Georgia State celebrates fall commencement

By Leoch Spenceira • www.gsu.edu

More than 3,600 students will graduate from Georgia State University during fall commencement and hooding ceremonies. The numbers include both summer graduates and fall graduates. For more information on the commencement ceremonies, including directions, parking, and event chairperson, “The theme was selected because, although we are carrying the dream, it is important that we understand that we must strive to be action-oriented if we want to see our students one-on-one and give advice to our students. Sometimes, they'll work with producers-in-residence teach master classes and give advice to our students. Sometimes, they'll work with producers-in-residence teach master classes and give advice to the students on their screenplays and other projects.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Georgia State’s Office of the Chair of the equipment committee within the Georgia Entertainment Business Development, which is responsible for the gradual release of new cameras and other equipment, and what equipment we’re going to buy.

We produce anything from public service announcements to DVD series. We also produce the indie ATL series, which is a collaboration with WRAS for radio play. For our students, it’s a multi-camera shoot — they’re involved in many different disciplines including multi-track recording and multi-camera editing. We have four graduate students who work with us, and I manage those guys.

What are some of the projects going on in the studio? We produce anything from public service announcements to DVD series. We also produce the indie ATL series, which is a collaboration with WRAS for radio play. For our students, it’s a multi-camera shoot — they’re involved in many different disciplines including multi-track recording and multi-camera editing. We have four graduate students who work with us, and I manage those guys.

We have the actor and director Robert Townsend, and most recently Vanessa Vadim — who is the daughter of Jane Fonda and Roger Vadim — and she was working for the Mother Nature Network. Before them, it was George deGolan, who received an Academy Award nomination for his short documentary film called “Gullah Tales.” Our artists-in-residence and producers-in-residence teach master classes and give advice to our students. Sometimes, they’ll work with students one-on-one and give advice to the students on their screenplays and other projects.

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What are some of the past artists-in-residence? We have had the actor and director Robert Townsend, and most recently Vanessa Vadim — who is the daughter of Jane Fonda and Roger Vadim — and she was working for the Mother Nature Network. Before them, it was George deGolan, who received an Academy Award nomination for his short documentary film called “Gullah Tales.” Our artists-in-residence and producers-in-residence teach master classes and give advice to our students. Sometimes, they’ll work with students one-on-one and give advice to the students on their screenplays and other projects.
Neuroscientist encourages next generation

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

F or associate professor Kyle Frantz, neuroscience was a natural career choice. As a youngster, she became fascinated by the fact that behaviors and personality are strongly influenced by biology, chemistry and physics. Now Frantz wants to help bring that same excitement of scientific understanding to high schoolers and undergraduate students so they may become passionate about the field of neuroscience, too.

Frantz is the primary investigator on a $1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, in conjunction with Emory University, Spelman College and Agnes Scott College, to immerse undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds — including minorities, people with disabilities and educationally disadvantaged students — in a two-year neuroscience research program.

The goal is to help bring students into doctoral programs so they may one day tackle the great mysteries of the mind.

Frantz said it’s often difficult for some students to take an interest in a field such as neuroscience because people in their communities may not emphasize it. It’s difficult, she says, to “see yourself as a scientist when you might not see scientists among your family, friends, or peers.”

Frantz also oversees the Institute on Neuroscience (ION) for high school students and the Behavioral Research Advancements in Neuroscience (BRAIN) program for undergraduates. Both are projects of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience.

One of the first hurdles for these young scholars is accepting the incredible workload required to be successful in science, she said.

“When our students realize how much work is involved in a science career and are still enthusiastic about the process of research and still curious about the mind and brain, then we have the highest hopes for their futures in neuroscience,” Frantz said.

University Voices

HR offers help for smokers

By Human Resources Administration • gsuhr@gsu.edu

T oday, many people are focused on the economy and the impact it is having on their personal finances. The buzzword for this environment is “budget.” If you smoke, GSU Human Resources has a few tips and programs for helping you reduce your budget and, potentially, improve your personal productivity and finances.

Did you know the average smoker takes three to more than 13 minutes breaks per day? This equates to more than four weeks of loss productivity in a year’s time.

Also, many of these breaks happen too close to GSU buildings in areas that are not designated for smoking. Georgia State’s smoking policy requires that all cigarette smoking take place in designated areas at least 25 feet from building entrances.

These areas are marked and allow for non-smokers to not be directly impacted by second-hand smoke.

