State of the University Address:

Georgia State University President Mark Becker will deliver his second-annual State of the University Address on April 22 at 2 p.m. in the main ballroom of the University Student Center, with a reception to follow. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and GSU supporters are invited.

Panther Football Preview
First-ever spring scrimmage set for April 10 in the Dome

By Allison George • ageorge@gsu.edu

Georga State fans are invited to get a sneak peek of the Panther football team as GSU holds its first-ever spring football scrimmage at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 10, at the Georgia Dome.

Head Coach Bill Curry and staff will lead an offense-versus-defense scrimmage as they continue preparations for their inaugural season, which kicks off Sept. 2 against Shorter at the Georgia Dome.

“Spring practice is as important as anything else we’ve done, even recruiting,” Curry said. “You can have the right players; the right coaches, and the right systems, but if you don’t nail down fundamentals in spring practice, then you can’t do it in the fall because you don’t have time.”

The Panthers held their first spring practice March 23 at Lakewood Stadium, and on March 27 the team moved practices to the newly installed synthetic turf field at the GSU Football Practice Complex, located at 1181 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

The spring roster includes 71 players. Six members of the Panthers’ 2010 recruiting class are enrolled this semester and will participate in spring drills.

Admission to the scrimmage is free, and Georgia Dome Parking Deck D will open at noon.

The event will be held at 2 p.m. on April 13 in the Student Center Ballroom, with a reception following. GSU employees, family and friends are invited to attend.

New Service Recognition Ceremony created

By Elizabeth Klipp • eklipp@gsu.edu

Georgia State is bringing three recognition ceremonies together to celebrate service accomplishments.

The 2010 GSU Service Recognition Ceremony will honor winners of the Alumni Association’s Sparks Awards, the Office of Civic Engagement’s President Awards for Community Service and Social Action, and GSU employees celebrating milestone anniversaries.

The event will be held at 3 p.m. on April 13 in the Student Center Ballroom, with a reception following. GSU employees, family and friends are invited to attend.

“We believe that combining these three events presents the best opportunity for the recipients to be appropriately recognized and honored by our university community,” said Georgia State President Mark P. Becker, who will speak during the ceremony and congratulate the winners.

The Sparks Awards, named for former university President George Sparks, will recognize Georgia State faculty, staff and students who “exemplify a willingness to go the extra mile with good humor and perseverance.”

The President’s Awards for Community Service and Social Action will recognize students and organizations, faculty, staff and community partners who make significant contributions to the Atlanta community through their outstanding commitment to service.

Georgia State’s Office of Employment Relations will highlight employees celebrating anniversaries in multiples of five years or more. Faculty and staff marking their 25th, 30th, 35th and 40th anniversaries will be recognized individually.
History professor receives prestigious humanities fellowship
Support helps further study of families’ letters during French Revolution
By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Denise Davidson, associate professor of history and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of History, will use a prestigious fellowship to continue her work on a book that examines the French Revolution through the eyes of the bourgeoisie.

Davidson will spend a year in residence starting this fall at the National Humanities Center at Research Triangle Park, N.C., while on a Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars of the American Council of Learned Societies. The fellowship goes to scholars who have already completed major research on their project, which Davidson did in France while on a Fulbright scholarship in 2006-07.

The project, “Surviving Revolution: Bourgeois Families in France, 1780-1830,” is intended to tell the story of the French Revolution and its aftermath through the eyes of several interrelated families whose letters Davidson has pored over. The letters, numbering in the thousands, intermingle public affairs and private concerns.

“They could be talking about politics, and the next thing you know, they are discussing who they will marry their daughter to, and in the next sentence, you’ll hear about the in-law who’s going into bankruptcy and what they were going to do to save his honor,” she said. “It’s the messiness of life that appears in these letters that I find really interesting.”

The families from whom Davidson is gaining her perspective are all interconnected through one man from Lyon, Pierre Vilet. Through the letters, the connections branch out to his father, a politician during the revolution, and the in-laws of the Arnault-Tizon and Barbet families, who were not nobles but were wealthy property owners who moved about France during a time of upheaval.

Not-So-Serious Business
Ralph De La Vega (center), president and CEO of AT&T Mobility, shares a laugh with students in professor Jim Senn’s (right) MBA class during a March 11 visit.

