



Villager

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Jobs Well Done

GSU honors employees at Service Recognition Ceremony

By Leah Seupersad • lh@gsu.edu



Winners of the 2011 Sparks Awards, from left: Shelby Frost, Brian Buckwald, Alicia Knox and Luvert Holt.

Winners of the Sparks Awards, recipients of the Office of Civic Engagement's Carl V. Patton President's Award for Community Service and Social Action, and Georgia State University employees celebrating milestone anniversaries were honored April 26 at the 2011 GSU Service Recognition Ceremony.

Luvert Holt and Brian Buckwald were among those who received Sparks Awards, which recognize Georgia State faculty, staff and students who "exemplify a willingness to go the extra mile with good humor and perseverance."

Buckwald, an administrative specialist in the sociology department, was honored for his "perpetually positive attitude and willingness to improve the experience of students, faculty and the whole Sociology Department," said Mindy Stompler, senior lecturer in sociology, who nominated him.

"Brian deserves the award not because he goes the extra mile, but because he goes the extra marathon," Stompler said.

Holt, director of facilities renovations, was honored for his "willingness and positive attitude to go above and beyond his job duties during the snow and ice storm in January," his nomination says.

Julia Perilla, an associate professor in psychology, received a President's Award for Community Service and Social Action, which recognizes students and organizations, faculty, staff and community partners who have made significant contributions to the Atlanta community through their outstanding commitment to service.

Perilla, a nationally recognized expert in the study of family violence in the Latino community, was awarded Outstanding Faculty Member. Perilla's nominators said her work shows that research, instruction and service can be interwoven in a program of effective social action.

Also honored with Sparks awards were Shelby Frost, clinical associate professor of economics, and Alicia Knox, a graduate research assistant for the Alonzo A. Crim Center pursuing a master's degree in deaf education.

Other winners of the President's Award for Community Service and Social Action are: Sarah Higinbotham, an English doctoral candidate awarded Outstanding Community Impact; Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, Outstanding Student Organization; Agape Community Center, Outstanding Community Partner; and Nursing Students at Georgia State University, Outstanding University Program.

5 minutes with:

Isa Blumi

Associate professor of history

Interview by Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

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.

Were the events in Egypt this past January a surprise?

With Egypt being another very important part of American policy in the Middle East, I've done quite a bit of research there, and I have many friends there. And like everyone, I was taken completely by surprise by the events of January largely because it is such a longstanding, police-authoritarian state. While there were rumors about Mubarak himself, there was no indication that there would be any kind of instability. There were pretty regular uprisings and disturbances in Egypt. They were nothing new, but what was new was the scope and the size of what happened.

Has the removal of Mubarak and others solved certain problems?

The removal of these figureheads has certainly been touted in the Western media as eliminating the problem, but it conveniently diverts our attention from systemic problems that exist in these societies. These are all run 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 was the atmosphere like when you were in Egypt?

Very euphoric. It has somewhat died down since I had been there. I have some examples of paraphernalia that said Jan. 25 was the moment in which the society was given a new breath of fresh air, and that "we were together as a society." You now had this second stage of the uprising which was managing it. The initial phase was a complete surprise. It was spontaneous, where people had just finally had enough and took to the streets.

What's happened since the initial euphoria?

Initially, they took matters into their own hands without leaders. Some talents emerged to the surface, and they were most actively targeted by the Egyptian military — most of whom are in prison, which nobody talks about, and which is a tragedy. They are most likely being tortured to get information out of them.



Georgia 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 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.



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RESEARCH
horizon

Think About It!

Researchers uncover more about the act of thinking

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

When making decisions, people often don't have the right amount of information to make a choice — and, as humans, we are aware of that lack of information.

It turns out that humans aren't the only species with this cognitive ability, a Georgia State researcher and his colleague have found.

GSU's Michael J. Beran, senior research scientist, and J. David Smith at the University at Buffalo in New York have found that two species of monkeys — rhesus monkeys and capuchin monkeys — realize when they have a lack of information.

The scientists' research involves a field that is growing in study, called metacognition, which involves "thinking about thinking."

"Some primates clearly share with humans the ability to discern what information they have, and what information they do not have and still need," Beran said. "However, not all species are equally flexible in their information-seeking abilities."

Monkeys were evaluated based on three separate tests, with the first based on matching items to a sample. Both species passed this first test.

In later testing, however, only rhesus monkeys demonstrated flexibility in managing information; capuchins did not.

Research on metacognition in animals helps to provide more insight on human thinking, Beran said, by showing the roots of metacognition in humans.

"The research also is useful for helping to reveal the developmental roots of human metacognition because our nonverbal tasks can be adapted for use with young children," Beran said.

The research project was supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health and by the National Science Foundation.

