



# Villager

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS • [www.gsu.edu/villager](http://www.gsu.edu/villager)

## The First Team

Georgia State football inks 26 players on signing day

By Lisa Jordan Spires • [lspires@gsu.edu](mailto:lspires@gsu.edu)



Georgia State University Head Football Coach, Bill Curry

As the countdown to Georgia State football ticks on, the university reached a milestone Feb. 4 with the signing of 26 players to its roster.

"We're off to a very good start in terms of the quality of our players," said head coach Bill Curry. "They are good football players, good human beings and also good students."

The 26 players join freshman running back Mark Hogan Jr., who is currently enrolled at Georgia State, and whose father, Mark Hogan Sr., played under Curry at Georgia Tech. The team includes three players named to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* Georgia 150, as well as highly regarded players from Florida, South Carolina and Texas. As time passes, a few more players are expected to sign as well, Curry said.

"Drew Little from Henry County, the second-leading passer in the history of Georgia high-school football, became our first in-state commitment. [Drew] said, 'I want to start this thing. I want to be the one that goes first,'" Curry said. "That's leadership."

Curry said Georgia State's academic quality, location and the chance to build a football tradition from scratch were some of the reasons players were drawn to the program. When asked how he felt about players citing him as the reason they committed to play at Georgia State, Curry downplayed his role.

"When we were able to get the families and parents to come to Atlanta and see our campus and meet our academic support people and meet the members of the faculty, Georgia State was something that was not hard to sell," he said. "Georgia State football will be a success, and it won't have much to do with Bill Curry. These guys have bought into the idea of being a part of the beginning of a tradition."

## 5 minutes with:

Jean So

Manager of the Welcome Center



*You're one of the happiest people on campus. What's your secret?*

I thoroughly enjoy my job. For me, being an alumna (B.A. '99) and being very involved at Georgia State when it was predominantly a commuter campus, I really love the changes the campus has gone through over the years. It's exciting to see students love it, too. At the Welcome Center, we have to put our best foot forward and make sure we give visitors and prospective students a wonderful first impression so they leave with the feeling that they want to come back.

*"Since June 2006, we've seen approximately 40,000 visitors. And as the years go by, we grow because enrollment keeps going up."*

*How busy are you at the Welcome Center?*

This is our busy season — February through April — with seniors graduating and rising seniors thinking about where to apply. But, actually, all year is busy. We offer daily campus visits — two information sessions and two campus tours — Monday through Friday, plus special group tours. We're open to anyone who is interested. Since June 2006, we've seen approximately 40,000 visitors. And as the years go by, we grow because enrollment keeps going up.

*What's a campus tour like? How has it changed since you took over?*

Our "Campus Atlanta" tours are 90 minutes — a 45-minute bus tour and a 45-minute walking tour. The tour gives prospective students and visitors a glimpse of student and academic life. They see the growth and get really excited knowing that if they apply, these are the things they are going to be able to experience as a student if accepted.

*And students run the tours?*

Yes, the tours are facilitated by students, who are very informed, active on campus and well-rounded individuals. I currently have a staff of 22 tour guides. I always tell my students that you can be having the worst day, but when you come to work, you always have to put a smile on your face because you never know who you are going to affect.

*How effective are campus tours?*

Campus tours are an integral recruitment tool. The combination of information sessions and a campus tour yields a very large number of students who apply, get accepted and enroll. That's exciting and means we're doing our job.

## Provost and vice president for academic affairs plans to retire

By Andrea Jones • [andrea.jones@gsu.edu](mailto:andrea.jones@gsu.edu)

Ronald J. Henry, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, has announced that he plans to retire on June 30. In his nearly 15 years as provost at Georgia State, Henry has seen major changes at the institution — from the addition of residence halls, to becoming a research institution, to the increase in the quality and quantity of freshmen — and he can rattle off statistics of Georgia State's rise: The university has moved from \$20 million in research grants and funds to more than \$60 million, from 120 doctoral students to more than 200, and from 1,200 freshman to 2,800 during his time here.



