan, such as the Helen M. Adelsheim Learning Center, the new home for the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, the University Lofts and the Piedmont Ellis Housing, scheduled to open in August 2007, and then either completed or in process.

Georgia State faculty and staff provided input into the updating of the plan that will guide campus growth from 2006 until 2015 and for the next 10 years to reach 36,000 by 2015. Highlights include housing 20 percent of the student body on campus, creating a heart-of-campus front door and continuing to improve the pedestrian friendliness of the campus community.

A new Web site will soon be launched at www.gsu.edu/masterplan that provides details of the updated plan.

Sparks Awards nominations due Feb. 27
The Georgia State Alumni Association is calling for nominations for the 2006 Sparks Awards. The deadline is Feb. 27. Nominations were accepted and announced after George McIntosh Sparks, the university’s president from 1928-1957, recognized faculty, staff and students who show a willingness to go the extra mile with good humor and perseverance.

To make a nomination, submit a one- to two-page typed statement explaining why the nominee deserves an award. Nominations must be associated with Georgia State for at least two years. No employees with the title of dean or vice president are eligible for the award.

Closing nominations are due to the Office of Annual Giving, which conducts a yearly effort to raise money from Georgia State alumni, friends, employees and students to support the university’s academic mission and programs. Last year, 76 percent of faculty and staff raised more than $465,000. For details, contact DeShanna Brown at 404/463-4866.

Georgia state reps discuss how laws affect African-Americans
In celebration of Black History Month, the Georgia State African-American Alumni Club is presenting a panel discussion, titled “The State of African-Americans: How State Laws Impact African-Americans,” at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 (Thursday) in the Veteran’s Hall inside the Alumni Hall building.

Three state representatives will participate as panelists, including Rep. Stan Watson, Georgia State alumni representative and chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus; Rep. Alisha Thomas Morgan, the youngest House member; and Rep. Howard Mobley, banking and health care committee member. Historian James Horton also will give a presentation on Black History Month.

A reception will follow the event. To RSVP, contact the Alumni Association at 404/651-2190, or register online at www.gastatealumni.net/clubs.html/African.

Upcoming Events

Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Tuesday, February 21 - 7:30 PM
Roberts J Ambuhl, conductor
Butler Center for the Performing Arts - FREE

neoPhonia New Music Ensemble
Friday, February 24 - 7:30 PM
Nickitas J. Damon, artistic director
“Borderlands” - featuring music by composers in neighboring states
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

University Singers
Saturday, February 26 - 7:30 PM
Alia Barnes, co-conductor
Featured Works by Ravel and Lauridsen
Dunwoody United Methodist Church - FREE
1548 Mc alan Rd, Dunwoody, 770-919-6875

University Symphony Orchestra with Special Guest Chengzong Yin, piano
Sunday, March 19 - 3:30 PM
Michael Palmer, conductor
Chengzong Yin—one of the world’s leading pianists, the winner of numerous competitions and a household name in his native China—performs with the University Symphony Orchestra in a gala concert featuring the Yellow River Piano Concerto and Mozart’s Concerto in A Major, K. 488
Atlanta Symphony Hall
WestPac Arts Center
Tickets: $20 - $30
WestPac Arts Center Box Office
404-733-5000

For a complete listing of concerts, visit www.music.gsu.edu / 404-651-INFO

Playing through: Mykole Santiago, left, and Karishma Saini, Miss Junior candidates, share a blanket during a chilly ride in Georgia State’s 2006 Homecoming parade through downtown Atlanta.
**Tuesday, Feb. 21**

Noon Lecture. Shah Bazai from the University of Venice will present "Jewish Narratives and Indian Literature," a reading of Jewish themes in Napaul, Rashideh and Gholsh and also an intervention in the debate on Jewish literature. Cosponsored by the department of English and the program in Jewish studies. Troy Moore Library, 939 General Classroom Building. Free. 404/651-0784.

