



Villager

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Mark Becker

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 Alberto, 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 Voisinet 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."

5 minutes with: Lea Henry

Women's Head Basketball Coach

You've got nine returning letterwinners and a strong recruiting class coming in — what are your expectations for the season?

We're very excited about the year. We feel like with our veterans returning and the recruiting class, we've got the right players to really make some noise in the league. It's obviously been a rebuilding process for us, and I think we did it the right way. We went after talented young players, and now those players are juniors and seniors and understand what it takes to win in this conference. This is a year that we're going to have the talent, finally. We're going to be deep, we're going to have experience, and if we can stay healthy and develop great chemistry, we can have a really big year.



The recruiting class has been ranked 52nd in the nation?

Yes, it's the best recruiting class we've had since I've been here. We signed Jylisa Williams, a true freshman and the local 5A player of the year out of Stephenson High here in Atlanta. Getting her was a huge boost for us. And Dana Olsen, the second-leading scorer coming out of junior college, averaged 25 points a game. She's a post player, and Williams is a guard. We needed some help scoring, and those two players have really made a difference early on. So right there we've added two dynamic scorers on the inside and the outside.

And All-CAA guard Brittany Hollins is back?

Yes, Brittany has had a phenomenal career for us. She's been a tremendous player for us on both ends of the floor, and as a coaching staff, what we're excited about is that she's going to have more help. And as she has more help, her game is going to continue to elevate. So we're so thrilled that she's going to be surrounded by players who can help her do the things she wants to do.

You have a couple of tough games to start the season?

We start out with our two toughest games out of conference, at Clemson and at Georgia Tech, but I think it's a great opportunity to see where we're at as a team. Every year we play Tech, and it's always a big game. We always play well against them, so we're excited about opening against those two ACC teams. After that we feel like we have an opportunity in our non-conference schedule to do a lot of things, get better, compete and win a lot of games, go into the conference tough and confident and ready to make some noise.

Georgia State gears up for the 2009 Undergraduate Research Conference

By Jeremy Craig • jrcraig@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, faculty associate for 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."

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/gsurc.



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Meat-eaters can 'flex' their veggie-lover side

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.

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 – 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.



research HORIZON

Ancient geology gives clues to human development

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

To figure out how ancient humans adapted to their environment and constructed civilizations, you need to know the environment in which they lived — and that includes climate change over thousands of years, says Assistant Professor of Geology Daniel Deocampo.

He is investigating ancient lakes and volcanic ash to help scientists better understand the environment in which humans evolved.

Deocampo researches how water, minerals and organisms interact. Part of his work, in conjunction with anthropologists and others, seeks to reconstruct the environment in which the earliest humans evolved.

He notes that such research also gives scientists clues into climate change in the past through examining fossil records indicating alternating times of humidity and aridity, as well as the expansion and contraction of grasslands and forests.

"When we reconstruct ancient climates, ultimately, we can test our current climate change models to the past," he said.

His research into volcanic ash that formed sedimentary rocks in Italy and California helps scientists better understand the ways ancient societies, including the Romans, used rocks to create mortar and concrete that, in some cases, were actually more durable than modern varieties.

"By 100 A.D. or so, they had perfected it, and knew exactly which volcanic ash layer to use — which we think we've pinpointed," Deocampo said. "The ancient Roman concrete is better than a lot of our modern concretes. It's interesting to see how these land use patterns affected the development of Western civilization."

university briefs

Regents approve 6 percent reduction

► The Board of Regents approved individual institutions' 6 percent budget reduction plans for FY 2009 at their October board meeting. The board, which voted in August to approve overall system-wide budget reductions, approved the individual campus plans — which total about \$136 million system-wide.

Torch of Peace Award Nomination Deadline Extended

► The Office of Student Life and Leadership/Intercultural Relations is now accepting applications for the Martin Luther King Jr. Torch of Peace Awards. The application deadline has been extended to Nov. 7.

The annual awards will be presented as a part of the fifth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Week Celebration in January. The Torch of Peace awards provide an opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations on our campus who have demonstrated in attitude and behavior an outstanding ability to facilitate or promote positive intercultural relations at Georgia State University or in the community at large.

Nomination applications and information regarding the criteria are available online at www2.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations. For additional information, please contact **Tonya Cook** at 404-413-1587 or tcook3@gsu.edu.

Flowers to take over as interim VP for external affairs

► Georgia State President Carl Patton has announced that effective Dec. 1, **Jim Flowers**, associate vice president for external affairs and director of state relations, will assume the role of interim vice president for external affairs.

Tom Lewis, senior vice president for external affairs, will retire Nov. 30. He will return to Georgia State in January to work part time as special assistant for government relations.

Night at the Aquarium

► Georgia State is renting the Georgia Aquarium for students, faculty, staff and their families and friends to enjoy from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Nov. 14.

Tickets are \$15 per person (age 3 – adult) and are currently on sale at the Student Center Information Desk, the Georgia State University Bookstore and online through Rialto Center for the Arts. There is no charge for children 2 and under.

Free parking will be provided at the M Deck. Shuttles will run from the Student Center and the University Commons to/from the Georgia Aquarium. Parking at the Aquarium is \$10.

