Regents name new Georgia State president

Mark Becker will take the lead in January

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

The Board of Regents has appointed Mark P. Becker, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of South Carolina, the next president of Georgia State University.

Becker, 50, will become the 7th president in Georgia State’s history in January, when President Carl Patton retires after 16 years of service.

With experience as a biostatistician, public health researcher and academic administrator, Becker is a good fit for Georgia State, members of the presidential search committee said.

“Dr. Becker has the experience as a faculty member, a dean and a provost at leading research universities in the country,” said Paul Albero, chair of the University Senate Executive Committee and a search committee member. “With that background, he will be able to work with the faculty to assess where we are and how we can move forward to greater national prominence.”

Prior to his appointment at the University of South Carolina, Becker spent three years at the University of Minnesota as a biostatistics professor, dean of the School of Public Health and assistant vice president of Public Health, Preparedness and Emergency Response.

From 1989 to 2000, Becker was a professor and associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. He also has held academic posts at the University of Washington, the University of Florida and Cornell University.

Additionally, Becker has fundraising experience both as a dean and a provost.

Becker earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Towson State University and his doctorate in statistics from Pennsylvania State University.

Internationally recognized as a researcher in biostatistics and public health sciences, Becker has published more than 40 articles and has been principal investigator on research grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

“Georgia State is poised to advance as one of our nation’s leading urban public research universities,” Becker said. “There is the opportunity, building on its location in Atlanta and the tremendous progress made under President Patton’s leadership, for the University to enhance Atlanta’s national and global stature.”

Becker, who is married to Laura Voinet and has two children, Matthew, 22, and Julia, 18, said he enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and whitewater rafting and “experiencing and learning about new cultures.”

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr., who introduced Becker at a news conference Oct. 31, said Becker will bring a lot to Georgia State.

“As the [presidential search] committee knows, as the Regents know, as I have come to know — let me assure the Georgia State community that you will enjoy becoming acquainted with and working with Dr. Becker.”

Georgia State gears up for the 2009 Undergraduate Research Conference

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

This spring hundreds of Georgia State third annual Undergraduate Research Conference, giving them a chance to stand in the research and scholarship spotlight.

The conference will be held Friday, March 13, 2009, in the Student Center. It will include poster presentations, oral presentations and artistic displays from students across dozens of disciplines.

Students are required to have faculty sponsors and are encouraged to start thinking about potential projects now. Proposals for submissions are due no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 29, and participants will be notified of proposal acceptance in February.

“Undergraduate research conferences provide students a unique opportunity to engage in scholarly work, present their work to students and faculty, benefit from constructive feedback, and receive recognition for their efforts,” said Deborah Garfin, associate professor of undergraduate research and coordinator of the conference.

“The high quality of work produced by our students at the past two conferences has been remarkable and reflects the potential our students have for developing outstanding careers in their fields,” Garfin added.

Undergraduate research is an important part of the post-secondary experience, helping students gain confidence in presenting research and scholarship in front of an audience, as well as providing preparation for conducting research at the graduate level.

More information about the conference is available online at www.gsu.edu/ursc.
Meat-eaters can ‘flex’ their veggie-lover side

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

I have a friend who says she is a vegetarian but one day I saw her eating a hamburger. When I expressed my surprise she said she eats ground beef on rare occasions. I called her a psychological vegetarian but she said she was a semi-vegetarian. Well, she was ahead of the curve because today’s semi-vegetarian is described as a “flexitarian.” This word was recognized by the American Dialect Society as the most useful word in 2003. Registered dietitian Dawn Jackson Blatner has written what could be the most useful book of 2008 with “The Flexitarian Diet.”

“The Flexitarian Diet” can help people who want to explore vegetarianism but don’t know how to get started. Blatner’s style is infectious and she encourages the reader to start small and take a relaxed approach to eating the flexitarian way. She reminds us that we all are flexitarians—when we choose a vegetable plate for lunch or eat a bean burrito for dinner we are practicing a semi-vegetarian eating pattern. There are more than 100 recipes to get you started and all come with a “flex swap” to convert it from a vegetarian recipe to one that the meat-lovers in your family will like. Blatner also encourages readers to try different grains, like amaranth, buckwheat, millet, quinoa, and wheat berries, and provides a handy cooking guide to take the guess work out of using these grains. The book will also help you master the use of tofu—she likes to call “veggie white meat”—to take the fear out of using this soy product with these grains. The book will also help you master the use of tofu—which she likes to call “veggie white meat”—to take the fear out of using this soy product with the funny name.