University Voices
Employee training can make a difference
By Leon Staples • lstaples1@gsu.edu

Need advice on buying a home for the first time? Confused about how Windows 7 works? Staff and faculty members who are looking for ways to either improve their work skills or get support in stressful times can find many free offerings on the Human Resources Training Calendar. Leaders teach classes in everything from yoga to Microsoft Office. Programs and presentations run year-round, and you can view upcoming events and download the training catalog at http://www.gsu.edu/hr.

On Tuesday, April 13, at 11 a.m., in Veterans Memorial Hall, Alumni Hall, “Acting on Stress,” a special play/presentation will be performed by Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre Programs, free to the university community. During the performance, actors portray real-life scenes such as employee miscommunication, work overload and rush hour traffic and explain the impact these stressful situations can have on one’s health. A facilitator guides the audience through different scenes, providing feedback and raising awareness about stress management.

Spring/summer trainings and workshops continue through July 1. For more information, contact the Office of Employee Development and Wellness, Human Resources Department at 404-413-3342 or via e-mail at edw@gsu.edu.

Leon Staples is administrative coordinator for Employee Development and Wellness Services.

RESEARCH horizon
Chemists use grant in search for treatments of parasitic diseases
DNA studies may bring new treatment for African sleeping sickness
By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Chemists W. David Wilson and David W. Boykin are using a recent $1.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue their work in the search for more effective drugs to treat a deadly parasitic disease.

Wilson and Boykin, Regents’ Professors of chemistry, are on the trail of better understanding the mechanisms of the organism, Trypanosoma brucei, called a trypanosome, which causes African sleeping sickness — a fatal disease borne by the tsetse fly — which should in turn lead to better compounds for targeting the disease.

The microorganism is sheathed in a complex surface containing sugars, proteins called glycoproteins. The antibodies of the human immune system can recognize the disease by its proteins but the trypanosome can change the proteins on the surface, causing the immune system to need to create a new antibody to attack the trypanosome.

Wilson and Boykin are working on drug compounds that target the genetic code of the trypanosome, altering the structure of the DNA and killing the organism.

The current treatments for African sleeping sickness have not changed in structure since the early 20th century, and some contain toxic arsenic.

“The goal is to deliver safer drugs in smaller doses that are more selective in targeting the kinetoplast of the trypanosome,” Wilson said.

One way to reduce the toxicity might be to use a very specific molecule that could cause the needed distortions to tear apart the kinetoplast, he said.

GSU in the news

The question is, have they gotten realistic yet? My sense is they are still being a little bit Pollyanna-ish.

Peter Eisemann, professor of finance, to the AJC on commercial loan losses

Childhood literacy is important in the creation of language skills, concepts and good habits. Start early and do it often.

President Mark Becker, in the Atlanta Business Chronicle, on reading to children after winning the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy's “The Battle of the CEOs.”

Going forward, it seems to me that there needs to be much better standards and enforcement in how firms handle their workers’ compensation obligations.

Bob Kline, associate professor of risk management and insurance, to the AJC, after an Atlanta-based workers’ compensation insurer left 88 workers without coverage for job-related injuries.
university briefs

School of Music presents the opera ‘Carmen’ in April

The School of Music is presenting one of the world’s most popular and recognized operas, Georges Bizet’s “Carmen,” at 8 p.m. on April 22-24 and at 3 p.m. on April 25 in the Rialto Center for the Arts.

Set in 1830 in Seville, Spain, the opera tells the story of the strong-willed gypsy Carmen who is intertwined in a passionate triangle between herself, a jealous corporal and a swaggering toreador, resulting in explosive tragedy.

Georgia State will have two different casts of students singing in French and acting with English dialogue. The performance will also incorporate flamenco dancers and members of the Georgia Boy Choir.

Director of the School of Music W. Dwight Coleman is artistic director for the opera. Peter Marshall is the musical director, Kay Paschal Freeman is the stage director and Michael Palmer will conduct the University Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets range from $48 to $22. Faculty and staff receive 15 percent off. Call 404-413-9TIX or visit www.rialtocenter.org.

Georgia State now uses McAfee anti-virus protection.

Georgia State recently implemented a new anti-virus software by McAfee (ViruScan) which replaced the previously used Symantec product.

