A Georgia State astronomer’s discovery of two new “Hot Jupiters” in a dense star cluster proves planets can form in a wide range of environments. Could this new cosmic frontier lead us to extraterrestrial life?
College wasn’t in the cards

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Hundreds of students in the Class of 2013 would not have graduated without the help of private donations. Consider including Georgia State University in your estate plans and give a gift that reaches beyond campus borders.

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**WELCOME TO THE NEW GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE!**

Let us know what you think of the newly redesigned magazine and website, magazine.gsu.edu. Beginning with this new issue, the magazine will be mailed four times a year to all alumni. Send your letters to the editor at winman@gsu.edu.

“Buck [Owens] signed my guitar with the same pen he just made $2 million with.”
FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are one of only a handful of universities who have introduced innovative support programs capable of helping students on a large scale

A National Model

GEORGIA STATE IS DEMONSTRATING HOW STUDENTS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS CAN SUCCEED

IN THIS CENTENNIAL year we are building on the foundation created by alumni, faculty, students, staff and supporters in Georgia State’s first century. This is a time to reflect on the commitment and dedication of the members of our community in the past, but it is also a time to pursue a new vision for Georgia State with renewed vigor and purpose. We are making huge strides in the implementation of the strategic plan we introduced in 2011, and nowhere is that more evident than in the work we are doing to help students reach their dream of earning a degree.

I’ve had the good fortune recently to share with a variety of audiences that Georgia State is recognized nationally as a leader in using creative and individualized approaches to ensure each student reaches his or her full academic potential.

The first goal in our strategic plan is to become a national model in demonstrating how students from all backgrounds can achieve a college degree and career success, and we’re making great strides to that end.

Under the direction of Vice Provost and Chief Enrollment Officer Tim Renick, Georgia State is implementing innovative programs aimed at ensuring student success.

Our work in this area is gaining significant national attention, in the media and among policy makers. National Public Radio, for example, recently featured a story about our programs to help students of all backgrounds earn a college degree.

With the goals of increasing graduation and retention rates to levels where they will change the national conversation on what is possible, the university introduced a new advising system in August 2012 that tracks students’ academic performance and identifies key markers that may indicate future outcomes.

We have already used the system to advise nearly 13,000 students.

This multi-faceted and highly collaborative effort is working extremely well. The institutional graduation rate has improved 19 points since 2003. This past year alone, it climbed 3.5 points, reaching a record of 51.2 percent, and it is on pace to increase another 2 to 3 points this fall. Almost no other university can claim those levels and consistency of improvement over the same period. That is why our efforts are being recognized nationally.

We believe this impressive progress has come from a commitment to the systematic use of data in identifying roadblocks, detours and pitfalls that all too often inhibit student progress and success. With vast amounts of data at our disposal we develop and test ways of addressing those challenges, and move forward at scale with those experiments that produce promising results. We are one of only a handful of universities who have introduced innovative support programs capable of helping students on a large scale.

Our work in this arena holds great promise for our state and nation because greatly increased numbers of college graduates are needed to fuel economic growth and America’s competitive position on the global stage. Because they educate the majority of our nation’s college and university students, large public universities like ours will have the greatest impact in ensuring student success and fostering a more highly educated society. I am proud that our university is leading the charge.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Becker
President
Professor Jennifer McCoy helped keep the peace in Hugo Chávez’s Venezuela. Then she was run out of the country.
As director of the Carter Center’s Americas Program, Georgia State Distinguished University Professor of Political Science Jennifer McCoy has worked to broker peace and promote democracy in some of the most unstable Latin American countries.

She had a front-row seat to the national elections that ended the 10-year rule of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and sat across a table from a cigar-chomping Fidel Castro in Havana. During Hugo Chávez’s presidency in Venezuela, she led an effort to facilitate a dialogue among Chávez, his supporters and his opposition.

McCoy’s first visit in that endeavor came after a 2002 coup d’état attempt. Though Chávez was reinstated less than 48 hours later after an outpouring of Venezuelan support and pressure from the international community, he was rattled. Chávez invited The Carter Center to mediate.

After seven months of unsuccessful negotiations, McCoy flew to Caracas to meet with Chávez.

“We knew this was the last chance to get an agreement, and it required President Chávez’s personal imprimatur,” McCoy remembers.

Chávez nitpicked over grammar and nuances, McCoy remembers, but he eventually signed. The accord laid the groundwork for a 2004 presidential recall referendum that could have cut short his term, but Chávez prevailed.

“The opposition had high hopes that President Carter and the center would be able to convince Chávez to step down, and were particularly crushed when it didn’t happen,” McCoy says.

Communications were abruptly severed as the opposition lost faith in The Carter Center, insisting that the results were fraudulent. The center had no choice but to shutter its office for a time in Venezuela. Without trust from both sides, it could no longer serve as an intermediary.


After Chavez’s death in March, major media outlets called upon McCoy to weigh in on the legacy of Chávez and the future of Venezuela.

“Chávez was a master at addressing very different interests and holding them together as the undisputed leader,” McCoy told the New York Times.

Chávez’s party is now led by his protégé and former vice president, Nicholas Maduro, whose razor-thin victory in the 2013 Venezuelan special presidential election was a surprise to both sides. McCoy led an election delegation and wrote an extensive report.

“The opposition disputed the election results and both sides will need to work together to restore electoral legitimacy in the future,” McCoy says. “I hope to be able to contribute to that effort.”
Georgia State’s Institute of Public Health is now the School of Public Health following its endorsement by the Council on Education for Public Health, the national body that accredits schools and programs of public health.

The accreditation makes Georgia State the first public university in Atlanta with a School of Public Health.

“Our is one of the most diverse public health programs in the nation — where nearly half of all students are minorities and 20 percent are from countries outside the U.S.,” said Michael P. Eriksen, founding dean of the Institute of Public Health.

“Since 2006, we have been home to 35 Fulbright students, and we are getting ready to welcome at least six more in the fall.”

The School of Public Health is the first new degree-granting college at Georgia State in nearly two decades. The program distinguishes itself in areas such as urban health disparities, chronic diseases and determinants, and violence prevention.

PROTECTING THE SPOKEN WORD
Oral History Association moves to Georgia State

Clifford Kuhn is oral history’s defender of the faith.

