A more pedestrian-friendly Decatur Street

President Mark Becker delivered his State of the University address April 16. Inside, find the full text of his speech.

By next fall, Georgia State University will have a safer, more beautiful connection through its downtown campus.

The university’s long-awaited Decatur Street Pedestrian Improvements Project began on April 2 and is scheduled for completion in September.

The $1.5 million project will take the four-lane Decatur Street and introduce new landscaped islands — reducing the roadway in some places to single lanes going east and west from Peachtree Street to Jessie Hill Jr. Drive. This work will also include dedicated turning lanes, wider sidewalks and improved pedestrian crossings.

“This project will make Decatur Street a much more pedestrian-friendly boulevard and will reduce the speed and traffic volume, creating a safer corridor for the Georgia State campus,” said Russ Seagren, director of facilities planning at Georgia State.

Construction will progress one block at a time, starting at the intersection of Decatur Street and Peachtree Street. Crews will work eastward on the north side of Decatur Street until they reach Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, at which point they will switch to the south side of Decatur Street and work westward until Peachtree Street.

During the project, one lane will remain open at all times, except during work on Decatur Street between Park Place and Peachtree Center Avenue, which will require closing both west-bound lanes. Signs will be posted to detour traffic to Edgewood Avenue and then back to Decatur Street at Park Place.

The Decatur Street project is part of Georgia State’s Main Street Master Plan, an initiative of former GSU President Carl Patton, who wanted a more pedestrian-friendly campus.

The project is funded through Transportation Enhancement funds, the Livable Communities Initiative and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Georgia State officials hope to soon secure funding for a similar project to improve Piedmont Avenue.

For more information, including a timeline on construction, please visit www.gsu.edu/decaturst. Or contact Seagren at 404-413-0771 or rseagren@gsu.edu.
Weaving Heritage
Demetrio Lazo, a traditional weaver from Teotitlan del Valle, Mexico, shared his craft with students and faculty as part of a weeklong series of workshops earlier this month. Rather than using chemical-based dyes, Lazo colors his wool with natural dyes made of flowers, herbs and insects he gathers himself.

Three questions: Organic produce, iron and iodine, and tryptophan

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

Q: I’m trying to save money at the grocery store. Are organic fruits and vegetables really worth the higher price?

A: The cost of organic produce can be quite high, so you might want to consider a few options. First, look for locally grown organic produce by visiting farmers markets. This will get easier once summer arrives. You can also check out the Environmental Working Group’s new release of the “dirty dozen” and “clean 15.” This group rates pesticide residues on fresh produce and claims you can lower your pesticide exposure by about 80 percent by avoiding the 12 most pesticide-contaminated fruits and veggies. Consider buying organic fruits and veggies listed on the “dirty dozen” list. Lastly, this summer, plant a small home garden or, if space is limited, a container garden.

Q: Is watermelon a good source of iron? Is sea salt a good source of iodine?

A: Watermelon is not a good source of iron. Most fruit doesn’t contain any iron, with the exception of some dried fruit, like raisins. Watermelon is a good source of potassium, a mineral needed to help regulate blood pressure. It also contains lycopene, a plant nutrient that is tied to reduced risk of prostate cancer and heart disease. Lycopene is found in other red and pink food, like tomatoes, red bell peppers and pink grapefruit. Sea salt does not contain iodine. Some table salt has added iodine; this began at a time when iodine deficiency was more common than it is today. Now you don’t need to worry about getting sufficient iodine through salt because iodine is present in other food and is used as a dough conditioner in bread. Sea salt does contain as much sodium as table salt, so if you are trying to reduce salt intake, sea salt won’t help you do that.

Q: Does skim milk have the same amount of tryptophan as whole milk? What about soy milk?

A: Yes, soy milk, skim milk and whole milk all contain about the same amount of the amino acid tryptophan, about 115 milligrams per cup. Tryptophan is often thought of as a sleep inducer, and because turkey is high in tryptophan, some people think that the Thanksgiving meal induces “turkey coma.” The truth is that all protein-containing foods are high in tryptophan, but this amino acid might make you sleepy only if you take it on an empty stomach — not something we do at Thanksgiving.

