Torch of Peace award winners honored

By Leah Seupersad • lvh@gsu.edu

In front of an enthusiastic crowd at Georgia State’s 28th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation Jan. 29, Jonathan Gayles and Bryan Murray accepted Torch of Peace awards for their exemplary leadership and community service.

Gayles, assistant professor of African-American studies, was awarded the faculty award for organizing seven relief trips to the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and partnering with the Auburn Avenue Research Library to support the Books for Africa program.

Gayles also created the Sankofa Challenge in 2006, which provides students with an opportunity to celebrate African-American history in an annual quiz bowl tournament.

Murray, who received the staff award, is business affairs coordinator in the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence. He has conducted several workshops and trainings on urban education and assists with developing curriculum for projects such as Developing Relationships to Enhance African-American Intercultural Relations.

Also honored with Torch of Peace awards were Kristy Joseph, a graduate of the Peace Corps Master’s International Program in the Andrew Young School, who won the alumni award; Catherine Ann Slocum, a graduate student in the Andrew Young School, who received the graduate student award; and Gabrielle Arrington, a senior public policy major awarded the student organization award for its long-standing commitment to implementing programs that improve intercultural relations.

Torch of Peace Awards are bestowed by Georgia State’s Office of the Dean of Students/Intercultural Relations.

Setting the Course

By Andrea Jones • andreajones@gsu.edu

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ter the past year, Georgia State University’s strategic planning committee has been hard at work, plotting the course for Georgia State’s future over the next 10 years.

The drafting of the strategic plan has been an intensely collaborative process, with input from all aspects of the GSU community. The University Senate on Thursday approved the plan, which can be viewed in its entirety at www.gsu.edu/strategicplan.

Here are the five main goals of the strategic plan:

Goal 1: Become a national model for undergraduate education by demonstrating that students from all backgrounds can achieve academic and career success at high rates.

Goal 2: Significantly strengthen and grow the base of distinctive graduate and professional programs that assure development of the next generation of researchers and societal leaders.

Goal 3: Become a leading public research university addressing the most challenging issues of the 21st century.

Goal 4: Be a leader in understanding the complex challenges of cities and developing effective solutions.

Goal 5: Achieve distinction in globalizing the university.

Tell us more about the library blog.

Even before the library updated our website, we wanted to make our blog more useful as an information resource. We also wanted to promote the university’s research culture, while providing a forum for discussion. Librarians and archivists use the blog to share new resources, highlight publications by GSU researchers and share material from our unique collections. Last year we saw over a 500 percent increase in our blog’s visits and unique readers.

What trends are you seeing in university libraries around the country to digitize information?

The Association of Research Libraries reports that digitizing unique/rare collections is a “top trend” for academic libraries. Our library is digitizing many of our unique collections, including photographs from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and full issues of Atlanta’s underground newspaper, The Great Speckled Bird. We recently received a $90,000 grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission to digitize portions of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization’s records.

What’s next for the GSU library in terms of technology and communication?

In 2011 we will launch our mobile website, create a new suite of video tutorials, experiment with QR Codes and expand our social media presence even further.
Making strides toward equality

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

In the early 21st century, there are signs that much progress has been made in the issue of race: African-Americans are holding professional positions high up the ladder in banks, the legal system and other areas — including the presidency of the United States. But even though progress has been made, inequality and isolation often remain. Adia Harvey Wingfield wants to know more about this in the hopes of mitigating latter day vestiges of discrimination.

Wingfield, an assistant professor of sociology studying the intersection of inequality, race and gender, is researching African-American male professionals, such as bankers, lawyers, doctors and engineers, to gain more insight about their experiences.

Her research has led to an award-winning paper, as well as a book that she has co-authored about President Obama and the 2008 electoral campaign. "It’s been an interesting project, in seeing the way that their experiences are so complex and nuanced in terms of the areas where there are some opportunities, versus the areas where there are still challenges," Wingfield said. She has explored how black male professionals interact with their white counterparts, as well as how isolated they may feel in the work environment.

She has also received an Outstanding Junior Faculty award and received a prize from the American Sociological Association for an article examining the experiences of black male nurses.

Wingfield hopes her research can be used to help address inequality and race in a time where some have said that race no longer matters.

"It’s an important point to acknowledge the progress we have made," she said. "But I think at the same time that because these issues and challenges are still present, it means that there are things that still need to be addressed."

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**SURVEY**

We want to help you get the most from the Villager, your source for faculty and staff news. Please take a moment to complete this survey and return it by interoffice mail to the Division of University Relations, P.O. Box 3983.

