



Villager

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

Great expectations

Panthers, Lady Panthers ready for success this season

By William Inman • winman@gsu.edu

With two talented, experienced and deep rosters, Georgia State basketball coaches Rod Barnes and Lea Henry have high hopes for their teams heading into the 2009-10 season.

Barnes' Panthers finished strong last season when they won five of their last seven games, with the only losses coming against NCAA Tournament team Virginia Commonwealth.



All CAA-guard Joe Dukes finished last season hot, averaging almost 20 points a game in the CAA Tournament.

The Panthers return nine lettermen and three starters, led by all-Colonial Athletic Association guard Joe Dukes, sharp-shooting guard Trae Goldston and rugged forward Trey Hampton. The Panthers have six seniors who should provide veteran leadership, Barnes said. In addition, eight of the Panthers' nine returnees have started before, and all have logged meaningful minutes. Georgia State also welcomes a promising cast of newcomers, including point guard Marques Johnson, who transferred from N.C. State.

"I like our leadership, our work ethic, and our depth," Barnes said. "We've got guys who can play different positions. We've got all the pieces that I like to have. We've got to continue to work on our defense, but I like our team."

The Lady Panthers return seven letter winners and add a five-player recruiting class led by junior college all-American Angelique Burtts. Henry, who is 12 wins away from 300 for her career, welcomes back senior forward Danyiell McKeller, twice the CAA Player of the Week before being sidelined by an injury last year, and a pair of CAA All-Rookie guards, Crystal Johnson and Jylisa Williams.

"I think we realize that we can be legitimate contenders in this league now with a healthy, veteran roster," Henry said. "From a confidence standpoint, the team feels they are ready to challenge for a conference championship. This year's team has leadership and

players at every position now who have started at the college level, so we can control our own destiny a little better."

5 minutes with: Harvey Newman

Professor and chair of the department of public management and policy

Interview by Renee DeGross Valdes • rvaldes@gsu.edu

What are the important issues for the Atlanta mayoral race?

Looking at the past decade, important issues up for debate are ethics, city government talent, the city's business model, decreasing crime, economic development, watershed management, private sector engagement and the city's new efficiencies. As the Atlanta mayoral campaign heats up, those are the issues covered in the Case Study Project, which I spearheaded for the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State.



What is the Case Study Project?

In an effort to inject informed policy discussion in the campaign for mayor and city council, the Case Study Project, created by AYSPS in partnership with the Atlanta Committee for Progress, aims to assess the accomplishments and challenges of Mayor Shirley Franklin's eight years in office and determine what it would take for the city of Atlanta to become a "best in class" city business model. Another goal is to provide urban study tools – in the form of case studies – for teaching and research. For the first time, Atlanta policy case studies will be available here in our city. These case studies were created through a series of one-on-one interviews with dozens of city, business, and community officials, including Mayor Shirley Franklin.

What is your prediction for the race?

I predict the mayoral race will have a runoff. I don't see how any of the four major candidates can secure a majority of the vote, which is required.

What makes urban politics so fascinating?

In a local election, every vote counts. Small campaign contributions can make a difference to a candidate in a local election. Four years ago, the race for a city council seat was won by fewer than 10 votes. Most people don't realize how much local government directly affects the quality of their lives. We depend on the clean water, the sewers, the trash removal, the streets and sidewalks, the police and fire protection, and many other things which touch our lives every day that are the responsibility of local government. In Atlanta, we have a chance to choose who is going to be our mayor, our city council president, the members of our city council and our school board. These people shape the policies that affect our lives. That makes our city's politics so important and interesting to me.

Call for research proposals for the 2010 Undergraduate Research Conference

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

This spring, hundreds of Georgia State undergraduates will take part in the annual Undergraduate Research Conference, giving them a chance to stand in the research and scholarship spotlight. Faculty are asked this fall to encourage their students to participate in the fourth annual conference on March 24, 2010.

"The Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference is a prime opportunity for undergraduate students to present research and scholarship before peers and faculty," said Deborah Garfin, faculty associate for undergraduate research. "Undergraduates will gain valuable experience and practice, which will further aid them in their academic careers."