Employees and students to be honored with Sparks Awards

Ten Georgia State employees and students will be recognized for their dedication to the university at the 2009 Sparks Awards reception on April 28. The awards, presented by the Georgia State Alumni Association, honor those who go the extra mile to fulfill their duties to the university and do so with good humor and perseverance. These were some of the characteristics of Georgia State’s highly regarded first president, George McIntosh Sparks, for whom the awards were named. The recipients were selected by a committee of previous Sparks Awards winners, who narrowed down a list of nominations received by the Alumni Association.

“The Alumni Association is honored to recognize these outstanding individuals who exemplify the characteristics we should all strive for,” said Susan Toohey, executive director of the Alumni Association.

The ceremony honoring Sparks Awards recipients will be held at 2 p.m. April 28 in the Speaker’s Auditorium at the Student University Center as part of Employee Appreciation Month at Georgia State. The 2009 Sparks Awards recipients are:

• Wanda Cooley
  Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
• Glenda Crunk
  Andrew Young School of Policy Studies graduate assistant/mentor
• Annie R. Dillard
  Managerial Sciences
• Jonette Gowan
  University Information Services
• Christopher O. Jackman
  Facilities Management Services
• Barbara Lahey
  Office of Undergraduate Admissions
• Kyle P. Stapleton
  Robinson College of Business student
• Dona J. Stewart
  Middle East Institute
• Angela Turk
  College of Education
• Danny Weipert
  Department of Recreational Services

The migration of course materials from the current version of uLearn to the new Version 8 is underway.

Have you moved your course materials yet?

The earlier you move your course materials to Version 8, the sooner you’ll be able to rebuild your courses for fall semester.

How will your materials move? There are two ways.

1. You can move the materials yourself by downloading the files to your computer and uploading them to Version 8.
2. We can move the materials for you. Simply complete the Migration Request Form at the link below.

http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwvst/tech3/migration.html

For more information, contact the IS&T Help Center at 404-413-HELP (4357) or help@gsu.edu.

uLearn is moving forward!
College of Education appoints new associate dean for research

Bryan Williams, a senior service fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health, will be the new College of Education associate dean for research. Williams will start in this post on July 1. His primary duties will include working with the college’s six departments to enhance the college’s research focus and increase its externally funded research. Williams will mentor faculty and students in producing strong records of research and acquiring new research funding. He will also serve as a liaison to other colleges, agencies and universities.

Williams has his doctorate in public health from Penn State. Prior to working at the CDC, Williams was an associate professor of pediatrics and preventive medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He also held teaching posts at Columbia University, the University of Arizona, UMDNJ, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Rutgers University among other institutions.

CENCIA brings Italian Film Festival to Rialto

Georgia State’s Center for Collaborative and International Arts (CENCIA) has partnered with the Italian Film Festival of Miami to bring the festival’s films to Atlanta April 28 through May 1.

FILMS WILL BE SCREENED AT 8 P.M. EACH NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL AT THE RIALTO CENTER FOR THE ARTS. ALL FILMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. SEATING IS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. THE FILMS WILL BE SHOWN IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

MOVIES INCLUDE “THE VICEROY’S” (“NIGHT BEFORE THE EXAMS, TODAY!”), “TALK TO ME ABOUT LOVE” AND “THE SOUL KEEPERS.” FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FILMS AND A COMPLETE SCHEDULE, VISIT WWW.CINEMAITALY.COM.

GSU honors departments with Institutional Effectiveness awards

Each year, Georgia State recognizes two departments for the quality of their annual assessment reports of student learning outcomes. The 2009 winners are the Department of Early Childhood Education’s Bachelor of Science education program and the Department of Women’s Studies.

In addition to these two departments, the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Psychology constructed well-planned assessment approaches and were close runners-up.

The provost awards a supplement to the winning department’s budget in the amount of $250 for each permanent instructor. This year’s winning departments were selected by a committee representing the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Undergraduate Assessment Committee of the University Senate’s Committee on Academic Programs.

All assessment reports are available to the university for view by logging onto http://app.weaveonline.com/gsu/login.aspx. The ID is gsu and the password is assessment.

