Georgia State State selects new VP for research

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Georgia State University Provost Risa Palm announced April 12 that James Weyhenmeyer will assume the role of vice president for Research and Economic Development, beginning June 15.

Weyhenmeyer, who is currently senior vice provost for Research and Economic Development in the Office of the Provost of the State University of New York system, succeeds Robin Morris, who will assume the position of associate provost for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation.

“We look forward to working with Weyhenmeyer to make great strides in advancing research at Georgia State University and to accomplish the research and economic development goals of the University’s Strategic Plan,” Palm said. “He will be making two trips to our campus prior to June 15 to begin the transition of leadership.”

Weyhenmeyer also currently serves as managing director of the Technology Accelerator Fund and vice president for research of the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

“This is an exciting time to be joining Georgia State University,” Weyhenmeyer said. “I look forward to drawing from my experiences and working with faculty and staff across the system to realize the research and economic development goals of the university’s Strategic Plan.”

Weyhenmeyer was previously at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as vice president for Technology and Economic Development and served in other senior leadership roles at the University of Illinois.

In the wake of the January 2011 uprising in Egypt that forced President Hosni Mubarak out of power, Isa Blumi visited the country to gain a better feel for what’s happening there and what it means on the larger scale.

What was the atmosphere like when you were in Egypt?

Very euphoric. It has somewhat died down in the Western media as eliminating the problem, but it can venenously divert our attention from systemic problems that exist in these societies. These are all un by oligarchs, with deep roots in a system that exploits people and steals their wealth — redistributing it upwards. And they have a pretty firm hold on the military security apparatus. You likely have periodic outbreaks on the streets, then, as we saw in Egypt, the tanks come in, the military plays good cop, bad cop, and they put enough people in military prisons as the solution. This is the “solution” that unfortunately is in store for people in Yemen as well.

What is your feeling about the removal of Mubarak and others solved certain problems?

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COE professors study literacy interventions for deaf, hard of hearing children

By Clare Miller • cmiller@gsu.edu

Educators have been able to use early intervention techniques, hearing screenings and new technology to help children who are deaf or hard of hearing improve their literacy skills.

Over the past three years, College of Education professors Amy Lederberg and Susan Easterbrooks have been developing and implementing curriculum and early intervention strategies for pre-K and kindergarten students with hearing loss, and a recent $1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Special Education Research will help them continue this work.

“All of the early intervention improvements in recent years have created a generation of deaf children who have great potential for entering kindergarten on par with their peers when it comes to literacy, but they’re still at risk of not reaching that level,” said Lederberg, who will serve as the principal investigator on the project. “We’ve created an intervention for pre-K and kindergarten children to give them a strong foundation for literacy.”

The three-year grant, which will begin this summer, will allow Lederberg and Easterbrooks to continue developing and improving their curriculum, which teaches children about phonological awareness, alphabetic knowledge, storytelling, narrative structure and other fundamental literacy elements. They will also try to adapt the curriculum for deaf children who don’t have spoken word abilities — a subset that accounts for one-third of pre-K children with hearing loss in the Atlanta area.

“Lederberg and Easterbrooks hope that by the end of the three years they will have a more effective curriculum as well as a set of professional development resources for teachers who want to implement their curriculum.”

For more information about the National Center for Special Education Research, visit http://ies.ed.gov/nces.
Milestone Honors

In the last issue of the Villager, we left out several names of employees celebrating their 25th anniversary with GSU. Below are the employees celebrating 25 years who were omitted. We regret the error.

Hassan Babaie, Geosciences
Jack Boozer, Communication
Brian Brunner, Financial Services
Charles Bush, Biology
Betina Dettweiler-Blakely, Library
Patrick Dukes, Facilities Management Administration
Ann England, School of Art and Design
Jonette Gowan, Student Systems
Donna W. Hader, AYSPS – Dean’s Office
Sebastian John, Building Maintenance Administration
Pamela Jones, Property Control
Charles A. Marvin, College of Law
Michele Massey, Building Services Administration and Support
Michellea Mathis-Porter, Child Development Center
Janet Bush McCord, Registrar

Robinson to host 13th Annual Women’s Leadership Forum

The J. Mack Robinson College of Business and the Atlanta Business Chronicle will host the 13th Annual Women’s Leadership Forum on May 6 at the Cobb Galleria Centre.

The half-day event will offer new strategies and proven approaches from some of the most successful women in business.

The day begins at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and opening speaker, Kathy Betty, owner and CEO of the WNBA’s Atlanta Dream. Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin is the keynote speaker.

Informative breakout sessions will include “Providing Creative Leadership in Unprecedented Times,” “Bouncing Back: Overcoming Setbacks and Learning Valuable Lessons,” “How We Did It: Techniques from Successful Entrepreneurs,” and “Making Social Media Work for You & Your Company.”

Georgia State attains status in environmental protection and sustainability efforts

Georgia State has recently been made a Silver Level member of the Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia within Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources for its commitment to sustainability and environmental protection.

The Silver Level status is awarded to entities that have put policies in place and are keeping track of environmental sustainability statistics, including trash generation, energy usage, water usage and recycling.

