



Villager

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

Georgia State hits enrollment milestones *Campus boasts the largest freshman class and student body in history*

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

Anyone who has crossed the Library Plaza recently probably could guess that this fall Georgia State University reached a new level of enrollment.

The university is currently boasting its largest freshman class in history with 2,753 first-time, first-year students. The overall student body is also the biggest it has ever been, with 28,175 graduate and undergraduate students, surpassing the previous record of 28,079 in 2003.

On top of that, students are taking more classes for a total of 338,403 credit hours, another record breaker.

Final enrollment figures won't be tallied until later this fall, but officials are pleased with the preliminary results.

"We've increased the size of our freshman class, but we're getting better students than we had 10 to 15 years ago and we've managed to keep the diversity," said Tim Renick, associate vice provost of academic affairs.

Georgia State's class of 2012 has an average ACT composite score of 23 and an SAT average of more than 1080. The average high school grade point average for incoming freshmen is 3.3.

Georgia State students hail from more than 160 nations and all 50 states.

The growth of the student body can be attributed to the increasing quality of Georgia State's academic programs, campus life and student housing, Renick said.

Also, graduate students are better supported by assistantships than in the past, so they are able to devote more time to their studies. Undergraduates are more traditional, coming to Georgia State fresh out of high school and taking a full load of classes.

"The growth in first-time, full-time freshmen is definitely an indication that students are seeing us as a traditional, live-on campus," said Scott Burke, director of Georgia State's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. "I definitely think this is a signal that we are being looked at along with places like UGA and Georgia Tech."



Since fall semester began Aug. 18, navigating the Plaza between classes is often a challenge. Georgia State's student body is now the largest in school history.

5 minutes with: John D. Harrison

Senior director of development for the College of Law

You started at the College of Law in August, but this is not your first development or fundraising role. What other fundraising work have you done?

I went to Baylor School up in Chattanooga for high school, and I have stayed involved with them. That's kind of how I got started in the fundraising business. They asked me to work on the class annual fund campaign back in the late 1990s, and I just kind of stayed doing it. After moving back from London, I started a software company back in 1999, kind of in the heyday of the dot-com world, and we literally started it with three of us and no clients. Talk about major-gifts fundraising. It was. I was also at Wesleyan for three years as director of annual giving and alumni affairs and worked on a \$43 million capital campaign.



What does the College of Law's alumni base look like?

Currently the alumni base is about 3,700 alums. When you start looking at it, you think back 25 years, our alums range from folks in their 60s to folks in their 20s.

How do you plan to reach out to them?

My belief always has been if you're going to try to get someone home again, if you're going to call it a homecoming, you better make sure that your alumni want to come home. So I think what we're trying to build on is a number of events where alumni of all ages can stay connected with their classmates and the university. You're building that sense of community, that brand affinity if you want to call it that.

You haven't always worked in fundraising. What other work have you done?

I was a television producer in the U.K. We actually produced the NFL shows "The Big Match" and "Blitz" here in Atlanta. After football season, I would move back to London to work on sports like cricket. I also produced the French Open, Wimbledon, and worked on the production team as a coordinating producer for all the tennis in the 1996 Olympics. It was really a great opportunity. I got to see a different world in how production works, but a lot of it is the same. It's about relationships. It's about pitching ideas – pitching a new program to executives. It's no different than fundraising.

University has zero tolerance for fraud

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

Just look to recent headlines for a clear example of the consequences of fraud: Former Georgia Tech employee sentenced to 32 months in prison for stealing \$316,000 on state credit cards.

Now, more than ever before, the University System of Georgia has a zero tolerance policy for fraud.

"When somebody does something with university resources, it is intolerable and there will be consequences," said Sterling Roth, director of Georgia State's University Auditing and Advisory Services.

Because of the recent P-Card audit and associated allegations of fraud, Georgia State and the 34 other institutions in the system are required to report all suspected employee malfeasance to the Board of Regents' chief audit officer, who will then turn the information over to the attorney general.

Employee malfeasance generally includes embezzlement, misappropriation, alteration or falsification of documents, false claims, theft of

any asset, inappropriate use of computer systems and bribery. Examples include putting bogus employees on the payroll, padding expense reports, using state credit cards for personal use and underreporting vacation and sick time.

The General Assembly also passed a law increasing civil and criminal penalties associated with P-Card misuse. The governor signed the legislation in May 2008.

"The key to reducing fraud is maintaining good internal controls," said Susan Mondello, assistant director of University Auditing and Advisory Services. "Two people who can verify business integrity should be involved in every transaction. Expenditures should be reviewed in a timely fashion and not just given a 'rubber stamp,'" she said.

