Graduation time
President Carl Patton to preside over commencement one last time

Georgia State University will come together to celebrate the accomplishments of 2,849 graduates at the spring commencement 2 p.m. May 10 in the Georgia Dome.

The guest speaker will be Andrew Young, former Atlanta mayor, U.S. congressman and U.N. Ambassador, who will offer career advice and inspirational words to Georgia State graduates.

“I think every graduating class faces a world full of challenges,” Young said in an announcement of his address. “But that’s what our university is for — not to give you answers, but to give you the confidence, the observation and research skills, the vision and the courage, to take on the challenges in whatever field you happen to find yourself.”

The spring ceremony is the university’s second commencement in the Georgia Dome. The university last year decided to move commencement from the Sports Arena because of larger graduating classes and the desire to allow graduates to invite as many guests as they want.

The spring ceremony is also significant because it is the last one in which Carl Patton will participate as Georgia State president. Patton is retiring June 30 after 16 years at the helm of the university.

Also at the commencement John C. Portman — architect, developer, business entrepreneur and civic leader — will receive an honorary degree.

Both Portman and Young helped transform Atlanta into the city it is today. Portman developed Peachtree Center, the Marriott Marquis Hotel, the SunTrust Plaza and several other Atlanta landmarks.

Young is an ordained minister, international businessman, civil rights activist, published author and former public servant. He was elected to three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from the 5th Congressional District of Georgia. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter named him the first African-American ambassador to the United Nations. He served two terms as mayor of Atlanta and was co-chairman of the Centennial Olympic Games in 1996.

Young is currently the chairman of Atlanta-based Good Works International, a specialty consulting group that provides strategic services to corporations and governments operating in the global economy. Young also serves as a public affairs professor of policy studies at Georgia State’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

Georgia State improves higher education in West Africa

As in other African countries, public universities in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) are crumbling from neglect, crammed with students and suffering from declining quality.

But a promising response to this crisis has emerged through a partnership between Georgia State and the nation of Côte d’Ivoire.

The two parties are developing the International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB), a regional institution based on the American model of higher education.

“The country and region needs technically and professionally trained experts to staff public and private sector organizations,” said John Hicks, Georgia State associate provost of international affairs. “It’s a joint effort, aimed at building the institutional capacity to produce the human capital critically needed for economic growth and development.”

Georgia State began working with Côte d’Ivoire officials in 1994, but until recently, political instability in the nation delayed progress.

Classes began at IUGB in January 2005. The university now has 76 students enrolled in its pre-undergraduate program for intensive English and its freshman- and sophomore-level core courses. African students then travel to Georgia State to take upper-level classes and complete their degrees. Five IUGB students are currently on campus.

“We want to train the future leaders through the American higher education model so we can develop our region,” said Fidel A. Bay-Mockey, an IUGB dean, one of four IUGB administrators who visited Georgia State in April.

Georgia State faculty and administrators are helping IUGB shape its curriculum and establish university operations such as admissions, class registration, technology and more.

How is the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies having an impact on the city, the region and the world?

What I’ve been pleasantly surprised at is that we have projects going in 61 different countries and those are everything from helping people to define tax policy for the disadvantaged, the handicapped, health policy, environmental policy, and many kinds of government and investment issues. We’ve worked with everybody from Russia to Indonesia, from India to South Africa to Jamaica.

As someone who stood by Dr. King’s side in the Civil Rights movement, how much progress has been made in the last 40 or 50 years?

