Thanks a million

Georgia State student recognized as one-millionth HOPE recipient
By Leah Harris • lvh@gsu.edu

Former Gov. Zell Miller dreamed that someday the question asked by Georgia parents would not be whether their child would go to college, but where their child would go to college.

Miller was able to celebrate his dream at Georgia State University Jan. 25 as 18-year-old Georgia State student John Thomas Smith was recognized as the one-millionth recipient of tuition assistance from the Georgia Lottery-funded HOPE Scholarship. The milestone was celebrated in the Student Center, where Gov. Sonny Perdue presented a plaque to Miller, the program’s visionary, engraved with the phrase, “Thanks a Million. We will be forever indebted.”

“Twenty years ago there were many families in the state of Georgia that would not even allow themselves to think about their children going to college because they knew deep down they couldn’t afford it,” Miller said. “I wanted to establish a culture of higher expectations where nobody would ever think like that in Georgia ever again.”

As of last fall, more than 37,000 Georgia State students have received at least one HOPE Scholarship disbursement and those 37,000 students received more than $223 million dollars, said Georgia State President Carl Patton.

“Those figures make Georgia State the second largest recipient of HOPE, but more importantly, what those dollars have done is allow the very talented and the best of the brightest students to attend Georgia State,” Patton said.

With funding from a state lottery approved in 1992, HOPE scholarships were phased in to cover tuition, mandatory fees and a book allowance at all public colleges and technical schools and to provide scholarships and grants to Georgia residents attending private colleges in the state. To qualify, entering students must earn a 3.0 in core curriculum courses in high school and must maintain a 3.0 average in college to keep the scholarship.

“We believe that the HOPE Scholarship has served as a catalyst for a culture of higher expectations,” said Robert M. Hardaway, Georgia State chancellor, and one of the architects of the program. “We encouraged students to go to college. Who knew we would have 37,000 of our students receiving HOPE? And who knew we would have one million recipients?”

Georgia State upgrades telephone system
By Leah Harris • lvh@gsu.edu

Georgia State University will change to a new telephone system and consolidate all campus telephone numbers to the prefix 404-413 this summer.

The new telephone system, which will be managed by the university will use Avaya’s voice over IP (VoIP) technology, an Internet-based system that will provide better functionality for faculty and staff and improve communication between the university and its customers.

“Avaya’s basic system offers a lot more features than what we currently have at Georgia State,” said Mark Roberson, assistant director of University Computing and Communications Services. “We also will be able to provide expedited service. Where currently it may take about three weeks to get a new telephone, the flexibility of the new service will allow us to do similar installations in two or three days.”

Four phases of the project will take place simultaneously, including revising the campus directory, upgrading the billing system, replacing telephones and configuring the network. The new phones will include basic features such as voice mail, caller ID, redial and a directory display. A limited number of devices will remain on an analog system, including fax machines and modems.

Telephone support for extended campus locations will be served by the new university telephone system or by service acquired from Florida Digital Network. Student housing is not included in the new system.

“Employees will begin to see IS&T and Avaya technicians around their offices at the end of March as they start installing telephones and working in communication closets around the university,” said Michael Calderon, project manager of Information Systems and Technology. “We just ask that employees be patient and work with us as we implement these changes.”
When it comes to body image, dieting behaviors, food choices and nutrient intake, mothers can be good to their daughters by being positive role models. A Mother-Daughter Role Modeling Summit, held in New York and sponsored by the Milk Processor Education Program, brought together national experts to review the research on the effect of a mother’s influence on a daughter’s health.

Some of the key points from the summit include the following:

Children’s food preferences are more strongly related with mothers than fathers, with the strongest link between mothers and daughters.

Mothers who eat few vegetables and are reluctant to try new foods tend to have daughters who are “picky” eaters.

Young girls who see that their mother is preoccupied with dieting and weight loss will be more preoccupied with weight.

