Making the Band
GSU musicians get their marching orders, p. 12

The Big Three
Meet Bill Curry’s top assistant coaches, p. 24

Panther Talk
Dave Cohen is the Voice of the Panthers, p. 28
There’s a spot waiting for you.

The Alumni Association is hosting a tailgate before each home football game!

Join us in the Orange Lot across from the Georgia Dome for food, giveaways and special guests! Festivities begin 2½ hours before kickoff!

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SUPPORT YOUR PANTHERS ON SEPTEMBER 2 VS. SHORTER BY WEARING YOUR GSU BLUE.

GO PANTHERS!
18  The Ultimate GSU Fan Guide
From how and where to tailgate to the team’s offensive and defensive philosophy, we’ll tell you all you need to know before the kickoff to GSU’s historic inaugural football season.

24  The Big Three
Behind every successful head coach are talented assistants, and Bill Curry has assembled an impressive coaching staff anchored by three of the best in the business. By William Inman
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME IN THE MAKING, BUT THE GSU FOOTBALL TEAM CAN NOW SEE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, WITH THE SEPT. 2 INAUGURAL GAME JUST DAYS AWAY. PHOTOGRAPH BY MEG BUSCEMA
A KICKOFF TO HISTORY
Celebrating GSU’s Inaugural Football Season

For years, countless individuals on our campus and elsewhere have been working very hard to make Georgia State University football a reality. Coaches and a staff were hired. Contracts were signed. Players were recruited. A marching band was formed, a fight song penned.

A movement began, first as a faint drum beat, then a steady rumble and, now, a piercing roar. This is history in the making, and you’ve got a front-row seat.

On Sept. 2, I invite you to join the thousands of fans whose Georgia State blue will swarm the Georgia Dome for the inaugural GSU Panther football game against Shorter. You won’t be disappointed.

This issue celebrates the many people who’ve made this dream a reality. Inside you’ll find the ultimate fan guide, which covers everything from tailgating essentials to GSU’s offensive and defensive philosophy (cover story, page 18). You’ll also meet head coach Bill Curry’s top three assistant coaches (page 24) and get a behind-the-scenes look at the making of our marching band (page 12).

This is an exciting time for Georgia State for many reasons. We are attracting more and brighter students than ever before. We’re recruiting the best scholars and researchers in their fields of study. And we’re expanding our physical imprint on downtown Atlanta and beyond.

But in this issue, we celebrate one of the cornerstones of living in the South — college football.

I look forward to seeing you at the Dome as we witness — indeed, experience — a tradition begin.

With Panther pride,

Mark P. Becker
President
GSU Magazine is the best way for you to stay connected to Georgia State and your fellow alumni!

GSU Magazine — the official magazine for Georgia State University alumni — tells stories of our alumni and their successes, and it also provides exciting news of how Georgia State is impacting the city, state, region, nation and world.

If you enjoy receiving the GSU Magazine, then we invite you to join the Georgia State University Alumni Association to ensure that you will continue to receive this award-winning publication. Become a member today so you won’t miss your chance to stay connected.

Alumni Association membership also is the best way to show your Panther Pride. Your membership supports alumni events and activities, student scholarships, alumni and faculty awards, University traditions and much more.

Today, invest in something that truly matters — your alma mater! We would love to keep you on our magazine mailing list so you can continue to read about the outstanding achievements of your fellow Panthers and the impressive strides our University is taking to remain one of the nation’s leading urban research universities.

GSU Always,

Christina Million ’00, Lifetime Member
Assistant Vice President
Georgia State University Alumni Association

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gsu.edu/alumni

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Thank you for your support!
Building Momentum:
Just a few football fields away from GSU’s downtown campus sits the Panthers’ new state-of-the-art GSU Football Practice Complex. The facility features a 100-yard synthetic turf and a 60-yard natural grass field. The team held its first practice there in late March.
Brandon Jones, No. 20, is a 20-year-old psychology major and free safety on the GSU defense.

What has it been like to be one of the first members of the Panther football team?
Over the last year and a half, I’ve seen a lot of progress. We have good guidance through our coaches and a lot of the guys are getting stronger and faster. We’re coming together as a unit and getting prepared for Shorter on Sept. 2.

You transferred from Mars Hill College in North Carolina in 2009.
Why did you pick GSU?
I felt like I had a better opportunity here to reach my goals. I hope to play in the NFL, and with the coaches here, I feel like I have a better chance of making it. Also, Georgia State has better academic programs. If the NFL doesn’t work out, I’d like to go to graduate school for physical therapy.

As a free safety, what is your role on the team?
I’m essentially the quarterback of the defense. I oversee everything that’s going on on the defensive side, like making sure everyone is in the correct spots and calling out the plays correctly that we get from the coaches on the sideline.

What’s the style of the defense?
Fast, tenacious and very sly. I want this defense to be recognized nationally.

How do you balance academics with your practice and training schedule?
Our practices are from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m., and we have class until about 6 p.m. Then we have study hall hours we have to log throughout the week. Our coaches see every grade in the book. They make sure our grades stay up.

How did you get your special role of team barber?
During the fall 2009 camp, a lot of the guys were asking me, “Who cut your hair?” I said, “I did,” and they said it looked really good. After that, a lot of the guys started coming to me and so far, I’ve probably cut at least 30 to 45 players on the team.

How do you get pumped up for the game?
I listen to my iPod. We also have a team chant that we do before our meeting with the other team. I would like to thank our Samoan brothers and linebackers, Jake and Louie Musau, who taught us the chant. In Samoan, we say “This is our house!”

BY ELIZABETH KLIPP
HISTORY 101

RAMBLE ON!
The evolution of GSU’s mascot from Owls to Panthers

If former Georgia State students had had their way, the fighting GSU Penguins might be storming onto the field Sept. 2. Or the crowd could be kicking up dirt for the Ramblers, or hooting for the Owls.

During the school’s history, the identity of the Georgia State mascot has changed several times. In 1940 the Georgia Evening College (as GSU was then known) created a logo with an owl as its centerpiece because the school was largely a night college for business people. By 1946, the school’s athletic teams were dubbed the Owls. In 1947, the name was changed to the Ramblers, although GSU historians are unsure as to why.

As their name would suggest, the Ramblers didn’t stick around for long. In 1955, the student councils for both the day and night divisions of Georgia State spent months searching for a new team name. They selected the Panthers over other ferocious monikers such as the Bears, Eagles and Lions, and the decidedly less intimidating Penguins. In 1988, Georgia State’s athletic department decided the university needed a mascot. A year later, a crimson Panther named Urbie was unveiled.

Soon though, Urbie was unseated. In 1993, Georgia State and the Alumni Association hired Real Characters, Inc., to create a new mascot that embodied the university’s athletic programs and school spirit. The result was Pounce, a Georgia State blue panther with a muscular, albeit cartoonish, body.