Ronald J. Henry

"I feel very good about where we have moved as a university," he said.

Paul Alberto, a Regents' Professor in the College of Education, said Henry focused on the growth of the faculty to help ensure Georgia State's continuing advancement. Also, Alberto said, Henry "expanded the academic offerings of the university while assuring the programs' quality and integrity."

Georgia State President Mark Becker has appointed a search committee, which will immediately begin seeking, reviewing and recommending candidates for the provost position. Alberto will chair the committee and said the committee looks forward to seeking input from faculty, staff and students. Also serving on the committee are:

- Lauren Adamson**, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Pamela Barr**, Associate Professor, J. Mack Robinson College of Business
- Michael Eriksen**, Director, Institute of Public Health, College of Health and Human Sciences
- Evan Eskridge**, President, Student Government Association
- Wendy Hensel**, Assistant Professor, College of Law
- Julia Hilliard**, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
- Jorge Martinez**, Regents' Professor, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
- Robin Morris**, Vice President of Research
- Linda Nelson**, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources
- Jerry Rackliffe**, Vice President, Finance and Administration
- Nancy Seamans**, Dean, University Libraries
- Rebecca Stout**, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Shelly-Ann Williams**, Staff Council, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies



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## Pump up weight-loss motivation with plan

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 column appears regularly in *Villager* courtesy of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Already the crowds at the gym are starting to thin as New Year's resolutions to lose weight and get fit start to fade.

Need to jump start your motivation? Pick up the 2009 edition of "The Cooper Clinic Solution to the Diet Revolution" by Georgia Kostas, registered dietitian and former director of nutrition for the Cooper Clinic in Dallas.

First published in 2001, the yearly updates provide the most current information on dieting and lifestyle changes to help you get in the best shape of your life.

**Readability:** This book is formatted like a workbook, loaded with interactive quizzes and surveys to help you assess the best weight loss strategies for your lifestyle. It also serves as a success journal to track changes as you get healthier. Instead of chapters, the book is broken into steps — 15 in all — from assessing your readiness to change and step-by-step calculations to determining how many calories you need each day. Appendices are loaded with tools to help you maintain good health. This book is like a map to reach your final destination, whether that destination is weight loss or an active lifestyle. Open any page and you're bound to find useful information. For example, cheese is one of

Americans' favorite foods, but it also is high in fat. How do you know which cheeses are healthiest? Kostas breaks it down by showing (by brand names) fat-free, low-fat, reduced-fat and high-fat cheeses.

**Scientific evidence:** This is no fad diet book, but rather an evidenced-based approach to weight loss. Readers who need structure (and who doesn't when trying to lose weight?) will like the two-week weight-loss meal plans for varying calories levels and the weight-maintenance plans to keep the pounds from creeping back.

**Extras:** This book is loaded with extras. I really like the recipe makeover sections. Many readers ask me how to lighten their favorite recipe, and Kostas shows you how to do this step by step. I also like the holistic approach. Most of you know what to do for weight loss, but this book provides all the tools to overcome the barriers.

**Top tip:** Plan ahead to prevent impulse eating, portion your food to control weight and pace yourself by slowing down and eating less. Focusing on the cues that cause you to overeat can help maintain your weight loss.



## research HORIZON

### Research sheds light on the science of shedding pounds

By Jeremy Craig • jrcraig@gsu.edu

Researchers at Georgia State have found that fat cells give feedback to the brain in order to regulate fat burning much the same way a thermostat regulates temperature inside a house, and they hope that this discovery may help scientists better understand obesity and why some people burn fat more readily than others.

Biology professor Tim Bartness and research scientist C. Kay Song, along with Gary J. Schwartz of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, found that during the process of burning fat — called lipolysis — fat cells feed information to the brain via sensory nerves.

"Through these sensory nerves, the fat cell can give the brain feedback," Bartness explained. "The presence and function of the sensory nerves has been completely ignored and the areas in the brain that receive this sensory information were unknown until we did these studies."