Undergraduate research is an important part of the post-secondary experience, helping students gain confidence in presenting research and scholarship in front of an audience, as well as providing preparation for conducting research at the graduate level, Garfin said.

The GSURC will feature poster presentations, artistic displays and oral research presentations by undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Health and Human Sciences and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

All proposals must be sponsored by a Georgia State faculty member. Faculty sponsorship forms and student proposal submission forms, along with the title, authors, department name and abstract of the project are due by Jan. 29, 2010.

More information about the conference is available online at www.gsu.edu/gsurc.



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Partnering to build a healthy workforce

By Linda Nelson • lnelson@gsu.edu

Walk and Talk; First Thursday's; Smoking Cessation; Money Management; Yoga and Meditation; Planning for Retirement; Strengthening Your Marriage; Surviving Change; Weight Watchers; Time Management; Raising a Healthy Child – these are just some of the workshops, brown bag lunches and physical fitness sessions offered by Georgia State's Human Resources Department.

The Office of Employee Development and Wellness Services (EDWS), a unit of HR, has been busy leading GSU employees through challenging times by providing support services aimed at every aspect of a "healthy" employee.

In today's environment there is a focus on work/life balance. Employers have recognized that many employees need to make a smoother transition from home to work. Employers have also recognized that a workforce with healthy minds and bodies is a productive and committed workforce.

Georgia State is in the forefront of such thought. We have been sought after by many other institutions for our programs that support a healthy work/life balance. Cheryl Johnson Ransaw, director of EDWS and a licensed clinical social worker/certified employee assistance professional, is at the helm of the development of our programs. Johnson Ransaw also serves on the University System of Georgia's Taskforce on Total Rewards.

Last year more than 2,000 employees participated in training, development and wellness programs. Such programs for the 2009-10 year have also been developed and can be found at www.gsu.edu/images/HR/HRFallTrainingCatalog09.pdf.

EDWS also offers limited counseling services to faculty, staff and their dependents. Most recently, EDWS has been involved in various aspects of crisis management to include pandemic planning. The focus here is to ensure that the university is able to continue functioning during times of crisis.

Another aspect of ensuring that GSU has healthy employees is making sure they are recognized for their creative and committed energy, especially in times of restricted budgets and limited resources. EDWS has led the coordination of the Division of Finance and Administration's employee appreciation program. EDWS also has developed a training session for other divisions, colleges or units who are interested in instituting an employee recognition program. Training sessions are listed at the link above.

We invite you to learn more about HR's EDWS unit by visiting our Web site and our Wellness Center in 332 Sparks Hall.

Linda Nelson is assistant vice president for Human Resources and Opportunity Development.

RESEARCH horizon

Putting out fires

GSU prof to use \$1 million grant to improve computer models for fighting wildfires

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Assistant professor of computer science Xiaolin Hu has been selected to receive a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to improve a computer simulation model that may help firefighters combat wildfires more effectively.

Hu and colleagues at the University of Oklahoma and Texas A&M University are exploring ways to combine several simulation models into a larger model to eventually give firefighters and their managers another effective new decision-making tool.

The combined model will simulate the progression and spread of a fire, factoring in not only conditions including terrain, the type of vegetation that's burning, wind speed and humidity, but also the resources – such as personnel and machinery – that can be used to combat a fire.

Combining the wildfire, weather and operational models into a larger systems model is an incredibly complex task as the variables involved – especially weather conditions – are very dynamic, Hu said.

"Even with an update from a weather station each minute, the conditions are not going to be the same all of the time and across the whole area, and this is especially true in a wildfire situation," he said. "The weather is going to influence the wildfire, and the wildfire is going to influence the weather conditions. So, with this grant, we're trying to couple the wildfire model with the weather model."

The integrated model also brings many resource factors together, Hu said.

"We can take what we call firefighting resource characteristics as an input, as well as fire spreading data to perform a calculation to compute optimal resource deployment," Hu said. "From there, the model will be able to simulate how the deployment of resources will work to suppress the fire."