GSU in the news

Furniture is a purchase that the consumer can put off for another day. It's not like a washer or a car engine.

Ken Bernhardt, the Taylor E. Little Jr. Professor of Marketing, to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on the likelihood of the furniture industry taking longer to recover from the recession than other industries.

A lot of people are enthusiastic about it, but it is nowhere near realizing that dream.

Paul Ferraro, associate professor of economics, to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on biofuels taking off in Georgia.

Real estate by and large is very, very local. More people are working and the economy is improving, but very slowly.

Alan Ziobrowski, professor of real estate, to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on the approval of a new development project in Cobb County as a signal of an economic upswing in the area.

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

By Claire Miller • cjmiller@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 literary 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.

"We hope to have an even more successful intervention that will focus on both meaning-based parts of reading — how to read and understand a book — and code-based parts of literacy, which has to do with learning letters and being able to take apart words and put them back together again," Lederberg said. "We are very excited about this project."

For more information about the National Center for Special Education Research, visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncser>.

University Voices

Bridging the Language Gap

Simple strategies can help international students

By Margareta Larsson • mlarsson@gsu.edu

The Center for Teaching and Learning recently produced and distributed to all GSU instructors a booklet titled "Tips for Teaching Non-Native English Speakers." The impetus for the publication arose from conversations I had with Peter Lindsay, director for the center, about teaching English as a second language to international students. Among other topics, we talked about the difficulty of paraphrasing in a second language — a task that is both linguistically complex (the student might not know any suitable words to replace the ones originally used to express the idea) and often culturally foreign (the student might wonder why one would even want to change the wording). As a result of these conversations, Peter asked me to collect strategies from instructors who teach English as a second language, and these strategies form the basis of the booklet.

As a native of Sweden who came to the U.S. as a graduate student and as someone who has been teaching international students for many years, I welcome the opportunity to share these strategies. Most of them are quite simple but will make a big difference in helping non-native English speaking students participate in class and master the material.

For example, one suggestion is to increase the wait time after posing a question. The results are usually amazing. In general, however, it can help just to be aware that students may come from dramatically different academic traditions and may need more time to process language and more specific directions for what is required of them.

To interpret academic culture and master academic English is a very difficult challenge. Requiring a student who is new to American academic culture and language to write a 10-page research paper could be compared to asking the uninitiated to hunt and gather for sustenance — most of us would not know how or where to begin. But with enough guidance, eventually we would succeed.

Margareta Larsson is a lecturer in the Department of Applied Linguistics & ESL.

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

Bettina Detweiler-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.

Microsoft® Office 365

with Microsoft Exchange E-mail Service

Faculty and Staff e-mail will be moving from GroupWise to Office 365 over the **July 4 weekend**. Get prepared by following the steps below.

1. Verify Your Accounts

If you have not verified your campus account information using the Account Verification system, please type **campusid.gsu.edu** in your Internet browser and follow the provided instructions to confirm your account information.

2. Update Your Browser

You may need to update your browser. Users will be able to access their accounts instantly after conversion to Office 365 with a supported browser. Supported browsers include Internet Explorer 6+, Mozilla Firefox 3+, and Apple Safari 3+. Office 365 does not support Google Chrome at this time.

3. Install Microsoft Office 2010 or 2011

You may also want to upgrade to Office 2010 for PC or Office 2011 for Mac, which provides an e-mail experience integrated with your everyday tasks. The software package includes Microsoft Outlook desktop client for full-service e-mail access from your desktop in addition to web access.

4. Use Large File Transfer to Send Messages Totaling Over 25MB

Office 365 limits the total size of e-mail attachments to 25MB per e-mail message. Mail that contains attachments larger than 25MB will not transfer automatically from GroupWise to Office 365 accounts and cannot be copied during the conversion process. To limit the number of large files contained in your e-mail account, begin using the new Secure File Transfer tool that IS&T will start offering in coming weeks.

5. Delete Unwanted E-mail

If your account contains unwanted e-mail that you no longer need and that should not be transferred to the new system, delete the excess e-mail now to simplify and speed up the conversion process.

For more information, visit www.gsu.edu/ist/email/

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GSU to graduate its largest class ever

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

By Leah Seupersad • lvh@gsu.edu

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 McAlister, 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 Rialto Center for the Arts. McAlister 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.



APPLAUSE

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 that demonstrated outstanding potential in scholarship, teaching and professional leadership.

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 Heimbauer** 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.

Robert Klein of the Center for Risk Management and Insurance Research has received the Shin

Research Award for Excellence for his paper "Principles for Insurance Regulation: An Evaluation of Current Practices and Potential Reforms." The award is presented by the International Insurance Society and the Geneva Association.

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 Sevcik, 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

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.




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