As GSU continued to mature, so did Pounce. In the early 2000s, the mascot was revamped, resulting in a refined facial expression and cat-like body. Pounce was seen more around campus in images where he was crouching, growling and even slam-dunking a basketball.

With the start of GSU Football on the horizon, Pounce last year received another makeover and now has a sleeker, more athletic body that looks ready to “pounce” on opponents. The fierce new feline will be on the sidelines at every GSU Panther Football game, peppering up the crowd and roaring for the team. And he’ll certainly do it better than an owl or penguin could — Ready, Set, Pounce!

BY ELIZABETH KLIPP

Home Greek Home
GSU opens up new housing for fraternities and sororities

Jonathan King of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity will be among the first residents to move into Georgia State University’s Greek Housing this fall.

“It’s a great time to be part of Georgia State,” the computer information systems major said. “We really are becoming more traditional.”

Nine of GSU’s 24 Greek organizations are set to move into the special interest housing at the corner of Piedmont and Edgewood Avenues. The new development consists of nine three-story townhomes of varying capacity, with a total of 145 beds.

King, a senior who will be living on campus for the first time, and the Phi Beta Sigmas will be the first National Pan-Hellenic Council organization on campus to move in.

Each townhome will be identified by its organization’s National Greek member letters and will include a student activity center and a laundry facility. To create a sense of belonging for all GSU Greek organizations there are bricks inside the development acknowledging each Greek organization chartered at GSU.

The sororities that will live in Greek Housing this year are Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, Phi Mu and Zeta Tau Alpha. The fraternities slated to move in are Kappa Sigma, Phi Beta Sigma, Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Nu.

BY LEAH SEUPERSAD
Are you ready for the kickoff?! For GSU’s inaugural football season, seven home games will be played at the Georgia Dome in a “lower bowl” configuration of about 27,000 seats. This has generated considerable anticipation within the university community. But how excited should the broader city and its residents be about this dramatic development and its potential for generating benefits to the community? There are a number of reasons why Atlanta should be almost as enthusiastic as the university community.

There has been no shortage of claimed saviors of downtown Atlanta, from the Olympic Games to aquariums to museums. Attractions and events cannot do it alone, however. The long-term economic health of the central business district (CBD) is vital to the health of the entire city, and CBD vibrancy depends not only on short-term visitors to attractions and events but also on a core population of downtown residents. In fact, recent research on “central recreation districts” (CRDs) has isolated increasing complementarities between factors attracting visitors and intra-metro area living decisions. Georgia State football will contribute to both of these objectives.

Even after the post-Olympics mini-boom of condo conversions, the CBD population failed to exceed 5,000, so the introduction of more than 3,000 new residents via university student housing has been vital. Over the next few years, an additional several thousand students will move into downtown campus housing. The longer-term economic success of the city’s core clearly depends on the continuing expansion of the university and housing for students who are enthusiastic about not only learning, but living in the heart of the city.

Experiences elsewhere are encouraging. Cleveland State University’s post-2006 student housing expansion, further supported by academic and athletic improvements, is part of a transformation of Cleveland’s former Quadrangle District into what is now called the Campus District. The role of the University of Pennsylvania in the post-1996 revitalization of West Philadelphia has been documented in the 2007 book “The University and Urban Revival.”

To complement GSU’s growing academic reputation, the new football program has already garnered favorable national press and renewed interest in the university. If football helps to convince more students to choose Georgia State and to live closer to campus and its sports venues, there is the potential for significant longer-term economic impact. Georgia State University has 161,341 living alumni; only 27,658 of whom live within Atlanta city limits. GSU football offers a reason for thousands of alumni to visit during football weekends. Many will eat in restaurants downtown, providing another reason for expanding operating hours, and out-of-towners will stay in Atlanta hotels.

While it is well understood that short term visitors alone cannot create viable urban districts, the combination of expanded visitation and increased residential populations should make an important contribution to the vitality of downtown Atlanta. GSU President Emeritus Carl Patton often stated that the university would be a part of the city, not apart from it. Georgia State football will help further this reality.

BRUCE A. SEAMAN IS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS IN THE ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES AND KENNETH L. BERNHARDT IS TAYLOR E. LITTLE JR. PROFESSOR OF MARKETING IN THE ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS.
Top Brass:
Mellophone player Pakorn Srikeow gets his marching orders from director of athletic bands Chester Phillips, who is shaping up the GSU Marching Band for their debut Sept. 2.
just like head football coach Bill Curry, Chester Phillips, GSU’s director of athletic bands, is building a new tradition from the ground up.

For the past year, Phillips has been hard at work orchestrating the new Georgia State Marching Band. His job has included everything from designing uniforms to auditioning students to writing marching drills.

“It hasn’t been easy,” Phillips said. “It’s a very exciting opportunity, but it’s a big responsibility to get it right.”

On Sept. 2, minutes before the football team storms the Georgia Dome turf, the 150-member band will step off for the first time. The corps-style band will be decked out in sleek new uniforms displaying the GSU flame and sporting brand new instruments.

After taking the field in a “creative and distinctive way” (which Phillips wants to keep a surprise), the band will do a pre-game show incorporating the National Anthem, the university’s Alma Mater and a new GSU Fight Song. The band will then take their seats in the student section and keep the Panthers and the fans pumped by playing throughout the game.

“We know we’re the largest and most visible spirit group at any game,” said Phillips, who will also direct the band. “So we take it upon ourselves to develop the cheers and to play the right tunes at the right time to really cheer on our team.”

For their first halftime show, the ensemble will pull from several options, including a medley that’s inspired by the university’s mascot, the Panther. It will open with the Guns N’ Roses rock anthem, “Welcome to the Jungle,” followed by “Jungle Boogie” by Kool & The Gang and “Jungle Love” by the Steve Miller Band.

“We’re trying to fit multiple mediums and decades,” Phillips said. “Hopefully, it will reach a wide variety of people who will know it and like it.”

Students auditioned for the band this spring and learned their musical parts this summer.

Jonathan Grogan, a music education major who is one of the band’s four drum majors, said there’s a lot to learn.

“It’s cool,” he said, “because we’re establishing the traditions for the future. We’re creating something that could be used 20 years from now.”
WHAT’S IN A BAND?

Chester Phillips, director of athletic bands, says the GSU Marching Band will blend the traditional aspects of a marching band with unique twists that “fit the atmosphere of the metropolitan campus.”

One significant difference is that GSU’s front ensemble will feature a five-member rock band with a lead guitar, rhythm guitar, electric bass, synthesizer and drum set rather than a traditional set of xylophones, wood blocks, timpani or other orchestral percussion.