PAW PRINT

Good Investment

GSU President Mark Becker and his wife, Laura Voisinet, make their way out of the Sports Arena after the Oct. 19 investiture ceremony during which Becker was officially installed as the university's seventh president.



{ profile }

Law professor helps save wetlands in Poland

By Renee DeGross Valdes • rvaldes@gsu.edu



Julian Juergensmeyer has spent a lifetime studying land use planning law and when the chance came up to help save a bog in a remote part of Poland, he jumped in – literally.

Juergensmeyer, professor and Ben F. Johnson chair in law at the College of Law, led a multi-year law project to help create awareness of the Rospuda River Valley's pristine wetlands, home to a virgin pine forest, rare orchids and birds.

His goal: help environmentalists and the European Union persuade Poland's government to re-route a stretch of the Via Baltica trans-European highway around the bog, which had entranced Juergensmeyer from his first visit.

"Standing in the middle of the bog, I had the impression I had descended from a time machine which had taken me back to prehistoric times," he said.

Since 1989, the Rospuda Valley has been a protected landscape park, and since 1991 a no-noise zone, but not a natural reserve. The lower section of the valley is a bird protection site.

For the law project, Juergensmeyer organized a letter-writing campaign among professors and law students in the United States and Poland.

Initially, he became interested in legal aspects of the controversy – centered on the legal status of plans and projects that predated Poland's EU membership. He looked at enforceability and implementation of EU environmental protection policies and programs in new member states.

Ultimately, the legal battle turned political. Environmentalists protested, and the EU blocked the Polish government's early construction efforts. Then, earlier this year, Poland announced an alternative route for the Via Baltica segment in dispute – answering the public outcry to save the bog.

"Many important legal issues will go unresolved because of the largely political solution," he said. "But the goal was to save the Rospuda Bog and that has happened."

GSU in the news

In other words, students will be able to go to an institution where there is a core that meets their interest.

George Rainbolt, philosophy department chair, to the *Gainesville Times*, on a new core curriculum for undergraduate students' first 42 course hours.

There needs to be a system in which a lot more people are naturally moved into the flood insurance system.

Robert W. Klein, associate professor of Risk Management and Insurance, to the *AJC* on changing the nation's approach to flood coverage.

As a rule, capping compensation is not a good idea. Capping compensation would stifle innovation.

Jayant Kale, professor of finance, to the *Christian Science Monitor* on Financial Stability Board efforts to reform executive compensation.

university briefs

GSU Night at the Aquarium

► Georgia State is hosting students, faculty, staff and their families and friends at the Georgia Aquarium from 6 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 6.

Tickets are \$18 per person (age 3 – adult) and are currently on sale at the Student Center Information Desk, the Georgia State University Bookstore, the Rialto Box Office and online at www.rialtocenter.org. There is no charge for children 2 and under.

Free parking will be provided at the M Deck, and free shuttles will run from the Student Center and University Commons to/from the Georgia Aquarium beginning at 5:15 p.m. Parking at the Aquarium is \$10.

For more information visit www.gsu.edu/studentevents, or call 404-413-1876.

This event is sponsored by the Spotlight Programs Board and Campus Events and supported by student activity fees. Upcoming campus events in November include Holidays of the World from 11:30 -1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Student Center Ballroom, and “Apprentice” first-season winner Bill Rancic, who will speak at 11 a.m. Nov. 18 in the Student Center Ballroom. Both events are free.

GSU activities highlight 150th anniversary of “On the Origin of Species”

► Charles Darwin’s explorations into evolution have profoundly shaped arguments about human origins, philosophy, religion and even art.

As 2009 marks Darwin’s 200th birthday, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of “On the Origin of Species,” Georgia State is commemorating the occasion with a lecture series sponsored by the GSU Center for Collaborative Scholarship in the Humanities.

Speakers will address the science, art and philosophic impacts of Darwin. The first lecture will be “Darwin and the Barnacle” by **Donald Edwards**, professor of biology, at 4 p.m. Nov. 2 at the Troy Moore Library, 9th floor of the General Classroom Building.

“Celebrating Darwin” by **Michael Ruse**, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University, will be at 2 p.m. Nov. 9 in the Speakers Auditorium, Student Center; and **Matthew Grober**, associate professor of biology, will speak on “The Evolution and Development of Vertebrate Sexuality” at 4 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Troy Moore Library.

