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

Undergrads take center stage with research
by Van Jensen • vjensen@gsu.edu

The slogan for next spring's research conference could be “It's not your graduate student's or professor's research.”

The Undergraduate Research Conference features only the work of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, allowing them a chance to shine. Now in its second year, the conference will allow Georgia State undergrads to present their scholarship with papers, posters, oral presentations or artistic performances March 14, 2008, at the Student Center.

Organizers are encouraging students to start planning soon. The deadline to submit research proposals to the conference is Dec. 17. Interested students can find more information about the conference or submit proposals online at www.gsu.edu/gsurc.

Proposals must detail the students' original scholarship or projects they have completed with a faculty member. Each student entering the conference must be sponsored by a faculty member, and faculty members are encouraged to help their undergraduate students develop projects for presentation. Each presentation can reflect the work of up to 10 people.

“The conference last year was a marvelous success,” said Kim Darnell, a senior lecturer in psychology who is helping to organize the conference. “More than 140 students from 18 different departments shared their academic achievements. Forty-two different professors served as sponsors for these students.”

Judged by faculty members and graduate students from across the university, the conference features awards for the top projects, and Provost Ron Henry chooses the winner of the GSURC Provost’s Award from among the first place winners across presentation categories. Last year the award went to Karma Mehta and Claudia Leitner, biology students sponsored by Regent’s Professor Timothy Bartness.

Though last year's conference was a success, organizers are hoping to build on that by getting more students involved and encouraging more participation from students in artistic programs. Last year, only four students gave artistic performances.

Darnell said she wants students to know that research can include much more than science or humanities.

“Undergraduate students at Georgia State are achieving great things academically,” Darnell said. “GSURC is a chance to celebrate these achievements and share them with the whole Georgia State community.”

Mentor program advances careers
By Leah Harris • lvh@gsu.edu

Kavitha Sivakumar says there's something to learn from everyone at Georgia State University. That's one lesson she learned in Georgia State's Staff Mentor Program.

“I started seeing everybody as my mentors as I found out that there's always something good to be learned from them. This changed my life both personally and workwise,” said Sivakumar, a senior accountant in administrative services in the College of Arts and Sciences, who was mentored by Susan Monello, assistant director of University Auditing and Advisory Services.

Initiated under the Office for the Advancement of Women, the mentor program provides women with opportunities for networking and communication, encourages employee growth and development, and promotes involvement in the university community. Participants are provided confidential feedback as they learn about professional trends in management and the university’s structure.

The program, piloted this spring with nine mentor-mentee pairs, is accepting applications for its 2008 class, which will run from January to June 2008. Mentors and mentees are encouraged to meet at least twice a month and are expected to attend the program's opening, mid-point and closing sessions.

Mentee applicants must have been employed for at least one year at Georgia State in a non-management position. Mentors must work in a management position at Georgia State and have five years of professional experience, three years as a manager. Mentors also must have been employed at Georgia State for at least two years, with at least one year as a manager. Applications are due by 5:15 p.m. Oct. 31 to the Office of Student Life and Leadership or by mail to P.O. Box 3973.

For more information, contact Pamela Anthony, chair of the Staff Mentor Program Committee at pantony@gsu.edu.

And, perhaps, football is on the horizon?
Yes, it’s very exciting. Obviously the process is ongoing and we’ll see where that goes. Within the athletics department, we believe it can happen; and, above all else, it would be a great thing for the university. You can’t deny what football would do in terms of the profile of the university and creating something for alumni and the community to talk about and get excited about. You have that with basketball, but you magnify that so much with football.
Drinks for active people
Part I: Keeping hydrated

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

I used to be easy to pick a beverage, but today you can choose among vitamin water, protein water, fitness water, sports drinks and energy drinks. What’s the difference between all these thirst quenchers, and do you really need them? We’ll look at sports drinks, fitness water, protein water and energy drinks now, and next time, we’ll review energy drinks and drinks that claim to increase metabolism.

