Cheryl Levick named new athletics director

University of Maryland chief of staff/executive senior AD takes helm March 30

By Lisa Jordan Spires • ljspires@gsu.edu

Georgia State University President Mark Becker named Cheryl Levick as the university’s new athletics director Feb. 25.

“Cheryl Levick’s dedication to excellence both on and off the field made her the obvious choice to lead the change in exciting change in athletics here at Georgia State,” Becker said.

Levick is currently chief of staff/executive senior athletic director at the University of Maryland. Prior to that, she was athletics director at Saint Louis University, served as the first female athletics director at Santa Clara University and was senior associate athletics director at Stanford University. Levick, a St. Louis native, is a graduate of the University of Missouri and earned a master’s degree in athletic administration from Indiana University.

“It is a very important time in the history of Georgia State University, a period of growth, exciting goals and elevating the university to new heights,” Levick said. “Athletics will play an integral role in this strategic growth.”

Levick has received numerous awards for her work in athletics and was named the 2001 Division I Athletic Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. In 1998 and 1999, she was named one of the nation’s Top 25 Female Sports Executives by Street and Smith’s Sports Business Journal.

Levick comes to Georgia State as the university makes preparations for its first football team, set to begin play in 2010. She will assume her duties as athletics director on March 30.

“Football will add a dimension of visibility, campus spirit and school pride never before seen on this campus,” Levick said. “I welcome the challenge to lead this program in this period of change.”

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Where in the World is Georgia State?

By Liz Bobevsky • lzbobevsky@gsu.edu

Are you working on research in a new location? Studying abroad for a semester?

Traveling to a conference to give a presentation?

Going on a fun vacation with family or friends?

Tell us all about it, and your picture and story could end up on “Where in the World is Georgia State?” It’s a new Web site developed by University Relations that highlights the university’s presence around the country and world.

The site — www.gsu.edu/world — has an interactive flash map of the world. Yellow stars denote the university’s long-term international programs, green dots highlight study abroad programs, and red pins show faculty, students, staff and alumni who have sent in photos from their voyages. Each icon has a photo of a person and a short description of what he or she is doing in that location.

For example, click on Ayutthaya, Thailand, to see Richard Laub, director of the Heritage Preservation Program, and learn about how he led a group of students on a study abroad trip to explore that country’s rich cultural landscapes.

So, if you’re traveling soon, please take a Georgia State t-shirt or sweatshirt along and take a picture of yourself. Then visit the site, click on the “Submit a photo” button and fill out the form.

If you have a suggestion of a program that should be highlighted, contact Andrea Jones, assistant director of media relations and publications, at andreajones@gsu.edu or 404-413-1351.

Louis Scott
Director of Financial Aid

How has the economy affected your office?

The economy has affected us a lot. More and more students are coming in requesting financial aid. The number of financial aid applications for the upcoming year has increased by at least 6,000. More and more students are also applying for student loans and college work study which has been a real challenge for us because we don’t have the allocations to fully fund every student interested in work study. We’ve also seen a lot more students denied private loans due to the crisis in the lending industry.

What can students do to increase their chances of getting aid?

We recommend students complete their financial aid applications prior to April 1, which is our priority deadline. We have a limited amount of campus-based aid and we can’t award everybody. Getting their application in early increases their chances. Another big thing students can do is research scholarships. Check online and check with your high school, local civic groups, your church, your parents’ employer or your current employer. Apply for as many as you can and hopefully you’ll receive one.

Is President Obama’s stimulus plan going to help Georgia State students?

The huge benefit for Georgia State is going to be the increase in Federal Pell Grants. The maximum amount has increased by $500 for 2009-10 and by $200 for 2010-11. It helps students because if they qualify, that’s an extra $250 per semester, which is a huge benefit for our need-based students. Another big development is that we’ll have a year-round Pell Grant program for 2009-10, where students can attend during fall, spring and summer semesters and receive the grant. The federal government is also putting more work study funding into the budget for institutions. This might not impact us this year but it could for 2010-11.

