Commencement moves to the Georgia Dome
By Liz Bobo

This semester’s commencement ceremony will be a milestone not only for the graduates, but for the university as a whole.

In what is another sign of the university’s growth in prominence, on Dec. 16 Georgia State will host its first commencement in the Georgia Dome, where the end zones will be painted blue and white and graduates will sit on the field.

“I am so excited,” said Tabatha Fox, a senior who invited 16 guests to watch her graduate with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. “We don’t have to ration tickets so everyone and anyone can come, and I don’t have to rush back to see my friends graduate. It’s just a great set-up.”

Of the 2,318 students graduating this month, 1,861 said they plan to attend the ceremony. And about 800 students who graduated in the summer were invited to participate.

Commencement exercises have been held at the Georgia State Sports Arena since it opened in the mid-1970s. But in recent years, larger graduatiing classes had forced officials to limit students to four tickets for each of the ceremonies, a decision that displeased many graduates.

After three years of study on how to improve commencement, last fall President Dan costume announced the university would move its fall and summer commencement to the Georgia Dome and eliminate the summer ceremony.

“We had literally outgrown the on-campus Sports Arena and found ourselves in need of a larger commencement facility where we would not have to ration tickets for family members,” Patton said. “Therefore, it is exciting and rewarding for me to have our graduates and their family members and friends (in the Georgia Dome) for this special occasion.”

The new location will address seating limitations, increase the amount of parking available, reduce traffic congestion and be more accommodating for the elderly and disabled.

All graduates will participate in the same ceremony and be recognized as part of their college and degree category. With the exception of doctoral students, who will be hooded, graduates’ names will no longer be individually called. Instead, the names of graduates will be displayed in lights.

The guest speaker for commencement will be Richard H. Lenny, former CEO and president of The Hershey Co., the leading manufacturer of quality confectionery and snack products. Lenny, who now serves as chairman of the board for the company, received his bachelor’s degree in business from Georgia State’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business and earned his master’s degree in business administration from Northwestern University.

There also will be an honorary degree given to Charles Loudermilk, chairman and CEO of Aaron Rents Inc. Loudermilk will receive an honorary doctorate of science for his work in the field of management.

For more information, including parking instructions, please visit www.gsu.edu/commencement.

New amenities showcased at Sports Arena

By Wilkin Immon

Panther basketball fans might have noticed a few extra creature comforts at the Sports Arena this season. Upgrades recently unveiled there include new restrooms at the north end of the third floor; new concession stands on both the third and fourth floors and a newly refinished and repainted playing surface on the main floor.

The renovated concession stand on the fourth floor features an expanded waiting area that will allow fans to keep up with the action on a flat screen television that provides a live feed of the game.

And under construction, with a completion date expected in late February, is an escalator that will lift fans to and from the third floor.

The glass-enclosed structure will originate on the northwest corner of the Sports Arena, near the intersection of Collins Street and Decatur Street. The area will be landscaped and lighted for safety and convenience.

Along with the improved concession areas, Panther fans can enjoy $1 concessions throughout the season. All concession items are priced at $1 all season long, including hot dogs, pizza, popcorn, pretzels, candy and soft drinks.

Both Georgia State basketball teams will host cross-town rival Georgia Tech at the Sports Arena this season. The men square off against the Yellow Jackets at 9 p.m. Dec. 5 and the women at 1 p.m. Dec. 22.
**Think before you eat**

*By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com*

We’ve all seen the effects of our super busy lifestyles: We eat in the car, we eat at our desks, or we skip meals entirely because we have no time to eat. Getting too hungry before mealtime, getting distracted while we eat, snacking in the car and dining on oversized restaurant portions are just a few factors that can turn us into mindless eaters. Emotional states such as boredom, loneliness and anxiety can affect how much we eat as well, says Buchanan.

Perhaps one understands this better than food scientist and author Brian Wansink, an authority on what causes Americans to overeat and author of *Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think*. Wansink’s research shows that the average person makes around 250 food decisions every day, and most people cannot explain why they make the choices they do.

“Aiming in America has little to do with hunger... By understanding how our environment influences our food habits, we can reduce the number of calories we eat each day without deprivation,” Wansink says.

But being aware of the triggers isn’t enough because they are simply too powerful to resist, and it shouldn’t be a full-time job. The key is to rearrange our environment so we’re more aware of what we eat and enjoy the experience more, Buchanan and Wansink offer the following tips:

- Eat as regular times. Rhythms are important in everything we do.
- Avoid distractions while eating except for music and conversation.
- Eat off of a plate, not out of the package, and sit as a table for meals.
- Rate your hunger from 1 to 10, with 1 being extremely famished and 10 being that post-Thanksgiving feeling. Eat when you are at a 2 or 3 and stop eating when you are at a 7 or 8.
- Put your fork down between bites and chew each mouthful thoroughly before picking up your fork.