Sports drinks were invented for football players by physiologists at the University of Florida. They concocted a drink with carbohydrates (sugar), sodium, potassium and chloride (electrolytes lost in sweat) and water and named it for the Florida Gators. Thus, Gatorade was born. Today, there are many sports drinks that vary in carbohydrates and sodium content, but they all provide some energy to sustain performance and electrolytes and fluids. Research shows that sports drinks can help improve performance in exercise that lasts more than 60 minutes and in stop-and-go sports played at high intensity. Construction workers, road work crews and others who work outdoors in the heat might consider drinking sports drinks in addition to water.

Fitness water, such as Propel, Nutramax and Fruit 2.0, is a low-calorie flavored drink designed to encourage fluid intake during activity when you don’t need a sports drink. Hiking, recreational cycling and aerobic dance might be activities where you prefer fitness water to plain water. Some provide B-vitamins, which are important in exercise metabolism, but most of us get plenty from what we eat. Some provide calcium and vitamin D, which are important for bones and teeth, but you can probably skip the pill. Unfortunately, nutrients like calcium that tend to be low in young men and women are not found in any appreciable extent in these types of drinks. Dasani Plus is calorie-free (artificial sweeteners are used). Glaceau is not.

Protein water is a new entry into the beverage category. The hook is that protein is a special ingredient needed during exercise and for recovery. The research regarding that is not very convincing, but it is true that protein after exercise can help muscle repair and recovery. Do you need a special drink to do that? Probably not. Special K2O’s protein water provides a paltry 5 grams of protein (the amount found in half an egg). It has more calories than fitness water (50 calories) per bottle and contains a blend of sugar substitutes. Vitamin water is available in a variety of flavors and contains several vitamins. Some of the Glaceau vareteses also contain minerals, caffeine and guarana (a type of caffeine). Glaceau’s labels are fun to read, even if the science behind the copy is stretched a bit to sell the product. Most healthy adults get adequate vitamins in their diet. If you drink these every day and take a multivitamin, you can probably skip the pill. Unfortunately, nutrients like calcium that tend to be low in young men and women are not found in any appreciable extent in these types of drinks. Vonamin Plus is calorie-free (artificial sweeteners are used). Glacex is not.

The Web site, which is password-protected and allows participants to log and track their donated work in private if they choose, includes a list of participating groups in need of volunteers. Visit http://law.gsu.edu/anniversary/probono.php for more information.

J. MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Ruff named interim assistant dean

The Robinson College of Business named Craig K. Ruff interim assistant dean for non-degree executive education. Ruff, a clinical associate professor of finance and formerly a vice president in the educational programs department at the CFA Institute, will be responsible for Robinson’s non-degree executive education programs and for the startup of new programs that can be custom-tailored to an array of business interests.

“Craig will play a vital role in taking Robinson’s large and talented faculty and leveraging that resource to bring the best in non-degree education to the business community of Atlanta,” said Robinson Dean Fenwick Huss.

Ruff holds a Ph.D in finance from Virginia Tech and has won colleagues teaching awards at Georgia Tech and Georgia State.
Panthers basketball needs a few Panther Pals  
Georgia State’s basketball schedule is complete, and now, Coach Rod Barnes, Coach Lea Henry and the rest of the Panthers are searching for some young fans to be Panther Pals – ball boys and ball girls – for the upcoming season.

Athletics graduate assistant and manager Jason Hall says parents interested in signing up their child to become a ball boy or girl should first look over the basketball schedule and determine which games are best for their schedule.

“We’ll try our best to assign them to work the games of their choice,” he said. Games will be assigned based on age and availability.

For more information or to sign up a Panther Pal for what promises to be an exciting season of Georgia State basketball, contact Hall at (404) 413-4050 or gudfamily@gsu.edu.

Georgia State has ‘Night at the Aquarium’  
A Georgia State Night at the Georgia Aquarium will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 2. Tickets for this event will be $12 until 4 p.m. Nov. 2. Tickets will be available for sale at the Student Center information desk, the Georgia State Bookstore and the Rialto Center for the Arts. Customers will not have to present a Georgia State student, faculty, or staff ID or an alumni card.