Well, I think we have made enormous progress. And I think we succeeded in breaking down those legal barriers. I think there are still some reactionary forces that are resistant to the changes that are occurring but it’s not primarily about race, it’s the threat of change. The thing about the Civil Rights movement is, we’re dealing effectively with social problems, with religious problems and with educational problems, but we have not found a way to put an end to poverty. Dr. King’s dream was really to redeem the soul of America from the triple evils of racism, war and poverty.
Good fat versus bad fat outlined in Omega-3 diet book

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

Each year hundreds of diet, nutrition, and cookbook authors are released but how do you know if they are good books or you should just say goodbye? From time to time, I'll review books based on these questions: Is it easy to read and understand? Is it accurate and based on strong science? Are the “extras” such as menu plans, recipes, and color tables worth it? One of the most frequently asked questions by readers is on fat — good fats, bad fats, trans fats. Readers want a guide to sort out the healthy fats from the not so healthy fats and are especially interested in omega-3-fats or “fish oils” that seem to offer all kinds of health benefits — from reduction of heart disease to cancer prevention with their anti-inflammatory properties.

Therefore, I was intrigued by registered dietitian Evelyn Tribe’s book, “The Ultimate Omega-3 Diet” (McGraw Hill $23.95) that claims to “supercharge health, base inflammation, and keep your mind sharp.”

Readability: Tribe has a great way of taking complex chemistry and making it understandable. In the opening pages she lays out the problem for most Americans: We eat too much of wrong kinds of fats and too little of the good fats. We should be concerned about improving the ratio of fats in our diets — not just adding salmon or flaxseed to our diets, but changing the proportions of fat. She goes on to describe how to do it in a step-by-step fashion.

Scientific evidence: This book is thoroughly researched and distills hundreds of studies on the benefits of an omega-3 rich diet, from pregnancy to improved brain function. Each chapter ends with a summary so if you don’t want to read the whole chapter the summary is a quick recap of the key points.

Extras: Want to know the amounts of various types of fats in your favorite foods or learn about omega-3 supplements? This book is filled with useful tables to arm you with the details to make over your diet. The book concludes with meal makeovers and recipes to help you convert your diet to one that provides more good fats and less bad fats.

Top tip: Fresh basil is a good source of omega-3 fats, so grow it in your garden for a ready source of this herb.

Conclusion: This book is a good buy.

Ernest G. Welch, still going strong at 102 years, recently judged a student photography contest at the Rube Goldberg Center for the Arts. The Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design was named for Welch, a photographer himself.
Georgia State names new dean of libraries

Following a national search, Provost Ron Henry has named Nancy H. Seamans as Georgia State’s dean of libraries, effective Aug. 4. Seamans, currently an associate university librarian and director of research and instructional services at the University of Iowa, will succeed Charlene Hurt, who is retiring after nearly 11 years as dean. Hurt oversaw the $23 million library transformation and reorganized the library’s administration to be more focused on serving its 3 million annual visitors.

The search committee felt Seamans will build on Hurt’s advancements and take the library into the future, the provost said in an announcement April 21. Seamans has worked in academic, health sciences, corporate and public libraries during her 30-year career. She came to the University of Iowa in March 2005 from Virginia Tech, where she served as the director of instruction, reference and outreach for the libraries.

Seamans earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Virginia Tech, master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina and doctorate in instructional technology from Virginia Tech. Seamans has published numerous journal articles and is a member of several national professional organizations. Her research interests include information literacy, electronic theses and dissertations and assessment of library teaching.

For more information, contact Natalie Blake, associate director of library development and external affairs at (404) 413-2707.

Counseling Center, Student Health Promotion Office to move

Both the Counseling and Testing Center and the Student Health Promotion Office will be moving May 19 to the Citizen’s Trust Building located next to the University Commons at 75 Piedmont Ave. The Counseling and Testing Center will be located in suite 200A, and the Student Health Promotion Office will be located in suite 240. All phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

During the week of May 19, emergency counseling services will be available at the new location, but the Counseling Center will not offer initial assessments during this week.

All Student Health Promotion and Counseling Center services are scheduled to begin again May 27 in the new location, except for testing services, which will resume June 2.

For more information on the move, call counseling services at (404) 413-1640, testing services at (404) 413-1740 and Student Health Promotion at (404) 413-1578.