Bartness said they found that the brain uses the part of the nervous system used to regulate body functions, called the sympathetic nervous system, to communicate back to the cells to initiate, continue or stop the fat burning.

Though this communication process is known to play a role in the short-term burning of fat, Bartness said researchers are not sure whether this process is involved with the long-term issues of burning fat.

"It could be that sensory nerves have a dual function," he said. "In addition to the moment-to-moment lipolysis process, they might also have a longer term function. It's complicated, and it might be a different subset of the sensory nerves performing the long-term monitoring of fat reserves."

The research appears in the March edition of the *American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology*.

# HELP US PUT GEORGIA STATE ON THE MAP!

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Take a picture of yourself in Georgia State gear and show us where you are.

Go to [gsu.edu/world](http://gsu.edu/world) to upload your picture and explore Georgia State's impact across the nation and around the world.



**Where in the World is Georgia State?**

**VISIT [GSU.EDU/WORLD](http://GSU.EDU/WORLD)**

## Staff council elections to be held

► The Staff Council, which is dedicated to providing service and fostering effective communication within the university community to make Georgia State the best possible place to work, is holding elections for the 2009 - 2011 term through Feb. 20.

To participate in this year's process, visit <http://webdb.gsu.edu/sac>. To access the system, you will need your Campus ID, which is located on the back of your PantherCard. Your password is the same password that you use to access your EasyView account. If you have any problems, please contact the IS&T Help Center at 404-413-4357.

Questions may be directed to **Randall Alberts**, Staff Council election committee chair, at [ralberts@gsu.edu](mailto:ralberts@gsu.edu) or **John Medlock**, Staff Council president, at [jmedlock@gsu.edu](mailto:jmedlock@gsu.edu). Positions open for nominations are as follows: Arts & Sciences – five open positions; Business – two open positions; Education – three open positions; Law – one open position; President/Provost – one open position; Information Systems and Technology – two open positions; VP-Student Affairs – one open position; VP-External Affairs – one open position; Police – three open positions; Facilities – five open positions; VP-Research – two open positions.

## Employee performance evaluations due in March

► It's that time of year when managers formally evaluate and provide feedback to their employees.

Georgia State's Department of Human Resources is offering a course for managers on how to conduct performance evaluations from 9 a.m. to noon on March 5. Individuals may register for workshops via <http://www.msds.gsu.edu:8080/red2/viewLoginPage.jsp>.

Participants will be informed of the course location after they register. Human Resources also offers individual department training upon request.

Performance evaluations are due no later than 5:15 p.m. on March 31 and should be submitted to **Tineke Battle**, human resources coordinator. The mandatory performance evaluation form is online at [www2.gsu.edu/~www/hre/forms/index.htm](http://www2.gsu.edu/~www/hre/forms/index.htm). Please hand deliver the forms to the Department of Human Resources on the third floor of One Park Place, or send by interoffice mail to P.O. Box 3982.

For questions or concerns about filling out employee evaluations, contact **Dethra Giles**, director of staff recruitment and retention, at 404-413-3286.

## Georgia State employees give big to charities

► The 2009 State Charitable Campaign was the university's most successful campaign in 10 years, with 1,560 Georgia State faculty, staff and retirees raising \$163,274.12.

The campaign, which was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1982 for all state and university system employees, benefits more than 1,200 local and international charitable organizations that provide services in Georgia and overseas.

Many charities have struggled with fundraising during the economic downturn.

"I have been impressed this year with the spirit of giving from all corners of the university. I'm delighted we had the best campaign ever," said **Mike Metzler**, co-chair of the campaign and professor of kinesiology and health.

## Alumni Association accepting Sparks Awards nominations

► The Georgia State University Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2009 Sparks Awards. The awards will be presented during a reception at 2 p.m. April 28 in the Student University Center Speaker's Auditorium.

The Sparks Awards were first presented by the Alumni Association in 1985. The awards are designed to recognize Georgia State University's unsung heroes: faculty, staff and students who exemplify a willingness to go the extra mile with good humor and perseverance.

