Fall Commencement December 15
Coach Bill Curry to speak
By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu
Inside locker rooms and from the sidelines, Coach Bill Curry has motivated countless football players with his pep talks.

Now, 2,609 new Georgia State graduates will have a chance to hear one of Curry’s inspirational speeches as the fall commencement ceremony, starting at 6 p.m. on Dec. 15 in the Georgia Dome.

The new Panthers football coach will base his talk around “magnanimitas,” a Latin word meaning greatness of spirit. “You can be brilliant, educated, engaged, active — all those important things — but you are never complete until you have discovered your own magnanimitas and have discovered how you can give it to a cause greater than yourself,” Curry said.

The tradition started in the early ’70s and is one of the longest-running annual iron pours in the United States. It owes its origins to a handful of students who were getting antsy as the winter holidays approached. “My students were right at the end of the fall semester and started doing all these knick-knacks and Christmas presents and stuff, and I got really mad about that,” Beasley recalls with a laugh. “I said, ‘You’re supposed to be making sculptures. If you just wait until after the semester, I’ll run a special iron pour and you can do Christmas presents.’ And that became kind of like a party, a tradition that’s part of the drama. It’s almost medieval.”

Every year, Georgia State sculpture students, faculty and alumni come together for the annual Holiday Iron Pour, a celebration of their craft and a chance for the uninitiated to take a peek at this very physical art form. “It’s very scary-looking,” says George Beasley, a professor in Georgia State’s Welch School of Art and Design. “But, you know, that’s part of the drama. It’s almost medieval.”

At commencement the university will confer 2,526 undergraduate and graduate degrees and 133 doctoral degrees. The numbers include both summer graduates and fall degree candidates. No honorary degree will be given at the ceremony.

The fall ceremony is the third commencement in the Georgia Dome. Georgia State President Carl Patton will preside over the ceremony for the last time before retiring after 16 years at the helm of the university.

Coach Curry said he is honored to speak to the fall graduates during this important time in their lives.

“Through education we discover, develop and enhance our gifts,” Curry said. “I think every human being is capable of greatness. I don’t think there is one Barack Obama. I think there are a lot of potential Barack Obamas, but in each in his or her own way.”

For more information, including parking instructions and a schedule of events, please visit www.gsu.edu/commencement. Faculty who plan to participate can fill out the online registration located within the site.

Holiday Iron Pour continues annual tradition
By Lisa Jordan Spires • lspires@gsu.edu
Flowing easily from the ladle and splashing into the molds below, the orange liquid is more comparable to water than to metal. But that’s exactly what it is, molten iron so hot the artists handling it are forced to suit up in tough leathers and protective headgear.

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Every year, Georgia State sculpture students, faculty and alumni come together for the annual Holiday Iron Pour, a celebration of their craft and a chance for the uninitiated to take a peek at this very physical art form. For a small donation, anyone can make a scratch mold and create an iron souvenir to take home.

“Usually the children love it,” Beasley says. “Last year, we did 150 of those. So it’s children and their parents and then anybody who wants to. We prepare the sand mold in advance, and so all you have to do is just carve into it. We have all the tools and equipment.”

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This year’s iron pour begins at 2 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Edgewood Sculpture Studio. For more information, e-mail Beasley at gbeasley@gsu.edu.

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Head Football Coach Bill Curry

What new programs or events are you launching?
Next semester, we’re launching a career counseling group for students who are academically in trouble or confused about what they want to do with life. We want to help those students stay enrolled, persist towards graduation and then get into a first-rate job or enter graduate school. There will also be several career fairs in the near future, and we’re launching a web-based system called “GoCareer” that will connect students with international internship and job opportunities. We’re also looking at taking students on deliberate road trips that are industry-focused and career-oriented, like to the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

What are your plans for Career Services?
University Career Services is a resource for the faculty. When a faculty member is away, we will work on a career-oriented lecture for the faculty. When a faculty member is away, we will work on a career-oriented lecture for the day so they don’t have to cancel class. We can also help faculty with employer contacts, making sure students have great access and find internships, mentors and job opportunities that are meaningful to them.

What can faculty and staff do to help support University Career Services?
University Career Services is a resource for the faculty. It’s a resource for the faculty and students. We offer résumé and CV critiques, help with job searches, interview practice, career counseling and assessments, career fairs, on-campus recruitment and overall job readiness.

Why is career counseling important?
Career counseling is about helping people understand and differentiate their potential directions and make decisions that are intentional and accurate. The ultimate goal is to reduce student time, reduce cost and help them get on track or stay on track. We serve all majors, all colleges. We offer résumé and CV critiques, help with job searches, interview practice, career counseling and assessments, career fairs, on-campus recruitment and overall job readiness.
New book takes a look at food synergy
By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

Synergy means that two plus two equals more than four; a concept that might not hold up in math but makes perfect sense when looking at food combinations to boost your nutritional health. Nutritionists know that vitamin D boosts calcium absorption; that why milk is fortified with vitamin D. Milk is the perfect vehicle to pair vitamin D with calcium because milk is a natural source of the bone-building mineral. Author Elaine Magee has taken this concept one step further in her book, “Food Synergy.” She provides examples of hundreds of food combinations based on the latest nutritional research to help you achieve good health. For example, vitamin E and lycopene (the red pigment found in tomatoes) work together to reduce LDL, the bad cholesterol.