McAfee anti-virus software helps safeguard the university’s computing systems against viruses and other harmful software.

Please remember to install anti-virus software for all Windows and Macintosh computers that you use to contact the university network including home computers used for work purposes, as updates to the previous anti-virus software has ended.

Go to www.gsu.edu/help/antivirus.html for more information.

Alice Walker
An Evening with Alice Walker
April 8, 2010
6 p.m.
GSU Sports Arena

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF THE COLOR PURPLE

THIS IS AN ATTENDED EVENT.

Students may pick up 2 FREE tickets at the Student Center Information Desk by showing their PantherCard ID through March 30. Any remaining tickets will also be free and available to non-students beginning March 27. Unless sold out, seating may be available the day of the event.

For more information contact Campus Events 404/413-1876 www.gsu.edu/studentevents

Georgia State University

This event is sponsored by Counseling and Testing Center in conjunction with the Cultural Competency Conference and is supported by students activity fee.
Milestone honors
Georgia State Office of Employment Relations would like to recognize employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with the university.
Milestone honorees will be recognized at a university-wide reception at 2 p.m. April 13 in the Student Center Ballroom. All employees celebrating anniversaries in multiples of five years will be honored. Faculty and staff marking their 25th, 30th and 35th anniversaries are listed below.

25
Charles Adams, RCB - Graduate Student Services
Stuart Alison, Chemistry
Salma Alston, Sociology
Lloyd Atkins, Small Business Development Center
Barbara Baumstark, Biology
Dan Baudort, Nutrition
Al Branch, Facilities Renewations
Carla Byrd, Development Resources
Leslie Caldwell, Regents Testing Program
Nancy Chase, English
Carolyn Copeland-Simmons, Facilities Management Admin
Debora Cox, Decision Support Systems - IR
Charles Darby, Arts & Sciences - Dean's Office
Ann Dog, Modern and Classical Languages
Wayne Erculison, English
Bijan Faridbod, Institute of International Business
Christine C. Gallant, English
Barry Grant, Biology

30
Phyllis Bedford, Financial Aid
Philip Davis, Sociology
Oslob Haliburton, Education - Dean's Office
Ruby Hopkins, Child Development Center
Jone Leonard, Alpharetta Center
Margaret McMillan, Library

35
Sidney Crow, Biology
William Curlette, Educational Policy Studies
John Krafo, Recreation Department

Perspectives of Elementary Pro-
spective Teachers on University Mathematics Coursework,” in “Promising Practices to Meet Global Challenges in Science and Mathematics Education.”

Bernadette Hartfield, College of Law
Thomas Joseph, Facilities Renewations
Steven Kamimine, College of Law
Jana Kicklighter, Nutrition
Lovel Lenom, Dean of Student Offices Civil Engagement
Jennifer McCoy, Political Science
Linda Mass, CBA Systems Support
Yvonne Pierce, Mathematics and Statistics
Mary Radford, College of Law
Robert Richards, School of Accountancy
Valerie Ross, Benefits
Jeffrey Rupp, Kinesiology and Health
James Senn, Institute of International Business
Rose Sevcik, Psychology
Lucjan Strzelowski, Chemistry
William L. Waugh, Public Management and Policy
Patrick Wissman, College of Law
Sonja Young, Biology

Norman Maltbie, Library
William Nielson, Arts and Sciences - Dean's Office
Gloria Upshaw, Building Services

Charity Scott, professor of law and director of the Center for Law, Health, and Society, is the 2010 recipient of the Heroes in Healthcare Ethics Award bestowed annually by the HealthCare Consortium of Georgia.


Bryan Williams, associate dean for research and scholarship in the College of Education, and Melina S. Magimbul, research scientists in the dean’s office, had a paper titled, “Inclusion of Non-viable Neonates in the Birth Record and its Impact on Infant Mortality Rates in Shelby County, Tennessee, USA,” accept-
ed for publication in the journal, *Pediatric Reports.*

Karen Zabrucky, professor of edu-
curricular psychology and special education, gave a virtual pre-
sentation titled “Knowing what we know and do not know: Edu-
cational and real world implica-
tions” at the World Conference on Educational Sciences held in February in Istanbul.