World leaders discuss poverty and progress in Africa

By Michael Wall • mwall@gsu.edu

Africa’s challenges and successes, as seen through the eyes of World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz and the Honorable Andrew Young, was the topic of a stirring roundtable discussion, “World Bank – Governance and Poverty Reduction,” with an invitation-only audience Dec. 11 at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

Wolfowitz and Young shared stories and opinions and answered questions about global economic development, concentrating particularly on the progress and promise of African nations.

“When I got to the [World Bank] in April of last year, I was very aware of the needs of Africa and very aware the bank needs to be greatly involved there. What’s come to me as a pleasant surprise is Africa really is changing,” noted Wolfowitz, the 10th president of the World Bank and former ambassador to Indonesia.

Young, former Ambassador to the United Nations, and Wolfowitz both mentioned Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria as examples of African nations that have made extraordinary progress.

“I was stunned by Rwanda. It’s a country where in 1994, 950,000 people were murdered by hand, and yet since then they’ve achieved peace and have attracted back remarkable Rwandans,” Wolfowitz said. “Rwanda, Tanzania and Ghana bring home the idea that the greatest thing a country can have is peace and stability.”

Roy Bahl, dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and moderator of the discussion, stated, “For a while people thought that globalization would be the solution to poverty. [But] in terms of GDP [gross domestic product], the gap has widened between rich countries and poor countries.”

Wolfowitz, who has served under seven U.S. presidents, replied, “I don’t accept the picture that globalization is making things worse. I don’t think Africa’s condition is caused by globalization. I think Africa needs access to globalization.”

Last year the World Bank provided $23.6 billion for 279 projects that strive to reduce poverty. Currently, about half of the 6 billion people on earth live in conditions that meet the World Bank’s definition of poverty.

New legal clinic aids children

By Michael Wall • mwall@gsu.edu

Beginning in January, College of Law students can get course credit for participating in an on-campus free legal clinic designed to help low-income children overcome socio-economic barriers to better health.

The Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Clinic, launched by law professors Sylvia B. Caley and Lisa R. Bliss, operates under the belief that poverty, lack of education and other social issues play a role in the health of children.

HeLP, a collaboration between the Georgia State College of Law, Atlanta Legal Aid Society and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, maintains offices within the law school and in Scottish Rite and Egleston children’s hospitals.

Atlanta Legal Aid and law school faculty have already handled more than 250 cases and that number will drastically increase once students join the clinic.

The attorneys have handled cases involving family law, housing conditions, consumer cases and even adoption and custody cases.

Caley and Bliss both want HeLP to recreate the atmosphere of a functional law firm for the legal clients. They really wanted to win so that we could take back bragging rights to our home team.

What was the final outcome? We placed second overall! We were very excited about that finish. There were some things that we think we should have placed higher in such as the dance competition, but just like football, there were several areas that we could have done better in to clinch the win. You can’t blame it all on one play. All three final teams tied in the end. The way the scores were written, any tiebreakers were determined by the dance score, which we did not win. However, most people think that we should have won the dance. You’ll have to watch the show and be the judge.

What have your fellow cheerleaders had to say about your performance? They loved it! They were so supportive throughout the whole process. They called throughout the week to say hello and to see how things were going. When we got back, they had a cake and pampering gifts for us. With my fitness background, they were glad that I went and excited about our second place finish.

How do you juggle the responsibilities of working in the Welcome Center, being Georgia State’s cheerleading coach and being a Falcons cheerleader? Planning, Planning, Planning! I don’t leave home without my day planner and cell phone. We handle a lot of correspondence through e-mail also.

You recently took part in the Cheerleader Challenge on the NFL Network. What kind of challenges did you participate in? We did rock climbing, roller skating, swimming, obstacle course, bungee tips and, of course, dance. We also had football knowledge segments where we were tested on various things about the NFL.

What was the best experience? The experience was so wonderful. The best part was getting to meet all the girls from other teams. We got to share stories about our various cheerleader experiences. Yet the competition was really tough. By nature we are all very competitive. We all really wanted to win so that we could take back bragging rights to our home team.