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## 2009 Student Technology Fee Call for Proposals

**Important Deadlines:**

- **January 11, 2009** — Deadline to submit Stage 1 Proposal Forms to facilities and ISAT by proposer.
- **March 7, 2009** — Deadline for Stage 2 (Final) Proposal Form by Drawers and VPs.
- **January 31, 2009** — For advanced proposals, deadline for Stage 2 Report.
- **October 1, 2009** — For advanced proposals, deadline for Final Status Report.

### Uses of the Technology Fee:

1. The focus of proposals for the use of technology fees should be on academic or instructional technology that provides additional educational value to the Georgia State students’ learning experiences.
2. The Student Technology Fee subcommittee endorses proposals based on guidelines supplied by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
3. The Board of Regents has a list of guidelines that should be used as a reference for creating compliant proposals. Visit [www.gsu.edu/techfee](http://www.gsu.edu/techfee) for a list of the guidelines.

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**25th MLK Convocation set for Jan. 17**

- Georgia State’s Office of Student Life and Leadership will sponsor the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation at 4 p.m. Jan. 17 in the Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium. The event will take place during the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week, held Jan. 17-25.

Rev. C.T. Vivian, King’s close friend during the civil rights movement, will be the keynote speaker. Vivian participated in the Freedom Rides, replacing injured members of the Congress of Racial Equality. He also founded the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference and organized the city’s first sit-in at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in 1961.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Torch of Peace and the Hosea Williams Award for Community Activism will be presented at the convocation. The Torch of Peace Award recognizes students, faculty, staff, alumni and student organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding ability to facilitate or promote positive intercultural relations in the Georgia State community. The Hosea Williams Award honors an individual or community-based organization that has demonstrated purposeful risk-taking and insightfulness in initiating activities for the betterment of the community.

For more information, please visit [www.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations](http://www.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations).

**Honor for excellence in international education**

- Georgia State’s Office of International Affairs last month honored 11 faculty and staff members and a research center for advancing international education at the university.

- The award recipients, announced at a luncheon with Provost Ron Henry Nov. 12, have varying involvement in international activities, from establishing and supporting study abroad and exchange programs to advising international students at the university to conducting research in foreign countries.

- Award winners included Tom and Pearl McHaney and Robert Sattalite from the College of Arts and Sciences, Roy Bahl from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Barry Chung from the College of Education, Dan Bernard and Karen Gieseker from the College of Health and Human Sciences, Karen Loch from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, Carolyn Codamo in the Undergraduate Admission Office and Susan Crozier Morrell in Student Accounts.

The ExCEN Group, the Experimental Economics Center in APSUS, was honored for its workshops on the use of experiments in teaching economics recently held in England and Slovakia.

- At an event held Nov. 15, assistant professor Wade Danis of the Institute for International Business in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business was honored as the Study Program Director of the Year for his program, Management in Transition: Economies Hungary and the Czech Republic.

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**Andrew Young School of Policy Studies**

**Hirsch to assume Usery Chair of American Workplace**

- Labor economist Barry T. Hirsch, whose research is focused on wage determination in the United States labor market, will join the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies in January as the W. J. Usery Jr. Chair of the American Workplace and economics professor.

- Hirsch has examined the impact of unions on economic performance and wage discrimination, area wage differentials and labor markets. He is the president of the Southern Economic Association and serves on the editorial boards of Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Industrial Relations, the Journal of Labor Research and the Southern Economic Journal.

- The endowed chair is named for former U.S. Labor Secretary W. J. Usery Jr., chairman of the Usery Center for the Workplace and distinguished executive fellow in labor policy.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**DAEL teams with Atlantic producer for hip-hop program**

- The Digital Arts Entertainment Lab (DAEL) recently produced and recorded a hip-hop dance show intended to showcase Atlanta’s unique style of music and culture. Special guests included Big Boi of Outkast, Chili of TLC and Big Gipp of Goodie Mob.

- Communication professor and DAEL director Kay Beck, executive producer for the show, said it will be presented to MTV and other major networks to be optioned.

**College holds first annual induction conference**

- New teachers and Georgia State students interested in teaching career are invited to attend the College of Education’s first annual “New Educators’ Induction Conference: Building Bridges.”

- The conference will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow (Dec. 5) at the Student Center and will provide information, education, support and real-life connections to help new teachers.

- More experienced teachers are welcomed as well.

- School principals, superintendents and state education leaders will discuss job expectations, professional responsibilities and the qualities of a good educator.

- Michelle Bouldin, interim principal at Grove Park Elementary School in Atlanta, will give the keynote address on differentiated instruction.

- Each attendee will receive a certificate of attendance. Registration prior to the event is $50, and on-site registration is $65. Additional information will be mailed to attendees.

- Visit [http://education.gsu.edu/ind](http://education.gsu.edu/ind) for more information, or e-mail Linda Black, the college’s induction project manager, at linda.black@comcast.net.
University law students who took the bar exam showed that of the 164 Georgia State first-time takers, 154, or 96.3 percent, passed July's exam, 158, or 96.8 percent, passed it. Georgia State also outranked students from other Georgia law schools on the Multistate Performance Test part of the exam, scoring an average of 151.9.