You can use this book in many ways: As a reference for food sources of vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients (those compounds found in fruits, vegetables and grains that provide health benefits), as a cookbook, or chapter by chapter to overhaul one meal or your entire diet. I found Magee’s writing style to be inspirational. Magee anchors her concepts by focusing on the research into foods and nutrients that fight the “big four” chronic diseases that strike Americans: heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer.

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The book is loaded with tips on cooking, incorporating more whole foods into your diet and tips for eating more whole grains, fruits and vegetables, as well as many easy-to-make recipes. The appendices include the top food sources of nutrients and a 1,500-calorie meal plan for those who want to lose weight. It also includes three “Ci” color (the deeper the better), cruciferous vegetables (cabbage family of broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts and kale) and citrus fruits and juices (these contain anti-oxidant nutrients vitamin C and carotenoids, but also phytochemicals with disease-fighting properties).

Football finds home for practice facility
By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

Georgia State University’s growing football program will soon have a practice facility where its players can hone their skills.

On Nov. 20, university officials broke ground on a new practice complex for the Panthers football team, located on a 3.8-acre tract of land at 188 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The plans are to construct a 100-yard artificial turf field, a 50-yard natural grass field and a football building that would house coaches’ offices, locker room, weight room, meeting rooms, training room and equipment room.

The Georgia State University Foundation bought the land and a building on the site for about $6.6 million.

“This is another very important step forward for Georgia State football,” Athletics Director Mary McElroy said. “We’re thrilled that the university was able to secure a piece of land that fits our needs and is located so close to campus. This complex will become a tremendous asset for Georgia State football.”

The Panthers, which will begin competing in 2010 and will be members of the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision, will play home games in the Georgia Dome. The practice complex site is near Georgia State Sports Arena.

Panthers head coach Bill Curry is already assembling his first recruiting class and plans to implement great practice habits.

“I’m glad we got a practice field we needed one,” Curry said. “That’s where I’ll earn my keep as a football coach. That’s where you have to get it done. It doesn’t matter how smart you are and how many great plays you can draw it how well you can execute them.”
a seminar and a poster at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Convention in Chicago in November. The poster session was titled "Teaching Evidence-Based Practice in Graduate Programs" and was presented with two of her graduate students, Kimberly Christie and Kimberly Woodall.

Professor Brian Payne, chair of the department of criminal justice, was named Southern Criminal Justice Association Educator of the Year.

Richard Phillips, the Bruce A. Palmer Professor of Risk Management and Insurance and RIM department chair, was presented with the Robert I. Mehr Award, given annually by the American Risk and Insurance Society for the Journal of Risk and Insurance article that is judged to have had the most impact on the field since its publication.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Tracie L. Stewart received a Wayne F. Plass Award for her project "Predicting Sexual Orientation-based Discrimination."

Professor of Communication Mary Stuckey has published “Jimmy Carter, Human Rights and the National Agenda” with Texas A&M University Press.

Associate Professor of Educational Policy Studies Ronda Tighe and Annette Loecky-Vega, a graduate teaching assistant in middle-secondary education, presented a paper on Nov. 1 at the 2008 University Council for Education Administration Convention in Orlando, Fla. The paper was titled “Principals Centers in the U.S.: Their Roles, Locations, and Services School Leaders.”

Anthropology Professor Bethany Turner’s research into the skeletons of people buried at the Inca site of Machu Picchu was detailed in Science News and National Geographic. Through her research, she was able to confirm the local social structure by examining teeth.

Professor of Public Management and Policy Bill Waugh participated in the First Annual Lacy Suiter Policy Forum at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

Professor of Public Management and Policy Katherine Willoughby is the 2008 chair-elect of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management.

Dennis Young, director of the Nonprofit Studies Program and the Bernard B. and Eugenia A. Ramsey Chair of Private Enterprise, participated in the 20th Annual Invitational Conference of the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at New York University.

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Farewell President Patton

Without a doubt, President Carl Patton has truly changed the face of Georgia State University. He physically expanded the university’s footprint with the restoration of the old Rialto Theater, the addition of on-campus housing, the state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center and the Helen Aderhold Learning Center, among a long list of other improvements.

On the horizon, and under construction, is the $250 million University Science Park.

President Patton also worked tirelessly to raise the university’s profile as a respected research institution and helped build a culture of giving. He has helped transform not only the university, but the city of Atlanta, and our state is a better place for it.

On behalf of the entire university community, we wish Carl and his wife, Gretchen, well as they move to the next chapter of their lives.