The new 87,000-square-foot Freshman Hall and dining hall opened Aug 12.

The 87,000-square-foot dorm exclusively for freshmen with a dining hall on the ground floor that is available to the entire GSU community. The facility is a milestone for Georgia State and a sign that the school is morphing into a university where a large number of students live on campus and walk to class.

“This is another example of how Georgia State will ensure members receive the education they need. Members will teach corps members are required to pass the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Admittance.”

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

Milestone facility will provide a more traditional college experience

College of Education to train Teach For America members

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

When she began college, Nydia Simon thought she wanted to be an attorney. But after graduation and a year in the Teach For America-Atlanta program, Simon discovered her place is in the classroom, shaping young minds.

“Getting my certification and master’s degree at Georgia State will push me into the realm of being a master teacher,” said Simon, a second grade teacher at Margaret Fain Elementary School.

Starting this fall, the College of Education will begin training about 170 Teach For America-Atlanta corps members through approved teacher programs leading to certification or a master’s degree. Members will enroll in the college’s elementary, secondary and special education programs.

“These are highly qualified people who want to be in schools, and we want to keep them there,” said Joyce Many, College of Education’s associate dean for academic programs.

Thanks to a new partnership between Georgia State and Teach For America-Atlanta, Simon will be able to receive the training she needs to be successful in her career as an educator.

“This is another example of how Georgia State will ensure members receive the education they need. Members will teach corps members are required to pass the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Admittance.”

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

What will be your first priorities as Georgia State’s provost?

I basically want to have a learning per 1 oad. I’ve visited the campus before but I need to learn about the history of the university and its aspirations. I want to see the current budget situation and programming. For my first two weeks, I will meet with faculty, vice presidents and provosts. Then, I want to visit all the departments and programs and other operations. We have to be available and visible.

What will you do to increase GSU’s national profile? It’s tremendously important that Georgia State gets recognition as one of our nation’s leading urban research institutions. We want to ensure the education at Georgia State is preparing students for leadership in an increasingly global world. We want to increase the scholarly profile with faculty getting fellowships and awards, receiving research grants. We also need to increase our collaboration with other universities and look beyond the boundaries of Georgia State.

How will you tackle GSU’s student retention issue? Student retention is an important issue. I need to understand what’s going on—who are the students and why they are not staying with Georgia State. Once I have that diagnosis, I would like to work on strategies to retain these students. This is an issue Provost Henry has targeted so I also intend to pick up where he left off.

What about a new provost at GSU? Our student body is exciting and one of the most diverse in a research university. This diversity is a real strength and one we will continue to build on. Georgia State is one of the most dynamic and rapidly advancing institutions. And I believe that we will see the results of this change over a very short period of time. I am familiar with Provost Beck’s record and his energy. If I am named provost, I am going to make a difference. It’s this one. Georgia State’s location in Atlanta and connections to other institutions, such as Tech, Emory, the CDC and corporations like Coca-Cola, give the university a wide range of opportunities. All of that is very exciting, and that’s why Georgia State is so attractive.

What could you contribute to DSU’s national profile? Our student body is exciting and one of the most diverse in a research university. This diversity is a real strength and one we will continue to build on. Georgia State is one of the most dynamic and rapidly advancing institutions. And I believe that we will see the results of this change over a very short period of time. I am familiar with Provost Beck’s record and his energy. If I am named provost, I am going to make a difference. It’s this one. Georgia State’s location in Atlanta and connections to other institutions, such as Tech, Emory, the CDC and corporations like Coca-Cola, give the university a wide range of opportunities. All of that is very exciting, and that’s why Georgia State is so attractive.

What do you want to do for fun? I play the harp, I play the flute, I like to read books. I’ve been doing accompaniment for flute players, so I’m hoping to find one in Atlanta. I can play duets with other people.
Making GSU a better place to work

By Ann Claycombe • aclaycombe@gsu.edu

From ou students to o c. oaks, bus d rivers to budget directors, Georgia State University’s 3,400 staff members are just about everywhere you look on campus. The university employs about 4,700 people, and the vast majority are staff members. That’s where the Georgia State Staff Council comes in. The council allows staff to share their perspective and help make the university a better place to work.

The Staff Council’s mission is to help staff communicate with each other, with the university president, and with other campus administrators on matters that affect staff members. The council plays an important role in shaping the policies and procedures of the university as they relate to staff. Our past successes include initiating the Donated Leave Program, getting a unilateral vote for Georgia State police officers and developing the Staff Scholar ship program, among others.

“We’re a representative body holding university-wide elections every spring. You don’t have to be a member to attend meetings, however. And anyone can volunteer to work with a ny of our committees: Administrative Issues, Communication, Campus Sustainability, Community Relations, Staff Development and a nd A dvancement, St aff R ecognition and Work-Life Issues. Please check out some of our sponsored events and programs, including the following:

• Benefits and Employee Information Day, scheduled for Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. This is a great chance to talk to the companies and agencies that pro vide y our employee ben efits to learn more about on-campus services — and to pick up a free T-shirt while you’re there.