As the Oral History Association’s first executive director, Kuhn’s mission is to elevate the practice even as technology broadens its reach beyond academia and into popular culture.

“First person narratives are so compelling, but we really do need to reflect more and go deeper in terms of how we think of these interviews in order to raise standards,” says Kuhn, associate professor of history. “We must think not just about what people are saying, but how and why they’re saying it.”

LEGAL LOCATION
The university will break ground this fall at the corner of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue and Park Place for the new Georgia State College of Law. After 30 years of retrofitting space in the Urban Life Building, the law school will now have its own home. The school has consistently been named a top five best value law school in the nation.

A NEW SCIENCE TOWER
Because of tremendous demand for more laboratory space in the state-of-the-art Petit Science Center, the university will begin construction this fall on another science tower on the vacant lot next to the Petit Science Center on Decatur Street.

DOWNTOWN RENOVATIONS
The university this fall will unveil the new Georgia State Welcome Center on the ground floor of 100 Auburn Ave. The building underwent extensive renovations over the summer. The building is also home to the Honors College. In addition, the 26-story tower at 25 Park Place is also under renovation and will become home to programs for the College of Arts and Sciences.
So when the Oral History Association decided to expand its role by hiring an executive director, Kuhn helped put together a successful proposal to bring the organization to Georgia State.

Since taking on the directorship on Jan. 1, Kuhn has embarked on a campaign to professionalize the practice while finding new venues for its use by encouraging oral historians to work more with government agencies, libraries and museums.

Projects such as StoryCorps, which collects oral histories from Americans across the country and broadcasts some on National Public Radio, have helped expand the role of oral history and made it more accessible.

“One big problem is just thinking all of this is easy,” he says. “How do you intervene with a variety of individuals and constituencies from very different vantage points to ensure there are certain standards of practice?”

“We think of oral history as being a purposeful interview that’s recorded and archived, but at the same time I recognize that it’s storytelling.”

**THE NEED FOR SPEED**

**Professor discovers the world’s fastest process**

Mark Stockman has succeeded in his quest to go as fast as the laws of physics will allow.

Working with support from the U.S. Department of Energy and with scientists from the prestigious Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, Physics Professor Stockman has discovered the fastest process that can fundamentally exist, unfolding at about 100 attoseconds. An attosecond, for reference, is to a second what a second is to about 31.71 billion years.

Stockman and his fellow researchers reached the threshold by probing optical processes in a dielectric, an electrical insulator — in this case, silica — with very short extreme ultraviolet pulses.

The scientists were able to show that very short, highly intense light pulses can cause on-off electric currents — necessary in computing to make the ones and zeroes in the binary language of computers — in dielectrics.

Dielectric devices hold promise to allow for much faster computing than possible today with semiconductors, Stockman says.

In addition, Stockman discovered that when dielectrics were given very short and intense laser pulses, they start conducting electricity while remaining undamaged.

Stockman says transistors, the fundamental part of all modern electronics controlled by laser pulses, are up to 10,000 times faster than today’s fastest transistors, which run at up to 100 gigahertz.

“The material becomes conductive as a very high electrical field of light is applied to it,” Stockman says. “[The] dielectrics are 10,000 times faster than semiconductors.”

**SEA HARES SAVE SELVES WITH SMELL-STOPPING SECRETION**

Imagine a bloodhound trying to hunt wearing nose plugs. That’s how the spiny lobster feels after being squirited with a...
substance called opaline by the sea hare, its natural prey. Georgia State researchers have discovered that opaline gunks up a lobster’s antennules, reducing its sense of smell and allowing the sea hare to escape unharmed.

Sea hares also squirt ink, which contains chemical that are noxious to lobsters. Charles Derby, Regents’ Professor of Neurology and Biology, along with graduate students Tiffany Love-Chezem and Juan Aggio, was the first to figure out exactly how opaline works.

The researchers began their experiments by painting lobsters’ antennules with opaline extract. Then, the researchers presented the lobsters with shrimp juice and measured the electrical activity in the lobsters’ chemosensory and motor neurons.

Both sets of neurons showed only a muted response, showing that the smell of the shrimp juice simply wasn’t getting through. The team tried the experiment again, painting the antennules with some of the non-sticky components of opaline. This time, the lobsters and their neurons responded strongly to the shrimp juice, showing that stickiness was the key to opaline’s powers.

CREATIVITY

REINVENTING 100
Design students tap into Georgia State Centennial to help rebrand an architectural icon

Atlantans know the 33-story landmark overlooking Woodruff Park as the Equitable Building. With the help of a handful of graduate students in the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, denizens will soon be calling it by its new name, 100 Peachtree.

The students recently partnered with the building’s owners, America’s Capital Partners, to create an exhibit focused on the strategic repositioning and renovation of 100 Peachtree.

In concert with the university’s centennial celebration, several undergraduate students created artwork focused on the number 100 for the building’s rebranding campaign.

What is Heaven’s Door?
It’s actually a piece of music and an instrument. Karlheinz Stockhausen wrote the score to “Heaven’s Door” in 2006 and he prescribed that the piece be played on a large wooden door. Stockhausen had the first door made in Germany. The door I had made was built by D.J. Betsill, a luthier in Stone Mountain, Ga.

How do you “play” the door?
I use wooden beaters made to strike the large sound panels on the leaves of the door. I also scrape the door, stomp my feet on the resonant platform directly in front of the door, and I also kick the door a couple of times and jump up to play the panels located at the top of the instrument. I fall to the ground and play the lower boards while lying on my side. It’s actually quite a workout to perform.

How big is it?
It’s 9 feet 2 inches tall, 6 feet wide and weighs around 650 pounds when fully assembled.

Does the door open during a performance?
I perform the piece correctly! I hate to give it away, but yes, the door does open, after about 22 minutes of beating the hell out of it.

Is there anything like it, musically, or otherwise?
Not to my knowledge. And as far as I know I’m still the only person in the world to perform this unique piece. I’ve played it nearly 30 times.

Visit magazine.gsu.edu for a video
ATHLETICS

ROOKIES OF THE YEAR
Three Georgia State newcomers bring home the hardware

As Georgia State bids farewell to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the Panthers top duo, Lane Madewell and Katie Carico, advanced to the semifinals of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) national championships. They finished the season with a 33-8 record, and Carico was named an AVCA All-American.

