



Villager

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS • www.gsu.edu/villager

True blue: Georgia State channels 94 years of Panther pride for 2007 Homecoming

By Leah Harris • lh@gsu.edu

Get ready to cheer on the Panthers as Georgia State celebrates Homecoming 2007, “True Blue: 94 Years of Pride and Tradition,” with activities for students, alumni, faculty and staff. Homecoming Week will kick off when the Lady Panthers take on Towson University at 2 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Sports Arena.

“Homecoming is a universitywide event, and we really want everyone on campus to show their true blue pride and to be excited about Georgia State,” said Pamela Anthony, assistant dean and director of student life and leadership and chair of the Homecoming Coordination Committee.

Faculty and staff can display their Panther pride by participating in the annual office and door decorating contest Feb. 13 and the Golf-Cart Parade Feb. 15. The decorating contest is free, but there is a \$25 golf-cart fee for the parade, which can be paid to the Office of Student Life and Leadership.

Georgia State health educator Tammy Turner said of the decorating contest, “It’s fun, but it’s also an opportunity for [the Health Promotions Office] to get a health message out to the campus community.”

Family Weekend also will take place during Homecoming Week. Students and employees are encouraged to bring their families to various activities on campus, including the Homecoming game at 2 p.m. Feb. 17 when the men’s basketball team plays in the ESPN BracketBuster against Elon University in the Sports Arena. ESPN will announce the opponent two weeks prior to the game.

A pre-game pep rally/tailgate will be held on the Student Recreation Center lawn, and immediately after the game the Alumni Association will host a reception in the Student Center Ballroom where Pieces of Eight will provide the entertainment. Tickets are \$15 and include hors d’oeuvres, drinks and game ticket. Tickets are \$10 for season ticket holders. For details, contact the Alumni Association at (404) 651-2190.

For more information about Homecoming events, contact the Office of Student Life and Leadership at (404) 463-9031.

5 minutes with:

David Sjoquist

Director of the Fiscal Research Center, Director of Domestic Programs, Dan E. Sweat Distinguished Chair in Educational and Community Policy and Professor of Economics

What's it like interacting with the state's legislators each legislative session?

It’s fun and challenging. The members are really busy. They are also working under pretty tight deadlines, so during the session we have to respond very quickly to any specific request. So we try to anticipate the issues and have information on hand before the session starts. But they appreciate getting information and the analysis.

What issues do the Fiscal Research Center get called upon to discuss?

Generally, the issues vary from year to year. To give you an idea, this past summer we made presentations on tax compliance, sales tax exemptions, budget reserves, sales tax rates along Georgia’s border and school funding litigation. We also estimate the revenue implications of all proposed tax legislation. This is the third year we’re doing that. Last year we considered over 100 bills.

What's your overall goal when you advise lawmakers on these matters?

Our goal is to make legislators as informed as possible regarding implications and alternatives as they consider fiscal issues. We want them to understand what all of the effects of some tax policy will be and that there might be an alternative way of achieving the objective. It is not our role to tell lawmakers what they should do. We see our role as providing objective analysis that allows them to make more informed decisions.

What kind of impact do your presentations and fiscal research studies have at the Capitol?

Hard to tell. We have no way of determining whether our analysis changed someone’s vote or led to a change in the legislation. We know the material is used in discussions of legislation. And every once in a while, when we do a presentation there will be an “aha” moment for someone when he or she realizes the full implications of some piece of legislation or policy.

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Sunday, Feb. 11**
Women’s Basketball Game vs. Towson
2 p.m., Sports Arena
- ▶ **Monday, Feb. 12**
Fashion Show
7:30 p.m., Student Center Ballroom
- ▶ **Tuesday, Feb. 13**
Office & Door Decorating Contest
Greek Stroll-Off
12:15 p.m., Unity Plaza
- ▶ **Wednesday, Feb. 14**
Men’s Basketball Game vs. Northeastern
7 p.m., Sports Arena
Homecoming Court Coronation & Ball
9 p.m., Student Center Ballroom
- ▶ **Thursday, Feb. 15**
Golf-Cart Parade
12:15 p.m.
Intramural Championship
7 p.m., Student Recreation Center
Amateur Night
7:30 p.m., Student Center Ballroom
- ▶ **Saturday, Feb. 17**
Pep Rally/Tailgating
Noon, Student Recreation Center Lawn
Homecoming Game vs. Elon
(Followed by Alumni Reception)
2 p.m., Sports Arena
Greek Showcase
9 p.m., Sports Arena
- ▶ **Sunday, Feb. 18**
Women’s Basketball Game vs. Hofstra
2 p.m., Sports Arena



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Mentorship builds better mathematicians

By Aaron Baca • abaca@gsu.edu



Florian Enescu (left) mentors student Brian Hall

Everybody needs a good guide sometimes. Scientists are no different, says Georgia State University’s Florian Enescu, an assistant professor of mathematics, who has built a promising program to make budding mathematicians of talented students.