Did you also know that effective Jan. 1, 2011, the Board of Regents approved a $50 monthly tobacco use surcharge to the employee benefits medical plan for tobacco users? Not only does smoking decrease productivity, smoking will now cost you an additional $50 per month on your health insurance. This is in addition to the cost of your tobacco product. Imagine what you could do with the money you would save by quitting! Human Resources can help.

By participating in a tobacco cessation program, the $50 surcharge can be removed from your monthly benefits medical plan charge.

Employee Development and Wellness Services is offering a certified tobacco cessation program in partnership with the Respiratory Therapy Department.

“Quit Tobacco Tuesdays” is a free weekly program conveniently located on campus and is based on a four-phase model designed to help participants stop using tobacco for good. Call 404-413-3342 for details.

GSU in the news

Because of the quality of care which nurse practitioners provide, the demand for their services has grown immensely.

Susan Kelley, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on receiving a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help train nurse practitioners.

This is one of the most challenging things to do — to generate new jobs and community nodes within neighborhoods. It is a terribly difficult challenge.

Harvey Newman, professor of public management, to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on the proposed revitalization of Atlanta’s Vine City neighborhood.

Wells Fargo has to pull out all the stops to make sure the embedded [Wachovia] base stays with them.

Ken Bernhardt, Taylor E. Little Jr. Professor of Marketing, to Reuters regarding the acquisition of Wachovia by Wells Fargo.

GSU chemist awarded NIH grant to study prostate cancer

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

A Georgia State researcher will use a five-year, $1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop new therapies to treat prostate cancer.

Yujin George Zheng, a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar; is exploring a type of enzyme called protein arginine methyltransferase, or PRMT, which works normally within cells but, when over expressed, can cause prostate cancer to grow more maliciously. These abnormal PRMT levels are also a factor for a variety of other cancers, viral infections and cardiovascular diseases.

“PRMTs are not only of functional interest in biology, but they are also of significant clinical relevance,” said Zheng, an assistant professor of chemistry who holds a joint appointment in biology.

With this NIH award, Zheng’s research team will help explain the mechanisms of PRMTs in prostate cancer and will develop treatments for the disease that will work by inhibiting PRMTs.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of U.S. cancer deaths in men. It is normally treated through surgery as well as through drugs that use a process called chemical androgen ablation.

Androgen ablation forces the body to block androgens — male sex hormones — in hopes of slowing or stopping the growth of the cancerous cells. During this treatment, however, many patients develop another type of cancer, called androgen-independent prostate carcinoma.

Zheng said this type of cancer leads to a high mortality rate and there are really no effective treatments. This work, it is hoped, will bring about a better therapy to detect and combat this specific cancer; Zheng said.

Zheng is one of 11 Distinguished Cancer Scholars at GSU.

RESEARCH horizon

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University to close for holidays Dec. 20
▶ Georgia State University will be closed for the winter holidays from Monday, Dec. 20, through Monday, Jan. 3.

Benefits eligible employees will take Dec. 20-24 as vacation time, while Dec. 27-31 will be paid as holiday hours. Since New Year's Day is on a Saturday, the official holiday will be on Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.

In an effort to assist staff in recording their vacation hours in the Time and Attendance system, the payroll office will automatically “populate” 40 hours of vacation time for Dec. 20-24. The automatic population will ensure employees are paid correctly for the month of December. The posted vacation hours can only be removed by Payroll office personnel, and employees will be notified if there are insufficient hours in vacation accounts.

Campus buildings will be locked during the holiday period. If you need access to campus buildings during this time, please make sure your Panther Card access has been updated accordingly. Questions concerning building access should be directed to the GSU Police Department.

For more information, contact payroll at 404-413-3300.

Also, on Dec. 17, the final workday of 2010, faculty, staff and students are invited to attend a holiday drop-in party in the Student Center atrium from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the Georgia State School of Music will provide holiday themed music. Look for a video invitation/reminder a few days prior to the event.

College of Education announces spring 2011 Research Speaker Series
▶ The College of Education will have a variety of leading educational scientists share their research and insights as part of its spring 2011 Research Wednesdays Speaker Series, which begins Jan. 19.

The Research Wednesdays Speaker Series is designed to fulfill three goals: to provide a platform for explorations of new ways of conducting and disseminating educational research, to discuss new methods of monitoring doctoral students in an effort to enhance their development as researchers, and to fill a professional development need by providing access to cutting-edge researchers at the state and national levels.