Library 2.0

Doing research at the Georgia State University Library just got easier with the new “Library 2.0.” applications launched this month. The library is now offering research guides, broken down by discipline, with tags, blogs, RSS feeds and live chat opportunities with librarians who specialize in each subject area. The library’s site also has a new metasearch engine that allows users to easily search hundreds of articles without picking journal titles. For more information, visit www.library.gsu.edu and click on “start your research.”

Or contact Christian Steinmetz, editorial and production coordinator in the library at csteinmetz1@gsu.edu or 404-413-2710.

Student Employee of the Year named

Miranda Rhynes, a senior biology major, has been chosen to receive the first-ever Georgia State Student Employee of the Year award. Rhynes, who has worked with IS&T for three years, is the student assistant lead and oversees all the lab assistants in Library North, Aderhold Learning Center and the Arts and Humanities building.

Daniel Bragg, PC systems specialist lead of workplace technology services, submitted the nomination.

GSU announces new dean of Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

By Leah Seupersad

Following an international search, Provost Ron Henry has named W. Bartley Hildreth as dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, effective July 1.

Hildreth is currently the Regents’ Distinguished Professor of Public Finance at the Hank Woll School of Urban and Public Affairs at Wichita State University and a member of the finance faculty of the W. Frank Barton School of Business.

“It is an honor to be selected to lead the Andrew Young School, a top-ranked policy school known for its scholarly contributions and policy advice in Atlanta and in capitals around the globe,” Hildreth said. “Ambassador Andrew Young said the world calls all of us to leadership.

“My job is to keep that vision alive during the Andrew Young School’s next stage of growth as a creative leader in the world of policy studies.”

Henry said the search committee was meticulous and deliberate in their process to select a dean who has an excellent understanding of the increasingly global and interdisciplinary academic environment of an urban research university and one who would build on the excellent image imparted to the School by Ambassador Young.

“The Andrew Young School has attained an outstanding reputation since its inception, and it is felt that Bart Hildreth will be a leader of vision who will be instrumental in creating and implementing further growth and prominence in the Andrew Young School,” Henry said.

An expert on municipal securities, public budgeting and state and local finance, Hildreth holds a doctorate in public administration from the University of Georgia and a master of public administration from Auburn University at Montgomery (Ala.).

Hildreth has also served as director of the Kansas Public Finance Center since 1994. He served as interim dean for Wichita’s W. Frank Barton School of Business from 2007-2008. He is a member of several professional organization and served on both the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council.

Despite recent rains, conservation measures still needed

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Recent heavy rains may have helped to end the exceptional drought the metro Atlanta region has faced for several years, but conservation measures are still needed to help boost the region’s water capacity during the drier summer months, according to a Georgia State professor.

“This is no time to let go of conservation measures that are in place,” said Jordan Clayton, assistant professor of geosciences. “We need to maintain conservation levels so that we can increase storage capacity to the point where local reservoirs are mostly full.

Typically, Atlanta’s reservoirs and streams are replenished during the winter and then depleted during the summer due to many factors, including a process called evapotranspiration—a combination of evaporation and transpiration, or the loss of water from plants during photosynthesis.

“In metro Atlanta, we have a roughly equivalent annual rate of precipitation to evapotranspiration,” Clayton explained. “The balance is therefore sensitive because even small deviations in precipitation can result in water deficits. Conservation measures help reduce our vulnerability.”

Lake Lanier, Atlanta’s main source of water, is still several feet below full pool, despite recent heavy rains. Local aquifers, which are limited but also help to provide water, have improved, but due to metro Atlanta’s heavy runoff ratio from impermeable surfaces like concrete and asphalt, less water is stored locally than at times past, Clayton said.

Rainfall and runoff also affect local streams, their flows, and the fish and invertebrates that live there. These animals benefit from a limited range of variability of water flow, which both drought and heavy rains can disrupt.

When flows are low, chemicals and other items in the stream become more heavily concentrated, Clayton said.

“This can cause problems,” he explained. “On the flip side, when we do get rain, our streams may clear out materials that help to regulate the flow.”