What have your fellow cheerleaders had to say about your performance? They loved it! They were so supportive throughout the whole process. They called throughout the week to say hello and to see how things were going. When we got back, they had a cake and pampering gifts for us. With my fitness background, they were glad that I went and excited about our second place finish.

Welcome Center Information Specialist, Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader

Nicole Duncan

Head Cheerleading Coach, Welcome Center Information Specialist, Atlanta Falcons Cheerleader
I read a lot about nutrition, but sometimes what I read about it on the Internet is downright frightening.

Claim 1: Some foods have “negative calories.” There is a list of foods that supposedly have “negative calorie effects.” The “theory” behind this claim is that your body uses more calories to digest these foods than they contain. Therefore, if you eat them, you will burn more calories than you eat. Foods on this list are said to include celery, asparagus, cabbage, broccoli, cucumbers, lettuce, zucchini and lemons.

No food has “negative calories.” If your diet consisted solely of the foods on the negative calorie list, would you lose weight? Sure, because they are all very low-calorie foods. Every time we eat, we burn a few calories chewing, swallowing and digesting food, but the only way to burn extra calories is through activity.

Claim 2: Vegetable- and fruit-based powders or pills can stop the aging process and allow you to grow younger. No powder, pill or supplement can prevent aging. Eating right and exercise can delay some of the decline associated with aging, but nothing can prevent it. You can’t be in better physical health at age 65 than at age 45, but that doesn’t mean you are growing younger.

Several supplements on the market claim to stop aging say they contain all the nutrients found in fresh fruit and vegetables, but that just isn’t true. Fruits and vegetables contain hundreds of plant chemicals or phytochemicals as well as vitamins, minerals and fiber. No pill can deliver the goods found in a varied diet.

Claim 3: You can use 35 percent food grade hydrogen peroxide to treat serious illnesses. This claim is downright dangerous — so dangerous that the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning last July advising consumers not to purchase or ingest what marketers are calling “35 percent food grade hydrogen peroxide.”

This product is much stronger than the solution we use for cleaning minor cuts. When taken internally, the stronger hydrogen peroxide is corrosive to the gastrointestinal tract, leading to ulcers and bleeding.

All dietary supplements carry the warning: “These statements [the health claims made for supplements] have not been evaluated by the FDA, and this product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. It’s a ‘buyer-beware’ market; the burden is on the consumer to make good choices.

Nominations sought for President’s Awards

Georgia State’s Office of Community Service is accepting nominations for the second annual President’s Awards for Community Service and Social Action, which honor people who have made a commitment to develop positive connections within the community and gain an understanding of civic responsibility.

Nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. Feb. 1 to the Office of Community Service, 320 Student Center.

The Office of Community Service, which promotes opportunities for community service and service learning, established the awards to honor faculty, staff, and student community groups making significant, positive impact on and demonstrating an outstanding commitment to service and social action.

The five award categories are Outstanding Community Impact, Outstanding Campus Impact, Outstanding Faculty or Staff Member, Outstanding University Program Award and Outstanding Community Partner Award.

For more information, contact Lowell Lemons at (404) 463-9043.

Eudora Welty honored in exhibit at Welsh School Gallery

The “Eudora Welty Project,” opening Jan. 18 at the Ernest G. Welsh School of Art and Design Gallery, will honor the late Southern author and observe the 100th anniversary of Georgia State’s literary journal Five Pints.

The project, which runs through March 1, will display two simultaneous exhibitions organized by Welsh School instructor Teresa Bramlette Reeves and gallery director Cathy Byrd.

“The Petrol Man” exhibit displays the Welsh School faculty’s artistic response to the Eudora Welty short story of the same title. “One Writer’s Art” presents photography and writing by Welty Project collaborators, including the Georgia State Library’s Rare Collection, the Five Pints journal along with the English and communications departments.

Associate professor of English and Welsh scholar Pearl McHorney will speak about the late writer’s art Feb. 1 during the Turner First Thursdays Arts Walk.