To report fraud, follow the chain of command unless managers are involved. A new and anonymous hot line, 877-217-4674, and Web site, www2.gsu.edu/~wwwint, are also available to help fight fraud on campus.



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Are benefits of organic food worth the cost?

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com



Chris Rosenbloom, Ph.D., is a nutrition professor and associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Her columns appear regularly in *Villager* courtesy of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Food costs are rising, and consumers are starting to question if paying 40 percent to 150 percent more for organic food is worth it. There is a widespread belief that organic foods are more healthful than conventionally grown foods with more nutrients and lower risk of food-borne illnesses, and that they may provide protection from or even cure cancer.

What does organic mean?

Organic farming excludes the use of chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and growth hormones in animal feed. While certifications vary from country to country, in the United States, foods that earn the U.S. Department of Agriculture organic seal must contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients. Only those foods made entirely of organically produced ingredients can claim a 100 percent organic label. A food label that says "made with organic ingredients" contains at least 70 percent organic ingredients.

Do they have more nutrients?

A recent report from America's Organic Trade Association claimed that organic fruits and vegetables contain 25 percent more nutrients than conventionally grown produce. This finding was refuted by a Rutgers University professor who claimed the trade association was selective in its data analysis and that there was very little difference in nutritional quality between organic and traditional foods. The truth is that we really don't know if organic foods pack a more nutritional punch, but most scientists think that any difference would not be enough to affect your overall health.

Are they safer?

Proponents of organic foods were surprised when several brands of organic bagged spinach were found to be contaminated with E. coli and were included in a nationwide recall in 2006. While it is likely that organically grown foods contain fewer pesticides, drugs or other chemical residues, the environmental hazards, including risk of E. coli contamination, are found in organic and conventional produce.

A cancer cure?

Some people swear that switching to an organic diet cured them of cancer, but there is no scientific evidence that eating organic foods will prevent or cure cancer. The American Cancer Association recommends eating a variety of fruits and vegetables as part of cancer prevention and says on its Web site that "at this time, no research exists to demonstrate whether such foods are more effective in reducing cancer risk than are similar foods produced by other farming methods." (www.cancer.org)

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The College of Education at Georgia State University

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Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President
Children's Defense Fund

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6:00 p.m.

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Atlanta, GA 30303

*The event is free and open to the public. For additional information,
please call (404) 413-8114 or visit <http://education.gsu.edu>.
For driving directions, visit www.rialtocenter.org.*

university briefs

College of Education hosts annual Benjamin E. Mays memorial lecture

► **Marian Wright Edelman**, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, will be the keynote speaker at the College of Education's 20th annual Benjamin E. Mays Lecture at 6 p.m. on Oct. 13 at the Rialto Center for the Arts. Edelman has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. She has received many honorary degrees and awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings, which include eight books.

The annual lecture series, sponsored by Georgia State's College of Education and Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence, began in 1989 to encourage the discussion of issues facing urban educational leaders. The annual event not only honors the memory of Mays, an Atlanta educator, but also promotes his philosophy of excellence in the education of those typically least served by society. For more information, please call 404-413-8114.

Athletics Golf Classic tees off Oct. 6

► Eagle's Landing Country Club, home of Georgia State's nationally ranked golf programs, will host the annual Georgia State Athletics Golf Classic Oct. 6. The event will include 18 holes of golf, lunch, a dinner reception and awards ceremony, raffle items, silent auction items, golf contests and a chance to mingle with coaches and athletics staff, as well as other Georgia State alumni and friends.

This year golfers will have an opportunity to win a car from Hole-In-One sponsor SONS Automotive Group and an opportunity to bid on a round of golf with head football coach **Bill Curry** or men's head basketball coach **Rod Barnes**.

All proceeds will assist in supporting Georgia State Athletics' mission, which includes a scholarship endowment fund to help provide scholarships for 225-plus student-athletes, facility improvements – including the Panthersville Athletic Complex expansion – and the general fund for Georgia State's 16 varsity teams.

For more information contact **Ford Williams** at 404-413-4017 or e-mail fordw@gsu.edu.

Staff Mentoring Program accepting applications

► The Office of Advancement of Women at Georgia State is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 Staff Mentoring Program. The program is an initiative that provides a structured mentoring approach designed to contribute to the professional development of female staff members.

The program aims to provide opportunities for networking and communication, encourage employee growth and development, promote knowledge and involvement in the university community, and foster progress toward and support of personal and career-related goals.

The program will run from January to June, and each mentor/mentee pair is encouraged to meet at least twice a month. All program participants are required to attend additional events throughout the course of the program, including an opening, midpoint and closing session.