Here are three easy ways for moms to be healthy role models:

1. Eat breakfast every day: preferable with your daughter. Breakfast doesn’t have to be bread and butter. The meal should include vitamin- and mineral-rich foods to boost kids’ nutrient intakes. The old standby, cereal and milk, is made better when topped with fruit and nuts. A cup of plain, low-fat yogurt is more appealing to kids when they can add dried fruit, cereal or trail mix to it.

2. Stop the soft drink habit and trade it for more healthful beverages like low-fat milk and calcium-fortified juice. Most girls and children need 70 percent of their calcium intake. Dairy foods account for about 70 percent of our calcium intake. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children drink three 8-ounce glasses of milk, or the equivalent, every day for strong bones.

In addition to calcium, milk provides other nutrients such as vitamins A and D, protein, phosphorus and magnesium.

3. Eat more fruits and vegetables to encourage your daughter to do the same.

Moms are the primary food shoppers, so keep your refrigerator and pantry stocked with fruits and veggies. Include a fruit or vegetable with every meal. Try frozen vegetables that can be steamed in the bag for a quick addition to dinner, or set out a bowl of sliced fruits as a pre-dinner snack.

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University attorney retires after 30 years
By Leah Harris • m@gsu.edu

After more than 30 years as Georgia State University’s chief attorney, John Marshall has announced that he will retire March 31. Provost Ron Henry has promoted Kerry Heyward, who has served as Georgia State’s deputy university attorney for six years, to succeed Marshall.

“I hope to try to develop a consulting practice with a few friends who are also lawyers in higher education,” Marshall said. “Most would assume I’m also going to play a few more rounds of golf and that’s absolutely true.”

Marshall, who was hired in September 1976, advises the president, provost and administrators on legal and administrative matters, and he will continue to work part-time for the university. He has helped guide the university through legal issues and has been a key figure in many projects and contracts for university developments such as the University Commons housing project and the University Science Park.

“What is good for anybody that’s going to be the chief attorney at a university is you have to be patient, you have to know the climate of the place, you have to know the history, you have to be able to deluge and the ability to get along with different types of folks,” Marshall said. “In all my years here we’ve only gone to trial and lost one case, so I feel good about the way we’ve managed and prevented litigation, settled problems and tried to do the right thing.”

Heyward, a native of West Palm Beach, Fla., received her law degree from Stetson University. Prior to joining Georgia State, Heyward worked in private practice dealing with corporate, tax and estate planning.

“John (Marshall) has been such a great role model that I feel we will have a smooth transition in continuing the reputation he has built to ensure that people really trust and value the service this office provides,” Heyward said.

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Customer service in Georgia government
The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies’ Public Performance and Management program and its students, but was involved in every aspect of the department’s work. “Whatever successes we have as a department for some time to come will have her fingerprints on them,” Downs said.

Byrd was survived by three sons, two grandsons and a sister. Her funeral was held Feb. 10 in Morrow, Ga.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Seminar focuses on philosophy in education
The department of educational policy studies and the department of philosophy are sponsoring a Philosophy in Education seminar featuring guest speaker Jim Garrison at noon March 15 in the College of Education, Room 1030. Garrison is a professor of philosophy of education at Virginia Tech, past president of the Philosophy of Education Society and president-elect of the John Dewey Society.

The title of Garrison’s speech is “Some Remarks on What Dewey’s Metaphysics Is and Is Not.” His work concentrates on American pragmatism, especially the philosophy of John Dewey. Garrison has won the Jim Merritt Award for his scholarship in the philosophy of education and the John Dewey Society Lifetime Achievement Award. He has edited and authored seven books, book chapters, and many papers in peer-reviewed journals.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Derek Boyles at (404) 651-1192 or dboyles@gsu.edu.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Families of death-row inmates reveal struggles in new book
Shadow of Death: Restorative Justice and Death Row Families, an examination by Dr. William Beck of DNA testing.