**Tuesday, Feb. 21 through Wednesday, Feb. 22**

4:30 p.m. Narrative Ceramics Symposium. This demonstration and lecture series features artists living in the southern United States whose work in clay uses psychological and social influences. Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium. Free. Demonstrations take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Ceramics Studio. Contact jryisinger@gsu.edu for details.

**Wednesday, Feb. 22**

8 a.m. Economic Forecasting Conference: Novel Trends in Real Estate. Join 250 professionals and listen to four business speakers, including Rajeev Dhawan from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business Economic Forecasting Center. Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium. Free for Georgia State students, faculty and staff. Visit http://register.efc.gsu.edu/ for registration information, or call 404/651-5298.

4 p.m. Baseball. Panthers vs. Georgia. Panhalls. $3 for adults, students free. 404/651-4629.

**Thursday, Feb. 23**

7 p.m. Men’s basketball. Panthers vs Towson. Sports Arena. $7. 404/651-4629.

**Thursday, Feb. 23 through Saturday, Feb. 25**

8 p.m. “Recognition.” Produced by the Black Student Theatre Ensemble, University Theatre and The Players of Georgia State University. “Recognition” reminds audiences of the historic contribution blacks have made in America. Room 118, Alumni Hall. $5. 404/651-2225.

**Friday, Feb. 24**

9 a.m. 4th Annual Gerontology Health Fair. Seniors who are age 50 and older may come to the Georgia State Alphanta campus for free screening for diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, bone density and flexibility. 770/751-2660.

9:30 a.m. Graduate Biology Seminar. Bruce Levin from Emory University’s biology department will speak on noninherited resistance to antibiotics and the evolution of ancestor killing. General Classroom Building, Room 500. Free. For details, contact biocell@gsu.edu.

Noon. Center for Research on Appraisal Development and Learning (CRADL) Lecture. Tricia King, assistant professor of psychology, will speak on the predictors of adaptive outcomes in adult survivors of childhood brain tumors. Psychology Clinic conference room, 106 Flore University Library. Free. For details, contact cradl@gsu.edu.

6 p.m. Women’s basketball. Lady Panthers vs. Georgia Mason. Sports Arena. $4. 404/651-4629.

7:30 p.m. neoPhonia. Nicki J. Denos, artistic director. This feature event of "Bookends," music by composers in neighboring states, includes works by Tennessee composer Paul Osterfield. Kopfell Recital Hall. Free. 404/651-INFO.

**Saturday, Feb. 25**


Noon. Polar Bear Plunge. Take a plunge in the Indian Creek Pool. Prizes will be awarded to the first 100 participants. Free. Registration required. 404/651-1529 or www.gsu.edu/recreation.


3:30 p.m. Baseball. Panthers vs. UNC-Asheville. Panhalls. $3 for adults, students free. 404/651-4629.

8 p.m. Ladysmith Black Mambazo. A Cappella Vocals from South Africa. South Africa’s Grammy Award winning Ladysmith Black Mambazo has spent three decades fusing the traditions of Zulu and Christian gospel music. Radio Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets start at $36, but discounts are offered to Georgia State students and faculty. 404/651-4727 or www.rlocenter.org.

**Sunday, Feb. 26**

5 p.m. "Recognition.” Produced by the Black Student Theatre Ensemble, University Theatre and The Players of Georgia State University. “Recognition” reminds audiences of the historic contribution blacks have made in America. Room 118, Alumni Hall. $5. 404/651-2225.

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**

7:30 p.m. Poetry Reading by A.E. Stallings. Stallings has won awards for her poetry, including the Pushcart Prize, the 1997 Eunice Tietjens Prize from “Poetry” and the third annual James Dickey prize from Four Points. Troy Moore Library, 939 General Classroom Building. Free. For details, contact english@gsu.gsu.edu.

Abou Bamba, doctoral student of history, has been awarded the William M. Sullens Graduate Fellowship. A 14-member committee selected Bamba to receive the $3,500 award for his dissertation, "The Politics of Development in the U.S.-Ivory Coast-France Relations during the Kennedy-Johnson Era."