Applications will be available online at <http://www.gsu.edu/aofw/index.html> beginning Oct. 1, and applications are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 31. For more information about the program, contact co-chairs **Renee Bazemore** at 404-413-1431 or **Dominique Holloman** at 404-413-4011.



research HORIZON

Team examines pedestrian safety in downtown Atlanta

By Lisa Jordan Spires • lspires@gsu.edu

Georgia State's location in the heart of downtown Atlanta makes pedestrian safety an area of particular concern for the university's faculty, staff and students, according to Institute of Public Health faculty member John Steward. To address pedestrian safety concerns around campus, Steward is leading a research project called Protecting Pedestrians on the Move (PPM), a partnership between Georgia State researchers, police officers and community and business leaders.

"There's been previous research that's shown that our area has higher than the national norms for pedestrian fatalities," said Steward, adding that more research is needed specifically for Atlanta's downtown area. "We want to try to recommend improvement and changes that can make a safer place downtown."

The team's research will take into account environmental factors, engineering, traffic enforcement and driver and pedestrian behavior. Using their data, the team will recommend ways to improve pedestrian safety in downtown Atlanta.

"There are more and more people downtown. As Georgia State grows and opens new dormitories, there are more opportunities for downtown living, and the eventual conflicts between motor vehicle traffic and pedestrians are bound to increase," he said. "We feel strongly that decisions about the walking environment as we move into the next years need to have pedestrian safety as one of its strongest considerations."

In addition to working with groups like Central Atlanta Progress and Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety, Steward said his team is looking for input from students.

"We consider student involvement in this project to be very important so that we understand the students' perspective and get students involved in developing solutions to some of the problems as they're identified," he said. "There isn't any short-term fix; a sustained commitment is going to be really important."

College of Business launches new risk management center

▶ In collaboration with the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the J. Mack Robinson College of Business recently announced the launch of its Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk.

With funding from a university grant, the center will involve a number of other Robinson departments, and in time, as many as 100 economists worldwide working in the areas of mathematical finance, computational methods and dynamic corporate finance.

"Our objective is to create an optimum environment where fundamental research on some of the most difficult risk problems facing society is conducted," said **Richard D. Phillips**, chair of Robinson's Risk Management and Insurance departments.

Two appointments announced

▶ **Allison Calhoun-Brown**, associate professor of political science, has been named the university's academic director of student retention. This position is newly-created and assumes some of the responsibilities formerly held by the assistant vice president for recruitment and retention, said **Timothy M. Renick**, associate provost for academic programs.

Calhoun-Brown will lead the university's efforts to support students through academic programs including Freshmen Learning Communities, Perspectives courses, Atlanta-Based Learning and the University Scholars program. She also will supervise the Student Advisement Center and Undergraduate Studies, as well as work with faculty and staff across the university in developing strategic initiatives to promote student achievement and retention.

Denise Donnelly, associate professor of sociology, is the new senior faculty associate for advancement of women, succeeding **Dana Fox**, who is now chair of the College of Education's Middle-Secondary Education and Instructional Technology.

As head of the Advancement of Women Office, Donnelly will coordinate collective efforts to improve the status of women at Georgia State. This includes providing information on the status of women and assisting university administrators in their development as well as adopting and implementing policies, procedures, and programs that advance female faculty and staff into senior ranks and senior leadership positions

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 1:30 p.m. Oct. 25 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 **Jean So**, manager of the Welcome Center, by Oct. 1 at 404-413-2500 or jeanso@gsu.edu.

New marketing center to focus on brand, customer management

▶ As marketing expert **V. Kumar** joined the Robinson College of Business faculty as the inaugural Richard and Susan Lenny Distinguished Chair in Marketing, the college announced he also will lead the department's new Center for Excellence in Brand and Customer Management. Kumar, who was the ING chair, professor and executive director of the ING Center for Financial Services at the University of Connecticut, is known for research into customer loyalty and the concept of customer lifetime value. He has worked closely with corporations in a number of industries to identify customers the companies should focus on keeping, and new customers they should acquire.

With the addition of Kumar and the center, "Robinson is poised to become a worldwide leader in evidence-based management of customers and brands," said Dean **H. Fenwick Huss**.

PAW PRINT



Ben Ziskind shows off some of his work to his colleague Lauren Jefferson Aug. 22 in front of the Aderhold Learning Center during the Student Art Fair. Both are painting and printmaking students in the Ernest. G. Welch School of Art and Design.