Dig It?
Sand volleyball is Georgia State’s newest sport

That’s not a mirage. The three sand volleyball courts behind the Georgia State Sports Arena — complete with palm trees — really is an urban oasis.

The courts were officially dedicated in March when the 12 members of the team brought sand from their home courts and added it to the new courts. Sand from nine states — Alaska, Florida, California, New Jersey, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio, Texas and Georgia — was added.

The team finished their inaugural season at 8-9 with six of their nine losses to teams who were ranked in the top 10.

The Panthers top duo, Lane Madewell and Katie Carico, advanced to the semifinals of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) national championships. They finished the season with a 33-8 record, and Carico was named an AVCA All-American.

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Number of institutions in the Sun Belt Conference. Georgia State was one of the conference’s original six members. Visit magazine.gsu.edu for a video on the history of the Sun Belt Conference.

He also earned All-CAA First Team and CAA All-Rookie Team honors.

Merrigan, a left-handed hitting center fielder, had the most productive freshman season in Georgia State history with a .353 average, 36 runs batted in and 52 runs scored. He was also selected as second-team All-CAA and to the CAA All-Rookie team.

Grey finished the year with 12 top 25 finishes in 13 events, including three wins and three other top 10 finishes. In addition, he was named to the Freshman All-America team, the first Panther to earn top freshman honors.

As Mike Brune (B.A. ’02) tells it, all he’s ever wanted to do was to make movies with his friends.

“I started making films as a kid,” says Brune. “It was like playing a sport. Instead of getting together to shoot hoops, we made movies.”

“Congratulations,” filmed in the Johns Creek, Ga., neighborhood where Brune cut his cinematic teeth, and, literally, inside his parents’ house, is his first feature film as a writer and director. It’s making the rounds on the festival circuit and won Best Georgia Production at this year’s Atlanta Film Festival.

The film is the second full-length motion picture produced by Fake Wood Wallpaper, the comic film collective founded by Brune and fellow Georgia State filmmakers Alex Orr, Hugh Brasleton (B.A.’03) and Adam Pinney (B.A. ’02).

The four came together on the cutting room floor — the film editing room at One Peachtree — in 2002 when they were all working on their senior thesis films.

“We were best friends and shared the same sensibilities with regard to cinema and filmmaking,” Brune says. “I had the name Fake Wood Wallpaper and everyone liked it, so we slapped it on three of our films. It was official.”

“Congratulations” follows hard-boiled detective Skok (John Curran), who is leading the search for 7-year-old Paul, who vanished from his own living room. Skok focuses all his efforts on finding Paul inside the house. Instead of plastering the neighborhood with posters, he hangs them in the boy’s room.

“It’s an absurd, slightly metaphorical police procedural film,” Brune jokes. “For some people, it’s just weird and silly and entertaining. For me, it’s about a man who spends his whole life investigating other people’s lives and eventually sees that he’s old and has missed out on having a family of his own.”

Like their previous full-length motion picture “Blood Car” (yes, it’s about a car that runs on blood), “Congratulations” was truly a Georgia State affair.

“I think there were probably 20 Georgia State grads, maybe more, working on the film with most in key positions,” Brune says. “Most of them currently work professionally in the film industry in Georgia now, so they were all great.”

— Lauren Montgomery (B.A. ’14)
Georgia State alumni have recently been appointed to top posts of higher education across the country. Since 2011, an alumnus has served as Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, a position that provides leadership to the 31 institutions in the system.

**CHRISTINE RIORDIAN**
MBA '89, Ph.D. '95
Provost and Professor of Management, The University of Kentucky

Before her appointment as the chief academic officer for the flagship university of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Riordan was busy raising the profile and rankings of the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver. Under her watch, the college ranked among the top business schools in the world.

**HANK HUCKABY**
B.A. '65, MBA '68
Chancellor, The University System of Georgia

Huckaby knows well the administrative and academic sides of higher education. He’s taught at two Georgia institutions and worked as administrator at three, including Georgia State. A former member of the State House of Representatives, Huckaby has additionally served Georgia as director of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget.

**WALTER KIMBROUGH**
Ph.D. '96
President, Dillard University

Known as the “Hip Hop President,” Kimbrough is one of the youngest college presidents in the country. Before going to Dillard University in New Orleans, he was president of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark.

**RONALD BROWN**
Ph.D. '78
President, University of North Texas at Dallas

Brown heads to Dallas from Detroit, where he served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Wayne State University. Brown is the author of nine books and is a licensed and board certified psychologist.

**JERE MOREHEAD**
B.A. '77
President, The University of Georgia

Morehead began his academic career at the age of 16 when he enrolled at Georgia State. After graduating law school at 23, he served as assistant United States attorney for six years before returning to academia. Since, he’s served at the University of Georgia in several roles, before being named president.

**JOHN KNAPP**
B.S. '81
President, Hope College

Knapp’s name is a familiar one around Georgia State. In 1981, he was president of the student body and he is the former director of the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.
Michael Weeks was in the throes of brewing a batch of India Pale Ale when he had something of a “eureka” moment — and it wasn’t just the beer talking.

“Brewing requires a lot of attention,” says Weeks, an associate professor of computer science and avid homebrewer. “And it occurred to me that it could all be controlled by a computer, or more specifically, an embedded system.”

An embedded system, Weeks explains, is a computing system dedicated to a specific task. Weeks teaches a class on embedded systems and remembered a successful project from the previous semester by then-senior D’juan Blue (B.S. ’13).

“I reached out to D’juan to see if he’d be interested in making some beer for a research project,” Weeks says, laughing.

With a little guidance from his professor, Blue, now an associate software developer at General Motors, built a system that fully automates the brewing stage when making beer.

An Arduino, a small and inexpensive embedded system, powers the project. The Arduino connects to a server, which passes data between the Arduino and a specially designed Android application built by Blue.

To begin the brewing cycle, he pulls up the app on his phone and presses a button. When his brew reaches the optimal temperature, or falls below, he receives a push notification. And when each process is complete, the app will let him know.

“I’ve never brewed beer before this project,” Blue says. “So, now I can’t imagine not using my phone to make beer.”

Visit magazine.gsu.edu for a video
REMEMBERING A PIONEER — AND CREATING NEW ONES

Cleon C. Arrington knew the burdens of being a pioneer. As a senior research chemist with Monsanto in the 1960s, he was frequently reminded how few African-Americans there were in his field.

