Homecoming 2009 celebrates “The Blue Print”
By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

With a new president on campus, a new football program kicking off in 2010 and new construction projects underway, Georgia State University continues to build a foundation to become one of the nation’s leading urban research institutions with a more traditional student experience.

It seems appropriate then for this year’s Homecoming theme to be “The Blue Print,” which celebrates the university’s accomplishments and plans for future success.

Faculty, students, staff, alumni and other supporters are invited to take part in Homecoming events Feb. 7-14 and show off their Georgia State spirit.

“We’re trying to bring all the campus players together — students, faculty, staff, alumni and emeriti,” said Evan Eskridge, Student Government Association president. “It’s important to enhance the campus community and leave a lasting legacy.”

Homecoming Week will begin with the Alumni Kick-Off Reception at 2 p.m. on Feb. 7 in the University Center Campus Club. Tickets are $20 per person, $12 for basketball season ticket holders and $5 for students. The reception will be followed by the Georgia State men’s basketball game versus Delaware at 4 p.m.

A new event this year is the Homecoming Carnival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 10 in Hurt Park, where employees can enjoy games, free food and activities. Also, the tailgate before the Homecoming basketball game has been expanded to include food, interactive displays and vendors. The tailgate will run from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the Urban Life Plaza, followed by the 4 p.m. Homecoming basketball game versus UNC-Wilmington.

Established traditions are also incorporated in this year’s Homecoming. Show off your Panther spirit by participating in the Door and Office Decorating Contest on Feb. 11, or cruise through campus as a part of the Golf Cart Parade from 12:15 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 12. Applications for the parade are available in the Spotlight Office. The fee is $25 and the deadline is Feb. 5.

For more information, visit www.gsu.edu/spotlight or call 404-413-1610.

“Homecoming is a chance for people to interact with faculty, students and staff they might not normally see in their everyday routine,” said Carole Golder, chair of the campus-wide Homecoming committee. “Come out, have fun and show your Panther spirit.”
Can what you eat be more important to the environment than what you drive? Kate Geagan, registered dietitian in Park City, Utah, says Americans have an “SUV eating style” that contributes to global warming more than the cars we drive. Her book, “Go Green, Get Lean: Trim Your Waistline With the Ultimate Low-Carbon Footprint Diet,” will be published in March.

I interviewed Geagan about food habits and the connection to the environment and asked her to share tips with consumers about the advantages of eating green.

Q: How can changing our diet impact the environment?

A: The average distance that your food travels to get to your table is about 1,500 miles, according to a University of Iowa study,” Geagan said. “When we choose highly processed packaged foods, we contribute to global warming, so food is a new part of the dialogue about the environment. And this is something that everyone can do now and not wait for politicians to enact changes. An added bonus is that eating green saves green and what consumer doesn’t want to save money on food?

Q: How is eating green different than being a vegetarian?

A: Only about 3 percent of the U.S. population identifies themselves as vegetarians, so that is not doable for most people. But what is doable is choosing local or regional foods to reduce our carbon footprint. This isn’t just about eliminating meat or eating only organic foods. If your organic smoothie is shipped by air and freight halfway around the world, then it isn’t healthy for the environment. Eating green strikes a balance between cost, health and the planet — a win-win for everyone.

Q: What are your top tips for consumers to go green?

A: • Eat more plants and cut down on beef and dairy. You don’t have to give up beef or dairy but by eating meatless one day a week you can improve the environment and do something good for your health.

• Eat less food product and eat more food. Highly processed packaged foods consume valuable resources and they are usually not very healthful.

• Rethink your drink. Bottled beverages are heavy to ship. Consider drinking tap water instead of bottled water and rethink the diet soft drinks. Did you know it takes 2,200 fossil fuel calories to produce a one-calorie diet drink?

What you eat can help the environment, too
By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com
The five award categories are Outstanding Community Impact, Outstanding Campus Impact, Outstanding Faculty or Staff Member, Outstanding University Program and Outstanding Community Partner. Each award recipient may select a Georgia State University program or scholarship to receive a $500 gift in their name.

For more information, contact Lovell Lemons, director of the Office of Civic Engagement, at 404-413-1550 or Kel’l Vincent, student affairs adviser, at 404-413-1552.

New Wave Atlanta features urban art projects

Work by eight artists will be on display at the Welch School Gallery through Feb. 26 for “New Wave Atlanta: When Urban Intervention Speaks French.” As part of the exhibit, the gallery will also be hosting free art lessons Feb. 10, 17 and 24. At 6 p.m. Feb. 5, artist in residence Didier Fiuza Faustino will speak. For more information, visit www.gsu.edu/art or call 404-413-5230.

College of Education hosts lecture series

The College of Education invites faculty, students and staff members to its Research Wednesday Speaker Series, a platform for exploring new ways of conducting and disseminating educational research. The lectures are held Wednesdays at noon in room 1030 in the College of Education. Lunch will be served.

The program provides access to cutting-edge researchers at the state and national level and an opportunity to discuss new methods of mentoring doctoral students in an effort to enhance their development as researchers.

The series will also be available online on the College of Education’s Web site by downloading from iTunesU. For more information, contact The Educational Research Bureau at 404-413-8090. An R.S.V.P. is required to attend Research Wednesdays. To R.S.V.P. please contact Rosemarie Capps at erbracx@langate.gsu.edu or visit http://education.gsu.edu.

Georgia State to participate in Howard Hughes Medical Institute science education program

By Jeremy Craig • jcragg@gsu.edu

Georgia State University has been chosen to join an innovative science education program, the Science Education Alliance (SEA), headed by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in Chevy Chase, Md.