The College of Health and Human Sciences
announces the sixth annual

J. Rhodes Haverty Lecture



Sudhir A. Venkatesh, Ph.D.
William B. Ransford Professor of Sociology
Columbia University
Author of *Gang Leader for a Day*

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at 7:00 p.m.
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Georgia State joins effort to fight downtown panhandling

By Michael Davis • mdavis6@gsu.edu

In an effort to curb downtown panhandling, Georgia State University is joining Central Atlanta Progress' efforts to encourage those who want to give to give "change that makes sense."

The Give Change That Makes Sense campaign is designed to discourage students, downtown workers, visitors and residents from giving money directly to panhandlers they encounter. The effort includes distribution of literature that points those in need to shelters and other services, as well as the installation of refurbished parking meters where those who wish may deposit change they might otherwise give to a panhandler. Central Atlanta Progress (CAP) officials say the money will be donated to United Way and the Gateway Center homeless shelter.

"What we're trying to do is to create a civil environment in which people are not hassled when they're going about their business of living, working, playing and being educated in downtown," said Georgia State University President Carl Patton.

"The idea is to try to educate people that there are services for people who are truly homeless. You can help the homeless, but you don't have to give to the panhandlers," he said.

The campaign kicked off earlier this month with a showing of support from the city of Atlanta and other downtown boosters. CAP Senior Project Manager Richard Orr says the campaign is a three-pronged effort to enforce existing laws, teach the public that giving to panhandlers often contributes to substance abuse problems, and promote avenues for alternative giving.

"The visitors, the students, the conventioners, they want to help, but it's completely counterproductive" to give direct handouts, Orr said. "If you want to give, we'll give you legitimate avenues."

For more information, visit www.atlantadowntown.com/StopPanhandling.html.



Julie Ancis, professor of counseling and psychological services, presented at the August meeting of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco. Her poster was titled, "Culture and Trauma: Fostering Strength-Based Approaches."

Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language Professor Diane Belcher has been appointed editor of *TESOL Quarterly*.

Michael Eriksen, professor and director of the Institute of Public Health, received the Gold Honorary Award from the Health Promotion Foundation of Poland for his contribution to the development of comprehensive tobacco control policies in Eastern Europe.

Jennifer Esposito, assistant professor of educational policy studies, is now the co-chair of the American Educational Research Association's Division G, Section 1.

Associate Professor of Composition and Coordinator of Composition Studies Nikipitas Demos premiered his work, "Akathist," at Philippos Nakas Conservatory in Athens, Greece.

Demos also served as the host for the 2008 National Conference of the Society of Composers, Inc.

Amy Flint, associate professor of middle-secondary education, presented at the International Reading Association's World Congress in San Jose, Costa Rica, in July. Her talk was titled, "Literacy Practices and Identities among Multi-lingual Children and Teachers."

Barbara Gormley, assistant professor of counseling and psychological services, had two peer-reviewed journal articles accepted for publication and gave a presentation on "Leverage, the Treatment Relationship and Treatment Participation" at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Boston. At the convention, Gormley also won the Mary Walsh Roth Teaching the Psychology of Women Award.

Assistant Professor of Voice Kathryn Hartgrove stage directed operas for the Boston Opera Collaborative and the Milwaukee Opera Theater. She also was selected to adjudicate for the Bauru-Atlanta National Brazilian Vocal Competition in Bauru, Brazil.

Kenneth Long, assistant professor of clarinet and woodwind coordinator, gave a solo performance at the National Association of Composers East Coast Conference in New York and a solo recital at the Society of Composers, Inc., National Conference in Atlanta.

Maury Kalnitz, consultant to the dean and former director of the Robinson College of Business' Executive MBA program, has been named director of the new Executive Doctorate in Business.

Professor of Economics Bruce Kaufman was appointed adjunct professor in the department of employment relations at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

Lars Mathiassen, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and professor of computer information systems, has been appointed academic director for the Robinson College of Business' Executive Doctorate in Business.

The Gerontology Institute awarded the 2008 Distinguished Service Award to Judy Perdue, Community Partnerships coordinator of Project Healthy Grandparents, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to

the field of aging and sustained commitment to improving the quality of life for grandparent caregivers.

Brenda Pitts, professor of kinesiology and health, was the keynote speaker on sport business management at the Sport Management Conference this summer in Taichung, Taiwan.

Professor of Economics Paula Stephan was appointed to the National Research Council committee examining the future workforce needs of the U.S. Air Force in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The appointment is from Aug. 1, 2008, to July 31, 2009.

Walter Thompson, Regents' Professor of kinesiology and health, served as research coordinator for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. Thompson facilitated research projects during the games. He will follow up with the research teams once they have collected their data and prepared manuscripts for publication.

Public Affairs Professor of Policy Studies Andrew Young received a World Citizen Award from the *Atlanta Daily World* newspaper.

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