“People think mathematicians sit around doing calculations all day and that there’s no real research in mathematics,” Enescu says. “We wouldn’t have so much of our technology today if it wasn’t for math. I want our students to know how to do that kind of research.”

This spring marks the second year Enescu has helped lead Research Initiations in Mathematics, Mathematics Education and Statistics, or RIMMES. The volunteer mathematics program pairs able undergraduate students with mathematics faculty mentors for several months. The students are taught how to conduct mathematics research, what kinds of problems present good research potential and, ultimately, how to present scientific research properly.

Four students are currently enrolled in the program but 21 faculty members volunteered to serve as mentors.

Georgia State’s mathematics program currently terminates at a master’s degree, but acting mathematics department chair Draga Vidakovic says the department hopes “the experience that students get participating in RIMMES will motivate most of them to pursue the Ph.D. degree in mathematics.”

The current RIMMES program ends in March, after which students will present papers on their research. Plans are in the works to increase RIMMES enrollment in the fall.



Nutrition resources on the Web

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com



Chris Rosenbloom, Ph.D., is a nutrition professor and associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Her columns appear regularly in Villager courtesy of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Fifty-one percent of the 147 million adults who use the Internet look for nutrition information, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project. As you make your efforts to eat more healthfully, consider some free nutrition advice provided on reputable Web sites. Avoid the temptation to consult "Dr. Google" for a diet plan or a supplement; instead, seek advice from qualified professionals.

Concern: You have high blood pressure, and you want to try lifestyle changes before you try drugs.

Recommended site: Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), www.nhlbi.nih.gov. Type DASH in the search box.

Pros: The DASH plan lowers blood pressure most effectively in those with pre-hypertension or moderate high blood pressure. The diet consists of foods that contain high levels of calcium, potassium and magnesium with a modest restriction in salt.

Cons: The site is not user-friendly, but the advice is. Your best bet is to print out the entire PDF of the diet plan if your printer can handle the 60-plus-page document.

Concern: You want to try a dietary approach to lower cholesterol.

Recommended site: The Portfolio Eating Plan, www.portfolioeatingplan.com

Pros: This plan combines items that lower cholesterol in a "portfolio" of soy, almonds, plant sterols (Take Control or Benecol margarines) and fiber-rich foods. Cholesterol levels can be lowered to levels approaching what is achieved with statin drugs.

Cons: This diet plan is close to being vegetarian, which might not appeal to everyone.

Concern: You have a high blood cholesterol level, but you want to try a dietary approach to lower cholesterol.

Recommended sites: My Pyramid, www.mypyramid.gov; 5 A Day, www.5aday.gov

Pros: Both sites contain a wealth of information on eating healthfully. The My Pyramid site lets you track your activity and diet and analyzes the results. The 5 A Day site contains ideas and recipes to help you eat more fruits and veggies.

Cons: The My Pyramid site contains so much information you will need to spend time navigating the site to uncover all of its secrets. The diet analyzer can be slow.

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university briefs

New grant to give Rialto dance series a lift

► The Rialto Center for the Arts has been awarded a two-year \$100,000 grant from the Charles Loidans Foundation in support of their acclaimed dance series.

The Rialto hopes to present two noteworthy American companies each season in collaboration with area dance organizations. The funding will put Atlanta on the touring map for outstanding companies rarely seen in the South, said **Leslie Gordon**, director of operations at the Rialto.

"We look forward to being a leader in identifying new Atlanta audiences for modern dance," she said.

The funding will help create a new program that will include master classes, lectures about the dance forms and special promotions to Georgia State students to encourage their interest in dance and the Rialto.

The Loidans Foundation is a group focused on education funding and the arts community in Atlanta.

Georgia State student wins Miss Georgia USA

► A Georgia State University emerging leader, a Martin Luther King Day Service group leader and an American Marketing Association member is the winner of Miss Georgia USA 2007. Besting a field of 85 contestants, Georgia State student **Brittany Swann** captured the title last November in Newnan, Ga.