“The HHMI has developed a remarkable program that gives incoming freshmen the opportunity to conduct scientific research at a level that would normally not be encountered until a student was well into graduate school,” said Biology Professor Barbara Baumstark. Baumstark, along with her colleagues in biology, Associate Professor Casoyna Johnson and Senior Lecturer Malcolm Zellars, submitted Georgia State’s application to the Alliance.

“Through this program, students will be able to experience the thrill of discovery, of being the first person in the world to learn something completely new,” she said.

As a part of the SEA’s National Genomics Research Initiative, Georgia State will offer a two-part, year-long research course this fall. The research course is aimed at beginning college students, who make discoveries by performing research on bacterial viruses called phage.

Given the diversity of phage, each virus is almost certain to be unique, so the students will have the unique experience of working with a newly identified life form. They will then spend the rest of the term purifying and characterizing their phage and extracting its DNA.

Between terms, the purified DNA will be sent to the Joint Genome Institute-Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, where it will be sequenced. In the second term, the students will receive files containing their phage’s DNA sequence. The students will then use bioinformatics tools to analyze and annotate the DNA from their phage.

HHMI will provide research and laboratory materials, and Johnson and Zellars will attend training sessions that will allow them to implement this research experience in laboratory classes on campus.

INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS
2009 SPRING PROGRAMS

JANUARY 2009

Friday, 30
Tunnel of Oppression Planning Retreat
Come get involved in organizing the 3rd Annual Tunnel of Oppression! Open to everyone. For more information, contact Student Life and Leadership at 404-413-1580.

FEBRUARY 2009

Monday, 2
Atlanta Exploration Program
(Applications available)
Experience Atlanta through a cultural lens. For more information, contact Student Life and Leadership at 404-413-1580.

Tuesday, 10
12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch and Learn Series:
The Dating Matrix
(Lunch provided)
Student Center, Capitol Suite

Friday, 13
5 p.m.
2009 President’s Awards for Community Service and Social Action
Nominations due to the Office of Civic Engagement at Student Center, Suite 320. For more information, contact the Office of Civic Engagement at 404-413-1580.

Wednesday, 18
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Feed Your Senses:
Nefetari Bey, Jazz Singer
(Lunch provided)
Rialto Center for the Arts, Main Lobby

Thursday, 26
12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch and Learn Series:
Girl Power: The Struggle for Women’s Rights
(Lunch provided)
Student Center, Capitol Suite

APRIL 2009

Thursday, 2
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Turner’s First Thursday Art Gallery Crawl
Meet in Student Life and Leadership at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, 14
12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch and Learn Series:
A Sound Mind: Poetry and Jazz Appreciation
(Lunch provided)
Student Center, Capitol Suite

Tuesday, 14 – Wednesday, 15
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Volunteer Fair: Get involved in your community!
Library Plaza
For more information, contact the Office of Civic Engagement at 404-413-1580.

Friday, 20
Atlanta Exploration Program
visits Dialog in the Dark
Tuesday, 24
12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch and Learn:
Exploring the intersection of race and sexual identity
(Lunch provided)
Student Center, Sinclair Suite
cosponsored by Safe Zone

MARCH 2009

Sunday, 2 – Thursday, 4
Alternative Spring Break:
Retracing the path of Civil Rights

Monday, 16 – Tuesday, 17
10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tunnel of Oppression Program
(Tours begin every 30 minutes.) Ride the train of social injustice to learn more about oppression and its impact on our society.
Student Center, Ballroom

Wednesday, 18
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Feed Your Senses:
Woman — Music/Poetry
(Lunch provided)
Rialto Center for the Arts, Main Lobby

Thursday, 26
12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch and Learn Series:
The Voice of Women
(Lunch provided)
Student Center, Capitol Suite

For additional information, please visit Student Center, Suite 330
www2.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations
404-413-1580

INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS
STUDENT LIFE & LEADERSHIP
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Melinda Hartwig, associate professor of Egyptian art and archaeology, next to the ancient paintings inside the Tomb of Menna.

“Both are usually used in royal tombs because they are hard to find and make colors more vibrant. Clearly, Menna had access to the best materials and artists to make his tomb, even though he was only an overseer and scribe of royal and temple fields.

“The Tomb of Menna is a primer of what could be done in ancient Egyptian paintings.”

Hartwig’s team is also using state-of-the-art techniques to measure the chemical and organic compositions of the tomb’s plaster, pigments and binders. These techniques use light to analyze the chemicals used in the pigment and do not involve touching the walls, so they will not harm the ancient paintings. So far, the analysis has yielded some unexpected discoveries, Hartwig said.

“Archaeometry revealed that the artists used arsenic sulfide-based pigments mixed with natural occurring ashes;” she said. The team of experts had also resurfaced the ancient paintings inside the Tomb of Menna.

Bruce Kaufman, professor of economics and senior associate to the W.T. Beebe Institute of Personnel and Employment Relations, received the 2008 Andrew Young School Teaching Award.

Jacqueline Laures-Gore, associate professor of educational psychology and special education, and graduate student Amy Barnett, presented the following at the 2008 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention in Chicago, Ill.: “Evaluation of Psychosocial Well-being in Individuals with Aphasia: A Review.”

Cassandra White, assistant professor of psychology, is a co-editor of Crosslinguistic Approaches to the Psychology of Language: Research in the Tradition of Dan Isaac Slobin, published in December by Psychology Press.

Jennifer Patrici, assistant professor of anthropology, recently authored Consumption and Social Change in a Post-Soviet Middle Class, published by Stanford University Press.

Elizabeth A. Steed, assistant professor of educational psychology, has accepted an invitation to be a distinguished scholar at the 40th anniversary celebration of the State University of New York, to be held in April 2009.

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