“All of his time there, he was the only black chemist involved in the process,” remembers his wife, Judy. “He got tired of hearing people say how different he was, implying that you don’t see many blacks doing this.”

In 1967, rather than accept a promotion at Monsanto, Arrington returned to Atlanta to become the head of the Chemistry Department at Atlanta University.

“His mission really was to develop and flood the market with black chemists,” Judy explains.

That mission continued at Georgia State University, where he accepted the position of assistant vice president for research and sponsored programs in 1984.

Although Cleon Arrington died three years ago at the age of 72, the mission lives on in the Dr. Cleon C. Arrington Scholarship in the Sciences, which Judy and her family endowed shortly after his death. The scholarship is awarded to full-time students majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics, with a special focus on African-Americans and other groups that remain under-represented in the sciences.

“It’s always a good feeling to be able to contribute to your father’s legacy,” says Arrington’s daughter, Michelle (MBA ’92) who serves on both the Board of Visitors at the College of Arts and Sciences and the Georgia State University Alumni Association board of directors. “It’s just so important, no matter what your contribution is, to be able to give someone that extra boost so that they can continue their education. It can potentially change the trajectory of someone’s life.”

— Doug Gillett

USING DINNERS TO OPEN DOORWAYS

Sucheta Rawal (B.B.A. ’02, M.S. ’04) had never left her native India before coming to Georgia State in 1997. Since then, she’s made up for lost time.

Sucheta’s job in finance afforded her the opportunity to travel — four new countries a year, by her estimation. Soon she started blogging about her travels. That blog, combined with the donations she helped gather for volunteer-vacationing groups, became the nonprofit organization Go Eat Give. According to Sucheta, the goal of Go Eat Give is “to raise cultural awareness through food, travel and volunteering.”

Go Eat Give organizes dinners locally at various restaurants to expose guests to the cuisine and culture of countries they might never explore on their own.

“When most people think of Afghanistan, they think about the war,” Sucheta says. “So we had an event where we showcased the food and dance of Afghanistan and had a speaker. After listening to her, the people who attended changed their whole perspective.”

Go Eat Give also assembles volunteer vacation tours that offer visitors a deeper view of a nation’s culture than they’d get at traditional tourist destinations.

For example, on a recent trip to Indonesia, “We went to the beach for one day and spent the rest of the time seeing the culture and volunteering,” Sucheta says. “We went to cooking and batik painting classes. We volunteered at a children’s project and gave workshops on health, nutrition, sanitation and dental care.”

The one-on-one connections her travelers made with the people of Bali had a profound effect, Sucheta says.

“Everybody on the Bali trip wanted to sponsor a child to go to school for a year, which costs $30 a month,” she says. “Not a whole lot of money, but now that they were able to see those kids, visit their families and visit their schools, they’re more connected and more likely to give.”

— Doug Gillett

AN HONORABLE JOURNEY

The first thing Carlos Tejeda (B.A. ’07) bought when he came to the United States from Mexico was a pair of shoes. Starting out with two dollars in his pocket and no English-speaking skills, the 43-year-old Honors graduate had grown accustomed to spending nights with rain-soaked feet.

“It’s funny how life works,” says Tejeda, pointing to his black dress shoes under the table. “As a kid, I would have to walk around in broken shoes. Now I shine my shoes every day.”

In 1985, when Tejeda was 15, a massive earthquake rocked his hometown of Mexico City and altered the direction of his life. After finishing school a year later and deciding to leave the city, Tejeda sold sculptures he created in Cancun and then Tijuana. Bouncing from job to job, Tejeda had an epiphany.

“The whole point of life is to overcome and transcend limitations,” Tejeda remembers thinking. “That’s when my story in the United States began.”

Tejeda saved up enough money in Los Angeles to pay for a ride to Las Vegas, where he learned English. He eventually found his way to Conway, S.C., finding work building boats and then as a busboy in a seafood restaurant. He started making a salary and tips and rented a room across the street from his job.

“That’s where I found stability,” Tejeda says. “ Knowing what’s going to happen the next day is huge.”

Higher education, though, stayed on Tejeda’s mind. After a brief stop in New York, Tejeda returned to the South to be near his wife’s family. He earned his high school equivalency diploma in Atlanta in 1998, excelling in writing and the social sciences.

“I always wanted to go to college,” Tejeda says. “I just never had the stability to do it.”

In 2005, Tejeda enrolled in the Honors Program at Georgia State and continued to work full time to cover his expenses. In 2007, he graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in political science and a minor in philosophy.

Since 2011, Tejeda has been working for N3, a global sales execution and digital marketing firm in the Atlanta area.

“I will never be able to explain what an impact Georgia State has had on my life,” Tejeda says. “College takes you from where you are and places you right in the middle of the economic landscape. I’m a different person because of Georgia State.”

— Jason Langbehn (M.P.A. ’12)
From the heart of Atlanta, Georgia State astronomers explore the universe.
“Probably sitting at home. Maybe working on my laptop?” he hazards when asked to describe his moment of discovery.

The rest of us might cling to a romantic notion of the astronomer cloistered in a cliff-top observatory — one eye squinted shut and the other glued to the end of a telescope scanning the night sky. But for today’s planet hunters like Quinn, a doctoral student in Georgia State’s Department of Physics and Astronomy, space exploration involves something a little more down to earth: sifting through data and crunching numbers.

The planets in question are called Hot Jupiters. Large and gaseous, they revolve around stars in the Beehive cluster, also known as the Praesepe. The modern nickname comes from the way such a large number of stars — about a thousand — appear to move as a swarm. Visible to the naked eye, the cluster is at the center of the constellation of Cancer. Galileo recorded Praesepe in his observations. Ancient Greeks and Romans considered the swirling mass of stars a handy meteorological tool. If Praesepe wasn’t visible at night, rain was on the way.

Quinn’s research was considerably more complex than that of his predecessors. Over several weeks, a high-powered telescope at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory in Arizona captured spectra showing the movement and velocity of stars in the Beehive. The spectra were sent to Quinn’s office, where he used calculations to see if certain stars exhibited “doppler-shifted radial velocities,” or, to put it scientifically, they “wobbled.” Quinn — working with his adviser, Russel White, assistant professor of astronomy — hypothesized that wobbling would indicate gravitational force exerted by a planet. If enough data were analyzed over enough time, the presence of the planets could be proven.