Any advice for filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)?

Students often get intimidated by the FAFSA because it has over 100 questions on the application. But they should stick it out because it can be beneficial in the long run. If students have any questions or need assistance completing the FAFSA, they can contact our department. We don’t have a problem sitting down with students and their parents and assisting them. That’s what we’re here for.
by Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

Eating out doesn’t have to do

You may be dining out healthfully without even knowing it.

The Culinary Institute of America has partnered with the Harvard School of Public Health to make dining out delicious and healthful, in a sneaky kind of way.

At the World of Healthy Flavors conference, scientists meet food service operators, restaurateurs and chefs to share best practices and the winner is us — the diners of America.

This partnership is all about creating dishes that diners will crave and that feature taste and enjoyment as the entree, with nutrition and health as the sides. You won’t find these items marked with little hearts or segregated to a corner of the menu. Healthful dishes are sharing top billing with the higher-calorie, not-so-heart-healthful items.

Visit the Web site of your favorite restaurant to find nutrition information on all your favorite dishes.

Good-for-your-choices

• Dunkin Donuts: That’s right, Dunkin Donuts offers an oven-toasted flatbread sandwich. I tried the Egg White Veggie Flatbread recently when my flight was delayed and enjoyed it. It’s served with little hearts or segregated to a corner of the menu. Healthful dishes are sharing top billing with the higher-calorie, not-so-heart-healthful items.

• Outback Steakhouse: Best known for thick steaks and fried appetizers, take another look at this restaurant. Order from the gluten-free menu if you need to avoid wheat. The regular menu looks good, too, featuring smaller filets (7 ounces). But don’t worry; you can still get a 12-ounce steak if that’s your choice, even though as a dietitian I suggest asking for a doggie bag and taking half of it home for another meal.

• Pizza Hut: Cajun Lime Tilapia, Grilled Chile Lime Chicken and Steak and Portobello don’t sound like diet foods, but all fit into Weight Watchers’ point system. You wouldn’t know it from the taste.

• Pizza Hut: Try the Perfect Oatmeal with dried fruit or nut medley. A fruit Stella or a multigrain roll with almond butter for a delicious breakfast or snack.

• Starbucks: Try the Perfect Oatmeal with dried fruit or nut medley. A fruit Stella or a multigrain roll with almond butter for a delicious breakfast or snack.

University briefs

Georgia State University’s new Web portal, PAWS, has launched

Panther Access to Web Services (PAWS) is officially up and running. PAWS combines Georgia State services, resources and information from the Web into one location for easy access. Students can update registration, financial aid, personal information and all other functions previously performed in GsuOLAR. Faculty and staff can link to other commonly used systems on campus.

PAWS also provides university news, calendar events and announcements relevant to each person’s role at Georgia State. In the future, the PAWS Office will continue to expand and develop the portal to bring users more personalized information and more interaction.

Look for the PAWS icon on the upper-right corner of the university’s Web site, or visit https://paws.gsu.edu. Sign in with your campus ID and password.

For more information, contact Kristian Serrano, PAWS administrator in the PAWS Office, part of Enrollment Services, at kserrano@g-su.edu or 404-413-2276.

Free health screenings, training workshops available to employees

Georgia State University’s Office of Employee Development and Wellness wants to help all faculty and staff members improve their professional skills development and take steps toward healthier lifestyles.

No-cost, preventative health screenings are available to all faculty and staff at the new Wellness Center, 332 Sparks Hall. The first Thursday of every month, from 1 to 4 p.m. Available services provided by the Department of Nursing include blood pressure checks, diabetes management information and more. To schedule an appointment, please call 404-413-3345.

Additionally, the 2009 Spring Summer Training Catalog is now available. Want to enhance your skills? Looking to take your department to the next level? Check the catalog for new workshops, certificate trainings and department customized seminars.

Sign up for any of the sessions via the new Human Resources Web site, www.gsuhr.lhs.