Free parking will be available at M Deck with the presentation of a Georgia State Night at the Georgia Aquarium ticket. Parking also will be available at the Georgia Aquarium for $10. Free shuttle service will be available from the Student Center and the University Commons beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Student/University Center and the Spotlight Programs Board. This event will not be canceled for any reason.

Crew team to row at Head of the Charles  
Georgia State’s crew team, GaState Crew, has been selected to compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta Oct. 20 in Boston. The Head of the Charles is the largest and most prestigious regatta in the United States.

Twenty GaState Crew team members will participate in the regatta, which is known to attract more than 300,000 spectators. This trip will mark the fifth appearance by the rowing team at the Head of the Charles, but the first with a men’s boat. In previous years, GaState Crew’s varsity and lightweight women competed. The best finish was a varsity women’s four boat in 2003 coming in eighth out of 52 international boats.

The varsity men’s four were seeded 18th out of 30 boats. The coxswain for the boat is Whitney Ball, a freshman majoring in speech and communication.

The rowing team, which practices on the Chattahoochee River in Roswell, Ga., is sanctioned by Georgia State’s Department of Recreational Services and is governed by U.S. Rowing.

Staff Council awards staff scholarships  
Six Georgia State employees recently received staff scholarships for the fall semester. The scholarship recipients are: Anjelica Lymon, fatima Adams, Sarah Hunsburger, Nara Monkam, Amanda Brown and LaTanza Melton.

These staff members received up to $400 to cover education expenses, such as student fees and books. The Georgia State Staff Scholarship Fund is supported by the Georgia State Foundation and the Campus Campaign.

Disability Awareness Day tomorrow  
The Disability Initiatives subcommittee of the Faculty Senate is holding Disability Awareness Day from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow (Oct. 17) in Room 480/485 of the University Center. It will be an afternoon of activities to raise awareness of the challenges facing individuals with disabilities on Georgia State’s campus, including simulations and discussions with students.

Rialto offers payroll deduction for upcoming season  
The Rialto Center for the Arts has announced its 2007-2008 Rialto Series — a 16-show line-up featuring the best of jazz, world music, and dance — and for the first time you can become a series subscriber through Georgia State’s payroll deduction program.

The upcoming series includes a special opening-night performance of Georgia State’s basketball schedule and determine which games are best for their schedule.

Faculty Recital: Sarah Ambrose, flute  
Friday, October 19 - 7:30 PM  
Geri Allen, piano  
An American in Paris — featuring works by Ravel, Chopin and Satie  
Kofelj Recital Hall - FREE

Midtown Brass Quintet  
Sunday, October 21 - 3:00 PM  
Paul McCreery and Phil Ethridge, trumpets  
Johnny Jar Mantel, French horn  
Hoile Lumeng, trombone  
Bill Pritchard, tuba  
Kofelj Recital Hall - FREE

Five Points Ensemble  
Monday, October 22 - 7:30 PM  
Adapt Nedland, saxophone/Kenneth Long, clarinet/Sarah Ambrose, flute  
Abert Walltner, piano  
Teresa Massachek and guitar  
Kofelj Recital Hall - FREE

Guest Artist:  
Bart Walters, saxophone  
Friday, October 26 - 7:15 PM  
Kofelj Recital Hall - FREE

University Singers  
Tuesday, October 30 - 7:30 PM  
Randel Hooper, conductor  
Featuring works by Jager, Gaubert, Swart, Beu, Bach, Hooper and Modern  
Kofelj Recital Hall - FREE

Wind Orchestra  
Thursday, November 1 - 7:30 PM  
Jano Brandis, conductor  
Lee Evins, associate conductor  
Robert J. Ambrose, guest conductor  
Featuring works by Perichetti, Beyer, Greens, Hemen and Vaughan Williams  
Rialto Center for the Arts - FREE

Guest Artist: Richard Todd, classical guitar  
Friday, November 2 - 7:30 PM  
Kofelj Recital Hall - FREE

