Freshman enrollment sets university record
By Leah Harris • lh@gsu.edu

Georgia State University welcomed its largest freshman class this fall with nearly 2,550 first-year students enrolling, a 16 percent increase over fall 2006. Final enrollment figures won’t be complete until later this fall, but early numbers signal an increase in the overall student body as well, officials said. Enrollment is more than 27,000.

“There are multiple factors that have led to this increase: This is the first year that we really enhanced our recruitment, our high school visits and advertising,” said William Fritz, associate provost for academic programs. “We’re really excited because it shows we’re maturing as a research university.”

The university continues to attract students of high academic ability from around the state and beyond. Georgia State’s class of 2011 has an average ACT composite score of 25 and SAT average of 1090. The average high school grade point average for incoming freshmen is 3.3.

“We are bringing more students to our campus, and we’re doing our best to let students know that it’s a real opportunity when you attend Georgia State to experience real world learning and to make very important connections in the community,” said Nannette Commander, assistant vice president for recruitment and retention and director of undergraduate admissions. “We take students around the area and really introduce them to the idea that when they go to Georgia State they have the benefit of being in the heart of downtown Atlanta.”

The opening of Georgia State’s new University Commons housing, improved recruitment software and a continued commitment to student success are other reasons officials say the university is attracting more students. More than half of the freshman class is participating in Georgia State’s nationally recognized Freshman Learning Communities, which places students in pre-planned classes centered on common interests.

“We have the largest number of freshmen ever participating in the Freshman Learning Communities, and we know from many years of statistics that students who participate in that program have a much better chance of succeeding,” Fritz said. “The good news is our retention and graduation rates both increased this year, and I anticipate that it will be even better for this year’s class.”

Georgia State adds new fraud hot line
By Leah Harris • lh@gsu.edu

A new Web site and hot line are being launched at Georgia State as an additional method to fight fraud on campus.

The hot line phone number is (877) 217-4674 and the Web site link will be at www2.gsu.edu/~wwwint/.

“We already have methods in place to notify audits, police and human resources on a regular basis, and they’re working and being used by employees,” said Sterling Roth, director of University Auditing and Advisory Services. “But now we have this additional resource so that employees, when a complaint or report is filed, can contact us anonymously.”

In addition to the hot line, individuals also can report fraud by contacting University Auditing and Advisory Services at (404) 413-1310, the Office of Legal Affairs at (404) 413-0500 or the University Police at (404) 413-2100.

The psychology department is not only a sponsor, but they also helped organize the programming. The psychology department is not only a sponsor, but they also helped organize the programming.

How would you describe the art?
I think what’s significant about the work is that you can tell each artist has spent some time developing an aesthetic and a concept for what they are expressing — some stronger than others. Each has a distinct style. Being in an art school setting, I think it’s important to show the benefit of steady, uninterrupted studio practice and the result, which is a clear, aesthetic achievement.

At the Edge runs through Nov. 8 at the Welch School Gallery and at the Youth Art Connection Gallery at 63 Auburn Ave.
Versatile tofu boosts nutrition and options

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

If you want to try tofu as a meat alternative, how do you choose and what do you do with it? Tofu (Chinese for dou fu or bean curd) has been around for a long time, but it’s now mainstream and the choices are limitless. Tofu is made by adding a curdling agent to soy milk in a process similar to making cheese from milk. The curd that results comes in three varieties: firm, soft and silken.

Firm and extra-firm tofu are best for stir-frying and grilling — any dishes that require tofu to maintain its shape. Soft tofu is good for recipes that call for blended ingredients such as dips, salad dressings or soups. Silken tofu has a custard-like texture and is used in foods that are pureed, like shakes, smoothies and desserts.

Tofu is bland and takes on the flavor of what it’s paired with, making it very versatile. For full details, find flavored tofu in varieties such as barbecue, teriyaki and smoked.

Most tofu is sold in the refrigerated section and is highly perishable. Check the use-by date and store it in the refrigerator. Tofu usually comes in a 12- or 14-ounce tub and, once opened, should be covered in water and stored in a resealable container. The water should be replaced every day.

It can be stored for about five days, but frozen tofu will last about six months. You might find it more convenient to use an entire package in a recipe to avoid the hassle of storing leftovers. Tofu also is sold in freeze-dried packages or freeze-dried, which don’t require refrigeration, but once open should be handled as tofu was purchased in the refrigerated section.

To use tofu, squeeze out all the water. A half cup of tofu has 85 calories, 5 grams of fat, 10 grams of protein, 2 grams of carbohydrates, 15 milligrams of sodium and no cholesterol.

Most tofu is processed with calcium, and it has about 25 percent of the daily value of calcium per serving. Tofu also contains plant chemicals known as isoflavones that act as weak estrogens, but don’t be afraid to eat a serving of tofu if you have had estrogen-positive breast cancer.

The soy protein in tofu is said to reduce heart disease, but the effect of soy on cholesterol levels is modest. Eating tofu as a substitute for foods high in saturated fat and cholesterol is a better defense against heart disease than adding soy cheese to a greasy burger.