For more information, contact the Office of Employee Development and Wellness, part of the Department of Human Resources, at 404-413-3342 or via e-mail at edw@gsu.edu.

DAEL to host lecture series

Georgia State’s Digital Arts and Entertainment Laboratory will bring successful film and television professionals to campus to speak on careers and trends in the entertainment industry as part of a weekly lecture series.

Research horizon

Computer science professor studies new approach to cyber defense

Georgia State’s Raheem Beyah is exploring innovative ways to keep computer networks secure from potential attackers.

The assistant professor of computer science has received a five-year, $400,000 Faculty Early Career Development Program grant from the National Science Foundation to explore methods to better detect cyber activity, that could do great harm to individuals, organizations, businesses and governments.

There are two ways to approach intrusion detection — either on the computers themselves, with antivirus and firewall software — or by having a detection program on the network that observes intrusions. Both have their benefits, but there are detractions for each method, Beyah said.

The software itself on a computer can damage the device, or it can open up new avenues for attackers to access the system, he explained. “If you have intrusion detection on a network, this is mitigated, but it does not give you the same level of detail about intrusions compared with methods residing on the host.”

Attempting to find the intrusion could be as harmful as the intrusion itself, a situation Beyah compares to a biopsy in cancer patients.

“It would be really nice if they could use a non-intrusive tool to tell whether you have cancer without having to cut into the body,” he said. “My goal is to do something to bridge between the two detection methods, and to give us the strengths of both while minimizing the weaknesses.”

In addition to security research, Beyah plans to reach out to underrepresented groups in science, mathematics, technology, and engineering subjects — including minorities and females — through a summer academy that will teach students about computer architecture and networking.

Previous Georgia State Computer Science CAREER recipients include assistant professors Yinghui Lu and Xiaoyun Cao. Li is researching routing problems in sensor networks, while Cao is investigating optical networking.
A rare snowfall blankets the Georgia State University campus on Sunday, March 1. With students off for spring break and most faculty and staff home for the weekend, disruption to campus activities was minimal, and it was business as usual on Monday.

Middle East Institute presents film festival
The Middle East Institute at Georgia State will present its sixth annual Middle East Film Festival March 30 through April 3 in the Cinefest Theater at the Student Center.

On March 30, “The Battle of Algiers” will be presented with a lecture by assistant professor Ian Campbell. On March 31, “Beyond Belief” will be screened along with a workshop presented by the filmmakers.

For a complete schedule and movie times, visit http://dael.gsu.edu or call DAEL director Kay Beck at 404-413-5644.

Measuring economic activity focus of 2009 Usery Lecture
Katharine Abraham, former commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and a leading researcher on the measurement and analysis of economic activity, will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 Fifth Annual WJ Usery Distinguished Lecture at 2 p.m. March 12, in the 7th floor seminar room in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, 14 Marietta St.

Abraham, a professor of economics at University of Maryland, will discuss her paper, “What We Don’t Know Could Hurt Us: Some Reflections on the Measurement of Economic Activity.”

“Katharine Abraham is an ideal person to give the Usery Lecture, combining distinguished careers in research and public service,” said Barry Hirsch, WJ Usery Chair of the American Workplace and professor of economics at AYSPS.

The lecture is open to all faculty, students and staff. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact Hirsch at bhirsch@gsu.edu.

Film series highlights the experience of disability
Georgia State University’s Center for Leadership in Disability is presenting an upcoming film series as part of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March and Autism Awareness Month in April.

The first annual Experience of Disability in America film series presents engaging films on Wednesdays that promote awareness and appreciation of the diverse lives, stories and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities.

Discussions and other programs will follow each film. The free series — open to students, staff and community — starts March 11 and each film will be shown at 7 p.m. at Cinefest, located in the Georgia State University Center.

Milestone honors
By Jeremy Craig + j cave@gwu.edu

Georgia State’s Office of Employment Relations would like to recognize employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with the university.