The opening reception is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 18.

Nominations for Staff Council elections

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Staff Council election dates. Georgia State employes can nominate representatives for Staff Council from Jan. 22 through Feb. 2. Elections will take place Feb. 19 through March 2.

Staff Council is the staff representation in the University Senate, which also has student and faculty representation. The Staff Council’s mission is to foster effective communication within the university community.

All-time staff members with at least one year of continuous service with Georgia State as of Feb. 1 are eligible for nomination.

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

Brown Bag Series delves into nonprofit sector

The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Brown Bag Series is dedicated to studying the role of the nation’s nonprofit groups and associations and training students to lead in the sector.

So far, the series has featured Brown Bag Seminar Series that is open to the public. The series kicks off Jan. 17 with a presentation by Czech Republic economist Andreas Ortmann. It will take place from 12-2 p.m. in Room 749 of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

Other topics to be covered include evaluating the effectiveness of nonprofits, the history of U.S. philanthropy and the role of black churches. For more information, visit http://aips.gsu.edu/nonprofits/events/index.html.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Debate teams, poli sci students recognized nationally

Four students in Arts and Sciences closed out 2006 by garnering some well-deserved national recognition – two receiving a prestigious federal scholarship, and two climbing the national ranks in debate.

Political science major Damira Rashedd and psychology major Salameh Ayatollahi have each won a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The federally funded scholarships help students with limited financial resources to study abroad.

Rashedd will spend spring, 2007 in Cyprus on an interpretative learning program, while Barrie will spend a semester studying at Macquarie University in Australia. The pair was among 400 students accepted into the Gilman program out of 1,189 applicants.

Two other undergraduates, Joel Leman and Chris Pazar, have recently become the highest-ranked debate team in Georgia State history. This year the partners reached 24th place in the national power rankings.

Georgia State also has done well in school rankings, rising in recent years to place consistently in the top half of debate teams. Previously, the highest Georgia State students had placed in the national rankings was 72nd.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Doctoral program accredited until 2013

The American Psychological Association has awarded accreditation to the counseling psychology doctoral program in the College of Education for another seven years.

Accreditation of the program plays an important role in students’ eligibility for future employment and licensure as a psychologist, said Barry Chung, program coordinator of the counseling psychology doctoral program.

A formal report by the APA Committee on Accreditation was sent to Georgia State University President Carl Patterson in November 2006 granting the counseling psychology program accreditation status until 2013.

In addition to a self-study submitted in fall 2005, there was a site visit in April 2006. The visit team interviewed Patton, Provost Ran Haney, College of Education Dean Ron Colburn, faculty and students in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services, and other related faculty and clinical supervisors.

The next site visit is scheduled for 2013.
Community Service Award winners announced

The winners of the 2007 Hoosa Williams Award for Community Activism and the Torch of Peace Award have been announced and will be recognized at the 24th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation on Jan. 18 at the Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium.

The Hoosa Williams Award honors an individual and a community-based organization for their public service efforts. The award recipients are: Reps. Robert Abrams-Salas, representative for Georgia House District 74, and Sons and Daughters with Destiny, an organization committed to serving women, children and families with programming that will inspire all to make changes in their lives.

The Torch of Peace Award honors students, faculty and staff members, student organizations and alumni who have demonstrated leadership and service in the promotion of intercultural relations. The winners are as follows:

Undergraduate student: Regina Stephens
Graduate student: Lewis Haughton Faulk
Alumni: Tammi Michelle Driskill
Staff: Tammy Turner, Student Health Promotion and Education Office
Organization: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Zeta Mu Chapter
Faculty: Harvey Newman, professor of public administration and urban studies

Finance and Administration employees recognized for achievements

More than 300 employees attended the Division of Finance and Administration’s ninth annual Reward and Recognition Program Oct. 26 at the Radio Center for the Arts.