1. Do you read the Villager?
   a. Yes
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2. How do you receive the Villager?
   a. In my mailbox
   b. I pick it up around campus or in my departmental office

3. Would you read the Villager if it were online only and distributed through e-mail?
   a. Yes
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4. Are you satisfied with the content in the Villager?
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5. What would you like to see more of in the Villager?
   a. More university news
   b. More news on GSU events
   c. More news on faculty/staff achievement
   d. More news on scientific research
   e. More news on athletics
   f. Other, please specify

6. Are you faculty or staff?
   a. Faculty
   b. Staff

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**RESEARCH**

**Research shows brain changes in adolescent males**

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

The lives of teenagers, who undergo changes in hormones during puberty, are often fraught with drama.

Now a Georgia State University scientist has found that, in males, those hormones may be related to changes in the part of the brain responsible for social behaviors.

Bradley Cooke, assistant professor of neuroscience, has found that in male Siberian hamsters a part of the brain called the medial nucleus of the amygdala increased by nearly 25 percent during puberty. The results have been published in a new study in the Journal of Neuroendocrinology.

The increase in the size of the brain region was accompanied by an increase in the size of individual nerve cells, called neurons, and there was a strong trend toward more neurons overall. In addition, the connections between neurons, called synapses, were found to have increased as well.

"Taken together, these findings indicate that the medial amygdala is reorganized during puberty," said Cooke, a member of GSU’s Neuroscience Institute.

The growth of the medial nucleus of the amygdala, responsible for changes in aggression and parental behavior among other behaviors, is believed to be related to the rising levels of testosterone during puberty, he said.

Due to the difference in hormones between males and females, the growth of this brain region is most likely not the same in females, he said.

Cooke said he doesn’t believe that the changes are permanent, because if male rats are robbed of testosterone, the brain region shrinks to the same size as females.

Going forward, Cooke and his team want to see if parts of neurons called dendrites — branches of the cells which help to form connections, or synapses, between neurons — change in shape. He would also like to further explore how new neurons are formed during puberty.

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**GSU in the news**

**People need a business plan, with solid research. The biggest question is always, ‘Who is going to buy this product? And what will they pay for it?’**

Greg Henley, director of the Herman J. Russell Sr. International Center for Entrepreneurship, to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on entrepreneurship during the “Great Recession.”

They don’t allow themselves to get overworked but at the same time don’t need a boss or a structure to get the work done that they need to get done in a given period of time. That’s what self-managing is.

William Rahmweiler, associate professor of public management and policy, to Fox Business.com on tips for taking vacation when you work from home.

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You can also take this survey online at [www.tinyurl.com/GSUvillager](http://www.tinyurl.com/GSUvillager)
university briefs

Staff Senator elections to be held this month

► Georgia State University’s Staff Council will hold elections for staff senators at 3 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Student Center’s Sinclair Suite.

The University Senate, the campus-wide body that votes on issues of general educational policy, includes 10 staff senators. Six of the positions are available this year, and staff senators serve a two-year term.

Staff senators are elected by Staff Council, an advisory body to the university president that acts on behalf of all members. Staff Council plans to hold its annual election in late February. Employees will be invited to nominate and vote for staff members in their respective areas to serve on the council.

Economic Forecasting Conference set for Feb. 23

► Rajeev Dhawan, director of the Economic Forecasting Center will provide his quarterly forecast of the Nation, Georgia and Atlanta at 8 a.m., Feb. 23 in Speaker’s Auditorium.

The theme of the conference is “New Hope: The Return of Growth.” Dhawan will discuss how a new hope has emerged that the U.S. economy is now firmly on a path toward economic growth and what that means for corporations, consumers and housing markets across the nation.

Other speakers at the conference are Esmail Adibi, director of the A. Gary Anderson Center for Economic Research at Chapman University; Frank Norton Jr., president of The Norton Agency; and Greg Boudreaux, CFO of the Atlanta Falcons Football Club. The speakers will discuss topics such as “Atlanta’s Real Estate Evolution,” “National Football League: Opportunities and Challenges Ahead,” and the “California Real Estate and Fiscal Crisis.”

The last day to register is Feb. 18. For more information, call 404-413-7260.

Rising faculty stars honored by College of Arts and Sciences

► The College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University has named three junior faculty members as winners of the inaugural Dean’s Rising Faculty Awards.