Prior lecturers included **Maria Gindhart**, professor of art history, and Sean Carroll, professor of molecular biology and genetics at the University of Wisconsin.

Quality of public school education focus of annual Mays Lecture

► **Robert P. Moses**, founder and president of the Algebra Project Inc., will speak at the 21st annual Benjamin E. Mays lecture, at 6 p.m. Nov. 3 in The Loudermilk Center, 40 Courtland St.

Moses, a pivotal organizer of the 1960s’ Civil Rights Movement, founded the Algebra Project in the 1980s. The nonprofit organization uses mathematics as an organizing tool to ensure quality public school education for every child in America.

Moses, who currently serves as an Eminent Scholar at the Center for Urban Education and Innovation at Florida International University in Miami, will discuss the quality of school education as a constitutional right and the history of the country through the lens of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

The annual Mays lecture series, sponsored by Georgia State’s College of Education and the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence, began in 1989 to encourage the discussion of issues facing urban educational leaders. The event honors the memory of Benjamin E. Mays, an Atlanta educator, and promotes his philosophy of excellence in the education of those typically least served by society.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call 404-413-8114 or e-mail aturk@gsu.edu.

College of Law offering financial literacy series

► The College of Law is offering free seminars in financial literacy, and the next two in the series will be on Nov. 5 and 19 from 11:50 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 170 of the Urban Life Building. The topics will be “Fannie, Freddie and the Fed,” on Nov. 5, followed by “Digging Through the Dirt: The Real Estate Bubble,” on Nov. 19. Lunch will be provided.

‘Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures’

► Georgia State’s Office of International Affairs will unveil images from the international photo competition, “Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures,” at 5 p.m. Nov. 11 in Veteran’s Memorial Hall in Alumni Hall. The exhibit features photographs by both study-abroad students, who took images from their adventures overseas, and international students, who chronicled their impressions of the United States. Winners of the photo competition will be announced at an awards ceremony, and international students and study-abroad scholarship recipients will also be recognized at the event. A reception will immediately follow the program.

The event, part of International Education Week, is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Office of International Affairs at 404-463-9411.

New GSU project to reduce tobacco use launches in mid-November

► Georgia State’s Tobacco Survivors Network in the Division of Respiratory Therapy is kicking off a new project this month to promote resources and information to help people stop smoking.

The launch of GSU’s Kick It project coincides with the Great American Smokeout during the week of Nov. 16.

Information about the effects of smoking will be distributed in the campus plaza in collaboration with the Student Health Promotion department, as well as from a mobile cart around campus. Surveys will also be conducted to determine attitudes about smoking at GSU.

For more information, contact assistant professor **Lawrence Bryant** at 404-413-1252 or ccslob@langate.gsu.edu.

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Centennial tribute to Johnny Mercer

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

Georgia's own Johnny Mercer is credited with writing more than 1,700 songs, including 100 hits and four Academy Award-winners, many of which have been featured over the years in movies, plays and television shows, becoming engrained in American pop culture.

This fall marks the 100th anniversary of Mercer's birth and Georgia State, home to the Johnny Mercer Collection, is holding several events to honor the popular songwriter.

On Nov. 13-14, the university will host a "Popular Music in the Mercer Era, 1910-1970" academic conference with internationally renowned music scholars, presented at the Rialto Center for the Arts. Also on Nov. 13, the University Library will host a premiere of the new documentary film, "Johnny Mercer: The Dream's On Me," by Clint Eastwood.

The centennial events will wrap up with a concert at 8 p.m. on Nov. 14 at the Rialto. Performers from Georgia State's School of Music will be joined by special guests to give a tribute to Mercer, performing some of his well known hits and scenes from his theatrical productions. This celebration of his life's work will feature smoky-voiced Georgia native Lizz Wright, alongside vocalist and renowned trumpeter Joe Gransden with the Georgia State University Jazz Band.