Competing as Miss Peachtree City USA, the marketing/management major won the honor to represent Georgia at the nationally televised Miss USA Pageant. Swann, who enjoys weight training, cooking and entertaining, will compete live on NBC March 23 for the chance to represent the United States in the Miss Universe pageant later this year.

"I would like to continue my work with the youth in getting them more interested in involvement in their communities," said Swann, when asked about her plans for the year as Miss Georgia USA. "Self-esteem as related to health and nutrition is an issue for young adults, especially young women, that I'm particularly concerned with focusing on during my year."

Panthers take the plunge at Indian Creek Pool

► Can you swim in frigid water like a polar bear? Take the challenge at Georgia State's second annual Polar Bear Plunge at 2 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Indian Creek Pool. The registration deadline is Feb. 23.

The event is free for faculty, staff, alumni and students. The first 100 participants will receive a long-sleeved "I Survived the Plunge" T-shirt. A special iceberg trophy will be presented to the student organization with the most participants in attendance.

For more information, call the Department of Recreational Services at (404) 463-1529 or visit www.gsu.edu/recreation.

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL of MUSIC

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S



Guest Artist - Richard Luby, violin
Thursday, February 8, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE



Guest Artist - Amy Leventhal, viola & Peter Marshall, piano
Sunday, February 11, 2007 - 3:00 PM
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE



neoPhonia New Music Ensemble
Tuesday, February 13, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Nickitas J. Demos, artistic director
"Music from the Red Earth" - A celebration of composers from the Atlanta area including works by Curtis Bryant, Jason Freeman and Laurence Sherr.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE



Guest Artist - Andrew Zohn, classical guitar
Friday, February 16, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE



Guest Artist - Alessandra Tiraterra, piano
Sunday, February 18, 2007 - 3:00 PM
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE



Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Thursday, February 22, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Robert J. Ambrose, conductor; Andrew Rindfleisch, guest composer; Daniel Steiger, guest conductor; Sarah Kruser Ambrose, flute
Featuring the music of Bernstein, Rindfleisch, Young and others.
Rialto Center for the Arts - FREE



University Symphony Orchestra
Sunday, February 25, 2007 - 3:00 PM
Michael Palmer, conductor
Rialto Center for the Arts - FREE

University Singers
Tuesday, February 27, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Duncan Couch, conductor
Robert Sund, guest conductor
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

Choral Society and Women's Chorus
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - 7:30 PM
Ryan McKendrick, conductor
Featuring the Fauré Requiem.
Kopleff Recital Hall - FREE

www.music.gsu.edu • 404-651-INFO

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

Director chosen for economic education council

Shelby Frost, clinical assistant professor of economics, has been appointed as the director of the Georgia State University Center for Business and Economic Education, a liaison position with the Georgia Council on Economic Education, which is the university's local link to the state, national and international network of economic educators based in state universities. Frost's primary research involves environmental economics.

Bill Rushing served as the center's most recent director.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Philosophy department to host NEH seminar

The department of philosophy and the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics has been chosen to host a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar July 9-Aug. 3 titled "Philosophical Perspectives on Law, Democracy and Human Rights." The seminar is part of the We the People Initiative, an NEH project that enhances the teaching and understanding of American history, and will be co-directed by Georgia State philosophy professor **Andrew Altman** and **Christopher Heath Wellman**, associate professor of philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis.

The seminar invites college and university faculty members and independent scholars to Georgia State to examine philosophical accounts of democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

"In addition to discussing key classical texts and the best recent work on these issues, we will reserve a portion of the meeting time so that participants can present their own work," Altman said.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Starting college early

The College of Education is leading the way in preparing high school students for higher education. Twenty of Atlanta's Carver High School students are already cracking college books at Georgia State as part of the Georgia Board of Regent's new Early College High School Initiative.

The students, who began studying either Introductory English or Psychology at the start of the spring semester, are among 97 initiative students in an accelerated program at Carver that aims to give students an early start to their college education. The students are able to graduate with a high school diploma and 60 college credits simultaneously.

"Since this is a legacy class – this is the first Early College High School class in Georgia – it will be an example for the rest of the state to follow," said Gwen Benson, associate dean of the College of Education.

The early college model is designed to increase the number of underrepresented students in post-secondary education, such as minorities, English as a second language and low-income students. The 10th-graders were supposed to begin college in September, but 20 students were selected to test pilot the program because they were "academically above the curve." The remaining 77 students will join them at Georgia State in the fall.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

School of Nursing prepares for 20th anniversary

Doctoral graduates, faculty and former faculty of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing plan to gather in March at Georgia State for a conference and dinner commemorating the school's 20th anniversary.