Deep in the bowels of Kell Hall, about as far from a West Coast peak as you can get, Quinn began his calculations.

“By the time you get four or five or six measurements, you get excited, we might be on to something here,” he says.

The data offered proof of something no one had documented before. Planets can exist in star clusters, long presumed to be too hot and crowded for planet formation. Quinn’s discovery created, well, quite the buzz.

Finding the planets was particularly important because it was the first successful discovery of planets in a star cluster. Most planet hunting has occurred around stars more like our sun — old and solitary.

The newly discovered planets are named Pro0201b and Pro0211b. While hardly poetic, this is standard nomenclature for new planets — with the star’s number followed by a “b.”

“We’d probably have named them for our wives” — Larissa and Elise — if given a choice, muses Quinn.

“That’s not standard naming convention,” observes White wryly.

While the planet names aren’t exciting, the mission of Quinn, White and other “planet hunters” is as exciting and futuristic as it sounds: to identify new planets, and to determine eventually if any of those might be hospitable to life forms.

Quinn is already on the hunt for new planets in new clusters. (Spoiler alert: He thinks he’s already found some.) In March he received a National Science Foundation grant that will fund his research.

Hard as it may be to believe, Samuel Quinn doesn’t remember exactly where he was or what he was doing the day he discovered two new planets.
Sam Quinn (left) points toward the Beehive Star Cluster where he and his mentor, Assistant Professor of Astronomy Russell White (right), found two gas giant planets.
Georgia State by two loves. He was dating Elise, who lived in Atlanta, and he knew about Georgia State’s resources, in particular the university’s CHARA (Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy) and its array of telescopes on Mount Wilson in California. Mount Wilson is the site of the world’s highest-resolution observatory, ideal for making precise measurements of celestial bodies, a key tool for White’s work in the origins of stars and planets.

In the four years since White came to Georgia State, things have worked out on both fronts. He married Elise and continued his work.

After coming to Georgia State, he applied for and received a grant from the NASA Origins of the Solar System program.

“I had the grant and was trying to figure out how to complete the work and where to get telescope time,” he recalls.

Around then, Quinn, who’d graduated with a bachelor’s degree in astronomy and physics from Harvard University and spent a few years working for David Latham at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, which operates the Whipple observatory, was looking at graduate schools. Georgia State was recommended “because of its re-

Researchers such as Quinn and White are drawn to Georgia State because of unique resources the department offers. The gem is the CHARA array. Composed of six telescopes at Mount Wilson in California, the CHARA is the largest optical/infrared interferometer in the world. The telescopes — spread over the mountain — can work together to image the surface of stars, offering a resolution that is so high it could spot a nickel from 10,000 miles away.

Closer to home, the Georgia State-owned Hard Labor Creek Observatory near Rutledge, Ga., contains three telescopes. And in the heart of downtown, students in Astronomy 1010 make the trek to the Urban Life Observatory to see the stars over Atlanta.

“At Georgia State’s Hard Labor Creek Observatory, Quinn and White operate the McAlister Telescope, a reflecting telescope with a 20-inch diameter mirror. The telescope is used to make scientific observations, as well as give the observatory’s visitors a look deep into space.

“Few things excite the lay person more than the idea of distant worlds orbiting some sun out there in a totally different environment.”
sources,” and the stars, so to speak, aligned when Quinn arrived in Atlanta in fall 2011.

Although Quinn did not man the telescope that captured the spectra used in his Beehive research, he had spent many nights in the Arizona observatory, which is on a ridge high on Mount Hopkins near Amado, Ariz.

“At times, I was the only person on the ridge and there were several telescopes I had to shepherd as my flock,” he recalls. “It was so quiet and so dark.”

“Observatories can be creepy places,” commiserates White. “It’s incredibly dark, often with nothing but red blinking lights.”

“But also, they can be incredibly beautiful,” adds Quinn. Observatories are usually built in remote places far removed from cities and light pollution. It’s common for universities to have observatories far from their campuses.

Georgia State has been able to attract astronomers such as White and Quinn thanks to the growing resources of its physics and astronomy program. The disciplines go hand in hand. Most astronomers rely heavily on physics for calculations and many start out as physics majors. There are about 150 undergraduates in the department.

“Our research focuses on something as vast as space, you think differently. The Beehive cluster planets are “young” planets at about 600 million years old. Obviously, to research how planets and stars form and age, one can’t study a single planet or star over time. Instead, explains White, astronomers look for other planets, aged 100 million, for example, or a billion, and see how those compare in size and motion.

“We don’t get to watch planets form. We don’t get to watch them migrate,” says White. “We piece the puzzle together by observing large clouds of hydrogen and helium gas that might be collapsing to form a star. We don’t see all the parts. We piece the story together.

To understand how planets form, you have to find them. We’re learning a lot from these first discoveries.”

Often, what’s found first is most important because it changes previously held assumptions.

“Few things excite the lay person more than the idea of distant worlds orbiting some sun out there in a totally different environment,” says White. “What would the night sky look like from that planet?”

That, at least hypothetically, can be seen in the rendering NASA created visualizing the view from the surface of one of the Hot Jupiters in the Beehive, where the sky would contain hundreds more bright close stars than the one we see.

Planet hunters are always asked: So, is there life out there?

“I think that we know now there are so many planets, they are so common, it would be a surprise to me if we are alone,” says Quinn. “Small rocky planets like ours are common.”

Adds White: “We can say there are earth-like planets, a certain distance from stars, where water could exist. What we don’t know is what gets life started. There can be perfect conditions, but life doesn’t necessarily spontaneously come into existence.”

That question, he suggests, is really one for biologists.

And what’s the most common thing lay people say when they meet an astronomer?

“They always say, ‘Oh, I read my horoscope every day,’” says White with a good-hearted grimace. In case you’re curious, he’s a Cancer. Quinn is a Libra.

REBECCA BURNS is a former editor of Atlanta Magazine and was a 2007 Georgia Author of the Year for her book, “Rage in the Gate City: The Story of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot.”
A long love song

How well does Tom Long (B.B.A. ’73, A.S. ’78) know pop and country music?