The rest of the GSU Marching Band will consist of 30 young women who will twirl flags as the color guard, a GSU drum line with 24 percussionist, and six piccolos, 12 clarinets, 18 saxophones, 20 trumpets, 10 mellophones, eight trombones, eight baritones and eight sousaphones.

Students from Kennesaw State University, Georgia Perimeter College and Clayton State University will march in the GSU band because their schools do not offer marching band programs. Similarly, GSU students who had been marching with the Georgia Tech band are returning home for the inaugural season of the GSU Marching Band.

As director, Phillips draws from his experience as a former member and soloist with the University of Georgia Redcoats and the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps of Bergen County, N.J. He also has taught bands and orchestra in public schools.

“We want to make great music and be visually stunning on the field,” he said. “If we can do those two things from a performance standpoint, we’ll be very successful.”

BY ELIZABETH KLIPP

GSU starts Football Video Internship

Peering through the lens of a video camera, GSU students Nickelas Bray, Gabrielle Golden and Lydia Sue-Ellen Chitunya meticulously capture every pass completion, every fumble and every missed tackle during Panther practices.

These aspiring film producers and sports lovers are interns with Georgia State’s new Football Internship Program, which this year helped the team prepare for the inaugural season by filming every practice.

Each practice day from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., they document the team in action. They will also travel with the team on weekends, obtain footage of the Panthers’ opponents, and learn how to produce other game-day video productions such as commercials and highlight videos for JumboTrons.

“We film every practice and game so there is a lot of time factor and dedication,” said Blake Adams, director of video operations in athletics. “You definitely have to focus because you can’t miss a play or be late on a play. It can be a little overwhelming at first because you’re doing this for two straight hours every practice.”

The internship also gives students a valuable networking opportunity, Adams said.

“Getting in this industry in college is a big plus.”

BY LEAH SEUPERSAD
Amalfi – The Divine Coast
September 22 - 30, 2010
Delight in the scenic grandeur of the Amalfi Coast, with its cliffs and coves, charming villages, colorful villas and cascading flower gardens. Venture to the town of Ravello, with its 13th-century Villa Rufolo; to Positano, Italy’s most vertical town; and to the cliff-top village of Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples. Discover fabled ruins and ancient temples and immerse yourself in the antiquity of Capri, the Isle of Dreams.
Price is $3,045, plus airfare and VAT, based on double occupancy.

Treasures of Morocco
October 1 - 10, 2010
The Kingdom of Morocco, known for romance and adventure, is a peaceful constitutional monarchy with a fascinating history. This exciting travel program takes you to Rabat, Morocco’s capital; the UNESCO World Heritage List site of Meknes; and Fez, an important spiritual and cultural center. Visit bustling Marrakech and the Ourika Valley and conclude with a tour of Casablanca’s historic sights and lively markets.
Price is $3,245, plus airfare and VAT, based on double occupancy.

Mediterranean Treasures - Rome
November 2 - 13, 2010
From Civitavecchia to Barcelona, discover captivating ports in Italy, Monaco, France and Spain while cruising onboard the deluxe and intimate 684-passenger Oceania Cruises’ Regatta. Explore cities brimming with color, culture and history while sailing the shores of the western Mediterranean!
From $3,113 per person based on double occupancy (includes airfare). This trip is offered through Go Next Travel.

A Charitable Gift Annuity at Georgia State University
When you make a gift of $10,000 or more, Georgia State can offer you (and/or your loved ones) a fixed income for life. Charitable Gift Annuities also generate tax deductions and may reduce capital gains. Annuity rate will vary based on your age and current interest rates.
Some sample rates:

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To learn more about life income gifts and other “tax-wise” giving opportunities, please contact:

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All trips are presented by AHI International with the exception of Mediterranean Treasures – Rome. Prices based on double occupancy. VAT is an additional charge per person, subject to change. Air-inclusive programs available upon request. To receive information on any of these trips, contact the Alumni Association at 800/GSU-ALUM or Gsu.edu/ALUMNI.

COMING IN 2011!
Visit one of these fascinating destinations in 2011 for an invaluable travel experience that allows you to reconnect with your fellow Georgia State alumni. More details will be available soon.

Treasures of Southern Africa
February 8 – 22
Costa Rica – Wind Star
March 16 – 26
Treasures of China & Tibet – Century Sky
August 26 – September 10
Rome – An Insider’s Perspective
November 7 – 15
Italy’s Magnificent Lake District
May 31 – June 8
That’s a Wrap

Led by Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine Bob Murphy (bottom right), who is wrapping the ankle of defensive tackle Chris Halbert, graduate students in the master of science in sports medicine program keep the GSU football team in prime working order.
Justin Walker thought he wanted to be a physical therapist until he watched a college football game from the sidelines.

“I saw a player with a pulled hamstring get help from the athletic trainer and return an opening kickoff for a touchdown in his first play back,” Walker said. “It was awesome. I knew from there I wanted to be an athletic trainer.”

Walker is one of 25 graduate students currently enrolled in Georgia State’s master of science in sports medicine program, the only program of its kind in Georgia that prepares certified athletic trainers.

Sports medicine graduate students must complete 36 hours of coursework and labs focused on the prevention, management, evaluation and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. They also must complete 400 hours of clinical experience, which starts during the first few weeks of the program.

This requirement puts them on the sidelines during games and practices, where they assist staff athletic trainers if an injury happens. They also assist athletic trainers at Georgia Tech, Emory University, Kennesaw State University, Oglethorpe University and metro Atlanta public high schools.

“They’re at all the games, and they travel with all the teams they are assigned to,” said Cheryl Appleberry, coordinator for GSU’s graduate sports medicine program.

They work directly with the institution’s athletic department and under the supervision of the head athletic trainer. If an injury does occur during a practice or game, they provide an initial assessment of the injury and communicate with the coach about whether the athlete can return to the game.

“It is great hands-on experience,” Appleberry said. “They are applying what we’re teaching them in the academic setting to hands-on experience out on the field or the court.”

With traveling, GSU’s future athletic trainers put in a lot of time, but the hard work pays off — the program has a 100 percent job placement rate. Georgia State’s athletic trainer graduates not only land jobs with secondary schools and colleges, but with professional sports teams, hospitals, clinics and doctor’s offices, the military, law enforcement and performing arts companies.

By Elizabeth Klipp
LIFE IN THE LAB

KELCEY ROGIERS-JENSEN was a star women’s basketball player at GSU from 2003 to 2007 and later played professionally in Sweden. Now, as a student in professor Brenda Pitts’ sports marketing research class, she’s getting an up-close look at the behind-the-scenes work that it takes to make events happen, using the Georgia Dome as a “living classroom.”

AS TOLD TO JEREMY CRAIG

In the program, you go through every course you can think of — law, marketing, revenue, facilities — you name it. It gives you a wide range under the umbrella of what it might take if you want to be an agent, run a recreation center, run a major venue or become an athletic director.

The experience at the Georgia Dome has been great. We broke up into teams of six to eight students and we worked at one event, such as the battle of the bands, supercross and motorcross. My personal project was the supercross. We set up tables and collected market research data for the general manager and the vice president of the Georgia World Congress Center.

You get to feel like you’re making an impact on the community, as these events bring in a lot of revenue to our city. It’s important to examine demographics and to see where attendees are coming from to know how to market events better. It gives you a different perspective. When you’re out on the court or the field, you don’t get to see the behind the scenes of what’s going on, the budget, the set-up and how to run the events.

A LEAP to greatness

Athletes need calories to fuel their performances, but eating the right foods — in the right amounts and at the right times — is critical to giving their best performances.

That’s where professor of nutrition Dan Benardot’s Laboratory for Elite Athlete Performance (LEAP) comes in.

At LEAP, Benardot and his assistants are learning more and more about the nutritional needs of individual athletes in a variety of sports.

One of Benardot’s higher profile clients is the U.S. national ice dancing team. He works with the dancers to help them improve their endurance, and at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, he helped the ice dancing duo of Meryl Davis and Charlie White bring home the silver medal.

Every athlete’s intake requirements are unique, and they need different kinds of food and drink at different times based on the type of sport as well as the athlete’s physical condition. Proper consumption of energy and nutrients is critical not only for performance, but for simply staying healthy. For example, many athletes risk illness or injury by robbing the body of needed calories in order to lose weight.

“When you don’t take in enough calories, there is a tendency to reduce metabolic mass that makes eating normally more difficult,” Bernadot said. “It becomes a downward cycle.”

BY JEREMY CRAIG
We’re Ready for Football

Two helmets. One player. Seven coaches. When I arrived at Georgia State as your new Director of Athletics in March of 2009, we knew we needed to build a football program from the bottom up in just over a year. What a ride it’s been!

From graduate assistants to coaches, trainers to senior staff, our Athletics department has worked around the clock to build a practice field, recruit top athletes, hire great coaches and mold a group of young men into a unified team. You will be very proud to see the results on Sept. 2.

Coach Bill Curry, with his signature class and grace, will lead this team onto the field, committed with the following words:

We are the Georgia State Football Panthers. We love to play football! We respect everyone. We fear no one. We’ll play anybody, anywhere, anytime.

The coaches are ready. Our team is ready. Now, all we need is you, the great alumni of this great University for this historic moment in GSU history.

Come support us. Come cheer for us. Come share in the excitement. We have put together this fan guide and poster as a primer for the kickoff. In it, you will learn everything you need to know about being the ultimate GSU football fan, because …

YOU are the Georgia State Panthers! See you on Sept. 2!

Cordially,

Cheryl L. Levick
Director of Athletics
FEEL THE ROAR!

When the Panthers storm the field this season and the next, they’ll be competing as an independent in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), formerly known as NCAA Division I-AA. But in 2012, the Panthers will officially join the Colonial Athletic Association as its 14th football-playing member. Georgia State began competing in the CAA for all sports in 2005-06. Old Dominion, who the Panthers face Oct. 23, began its football program last fall and will join CAA football in 2011. Since 1998, four different CAA schools have won the FCS NCAA championships.

OFFENSE: Assistant Head Coach and Wide Receivers Coach George Pugh says that Offensive Coordinator John Bond’s offense is as good as any he’s been involved in. “And I’ve been around some great ones,” Pugh says. Bond will run a multiple, one back offense.

I want us to have a physical personality. We like to run the ball, and we’ll have a set of play action passes off of those. You can’t stop both. We’ll also have a core group of passes that we’ll work and that we’ll disguise with motions and movements.

— John Bond

DEFENSE: In his 30-plus years as a coach, Defensive Coordinator John Thompson has operated out of every defensive formation imaginable. Thompson said the Panthers defense will play out of several different formations depending on personnel and the opponent and will employ his brand of “organized chaos.”

We’ll be an aggressive defense. That doesn’t necessarily mean we’ll be a gambling or a blitzing defense all the time; it means that we want to force the action. We want offenses to have to react to us.

— John Thompson

Colonial Athletic Association Football currently includes:

- University of Delaware*
- Towson University*
- University of Maine
- University of Massachusetts
- University of New Hampshire
- James Madison University*
- William & Mary University*
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Richmond
- Villanova University
- Old Dominion University*

*Full conference member • Joins CAA football in 2011

When Head Coach Bill Curry’s contacts in Tuscaloosa called him in hopes that the Panthers could fill an open date on the 2010 Alabama schedule, Curry swallowed hard and agreed to bring his first-year team to historic Bryant-Denny Stadium on Nov. 18.

Alabama is one of the most heralded programs in college football history — they’re the defending national champions and they return Heisman Trophy-winning running back Mark Ingram.

“We would have preferred to wait until year two or three to take on a challenge like this, but 2010 was the only opening that Alabama had available and we just didn’t want to pass up this chance,” Curry said. “The opportunity to go into that environment and see how football is played at that level will be quite a learning experience.”

He would know — Curry led the Crimson Tide from 1987-89, and his team won the SEC championship in 1989.

Tide fans might see the game as a tune-up for the Iron Bowl against Auburn the following weekend, but the match-up also features two interesting storylines. Not only does it mark Curry’s return to town, it will be a return for quarterback Star Jackson, who transferred from ‘Bama to GSU in June.
You’ve got your GSU shirt on, the cooler stocked, the grill ready and the lawn chairs packed. Pounce shows you how to tailgate Georgia State style!

TIME TO TAILGATE

BIG CAT NOSH
What’s a tailgate without the proper vittles? Pounce proves he’s ready for the opening tilt against the Shorter Hawks with a rack of “Shorter Ribs.”

WEB EXCLUSIVE
Visit gsu.edu/magazine for a ribs cooking demo

YOUR OWN PANTHER DEN
Even in the concrete jungle, Panther fans will find ample grassy areas near their parking lot to set up tents, grills, chairs and other tailgating accessories. Single tailgate spaces may not exceed 9 x 12 feet. Parking spaces are for vehicles only and driving lanes must remain clear.

PRE-GAME LIVE
An hour before kickoff, set your tailgate tuner to the Panther pre-game show on WCFO 1160 AM and stay tuned for all the action. Panther games will also air live in Gainesville (WGTJ 1330 AM) and Winder (WIMO 1300 AM).

TEAM SPIRIT
Show your Panther Pride and football fashion sense with Georgia State gear — everything from caps to coolers — available at the University Bookstore (66 Courtland St.), online (gsu.edu/auxiliary/bookstore.html), or at special booths on game days at the Georgia Dome.

JANUARY 5
MARK HOGAN JR. ENROLLS AS GEORGIA STATE’S FIRST SCHOLARSHIP FOOTBALL PLAYER

FEBRUARY 4
GSU SIGNS FIRST RECRUITING CLASS

FEBRUARY 25
CHERYL LEVICK NAMED DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

JUNE 11
GEORGIA STATE OFFICIALLY ADMITTED TO CAA FOOTBALL; WILL BEGIN PLAY IN 2012
They’ve got spirit!
When the Panthers take the field at the Georgia Dome, Georgia State cheerleaders will, of course, be on the sidelines rooting the team to victory. Georgia State has two coed cheerleading squads, composed of 12 to 16 members. The team captains this year are Candace Cliatt and Micah Marquette. The cheerleaders, who all receive scholarships to attend GSU, compete in the National Cheerleading Association College Nationals annually. The team has placed in the Top 10 in the College Nationals for two of the past three years.

A NEW HOMECOMING
For the first time in its almost 100-year history, Georgia State will celebrate homecoming during fall semester. Homecoming 2010 will be centered around the Oct. 2 game when the Panthers take on Morehead State. The half-time show will include a performance by the GSU Marching Band and the crowning of the 2010 Homecoming Court. The week leading up to the big game also will be full of fun for GSU fans with events such as a parade, pep rally, concert in the park, carnival and Greek showcase. Check gsu.edu/alumni for homecoming updates.

READY TO WORK!
The man who keeps the GSU football team at peak form is Head Strength and Conditioning Coach Ken Coggins. A former offensive lineman for the Mississippi State Bulldogs in the 1980s, Coggins has been helping athletes get stronger, faster and better for nearly 25 years. Some of the names he’s worked with include former NFL All-Pro defensive end Neil Smith and Los Angeles Lakers point guard Derek Fisher. When it comes to building a better athlete, Coggins doesn’t mince words. “There’s no secret to it,” he said. “The only secret is old-fashioned hard work.”

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Load up that truck! The team will carry between 5,000-10,000 pounds of equipment to away games. Cold weather or rain gear ups the figure.

Scholar Athletes
Our football academic advisers, Keisha Jones and Dusty Bennett, do a wonderful job of working directly with these student-athletes. The overall program, under the leadership of [Assistant Director of Athletics for Student-Athlete Development] Dena Freeman-Patton, is a tremendous asset for our football team.
— Head Coach Bill Curry

Spring Semester stats:
- President’s List (4.0 or higher): 3 players
- Dean’s List (3.5 or higher): 6 players
- AD’s Honor Roll (3.25 or higher): 14 players
- Football 1st year cumulative GPA: 2.82
- Football spring semester GPA: 2.76

GSUfan guide
AUGUST 11
GEORGIA STATE’S FIRST TEAM OF 71 PLAYERS REPORTS TO CAMPUS
AUGUST 14
GSU’S FIRST-EVER PRACTICE HELD AT NFL YOUTH EDUCATION TOWN FACILITY
SEPTEMBER 2
ONE YEAR COUNTDOWN CEREMONY
FEBRUARY 3
SECOND RECRUITING CLASS SIGNED
MARCH 23
FIRST SPRING PRACTICE BEGINS
You think your closet is full? Georgia State equipment managers must keep more than 90 players outfitted for action. Here’s a breakdown of just how much gear it takes to have the Panthers ready for game day.

**JERSEYS**
- 120 white game jerseys for home games
- 120 blue game jerseys for away games

**HELMETS**
- 126 Shutt Ion 4-D and Air XP-style helmets
- 250 face masks and 150 chin straps

**GLOVES**
- 250 receiver-style
- 150 linebacker-style
- 36 linemen-style

**SHOES**
- 200 pairs of cleated gameday shoes

**PANTS**
- 150

**THIGH AND KNEE PADS**
- 50 pairs of each in three different styles

**SHOULDER PADS**
- 150 sets

**DID YOU KNOW?**
The scripting of the numbers and letters on the uniform is called the Sparks Font, which was created especially for GSU. The font recognizes the university’s first president, George Sparks, who served as the school’s leader for 29 years.

**HOME AT THE DOME**
The Georgia Dome is the largest cable supported dome stadium in the world. The **8,300 tons** of reinforced steel used to construct the Dome are more than the weight of iron and steel used to build the Eiffel Tower!
Bill Curry’s top assistant coaches and coordinators
– John Thompson, George Pugh and John Bond –
build the identity of GSU football.

Story by William Inman | Photography by Meg Buscema
On his first day on the job as offensive coordinator for Georgia State’s football team, John Bond rolled a chair into an empty conference room in the Citizen’s Trust Bank Building for the team’s first-ever coaches’ meeting.

“We had no table to meet around, no boards, no markers. We were in a room in a bank, and we sat with our notebooks in our laps,” he says. “We literally had to pull our chairs up into a circle.”

Joining Bond were head coach Bill Curry and the coach’s two other new hires: defensive coordinator John Thompson and assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator George Pugh.

With more than 70 years of college coaching experience between them, Curry’s top three assistants know as well as anyone that the life of an assistant football coach is full of the unknown — and oftentimes that unknown is where he’ll get his mail next season. Still, building a team with no history and, more importantly, no players has been another challenge altogether.

That summer day in 2008, Curry laid the groundwork: Bond would build the offense, Thompson would develop the defense and Pugh would be the lead recruiter. They had to start immediately and signaling in coverages for Lou Holtz’s 1983 Arkansas Razorbacks.

“I think about that now and there is no way in the world I’d give a 19-year-old kid that kind of responsibility on game day,” he says. The Arkansas coaches, though, must have seen something special in Bond.

To his chagrin, it wasn’t his prowess as a quarterback. He had come to Arkansas as an all-state signal caller out of Rogers (Ark.) High School, where he had played for his father, Gary, a member of the state’s high school federation Hall of Fame.

“A devastating knee injury helped the coach’s son make up his mind, and he hasn’t left the sidelines since.

At every school Bond has coached, he’s built dominant offenses. At Army, one of the oldest football programs in the country, Bond’s offense broke 35 school records. He’s perhaps best-known for coaching one of the nation’s most prolific rushing attacks at Northern Illinois from 2004-06.

Bond is quick to point out, however, that his offenses aren’t one-dimensional.

“Our running games in the past have always got the attention, but we’ve always been very good passing the football,” he says. “Balance is our buzzword.’’

It was during Bond’s tenure at Northern Illinois that he met his current

Talent Scout

For Pugh, that wild ride of creating a football program from thin air is similar to one he’s been on before. In 1995, he was an architect in transitioning the University of Alabama-Birmingham’s football program into NCAA Division I, just six years after the team played its very first game.

“T’ve seen the pitfalls and roadblocks, and every day is something new,” Pugh says. “Starting a football program is a lot like making biscuits from scratch. If you don’t have the right ingredients, it’s not going to rise.”

Pugh’s primary task for the start-up Panthers has been getting those main ingredients: the players. Fortunately, Pugh’s name opens doors, not just in Georgia but across the South.

“He knows how to find, sign and develop talent,” Curry says.

Adorning Pugh’s giant hands — the hands that caught passes when he was a tight end on legendary Alabama coach Bear Bryant’s national championship team in 1973 — are extravagant rings from bowl games past.

“That’s from the Cotton Bowl in 2001,” he says, holding up an inch-wide diamond and gold colossus he earned as an assistant at Arkansas.

Pugh’s not afraid to show off the goods from his past successes, and he makes it clear what it takes to get the right personnel on the field.

“Let no one fool you,” he says, point blank, “networking and relationship-building with coaches, parents and former players means getting players.”

Pugh’s inroads in the Atlanta area go back to 1976, when he took his first coaching job at Columbia High School in Decatur, Ga. Two years later, he jumped into the college ranks and since has served as an assistant at seven schools, including stints at Texas A&M, Arkansas and Houston. He was head coach at Alabama A&M from 1989-91.

At all of his stops, he says, he’s recruited from the talent-rich Atlanta area.

“For all my 34 years,” he says, “Recruiting is to a program what blood is to the body. You don’t recruit, you don’t win, and this area is full of players.”

Pugh’s duties don’t stop after he gets a commitment; he’s also the wide receivers coach. In the past, he has recruited and groomed several NFL-bound wideouts, including former University of Houston star Donnie Avery of the St. Louis Rams, and former UAB standout and Atlanta Falcons All-Pro wide receiver Roddy White.

A Coach’s Son

At the age of 19, offensive coordinator John Bond was already in charge of player substitutions and signaling in coverages for Lou Holtz’s 1983 Arkansas Razorbacks.

“Rich Olsen, an assistant coach, said to me, ‘Hey look, why don’t you help me coach because we’ll always be trying to get a better quarterback than you,’” Bond recalls.

A devastating knee injury helped the coach’s son make up his mind, and he hasn’t left the sidelines since.

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It was during Bond’s tenure at Northern Illinois that he met his current
Thompson says he builds his defenses around his players’ strengths, and he plans on running flexible schemes that will allow him to adjust from play-to-play to the opponent’s offense.

“This situation is unique because we didn’t have a lot of information about our guys,” he says. “We’re still morphing into what we really are.”

In his long and successful career, Thompson has directed defenses at nine schools — including five SEC programs — and served as head coach at East Carolina.

In 2006, his reputation as a creative thinker led him to an athletic director’s position at Central Arkansas, his alma mater, where he guided the university into NCAA Division I play. A year later, an opportunity arose to lead an SEC defense and Thompson took over as defensive coordinator for a struggling Ole Miss squad.

That would be the only season he would spend in Oxford. Head coach Ed Orgeron’s entire staff was let go at season end, and for the first time since 1983, Thompson was without a team. That’s when the football scholar turned to writing and authored a six-book system outlining everything from proper game-day planning to multiple blitz systems.

“That summer, I put these books together and I hit golf balls,” he said. “That kept me sane and kept the peace around our house.”

Like Bond, his offensive counterpart on the coaching staff, Thompson too had a past relationship with Curry — he coached linebackers for Curry at Alabama in 1987.

“He’s been really influential, and I’ve consulted with him on the career moves I’ve made,” Thompson says. After learning that Curry was building the GSU program, Thompson called to congratulate him on his new endeavor.

“After we hung up, I called him right back and said, ‘Hey, I want to come work for you,’” Thompson says.

Just like with the offense, Curry is hands-off when it comes to the defense’s X’s and O’s.

“[Thompson] finds a way to convey a defense that is simple to players but utterly confusing to the opposing offense,” Curry says.

Right now, Thompson is concentrating on Shorter’s offense.

“Not to be dramatic, but how we play against Shorter is going to be historic,” he says. “And it’s getting a lot more intense because they’re going to kick it off no matter if the coaches are ready or not!”

The Huskies and their high-octane offense were often featured on ESPN’s weekend college football slots, and Curry often called those games as a color analyst.

“Being a coach’s kid, I was very familiar with his career both as a professional player and a coach,” Bond says. “I was excited to meet the guy and talk football, and we just clicked.”

In 2007, Bond got his shot with a major program when he was tabbed as defensive coordinator for Georgia Tech, but things didn’t work out as he’d hoped.

“Being a coach’s kid, I was very familiar with his career both as a professional player and a coach,” Bond says. “I’ve learned a great deal from Bill Curry and I’m very appreciative of his leadership.”

Now the head coach is expecting big things from Bond; Curry has made it clear to him that he holds the keys to the Panthers’ offensive machine.

“I get to do my deal without any interference from the head coach, and that’s rare,” Bond says. “Hopefully we’ll do a good enough job that he’ll leave us alone.”

ORGANIZED CHAOS
At first glance, the color-coded shorthand that fills the whiteboards in John Thompson’s office look more like formulas than formations. Stacked neatly on his shelves are dozens of binders — playbooks, some stuffed with more than 300 pages, from defenses he’s built over the course of his more than two decades as a defensive coordinator and 30 years in coaching.

“That’s the whole warehouse up there,” he says. “We might only take a fraction of that into the game, but that’s what we’ll pick from.”

Thompson, admittedly, is a bit of a mad scientist when it comes to creating defenses, which he characterizes as “organized chaos.”

Thompson says he builds his defenses around his players’ strengths, and he plans on running flexible schemes that will allow him to adjust from play-to-play to the opponent’s offense.

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THE REST OF THE 2010 COACHING ROSTER:

- Jason French: Outside Linebackers
- Craig Harmon: Tight Ends
- Anthony Midget: Defensive Backs/Special Teams
- Todd Perry: Running Backs
- Mike Riddle: Offensive Line
- Chris Ward: Defensive Line
- Ryan Zimmerman: Specialists
Play-By-Play Man:
As the voice of GSU sports for more than a quarter of a century, Dave Cohen (B.A. ’94) has seen some action. The arrival of football, he says, is one of the most exciting events he’s experienced in his career.
VOICE OF THE PANTHERS

When Dave Cohen (B.A. ‘94) came to Georgia State in 1983, he made WRAS, the campus radio station, one of his first stops. “I always knew I wanted to work in radio, and I’ve always been a sports fan,” Cohen said.

Naturally, he gravitated to GSU’s sports broadcasts. Before long, he was working alongside Brent Weber — who went on to be a sports correspondent for CNN — then the Panthers’ play-by-play man.

When Weber graduated in 1983, Cohen stepped up to become the voice of GSU sports and hasn’t left his post since. Now he’s the longest tenured broadcaster for a Division I sports team in the state.

Cohen will be adding football to his roster of coverage when the team debuts Sept. 2 at the Georgia Dome.

“Football coming here is one the most exciting things that’s happened since I’ve been at Georgia State,” he said.

That’s quite a statement considering Cohen has covered the Panthers for more than a quarter of a century.

“I’ve only missed six GSU games in 28 years,” he said. “I feel like I have a close connection to the sports program. I hope people recognize my enthusiasm for the game even though I’ve never dunked a ball, hit a home run or scored a touchdown.”

When Cohen isn’t delivering the play-by-plays, he is coordinating GSU’s on-campus student and young alumni programming for the Alumni Association. His wife, Carol, also a GSU staffer, was once GSU’s head tennis coach and is now director of the Student Advisement Center.


Another claim to fame: Cohen just might be the most devoted fan ever of the rock band KISS — he’s been to more than 40 of their concerts.

“I’ve idolized KISS so long that [lead singer] Paul Stanley actually recognizes me now.”

BY RENEE DEGROSS VALDES

Class notes are the perfect way to share your news with friends and classmates. Read about your classmates in this issue of GSU Magazine, then share your own news, achievements, accomplishments and photos. Mail your class notes to GSU Magazine, P.O. Box 3983, Atlanta, GA 30302-3983 or e-mail them to winman@gsu.edu.

1970s

Gregory R. Crochet (B.B.A. ’79), a partner in the Atlanta office of the national law firm of Kutak and Rock, LLP, has been named chairman of the GSU Athletic Association Board of Trustees for a two-year term through 2012.

Douglas A. Daniel (B.B.A. ’75) is the new senior vice president of corporate development and finance at GeoBio Energy, which emphasizes the acquisition and operation of existing companies in the oil and gas services and energy sector.

Cynthia Kuhlman (M.Ed. ’74, Ph.D. ’80) has been named the 2010 GSU College of Education Distinguished Alum. Kuhlman is director of Educational Achievement for the CF Foundation, Inc., and she serves as chair of the board of directors for Charles R. Drew Charter School. She is also a member of the board of advisors for the College of Education.

1980s

Mary Jo Grap (Ph.D. ’86) was named a Nursing Alumni Endowed Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center. She is a professor in the Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems and the...
administraive core co-director for the school’s Center of Excellence in Biobehavioral Approaches to Symptom Management.

Andrew J. Pace (B.B.A. ’87) has been re-appointed to Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers. Pace is director of new development for Hotel Equities, Inc. and has served as a board member since 1999.

Richard Parks (M.H.A. ’82) has joined Covenant Health System in Lubbock, Texas, as president and CEO. Parks previously was president and CEO of West Tennessee Healthcare in Jackson, Tenn.

Geraldine Thomas (B.S. ’85), state president of Georgia Bank of America, has been named a director of the Buckhead Coalition.

Cindy Troyer (J.D. ’89) has been appointed the municipal judge for Farragut, Tenn.

E. Jenner Wood III (M.B.A. ’84) has been named a trustee of the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, the largest foundation in Georgia. Wood currently is chairman, president and CEO of SunTrust’s Central Group.

1990s
Keisha Bottoms (J.D. ’94) was sworn in as a member of the Atlanta City Council, 11th District, on Jan. 4, 2010. She has been elected vice-chair of the Atlanta Transportation Committee and appointed chair of the MARTA sub-committee. She also serves on the Public Safety and Zoning committees.

Marsha Morgan (B.S. ’93) recently completed her doctorate degree in child development from Texas Woman’s University and is currently working as the Child Development Fellow in the Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University.

Alice Wheatley Padgett (J.D. ’90) has been appointed associate Probate Court judge of Columbia County, Ga.

**FIRST LADY OF FOOTBALL**

Looking over a sheet cake decorated like a football field on her 17th birthday, Carolyn Curry (M.A. ’79, Ph.D. ’87) had no idea that the sport would become a way of life.

It was her first date with Bill Curry. He was a star football player, and she was captain of the cheerleaders at College Park High School.

“Little did I know my life was unfolding before me right then,” Curry said.

The Currys married during their college years — she attended Agnes Scott College and he went to Georgia Tech — and in 1965, Bill Curry was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. That move to chilly Wisconsin was the first of more than 30 they would experience during his NFL playing and college coaching career.

Now they’re back home in Atlanta, where she runs a non-profit organization focusing on older women’s issues and Coach Curry is leading the upstart Panther football team.

“I encouraged Bill to take the job,” Curry said.

She did so partly because, off the field, the university holds significant memories for her. She earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in history here. She jokingly says she got a “10:40” education because that hour of the morning was the only free time she could take a class.

“I look back now, and I don’t know how I did it,” she said. “I read academic books in the carpool line.”

When Bill Curry was head coach at Kentucky, she developed and taught a women’s history course there. Older women, many of whom were dealing with issues such as their husband’s death or illness, began seeking out Curry’s courses. That’s when an idea hit her.

“Many women outlive their spouses,” Curry said. “I began thinking there’s a need for a group where women could talk about these things.”

A few years later, Curry approached Agnes Scott College for support. With their help, and that of fellow GSU alumna Carolyn Clarke, Women Alone Together was founded in 2002.

“We want to provide relevant information to help these women live happy, productive lives,” Curry said.

For more information, visit womenalonetogether.org.

BY RENEE DEGROSS VALDES
NO. 1 FAN

As a Georgia State student, Preston Stancil (B.A. ’03) was the starting center on the intramural football team and a charter member of “Lefty’s Loonies,” a group of rabid, blue-clad fans who furiously cheered on former head basketball coach Lefty Driesell’s Panther hoops teams.

Now, as an alumnus, he’s still got the spirit — he was the very first Georgia State fan to purchase 2010 inaugural season football tickets.

“I love this university, Panther athletics and I love just being a part of it,” Stancil said. “I’m looking forward to the community that football is going to bring to the university and what it’s going to do for the alumni base.”

Stancil, who is also a basketball season ticket holder, says that a football program will help build Georgia State’s identity.

“Georgia State University, Coach Curry and his staff and the student-athletes have made a tremendous commitment to build this football program,” he says. “Now it’s our time as alumni to make our commitment.”

Stancil said he plans to do his part to show Panther Pride across Atlanta: He’s working on making his white Chrysler PT Cruiser bleed Panther blue.

“My vision is for it to be painted a sparkly blue and have the new GSU logo on both sides, like the new GSU football helmet,” he said. “I’m going to call it Panther One, and it would be our version of Georgia Tech’s Rambling Wreck,” he said, referring to the Model A coupe that serves as a rolling mascot at Georgia Tech.

BY LEAH SEUPERSAD

1990s
Rodney Parker (M.B.A. ’95) has been named the 2010-11 president-elect of the Atlanta Chapter of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) Society.

Philip A. Patterson (M.H.A. ’96) has been named CEO of Bon Secours Charity Health System, a regional health system in the Northeast. Patterson, who is 41, is one of the youngest CEOs of a regional health system in the nation.

2000s
Brett Austin (M.B.A. ’04) has been named vice president in charge of AmericasMart Marketing and Sales Services. Previously he was director of marketing and publishing procurement and production for the company.

Corey Francis (M.Mu. ’06) has been accepted into the Doctorate of Music Arts in wind conducting program at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he was also awarded a graduate teaching assistantship.

Jin Hu (M.S. ’02, M.P.A. ’03) has been named CFO of China TMK Battery Systems Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of customized rechargeable battery solutions to global consumer product companies.

Clifford Jones (M.Ed. ’01) has been hired as the new principal of Milton High School in Milton, Ga.

Emanuel “Man” Martin (Ph.D. ’07) had his second novel selected for publication by Thomas Dunne, an imprint of St. Martin’s Press. It will be released in the spring. Martin was voted Georgia Author of the Year in 2008 for his first novel, “Days of the Endless Corvette.”

Major Grady “Jed” Morton (J.D. ’08), principal of the Morton Law Firm in Atlanta and an Air Force Reserve judge advocate general, was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, in May for six months. He will work as a liaison at the Afghan National Prosecutor’s Office, which prosecutes Taliban detainees and other unlawful combatants.

FROM LEFT: 1) NNEKA ROBINSON (M.S. ’05), AN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST AT WOODWARD ACADEMY IN COLLEGE PARK, GA., ON ASSIGNMENT AS THE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR FOR THE ACADEMY’S SISTER SCHOOL, THE PITTWATER HOUSE SCHOOL, IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA; 2) ALUMNI NIGHT AT THE BRAVES, JUNE; 3) RECREATIONAL SERVICES ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT EAGLE’S BROOKE COUNTRY CLUB: CAVAN FOSNES (M.S. ’10) WITH GRAD STUDENT JUSTIN GLOVER, JUNE; 4) SPEED NETWORKING: DEBRA RODKIN (M.B.A. ’00), CARLOS ALVAREZ (B.B.A. ’08), MARK ST. DENIS (B.B.A. ’08) AND DAVID FREYDKIN, JUNE.
IN MEMORIAM

1950s

Elyea Carswell (B.B.A. ’52) Marietta, Ga., April 29, 2010

Jack Threadgill (B.B.A. ’56) Carrollton, Ga., Feb. 24, 2010

James Watkins (B.B.A. ’59) Brandon, Miss., April 4, 2010

1960s

Earl Baggerly (M.B.A. ’64) Orange Park, Fla., April 10, 2010

Rutledge Beacham (B.B.A. ’68) Atlanta, April 6, 2010

Jeanne Brumlow (B.A. ’63) Fayetteville, Ga., April 18, 2010


1970s

David Hardy (B.A. ’73) Atlanta, April 8, 2010

Helene Katz (M.B.Ed. ’74) Roanoke, Va., April 7, 2010

1980s

Margaret Cowart (M.Ed. ’80) Stone Mountain, Ga., April 19, 2010

Donald Moon (B.A. ’89) Pasadena, Calif., March 25, 2010

2000s

Janet Powers (B.A. ’01, M.S.W. ’03) Tucker, Ga., April 18, 2010

SUPPORTING THE TEAM

For more than two decades, Bill (B.B.A. ’59) and Susan Reeves have been committed to elevating athletics at Georgia State.

Their gifts to the athletic program, such as the Reeves Fieldhouse in Panthersville, are opportunities, they say, to continue thanking GSU for providing a way for Reeves to finish his degree while running a business and raising a family.

“Georgia State’s evening school allowed me to attend college, and I’ve always appreciated that,” said Reeves, who has served on the Georgia State Athletic Board since 1988. “I have thoroughly enjoyed being associated with Georgia State over the years and being able to watch it grow. Now we’re getting football, and I think it’s going to be great for alumni like myself to rekindle associations.”

The Reeves have owned and operated several businesses including Bill Reeves Realty, Reeves Contracting Company and Gwinnett National Bank.

Their entrepreneurial success has allowed them to donate to numerous projects and organizations on campus including annual athletic scholarships, the cheerleading squad and the Georgia State Pep Band. The Reeves Fieldhouse, dedicated in 2003, was built to provide a locker room, meeting room, laundry room and coaches’ offices for the baseball team.

“No matter how much you have done to give back to Georgia State, the rewards are always 10 times that,” said Mrs. Reeves, who was designated a Georgia State honorary alumna in 2004. “The young people we get to know are so much of a reward to us. We are very richly blessed by Georgia State.”

BY LEAH SEUPERSAD
Head football coach Bill Curry’s inspirational messages have captivated audiences in the locker room, in auditoriums and on nationally televised broadcasts. Here are 10 of his favorite “Words to Live By.”

Follow Coach Curry all season long at twitter.com/coachbillcurry.

1. Football is just life marked off in 100 yards. — Bill Badgett
   Bill Badgett, my high school football coach, taught me football’s greatest lesson of all.

2. Never mistake kindness for weakness. — Bart Starr
   Bart Starr combines those assumed mutually exclusive attributes better than anyone I know.

3. There are two pains — the pain of discipline and the pain of regret. One is temporary. The other lasts forever. — Bill Curry
   All the lessons of the competitive crucible are bound up in this simple statement.

4. Talk’s cheap. Let’s go play. — John Unitas
   Unitas deadpanned this same line before each Colts game.

5. Life is filled with difficulty ... and the overcoming of it. — Helen Keller
   This lady destroys every excuse any of us has ever invented to justify self pity and laziness.

6. Winning is not the most important thing. It is the only thing. — Vince Lombardi
   Lombardi explained that while winning was not the most important thing, the will to win was indeed the only motivating factor in life’s most demanding circumstances.

7. A champion has singleness of purpose; is unselfish; is tough; is prepared; and never quits ... never. — Bill Curry
   George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and others inspired me to dig into the lore of championship living.

8. Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny. — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
   Goethe’s succinct progression is powerful in its saying, far more powerful in its practice.

9. Practice does not make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect. — Chuck Knox
   The Los Angeles Rams coach provided pointed, memorable lessons at every team meeting.

10. Unexpected, undeserved, unrewarded acts of human kindness change lives ... every time. Their effects are undeniable. — Bill Curry
    A simple 10-minute conversation with the finest leader and football player I ever knew — Willie Davis — changed the way I looked at people, all people.
Coaching Moment?

Offensive coordinator John Bond’s attempt to put a move on defensive coordinator John Thompson draws a round of laughs from the team during practice at the Georgia Dome. Read about the two coordinators on page 24.