Several dozen employees were promoted during the ceremony. Four academic units within the college have agreed to collaborate on research during the next several months to study and prepare athletes for the new Georgia Marathon, which is scheduled to be held March 25 in downtown Atlanta. The research is being done in cooperation with the marathon’s organizer.

Researchers will be investigating the nutrition, training conditions and habits of marathon runners, but this time they will be focusing on the race’s average Joe. Researchers from the Institute of Public Health and the nutrition, physical therapy and respiratory therapy divisions are all scheduled to start work on the project within weeks.

Marathon participants will be asked to complete a survey and have the opportunity to meet members of the research team, which is named in honor of the late Judge William W. Daniel of the Superior Court of Fulton County.

J. MACK RICKSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Southern ethics institute joins college

The Southern Institute for Business and Professional Ethics, a leading organization in the promotion of ethical leadership and business integrity, became a unit of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business Jan. 1.

The Southern Institute was founded in 1993 as an independent, community-based initiative and has a mission to raise awareness and understanding of ethics in business and professional life. Its goal is to stimulate a productive community dialogue about ethical issues, values and responsibilities.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Researchers assess ‘average’ marathon athletes

The same research and training that goes into preparing world-class athletes for professional competition is now making its way to not-so-world-class athletes thanks to work being done in the College of Health and Human Sciences this spring.

Four academic units within the college have agreed to collaborate on research during the next several months to study and prepare athletes for the new Georgia Marathon, which is scheduled to be held March 25 in downtown Atlanta. The research is being done in cooperation with the marathon’s organizer.

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Thursday, January 18, 2007

MLK Convocation

On the Shoulders of Our Ancestors: A Tribute to the Civil Rights Movement

Author & Playwright

Pearl Cleage

Convocation Keynote Speaker

4pm, Student Center Auditorium

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation pays tribute to Dr. King for his work in the areas of social justice and human rights. The event features a pre-lunch convocation, award ceremony and program. Please RSVP to reserve your seat immediately following the program.

Friday, January 19, 2007

Contributing to the Community

8am-3pm, Zeta Mu

Students will earn and track checkered service term and make meaningful contributions to a community partner in the city of Atlanta. Come and join your peers to brighten the life of someone in need today.

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Speech, Argument, and Life: A Moment of Performance and Expression

3pm, Unicus, Life 1 and 2

Senior Student Writers will express themselves through spoken word and rap.

Overcoming Oppression Through Greed

4pm, Johnson Auditorium

Graduate members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council from the Atlanta community will discuss personal experiences with oppression and the role that other organizations played in overcoming this adversity.

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

HIV Testing

9am-3pm, University Center: 4th Floor

Get tested today for your HIV test! ARC-LET (AIDS Research, Education and Counseling) will conduct the test on-site free and confidential.

Suit 330 Student Center

For additional information, please visit www.gsu.edu/healthandsafety/relations or call 404-463-7010 or email sproschlet@gsu.edu

Georgia State University

FROM A PRINCE TO A KING: TURNING POTENTIAL INTO PRODUCT

Open, Dinner Series

This month’s featured speaker will explore human potential and utilize the knowledge, talents, and skills of each individual. The program will focus on interactive workshops designed to give practical tips on how to maximize the skills of group members in order to achieve positive change.

Project Empty Bowls

Understanding, Your Role in the Community

Open, Dinner Series

This event will focus on a discussion related to hunger, homelessness and poverty. A silent auction will be exhibited to support the event. Participants will be served by the Hosea Williams Foundation, GSU’s Office of Community Service and several student organizations.

Thursday, January 25, 2007

Your Life is Your Business: 4 pm Student Center

This event explores the value, responsibilities, necessities and power of Global Leaders and leaders today (116-179).

Tunnel of Oppression...A Preview

Jan 20, 2007

University Student Center

The Tunnel of Oppression is a multimedia, educational and experiential guided journey through “real life” oppression and archetypes. Each room is designed to take the participants on a thought-provoking experience to empathize that open our eyes to the injustices in our society.

Friday, January 26, 2007

Creating Allies on Campus

12:10pm, Lion’s Lair

Participate and learn the opportunity to expand your knowledge on the topics gay, bisex, transgender, queer, intersex and questioning community.