The soy foods organization (www.soysfoods.com) has some great suggestions for using tofu:

• Add chunks to soups and stews
• Mash with cottage cheese for a sandwich spread
• Marinate in barbecue sauce, grill and serve on crusty bread
• Stir silken tofu into low-fat sour cream for a topping for baked potatoes

Another helpful Web site is www.ksoshe.org, where you can download a copy of the Soyfoods Guide for information and recipes.

COMBATING WILDFIRES WITH KEYSTROKES

By Andria Simmons

Computer programs will be just as crucial in the 21st century firefighter’s arsenal as water hoses and fire engines, according to assistant professor of computer science Xiaolin Hu.

Hu and his collaborators are developing a software program that can predict the path and speed of a wildfire by taking into account wind speed, slope of the land and type of forestation. Similar computer programs are already on the market, but Hu’s software will take firefighters a step further by allowing them to compute the optimal use of manpower, equipment and money for suppressing a wildfire.

The software will be linked to a database providing real-time updates on weather conditions and the changing fire front, allowing firefighters to tweak calculations as they monitor ongoing fire suppression efforts.

Wildfire suppression has been a hot topic as more than 5.5 million acres have burned this year in the United States, even before the start of the dry fall season, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

The DEVS-FIRE software program, which is expected to be completed within the next two years, will be made available free of charge upon completion. Hu is the principal investigator and Georgia State University is the lead institution on the research, which was funded in August by a $120,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Hu is collaborating with Lewis Nuamoo at Texas A&M University and James Nuzato at the Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Dutch economist: lectures series

Peter P. Wakker, the highest ranked economist in the Netherlands, is the guest speaker at the first Andrew Young School of Policy Studies’ Langdale Chair ExCEN Distinguished Lecture Series event of the year.

Wakker is a professor at the Econometric Institute at Erasmus University in Rotterdam and at the Department of Quantitative Economics at the University of Maastricht, both in the Netherlands. He will discuss “Detecting Time Inconsistencies from Your Own Risky Choices and Using Expected Utility to Reduce Your Risk Aversion.”

The lecture will be held at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 17 in the 7th floor seminar room of the AYSPS building located at 14 Marietta St. Students, faculty and staff are invited to an informal coffee and conversation meeting with Wakker from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Anthropology presents film festival and lecture series

The Department of Anthropology presents a film festival and a lecture series in October.

The American Museum of Natural History’s Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival will be held Oct. 5 at Cinefest. Three films — Rock of Doubts about U.S. evolution debates, Chino Blue about a Chinese denim factory, and El Inmigrante about Mexican-American migration — will be shown at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. Each film will be followed by audience discussion and refreshments.

The department kicks off its lecture series with Peter Brown, professor of anthropology and global health at Emory University. Brown will present “Three Simultaneous Epidemics: History, Culture and Global Health Challenges in Cape Flats Townships, South Africa” at 12:15 p.m. Oct. 7 in the Sinclair Suite of the Student Center.

Robert Hahn of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will present “An Anthropologist Evaluates Evidence on Public Health Interventions at the CDC” at 1 p.m. Oct. 11, and Peter Brosius of the University of Georgia will discuss the anthropology of environmental management and conservation at 12:15 p.m. Oct. 18.

For full details, visit http://anthrop.gsu.edu/anthropology.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Race and social justice focus of new lecture series

A new brown bag lecture series in the College of Education will explore teaching and learning about race and social justice in graduate and undergraduate courses at Georgia State. The series’ aim is to provide a forum and safe space for candid interdisciplinary faculty conversations about teaching these challenging topics and to consider related research issues and opportunities.

Charles A. Gallagher, associate professor and director of race and urban studies concentration in the Department of Sociology, will lead the second session in the series, “Race, Identity and Ideology” at 11:45 a.m. Oct. 10 in the Department of Educational Policy Studies fourth floor library.

The series is organized by Joyce King, the Benjamin E. Mays Chair in the College of Education. Each session will begin with a brief faculty presentation of teaching issues and strategies followed by discussion.

Graduate students may be invited by a participating faculty member. Guests may bring a lunch.

For more information or to reserve a space, call (404) 413-8266 or visit www.gsu.edu.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Institute of Public Health is fully accredited

The Institute of Public Health received full five-year accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. The master’s of public health degree program was one of four graduate programs approved by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in 2004, and it is the first to be accredited by CEPH.

Accreditation enhances the reputation and peer recognition of the MPH program, which has grown to more than 100 graduate students, including Fulbright Scholars from Iraq, Haiti and Afghanistan.

“We are proud to receive accreditation so quickly, and it is a testament to the quality of our students, faculty and community partners,” said Michael Eriksen, director of the Institute of Public Health.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Alumni Kickoff event

Gov. Sonny Perdue speaks at Alumni Kickoff event

The College of Law graduates are invited to attend the college’s 25th anniversary Alumni Kickoff event that will be held Friday, Sept. 28.