Just ask his guitar.

by Charles McNair

photography by Andrew Thomas Lee
old FG-180 red label Yamaha could be a country music song — one that tells a good story, brings a lump to your throat.

The guitar has laid around and played around a lot of towns, a lot of honky tonks. It carries old scars, 204 to be exact — the scratched autographs of musicians Long knew and helped and loved in a country and pop music business career spanning five decades.

“My guitar gave me much comfort over the years,” he says “whether just peace of mind when I played it, or while watching someone famous make their mark in the maple-wood grain.”

Here’s one Yamaha story:

In 1979, a fresh-faced graduate of the commercial music program at Georgia State fortified with a business management degree bounded into the recording studios at Master Sound on Spring Street in downtown Atlanta.

Long’s internship had begun.

Isaac Hayes, a huge star at the time (“Theme from Shaft”), sat at the studio grand piano working on a new album. Long found enough courage to approach Hayes — it took a couple of days — then brought out his guitar. He asked Hayes to sign it.

“The only pen around was a regular fountain pen, so that’s what he used,” Long recalls. “He scratched his name into the grain. Everyone from that point on would do the same.”

The Yamaha’s story had begun.

A LONG WAY TO THE TOP

Long worked two years at Master Sound, then jumped to Bill Lowery Music Publishing, also in Atlanta. (Beginning in the 1950s, Lowery rose to be the nation’s top disc jockey, a TV pioneer and a music entrepreneur credited with the discovery of Ray Stevens and Jerry Reed.) While at Lowery, Long co-founded the Atlanta Songwriter’s Association (ASA). Both involvements put him in contact with stars and rising stars.

Joe South (“Games People Play”) scratched his name onto the Yamaha. Lowery introduced Long to other musical friends — Tommy Roe (“Dizzy”), Billy Joe Royal (“Down in the Boondocks”) and others. Each etched Long’s guitar.

In December 1980, Long climbed on with Tree Publishing, a Nashville powerhouse. Long’s signee list grew longer — Harland Howard (“Heartaches by the Number”), Hank Cochran (“Make the World Go Away”) and Roger Miller (“King of the Road”).

Yes, the old Yamaha collected stories. Buck Owens’s autograph told this one: “I first saw Buck Owens and the Buckaroos in Marietta, Ga.,” Long says, “when they sang at a Kmart store opening on Roswell Road near the Big Chicken right off Highway 41. I will never forget that day. The Beatles were red hot then, and Kmart had a flatbed trailer set up right in front of the main doors. A huge crowd had gathered and when the doors opened, the Buckaroos came out dressed like the Beatles, hair and all. They kicked off the show with ‘I Want To Hold Your Hand’ and the crowd went wild. Then they pulled off their mop-hair wigs and struck up ‘I’ve Got A Tiger By the Tail.’”

Years later Long met Buck Owens at Tree Publishing. It happened to be the day Owens sold his song catalog to the house for $2 million. Long reminded the star about that flatbed at a Kmart, and they shared a big laugh.

“Then Buck signed my guitar with the same pen he just made $2 million with,” Long says.

LIFE BEFORE MUSIC

Things started with less promise for Tom Long.

He fed a lot of chickens growing up, a lot of chickens — the family kept 12,000 on their place near Kennesaw, and as a youngster Long tended them before and after school.

That Kennesaw area holds a Long family history. At the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Yankee soldiers got the drop on Long’s Confederate great-grandfather. The unlucky man was preoccupied with cooking a chicken at the time. The Yankees took him prisoner, Long says, and “marched
Beginning with Isaac Hayes in 1979, more than 200 singers, songwriters and music industry insiders have scratched an autograph into the veneer of Tom Long’s FG-180 red label Yamaha.
him all the way up north.”

Outside Jasper in Pickens County, Long’s grandfather earned a six-month vacation from society for “shooting the pipe out of a revenuer’s mouth,” Long says. The agent busted the marksmen for illegal activities involving fermentation.

Long discovered he had gifts as a student and athlete. A senior at North Cobb High School (class of ’63), he earned the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Most Outstanding Senior Award, recognizing achievement in scholastic performance, involvement with prep organizations and athletic excellence.

In football, Long played both ways on the line and punted, and in track he competed in the 440 and long jump.

Long’s dad held steady work as a precision welder at Lockhead in nearby Marietta. (A welder’s shop still stands out back, behind the Kennesaw home.) Long learned chords on guitar from his dad, who played piano and mandolin. Long’s mom, meantime, held down the fort. She still does today, at age 88.

After high school, Long enrolled at the University of Georgia extension, but felt burned out and dropped one of his classes.

A week later, a draft notice arrived from Uncle Sam. This was 1966, the height of the Vietnam War.

Guys like Long — country boys, unconnected to power, empty pockets — went to Vietnam. There he maintained Huey helicopters, the workhouse vehicles of the Asian conflict.

It was easy to get killed in those strange times, but Long played an ace in the hole.

“I had a three-piece band that got me out of the jungle on weekends to play enlisted men’s clubs and officers clubs throughout Vietnam,” Long says. “Within the Huey helicopter outfit, I was able to make friends with high-ranking officers who really liked our music and agreed to fly the band to various parts of the country to perform.”

Long played guitar and sang lead. The band’s showstopper? “Counting Flowers on the Wall,” a Statler Brothers novelty tune. The GIs ate it up.


ASCAP YEARS


Then bigger opportunity knocked.

In 1983, Long became president of the Nashville Songwriters Association International. The position put him in front of microphones and TV cameras at high-profile country music events across the nation. He came to the attention of the president of ASCAP, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Hal David, lyricist for Burt Bacharach on a string of ‘60s and ‘70s pop hits, brought Long aboard as membership vice president of Nashville’s ASCAP office for the next 10 years.

Long now enjoyed industry experience and a position. He began to mentor young musicians Terri Clark, Blake Shelton and Garth Brooks, among others. Long and ASCAP threw several number-one record parties for Newman, Ga., native Alan Jackson.

“Alan didn’t have much hair early on in his career,” Long says. “After our new ASCAP building was completed, we had a party for him. The building was packed with Music Row folk.

“Alan and Denise, his wife, walked in. Alan sort of bowed, took off his cowboy hat and showed off his new transplant-blond locks. Everyone cheered and clapped. Some folks don’t realize today that early on Alan Jackson was thin on the head.”