Mail Services says prepare for stamp increase

The price for a 1 oz. first-class stamp will increase from 41 to 42 cents May 12, and Georgia State’s Mail Services is available during this period to assist customers in planning for the impact of these increases.

To help adjust to the proposed postal rates and rules, Mail Services suggests following four steps:

- Plan the mail piece, pay attention to its shape, capitalize on discounts and clean up addresses.
- Prices for other mailing services, such as standard mail, periodicals, package services — including single-piece parcel post — and special services also will change. Contact Mail Services with questions at (404) 413-9653.

University Senate approves new executive committee members

Six members were elected to the 2008-2009 University Senate’s executive committee during the Senate meeting in April.

Paul Alberto, Regents’ Professor of educational psychology, will chair the committee. Other members include Elizabeth Beck, associate professor of social work; Dolayne Dixon, chemistry professor; Siva Nathan, associate professor of accounting; Donald Reitzes, chair of the sociology department; and Jeffrey Rupp, associate professor of kinesiology and health.
The university president and provost also sit on the committee.

The executive committee will advise the provost and the president and will be charged with setting the agenda for senate meetings. The next meeting of the 2008-2009 University Senate is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 23 in Veterans Memorial Hall.

Recreation Center hosts Memorial Day party

The pool will open at 11 a.m. May 26. Festivities will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information on the Memorial Day Bash, contact Nigel Harris at (404) 413-1775, or nharris4@gsu.edu.

The Memorial Day Bash starts the season at the Indian Creek pool, which will be open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays through Labor Day. For general information on pool membership, entry rates, guest fees and policies, visit http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwrec/facilities/icra.html.

New Hotline helps faculty and staff report workplace concerns

Georgia State University recognizes that an ethical, efficient and effective work environment is essential to our success, and reporting problems helps sustain that success.

A new option for faculty and staff to report workplace concerns is the university’s recently installed Hotline. This service, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, allows callers to voice concerns. They may remain anonymous if preferred. Access to the Hotline is readily available on the Georgia State Web site or directly at this link http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwrec/facilities/icra.html.

“They are intended to get problems addressed quickly,” said Sterling Rods, chief audit officer and director for University Auditing and Advisory Services. “Anonymous, unsigned letters of a non-specific nature generally are not effective. They are frustrating for the sender as well as the university. When it is unclear what actions need to be taken, the problem cannot be fixed.”

For more information about the Hotline, contact Ruth at struth@gsu.edu or (404) 413-1310.
New Neuroscience Institute strengthens brain research

While a student at the University of Michigan, Walt Wilczynski wanted to study neuroscience, but the field was so new that no such program existed.

Now a psychology professor at Georgia State, Wilczynski has the chance to design his own neuroscience program. He recently was named director of the new Neuroscience Institute, an interdisciplinary home for brain research and education.

The institute builds off the success of the Brains and Behavior Program, which brought together brain researchers from departments across the university.

“Brains and Behavior has been very successful with getting seed grants, bringing in researchers for lectures and doing community outreach,” said Wilczynski. “It’s their vision that the institute emerges out of.

All of those efforts will continue under the new institute, Wilczynski said, but the institute will streamline such projects and will enable the creation of undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degree programs in neuroscience.

“If we look at all the universities that have started neuroscience PhD programs, they’ve had great applicant pools of students,” Wilczynski said. “It also helps recruit outstanding faculty.”

Wilczynski now will begin to select core faculty for the institute. Associate faculty members will join the institute while remaining in their current positions.

“We already have an extraordinary group of world-class neuroscientists at Georgia State,” said Lauren Adamson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “The new institute is the logical next step, providing the administrative support we need to offer new graduate and undergraduate degree programs and continue to provide leadership in this fast-growing field.”

Join us for a day of golf - Georgian style
Department of Recreational Services Annual Golf Tournament
June 5th - The Frog at the Georgian

Price includes: Greens fees, cart, range balls, goodie bag, special awards and lunch.

Visit www.gsu.edu/recreation to download the brochure or call 404-413-1758 for more information.