Alumni will be honored at the conference for their contributions to nursing research, education and practice. **Marion Broome**, dean of the Indiana University School of Nursing, will deliver a keynote address. Broome formerly served as associate dean at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, holds a doctoral degree from the University of Georgia and is an American Academy of Nursing fellow.

Faculty and former students interested in attending are asked to contact the School of Nursing as the conference and dinner attendance is by invitation only.

Faculty consider the doctoral program integral to improving the current U.S. nursing shortage because it is one of only three colleges and universities in Georgia to offer a Ph.D. in nursing. Consequently, Georgia State is one of a select number of schools that can produce future nursing professors.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Mock trial team claims bioethics victory

The College of Law won the North Carolina Central University Bioethics Mock Trial Competition Nov. 11 in Durham, N.C. Hosted by NCCU's Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Law Institute, the contest is the institute's first civil mock jury trial competition for U.S. law students, focusing on the emerging issues of bioethics and pharmaceutical law.

Georgia State's team bested Regents Law School and North Carolina Central's home team in the preliminary rounds, George Mason Law in the semi-final round, and faced the home team again in the final round to claim first prize. Georgia State's team won jury verdicts in every round, whether representing plaintiff or defendant, and was the only team to win every competition round.

This was the second recent victory for the college's mock trial students, who won the 10th annual William W. Daniel National Invitational Mock Trial Competition last November in Atlanta.

J. MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Aviation program lands in business school

The J. Mack Robinson College of Business Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality has landed the Aviation and Transportation Program that was previously housed in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

The change of address also means a change of focus for the program, which will now address airport management, operations and marketing. However, some of the part-time professors have decades of airline experience, said School of Hospitality director **Debra F. Cannon**.

While housed in AYSPS, the program attracted about 150 students each year. The newly revamped program will offer business students the opportunity to earn a hospitality degree with a specialization in aviation.



SPRING 2007 EVENTS
Student Life and Leadership
Intercultural Relations



**STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP
INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS - 2007 SPRING PROGRAMS**

JANUARY
Monday, 8th
Evolving Experiences Dialogue Series
Applications Available
For additional information please visit:
www2.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations

Wednesday, 17th 12pm
Feed Your Senses
Rialto Center for the Performing Arts

Thursday, 18th 4pm
24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation
Keynote Speaker: **Pearl Cleage, Author and Playwright**
Student Center Speakers Auditorium
Dessert reception and book signing to follow

Thursday, 18th - 25th
Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Week
For additional information please visit:
www2.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations

FEBRUARY
Tuesday, 20th 12:15pm
Black History Month Theatrical Play "And Man Slept" Presented by DeKalb School of the Arts featuring the work of local playwrights: **Dr. Shirlene Holmes and Pearl Cleage**
Student Center Speakers Auditorium

Wednesday, 21st 12pm
Feed Your Senses
Rialto Center for the Performing Arts
Lunch provided

Thursday, 22nd 12:15pm
Lunch and Learn Social Justice Series Beyond Poverty: Race and Concentrated Poverty in Neighborhoods
Student Center Sinclair Suite
Lunch provided

Thursday, 22nd 6pm-8pm
Black History Month Celebration
Their Light Is Our Beacon
Photo Exhibition by **Dr. Doris A. Derby**
Student Center 3rd floor Gallery Lounge

MARCH
Thursday, 1st 12:15pm
Their Light Is Our Beacon Photo Exhibition by Dr. Doris A. Derby
Closing Program and Dialogue
Student Center 3rd floor Gallery Lounge

Wednesday, 21st 12pm
Feed Your Senses
Rialto Center for the Performing Arts

Thursday 22nd 5pm
Touched By My Own Creativity
Beads of Diversity Workshop
by **Zelda Grant**
Student Center Sinclair Suite
R.S.V.P. by Friday, March 16, 2007

Friday, 23rd 7pm
Illstyle and Peace Productions – Same Spirit Different Movement–Hip Hop Dance Company, Pre-Talk Lecture
Rialto Center for the Performing Arts
Main Show, 8pm
For additional information please visit:
www.rialtocenter.org

Thursday, 29th 12:15pm
Lunch and Learn Social Justice Series Education
Student Center Sinclair Suite
Lunch provided

APRIL
Wednesday, 18th 12pm
Feed Your Senses
Rialto Center for the Performing Arts

Thursday, 19th 12:15pm
Lunch and Learn Social Justice Series Recycle for Them, Recycle for Life
Student Center Sinclair Suite
Lunch provided



For additional information, please visit:
www2.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations
call 404/463-9031
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07-0033

Training courses offered for performance evaluations

By Leah Harris • lvh@gsu.edu

Management and Staff Development Services is offering training courses to explain ratings to new users or those who just need a refresher course in completing performance evaluations, which are mandatory and due by March 15. The department offers a three-hour new user course and a one-hour refresher course designed to train managers to use the tool effectively.