One Yamaha story leads to another:

In 1993, Long acquired an eager young intern from Belmont College. The kid sat in on staff meetings and helped out with busy work, earning school credits in Belmont’s commercial music program.

“One day, the young man was in my office. I asked if he played an instrument, sang or wrote songs. He said, ‘Yes, all of the above,’” Long remembers.

“Well, my old Yamaha was on the guitar stand next to my desk, and I asked him to play me something. He said, ‘No, that’s not what I’m here for,’ which made me reply, ‘Pick up the guitar and play me a song!’”

(Edward the reluctant intern would later write a book, “Diary of a Player,” and claim that Long told him to “play the damn song or you’re fired.”)

The intern played a song.

Long’s jaw dropped. He called in another ASCAP rep to listen. Soon the whole staff crowded the room.

Call it … A Moment.

It’s how Brad Paisley first came to the attention of Nashville powers-that-be. The dominoes fell. Paisley became a superstar. He never forgot Tom Long.

Long’s memory book holds a handwritten note:

Dear Tom,

Thanks for going out on a limb for me. I really appreciate all you’ve done and the amount of certainty you have in your talents. Without your persistence and prodding, no one would ever know that I play! I truly appreciate it.

God bless,

Brad

Paisley performed one more time for Long.

Before he left his internship, the future superstar identified and catalogued all 204 names scratched into the varnish of the Yamaha.

Today, 37 of the stars have died.

A MAN AT HOME

Long approaches 70 in a role more important to him than music executive.

He capped his career in style, working for the publishing company of Anne Murray, the Canadian superstar, then as catalog manager for SonyATV Music Publishing. He co-produced albums by The Kentucky Headhunters and Pat Boone, then settled down in Franklin, Tenn.

Well, almost. Georgia’s old sweet song reached out. In July 2010, Long moved home to Kennesaw to care for family.

“I have an eight-year-old and an 88-year-old,” he laughs.

His youngest grandson, Mason, and his mom, came under the care of Long and his wife, Belinda, following a couple of family misfortunes. Mason was five weeks old. Long now reads to the youngest every night. From the front porch of their home, visitors see signs of vibrant childhood life everywhere, a tree house, a basketball goal, a lariat. Long loves cowboy-boys.

“Sometimes Mason and I lasso each other in the front yard,” he admits.

Long also cares for his mom. They admire the tomato plants, protected from deer and rabbit by a picket fence. They walk a scuppernong arbor along much of the back of the 1.5-acre lot.

Belinda and Tom met five years after he returned from Vietnam. He and a buddy went to Daytona Beach for some ocean air, and they dropped by the famous Torchy-light Restaurant at the Castaway Motel. Johnny Carver played his hit song “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree.” Love was in the air.

“I kept seeing this beautiful petite girl,”
he recalls of Belinda, who was on vacation with a friend herself. “I thought she was the cutest thing I ever laid eyes on.”

Belinda liked the handsome former GI. They met at the beach the next day. They stayed in touch until Belinda found a way to transfer her nurse work from Mobile, Ala., to Northside Hospital in Atlanta. They married and nearly 38 years along, it looks like happily ever after.

The downstairs basement has a homey quality — if home is a music museum.


“I never missed an episode,” Long says.

On a wall you see Long’s Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame induction certificate and his 1989 Georgia State University Distinguished Alumni Award. Plaques commemorate Long’s nominations for Dove Awards, the Grammy Awards of gospel music. (A spiritual man, Long’s latest CD of original songs, “His Love,” bears a cover photograph of an 11-year-old boy up to his waist in Proctor Creek. It’s Long’s baptism. The Rev. Ernest Cannon prepares to dunk the young sinner in cold salvation.)

The Yamaha, in its way, tells all these stories.

Long says things might have been different “without the prayers of his family and the Lord’s protective hand.” At war, a mortar round in the wrong spot would definitely have changed things. Long could have visited the Torchlight Lounge on a night when no pretty girl named Belinda came in.

He also acknowledges one more bit of good fortune.

“My association as an intern at Georgia State University led directly to my work with Bill Lowery,” he says. “That was the jump spark to my whole career.”

An old red-label Yamaha — well loved, kept in tune, a monument to a life fully lived — testifies to it.

CHARLES MCNAIR is a freelance writer and Books Editor at Paste magazine. His debut novel, “Land O’ Goshen,” earned critical acclaim and a Pulitzer Prize nomination. His second novel, “Pickett’s Charge,” arrives in late August.

first down and

New head coach Trent Miles readies the fledgling Georgia State football program for its quantum leap into Division I

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JOSH MEISTER
THE REBRANDING OF THE GEORGIA STATE FOOTBALL PROGRAM STARTED LIKE THIS:

At 6:07 a.m. on Jan. 14, a Monday, the first day of winter workouts, seven players arrived at the weight room door to find the Little Bald Man blocking the entrance.

“You’re late. You can’t come in. Get out of here.”

Off-season weight training was supposed to start at 6 a.m., but even 6 a.m. is late for Trent Miles, the Little Bald Man — it’s what he calls himself. To make him happy, 5:45 a.m. would have been appropriate.

That way the players could stretch for the 6 a.m. lift. Seven minutes late was way out of bounds. It might as well have been 70.

“I’m sorry,” said one player.

Sorry didn’t begin to close the wound. Miles, the new head coach, was going to ring a fire-bell with this team.

The next morning at 5:30 a.m. the discipline for the tardiness was as raw as it gets. The players were ordered out to the practice field where they did unpleasant things. “Bear crawls” for 100 yards, then “up-downs” back the other way for 100 yards. For you non-bears, a bear crawl is crawling on your forearms. For you non-Marines, the up-downs are running five yards, throwing yourself to the ground, getting up, running another five yards, and throwing yourself on the ground again.

There were 800 yards of bear crawls and 800 yards of up-downs.

“They weren’t late again,” says Miles.
IN A spring scrimmage, a wide receiver and defensive back started throwing punches after a play. Suddenly, players torpedoed into the scrum and the fight swelled.

After Miles and his assistant coaches broke up the fight, some players tried to have the last word.

“Shut up!” came the roar.