The results, posted in late October, showed that of the 159 first-time takers, 154, or 96.8 percent, passed it. Georgia State recognized for great customer service.

The Board of Regents recognized Georgia State and two of its departments with customer service awards in November: Georgia State’s Information Systems and Technology Help Center received the Gold Chancellor’s Annual Customer Service Call Center Excellence Award. Help Center manager Tim Jones (pictured with Chancellor Erroll B. Davis) accepted the award for the department. The university won the Bronze Award for Customer Service Institution of the Year.

Sardar Ahmad, a physician from Afghanistan, Scholars at Georgia State from Afghanistan. Other scholars come from Haiti, Iraq, Indonesia and Mongolia.

Ahmad came to Atlanta to gain more expertise in health care to meet the great need in his native country. He worked with the World Health Organization before coming to the United States.

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GHPC study reveals weighty issue
By Michael Dow • mdow@gsu.edu

A new study guided by researchers at the Georgia Health Policy Center shows many of Georgia’s children are overweight and out of shape.

The Georgia Youth Fitness Assessment was presented in September at a conference of the Georgia Coalition for Physical Activity and Nutrition. It was funded in part by the Georgia Division of Public Health and the Philanthropic Collaborative for a Healthy Georgia, a loose organization of foundations with interests in health issues. The collaborative’s administrative home lies within the GHPC.

Among the study’s findings were that 30 percent of the more than 5,000 fifth- and seventh-grade students evaluated had body mass indices above a healthy level. More than half failed to meet cardio-respiratory test standards and 57 percent failed at least two of four tests of muscular strength, flexibility and endurance, said GHPC senior research associate Mary Ann Phillips, who prepared the report and coordinates research on behalf of the collaborative.

“We confirmed that Georgia’s children are overweight,” said Phillips. “We also had suspected that Georgia’s children were inactive and this study validated that.”

Mary Ann Phillips, senior research associate in the Georgia Health Policy Center, helped prepare the Georgia Youth Fitness Assessment, a study that revealed the poor physical fitness of Georgia’s children.

Phillips says researchers studying children’s health in the future will be able to use the assessment as a benchmark when trying to determine whether fitness levels are improving or declining.

Students from 95 elementary and middle schools throughout Georgia participated in the study, which not only measured their physical fitness, but also surveyed their physical activity routine and the policies and procedures at their schools.

Raheem Beyah, assistant professor of computer science, has been chosen as one of this year’s Outstanding Atlanta honorees. It is the city’s premier honor for community involvement by Atlanta residents ages 21 to 36. The organization chooses 10 people each year for their roles in business, civics or culture.

Tania Maxwell Clements, a lecturer in the School of Music, recently began a Georgia chapter of the American Hula Society, and is serving as its president. She also is starring a student chapter of the organization at Georgia State.

Georgia State police officer Eli Cohen presented his research on crime in college residence halls at the 2007 Problem-Oriented Policing Conference in September in Madison, Wisc. By limiting the number of outcomes and changing student behavior, Cohen found burglaries dropped by 39 percent in one Georgia State student residence hall.

Associate professor of history Denise Davidson’s book, France after Revolution: Urban Life, Gender, and the New Social Order, was recently published by Harvard University Press as part of the Harvard Historical Series

DeAnna Hines, assistant vice president for university relations, received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award for Communications at the Georgia Education Advancement Council Winter Conference in November.

GEMC is a statewide organization for those at public and private colleges and universities who work in educational advancement.


Law professor Neil J. Kinkoph received the third annual Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship. Recipients are awarded a $12,500 summer research grant and a course release during the next academic year.

Ando Roach, assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services, received two awards from the IDEA General Supervision Enhancement Grant Competition. The first award, $375,000 to $450,000 over three years, is to evaluate the validity of studies regarding the Georgia Alternate Assessment. The second award, $91,000 over three years, is to work in collaboration with other educators to develop and validate modified alternate assessments.

Education professor Gertrude Tinker Sacha was the plenary speaker at the Colorado Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages 31st annual convention last month.

Economics professor Paula Stephan and doctoral alumnus Asmaa El-Ganany recently had their article “The Entrepreneurial Puzzle: Explaining the Gender Gap” published in the Journal of Technology Transfer. Stephan also served as an editor of and contributor to Science and the University, published by Wisconsin Press.

Georgia State’s TEEMS English Education Master of Arts in Teaching Program was selected for the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award for 2007-2008 by the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators.


Associate professor of social work Mindy R. Wertheimer’s book The Board Chair Handbook, Second Edition, was recently published. The text gives a blueprint for successful leadership.

Yongwei Yao, assistant professor of mathematics, received a three-year National Science Foundation grant to study tight closure theory and primary decompositions in commutative algebra. The award is $587,904 and comes from the NSF’s Division of Mathematical Sciences.

Clinical assistant professor Michelle Zoss published a paper titled “Mask-Making as Representational Process: The Situated Composition of an Identity Project in a Senior English Class” in the International Journal of Education & the Arts. Zoss also was elected web editor for the Conference of English Education of the National Council of Teachers of English.