Nomination forms are available under the "Honors & Awards" tab on [www.gastatealumni.net](http://www.gastatealumni.net). Attach a one- to two-page typed statement explaining why the nominee should receive a Sparks Award, including specific examples demonstrating how the nominee has gone above and beyond the duties and responsibilities of his or her job description.

A committee composed of past Sparks Award recipients will select the winners based solely on the information submitted. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. March 6. Mail submissions to Georgia State University Alumni Association, Sparks Awards, P.O. Box 3999; hand deliver to 133 Alumni Hall; fax to 404-413-1444; or e-mail as a pdf or Word attachment to [alumni@gsu.edu](mailto:alumni@gsu.edu). For more information, call the Alumni Association office at 404-413-2190.

## Board of Regents approves criminal justice doctorate

► The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia granted approval in January to the Georgia State University Department of Criminal Justice to offer a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. No other Ph.D. program focusing on criminal justice is offered at any public or private university in the state of Georgia.

"We are excited to be the first university in Georgia to offer a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and Criminology, and we look forward to graduating the state's future scholars and educators in this field," said **Susan Kelley**, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, which houses the Department of Criminal Justice.

The department will begin accepting applications in fall 2009 for the first class of students who enroll in 2010. The Department of Criminal Justice, which has a long history of high-quality teaching and cutting-edge scholarship, was established in 1967 and has produced more than 3,600 criminal justice professionals. In 2006 the department was ranked 8th nationally for scholarly productivity in a study published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice* and received the second highest ranking of any non-Ph.D. granting criminal justice program in the country.

# PAW PRINT



## Fantastic Four

*Members of the Lambda Theta Alpha sorority show off their award-winning routine during the Homecoming Greek Stroll Off Feb. 10 in Hurt Park. The sorority's dance team has won the annual contest the past three years.*

# Attention Faculty

## uLearn is getting a face lift!

The University System of Georgia is upgrading uLearn from Version 3 to Version 8.

Georgia State University faculty will be required to teach using the new version beginning Fall 2009, as the current version of uLearn will no longer be available.

The new version has many added features to enhance teaching and learning. **Some of the new features include:**

- \* A repository to easily share files with other courses and instructors
- \* Simpler navigation
- \* Blogs and journals as part of the discussion tool
- \* Peer review option for discussions

## What should you do to prepare?

The upgrade requires that all materials be moved from the current uLearn location to a new set of servers. **Between now and Fall semester, we recommend that you:**

- \* **Download and save your materials from your current uLearn courses and delete old files you will no longer need.**

On March 2, you will be able to login to the new uLearn server (<https://gsu8.view.usg.edu>), upload your files and rebuild your course. If you use ePack materials from a publisher, please contact the publisher to obtain a version compatible with Blackboard Vista Version 8.

For information, e-mail Paula Christopher at [pchristopher@gsu.edu](mailto:pchristopher@gsu.edu).

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## Torch of Peace Award winners honored

By Liz Babiarz • [lbabiarz@gsu.edu](mailto:lbabiarz@gsu.edu)

During the 1998 annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation, Sampson Zewde, an Ethiopian on a world tour to spread peace, presented the Torch of Peace to former Georgia State University President Carl Patton.

In the decade since, Georgia State has continued Zewde's mission by giving the Torch of Peace Award each year to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni and student organizations who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to promote positive intercultural relations in the community.

The 2009 winners were honored at the convocation on Jan. 15. Student Life and Leadership/Intercultural Relations coordinated the nominations process. The faculty award was given to Frederick Taylor, coordinator of the Music Management Program in the School of Music, who has published numerous journal articles and the book, "Entrepreneurship in the Global Music Marketplace." The first African-American male to receive a doctorate in music at Temple University and the first to receive tenure at Georgia State, Taylor is considered a role model for his time spent serving as an academic advisor to music management students and the Music Entertainment Industry Student Association.