"What made Mercer unique was his Southern roots and influences, unlike other songwriters of his era who were primarily from New York," said Kevin Fleming, popular music and culture archivist at the Georgia State University Library. "And if you don't know Mercer by name, you'll definitely recognize his songs."

For more information, visit www.library.gsu.edu/mercer100.



Johnny Mercer, courtesy of Special Collections and Archives, Georgia State University Library

APPLAUSE

After-School All-Stars has received additional grant funding from the Marcus Foundation for \$124,995, which brings their total commitment to ASAS to \$1,179,833. The additional funding was a result of the work ASAS does at Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, B.E.S.T. Academy for Boys, and Harper-Archer Middle School.

Daniel Bauer, assistant professor of Risk Management and Insurance, has received the International Association of Actuaries Life Section Award for writing the paper deemed to have made the greatest scientific contribution concerning life insurance published in the ASTIN Bulletin over the past two years. The paper, of which he is co-author, is titled, "Universal Pricing Framework for Guaranteed Minimum Benefits in Variable Annuities."

Kay Beck, Digital Arts and Entertainment Laboratory director, was awarded an Outstanding Contribution Award from the Women in Film and Television Atlanta.

The research of Michael Beran, research scientist at the Language Research Center, was recently featured in the fall 2009 edition of *Eye on Psi Chi*.

Margo Brinton, Regents' Professor of biology, has been named as a fellow of the American Academy of Micro-

biology of the American Society of Microbiology.

Law professor Jessica Gabel was awarded the Kathryn R. Heidt Memorial Award by the American Bar Association Business Bankruptcy Committee. The award is given to members under 40 with demonstrated leadership both inside and outside the organization, who have published a paper on bankruptcy, and who have demonstrated generosity of spirit.

Johannes Hattingh, professor of mathematics, was invited to be one of five plenary speakers at the 52nd annual congress of the South African Mathematical Society. The conference was hosted by the University of Johannesburg at the Eskom Convention Center in Midrand, South Africa.

Kenya Johnson, IS&T's marketing and communications manager, received her master of public administration degree.

Kristine Jolivet, associate professor of special education, and Elizabeth A. Steed, assistant professor of early childhood special education, recently had an article published in *Infants and Young Children*, titled "Opportunities for young children to make choices in a model interdisciplinary and inclusive preschool program."

Bruce Kaufman, professor of economics, recently attended the International Industrial Relations Association World Congress in Sydney, Australia, as part of the American delegation.

Rodney Lyn, assistant professor of public health, appeared on a live Georgia Public Television special about childhood obesity in September.

The Translation and Interpretation Program within the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, was ranked a top five Translation Certification Program nationally by ALTA Language Services.

Colleen O'Rourke, associate professor of educational psychology and special education, and Ronald Colarusso, education professor emeritus, edited the fifth edition of "Special Education for All Teachers," Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

Louis A. Ruprecht Jr., the William M. Suttles Chair of Religious Studies at Georgia State, will be a panelist for an online forum sponsored by the Solomon Guggenheim Museum in New York. The forum, titled "The Spiritual (Re)Turn," will explore the relationship between religion and modern art.

Faculty from the Department of Sociology presented research on a wide variety of topics during the 2009 annual meeting of the American

Sociological Association this August in San Francisco, including research about the homeless in Woodruff Park, Atlanta's public housing residents after displacement, and fatherhood.

Caroline Sullivan, assistant professor of middle-secondary education, was elected to serve as a member of the executive board of College and University Faculty Assembly for 2009-11.

Walt Thompson, Regents' Professor of kinesiology and health, received a \$50,000 grant from the Sandy Springs Education Force for the creation of an After-School All-Stars program at Sandy Springs Middle School.

Gov. Sonny Purdue named law professor Jack F. Williams to the board of the Georgia Department of Human Services, which works with the disadvantaged in the state, including the Division of Family and Children Services.

Karen Zabrucky, professor of educational psychology, had a paper titled "Knowing What We Know and Do Not Know: Educational and Real World Implications" accepted for presentation at the World Conference on Educational Sciences.

Yichuan Zhao, an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has been elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute for his contribution in nonparametric statistics, empirical likelihood and survival analysis.


Fall into the Great Outdoors

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