To catch a thief
Workplace fraud still a concern at Georgia State
By Leah Harris • wharris@gsu.edu

They may blend easily into the office world, but beware: Potential fraudsters are still lurking at Georgia State University.

Just ask the auditors in Georgia State’s Auditing and Advisory Services, who spend thousands of hours each year investigating fraud cases and building up the university’s defense system against potential thieves. The department, housed in Sparks Hall, recently began offering a new presentation for employees to raise awareness about fraud at the university titled “How to Identify and Catch a Thief in the Workplace.”

“While property crime has gone down in the U.S., criminals are turning to white-collar crime because it is much more lucrative and less risky,” said Susan Mondello, associate director of University Auditing and Advisory Services. “This presentation gives our employees the nuts and bolts of how to identify and catch a thief because it’s more likely than ever to happen these days in your department under your watch.”

Workplace fraud costs businesses in the United States $652 billion annually, according to a recent report by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. And although many believe that fraudsters are lower level employees, Mondello said, perpetrators are often long-serving, middle-aged male executives and managers.

“The message isn’t that we should distrust executives and managers, but that every organization should maintain the same controls for everyone and no one should be able to circumvent those controls,” Mondello said. “By establishing good controls, such as creating written policies and procedures and detailed expenditure reviews, we can cut down the chances that fraud can occur.”

Fraud often occurs when one person has too much control, perceived financial pressures, the opportunity to commit crimes and the ability to rationalize his or her actions, Mondello explained.

Sterling Roth, director of University Auditing and Advisory Services, said the Board of Regents is committed to maintaining an environment to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. Employees are subject to disciplinary action including dismissal, fines of up to $5,000 or jail time up to 10 years.

“No one has too much control. People are responsible for their actions, and there are no loopholes,” Roth said. “We have a responsibility and expectation to investigate transactions and respond before a situation occurs.”

Mondello explained.

To report fraud:
• Follow the chain of command unless managers are involved.
• Tell the university office of the Ombudsperson at (404) 651-2220.
• Call University Auditing and Advisory Services at (404) 651-2320.

Bartness delivers address to Nobel symposium
By Aaron Baca • abaca@gsu.edu

Georgia State biology professor Timothy Bartness’ preference for zigging when others are zagging took to Gotenberg, Sweden this summer where he was invited to present his research on obesity to a Nobel symposium attended by dozens of world-renowned scientists. Bartness, who began studying body fat nearly 20 years ago to separate himself from peers who were studying other biological issues, has discovered links between the brain and fat cells through the body’s nervous system that show the brain can communicate and control the buildup of fat cells, or adipocytes.

Those findings were presented on one of the biggest stages in science in August at the 134th Alfred Nobel Symposium “The Adipocyte: A Multifunctional Cell.”

“You think you’re going to make a presentation before thousands in an auditorium. But really it was about 50 of the most high-powered, intense people there are internationally. I think I would have been more comfortable in front of 5,000 people instead,” said Bartness.

Scientists previously believed body fat was controlled by the release of certain hormones rather than through direct nervous system connections. Bartness hopes the research leads to the development of pharmaceuticals to combat obesity.

What is ACS?
[As a unit of Information Systems and Technology,] Advanced Campus Services’ mission is to support high-performance research computing that might be used by many folks across the campus. That means getting to know the faculty, what they need, what they might need or what they could use. Right now we’re finishing up installation of a new IBM supercomputer that hopefully will enable researchers to do things unheard of just a few years ago.

So who needs a supercomputer at Georgia State?
You usually think of the worlds of chemistry or physics where there are so many complex relationships and modeling scenarios that can be done quickly with high-performance computing. But I would argue it’s for anybody trying to study anything involving lots of patterns.

Georgia State is preparing to link its supercomputer into the SURAgri. What is that?
SURA is the Southeastern Universities Research Association. The grid is a high-speed optical network of CPUs (computers) between universities where researchers will be able to share their computing power for certain jobs. Think of it this way: If I’m a researcher and I can do some work on my PC, think of how much faster that would be on a computer with dual processors. What if I had … access to 1,000 of those processors? SURAgri will give researchers even more power than that.

