Georgia State enrolls record number for fall
By Elizabeth Klipp • elklipp@gsu.edu

Georgia State University kicked off the fall 2010 semester setting records in both enrollment and the quality of students attending the university. As of Aug. 24, more than 31,000 students registered for classes at GSU. There were a record 12,091 applications for the freshman class alone, representing a 45 percent increase from five years ago. Last fall, the university’s enrollment hit 30,431 students.

The freshman class of 2011 is expected to be the strongest academically in the university’s history, said Timothy Renick, GSU’s associate provost for academic programs and the university’s chief enrollment officer.

“We have more high-ability students than ever before,” Renick said. “We’re going to set records for SAT scores and grade-point averages.”

Georgia State saw its highest number of freshman and graduate student applicants ever for the fall semester. For the first time, GSU accepted an early admission class of incoming freshmen.

“Georgia State is becoming a first choice for applicants,” Renick said. “It’s increasingly a destination of choice for high-achieving students.”

Also new this fall, GSU launched its First-Year Reading Program and selected the book “Outcasts United” for all incoming students, faculty and staff to read. The book’s author, Warren St. John, was the keynote speaker at Freshman Convocation on Aug. 22 and held seminars on Aug. 23 for the entire university community.

“Outcasts United” will be incorporated into freshman classes such as 1101 English Composition and GSU 1010 New Student Orientation. Several faculty panel discussions will be held based on the issues raised in the book; such as ethics, politics and history as well as family structure and community. The university also is planning community service activities with refugee groups, an essay contest and a field trip to Clarkston, Ga., where the book is based.

For more information, please visit http://www.gsu.edu/success/41544.html.

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

GSU’s expanding footprint
University’s growth requires more space for students, programs
By Renee DiGrosso Valdes • ravalde@gsu.edu

Georgia State University is expanding its footprint in metro Atlanta.

The university recently purchased two downtown hotels to be used as residence halls and debuted the new Greek Community Housing, the first of its kind for GSU. Georgia State also opened a new classroom building in Alpharetta.

On the horizon, the College of Law has received the support of the state legislature for a new law school building and the design phase is set to begin.

“We are grateful to the state legislature for approving the design money for the building,” said GSU President Mark P. Becker.

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What have the major points of emphasis been during this final month of practice leading up to kickoff?
Details. Fundamentals. Knowing what you’re supposed to do and when, Special teams, alignments and assignments. Details like making sure the players keep their heads up — that’s a safety issue, but it’s also a matter of being good tacklers and blockers. Details like running on and off the field during personnel changes. There are little details that have to become habitual behavior and that’s what we need to work on because doing the small things the right way every time helps win games. So, it’s the little things that people would never think of that are crucial to us now. And we’ve gotten better every day.

Have any of the units — offense, defense or special teams — emerged as formidable?
Well, not yet, but all of them have the potential to be good. You’re a strong football team when you can master every situation and be prepared. A good offense, defense or special teams package has to be like a good religion — it has to have an answer for everything.

How is the team chemistry? You have players who have been on campus for a year, and some who just recently transferred here.
The chemistry is surprisingly good. We have been constantly morphing with personnel, and there are some who have been here for a while and some who just got here, and that’s just part of the deal. We have to become a team, and we will. But the way the guys get along, we’re loud, we’re laughing, there’s a camaraderie, I think the chemistry is coming along. The work ethic and keeping the right people on the field knowing what they’re doing, that’s where we have to make progress.

What can fans expect from this team on Sept. 2?
We’ll be exciting and we’ll be adventurous. We’ll have fun playing. We’ll be nervous as the dickens — I hope for only a few minutes — but we should become a very entertaining football team in short order.
Eminent Scholar to establish research center

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

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Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar will establish a new center at GSU that will focus on discoveries in inflammation and infectious disease treatments.

Jian-Dong Li, currently with the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, will lead the new Center for Inflammation, Immunity and Infection (CIII) at GSU, to be launched in January 2011 and housed in the new state-of-the-art Parker H. Petit Science Center.

“Georgia State University is excited to welcome Dr. Li and his laboratory to Atlanta,” said Robin Morris, vice president for research at GSU. “He is a top researcher in the field of inflammatory diseases, and his arrival at GSU will not only enhance the university’s research profile, but will also boost the state of Georgia as a hub of innovation and discovery in the biomedical field.”