Clayton and fellow researchers, in conjunction with arborist Neil Nortom, are working on a pilot study in Decatur, Ga., to explore the impact of altered streamflow and water quality on erosion and invertebrates in Peavine and Glenn Creeks.
Submissions of story ideas are welcome.
The Department of University Relations published during the academic year by official faculty and staff newsletter. It is online at www.gsu.edu/villager.

Time-sensitive items are required at Department of University Relations.

Villager is Georgia State University's official faculty and staff newsletter. It is published during the academic year by the Department of University Relations in the Division of External Affairs.

Submissions of story ideas are welcome. Time-sensitive items are required at least two weeks prior to publication. Events from Georgia State's official community calendar are posted online at www.gsu.edu/news/calend.territory.

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Philosophy professor Andrew Altman received the Outstanding Teaching Award at the 2009 Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards.

From the Department of Early Childhood Education, assistant professor Gary Ingham, associate professor John E. Kenner and assistant professor Kyong-Ah Iwon had an article accepted in the International Journal of Children’s Rights, titled “Child Maltreatment in the United States: An Examination of Child Reprisals and Subordination Rates.”

Tabetha Boyajian, a Ph.D. student of Hal McClintock, Regents’ Professor of astronomy, recently received the prestigious Hubble Fellowship, a post-doctoral fellowship given to only three scientists by NASA in three areas of astronomy. Boyajian will remain with the Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy this fall as a post-doctoral researcher.

Robert Clewley, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has been awarded a three-year grant of $100,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop a computational framework to study the complexity of biological systems.

Laurie B. Dias, associate professor of middle secondary education, was awarded a $38,148 Improving Teacher Qual-ity grant titled “The SCI-Casting Project: Using Pod- and Vod-Casting in 4th and 5th Grade Inquiry-Based Science Curriculum.”

Joe Donnelly, clinical assistant professor in the Division of Physical Therapy, was selected to receive this year’s American Physical Therapy Association Recognition of Legislative Commitment Award for Georgia.

Michael Erikson, director and professor of public health, received the Georgia Federation of Professional Health Educators 2009 Public Health Education Award for his Policy Leadership for Active Youth (PLAY) research on childhood obesity.


Vijay Ganji, associate professor of nutrition, received the Distinguished Service-Researcher award from the Georgia Dietetic Association.

Rachel Gurewicz, assistant professor of kinesiology and health, was named a fellow of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Research Consortium.

Lynn Hart, professor of early childhood education, received a one-year grant for $32,805 from the Improving Teacher Quality Grants Program.


Assistant professor Amira Jarmakani of the Women’s Studies Institute received the Ousstanding Junior Faculty Award at the 2009 Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards.

Kandy Kampaugh, dean of the College of Education, published two chapters in “The Handbook of School Psychology,” titled “Psychological and Educa-tional Assessments” and “Assessment of Intelligence and Achievement.”

The research of Heather Kleider, Dominic Parrott and Tricia King, as-sistant professors of psychology, into working memory and police shooting decisions was recently featured on the Los Angeles Times’ “Booster Shos” health blog.


Professor of law Paul Lombardo traveled to Rome in February where he was invited to speak at a conference at the Vatican on “New Frontiers of Genetics and the Danger of Eugenics,” sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Associate chair of physics and astronomy Unil Perera received the Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award at the 2009 Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards.

Kelly Robinson, software systems engineer lead in the Department of Information Systems and Technology, received certification 415 for Oracle/Voyager and certification 506 for Voyager.

Eric Sarbach of the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design received the Outstanding Junior Staff Award at the 2009 Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards.

Todd Studenhaker of the Department of Communication received the Senior Staff Leadership Award at the 2009 Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff Awards.

Jerri Wu, assistant professor of kine-siology and health, received a $9,979 Georgia State University Research Ini-tiation Grant titled “Treadmill Walking with Ankle Weights and Bone Mineral Density in Preadolescents with and without Down Syndrome.”

Memorial Day Bash — Monday, May 25
Indian Creek Pool 1 - 4 p.m.

Pool entry and celebration events are free to all. Pool opens at 11 a.m.

Want to have a pool party? Contact Nigel for information.

For further information contact Nigel Harris, 404-413-1775.