Milestone honors will be recognized at a university-wide recognition reception 2 p.m. March 27 in the Student Center Ballroom. All employees celebrating anniversaries in multiples of five years will be honored. Faculty and staff marking their 25th, 30th, 35th and 40th anniversaries are listed below.

25 Years
Leslie J. Brandon, Kinesiology and Health
Sharon E. Bryant, Building Services Administration and Support
Subramanian Chandrasekaran, Chemistry
Wanda L. Cooley, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
John R. Day, Affirmative Action
William A. Gregory, College of Law
Patricia K. Hicks, University Research Services and Administration
Kelly S. Hilliard, Technology Infrastructure
Kris Hoppen, Physics and Astronomy
Alevena Jefferson, Disbursements
Phyllis D. Kimbro, Early Childhood Education
Philip A. Lapore, U System Center
Phillip McClendon, Building Services Administration and Support
Paul S. Milich, College of Law
Chau Van Nguyen, Decision Support Systems-Institutional Research
Tammie Patterson-Hill, College of Arts and Sciences Office of Academic Affairs
Elaine King Personas, Early Childhood Education
Patricia E. Rackliffe, College of Law, Registrar
Stephen R. Ratterree, Decision Support Systems-Institutional Research
Judith Schmeltzer, Biology
Robert B. Simmons, Biology
Martha L. Singer, Institutional Research
Pamela K. Smith, Robinson College of Business-Dear’s Office
Corinne Sorensen, Benefits
Robert J. Stevens, Information Systems and Technology
John H. Swanson, Technology Infrastructure
Leonard Ray Teel, Communication

30 Years
Cecilia H. Cantrell, Sociology
Tod R. Davis, Property Control
Frank J. Hall, Mathematics and Statistics

35 Years
Peter C. Eisemann, Finance Department
Benjamin D. Johnson, Campus Services
Stephen H. Pitches, University
Educational Technical Services
Malinda G. Snow, English
David W. Wingert, Physics and Astronomy

40 Years
Billy J. Andrews, Property Control
Steven T. Maness, Regents’ Professor of Physics and Astronomy

Julie Ancs, professor of counseling and psychological services, gave two presentations in January at the Nefesh Conference in New York, at the invitation of the president of Senegal. She also served on an expert panel on Jan. 22 for the California State Department of Education’s 5-15 Planning Committee that is designing a culturally relevant teacher preparation program.

Jackie Lund, associate professor of kinesiology and health, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education.

John Lutzker, director of the Center for Healthy Development and visiting professor of public health, and Daniel Whetaker, director of the National Safe Care Training and Research Center, are co-editors of “Preventing Partner Violence: Research and Evidence-Based Intervention Strategies,” published in March by the American Psychological Association.

From the Division of Information Systems and Technology, Orrin Marshall, network technology manager, and Mark Roberson, assistant director of networks, received their Six Sigma Green Belt certification.

Lisa Martin-Hansen, assistant professor of science education in Middle Secondary Instruction in the College of Education, has been named associate editor for the Electronic Journal of Science Education.

Mike Metzler, professor of kinesiology and health, is the new president-elect of the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education. Mike will assume the office at the January 2010 Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.


Dennis Thompson, professor of educational psychology and special education, and Ferda Aysan, a professor at Dokuz Eylul University in Izmir, Turkey, presented “Professional Child Hearing Advice in the Early 20th Century: American and International Perspectives” at the World Conference on International Sciences at the Near East University in Cyprus, in February.

Xiaojun Cao, assistant professor of computer science, was recently named an associate editor of IEEE Communications Letters, a monthly journal of the IEEE Communications Society.

Basketball Junkies – March Madness is coming to the Student Recreation Center!

The NCAA Basketball Round #1 Games March 19-20
Join us in the Student Recreation Center Lobby between Noon – 5 p.m. to watch: first round games of the basketball tournament.

Bracket contests, food and prizes.

For more information visit www.gsu.edu/recreation