Li said he is looking forward to working at Georgia State and is grateful for the significant support and commitment by the Georgia Research Alliance.

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Li said he is looking forward to working at Georgia State and is grateful for the significant support and commitment by the Georgia Research Alliance.

This is an excellent opportunity to join GSU at a time when the university is making an enormous effort to bring an already outstanding university to the next level in many areas, particularly in translational biomedical science,” Li said.

The new CIII has a goal to better understand the molecular basis of inflammatory diseases so that therapeutic strategies can be further developed. The center will engage in new drug discovery and will also work to find new uses for existing drugs in what is called a drug repositioning strategy.

The university will hire additional faculty members under GSU’s Second Century Initiative – an initiative to recruit 100 more faculty members to the university over the next five years – to serve as part of the CIII.

New research team to help tackle obesity

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

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esearchers from across Georgia State University are coming together to help understand and combat one of the nation’s most pressing health problems – obesity.

More than 20 researchers from biology, economics, nutrition, geosciences, kinesiology and health, along with the Georgia Health Policy Center and the Institute of Public Health, are part of the Obesity Research Group, which seeks to foster interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

“We realized that there are a lot of people doing research about obesity independently, but we weren’t aware of each other’s efforts,” said JoAyn Maalouf, obesity researcher at the Georgia Health Policy Center.

In addition, the group will help provide future grant opportunities for obesity research at Georgia State.

The Obesity Research Group fits into the larger effort by the University System of Georgia to address problems of obesity statewide. Additionally, PLAY and the Institute of Public Health will serve as local hosts for the Fourth Annual Southern Obesity Summit, to be held Sept. 12-14 in Atlanta.
university briefs

Rialto Center for the Arts announces 2010-11 series

► The Rialto Center for the Arts’ 2010-11 series will feature the best of national and international jazz, world music and dance. It will also include performance-related events with local artists and scholars. In-depth master classes, thought-provoking lectures and more.

The series will open with a performance by Spain’s Niche Flamenco, followed by the varied artistry of Mexican chanteuse Lilou Downs, the Harlemity of political pranksters Capitol Steps; the poetry in motion of dance greats like the Paul Taylor Dance Company and Urban Bush Women; and the legendary Latin jazz rhythms of the Big 3 Paladium Orchestra. Atlanta’s “Best World Music Venue” will also welcome Brazil’s Bato Foklore da Bahia, South Africa’s Laidymen Black Mamba, Cuba’s Los Mulequitos de Matanzas, and West Africa’s Angélique Kidjo, as well as the collaboration of Zakir Hussain, Béla Fleck, and Edgar Meyer.

Subscriptions are on sale now with single tickets going on sale Sept. 1. Tickets may be purchased by calling 404-413-9750 (9849), in person at the Box Office, by fax at 404-413-9850, or online at www.rialtocenter.org. GSU employees receive a 15 percent discount and can now also subscribe to the Rialto through payroll deductions.

University reform expert to speak at GSU

► Gregory Petsko, professor of biochemistry and chemistry at Brandeis University and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, will speak at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 7 in the Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium.

Petsko, a university reform expert, was invited to speak by the Strategic Planning Committee, which has been meeting weekly to confirm goals and develop implementation strategies for positioning GSU among great public research universities. As part of ongoing discussions, Petsko will be speaking on the topic of how universities can position themselves in the forefront of research trends.

This event is free and open to the Georgia State community.

CENCIA to sponsor nine art events this year

► The Center for Collaborative and International Arts (CENCIA) at Georgia State will sponsor nine events during the 2010-11 year that bring together artists with researchers from various academic disciplines.

The first event of the fall semester will be “Atlanta-Nuremberg: Sister Cities in Concert” on Sept. 17 in which Bent Frequency will perform works of contemporary German composers at the Rialto Center for the Arts. The following month, a “Chinese Film Festival” will be held Oct. 6-7 at the Rialto. Co-sponsored by the newly created Confucius Institute, the festival will include four films and a lecture by Chinese film director Wu Tianming.

From Oct. 7-Nov. 19 in Ernest G. Welch Gallery, CENCIA is sponsoring an exhibition, titled “Small Worlds: Calligraphy” of contemporary Asian calligraphic work. The program includes a symposium and artist demonstration of techniques. On Oct. 29, Bent Frequency will perform a tribute to Mauricio Kagel focusing on his music, music performance and performance film. This tribute to Kagel was twice2 shown last year.