Research Wednesdays is held Wednesdays at noon in the COE Forum, 30 Pryor St., Room 1030. Georgia State faculty and staff are invited to attend.

A light lunch will be provided for those who confirm their attendance to Erin Whitney in the COE’s Educational Research Bureau at 404-413-8090 or ewhitney@gsu.edu.

For more information on the Research Wednesdays Speaker Series, visit http://education.gsu.edu/main/newsletters_research.html.

Georgia State University Federal Credit Union merges with Georgia’s Own
▶ The merger of the Georgia State University Federal credit union and Georgia’s Own Credit Union became effective Nov. 1. The partnership was overwhelmingly approved during a special vote by the GSFCU membership on Oct. 4.

GSUFCU members should continue to conduct credit union business as normal until accounts are merged into Georgia’s Own structure around the end of November. A special welcome kit from Georgia’s Own will be sent to members sometime in November. This kit will include a complete listing of Georgia’s Own products and services, branch locations, updated account information and enhanced access instructions.

For more information, call 404-835-8960 or 866-517-5152 (outside Atlanta), or stop by the existing GSFCU branch.

GSU Annual Holiday Iron Pour on Dec. 11
▶ Fire, molten metal and live music will be featured at this year’s 39th annual Holiday Iron Pour and Silent Auction on Dec. 11. The event begins at 2 p.m. at the Edgewood Sculpture Studio.

Every year, Georgia State students, faculty and alumni come together for the annual Holiday Iron Pour, which is hosted by the sculpture program and the Edgewood Sculpture Forum, GSU’s sculpture student’s organization. Visitors can purchase a scratch block for $10 to $25 and carve their own personal designs into them, watch them being filled with molten iron and take their sculpture home.

An after-pour party will feature a band, the BoHo Ramblers. A covered dish buffet will be provided, but participants can bring additional dishes. A $5 donation is also requested to cover beverages.

For more information, contact Studio Chief Eric Sarback at 404-413-8765 or Professor of Sculpture Ruth Stanford at 404-413-5273.

Ring in the holidays with GSU Gala Holiday Concerts
▶ The Georgia State University School of Music and the Rialto Center for the Arts present the 13th annual Gala Holiday Concert on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. at the Rialto Center for the Arts. This year’s performances will feature traditional holiday favorites as well as music with an international twist — celebrating the Rialto and School of Music’s international initiatives and involvement in the community.

More than 200 student and faculty musicians will perform as part of this universitywide celebration of the season, including members of the University Symphony Orchestra, Choruses, Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble. Conductors: Michael Palmer, Robert Ambrose, Gordon Vernick and Deanna Joseph will lead the ensembles and soloists in a musical potpourri of works by Duke Ellington, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Schubert, Holst and others. W. Dwight Coleman serves as artistic director.

Ticket ranges from $22-$48. Georgia State students, faculty and staff may purchase tickets at half-price with a Panther ID. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Rialto Center Box Office, by calling 404-413-979X or online at www.riticketcenter.org.

Free parking is provided for this event at the Equitable Building deck on Fairlie Street.

www.gsu.edu/ist/teach-with-tech.html
Visit the link above to view the videos or contact kenya@gsu.edu for information.
Villager

Serving Atlanta

Georgia State’s freshmen are taking on new community service projects

By Elizabeth Klipp

Instead of getting a jump on weekend plans, Georgia State freshman Shelley Warner spent a recent Friday afternoon reading books to several kids at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding.

In the waiting area for primary care, 5-year-old Yasmine Ford eagerly listened as Warner read “Little Rabbit Foo Foo.”

Once Warner finished the book, Yasmine asked, “Can you read me another please?”

Thanks to a new community service component in GSU Freshmen Learning Communities, Georgia State’s first-year students are getting a more personal look at the Atlanta community around campus and are tackling some of the issues affecting it.

“I enjoy doing something for someone else,” Warner said while volunteering, “Knowing it might help the children and take their mind off why they are here makes me feel better about myself.”

Each Friday this fall, freshmen have an opportunity to sign up through the Office of Civic Engagement and volunteer at local nonprofit agencies or schools, all of which are within walking distance of campus.

Georgia State students are serving at Oakland Cemetery, Samaritan House of Atlanta, Cook Elementary School, Children’s at Hughes Spalding, Wheat Street Towers, Butler Street YMCA and the King Center.