Eclectic Affair...Throwback

Unity Ball

9pm - 1am, Alumni Hall

Gaudionic MSB will dress in clothing that represents a past decade and time period. This will be a great evening with the best food and entertainment experience for all.

PRESENTED BY

STUDENT LIFE

AND LEADERSHIP INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS

3
Religious studies chair to lead national study

By William Irvin • winman@gsu.edu

Tim Renick, the chair of religious studies at Georgia State, will use a $75,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation to lead an 18-month study of his field over the next year and a half. The study will bring more than a dozen leading scholars of religion to Atlanta to meet with professionals of law, journalism, nonprofit organizations and others to investigate the nature of the religious studies major and its role in a liberal arts education. The grant is one of six given nationally to various academic disciplines by the foundation, a New York-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of undergraduate education nationally. “We’ll bring in the group of scholars and put them in the same room with people in other professions to encourage dialogue,” Renick said.

The project will propose ways in which the religious studies major can better equip students to face the changing needs of society. “The fact that we’re the host institution and the site for this work is in many ways a confirmation of the kind of religious studies that we’re doing here at Georgia State,” said Renick. “I think there is a trend toward increasingly appreciating the need to educate people about a whole range of world religions, and that’s what we’ve been doing since the beginning.”

Y. Barry Chung, associate professor in counseling and psychological services, was elected to the Board of Educational Affairs of the American Psychological Association for 2007-2009. Associate professor of English Beth Glynis poetry was recently published in William Carney’s Terminus and the anthology Under the Rock Umbrella: Modern American Poems from 1951-1976. Stephen Harmon, chair of the Division of Learning Technologies in the College of Education, presented at the 2006 international meeting of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education in Orlando, Fla. His presentation was titled “The Crossroads: Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology at the Intersection of Content and Pedagogy.”


Regents’ Professor Emeritus of respiratory therapy David Martin received the Giegengack Award from USA Track & Field for his contributions to the sport. Martin has served as an adviser for many distance runners and has published more than 50 articles and five books on running techniques and training. He was part of a team that helped prepare the 2004 medal-winning men’s and women’s Olympic marathon teams.

Mike Metzler, associate dean of the College of Education, delivered the 39th Delphine Hanna Lecture at the annual Conference of the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education Jan. 5 in Clearwater, Fla. Metzler was also the keynote speaker at an international conference on physical education teacher education Jan. 13 at the Mechanical and Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

Josh Russell, assistant professor of English, was awarded a 2006 Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts. His short stories have recently been published in Epoch, Magazine and the Dalton Gallery exhibition catalog for “Blackbird on Your Shoulder.”

Debra Schober-Peterson, clinical associate professor in communications disorders, presented “Preventing Reading Failure in At-Risk Urban Preschoolers” last November at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in Miami. Schober-Peterson’s co-authors are Sara Dowless, Sarah Layton, Dajuandra Taylor and Rebekah Walker.

Laura Taylor, associate professor of economics, was selected to serve a three-year term on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board. Board members constitute a distinguished body of scientists, engineers and economists who are recognized nongovernmental experts in their respective fields.

University Career Services acting director Angela Walker and associate director Karen Whitehead gave a presentation titled “Measuring Student Learning in Career Services” at the Southeastern Association of Colleges and Employers Annual Conference in Atlanta.

Computer science assistant professor Ying Zhu was recently named director of the Hypermedia and Visualization Laboratory. The lab serves as the computer science department’s focal point for interdisciplinary research projects. Zhu has taught at Georgia State since 2003.

Join us for the second annual Polar Bear Plunge

February 25, 2007
Indian Creek Pool

The event is free to faculty/staff, alumni and currently enrolled students of Georgia State. Registration is required. The event is a “GG” rain, sleet or snow! The first 100 participants will receive an “I Survived the Plunge” long sleeve T-shirt.

For info: www.gsu.edu/recreation or 404-463-1529 or 404-463-1504