• Staff Spotlight, a monthly Web feature where we see staff work with a Georgia State staff member to find out more about their job, their background, and their life outside of work. If you know someone who should be Spotlighted, contact me at aclaycombe@gsu.edu.

Find out more — read the Spotlight, see our meeting schedule, explore other resources — at our Web site www.gsu.edu/staffcouncil.

We’re proud to represent you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Professor uses personal stories to keep kids from smoking

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

For Lawrence Bryant, it’s a personal passion to keep ou ng people from smoking. It stems from seeing the tragic outcome of smoking — on his patients, on children and his loved one s.

Bryant is the principal investigator of the Tobacco Survivorship Network, a project in the Division of Respiratory Therapy at the College of Health and Human Sciences, which is building the resources to impact students at a critical age when peer pressure is at its greatest.

“We want to impact the students by giving them a visual representation of what happens if you smoke,” Bryant said. “The presentations are done with people who have voice boxes, tracheostomies, cancer of the larynx and trachea, who are living with these diseases, as well as respiratory student volunteers.

“It is very compelling to see someone tell their story — particularly individuals who are not old, but who are perhaps 21 or 22 years old who have only been smoking for a few years who have cancer. It really brings it home,” he said.

The project is working to make middle schools tobacco-free with the help of the American Cancer Society/ American Lung Association, the Georgia Department of Human Resources and the Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium.

Additionally, the project works to increase the use of the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line, the state’s free phone and Web-based service to help smokers quit. Bryant and his students want to increase the use of the service by 45 percent by 2011.

A respiratory therapist for 34 years, Bryant has had hands-on experience with smoking, both as a smoker himself and as a man in the trenches who has seen the results of second-hand smoke on children in the form of chronic lung disease and asthma.

But the experience also touched his beloved father, who smoked for decades and died as a result.

“He smoked Camels for 50 years,” Bryant said. “And as a respiratory therapist, I saw my father through the entire process, from beginning to the end.”

His respiratory therapy students are just as passionate as he is about stamping out smoking.

“A lot of them are interested in this because they walk through the campus on any given day and are constantly bombard ed at entrances with second-hand smoke,” Bryant said. “They want to see something done.”
university briefs

Rialto Center for the Arts announces 2009-10 series

► The Rialto Center for the Arts’ 2009-10 series, “Where Atlanta Meets the World,” will feature the best of national and international jazz, world music and dance. It will include performance-related events with local artists and scholar and in-depth master classes, thought-provoking lectures and more.

Series tickets go on sale Sept. 2. Call 404-413-9-TIX (9849). Visit the box office, fax 404-413-9850 or log onto www.rialto.org. Georgia State employees receive a 15 percent discount and can no longer subscribe to the Rialto through payroll deductions. Contact the Rialto’s box office for the payroll deduction form. Pick four shows and receive an additional 15 percent discount and other subscriber benefits.

Another award-winning State Charities Campaign for ‘09

► Despite a sharp downturn in the economy, Georgia State set another benchmark in charitable contributions for 2009, winning a Governor’s Award and a Commissioner’s Award for a successful fundraising campaign.

Our fall 2008 campaign for the State Charitable Contributions Program (SCCP) raised a total of $1,633,274 for local, statewide and international service, charity and advocacy organizations.

The State Personnel Administration will present the awards at a ceremony this fall. Both awards were given for the largest increase in contributions.

“Our very vigorous campaign, we were delighted that Georgia State donors gave $25,821 more than last year,” said campus co-chair Mike Metzler, professor of kinesiology and health science.

Overall, state employees from all agencies and the University System raised $2,718,043 in support of more than 1,200 registered agencies statewide. The SCCP has raised $47 million in its 27 years of operation.

AYSPS Sweat Lecture set for Sept. 24

► The increase in diversity is influencing educational opportunities across school district boundaries, but just how this plays out in public schools is the topic of discussion at the upcoming Dan E. Sweat Lecture Series.

Lecturing on this topic will be Amy Stuart Wells, a Columbia University professor of sociology and director of the Center for Understanding Race and Education. Wells is a leading authority on desegregation and education policy in changing urban and suburban America. The public is invited to attend this series at 3 p.m. Sept. 24 in the 7th floor seminar room, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, 14 Marietta St.

Call for Torch of Peace Award nominations

► Georgia State’s Office of Student Life and Leadership/Intercultural Relations is seeking nominations for the 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Torch of Peace Award. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 12.

Nominations are open to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni and chartered student organizations or paraprofessional student organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding ability to facilitate or promote positive intercultural relations in the Georgia State community. The award will be presented at the 27th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation on Jan. 19, 2010, in the Student Center Ballroom.