Vegetarians have long been known to be healthier than their meat-eating counterparts. They weigh less while enjoying a wide range of foods, they have reduced rates of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers, and they live about four years longer than the rest of us. This meal plan will also appeal to those who are concerned about the environment and want to eat a plant-centered diet. Blatner, who has worked as a clinical dietitian with patients in her home city of Chicago, takes an evidence-based approach to her meal plan by citing relevant research to support her points. She provides a stepwise plan for those who want to adopt this eating plan. Beginning flexitarians can try eating meatless two days a week and progress to an “expert” flexitarian by eating meatless five or more days a week.

Blatner’s style is infectious and she encourages the reader to start small and take a relaxed approach to eating the flexitarian way. She reminds us that we all are flexitarians—when we choose a vegetable plate for lunch or eat a bean burrito for dinner we are practicing a semi-vegetarian eating pattern. There are more than 100 recipes to get you started and all come with a “flex swap” to convert it from a vegetarian recipe to one that the meat-lovers in your family will like. Blatner also encourages readers to try different grains, like amaranth, buckwheat, millet, quinoa, and wheat berries, and provides a handy cooking guide to take the guess work out of using these grains. The book will also help you master the use of tofu—which she likes to call “veggie white meat”—to take the fear out of using this soy product with the funny name.

Vegetarians have long been known to be healthier than their meat-eating counterparts. They weigh less while enjoying a wide range of foods, they have reduced rates of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers, and they live about four years longer than the rest of us. This meal plan will also appeal to those who are concerned about the environment and want to eat a plant-centered diet. Blatner, who has worked as a clinical dietitian with patients in her home city of Chicago, takes an evidence-based approach to her meal plan by citing relevant research to support her points. She provides a stepwise plan for those who want to adopt this eating plan. Beginning flexitarians can try eating meatless two days a week and progress to an “expert” flexitarian by eating meatless five or more days a week.

Blatner’s style is infectious and she encourages the reader to start small and take a relaxed approach to eating the flexitarian way. She reminds us that we all are flexitarians—when we choose a vegetable plate for lunch or eat a bean burrito for dinner we are practicing a semi-vegetarian eating pattern. There are more than 100 recipes to get you started and all come with a “flex swap” to convert it from a vegetarian recipe to one that the meat-lovers in your family will like. Blatner also encourages readers to try different grains, like amaranth, buckwheat, millet, quinoa, and wheat berries, and provides a handy cooking guide to take the guess work out of using these grains. The book will also help you master the use of tofu—which she likes to call “veggie white meat”—to take the fear out of using this soy product with the funny name.

Vegetarians have long been known to be healthier than their meat-eating counterparts. They weigh less while enjoying a wide range of foods, they have reduced rates of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers, and they live about four years longer than the rest of us. This meal plan will also appeal to those who are concerned about the environment and want to eat a plant-centered diet. Blatner, who has worked as a clinical dietitian with patients in her home city of Chicago, takes an evidence-based approach to her meal plan by citing relevant research to support her points. She provides a stepwise plan for those who want to adopt this eating plan. Beginning flexitarians can try eating meatless two days a week and progress to an “expert” flexitarian by eating meatless five or more days a week.

Blatner’s style is infectious and she encourages the reader to start small and take a relaxed approach to eating the flexitarian way. She reminds us that we all are flexitarians—when we choose a vegetable plate for lunch or eat a bean burrito for dinner we are practicing a semi-vegetarian eating pattern. There are more than 100 recipes to get you started and all come with a “flex swap” to convert it from a vegetarian recipe to one that the meat-lovers in your family will like. Blatner also encourages readers to try different grains, like amaranth, buckwheat, millet, quinoa, and wheat berries, and provides a handy cooking guide to take the guess work out of using these grains. The book will also help you master the use of tofu—which she likes to call “veggie white meat”—to take the fear out of using this soy product with the funny name.

Vegetarians have long been known to be healthier than their meat-eating counterparts. They weigh less while enjoying a wide range of foods, they have reduced rates of heart disease, diabetes and some cancers, and they live about four years longer than the rest of us. This meal plan will also appeal to those who are concerned about the environment and want to eat a plant-centered diet. Blatner, who has worked as a clinical dietitian with patients in her home city of Chicago, takes an evidence-based approach to her meal plan by citing relevant research to support her points. She provides a stepwise plan for those who want to adopt this eating plan. Beginning flexitarians can try eating meatless two days a week and progress to an “expert” flexitarian by eating meatless five or more days a week.
Honoring Service
Retiring President Carl Patton and his wife, Gretchen, were honored by Susan Kelley (left), dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, Sept. 23 for their work with Project Healthy Grandparents. Since its inception in 1997, the program has supported more than 600 grandparents and 1,350 grandchildren thanks to the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses.

The Exchange, a faculty IT resource center, is now open
Come check out the new faculty technology resource center, The Exchange, during an open house from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 5.
Brought to you by the Division of Information Systems and Technology (IS&T) and located on the first floor of Library South in room 106, The Exchange is a resource center with the latest technology training and support for faculty and their staff. Similar to the Digital Aquarium, The Exchange has private and open work areas with PCs and Macs, conference tables, a recording studio and equipment available for checkout.
IS&T will host a grand opening celebration from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 5. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call The Exchange at 404-413-4700.

Women mentoring program accepting applications
Georgia State’s Advancement of Women is now accepting applications for the 2008-2009 Staff Mentoring Program. The program provides a structured mentoring approach to contribute to the professional development of female staff members.
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, mid-point and closing session.
Staff Mentoring Program applications are available online at http://www.gsu.edu/aofw/index.html. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Nov. 7.
For more information, please contact Renee Bazemore at 404-413-1431 or rbazemore@gsu.edu, or Dominique Holloman at 404-413-4011 or dominiqueholloman@gsu.edu.

CNN’s Soledad O’Brien to speak at Georgia State
CNN anchor and special correspondent Soledad O’Brien will speak to the Georgia State community at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 on the topic, “Diversity: On TV, Behind the Scenes and In Our Lives.” Held in the Student Center Ballroom, O’Brien’s lecture is free and open to students, faculty and staff members.
For more information, please contact Cara Dawn Byford, Campus Events Advisor, at 404-413-1895 or e-mail campusevents@gsu.edu. Or visit http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwstc/eventSite/index.html. This event is supported by student activity fees.
Emeriti Association keeps retired faculty involved

Roger Miller, chair of Georgia State’s Emeriti Association, looks back fondly on his days as a faculty member. It’s one of the reasons he stays involved with the university through the group.

“I worked there for 25 years, which is longer than I have worked in any other position,” he said. “It was just a wonderful place to work, and I feel that I was always treated fairly and had an opportunity to express my views.”

The association bridges the gap between retired faculty and Georgia State, keeping emeritus faculty apprised of the latest research and events from around campus, Miller said.

“We what try to do is try to be a connecting link between those that have worked at Georgia State and of course have a strong interest in the university,” he said. “They can meet with their former colleagues to see what the university is doing.”

The Emeriti Association hosts social events throughout the year, including lecture luncheons, holiday parties and retreats. Recently, Rajeev Dhawan, director of the Economic Forecasting Center at the Robinson College of Business, spoke to the group about the U.S. economic crisis. The association is also planning for the holidays and for a retreat to the north Georgia mountains.

In the future, Miller said, the group hopes to become more involved with providing academic support to the university by doing things such as reviewing dissertations and providing counseling to students.

“We have a pretty active group here in the Atlanta area,” Miller said. “These are people that love the institution and want to see it grow.”

A Community Development Workbook,” was recently published.

Assistant Clinical Professor Steven D. Olson was named director of the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility at the Robinson College of Business. John W. Truslow III was named associate director of the center.

Chemistry professors Gabor Patonay and Lucjan Strokelowski, and lecturer Magd M. Mersy were featured in an article about near-infrared imaging in the Sept. 22 edition of Chemical & Engineering News, describing their work in the development of carboxyanine dyes for near-IR imaging. Near-IR imaging is used in the detection of cancer, including cancers in the lymphatic system.

Computer Information Systems Professor Balasubramaniam Ramesh received the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award

Associate Provost and Associate Professor of Religious Studies Timothy Renick presided over the American Academy of Religion’s annual meeting in Chicago.

Robert Thompson, professor of music composition, is one of five U.S. composers whose work was featured at the International Electroacoustic Music Festival at the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia 2008 in Rome, Italy.

By Lisa Jordan Spires • ljspires@gsu.edu

A Community Development Workbook,” was recently published.

Assistant Clinical Professor Steven D. Olson was named director of the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility at the Robinson College of Business. John W. Truslow III was named associate director of the center.

Chemistry professors Gabor Patonay and Lucjan Strokelowski, and lecturer Magd M. Mersy were featured in an article about near-infrared imaging in the Sept. 22 edition of Chemical & Engineering News, describing their work in the development of carboxyanine dyes for near-IR imaging. Near-IR imaging is used in the detection of cancer, including cancers in the lymphatic system.

Computer Information Systems Professor Balasubramaniam Ramesh received the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award

Associate Provost and Associate Professor of Religious Studies Timothy Renick presided over the American Academy of Religion’s annual meeting in Chicago.

Robert Thompson, professor of music composition, is one of five U.S. composers whose work was featured at the International Electroacoustic Music Festival at the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia 2008 in Rome, Italy.

By Lisa Jordan Spires • ljspires@gsu.edu