Beck, who directs the bachelor’s degree of social work program for the social work division within the College of Health and Human Sciences, spent five years researching the book. She conducted hundreds of hours of interviews with relatives of death-row inmates, exploring the guilt, exile and grief they experienced. In the book, Beck argues for a form of restorative justice that views violent crime as an extreme violation of relationships and seeks to hold offenders accountable for their actions while meeting the needs of victims and the wider community.

Beck has devoted much of her academic career to studying community partnerships, social movements and the mitigation of capital sentences.

COLLEGE OF LAW
Student and alumni free wrongly accused convict
Willie O.”Pete” Williams, a man who had been wrongly imprisoned for nearly 22 years for rape, was freed thanks to the diligent work of Georgia State College of Law third-year student Cliff Williams while interning with the Georgia Innocence Project.

Cliff Williams worked for months with two volunteer lawyers on the case. Bruce Harvey and College of Law alumna Sandra Michaels, and submitted a successful motion for the judge to consider new evidence from DNA testing.

Since its founding in 2002 by College of Law alums Jill Polster and September Guy, the Georgia Innocence Project has worked for the release of those wrongly sentenced to prison by using advances in DNA testing.

J. MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Spring career expo promises opportunity
The J. Mack Robinson Career Management Center will host its spring 2007 Business Career EXPO from 3-7 p.m. April 2 in the Student Center.

The Robinson Career Management Center’s mission is to provide employers with a central gateway for recruiting current students and alumni and facilitates the professional development of Georgia State University undergraduates, graduate students and alumni in order to enhance their career progression.

To register or find more information, visit http://robinson.gsu.edu/events/index.html.
New conference tests youth on international facts

The first Metro Atlanta Academic WorldQuest will be held at Georgia State. More than 25 high school teams, each comprising four students, will gather at 8 a.m. March 3 in the Student Center Ballroom to have their knowledge of international affairs, geography and culture tested.

A goal of the program is to promote global awareness using a leisurely and scholastic approach. The competition seeks to develop and enhance this awareness and influence young Georgians and, consequently, high school graduates to broaden their education and seek out international opportunities once they enter college.

The students will compete in 10 rounds of multiple-choice questions. Answer sheets will be submitted following each round and the team with the highest overall points will win the Metro Atlanta WorldQuest High School Championship and represent metro Atlanta at the national competition March 23-25 in Washington.

The competition is sponsored by Georgia State’s Office of International Affairs and College of Education in partnership with the Southern Center for International Studies. Academic WorldQuest is a flagship program of the World Affairs Councils of America, the largest international affairs nonprofit in the United States.

For more information, contact Kike Ehigiator at kehigiator@gsu.edu or Brandi Brown at mbrown@gsu.edu.

Nominations sought for 2007 Sparks Awards

The Georgia State University Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2007 Sparks Awards.

The Sparks Awards are designed to recognize Georgia State’s unsung heroes, which can include faculty, staff and students who exemplify a willingness to “go the extra mile” with good humor and perseverance. The Sparks Awards were first presented by the Alumni Association in 1985 and were named for George McIntosh Sparks, the university’s president from 1928-1957.

Applications should include a one- to two-page typed statement explaining why the nominee should receive a Sparks Award, including specific examples of how the nominee has gone the extra mile beyond the duties and responsibilities of his or her job description. All nominees must have been associated with Georgia State for at least two years. Students should be juniors, seniors or graduate students enrolled during the spring semester. Individuals who hold the titles of dean or vice president, including associates and assistants, are not eligible for the award.

The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. March 5. The awards will be presented at a reception at 2 p.m. May 1 in the Student Center Speakers Auditorium.

For more information, contact the Alumni Association at (404) 651-2190.

Rialto exhibit showcases its past and present

The Rialto celebrated its 90th year as a downtown landmark and its 10th anniversary with Georgia State by inaugurating a new permanent exhibit called the Rialto History Corner Jan. 31.