Georgia State’s Freshmen Learning Communities, or FLCs, are groups of 25 first-year students taking five core courses together that are based on a common theme, such as “Healthcare Administration” or “Business and Technology.”

This fall, Georgia State has about 1,470 first-year students enrolled in 63 Freshmen Learning Communities, a program that began in 1999 with 11 communities. In 2010, and for the eighth year in a row, Georgia State’s Freshmen Learning Communities, or FLCs, are based on a common theme, such as “Healthcare Administration” or “Business and Technology.”

By University Relations

The After-School All-Stars Atlanta program received a three-year $600,000 grant from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation for expansion of the ASAS program in Sylvan Hills Middle School, Atlanta Public Schools, starting in January 2011.

ASAS Atlanta, run through the College of Education, provides comprehensive after-school programs for at-risk students in the metro-Atlanta area.

Hasan Babaei, associate professor of geosciences, was recently elected as a fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Spencer Banzhaf, associate professor of economics, presented “Heterogeneous Hums versus Spatial Spillovers: Fiscal Federalism and U.S. Air Quality” at Clemson University.

Andrea Barton-Hulsey, speech-language pathologist and research coordinator for the toddler Language Intervention Project, was named Early Intervenor of the Year by the Georgia Association for Young Children.

Diane Belcher, professor of applied linguistics/ESL, recently presented invited talks at Beijing Foreign Studies University, Jilin University (Changchun, China), and Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

Kaeleeen Beyah, associate professor of computer science, has been selected to participate in Leadership Georgia’s class of 2011. Leadership Georgia is a training program for young business, civic and community leaders from across the state.

Janet L. Burns, clinical associate professor in middle-secondary education and instructional technology, served on the awards task force for the 31st Annual Outstanding Manuscript Award Recipients for the Journal of Industrial Teacher Education.

Patricia Clark, professor of nursing, was honored by the University of Kentucky College of Nursing as one of 50 outstanding alumni during a celebration of the college’s 50th anniversary.

Paul Ferraro, associate professor of economics, presented “Markets for Ecosystem Services” at the Heartland Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Steven Harmon, associate professor of middle-secondary education and instructional technology, delivered an invited presidential address titled, “Through the glass dimly: The future of online learning” at the annual conference of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) in Anaheim, Calif.

Bruce Kaufman, professor of economics, signed a contract with Routledge Publishers for a 4-chapter edited volume titled “Voice & Involvement at Work: Experience with Non-Union Representation.”

Mark Keit, Board of Advisors Professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems, is co-author of the paper named best of 2009 by the editors of the Journal of Strategic Information Systems. “Effects of Information Technology failures on the market values of firms” was published in 2005 in June 2009.

Janelle Kerlin, assistant professor of public management and policy, presented “Comparative Social Enterprises and Historical Institutionalism to the Exploring Social Enterprises Conference at the UCLA School of Public Affairs.

The APPLAUSE

Regents’ Professor Ephraim R. Meieran, chair of the CIS department in the Robinson College of Business, gave a presentation to the fellows of the Public Health Informational Fellowship Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. His talk was titled “Building and Measuring Information Systems Success.”

Kurt Schnier, associate professor of economics, presented “The Value of Statistical Life: Pursuing the Deadliest Catch” with co-authors William C. Herace (Syracuse University) and Ronald G. Felnhofer (National Marine Fisheries Services at the University of Mississippi) in October.

Detmar Straub, Regents’ Professor of computer information systems, addressed an International Entrepreneurship Conference in Naples, Italy, and presented the topic “e-Tourism in Southern Italy and Globally.” Straub also has been asked to join the advisory board of the magazine Emhile, published in Naples.

Rusty Tchernia, associate professor of economics, presented “Estimation of Treatment Effects without an Exclusion Restriction: With an Application to the Analysis of the School Breakfast Program” in October at a University of Georgia Department of Economics seminar in Athens, Ga.

Walt Thompson, Regents’ Professor in the COE’s Department of Kinesiology and Health, made a presentation at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City at the International Conference on Urban Health in October.

Dennis Young, professor of public management and policy and director of the Nonprofit Studies Program, delivered the lead paper, “The State of Theory and Research on Social Enterprises,” to the Exploring Social Enterprises Conference at the UCLA School of Public Affairs.