"This isn't the traditional evaluation tool where people get a one, two or three," said Dethra Giles, director of staff recruitment and retention. "Employees actually get a rating that tells them how they're doing, such as whether they're meeting or exceeding expectations.

We want to make sure it's used fairly across the board, so we need managers to know what these ratings mean."

Performance evaluations, which are stored in Human Resources, are used as performance indicators, to support merit pay increases, promotions and terminations, and to determine the university's need for new training courses. Managers rate various employee work habits, such as job knowledge, need for supervision, teamwork, communication and customer service skills.

Employees should only be evaluated on tasks they know they were responsible to perform, Giles said, and evaluations should not be unplanned, one-sided, biased or false.

It should not be the first time that an employee hears he or she is doing a good or bad job. Therefore, Giles recommends that managers include employees in the evaluation process as well as continuously update a performance record for each worker throughout the year.

"Evaluations should encompass the entire year of performance and there's no way to go back over a year without keeping a record," Giles said. "When trying to go off memory you only remember the best and worst thing the employee did, ... and that really isn't fair."

For more information or to schedule training, call (404) 651-2567.

APPLAUSE

James C. Cox, Noah Langdale Jr. Chair in economics and director of the Experimental Economics Center in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, presented "Insights from Natural, Field, and Laboratory Experiments on Decision Making" to the Georgia Center for Nonprofits' CEO Central 60, a nonprofit network organization.

Jeremy W. Crampton, an associate professor in the department of geosciences, served as editor for the book *Space, Knowledge and Power* that was published by Ashgate Publishing this month. The book is a collection of essays that examine the work of French philosopher Michael Foucault.

Caitlin Dooley, assistant professor of early childhood education, published "Everything They Were Giving Us Created Tension: Creating and Managing Tension in a Graduate-Level Multicultural Course Focused on Literacy Methods" in *Multicultural Education*.

Stephen Harmon, chair of the Division of Learning Technologies in the College of Education, presented a paper at the 2006 international meeting of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education in Orlando, Fla. His presentation was titled "Have a BLAST: Blog Learning Achievement Support Teams."

Joyce King, Benjamin E. Mays Chair of the department of educational policy studies, was a speaker at the University of Georgia's second annual Conference on Black Issues in Higher Education.

Adam Kirkpatrick, assistant professor in the School of Music, won the District Metropolitan Opera Competition Jan. 13 in Charlotte, N.C. He advances to the regional finals Feb. 18 at Clayton State University.

David L. Sjoquist, director of the Fiscal Research Center in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, senior researcher **Laura Wheeler**, FRC

principal associate **William J. Smith** and student **Justin Purkey** recently published "Transportation Funding Alternatives: A Preliminary Analysis," a report that explores issues associated with proposed alternative revenue sources for increasing transportation funding.

Walt Thompson, professor of exercise physiology, presented a lecture about promoting sport and exercise for people with disabilities last fall at the 11th annual World Sport for All Congress held in Havana.

The 2006 Campus Campaign, a university fundraising drive targeting faculty and staff, won a CASE III Special Merit Award in the category of educational fundraising project. The award recipients are **Myisha L. Washington** and **DeShanna K. Brown** from Annual Giving, and **Ellen Powell**, **Meg Buscema** and **Robert Steel** from University Relations.



Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue (center) shares a moment with Georgia State students at the Leadership Appreciation Night held at the Georgia Railroad Freight Depot in Atlanta. The event is an opportunity for Georgia State faculty, staff and students to meet and thank Georgia lawmakers. The governor is flanked by Adam Lyons (from left), Tran Nguyen, Joanna Bledsoe and John Brittan, all members of the 1913 Society.

SKI CATALOOCHEE



Division of Student Services



www.gsu.edu/recreation

For details call 404-463-1525

Trip Dates:
Friday, February 9
Friday, February 16
Friday, February 23
Friday, March 2

Cost: GSU Students: \$40
Faculty/Staff \$45
Others: \$50
Cost is per trip and includes leadership, transportation, one day lift ticket, ski rental and beginner lesson.