The winners include assistant professors Sarah Brosnan of psychology and Donald Hamelberg of chemistry and associate professor Eddy Nahmias of philosophy and neuroscience.

The award is a new initiative that awards extra funding to rising faculty stars each year. Each scholar will receive $7,500 to use at her or his discretion. The honor is intended to help the college attract and retain the best and brightest scholars and researchers; additionally, the award will help recipients attract future outside funding.

Imaging center open to Georgia State faculty

► The Georgia State/Georgia Tech Center for Advanced Brain Imaging is open for faculty in different fields at GSU to conduct research using a powerful magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner.

The imaging center located on the Georgia Tech campus, has a 3 tesla Siemens MRI, which can produce total body images thinner than a slice of bread. The imaging technique gives researchers in a variety of fields the opportunity to understand not only the brain, but other structures of the human body including blood vessels.

The MRI also has the ability to obtain specialized scans indicating disease development and progression. Other tools available at the center include transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). For more information about the center, visit www.cabiatl.com or call 404-385-8619.

Renowned philosopher to speak on free will and the brain

► Daniel Dennett, a noted philosopher and cognitive scientist at Tufts University, will give a lecture blending neuroscience and philosophy at Georgia State University on Feb. 7.

The lecture, titled “My Brain Made Me Do It,” will be presented at 5:30 p.m. in Speaker’s Auditorium in the Student Center.

Dennett, the Austin B. Fletcher Professor of Philosophy at Tufts and co-director of the university’s Center for Cognitive Studies, is the author of numerous books and articles on human consciousness and free will.

He argues that human consciousness and free will are the result of physical processes in the brain. In his most recent book, “Breaking the Spell,” Dennett explores religious belief from a biological perspective.

Jazz Piano Summit

► At 3 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Kopleff Recital Hall, outstanding jazz pianists from the metro Atlanta area will perform in pairs on two Steinway Grand Pianos along with members of the Georgia State University Faculty Jazztet. Piano pairings include Kevin Bales and Kenny Banks; Gary Motley and Jose Garcia; Louis Heriveaux and Dan Lawrence; Nick Rosen and Daniel Ellington; and Tony Knapp and Tyrone Jackson. All ticket proceeds will go toward jazz scholarships.

The cost is $10 for general admission; $5 for students with ID. Call 404-413-5901 or visit www.music.gsu.edu for more information.
Frady named European Coach of the Year

By Mike Holmes • mholmes@gsu.edu

Georgia State Head Baseball Coach Greg Frady, who also directs the German National Team, has been named European Baseball Coach of the Year by the European Baseball Coaches Association. Frady is being recognized for his work with the German Baseball Organization, as well as for his role in helping to develop the game of baseball in Europe. Frady led the German national team to a third-place finish at the 2010 European Championship.

Georg Apfelbaum, executive director of the European Baseball Coaches Association, said that Frady has not only made the German National Team a serious contender in Europe, he has strengthened European baseball overall.

“The German national baseball program was being recognized by peers in European baseball,” said Frady. “I love the game of baseball, and the opportunity to help advance the sport in Germany is incredibly rewarding.”

Frady was named head coach of the German National Team in 2004 and has been building it into a contender ever since. Frady’s GSU teams have averaged 37 wins over the past two seasons, highlighted by the 2009 Colonial Athletic Association title and an NCAA appearance, both firsts in school history.

Mark McFarland, assistant professor of music theory, was invited to write the entry on Igor Stravinsky that will appear in Oxford University Press’ forthcoming reference source Oxford Bibliographies Online: Music.

APPLAUSE

Daphne Greenberg, associate director of the Center for the Study of Adult Literacy, received a continuation of funding award for the National Institute for Literacy Diversity and Literacy Discussion List and Reading and Writing List for a total of $82,904.

Researcher and master’s candidate Ginny Mauldin-Kinney of the Center for Native American and Multicultural Research, was invited and will serve on the Committee of Visitors for the National Science Foundation’s Math and Science Partnership program.

In 2010, GSU Head Baseball Coach Greg Frady led the German National Team to its best-ever finish at the European Baseball Championships.

Running 26.2 miles in three hours and 45 minutes in the SunTrust Marathon in Richmond, Va.

Student Recreation Center Open House — February 7 - 13, 2011

We invite faculty and staff non-members to explore all that the SRC has to offer, including the many free drop-in fitness classes.

For policies on appropriate clothing, schedule of drop-in fitness classes, hours and other pertinent information please visit www.gsu.edu/recreation or call 404/413-1754.

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