With a focus on water and energy, the university hopes to see a 5 percent reduction in water and energy usage per year over the next five years. The university has policies and programs to reduce waste and energy usage.

In 2006, GSU started a sustainability program to gain baseline measurements of environmental sustainability and pushed forward with efforts to reduce waste, save water and energy, and increase recycling. GSU’s Environmental Programs Advisory Committee (EPAC) oversees the implementation of these policies.

Georgia State receives approval for new Ph.D. in public health

The Board of Regents recently granted approval to the Institute of Public Health to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health degree. The new degree program, the only public university public health doctoral program in the Atlanta area, supports the university’s overall 10-year strategic plan and its emphasis on public health education.

In addition, it will help meet the demand for highly trained public health researchers in Georgia and heighten Georgia State’s focus on the health of underserved urban communities.

The first Ph.D. class will begin the 62 credit hour degree program in fall 2011. The new doctoral students will have the opportunity to assist with research projects funded by a new $6.7 million federal research grant developed to reduce health disparities in urban populations.
GSU to graduate its largest class ever

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to deliver commencement address

Georgia State University will honor its largest graduation class ever during the 96th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in the Georgia Dome. In total, more than 3,700 students will graduate from Georgia State this semester.

“Georgia State has already set records this year for best academically prepared freshman class and highest retention rate in school history, but this is the record that means the most,” said Timothy Renick, Georgia State’s associate provost for academic programs and chief enrollment officer. “Our record-size graduating class is the result of not only a lot of hard work on the part of the students, but also on the part of the whole GSU community. This is why we are here.”

Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, will serve as Georgia State University’s spring commencement speaker at the 2 p.m. bachelor, master and specialist degree ceremony.

Carter, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his international conflict resolution efforts, served as president from 1977 to 1981. He is the author of 25 books and is the founder of the Carter Center, a nonpartisan and nonprofit center that addresses national and international issues of public policy.

“Carter’s leadership on a variety of global issues, his passion for education and his devotion to Atlanta and Georgia make him an excellent choice to provide wisdom and guidance to our graduates,” GSU President Mark Becker said.

Hal McAlester, a Regents’ Professor of Astronomy who has taught at GSU since 1977, will deliver the keynote address at the Ph.D. commencement and hooding ceremony at 9 a.m. May 7 at the Ruia Center for the Arts. McAlester is director of the Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy and director and CEO of the Mount Wilson Institute.

This semester, 2,844 degree candidates are expected to participate in the bachelor, master and specialist degree ceremony, while 100 doctoral candidates will participate in the Ph.D. commencement and hooding.

Positive Behavior Support in Denver, Colo., in early March.

Sarah Steiner, a Georgia State librarian, was added to the Library Journal list of “Movers & Shakers.” Library Journal recognized Steiner as a “community builder” for her commitment to professional development in the library discipline.

Christine Thomas, associate professor in middle-secondary education and instructional technology, has been invited to participate in a program sponsored by the National Academy of Engineering and the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education. She is part of a very select group of NSF Noyce principal investigators invited to participate in this program.

Walt Thompson, Regents’ Professor of Exercise Science, was named to the Scientific Committee for the 2012 International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport (ICSEMIS), to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, July 19-24, 2012.

Raheem Beyah, assistant professor of computer science, recently received a two-year, $400,000 grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to research network intrusion detection using hardware signatures.

Patricia Carter, associate clinical professor in educational policy studies, presented her paper “Guiding the working class girl: The feminist foundations of vocational guidance in public schools in the early 20th century” at the Southern History of Education Society in Charleston, S.C., March 11-12.

Bijan Fazlollahi, professor at the Institute of International Business, spoke on “Caucasus” at the Great Decisions Program. The Georgia Council for International Visitors serves as the statewide coordinator for the Great Decisions Program, through which they help facilitate discussion groups and lecture series that give participants the opportunity to expand their understanding of world affairs.

Monica Fink, a part-time instructor of nutrition, received recognition for Distinguished Service to the Greater Atlanta Dietetic Association at the association’s recent annual conference; nutrition students Maegan Pharis and Jessie Gall were also honored by the association.

Rachel Gurvitch, associate professor in kinesiology and health, received the Mabel Lee Award from the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. As a recipient of this award, Gurvitch has been recognized as a young professional member of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

Steve Harmon was selected to receive the 2011 GSU Instructional Innovation Award. Harmon’s instructional innovation is titled, “Cognitive presence in virtual impersonation: A brief overview of the instructional innovation,” including a discussion of learning, theory and evidence.

Psychology graduate student Lisa Heimbauser received the Richard M. Griffith Award for the most outstanding presentation by a psychology junior faculty or doctoral candidate at the 2011 meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.


Jan Ligon, associate professor of social work, was the keynote speaker about substance abuse and its impacts on families and significant others at the NIASW World Social Work Day event in March at Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Doctoral geosciences student Brian Meyer received a research grant from the American Museum of Natural History and the Edward J. Noble Foundation to support a research project looking at the history of past hurricanes at St. Catherine’s Island, Ga., using geological research methods.

Rose Svecik, professor of psychology, recently received the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award.

Elizabeth A. Steed, assistant professor of early childhood special education, presented “Assessing positive behavior support in childcare centers” at the 8th International Conference on

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