Two letters of recommendation, a resume and a written statement highlighting the character and accomplishments for the nominee must be submitted. Undergraduate students must have a GPA of at least 2.5, and graduate students must have a 3.0 or better GPA, and members must be registered undergraduates in the university, and a portfolio must be submitted. All nominees must submit a resume, two letters of recommendation, one color photo and a 150-word biographical sketch. To request a nomination application, please contact Tonya Cook, Program Specialist, at 404-413-1580 or tcook3@gsu.edu.

Athletics Golf Classic tees off Sept. 21

► Eagle’s Landing Country Club, home of Georgia State’s nationally ranked golf programs, will host the annual Georgia State Athletics Golf Classic Sept. 21. The event will include 18 holes of golf, a dinner reception and award ceremony, raffle items, silent auction items, golf contests and a chance to mingle with coaches and staff, as well as other Georgia State alumni and friends.

All proceeds will assist in supporting Georgia State Athletics’ mission, which includes the scholarship endowment fund to help provide scholarships for student-athletes, facility improvements and the athletics general fund.

For more information contact Ford Williams at 404-413-4017 or by e-mail at fordw@gsu.edu.

Center for Leadership in Disability awarded $2.6 million UCEDD grant

► The Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD) at Georgia State University received a $2.6 million, five-year grant and the designation as a Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service (UCEDD).

The CLD, which is housed in the Center for Healthy Development in the College of Health and Human Sciences, translates research into sustainable community programs that support individuals with developmental disabilities to lead independent, fulfilling, productive lives.

There are 67 UCEDDs in the United States, with at least one in every state and territory. Centers are in a unique position to facilitate the flow of disability-related information between communities and universities.

UCEDDs provide training, technical assistance, service, research and information in working with people with disabilities, family members, state and local government agencies, and community providers.
Georgia State celebrates two decades of McNair fellows

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Daniel Smith, a junior in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program can sum up the program in one word opportunity. “The McNair program really compartmentalized everything. It's not as big as you think, and if you work hard enough, graduate school is something you can definitely do.”

Smith was among doz ens who presented the fr uit s of their research Aug. 3-4 as the summer research apprenticeships of the McNair program came to a close. Since 1989, Georgia State has had more than 400 scholars develop and achieve academic success through the McNair program, which seeks to increase the n umber of Ph.D. holders among minority and low income, first generation college students – historically, underrepresented in academia.

The program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education, started 20 years ago in memory of Ronald E. McNair, an African-American astronaut who came from impoverished beginnings in rural, segregated South Carolina to eventually earn a Ph.D. from MIT. He died in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

Georgia State was one of the original institutions to launch the progr am in 1989. It has since expanded to hundreds of colleges and universities across the country, said Curtis Byrd, director of the program at Georgia State. The program includes the summer research apprenticeships under faculty and graduate student mentor ship, which includes a $2,800 stipend – as well as assistance with the GRE and fee waivers for graduate school applications.

For more information about the McNair program, visit www.gsu.edu/mcnair.

Leslie C. Jackson, professor of psych ology, Page Anderson, associate professor of psychology, and Jean Cobb, graduate assistant in psych ology, recently received a $600,000 Society f or the Teaching of Psychology Honorary memberships f or Infusing Div. enty into Teaching from Division 2 of the American Psychological Association.


V. Kumar, executive director of the Center fo r R eoolence in Brand and Cust omer Mana gement for the R. obinson College of Business, has become the 81st recipient of our American Mark eting Association Li keen A. Chreister Award. He w on t w o aw ards in 2003 and has n ever become the first inductee in the his tory of the organization to win more than two.

Aimin Liu, associate prof essor of chemistry, w on recently named a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar. Liu will receive a grant of $100,000 per year for five years to further his research, which explores the interaction of metal ions with other molecules in the body.

Jacylund Linn, chair of the College of Education’s Department of Kinesiology and Health, has been named to the editorial board for a new publication called Children’s Health, published by Rodale Publishing. The first issue will be in September.

Katherine McIlvain, associate professor of psychology and chair of the Department of Religious Studies, w on on Georgia Writers Association Author of the Year Award in the creative non-fiction category for her book, “Beyond Sacred Violence: A Compreh ensive Study of Sacrifice.”

English Professor Pearl McLanev was awarded the national Outstanding Worker of the Year Award for the creative non-fiction field for her w ork on the University of Minnesota University Press and the University Press of Mississippi. She won for her w ork “W eby Mus guiogra pher,” a book of 43 photographs a sken in the 1930s and 40s that sho w the late author Eudora Welty honing her technique behind the lens.

Regents’ Prof essor of Ex ceptional Ability in Mathematics, Joe H. Myers, w on a Georgia Arts Foundation A ward for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Program.

Kaiser Permanente Corporate Run/Walk

Thursday, September 10 at 7 p.m.

Run With the Pack

For registration information visit www.gsu.edu/recreation