Is the new supercomputer already operating?
We’re currently running benchmarking tests on the system. We’re in a pilot process this month. [September]. By the first of the year, we should understand what kinds of things people are working on and we’ll be putting it to business.

What excites you most about the new computer and SURAgri?
The ultimate thing is that it’s not about the machine. What it really is are the students and the faculty doing research. If they manage to have some breakthrough or have a discovery they couldn’t have done before, then it seems to me to be worth it.

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Every basic type of fraud has happened in one form or another here at Georgia State and that is a big reminder to us,” Roth said. “We have a responsibility and expectation to investigate transactions and respond before a situation occurs.”

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Lower those triglyceride levels

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

Cut down your triglycerides with these simple steps:

Dinner Lindsay, associate professor of political science and philosophy, is a winner of the 2006 University System of Georgia, President’s Teaching Excellence Award.

Lindsay was selected by the board for creating a focus area of courses in political philosophy at Georgia State, including developing new upper-division courses that promote critical thinking in the areas of feminist political thought and economic justice.

The board cited Lindsay’s commitment to her students that helped to make her an outstanding teacher and one of the top instructors for the college since the early 1990s. She received the award for her outstanding teaching of the political science and philosophy courses.

Lindsay has been teaching at the university for 10 years and has been a member of the Political Science Department since 1995. She received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1988.

Lindsay’s research interests include political theory, the philosophy of law, and feminist political theory. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on these subjects and has given many lectures and seminars on her work.

Lindsay is a member of the American Political Science Association and the American Philosophical Association. She has served as the chair of the department’s graduate program and has been the director of the Master of Arts in Political Science program.

The Georgia State University College of Arts and Sciences honored Lindsay with its Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002, and she was named a Distinguished Professor in 2003.

Lindsay is a native of Georgia and has lived in the state for most of her life. She received her undergraduate degree from Emory University and her graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley.

Lindsay’s work has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation.

The office will highlight volunteer opportunities throughout the Atlanta area during the month-long program, which will wrap up with a closing ceremony for all the Students for Social Change programs in the city.

New mentoring program looking for participants

The Advancement of Women on Campus will begin taking applications this month for the sixth edition of a new mentoring program. The Advancement of Women on Campus, Now Hiring Season Program, will run from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

There are 10 mentors and 10 mentees needed.

Drs. Oha, director of the program, said women interested in participating in the program may contact her by e-mailing drs@gsu.edu or by contacting her in her office, 1104 Malakoff Hall.

To become a mentor, an applicant should be a manager for three years (or equivalent) and have a good understanding of the social sciences and have a professional experience and must have worked at Georgia State for at least two years.

To be a mentee, employees must be in management or should have one to three years experience in their current positions and must have been a Georgia State employee for at least one year.

Call For Papers

The 2006 University System of Georgia, President’s Teaching Excellence Award, is a national program that recognizes outstanding teaching in higher education.

The program is open to all full-time faculty members at Georgia State University who have been teaching for at least three years.

The program celebrates the teaching excellence of instructors at the university and the importance of teaching in higher education.

The program will be held on May 4, 2006, in the Georgia State Student Center at 240 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta.

For more information, please contact the University’s Director of Public Relations, Mike Hanks, at 404-413-4200 or mhaunc@gsu.edu.
Ga-0364

neoPhonia
Tuesday, October 3 - 7:30 PM
Nicklas | Demos, artistic director
Presented in partnership with the Center for Helenic Studies
Featuring music by Greek composers.
Rialto Center Lobby - FREE