The exhibit, set in the theater’s lobby, leads viewers through the Rialto’s nine decades in the heart of Atlanta’s downtown from photographs, handbills and posters of its early days as a movie house to some of the world-class performances it showcases presently.

Georgia State President Carl Patton, who helped acquire the then-shuttered building in 1992 and transformed it into a top-notch performing arts auditorium, was on hand to speak about the exhibit and the Rialto’s history.

Management and Staff Development Services offer spring courses

“Seven Habits of Highly Effective People,” “Generations at Work” and “Powerful Presentations” are just a few of the classes Management and Staff Development Services is offering to Georgia State employees this spring.

Management and Staff Development Services, an internal consulting unit within the Department of Human Resources, is charged with assessing and analyzing needs and ultimately developing and marketing management and staff development workshops aligned with the mission, values and strategic plan of the university. The department offers a variety of certificate programs to provide staff expertise in customer service, conflict resolution, performance management and leadership development.

Human Resources’ “How To” programs, the Health and Wellness series, and the more casual Lunch-and-Learn events supply information on current processes or creative approaches to enhance social and professional well-being.

Courses are offered through May 22. For more information, call (404) 463-9239 or register at www2.gsu.edu/dgsdv.

Staff Council elections 2007

Have a voice in the university. Vote for your representative for Staff Council.

All Georgia State University staff members are eligible to vote in Staff Council Elections, which began Feb. 19 and run through March 2.

A few Staff Council districts will not have representatives running for office because representatives for those districts were newly elected in 2006 and will continue their service through February 2008. For example, all representatives in both the State Senate and House of Representatives districts were newly elected in 2006 and will continue their service through February 2008.

Any questions regarding Staff Council elections should be directed to Philip Mitchem, Staff Council president, at (404) 651-2640 or Angela Arnold, Staff Council elections chair, at (404) 651-8835.

The counseling faculty in Counseling and Psychological Services was ranked fourth in the nation in scholarly productivity by The Chronicle of Higher Education. This ranking included 166 large research universities with 15 or more Ph.D. programs. The ranking also included 61 small research universities that contain between one and 14 Ph.D. programs.

Nancy Lee Daily, professor of education, and Lori Elliott, clinical instructor in the College of Education, spent a week learning and serving on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, one of the most economically impoverished communities in the United States. They were part of a team of volunteers coordinat-ed by the Minnesota-based Global Volunteers, a nonprofit organization that offers short-term service opportunities in 20 countries.

Giovanni Gadda, assistant professor of biochemistry and enzymology, is organizing a symposium titled “Strategies in Enzymatic Oxidation Catalysis” that will be held in August at the 234th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston.

The National Center for Academic Transformation selected Georgia State Provost Ron Henry to be one of 20 Redesign Scholars. Henry and one other scholar received a special assignment to work with system administrators to encourage the development of systemwide course redesign programs.

Associate professor of English Sheri Joseph’s recently published novel, Stray, won the first annual Grab Street Book Prize for fiction.


Post-doctoral biologist Ping Liu was named the Young Investigator for 2007 by the Southeast Regional Collaborative Access Team (SER-CAT) at the University of Georgia for research he completed in protein crystallography. As part of the award, Liu will give a presentation in March at SER-CAT’s annual symposium in Maryland.

Associate professor of drawing, painting and printmaking Pam Longobardi’s art exhibit titled “Drifters” was recently on display at Sandler Hudson Gallery in Atlanta.

Physics and astronomy Regents’ Professor Steven T. Manson co-authored a paper titled “Elastic Scattering of a Particle by a System of Non-Overlapping Spherically Symmetric Potentials” for the Feb. 28 issue of the Journal of Physics B: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics.

In January, chemistry professor Yujun Zheng was selected as a new Distinguished Cancer Scientist for 2007 by the Georgia Cancer Coalition. Distinguished scientists are select-ed for five-year terms and picked by the coalition through a statewide competition based on outside scientific review.