The dallying celebration begins with a lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in the Student Center.
university briefs

CRADL lecture series begins

The Center for Research on Atypical Development and Learning (CRADL) Lecture Series presents Grover (Russ) Whittehurst, director of the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Educational Sciences, who will speak on the topic “The Supply-Side Economics of Education Reform.” The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 3 p.m. Oct. 17 in the Rialto Center lobby. There will be a reception immediately following the lecture. For more information, e-mail cradl@angate.gsu.edu.

Come out to learn about benefits and services

Benefits Employee Information Day, set for Oct. 1, offers faculty and staff the opportunity to learn more about benefits and services provided to employees by various vendors, merchants and university departments.

All Georgia State employees are encouraged to attend the event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Vendors from health care, retirement planning and insurance providers will be available to answer questions. The Georgia State Staff Council, the Human Resources Benefits department and representatives from a variety of university resources and services will be on hand to assist.

Tee off for Golf Classic Oct. 15

Morning and afternoon tee times are still available for the 2007 Georgia State Athletics Golf Classic, an annual fundraiser supporting Georgia State sports. It is scheduled for Oct. 15 at Eagle’s Landing Country Club, the home of Georgia State’s men’s and women’s golf teams. Proceeds from the event benefit student-athlete scholarships.

This year’s golf tournament includes all-day silent auction featuring exciting trips, sports memorabilia, exclusive golf opportunities, access to coaches and more.

“We’re in the midst of the most exciting time in the history of Georgia State Athletics with the continuing successes of our athletic programs,” said Athletic Director Mary McDoy.

University faculty and staff will receive a 20 percent discount. For more information and to register, visit www.georgiastatesports.com or contact Kory Miles at (404) 413-4017 or kmiles@gsu.edu.

Panther Preview coming soon

Georgia State kicks off this year’s recruitment effort with its official open house, Panther Preview, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 27 in the Student Center. It is an opportunity to welcome high school students and their parents while showcasing all the university has to offer.

To reserve a booth for the Panther Preview Academic Programs and Student Services Fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to noon, contact Lynette Forté Reid by Oct. 1 at (404) 413-2036 or forte@gsu.edu.

PantherCard is hosting special remote locations to make it more convenient for faculty and staff to pick up their new PantherCards at any of the following times:

Stop by any of the following distribution locations:

Oct. 2-3 939 General Classroom Building
Oct. 9-10 710 Robinson College of Business
Oct. 16-17 Human Resource Training Room, Basement of One Park Place

You can also stop by the PantherCard Office, 200 University Bookstore Building, at any time to get your card. You must pick up your own card in person. All faculty and staff should have their new cards by January 2008.

You may look up your Panther ID online at http://pantherid.gsu.edu/lookup. Fall is a transition time for using either an SSN or Panther ID to access GoSOLAR or a student’s record in Banner.
Villager Associate professor and chair of geosciences W. Crawford Elliott and doctoral student Gerald Pollack will present research at the 119th annual meeting of the Geological Society of America Oct. 27-31 in Denver. Elliott’s study addresses the timing of diagenetic illite formation at Meade Peak in Idaho.

College of Law professor and librarian Nancy Johnson is the recipient of this year’s Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries Service to SEAALL Award. The award is given to the chapter member who has made special, significant and sustained contributions to the chapter.

Bill Kahnweiler, associate professor of public administration and urban studies, has been invited to be a keynote speaker and lead several seminars at the annual Human Resource Development International Conference in London. The conference is Europe’s largest learning and development event for managers, human resource professionals and organizational effectiveness consultants.

Joyce King, Benjamin E. Mays Chair for Urban Teaching, Learning and Leadership in the College of Education, produced a curriculum framework and teaching tool, “Criterion Standards for Contextualized Teaching and Learning about People of African Ancestry,” with the Rochester (N.Y.) Teacher Center. The project was funded by a gift to the National Urban League.

Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, economics professor and director of the International Studies Program, and research associate Andrey Timofeev completed a two-week Fiscal Decentralization Assessment Mission in Macedonia. Commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme, the event provided an overview of the progress and problems of fiscal decentralization in Macedonia.

Rashid Naim, lecturer in political science, led the Georgia State Model Arab League team to the Outstanding Delegation Award at the National Model United Nations Conference. His team also won an Outstanding Delegation Award at the Southeast Regional Model Arab League Conference.

Joseph Rabianski, Richard Bowers & Co. Professor of real estate, is a contributing author to Preparation Guide to the Real Estate Appraisal Exam published by Learning Express Publishing.

In August, assistant professor of economics Inas Rashad presented “Cycling: An Increasingly Untouched Source of Physical and Mental Health” at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Effectiveness Seminar in Atlanta.

Irene Weber, professor of biology, and her lab team recently published the study “I.T. Plasticity of S2-S4 Specificity Pockets of Executioner Caspase-7 Revealed by Structural and Kinetic Analysis.” It was selected as the cover feature for a September issue of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies Journal.

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