Faculty Recital: Adam Kirkpatrick, tenor
Wednesday, October 18 - 7:30 PM
Peter Marshall, piano
Featuring works by Finzi, Marx, Donizetti, Bellini and Verdi.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Guest Artist Concert/Lecture
Friday, October 13 - 12:00 PM
Zach Browning, composer
Featuring works by Zach Browning, including Sole Injection, Crest, Hammer and Secret Pulse (all for various instruments and computer-generated sounds); as well as works by Irish composers.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Faculty Recital: Adam Pendleton, saxophone
Monday, October 16 - 7:30 PM
Laura Gorby, piano
Featuring works by Lauba, Ter Veldhus, Debussy and Zach Browning plus a premiere by Gordon Green.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Atlanta Chamber Players
Tuesday, October 17 - 7:30 PM
Paula Peace, artistic director/piano
Featuring Brahms’ Clarinet Trio and Piano Quartet in G Minor.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Georgina風hira
Biology professor Barbara Baumstark (right) celebrates receiving a four-year $1.5 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute with Georgia State President Carl Patton and Bio-Bus administrative coordinator Genevieve Edwards. The grant was awarded to Georgia State's biology and chemistry departments to establish biotechnology research and lab programs for undergraduates and continue funding the Bio-Bus program.

University Singers at Spivey Hall
Sunday, October 22 - 8:15 PM
Duncan Couch, conductor
With the Georgia State Brass Ensemble, Tom Gibson, conductor
Featuring Norman Dello Joio’s To Saint Cecilia, Mozart’s Te Deum, and other works.
Spivey Hall, Clayton State University - $15
678-466-4200 or www.spiveyhall.org

Choral Society and Women’s Chorus
Tuesday, October 24 - 7:30 PM
Ryan McKendrick and Elizabeth Wilson, conductors
Featuring works by Fauré, Mozart, Buxte, Alice Parker and William Dawson.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

INFORMATION: www.music.gsu.edu or 404-651-INFO

Paul Alberto, research professor in mental retardation, was appointed Regents’ Professor in the College of Education’s department of educational psychology and special education.

Douglas Davis, assistant professor of educational policy studies, is a board member of the Ron Clark Academy. Ron Clark Academy is a private school for inner-city children in grades five through eight in south Atlanta.

Warren Haston, assistant professor of music education, will be a presenter at Georgia’s 2006 Collegiate Music Educators National Conference Oct. 20-21 at Columbus State University. Haston’s session, “Useful Resources/Publications for the New Band Director,” will introduce pre-service band directors to the useful publications available that make the administrative aspects of teaching simpler, allowing directors to focus on making music.

Five articles by Gregory B. Lewis, professor of public administration and urban studies, were reprinted as chapters in the Walter D. Broadnax book Diversity and Affirmative Action in Public Service. The book also featured a chapter reprinted from an article by Lloyd Nigro, professor of public administration and urban studies, titled “A Mini-Symposium: Affirmative Action in Public Employment.”

Jan Ligon, associate professor of social work, has been appointed associate dean of research for the College of Health and Human Sciences for one year.

Basil H. Mattingly, professor of law, was selected by the Georgia State University College of Law student body to be the 2005-2006 professor of the year.

Kathryn McClymond, associate professor of religious studies, and Chris White, assistant professor of religious studies, recently had book manuscripts accepted by major publishers. McClymond’s book was accepted by Johns Hopkins Press and White’s by the University of California Press.

Karen Minyard, director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, addressed the state of Georgia’s health system to the Senate Healthcare Transformation Study Committee and spoke to the Georgia Free Clinic Network Conference.


Faculty:
Jazztet
Tuesday, October 10
7:30 PM
Gordon Vernick, director
Special Guest: Raz Abbasi, guitar
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Atlanta Chamber Players
Tuesday, October 17 - 7:30 PM
Paula Peace, artistic director/piano
Featuring Brahms’ Clarinet Trio and Piano Quartet in G Minor.
Kopleff Recital Hall - $10 general admission, $5 students with ID, Free for GSU School of Music students/faculty

Georgia Chamber Winds
Friday, October 20 - 7:30 PM
Robert J. Ambrose, conductor
Sarah Kruter Ambrose, flute; Jeanne Melili, flute; Laura Saville, oboe; Brendan Bushman, oboe; Ken Long, clarinet; Miranda Dohrmann, clarinet; Fletcher Forehand, bassoon; Patrice Dusold, bassoon; Jay Haaselman, horn; Jeffrey Cook, horn
An evening of French chamber wind music, including works by Françaix, Dubois, Arrieu, Casadesus and Pierre. Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Georgia State University
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Upcoming Events

Villager