University Symphony Orchestra  
Sunday, November 4 - 3:00 PM  
Michael Palmer, conductor  
Featuring the winners of the Board of Regents’ Area competition  
Rialto Center for the Arts - FREE

Percussion Ensemble  
Tuesday, November 6 - 7:34 PM  
Stuart Corbin, artistic director  
Sarah Ambrose, flute  
Featuring works by Atlanta composers Neil McKinley and Mark Grotzman, as well as music by John Luther Adams and George Crumb  
Rialto Center for the Arts - FREE

Preparing Students to Thrive in the 21st Century Economy  

State charitable contributions campaign kicks off  
Throughout the month of October, you will have the opportunity to help Georgia State’s surrounding communities by contributing funds to organizations that do meaningful outreach to those in need. A unit coordinator assigned to each college, department, school or support area will provide all faculty and staff with the appropriate forms and information regarding the campaign.

Contributions can be made through a one-time payroll deduction, a continuing payroll deduction or a one-time cash or check payment to Georgia State University. For more information, contact Greg Jones at (404) 413-360 or gregjones@gsu.edu.

4th Annual DAN E. SWEAT LECTURE SERIES  
Featuring guest speaker  
Richard J. Murnane, Ph.D.  
October 23, 2007  
3:00 p.m.  
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies  
14 Martin Luther King Jr. Street, 7th Floor  

Richard J. Murnane, Ph.D., is the Frederick L. Polak Professor of Human Dev- elopment at Harvard University. He is also Director of the Labor and Worklife Program and is a member of the National Academy of Education. His research, teaching, and writing focus on the determinants of children’s achievement, and strategies for making schools work better.
Susan Alyn, student media adviser in the Office of Student Life and Leadership, created an educational Web site that was chosen as the “Recommended Web site” by Eurocall, a professional education journal of the European Association for Computer-Assisted Language Learning.

Julie Ancis, co-director of the counseling psychology program in the College of Education, gave a presentation at a training conference. Her presentation was titled “Ethical Considerations: Building your Cultural Competence with Trauma Survivors.” Ancis also was asked to serve on a Working Group Committee for the 2008 International Counseling Psychology Conference in Chicago.

Roy Bahl, professor of economics and public administration, recently presented “Property Tax: Challenges and Opportunities” at the 73rd Annual Conference on Assessment Administration in Atlanta.

Myra Carmon, associate professor of nursing and a pediatric nurse practitioner, received the University Award for Exceptional Service in May. A group of her peers selected Carmon for the award, which is presented annually to a faculty member during commencement.

Laura Carruth, an assistant professor of biology, and Sally Murphy, a teacher at Riverwood High School in Fulton County, Ga., received a Neuroscientist-Teacher Partnership Award from the Society for Neuroscience. They were recognized for their creation of Brain Camp for Kids.

Political science professor John Duffield’s book, Over a Barrel: The Costs of U.S. Foreign Oil Dependence, will be released Oct. 29 by Stanford University Press. The book is the lead title for the press’s fall catalog and lays out the comprehensive costs of U.S. oil dependence.

Bill Kahnweiler, associate professor of public administration and urban studies, was the invited speaker at the monthly chapter meeting of the Atlanta Society for Human Resource Management in Union City, Ga. His presentation was titled “HR Consulting It’s Not Just for Consultants Anymore.”

Associate professor of history Cliff Kuhn accepted the Phoenix Award, Atlanta’s highest mayoral honor, Sept. 28 for the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot. Kuhn was an organizer for the Coalition, which formed to create public awareness of the four-day riot in downtown Atlanta that took the lives of 27 Atlantans.

Yingshu Li, an assistant professor in computer science, won the Best Paper Award at the 2007 International Conference on Algorithms, Systems and Applications in August. Li’s paper is titled “Constructing Connected Dominating Sets with Bounded Diameters in Wireless Networks.”

Debra Scheber-Peterson, clinical associate professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education, was recently elected to chair the Strategic Planning Committee of the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She is serving a three-year term.