For more information, contact **Cara Dawn Byford** at campusevents@gsu.edu or 404-413-1895. This event is sponsored by the Spotlight Programs Board and Campus Events and supported by student activity fees.

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FRIDAY - Opera classics and holiday favorites, including scenes from Verdi's *Falstaff*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, and Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice*, as well as highlights from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*.

SATURDAY - Modern works and holiday classics, including the Atlanta premiere of scenes from Adam Silverman's *Korczak's Orphans*, Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and highlights from Massenet's *Cinderella*.

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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/aofwl/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/~wwwstcl/eventSite/index.html>. This event is supported by student activity fees.

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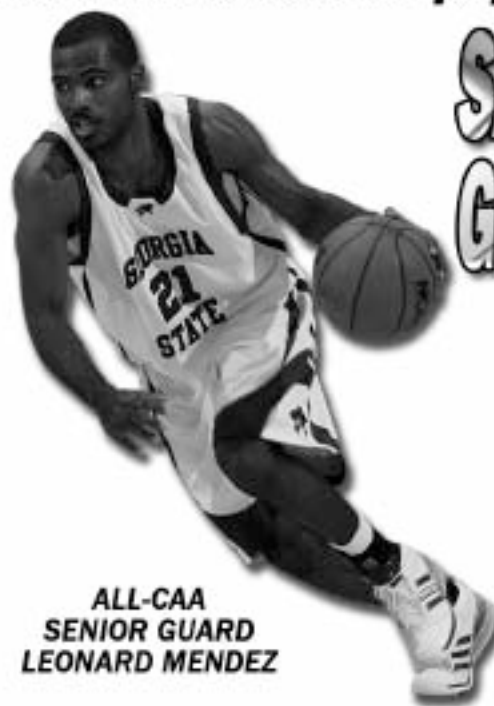
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Emeriti Association keeps retired faculty involved

By Lisa Jordan Spires • lspires@gsu.edu

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.

"What we 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."



From left: Emeriti professors Brenda Smith and Charles E. Billiard from the College of Education and David E. Martin from the College of Health and Human Sciences at a recent lecture luncheon.

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tional journals. "An examination of research methods in mathematics education: 1995-2005" will be published in the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*. Also, "A longitudinal study of effects of a developmental teacher preparation program on elementary prospective teachers' mathematics beliefs" will be published in the *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education*.

Philo Hutcheson, associate professor of educational policy studies, had a publication titled, "Shall I Compare Thee? Reflections on Naming and Power," published in *Understanding Minority Serving Institutions*. In September, he presented a paper, "The University, Professionalization, and Race in the United States," at the University of Cambridge, England.

"Social Enterprise: A Global Comparison" by **Janelle Kerlin**, assistant professor of public management and policy, has been accepted for publication by the University Press of New England.

Assistant professor of religious studies **Fareeha Khan** spoke at "A National Summit on Torture" at Mercer University in Atlanta and at the Common Word Conference at Yale University.

Associate Athletic Director **Marvin Lewis** was a panelist during a Knight Commission meeting on commercialism in sports and athletes' rights in the 21st century at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Oct. 27.

Law professor **Paul Lombardo's** book "Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court and Buck v. Bell" was published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Ewa McGrail, assistant professor of middle-secondary education, had a chapter accepted for publication titled, "Freshman survival guide: A multimedia case study for exploring writing instruction in teacher education." It will be published in "Cases' n' Places: Global Cases in Educational Technology."

Laura Meyers, assistant professor of early childhood education, has been selected as a Georgia Council for the Social Studies Outstanding Educator for 2008. She was recognized at the award's luncheon at the GCSS Fall Conference on Oct. 23.

Karen Minyard, associate research professor of public management and policy and executive director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, was invited to speak at a hearing at the state Capitol on the reorganization of the Department of Human Resources and creation of the Department of Health.

Mary Ohmer, assistant professor of social work, received the Emerging Scholar Award from the Association of Community Organizing and Social Administration during the Oct. 30-Nov. 2 meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Philadelphia. Additionally, a textbook which she co-authored, "Consensus Organizing:

APPLAUSE

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 Strekowski**, and lecturer **Maged M. Henary** 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 carbocyanine dyes for near-IR imaging. Near-IR imaging is used in the detection of cancer, including cancerous cells 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 of the Conservatory of Santa Cecilia 2008 in Rome, Italy.

Julie Ancis, professor of counseling and psychological services, is currently the co-legal and legislative representative for Division F of the Georgia Psychological Association.

Digital Aquarium artist-in-residence **Roberto Arevalo** premiered his documentary "Una Familia Cubana/A Cuban Family" as part of the High Museum Latin American Film Festival.

Georgia State head football coach **Bill Curry** has been appointed as a distinguished executive fellow in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

Caitlin McMunn Dooley, assistant professor of early childhood education, received the 2008 Jerry John's Promising Researcher Award from the College Reading Association.

The American Cancer Society recently awarded **Susanna F. Greer**, assistant professor of biology, with a grant of \$718,000 to further her research into new regulatory mechanisms involved in the induction of anti-tumor immune responses.

From the College of Education's Department of Early Childhood Education, Professor **Lynn Hart**, Assistant Professor **Stephanie Smith** and Assistant Professor **Susan Swars** recently had two manuscripts accepted for publication in top-tier, interna-

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