The only thing louder than Miles that morning was the 16 seconds the 40-ton MARTA train rattled over tracks above the football field. Over the next 25 minutes Miles stomped around the field hollering about the fight and the consequences if it had occurred in a game. Players would have been ejected and possibly forced to sit the next game, he told them.

The punishment for the fight was fit for boot camp.

Some players tried to rest on a knee during the punishment, which was running, followed by more running, and then more running. When they were not supposed to rest on a knee, and some did, Miles exploded again. The players shouldn’t have been surprised Miles had the acuity of a cop on the beat and could see feeble attempts at rest. After all, he majored in criminology at Indiana State University.

“We will stay out here all day,” he yelled. “Off your knees! If you don’t go full speed we will do these all day. This will be the last time you jump into a fight.”

On the sideline, offensive coordinator Jeff Jagodzinski fumed. “We could be polishing our plays instead of doing this crap,” he said. But there was no trace of sympathy for players fighting for a breath.

“That was awful,” said sophomore quarterback Ben McLane after the running was over. “But this is how you redefine yourself. He gets everybody’s attention... big time.”

Miles can be a fire hydrant with the cap off. He has pipes and warns folks close by to cover their ears when he is about to blow his whistle. He takes a deep breath, blows, and a moment later your head vibrates.

The Little Bald Man means business.

And, then, just when you think you have him dissected, Miles will park that five-ton truck he was driving over his players’ egos. A player walked up to him one morning and said he needs to be excused from Saturday morning drills to attend his grandmother’s funeral. Of course, said Miles. It was February and the coach knew the player by face, but not by name. There were 100 kids out there on the practice field or passing him in the hall of the football facility, it was still early to know names. He knew the player was a walk-on. Miles ordered flowers to be delivered to the funeral home.

During a spring scrimmage a wide receiver jumped the snap. No boom from the coach followed, just a quiet teaching lesson, perhaps about cadence and how it changes from quarterback to quarterback. A running back put his head down as he turned the corner, and Miles shouted, but did not scream, “Keep your head up.”

It goes both ways with the new coach. The culture is not just about being the boss, it’s being a boss who shows respect for players, and Miles can go from raw to real in a second. At 5-foot-6, the shortest guy on the field, managers included, is the identity of Georgia State football.

The intensity in practices is turned up with these spectacles of strength. But when the last whistle blows and the players take a knee around him, Genghis Khan becomes Father Flanagan. He talks about the program’s values, which includes a
“WE NEED TO TEACH THEM HOW TO COMPETE,” HE SAID. “THEY HAVE TO LOVE THE GAME. THEY HAVE TO LIKE TO LIFT WEIGHTS AND TO PRACTICE.”

mention of three players they might not see again because of academic trouble.

Miles dismisses the players to the locker room, but the grind is not over yet, at least for one. While the other players trudge off, this one player is on the far sideline doing the bear crawl.

“He slept in,” said John, the big tackle. “Can’t do that with Coach Miles. Glad it’s not me.”

Miles, 50, arrived from Indiana State as the new Georgia State coach on Dec. 3, 2012. He replaced Bill Curry, who had given the start-up program some traction with his good name and solid values and four decades of football knowledge.

Curry left some noble tracks. Those are mostly his players out on the field toiling away under Miles. Most programs under a new, authoritarian head coach, will have plenty of defections before spring ball rolls around, but the Panthers have had just five players leave, which is a calm number, not a signs of revolt number.

Miles says his biggest goals are to evaluate the talent Curry left behind, install his schemes (multiple offense, 4-3 defense with 3-4 principles) and recruit to fill needs. In the spring, Georgia State listed seven starters returning on defense and nine starters returning on offense and both kickers were back.

“Most of these kids are really excited,” Miles says. “We ask so much of them that at some point some of them are going to say this is too much for me. But so far they want to be trained and pushed.”

MILES HAS A catalog of players in his mind’s eye. He will see a high school player in the next few years that will remind him of a player he coached and developed and he will know how to project that player for Georgia State. Miles is the coach that has to look beyond … beyond next week, beyond next month, beyond next year. He will saunter up to a high school janitor for insight on a prospect. Miles will talk to anybody.

“You’ve got to be able to look at a dude and size him up. Look at his hands, look at his bone structure, look at how he’s built,” Miles said. “The ready-made dudes are going to the SEC, ACC, Big Ten. They might think they are a tight end, but in two years he could be your right tackle. I have had quarterbacks play linebacker.”

When he recruits the under-valued player, Miles has to then get him to play with fanatical effort. There are things that are important in football that have nothing to do with skill. Miles understands that as well as any coach in the country.

“We need to teach them how to compete,” he said. “They have to love the game. They have to like to lift weights and to practice.”

Miles certainly knows how to compete and he certainly loves the game. His father, Chuck, worked for 26 years as a personnel director at Columbia Records, spent time as a sheriff and was a Division I basketball referee. Miles played wide receiver at Indiana State (1982-86) and was part of a Football Championship Series (1-AA) team that was ranked No. 1 in the nation for most of the season.

In spring ball, the competition was Panthers vs. Panthers, the players had smack-talk energy and the snipers were out on both sides of the ball. The offensive guys on the sidelines chirped at the defensive backs. “He’s scared, Pee Wee,” one receiver on the sidelines yells toward his two receivers split left. “Give it to him, Pee Wee. He’s backing up!”

When a running back is plowed under, the defense shouts “B-I-A” B-I-A” after it makes a good play.

“B-I-A? They won’t tell me what it means,” said McClane, the quarterback. (It means “Best in America.”)

When they are on the same side, the offense and defense find a foe — and ally — in Miles. He is their coach, but also a source of both their aggravation and inspiration.

Miles and his assistants cracked the whip one February morning in a driving, freezing rain as players in shorts and T-shirts sloshed through a grueling 90-minute workout then rushed inside to warmth.

“HE KNOWS HOW to get your juices flowing in conditions like this,” said Kail Singleton, a senior safety from Temple, Ga. “He’s tough, and he is going to make us tougher.”

It was a lesson learned that first day at the weight room door.

IN THE VAULT – From 1903 to 2004, the building at the corner of Peachtree Avenue and Marietta Street was home to a bank, hence the bank vault — complete with safe deposit boxes — in the basement. When the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies moved in the school put the strongroom to good use by converting it into a library, now known as the Research Vault.
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