Bobbie Turner, an administrative coordinator in the College of Education's Department of Middle-Secondary Education and Instructional Technology, was honored with the staff award for her strong commitment to both students and faculty. Turner approaches work with a keen sense of organization, excellence and a caring manner, said her nominator Dana Fox, chair of the department.

Other winners include:

- **Alumni Award:** Glenwood Ross II, an associate professor at Morehouse College and adjunct faculty member in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.
- **Graduate Student Award:** Nicholas Lee Bertram Harvey, a doctoral student in the joint Ph.D. program in Public Policy offered in Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and Georgia Tech.
- **Undergraduate Student Award:** Karishma Saini, senior studying psychology with a double concentration in biology and chemistry.
- **Student Organization Award:** Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Theta Chapter



Michael Eric Dyson, best-selling author and Georgetown University professor, delivers the keynote address at the 26th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation Jan. 15. At the convocation, the Torch of Peace award winners were announced.

## APPLAUSE

Associate Professor Ian Almond authored "Two Faiths, One Banner: When Muslims Marched With Christians Across Europe's Battlegrounds," to be published by Harvard University Press.

Raheem Beyah, assistant professor of computer science, has been appointed an associate editor of the *Journal of Computer Systems, Networks, and Communications*. The publication is aimed at researchers, developers, practitioners, policy-makers, professional trainers, educators and other specialists in the areas of computer systems, networks and communications.

Deron Boyles, professor of educational policy studies, co-authored a book with Benjamin Baez (first author), titled "The Politics of Inquiry: Education Research and the 'Culture of Science,'" which was recently published by SUNY Press.

Margo A. Brinton, professor of biology, was recently among 72 microbiologists elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Fellows are elected through a highly selective, peer-review process based on records of scientific achievement and original

contributions that have advanced microbiology.

Jeremy W. Crampton, associate professor and graduate director of geography, recently presented at a specialist meeting of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Systems in Washington, D.C. The meeting dealt with the National Map — a U.S. Geographic Survey effort to map the topography of the entire country.

Giovanni Gadda, associate professor of biochemistry, was recently featured on the American Chemical Society's *Biochemistry* Web site with co-authors in an article exploring a flavin of the enzyme choline oxidase.

Kevin Gaw, director of University Career Services, gave the keynote speech at the 2009 Georgia College Counseling Association annual conference on St. Simons Island. The keynote, which focused on finding passion and purpose in one's life, was titled: "Lieben und Arbeiten: Using Old Tenets (and Some New Ones) to Surf the Waves."

Steve Harmon, associate professor of instructional technology, published "A Case Study of Design-Based Research for Creating a Vision Prototype of a

Technology-Based Innovative Learning Environment" in the *Journal of Interactive Learning Research* with former student Yuxin Ma.

Provost Ron Henry has been elected chair of the Board of Trustees of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning for 2009-2011.

*Human Behavior Theory: A Diversity Framework*, authored by Nancy Kropf, director of the School of Social Work, will be published in March by Transaction Publishers.

Les Janis, director of the Georgia Career Information Center, is serving on the National Academy of Sciences' panel to review the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Middle East Institute Director Dona Stewart authored "The Middle East Today: Political, Geographical and Cultural Perspectives," published by Routledge.

Leslie Taylor, division head and associate professor of physical therapy, recently received the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia's (PTAG) Achievement in Education Award. The

award is given to a PTAG member for his/her valuable contribution to the field of physical therapy and the association through the development of quality educational experiences that improve the physical therapy profession in academics, clinical experiences, or continuing education.

The After-School All-Stars Atlanta, led by Walt Thompson, Regents' Professor of kinesiology and health, received the Hosea Williams Award for Community Activism at the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation on Jan. 14.

Jerry Wu, assistant professor of kinesiology and health, received a two-year, \$21,626 grant from the Jerome Lejeune Foundation titled, "Effect of ankle weights on overground walking in pre-adolescents with and without Down syndrome."

Jenny Yang, professor of biochemistry, was featured on the American Chemical Society's *Biochemistry* Web site with co-authors for their work in calcium binding sites in extracellular space.

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