For more information on the fall CENCIA events as well as a list of spring events, please visit www.arts.gsu.edu. All of the events are free and open to the public.

Run or walk with fellow Georgia State employees

► Georgia State students, employees and friends of the university are invited to sign up for the Kalsemunvee Corporate Run/Walk scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sept. 16.

The run/walk attracts approximately 15,000 participants of all levels of fitness – walkers, joggers and competitive runners – from more than 400 Atlanta companies as well as hundreds of individual participants.

Georgia State’s Department of Recreational Services has organized a GSU team for the event. To register, visit www.kpcorporaterunwalk.com. There is a discounted entry fee of $20 for registering with the Georgia State team, a portion of which will go to the Atlanta Food Bank. The discount code is gsukp and is case sensitive. Details will be provided to all who register.

For more information on the event, please e-mail Debbie Rupp, associate director of recreational programs, at dburnup@gsu.edu. For information on volunteering contact Nigel Harris, coordinator of aquatic programs, at nharris@gsu.edu.

Mr. Wilson named important site in astronomical history

► The Mount Wilson Observatory, a historic observatory operated from Georgia State University that hosts GSU’s Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA), has been listed by the International Astronomical Union and the International Council on Monuments and Sites as a “World Heritage Site of Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy.”

Mount Wilson, founded in 1904, is located in the San Gabriel Mountains near Los Angeles and is where astronomers made revolutionary discoveries about the universe – including the realization that the Earth’s solar system is not at the center of our home galaxy, the Milky Way, and that our galaxy is only one among countless others in a vast and expanding universe.

Staff Council seeks committee members

► The Georgia State Staff Council is an elected body that brings together representatives from all over campus.

You don’t have to be a member to attend monthly meetings, which regularly feature speakers from a variety of campus departments and services. Visit www.gsu.edu/staffcouncil to see when and where the next meeting is, and what will be on the agenda.

Staff Council also is welcoming volunteers for committees. Projects that have come out of our committees include:

- The Talking Panthers Toastmasters Club, open to all staff members who want to develop their public speaking and leadership skills. For more information, contact Trelley Murray at tmurray@gsu.edu.
- The Staff Scholarship, administered by our Staff Recognition Committee. This scholarship provides awards of up to $400 for employees who are also students to use for their books, fees and other direct educational expenses. Please go to our website for more information.
- The annual Benefits and Employee Information Day, a joint project of our Community Relations Committee and Human Resources.
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- The annual Benefits and Employee Information Day, a joint project of our Community Relations Committee and Human Resources.
GSU celebrates first fall Homecoming on Oct. 2

By Elizabeth Klipp • eklipp@gsu.edu

For the first time in its almost 100-year history, Georgia State University will celebrate homecoming during the fall semester. Homecoming 2010 will be centered around the Oct. 2 game when the Panthers take on Morehead State. Georgia State alumni, students, faculty and community supporters are encouraged to come to the Dome for tailgating and the big game. The Alumni Association is holding an alumni tailgate starting at 3 p.m. in the Orange Lot. The Student Government Association is hosting a student tailgate at the same time in the Brown Lot. The halftime show will include a performance by the GSU Marching Band and the unveiling of the 2010 Homecoming Court.

• Monday, Sept. 27: From 8 to 10 a.m., GSU students, faculty and staff can receive coffee, donuts and info on events at “Good Morning Commuters” on Unify Plaza.

• Tuesday, Sept. 28: A carnival with free food, music, games and giveaways will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Hurt Park and on Glmer Street.

• Wednesday, Sept. 29: Bring a lawn chair and enjoy “Cinema under the Stars” at 9 p.m. on Urban Life Plaza.

• Thursday, Sept. 30: Be a part of a homcoming tradition by running or walking the “Paws on Piedmont.” Meet at 1:45 a.m. at the Student Recreation Center service counter. The Golf Cart Parade will kick off at 12:15 p.m. and run through campus.

• Friday, Oct. 1: The Homecoming Coronation and Ball will start at 9 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

• Saturday, Oct. 2: GSU Panthers take on Morehead State at 1 p.m. Go Panthers!

For more information and the latest updates, please visit gsu.edu/homecoming.

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