Janet Burns, associate professor, and Jesse Hayden, instructor, both in the middle-secondary education and instructional technology department, co-authored the article “New Trade and Industrial Teacher’s Perceptions of Formal Learning vs. Informal Learning and Teaching Proficiency” with Karen Schaefer, a retired faculty member from the department, in the Journal of Industrial Teacher Education.

Myra Carmmon, associate professor of nursing, testified before a Georgia General Assembly subcommittee of the Non-Civil Judiciary regarding the non-Civil Judicary Resource Development’s Bill HB 395. This bill is to allow advance practice nurses, such as nurse practitioners, to write prescriptions. Carmmon testified in favor of the bill, which passed the subcommittee.

Robbie Friedmann, professor of criminal justice, recently participated in a panel discussion at the Atlanta Chapter on the American Jewish Community. The panel discussed Moshen the Berlin Spiegel movie about the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games by Palestinian terrorists.

Mark Gel, assistant professor in the department of kinesiology and health, was named chair of the Biomechanics and Technology study section for the Arthritis Foundation. He also recently received his fourth grant from the Prosthetics Research Study, with funding from Department of Education, to produce online continuing education courses for clinicians in prosthetics and orthotics.

Carol Hansen, associate professor of public administration and urban studies, authored “Graded Theory Research” for the book Research in Organizations: Foundations and Methodologies which received the Academy of Human Resource Development’s Book of the Year award.

Ken Mathew, professor of public administration, and Jeff Ashley, associate professor, both in the counseling and psychological services department, co-authored two articles for the Journal of Individual Psychology. The articles are “Gender differences in stress, coping and illness among college students” and “Introduction to Special Issue.”

Harvey Newman, professor of public administration and urban studies, spoke at the first meeting of the Faith Leadership Institute, sponsored by Faith and the City. The topic was “Atlanta’s History and Population.”

Joseph Rau, professor emeritus of respiratory therapy, has published seven articles in peer-reviewed publications including Respiratory Care. His latest article, “Practical problems with Aerosol Therapy in COPD,” is scheduled to appear in the journal’s February issue.

Sean Reyes, part-time instructor in the counseling and psychological services department, received awards for professional achievement and distinguished service from the Georgia Rehabilitation Association.

Paula E. Stephan, professor of economics and senior associate in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, was appointed to the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council. The council guides the second level of peer review for grants and research training grant applications submitted to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Jessie T. Weber and Robert Harvism, professors of biology, were co-authors of a paper published in the December issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry. The paper, “Identification of Amino Acid HIV-1 and HSV Integrase Subsites Required for Specific Recognition of the LTR Termini,” was listed as a Paper of the Week Feb. 6.

Paul J. Wiita, professor of physics and astronomy, was the only American invited to lecture at the Winter School on Black Hole Astrophysics in Pohang, Korea. He presentations were on “Active Galactic Nuclei and Unification Schemes” and “Beaman and the Radio Galaxy/Comsology Interface.” He also gave the conference summary lecture on Feb. 17.

**Sunday, March 4**

6 p.m. Women’s basketball. Lady Panthers vs. Old Dominion. Sports Arena. $4. 404/651-4629.

**Monday, March 6 through Friday, March 10**


9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Student Center-3rd Floor Art Gallery. Free. Contact: 404/651-9031.

**Monday, March 6**

6 p.m. Women’s basketball. Lady Panthers vs. Old Dominion. Sports Arena. $4. 404/651-4629.

**Saturday, March 18**

Cloudland Canyon Day Hike, March 25

Horseback Riding, March 18

Catauoochee Day Ski Trip, March 3

Enjoy the Great Outdoors! Participate in Touch the Earth Activities

Beginning Fly Fishing

Saturday, March 18

Saturday, March 25

Saturday, April 15

For more information call 404-463-1525 or visit www.gsu.edu/recreation

The Villager prints select events from the university’s official community calendar, available online at www.gsu.edu. To submit an event listing, e-mail thev@gsu.edu or call Ext. 1-3773.