



Villager

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS • www.gsu.edu/villager

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

A more pedestrian-friendly Decatur Street

Project underway to create a greener and safer thoroughfare

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu



Workers at the corner of Decatur Street and Park Place begin the first phase of construction to improve pedestrian movement along Decatur Street.

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 Jesse 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 Centers 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.



5 minutes with: Linda Nelson

assistant vice president of the Department of Human Resources



What is the role of Human Resources at GSU?

Many times people see HR as the gatekeeper of the organization. What we really do is ensure that the university is making decisions that do not create liability or pose an unneeded burden on employees. Our major role is to be involved in strategy and work as partners with leadership and employees. This is particularly important as we approach the challenging budget times ahead. We want to be involved as decisions are being made to make sure the university is using its human capital — our employees — effectively. To not have a strategy in place to maximize the 75 to 80 percent budget resources spent on human capital is fiscally irresponsible.

How can HR help managers and administrators during this tough economic time?

We will be going through major change given the budget challenges. Our organization is going to have to change the way we do work. We provide services that will assist managers with identifying the most efficient staffing structures, processes and skill sets necessary to carry out critical needs. We can provide services for developing new positions, reviewing existing positions and assisting with setting appropriate salaries for positions. We have recruiters who can assist managers in finding the top talent, internally and externally. In these tough budget times, when we don't have many positions to fill, it becomes even more crucial that we hire or promote top talent.

What is HR doing to retain employees?

Once we have top-talent people in our organization, we have to make sure they acquire new skills, refine existing skill sets and understand Georgia State's culture so they can work effectively and efficiently. Over the past couple of years we have increased training participation significantly. We also have employee development. We've gone from training 100 people a year to over 1,000 people a year in the last year and a half, and we're doing it in a cost-effective manner. We assist managers and employees with working through challenges that require policy clarification and implementation.

What are you doing to help employees who may be stressed?

Our wellness effort has really kicked off this year! There are brown bag lunches on money management and stress management, and first Thursday's health screenings with the School of Nursing. Also, we have an Employee Assistance Program on the third floor of One Park Place, which consists of free and confidential counseling services available to employees and their families. Making sure we have a mentally and physically healthy workforce is very important.

Ideas sought to address budget challenges

Dear Georgia State University Faculty and Staff:

As you know, Georgia State, like most colleges and universities in Georgia and nationally, is facing extremely challenging financial times. All institutions must reduce costs to absorb anticipated budget cuts.

We need your ideas and suggestions as we look at ways to reduce spending to balance the budget at Georgia State.

A Web site has been established to collect your input about cost-saving measures. These can be original suggestions or examples of cost-saving measures that have been successful in your departments and divisions during prior budget shortfalls. We also are interested in suggestions regarding indirect means of saving money and cutting costs, such as energy-saving measures.

To access the site, go to www.gsu.edu/savingsuggestions. Please note that in order to submit suggestions, you will need to sign in with your campus ID and password. The site will remain active until May 8 at 5 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your time and creative thinking as we work together to create a financially sound Georgia State University, for today and for many years to come.

All my best,

Mark P. Becker
President, Georgia State University



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

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 the Villager courtesy of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

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.

Attention Faculty



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/tech8/migration.html>

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

uLearn is moving forward!



Employees and students to be honored with Sparks Awards

By Lisa Jordan Spires • lspires@gsu.edu

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. Those 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

PAW PRINT



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.

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 his 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, and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The films will be shown in Italian with English subtitles.

Movies include "The Viceroy," "Night Before the Exams, Today," "Talk to Me About Love" and "The Soul Keeper." For more information on the films and a complete schedule, visit www.cinematally.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.

Early Childhood Education was chosen for its utility in blending accreditation measures within specific course-aligned evidence and measures, basically using one form of assessment to improve and describe another.

The Women's Studies Department was chosen for presenting excellent assessment reports in terms of clarity of learning outcomes, evidence provided, measures, and wide-spread faculty involvement in the assessment process.

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 to <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 hundred 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 • lvh@gsu.edu

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 Hugo Wall 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.



New AYSPS dean, Bart Hildreth



research HORIZON

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 Norton, 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.

Publisher DeAnna Hines
djhines@gsu.edu

Editor William Inman
winman@gsu.edu

Art Director Laura Smith
edsajs@gsu.edu

Photo Editor Meg Buscema
meg@gsu.edu

Copy Editor Margaret Tate
mtate7@gsu.edu

Photographer Carolyn Richardson
cpr@gsu.edu

Advertising Coordinator Virginia Brown
vbrown@gsu.edu

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Department of University Relations
P.O. Box 3983
Atlanta, GA 30302-3983
404-413-3025
www.gsu.edu/villager

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The 'Green' Party

The student-run Sustainable Energy Group hosted an Earth Day street fair April 9 that featured a solar-powered concert, games and performances by GSU dance groups. The fair kicked off a monthlong series of sustainability-related events, including the "Earth Day Challenge," a four-week long environmental competition among GSU Greek organizations to see which group recycles the greatest amount, does the most community service and adopts the most sustainable practices.

APPLAUSE

awarded a \$38,148 Improving Teacher Quality

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 Eriksen, 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.

Philip Fabrizio, clinical instructor in the Division of Physical Therapy, has published two research articles this semester: "Ergonomic Intervention in the Treatment of a Patient with Upper Extremity and Neck Pain" in the *Journal of Physical Therapy*, and (co-authored with Richard Clemente of Duquesne University) "A Novel Approach to the Dissection of the Human Knee" in *Anatomical Sciences Education*.

A book by Eric Frignal, assistant professor of applied linguistics, "The Language of Outsourced Call Centers: A corpus-based study of cross-cultural interaction," was recently published by John Benjamins Publishing.

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.

Provost Ron Henry and Janet S. Kettlewell are co-editors of a book titled "Increasing the Competitive Edge in Math and Science," published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. in March.

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

Randy Kamphaus, dean of the College of Education, published two chapters in "The Handbook of School Psychology," titled "Psychological and Educational Assessment" and "Assessment of Intelligence and Achievement."

The research of Heather Kleider, Dominic Parrott and Tricia King, assistant professors of psychology, into working memory and police shooting decisions was recently featured on the Los Angeles Times' "Booster Shots" health blog.

Richard Lakes, associate professor of educational policy studies, published

"Work and Learning: From Schools to Workplaces," a book chapter in "The Sage Handbook of Workplace Learning."

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

Jerry Wu, assistant professor of kinesiology and health, received a \$9,979 Georgia State University Research Initiation Grant titled "Treadmill Walking with Ankle Weights and Bone Mineral Density in Preadolescents with and without Down Syndrome."

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 Bingham, associate professor John E. Kesner and assistant professor Kyong-Ah Kwon had an article accepted in the *International Journal of Children's Rights*, titled "Child Maltreatment in the United States: An Examination of Child Reports and Substantiation Rates."

Tabetha Boyajian, a Ph.D. student of Hal McAllister, Regents' Professor of astronomy, recently received the prestigious Hubble Fellowship, a post-doctoral fellowship given to only 32 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

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.

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



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


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DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS