ADDIS ABABA TO ATLANTA
Mesfin Yana’s incredible journey
24 From Addis Ababa to Atlanta
With the help of doctors and a Tucker, Ga., family, Mesfin Yana overcame a nearly fatal heart infection and is now a healthy GSU graduate ready to start his career as a respiratory therapist. By Elizabeth Klipp

30 Advancing Science
The opening of the new Parker H. Petit Science Center widens the doors of opportunity for the university’s next generation of students, scientists and health professionals. By Jeremy Craig

34 And the Winner Is...
This past year three GSU musicians — an alumnus, a faculty member and a music management student — each brought home one of the highest honors a musician can receive: a Grammy Award. By William Inman and Elizabeth Klipp
Sojourning of Success

Georgia State University is home to students from all over the world, and I am always interested to hear how our international students select our university from among the thousands around the globe. Perhaps one of the most compelling stories is that of Mesfin Yana, who came to GSU to study respiratory therapy after suffering a series of health problems as a child in Africa that left him near death and without hope. In this issue, you’ll follow Yana’s amazing and inspiring journey of illness, intervention, and, finally, healing. And you’ll meet some wonderful people at GSU who helped transform Yana’s life of helplessness into one of giving back to the community that saved him (cover story, page 24).

Earlier this spring, I was delighted to take part in the ribbon-cutting and dedication of GSU’s new Parker H. Petit Science Center, a 350,000 square-foot facility that will advance scientific understanding, health innovation and health education. The facility, at the intersection of Decatur Street and Piedmont Avenue, will house laboratories, offices, and classrooms and will be home to a variety of university research and education programs in the sciences, as well as the Neuroscience Institute. I am particularly grateful to Pete Petit and the other generous donors and partners who helped make this world-class facility possible (page 30).

Finally in this issue, you’ll follow the stories of three musicians from the GSU School of Music — an alumnus, a faculty member and a student — who have parlayed their successes into the music industry’s highest honor. You’ll meet Coy Bowles, Andrew “Dru” Castro and Mace Hibbard, whose separate and very distinct paths landed them on the winner’s stage at the 2010 Grammy Awards (page 34).

As you’ll see in this issue, and on our campus, this is an exciting spring at GSU, a time of growth and prosperity and high hopes for an even brighter future.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Becker
President

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Do you know an outstanding Georgia State alumnus who is …

- Making a big DIFFERENCE in the community?
- Providing exceptional LEADERSHIP in government or business?
- Achieving a LEGACY Georgia State can be proud of?

Let the Alumni Association hear about it!

The Georgia State University Alumni Association invites you to submit nominations for the following awards:

- **Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award**
  Given annually in recognition of outstanding professional and personal achievements in any field of endeavor. The Alumni Association will donate $2,500 in the recipient’s name to a GSU student scholarship of his or her choice.

- **Distinguished Alumni Service Award**
  Given annually to a graduate in recognition of outstanding and significant contributions of service to Georgia State. The Alumni Association will donate $2,500 in the recipient’s name to a GSU student scholarship of his or her choice.

- **Distinguished Alumni Community Service Award**
  Given annually in recognition of outstanding and significant contributions to the community as a volunteer or through professional involvement. The Alumni Association will donate $2,500 in the recipient’s name to a GSU scholarship or a non-profit charitable organization of his or her choice.

Please make your nomination by Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

Call 800/GSU-ALUM to request a form or fill out a form online at www.gsu.edu/alumni. Now is your chance to honor exceptional graduates who are making a difference!
ON CAMPUS

RAFAEL HERNANDEZ

Rafael Hernandez, a 23-year-old senior accounting major, is a resident assistant (RA) in GSU’s Freshman Hall, which opened in fall 2009.

What has the first year been like in GSU’s Freshman Hall? It’s been very positive. Every floor has great community spirit and involvement. Most people on my floor didn’t know each other at the beginning of the year, but now they all hang out. I’m one of two RAs on the fourth floor, and we serve 60 students, a mix of males and females. In Freshman Hall, the rooms are smaller, so it’s more likely that students will come out and go to programming and socialize. And with the dining hall on the first floor, they’ll eat together too.

What made you want to be an RA? I wanted to be involved at GSU and be a student leader. I’ve been to high school, it’s been a complete 180 and I credit that to being an RA.

What are some of your duties as an RA? I live and work in the Freshman Hall. I have to enforce rules and make sure students are safe. I show them what resources are available at Georgia State, and we also do programming. We have ice cream socials, scavenger hunts, political debates and cultural events because Georgia State is a diverse community, and we have parties for events like the Super Bowl. We also work with student volunteers who are working on academic success programs on how to connect with faculty, take lecture notes, improve time management and give study tips.

Do you think the RA program in the Freshman Hall has been successful? From year to year, this is the most retention that I’ve seen. I think it’s because they are all freshmen and it’s giving them a chance to be social, like an intense freshmen learning community. Every floor has great community and involvement. Many of the students are coming back to live here next year.

What have you gained from being an RA? I’m very involved on campus in several groups, and I also volunteer off campus through my church. My academics have improved dramatically. Compared to high school, it’s been a complete 180 and I credit that to being an RA.

SPOTLIGHT

A SPRING BREAK OF SERVICE

GSU students help communities during week off

Instead of taking a trip to the beach or relaxing at home, about 80 Georgia State students spent their spring breaks building stronger communities and touching the lives of those in need.

About 30 GSU students went to New Orleans to help children prepare for the state assessment test, and about a dozen students headed to Florida to work on environmental projects in the Everglades. Roughly 20 students stayed in Atlanta to lend a hand to programs here that help the needy or young.

The trips were organized by Georgia State’s Panther Breakaway program, which is part of the national alternative break movement.

“It’s one thing to do service projects here and there and then step away from them and forget,” said Jasmine Shergill, a senior managerial sciences major and student director of Panther Breakaway at GSU. “But when you spend an entire week in a community and study the larger social issues after your service hours, you become a part of that community, and a part of the solution.”

Georgia State conducted its first Panther Breakaway during spring 2002, sending 12 students and four staff members to Washington, D.C., to address homelessness and HIV/AIDS awareness issues. Throughout the years, students have performed a variety of short term, meaningful projects addressing social issues such as literacy, poverty, racism, hunger, homelessness and environmental awareness.

“The impact of the experience can serve as a catalyst for a life-long commitment to active citizenship,” said Lovell Lemons, director of the Georgia State Office of Civic Engagement. “Most students will continue to engage in thoughtful action as they recognize and become more aware of social issues beyond their week of service.”

BY ELIZABETH KLIPP

MORE THAN 20 GSU STUDENTS SPENT THEIR SPRING BREAK IN ATLANTA AND HELPED COLLECT DONATIONS FOR THE NEEDY.

GSU tops at Model U.N.

Senior James Dutton figures he and 35 other GSU students got about 12 hours of sleep total between March 28 and April 3. That whole week they stayed awake every day until well past midnight, sometimes as late as 4:30 a.m., writing resolutions and practicing debates, and were getting up by 6 a.m. for opening caucuses.

But the breakneck schedule was well worth it, they say.

For the fifth consecutive year now, Georgia State students have taken home the top prize of “Outstanding Delegation” from the largest Model U.N. simulation in the world—the National Model U.N. Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

“By the end of the week, you’re a zombie,” said Dutton, outgoing president of GSU’s Student Government Association. Georgia State teams representing Mongolia and Tajikistan both won the top award, “Outstanding Delegation Award,” given to teams judged as being in the top 5 percent of those participating.

BY ELIZABETH KLIPP

ANDB HELPED COLLECT DONATIONS FOR THE NEEDY.
Students sending text messages in class might drive some instructors batty, but in a handful of business classes, texting is becoming a means for students to ask questions and learn.

Georgia State is piloting a new texting technology called Text Question System (TQS), said David McDonald, director of emerging technologies in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

“Think of the shy or international student who feels lost in a classroom of 200,” McDonald said. “This allows them to anonymously ask questions using technology they already know and use, and they get credit for doing so.”

McDonald helped create the system with FanDriveMedia, an Atlanta-based company already using similar technology on sports scoreboards and JumboTrons.

In fact, McDonald was at an event at Philips Arena when he came up with the idea.

“That’s where the light bulb went up over my head,” said McDonald. “I did some research, found nothing similar, and thought, ‘I want to bring this to campus.’”

With TQS, when an instructor turns on a Power Point classroom presentation, students can text their questions directly from their cell phones to a specific number. Moments later — after going through a screening process — the questions scroll across the bottom of the presentation like a ticker in Times Square.

So far, the texting tool is being tested in 15 business classes. By next fall, McDonald hopes to roll out the technology campus-wide, and possibly at other institutions.

“AS POPULATIONS CONTINUE TO DECLINE IN MANY RURAL PARTS OF THE STATE, WHAT THEY HAVE IS SUCH A SMALL POPULATION THAT THEY DON’T SUPPORT MUCH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND.”

Harvey Newman, professor and chair of the Department of Public Management and Policy, to the AJC.

We are pleased to see Georgia State’s professional graduate programs continuing to be recognized among the best in the nation. We are committed to providing high quality programs that are recognized for excellence.”

Mark Becker, GSU president, to the Atlanta Business Chronicle, on the university’s graduate schools moving up in rankings.

Only the Supreme Court, Congress, or a compact can allocate interstate waters. For now, municipal water supply is not a permitted purpose for the water in Lake Lanier.

THE WATER WAR
Inside the tri-state battle over Buford Dam and Lake Lanier

BY JAMES BROSS

When I was young, every winter was a race between supply and demand for water on my grandfather’s farm. From the fall freeze until the spring thaw, we lived on water in the cistern. The family practiced dry-land agriculture, without irrigation. Water was never taken for granted.

Twenty-five years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers managed Buford Dam and Lake Lanier to meet the authorized purposes of flood control, navigation and power generation. Power generation dominated with large releases every summer afternoon to meet peak demand for power to operate air conditioning. The water for cities and counties below the dam roared past for a few hours at the end of the day — not the best flow to meet municipal water demands.

“The Corps’ proposal to build another dam below Buford Dam to capture the power releases and allow gradual discharge for water supply fell victim to a coalition of environmental interests and conservative deficit hawks. Without construction money, the Corps fell back on a strategy used on the Roanoke River to enhance supply for Virginia Beach, Va. On the Roanoke, the Corps reallocated water from one authorized purpose to another authorized purpose. On the Apalachicola- Chattahoochee-Flint, however, the Corps reallocated water from an authorized purpose (power generation) to an unauthorized purpose (water supply). Alabama and Florida sued. All litigation was stayed when then-Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich pushed interstate compacts covering the two river systems through Congress. Unlike previous compacts that contained formulas to allocate water from the disputed systems, the two new compacts were agreements to negotiate. If a compact could be settled, the allocation of amounts and purposes of river water would have the force of federal law, trumping the limited provisions of the original Buford Dam law.

Twenty years of talks among the three states produced nothing. The compact ended when Florida refused to continue negotiations. Litigation resumed, and all cases were consolidated before a neutral federal judge, Senior Judge Paul Magnuson from Minnesota.

Following hearings and arguments, Judge Magnuson ruled in July 2009 that municipal water supply was not a permitted purpose for Buford Dam. He delayed enforcement of his ruling for three years to allow Florida, Georgia and Alabama to re-start negotiations for another compact, this time with substantive provisions on water allocation.

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Following hearings and arguments, Judge Magnuson ruled in July 2009 that municipal water supply was not a permitted purpose for Buford Dam. He delayed enforcement of his ruling for three years to allow Florida, Georgia and Alabama to re-start negotiations for another compact, this time with substantive provisions on water allocation. Georgia’s position is unenviable. Florida and Alabama have the three-year clock as leverage.

It is important to understand precisely what Judge Magnuson’s order covers. It does not allocate the waters of the various river systems. Only the Supreme Court, Congress, or a compact can allocate interstate waters. The order relates solely to management of Buford Dam and the water behind it in Lake Lanier. The Corps is entitled to sufficient water to fulfill the purposes of the dam, but no more than that.

Cities downstream of the dam are serving increased populations with the rules from 25 years ago. In further cyclical droughts, all users will be in thrall to the higher claims for Lake Lanier’s express purposes.

JAMES BROSS IS A PROFESSOR OF LAW
**GLOBAL**

**DR. ZAKIA MAROOF** has seen how civil war and the repressive Taliban regime have caused the specter of ill health — and even death — to hang over women and children in her native Afghanistan. Now, with the lessons she has learned from Georgia State’s Institute of Public Health, she hopes to help rebuild her country’s shattered health care system.

“It will take years, but we are working to build the capacity to stand on our own feet,” she said. “Women and mothers as main caregivers will contribute a lot if they are enabled, educated and empowered.”

Dr. Maroof wrapped up her on-site studies in December 2009 and returned home. Because of the difficulty of coming back to the U.S., she has been part of an innovation in education — defending her thesis via Skype, becoming the first public health student at GSU to do so.

“It was a risk for me to come to the U.S., and it was not easy, but (neither is) contributing to change for my country,” she said. “I am very determined to work with other Afghans who are working to help bring change.”

*by Jeremy Craig*

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**CITYSCAPES**

Highlighting the good works of GSU around the world

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**LOCAL**

**CHRISTINA RUPP** was three weeks into her internship at the Georgia Innocence Project when she received a letter from Michael Marshall.

Marshall had turned to the Georgia Innocence Project after he was incarcerated for allegedly stealing a truck at gunpoint in Hapeville, Ga., in 2007.

Rupp’s instincts compelled her to start digging.

“I thought, ‘Wow, something is not right about this case,’” said Rupp, 26, who will graduate this spring from the College of Law.

Even after her internship, Rupp volunteered to see Marshall’s case through. She discovered that the police never tested a cell phone and T-shirt found near the crime scene for DNA, so she pushed for a test of the evidence. As it turns out, the DNA didn’t match that of Marshall’s.

Marshall’s case now has the distinction of being the Georgia Innocence Project’s fastest moving exoneration ever. After spending two years behind bars, he was set free last December.

“He was so thankful,” Rupp said. “It was very exciting and very emotional to know how it was going to change his life.”

*by Renee Degross Valdes*
most days on college campuses across the nation, it’s a woman’s world. Women have represented about 57 percent of enrollments at U.S. colleges and universities since 2000, according to a recent report by the American Council on Education. And currently at Georgia State, more than 18,400 of the university’s 30,000 students are females.

The scene was much different 90 years ago. That’s when, in 1919, at the age of 55, Annie Teitelbaum Wise, the principal of Atlanta’s Commercial High School, became the first female graduate of Georgia State (then the Georgia Tech Evening School), receiving a B.S. in commerce. She was, in fact, the first female to graduate from any state-supported college or university in Georgia.

Wise also went on to become Georgia State’s first female faculty member when, after earning her degree, she was appointed as an instructor in commercial science. She taught for one year before returning to her role as a high school principal.

Originally from Eperies, Hungary, Wise came to Atlanta early in life. She attended Atlanta public schools, then Columbia University and the University of Paris before enrolling in the Evening School in 1917.

Wise served Atlanta Public Schools for 32 years and is credited with helping found Commercial High School, which closed in 1947 but at one time was the largest high school in the Southeast.

More and more women followed in Wise’s footsteps at GSU, but slowly. By 1935, 25 women had received degrees from the institution. It wasn’t until after World War II, however, that the enrollment of women began to surge here and at colleges and universities across the nation.

“In the early 1950s and 1960s, more women were taking on degrees in all sorts of areas that used to be dominated by men, especially medicine and law,” said Jean Thomas, dean of women at Georgia State from 1963-74, and later dean of student development until her retirement in 1991. “I think it was liberating.”

By Elizabeth Klipp

Future female grad

GSU recruits new faculty to strengthen research

Georgia State will recruit new faculty in eight target areas in the first round of a five-year hiring initiative aimed at building internationally recognized scholarly strength around research themes.

The Second Century Initiative (2CI) is designed to build upon existing strengths and strategic plans and accelerate collaborative faculty research.

“Among the goals we hope to achieve through this program are a significant increase in our level of competitive, federally funded research, and the elevation of GSU’s overall recognition for excellence in research and scholarly and creative work,” said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Risa Palm.

The eight winning proposals and areas of focus include diagnostics; neuroimaging; evidence-based policy; law, media and ethics; new media; Chinese language and culture; bioinformatics; and health justice.

State of the University

President Mark Becker delivered the State of the University Address April 22, where he discussed highlights from the previous year and outlined the university’s direction heading into the next decade. To watch Becker’s speech, visit http://www.gsu.edu/41250.html.

Back to Back Champs

Senior Cathrine Madisen (left), the individual champion at the 2009 CAA Championship Tournament, and sophomore Charlotte Lorentsen, the 2010 individual champ, led the Lady Panthers’ Golf Team to its second-consecutive conference title in April.

GSU Magazine Spring 2010
THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Ben Jacoby holds down the Panthers’ offensive line

With two years of Division I playing experience under his belt, Ben Jacoby is the closest thing to a veteran on head football coach Bill Curry’s roster. Convenient, then, for the coach that his most seasoned player lines up in one of the offense’s most important positions. That position, center, also happens to be where Curry carved out an All-Pro NFL career.

For Jacoby, that means he’s always under Curry’s watchful eye.

“Mr. Jacoby has an eye on me, one of them seniors,” Jacoby said. “If I do anything wrong, he’s seen it before and he gives me advice on how to correct it. Which is really good because it’s making me a better player.”

Jacoby, 22, a junior computer information science major from Lawrenceville, Ga., transferred to GSU last fall from Ball State, where he red-shirted his freshman year. He was a reserve for the Cardinals in 2008 when they won the Mid-American Conference West Division title and played in the GMAC Bowl.

An All-Gwinnett County selection his senior year at Buford High School, Jacoby was recruited to Ball State by the team’s former head coach, Brady Hoke, who was a teammate of Jacoby’s father, Douglas, on the 1978 Ball State team – mate of Jacoby’s father, head coach, Brady was recruited to Ball High School, Jacoby’s senior year at Buford.

GMAC Bowl.

and played in the West Division title Atlantic Conference last fall from Ball State, where he red-shorted.

Curry said Jacoby showed true leadership when he suited up for all 60 fall practices and often took every snap.

“Center is tough because he has to look at fronts, make calls and understand the protection, then snap the ball and go into a blocking assignment. Ben is versatile, he’s a veteran and we’re really lucky to have him.”

Jacoby says he relishes his craft.

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  **Age:** 90  
  **Annuity:** 9.3%

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The Art of Jetsam:

Art professor Pam Longobardi takes marine debris, like these washed-up webs of fish netting, and creates art with a message about pollution.
ART ADRIFT
Professor creates adrift exhibits from marine debris

For years ago, as she walked along the black sand beaches of the Big Island of Hawai‘i, Pam Longobardi was shocked by what she found littering the once pristine shoreline. Strewed across her path were plastic garbage and huge mounds of netting.

For Longobardi, who has focused on the collision between humans and the natural world for more than 20 years, the washed-up debris was an opportunity to create art with a message about our population and its pollution.

Longobardi began her “Drifters Project” by taking photographs of what she saw on the shores. She then began organizing beach cleanings and designing installations featuring the trash she finds.

Her thought-provoking exhibits have been displayed around the world.

“I want people to think about our planet’s future and where plastic goes when it leaves our hands,” said Longobardi, who has taught art at GSU since 1997. “It is interacting in the natural world in ways that are detrimental to it and us.”

A compilation of her work is available in a new book, “Drifters: Plastics, Pollution, and Personhood,” scheduled for release this fall.

One example of Longobardi’s impactful art installations using marine debris is “Eye Test Chart: Color blindness,” which has red plastic pieces encircled by blue and teal shards, replicating an actual color blindness chart.

“Plastic is attractive and that’s why it sells — we cover it and love it,” Longobardi explains. “We really are blind to this enormously complicated way that it exists after we have a short relationship with it.”

Recently, Longobardi has been focusing on netballs, massive webs of discarded fishing nets that get tangled in the surf and wash ashore in large mounds. She cuts them up to make structures called “DriftWebs.”

Lately, Longobardi has been focusing on netballs, massive webs of discarded fishing nets that get tangled in the surf and wash ashore in large mounds. She cuts them up to make structures called “DriftWebs.”

Beyond her art, Longobardi is working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as part of a think tank to develop ways to reduce contaminants in marine waters and restore coastal ecosystems and habitats.

“Everybody can pick up a few things from the beach that don’t belong there and it will end up in a sea turtle or a fish on your dinner table,” she said.

WEB EXCLUSIVE
Visit gsu.edu/magazine for a slideshow

GEORGIA STATE PERFORMS THE OPERA “CARMEN”

For the first time ever the School of Music in April performed one of the world’s most popular and recognized operas, Georges Bizet’s “Carmen.”

Known for its complexity, “Carmen” is rarely undertaken by university music programs. Georgia State, however, was up to the challenge and performed the opera four times with two different casts, singing in French and acting with English dialogue.

“It really shows the talent we have here to have two casts able to sing these roles,” said Kay Paschal Freeman, stage director for the production. “This opera shows off the gifts of Georgia State’s choral department, the outstanding musicians in our symphony and our excellent opera department.”

Set in 1830 in Seville, Spain, the opera tells the story of Carmen, a strong-willed gypsy intertwined in a passionate love triangle between herself, a jealous corporal and a swaggering toreador, resulting in explosive tragedy.

VIDEO BUILDS THE RADIO STAR
DAEL and WRAS collaborate for IndieATL series

Mart Rowles figured, at the least, the IndieATL music video series would provide graduate students in the film, video and digital imaging program some hands-on experience working on a professional shoot. He didn’t expect it to evolve into an Internet sensation.

For the series, Rowles, digital media coordinator at the Digital Arts and Entertainment Lab, teams with staff at WRAS Album 88 to bring in emerging musicians or bands to film a music video in the DAEL studio.

The concept is simple, but since the project began three years ago, it has gained serious traction on the Internet. Rowles said the videos have received more than 300,000 views on the various sites where they are hosted.

“It’s kind of gone viral,” he said. “People will take the videos and embed them into their own websites and blogs.”

The bands typically perform three or four songs for the video segment, then the mastered audio tracks are given to WRAS for radio play.

“It’s a win-win for everybody,” Rowles said. “For our students, it’s a multi-camera shoot — they’re involved in many different disciplines including multi-track recording and multi-camera editing. We also use it as a recruitment tool, and so far, we’ve had an increase in applicants to the master’s program.”

The bands have something to do with the project’s success, too. Indie rock darlings like the Black Lips have participated, as have other Atlanta favorites including Anna Kramer and the Selmanaires. Rowles said sometimes they’re also able to work in higher profile national acts — such as Robyn Hitchcock and Langhorne Slim — that are on tour and in town for another performance. So far, they’ve filmed more than 35 performers, Rowles said.

WEB EXCLUSIVE
Visit gsu.edu/magazine for a video trailer

GSU Film Fest features student work

Georgia State University showcased the work of its film and video production students at a Student Film Festival, May 3-7 at the Cinefest Film Theatre.

In its second year, the GSU Film Festival was extended to three days and judged by GSU faculty.

“This festival is a celebration of Georgia State film production work,” said Daniel Robin, assistant professor of film and video. “A lot of these films are beautiful, and they deserve to be seen by their peers, friends, family and the community.”

WEB Exclusive
Visit gsu.edu/magazine for a video trailer
MESSAGE CONTROL

Book examines the centuries-old struggle over information technology in China

All spring, the news followed an ongoing battle overseas: China on one side and Internet giant Google on the other, struggling over censorship and the electronic flow of information.

Each side has had tricks up its sleeve: Google moved its search engine operations to Hong Kong in March, declaring its intention to stop censoring. But China allows its citizens to access Hong Kong sites through only a very few routes, creating impossibly slow browsing speeds. It all seemed to be a very 21st-century kind of crisis, this battle over who would control the Internet. But according to Baotong Gu, associate professor of English, the Chinese have struggled with the implications of information technology for more than 5,000 years.

Gu traces that history in his new book, From Oracle Bones to Computers: The Emergence of Writing Technologies in China, published by Parlor Press.

“The development of writing technologies is really a process of negotiation among different groups of users, including the government,” he said. Written records and printing were, in their time, also subjects of struggle, he added.

Gu writes that the Internet represents a continuation of those battles in a new form. In China, all of the major online media outlets — just like other Chinese media — are government-controlled.

Still, Internet chat rooms host some of the freest speech in China, according to Gu, and often the talk is on political reform.

One of the stranger effects of the computer, Gu noted, was that people could suddenly write much faster than they had before. “The Chinese typewriter was never popularized so that ordinary people could use it,” he explained.

In China, typewriters had thousands of keys and thousands of characters and couldn’t be used without special training. But when computers came along, writers could use a much smaller number of keys to create an infinite number of characters. “The Chinese jumped directly from handwriting to computer typing,” he said. “Professional writers, for example, were suddenly producing twice as much.”

Another side effect of the online boom is that it’s upending one of China’s oldest cultural traditions: respect for one’s elders. “The older generation has always been considered more knowledgeable,” Gu said. “But young people are getting more information from the Internet. Now, young people are sometimes considered to know more.”

By ANN CLAYCOMBE
PROVIDING A VOICE

Faculty from across disciplines work together to study language acquisition and literacy

GSU researchers from eight departments as well as researchers with GSU’s Language Research Center, the Regents Center for Learning Disorders (CRADL), and the Center for Research on Atypical Development and Learning (RCALL) are collaborating on research that brings together faculty from across disciplines to study language acquisition and literacy.

Carolyn Richardson/Staff

By implementing different ways of tutoring, literacy curriculums and other therapies, she said, they have seen children who were unable to read simple words advance to reading at grade level or above.

“We’re looking at what are the best combinations to improve language performance,” Sevcik said. “We’re looking to see how we can provide them effectively. If they work, a child can go on and succeed, because once reading takes hold, it’s hard to go back.”

For more about the initiative, visit http://researchlanglit.gsu.edu/

By Jeremy Craig

GSU SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST ANDREA BARTON-HUSSLEY SHARES DATA WITH CHESA RAWLING’S SON, BRYTON RAWLING-PETERSON (below).

A ‘CRADL’ FOR RESEARCH

The RCALL initiative has grown out of GSU’s Center for Research on Atypical Development and Learning (CRADL), which brings together GSU researchers from multiple disciplines to collaborate on research about learning for children with disabilities. They study cognitive, language, social and emotional growth, skills assessment tools, and interventions to help them learn.

By Jeremy Craig

LIFE IN THE LAB

JODI OSBORN, now working toward her Ph.D., began her undergraduate education at 24 as a non-traditional student. Now dedicated to cancer research, she investigates malignant melanoma in the lab of assistant professor of biology Susanna Greer.

AS TOLD TO JEREMY CRAIG

I originally wanted to study forensics, and I have always been obsessed with true crime novels and solving crimes, but the more I got into biology, the more I became fascinated with the molecular level. It’s amazing, of all the things that are going on inside cells that people never think about. Even with everything we’ve learned about molecular biology, there’s so much that we don’t understand.

I just started a project, and it’s going in a new direction for the lab. I’m looking at a proteincalled major histocompatibility complex [MHC] class 2, which is in every cell of the body except red blood cells, and plays a role in the immune system’s response to flush out abnormalities. I’m investigating its expression in melanoma, or cancer cells. A recent study has shown that in different stages of melanoma, there are four stages where the MHC levels are different. I want to look at the genetic changes and the role of MHC in metastasis, or the spreading of cancer cells.

One day, I want to teach at the university level and, hopefully, run my own lab. It’s different than what I originally planned, but I’ve realized as I’ve gone through college that I love teaching. I love helping people to understand things.

By Jeremy Craig

GSU MAgazine Spring 2010

gsu.edu/magazine
In the Intensive Care Unit of Grady Memorial Hospital, Georgia State senior Mesfin Yana leans over a patient returning from heart surgery and begins to remove her intubation tube.

Yana, a respiratory therapist in training, pauses when he sees fear in her eyes and reassures her not to worry; it may be uncomfortable at first, he says, but it gets better. He tells her that he’s had the very same mitral valve replacement surgery.

“Look how good I turned out,” he jokes.

The woman’s eyes brighten, and when the cardiologist arrives to check on her a few minutes later, she is comfortably relaxed.

“I understand Mesfin told you his story,” says Dr. Allen Dollar, chief of cardiology at Grady. “He knows exactly how this is. You’re in good hands.”

Yana can relate to pulmonary and cardiac patients on a level few others can.

About nine years ago, weak with rheumatic heart fever, he struggled to make the journey from his home in the small village of Shafina in southern Ethiopia to a clinic in Addis Ababa, the capital city, where he planned to die alone.

“Even taking one step after another was hard,” he recalls. “I couldn’t breathe. I could barely walk.”

Today, not only is 25-year-old Yana healthy, he graduated this spring with his bachelor’s degree and began his career as a respiratory therapist.

With his warm demeanor and friendly personality, Yana shows no outward signs of how much he endured in the fight for his life. His incredible journey encompasses thousands of miles and wouldn’t have been possible without the generous help of physicians, surgeons and humanitarians — and perhaps, Yana says, a bit of divine intervention.

“Being in the United States is a blessing,” Yana says. “Every opportunity the American people have given me has made me think about how I can change my life and how I can change the lives of others here and back home.”
A SUDDEN ILLNESS

Yana grew up in a large family of 13 brothers and sisters in Shafina, a village that during Yana’s childhood was without electricity or automobiles. Yana says he had a happy childhood until he became sick with strep throat as an early teen. The streptococcus was to blame for the rheumatic heart fever that nearly killed him. His family took him to doctors in the area, but they were unable to help. Yana needed surgery, but in Ethiopia, a country of nearly 80 million people, heart surgeons are extremely rare.

“By then I was at the point of death and I was praying to be delivered from my suffering,” Yana remembers. “I was not afraid to die, for I had lost my hope to live. Struggling to breathe, it felt like I was drowning all the time.”

His family tried everything to help him, staying up with him at night when he couldn’t breathe or sleep. “When I hurt, they hurt,” he recalls. Not wanting to be a burden to his family any longer, Yana decided to leave his village and make the long trek to the Mother Theresa Mission in Addis Ababa — the place he hoped to find solace in his final hours.

Instead, Yana found the person he calls his “angel,” Dr. Richard Hodes. Dr. Hodes is the medical director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Addis Ababa and cares for Ethiopia’s destitute suffering from heart disease, severe spinal disorders and cancer. He began working in Ethiopia during the famine of the early 1980s and has helped hundreds of children and cancer. He began working in Ethiopia during the famine of the early 1980s and has helped hundreds of children and cancer.

Six weeks later though, Yana wasn’t improving. At first, Dr. Hodes thought Yana was just having problems adjusting to the altitude of Addis Ababa, which is more than 8,000 feet above sea level. But Yana developed a low-grade fever and an enlarged spleen — telltale signs of an infection of the heart lining, showing signs of severe congestive heart failure. The doctor knew Yana needed heart surgery to survive and immediately began contacting his network of doctors and hospitals across the United States for help.

ANOTHER SON

It was in the fall of 2001 when Dr. Allen Dollar, then a cardiologist at Piedmont Hospital, got the call from Hodes. An Atlanta based non-profit, Childrens Cross Connections International, helped facilitate Yana’s journey, and in October of ‘01, doctors at Piedmont performed successful surgery on Yana’s heart.

He stayed with a sponsor family for two months as he recovered, then flew back home to Ethiopia and moved into Dr. Hodes’ home to continue healing.

Dr. Dollar and the pair arranged for Yana to fly back to Atlanta. An ambulance met Yana on the tarmac and rushed him to Piedmont Hospital for the emergency operation.

“By then I was at the point of death and I was praying to be delivered from my suffering,” Yana remembers. “I was not afraid to die, for I had lost my hope to live. Struggling to breathe, it felt like I was drowning all the time.”

It was a phrase that Shelly has come to hear frequently over the years. Not that she minds. The high school sweethearts had always wanted to have a large family and that dream has come to fruition, with children coming into their lives on purpose and at times by happenstance.

“Whenever a need comes up and things fall into our lap, we’ve tried to rise to the occasion,” says Dr. Dollar, a fit 50-year-old with wire rim glasses, a buzz cut and slight beard. “Not that there haven’t been hard times, but the fun stuff outweighs it, the chance to see these kids’ potential come to light.”

“I think we’re going to have another kid,” said Dr. Allen Dollar, chief of cardiology at Grady Hospital, to his wife, Shelly, after Yana was given a prosthetic heart valve that left him medically unable to go back to Ethiopia.

“IT says in the Talmud, ‘He who saves one life saves an entire world,’ and that’s what I’m trying to do,” Dr. Hodes says, referring to the Jewish Holy Book.

Dr. Hodes said he found Yana lying on a stretcher in the mission near death, showing signs of severe congestive heart failure. The doctor knew Yana needed heart surgery to survive and immediately began contacting his network of doctors and hospitals across the United States for help.

Dr. Hodes was able to cure Yana’s infection, but not before it had damaged his heart valve. He needed surgery again, so Dr. Hodes immediately called Dr. Dollar and the pair arranged for him to fly back to Atlanta. An ambulance met Yana on the tarmac and rushed him to Piedmont Hospital for the emergency operation.

During surgery, Dr. Dollar and a colleague determined that Yana needed a prosthetic heart valve because his own valve was beyond repair. With a prosthetic valve, however, Yana would need to be on blood thinners and would need close monitoring, leaving him medically unable to go back to Ethiopia.

“We were in surgery and my colleague asked, ‘What are you going to do with him?’” Dr. Dollar says. “I said, ‘I don’t know!’ Then I called Shelly and said I think we’re going to have another kid.”

It was a phrase that Shelly has come to hear frequently over the years. Not that she minds. The high school sweethearts had always wanted to have a large family and that dream has come to fruition, with children coming into their lives on purpose and at times by happenstance.

“Whenever a need comes up and things fall into our lap, we’ve tried to rise to the occasion,” says Dr. Dollar, a fit 50-year-old with wire rim glasses, a buzz cut and slight beard. “Not that there haven’t been hard times, but the fun stuff outweighs it, the chance to see these kids’ potential come to light.”
The Dollars have three biological daughters — Lauren, Diane and Stephanie — plus four adopted international children with health issues: Jon, a son with a congenital heart problem from China; Gabriela, a daughter with cerebral palsy from El Salvador; and Tony and Hugo, two boys with mental health issues from Mexico. Also part of the Dollar clan are Mesfin, as well as foster children Mike and Todd, who were too old to be adopted but are considered family members all the same.

The Dollars also help nine children in Addis Ababa who are either in reconsideration for adoption and again considered family members all the same. they were too old to be adopted but are considered family members all the same.

The Dollars are a tight-knit family. They have 11 children and spent much of their early years trying to support and educate them.

Stephanie — plus four adopted international students in Ethiopia, the U.S. and Vietnam. The needs in such countries are overwhelming, he says.

“Can’t save everybody,” Dr. Dollar says with some resignation. 

“Yana also found his niche by joining the Ethiopian Student Association and giving tours of Georgia State to incoming international students.

Most importantly, Yana is grateful for Georgia State. Yana has been unassuming about his past.

“Yana still experienced a “culture shock” when he first arrived at Georgia State.

He’s such an amazing guy and the truth is I didn’t know all he has been through until two years after I met him,” Housley says.

“Yana said his parents access to United States was placed on a ventilator.

Dr. Dollar is now a faculty member in Grady’s ICU seeing patients with issues ranging from severe asthma to major trauma, which requires a breathing tube to be inserted and the patient to be placed on a ventilator.

Every time I see a patient, I feel the emotion they are going through that makes me closer to them and allows me to take care of them,” Yana says. “It’s like a flashback.”

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

About two months before his graduation from Georgia State, Yana’s family gathered at Bahel Ethiopian Cuisine on Briarcliff Road to celebrate his birthday, or at least what they think is his birthday.

Yana’s parents access to United States was placed on a ventilator.

Dr. Dollar remembered the children he and Shelly have tried to save, but who didn’t make it.

It’s moments like this that Yana opens up and reflects on his struggle.

“I believe that God has reasons for what he does,” Yana explains. “He made me sick to bring me over here to go to school and to be someone who can help others in need.”

The Dollars worked hard to get Yana’s parents access to United States for his graduation. Though they weren’t able to make the ceremony, they cheered Yana from Ethiopia, along with his angel, Dr. Hodes.

“I was always impressed with his drive and think it’s simply wonderful he’s graduating,” Dr. Hodes writes in an e-mail from Addis Ababa. “(Respiratory therapy) is a great choice for Mesfin — he has great people skills and this is a way for him to use his brains and his heart.”
On a blustery day early this spring, Parker H. "Pete" Petit returned to the place that 37 years ago prepared him for business success in the health care industry.

With the snip of a ribbon, the Georgia State alumnus officially dedicated the new state-of-the-art science center that bears his name – the Parker H. Petit Science Center — and, at the same time, widened the doors of opportunity for the university’s next generation of students, scientists and health professionals.

“I have just one thought for our students who will use this new center,” Petit said at the March 29 celebration. "Embrace science… science that will add value, create wealth and improve the quality of life in our country, as well as globally. You can make a difference, and I challenge you to do so."

Georgia State faculty and students are now set to meet these challenges as never before at the new 350,000 square-foot, $150 million center. The building, located on the corner of Decatur Street and Piedmont Avenue, is home to laboratories, offices and classrooms for biology, chemistry, nursing, nutrition, physical and respiratory therapies and public health, as well as the Neuroscience Institute.

Here, once classes begin in the fall, faculty will nurture and train the next generation of health care professionals as they learn about nursing, and physical and respiratory therapy. Public health students will learn about tracking dangerous diseases. And faculty research scientists — already setting up shop — will explore new frontiers in biology and chemistry, find new treatments for cancer and other diseases and work to better understand post-traumatic stress disorder and autism among other conditions.

It all moves forward with the center’s simple but profound contribution — space.
EXPANDING RESEARCH
Professor of medicinal chemistry and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Drug Discovery Binghe Wang is just one of many scientists who, along with their lab members and graduate students, are making the Petit Science Center their new home for research.

Wang is currently working on a new prostate cancer detector that will help more accurately diagnose the disease. “GSU’s biomedical-related areas are on the upswing now, and have been attracting a lot of attention,” Wang said. “This new science center gives us a strong push to keep the momentum going and move us to the next level.”

The new center is also creating a meeting of the minds with the university’s Neuroscience Institute. “It promotes unity among the neuroscientists so that we can increase the exchange of ideas, and also increase the cohesiveness of us as a group by interacting with one another on a daily basis,” said Anne Murphy, associate professor of neuroscience and associate director of the institute.

Critical scientific facilities at the center feature, for example, confocal and electron microscopes that can detect the smallest processes of cells. There is also a “visualization wall” — a huge, 200-million-pixel array of computer screens that researchers can use to view large amounts of data for different purposes. Using the array, a public health scientist could map how disease spreads in an area, for example.

The building is home to a new public health laboratory for epidemiology research. The building also houses U.S. Army Safety Level 4 laboratory — one of only two university-based BSL-4 labs in the country — where researchers investigate the deadly Herpes B virus.

What happens to Kell?
When picturing a modern, 21st century university facility, Kell Hall by all accounts wouldn’t necessarily come to mind. Its unusual origin as a parking deck is a source of humor for those who encounter it for the first time.

“I was upset that I left my rollerblades in California, because I thought I could get around the building much more quickly if I could rollerblade around the ramps,” joked Kyle Frantz, associate professor of neuroscience. Kell Hall’s spaces served as teaching and research labs for decades until the Natural Science Center opened in the 1990s.

The new Petit Science Center offers more than twice the square footage of Kell’s 180,000, but even with a new building, space is still a premium at this fast-growing university.

Labs currently in Kell Hall move to the Petit Science Center and the Natural Science Center, opening up space in Kell, where offices and teaching labs will remain.

Once classes begin at the center, more than 2,000 students will pass through the public areas of the building every day. On a lower floor in the building, a 100-seat auditorium will serve as a lecture hall. The building contains six general and 32 department-specific teaching labs and classrooms.

New teaching labs also provide rooms and equipment specifically set up to help students to learn their trades. For example, students of the Bydene F. Lewis School of Nursing will have a simulated hospital ward and primary care practices in which to train using interactive patient simulators. “The skills and simulation lab was housed in the basement of Kell Hall, but the new facility is vastly improved with newer equipment,” said Barbara C. Woodring, director of the school of nursing.

LIKE CLOCKWORK
It’s rare to hear that a project is on time and on budget, but that’s exactly how the Petit Science Center project has proceeded.

The venture was incredibly complex, however. Project directors led more than 2,000 workers during construction. Miles of wiring and piping were run through the facility. Yards upon yards of carpet were rolled throughout, and numerous benches for teaching labs were assembled. “Green” features were built in to conserve water, energy and money.

The move to the new building itself has also been an undertaking. The first departments began moving in during the beginning of May in preparation for the summer semester. Researchers had to wrap up certain experiments by the end of April. Thousands of chemi-
GSU musicians bring home the hardware at Grammy Awards

Story by William Inman and Elizabeth Klipp | Photography by Carolyn Richardson

For decades, Georgia State’s School of Music has recruited gifted faculty and produced talented graduates who have performed in impressive venues, won numerous industry awards and collaborated with big time artists.

So success stories coming out of the school are nothing new. This story is exceptional, however, because on Jan. 31, 2010, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, three GSU musicians — an alumnus, a faculty member and a music management student — each brought home one of the highest honors a musician can receive: a Grammy Award.

“To have three in one year is pretty remarkable,” said W. Dwight Coleman, director of the School of Music. “It goes without saying how proud we are of these guys.”

COY BOWLES:
ROOTS ROCKER

At the ripe age of 13, Coy Bowles (B.S.’04) started his first band, Betty Doom, with two friends from school.

They practiced grunge rock covers in his parents’ attic and played at church functions.

Today, now 31, Bowles is a member of the Zac Brown Band, a country music group headlining nationwide tours and pairing up with acts like the Dave Matthews Band and Jimmy Buffet.

Even though Bowles, who plays guitar, piano and organ with the band, has shared the stage with some of the biggest names in popular music, he admits he was stunned when he went to accept the “Best New Artist” Grammy with his Zac Brown Band members.

“It was, by far, the most overwhelmed I’ve ever been in my life,” he says. “There were only three words I had to say in the thank you speech — family, friends and crew — and I could barely say that.”

Given his talent and dedication, people who know Bowles aren’t surprised he reached this level of success.

“He always wanted to get better and he had a lot of questions,” says David Frackenpohl, academic instructor in the jazz studies program.

Bowles says he started playing guitar at age 10 when his mother signed him up for lessons to keep him “out of trouble.” At first he didn’t like the instrument, but soon enough he was writing his own songs.

In college, Bowles majored in biology but quickly decided to follow his calling towards music.

“It was an amazing experience,” Bowles says of his time at GSU. “It was one of the best experiences in my life, being around horn players and playing in a big band, writing and arranging music.”

After graduation, Bowles taught guitar lessons and formed a band, “Coy Bowles and the Fellowship.” The group recorded a full-length album, “Into the Distance,” which was released in 2006.

While hustling around Atlanta with his band, Bowles crossed paths with an old friend, Zac Brown, who liked what he heard from Bowles on stage and invited him to play.

“It’s a very amazing, fertile, creative brotherhood,” Bowles says of the Zac Brown Band. “If I had to paint a picture of the band I wanted to be in when I was a teenager, this would be it for sure.”

Bowles joined the Zac Brown Band just as their first album, “The Foundation,” was taking off. The first single, “Chicken Fried,” peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Chart, and “Whatever It Is” and “Toes” also reached No. 1.

Then came the Country Music Awards, the three Grammy nominations and the “Best New Artist” Grammy win. On Grammy night, the band performed with music legend Leon Russell, and the experience is one Bowles won’t soon forget.

“I’m loving every second,” he says. “Things are happening so fast, so all you can do is stay humble and stay close to friends and family. You have to be true to yourself.”
For Andrew “Dru” Castro, Grammy night was like old hat. The 33-year-old music management senior, who has served as producer and recording engineer for some of Hip Hop and R&B’s biggest hits over the last decade, had been there before — seven times to be exact — but never had he taken home the award.

This year and this nomination, however, felt different, he says.

Castro produced and engineered India Arie’s chart-topping “Testimony Vol. 2: Love and Politics,” and he knew it was an outstanding recording. The album was nominated for “Best R&B Album,” and the song “Pearls,” featuring songstress Dobet Gnahore, was nominated for “Best Urban/Alternative Performance.”

“It felt great to be nominated, and I had a really good feeling about it,” he says. “But to be honest, I kind of expected it this time. This was India’s 20th nomination.”

It’s true that Arie has a score of nominations and two Grammys to her credit, but for Castro, who also has worked as a recording engineer with Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Jamie Foxx, the award had proved elusive.

So when “Pearls” won for “Best Urban/Alternative Performance,” Arie brought Castro on the Staples Center stage to accept the award.

“That was pretty cool,” Castro says nonchalantly. “Not bad for a guy who, back in 1999, was selling and installing studio equipment for local producers.

It was Castro’s in-depth knowledge of his wares that, in fact, led him to a career as producer and engineer. “Some of the people who I sold equipment to would call me back and say ‘How do I use this?’” he says. “And it really took off from there.”

Since breaking into the industry, Castro has worked steadily, producing and engineer dozens of albums and singles. He received his first Grammy nomination in 2006 for Arie’s “Testimony Volume 1: Life & Relationship,” which was up for “Best R&B Album.”

That same year, Castro opened Music House Studios, now widely known as one of Atlanta’s premier recording studios. At Music House, Castro has worked with such artists as Keyshia Cole, Usher, Ciara, New Kids on the Block and Nelly.

So forgive him for taking his time finishing up his degree here.

“When things get busy, I have to take time off [from school] and focus on work,” he says. “But I’ll get there, I took four classes last semester, and I’m making it a point to work it all into my routine.”
Long before he was legally able to buy a drink at the bar, Mace Hibbard was a fixture at the late-night jazz clubs in and around his hometown of Waco, Texas.

As a teenager, he played saxophone alongside his father, Dave Hibbard, a well-known jazz trumpet player, during the elder Hibbard's gigs.

Since then, Hibbard has earned a master's degree in jazz studies from the University of Texas and has become an accomplished classical saxophonist and composer. That hasn’t stopped him from performing in those smoky, late night dives, however. The instructor of jazz saxophone in the School of Music can still be found around Atlanta with his band, the Mace Hibbard Quintet, performing his brand of straight jazz and modern standards.

So for a dues-paid, classically trained musician like Hibbard, one who has shared the stage with everyone from Wynton Marsalis to the Austin Symphony Orchestra, winning a Grammy has to be some kind of life changer, right?

“It doesn’t change anything,” he says. “For me, winning a Grammy is getting the recognition for all those small gigs that you play, and for all those nights when you drive home at 3 a.m. It’s knowing that you’re doing the right thing.”

For his Grammy win, Hibbard played saxophone and wrote the horn arrangements for the Derek Trucks Band’s album “Already Free,” the “Best Contemporary Blues Album.” Hibbard has been playing live and recording with the Derek Trucks Band, a jazz, rock and blues fusion ensemble, since 2005.

“I’m really proud of what I did on the record, but I’m merely a small guy in [Trucks’] machine,” Hibbard jokes. “When someone sends you tracks like that, it really makes it easy. My job was not to mess things up.”

While Hibbard might downplay his role with the band, his colleague, Gordon Vernick, associate professor and director of jazz studies at Georgia State, says Hibbard’s talents make him highly sought after.

“Mace is a consummate professional and he can play whatever people want him to play, and that’s why they want to work with him,” Vernick says. “In music, you have to lead by example, it’s not just talking theory in the classroom, but also performing in the streets, and Mace does that.”

When not writing and performing Grammy-winning arrangements for his friends, Hibbard leads budding Georgia State jazz musicians in improvisation and fronts his jazz troupe. This summer, the Mace Hibbard Quintet is set to record its second album, a follow-up to 2007’s “When Last We Met.”

The release of his new record means, as soon as it hits the streets, Hibbard will be out, late, performing in support of the album, not resting on the laurels of his new Grammy-winner status.

“It’s pretty surreal,” he says of the Grammy nod and the attention. “So I won’t complain.”

MACE HIBBARD: JAZZ MAN
Delight in the scenic grandeur of the Amalfi Coast, with its varied architecture and amazing vertical landscape. Nicknamed The Divine Coast, the serpentine Amalfi Drive winds around towering cliffs and sandy coves, past charming villages, brightly colored villas and cascading flower gardens. During your stay in the seaside resort of Amalfi, venture out to see the town of Ravello, with its spectacular 13th-century Villa Rufolo, and the dramatic cliffs of Positano, Italy’s most vertical town. Discover an epoch suspended in time at the fabled ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii. See the Temples of Hera and Athena at Paestum, and immerse yourself in the extraordinary beauty and classical antiquity of Capri, the Isle of Dreams.

Price is $3,045, plus airfare and V.A.T., based on double occupancy.

Located on the northwestern corner of the African continent, the Kingdom of Morocco is a peaceful constitutional monarchy with a fascinating history. A country of red earthen kasbahs with Arabesque arches, shaded souks brimming with brass lanterns and hand-woven carpets, camel caravans, and couscous, Morocco has long been synonymous with romance and adventure. Discover the magic of this storied land on an exciting travel program that 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, nestled in the heart of Berber country. Conclude your journey in the romantic city of Casablanca. Tour its many highlights and browse its lively markets.

Price is $3,245, plus airfare and V.A.T., based on double occupancy.

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.

To receive information on any of these trips, contact the Alumni Association at 800/GSU-ALUM or WWW.GSU.EDU/ALUMNI.
STATE’S AMBASSADOR
As Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia for the United States, Vladimir Petrovic (B.A. ’00) knows that both countries have a lot in common — beginning with a shared commitment to democracy.

Petrovic, who grew up in Belgrade, Serbia, and studied political science and international relations at Georgia State, has held the ambassador post since early 2020.

“My primary focus is to work on strengthening relations between the two countries,” Petrovic said. “Both countries share a commitment to democracy and rule of law, and both strive towards achieving lasting peace and prosperity for future generations.”

Petrovic says he has always been interested in politics and diplomacy, and his career path was probably influenced by growing up in turbulent political times in Serbia.

“I always envisioned my future tasked with bridging opposing interests and ideas, and bringing cultures together,” Petrovic said. “The people of Serbia have endured great hardship. That said, our spirit remains strong.”

Petrovic said: “Both countries share a commitment to democracy and rule of law, and both strive towards achieving lasting peace and prosperity for future generations.”

Before becoming Ambassador to Serbia, Petrovic worked for the humanitarian group Care, two law firms in Atlanta and on numerous political campaigns. He returned to Serbia in 2007 to become part of the newly elected government before going back to Washington as minister counselor.

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.

1960s
Lee Armstrong (B.A. ’68) and Peggy Duke (B.S. ’73) were honored as Outstanding Alumni by Georgia State University’s College of Arts and Sciences. This is the first year the college has bestowed this award.

Dr. William Buchanan (B.A. ’60) was a featured speaker at the 2009 Conference on Library and Information Society hosted by Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei, Taiwan. Buchanan has been on the faculty of the Department of Library Science at Clayton University since 1993.

Kay Cothran Craigie (B.A. ’68) was elected president of the American Radio Relay League, Inc., the national association for amateur radio in the United States.

1970s
Kenneth G. Byers Jr. (M.B.A. ’72) has been appointed 2010 chair of the board of directors of the Caterer Center. He is president and founder of Byers Engineering Company and a director of the Atlanta Rotary Club.

Robyn Spizman (B.A. ’76) and Justin Spizman (B.D. ’90) recently released a new book, “Don’t Give Up... Don’t Ever Give Up...” with Sourcebooks.

Michael D. Weisman (B.A. ’75) has joined the Boston law firm of Davis, Malin & B Agnese, P.C. as a shareholder in the litigation practice area. Weisman has been a trial lawyer for more than 35 years, and is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

1980s
Carmen Bernal (M.A.T. ’82), former part-time instructor in the Modern and Classical Languages department, has been appointed as a recipient of the 2010 Governor’s Award of the Humanities. The award recognizes people and organizations doing exemplary work in the field and encourages them to serve as role models for their peers.

Mary Ann Brown (B.A. ’84) has been promoted to executive vice president, corporate development at Pacific Life Insurance Company. A fellow of the Society of Actuaries, Brown previously was senior vice president of finance and product development at Pacific Life.

Linda DiBantis (J.D. ’88) received the Linda T. Muir Award from the Georgia Women’s Institute for contributions to the profession and women.

Layne E. Egggers (B.S. ’84) is the new assistant dean of hospitality at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Previously he was director of sales and service, innovation and culinary excellence for Gate Gourmet International Gate Group.

Osmo A. Hautanen (M.B.A. ’87) has been appointed to the board of directors of Geo Communications, a developer and distributor of mobile applications and services. He is CEO of Magnolia Broadband and owner of Cosimos Consulting, Inc.

Robert Puech (M.B.A. ’80) has been elected a corporate officer of Sonoco. Puech, who is vice president and general manager of glass products, joined the company in 1996.

William Scarborough (M.A. ’80, M.F.A. ’91) recently successfully completed the requirements for the certified management accountant (CMA) professional designation. Scarborough is employed as an associate chief accountant in the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C.

1990s
Larry Arney (M.B.A. ’94) is the new executive director of the Midlands Housing Alliance. Previously he was deputy director of programs for the South Carolina Housing Finance and Development Authority.

FIELD GENERAL

As Steve Tahsler (B.A. '97) tells it, his life as deputy commissioner for the 12-team Frontier League is much different from those of his executive counterparts in baseball’s big leagues.

For starters, there are no major television network contracts to negotiate or billionaire owners to share luxury boxes with.

For Tahsler, it’s making sure the Normal (Ill.) CornBelters doubleheader this year with the Traverse City (Mich.) Beach Bums has umpires.

“I’m the guy behind the scenes,” he said. “I oversee and implement the rules, take care of contracts, insurance, impatience, etcetera.”

Tahsler has been with the Frontier League, an independent professional league in the Midwest, for almost 15 years and previously served as general manager for four of the league’s clubs. As a GM, he led the Evansville Otters and the Windy City Thunderbolts to league championships and has twice been named Frontier’s executive of the year.

The league is not associated with Major League Baseball or part of its minor league system, Tahsler explained, but that doesn’t mean Frontier’s executive counterparts in baseball’s big leagues.

“Without [Hurst’s] help and support, and that of the GSU Athletic Department, I wouldn’t be working in baseball,” he said.

1990s

Wain Kullum (M.B.A. ’91) has named Volocasity as CEO. He comes to the voice-over-Internet-protocol provider from Omnulink. Kullum serves on the board of directors of NE Times Health System and is chair emeritus of TechChic.

Alicia Avrett Kelly (B.A. ’98) and her husband, Christopher Kelly, recently welcomed the birth of their first child, Kieran Paul. They live in Atlanta.

Lance LoFusso (J.D. ’99) received the 2010 Serving Others and Achieving Results (SOMR) award from the Georgia State University College of Law’s Public Interest Law Association for his outstanding pro-bono work among veterans and law enforcement officers.

Richard J. Muller Jr. (M.S. ’99), orderliness officer for Georgia State University, is now a registrar of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists and is certified as a specialist microbiologist in biological safety microbiology.


Philip A. Patterson (M.B.A. ’96) is the new CEO of Bon Secours Group Inc. He has been with the company for six years and most recently was vice president, sales, marketing and business development.

Scott Tracey (M.B.A. ’97) has been named vice president and general manager, European of Polymer Group Inc. He has been with the company for 14 years and most recently was vice president, sales, marketing and business development.

Joe Uriz (B.A. ’96) was honored as Georgia’s K-12 Foreign Language Teacher of the Year by the Foreign Language Association of Georgia.

David Winters (M.B.A. ’98) is the new CEO of IntelliOne Technologies Corporation. He previously was CMO and executive vice president of the traffic and location services provider. Prior to joining IntelliOne Winters was CEO of Pure Med Spa and the McCasley Companies.

2000s

Scott Anderson (J.D. ’94) and his partner, Paul Whiting, are proud to announce the birth of their twin boys, Mitchell and Nathan, via gestational surrogate.

The successful finance executive has had a long career of leadership at major companies, and being, well, a beauty queen didn’t make it to the top of her resume.

Still, White, who recently retired from her position as senior vice president and chief financial officer at Futures Industry Association in Washington, D.C., said she’s proud of her former title and the experiences she had as a student at Georgia State.

“I made wonderful friends and had great opportunities,” she said.

While at GSU, she was a stand-out campus leader, serving as president of Delta Zeta sorority and editor of the “Rampway.”

White said she has enjoyed coming back for Homecoming and especially relishes seeing her sorority sisters.

She spent years as a vice president at Freddie Mac before becoming chief financial officer at the Futures Industry Association, a non-profit trade association. Now she’s consulting and lives in South Carolina.

While her GSU days are behind her, the memories live on. The silver “Loving Cup” she received when she was crowned Miss Georgia State looked nearly new as she held it in the D.C. sunshine recently.

“We sure had fun,” she said with a smile.

BRAINS AND BEAUTY

Diane Davis White, (B.A. ’72, M.B.A. ’76) blushes a bit when asked about her reign as Miss Georgia State in the 1970s.

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BY ANDREA JONES
**WOMAN OF THE HOUSE**

Jan Jones (M.B.A. ’82) never planned to turn her career sights to politics, but in less than a decade, she has risen to the top ranks under the Gold Dome. As the newly elected speaker pro tempore of the Georgia House of Representatives, she is now the highest-ranking woman in the history of the Georgia Legislature.

“I never thought I would run for office,” Jones says. “I ran for office without knowing what I was doing. I just wanted to make changes.”

The 51-year-old Republican from Milton made her foray into politics during a stay-at-home mom to her four children for nearly 10 years. Previously, Jones worked as a financial auditor turned marketing executive for HBO.

She turned to community activism, which eventually charted her path to politics. At the time, Jones focused her efforts on a plan to annex unincorporated areas of North Fulton into Alpharetta. These days, she is still laser-focused on the northern part of the county, but instead is hoping to split Fulton into two parts—a Milton County and a South Fulton, which would then become the city of Atlanta.

“My vision is Milton County be recreated,” Jones says. “I would simply bring government closer to people. ... One size does not fit all with the county but instead is hoping to split Fulton into two parts—a Milton County and a South Fulton, which would then become the city of Atlanta.”

Jones’ political career began in 2002, when she ran for a Georgia House seat. By 2008, she was elected GOP majority whip.

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Her death reverberated through the Georgia State community—especially with those involved at the university’s Institute of Public Health, where she was working on her master’s degree in public health.

*By Jeremy Craig*

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### 2000s

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Jennifer Dorris
(R.B.A. ’99, M.B.A. ’01)
has been appointed president of Prominis Solutions. She had been CFO of the financial services processing firm. Dorris is a member of the board of directors of Express-1 and chair of its audit committee.

Donna Ennis
(M.P.A. ’07), project director of the Georgia Minority Business Enterprise Center, has been named one of Atlanta’s Top 10 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

Ryan Finch
(J.D. ’05) recently joined McCalla Raymer LLR as a bankruptcy associate specializing in creditor’s rights.

Angela M. Forstie
(J.D. ’10) joined Howik, Westfall, McRaney & Kaplan LLP as an associate in the commercial litigation practice group.

Adam Knight
(B.Mu. ’94) has been named jazz studies instructor at the University of South Carolina Uptown and guitar instructor at Spartanburg Community College.

Katherine Koehler
(M.Mu. ’09) won the Perry C. Daniels Environmeht Award in the South Carolina District of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions.

Ryan Landers
(J.D. ’07) and Andea Espie
(J.D. ’07) were married in Roswell, Ga., on July 3, 2009. Ryan is a staff attorney at the 11th Circuit and Andea is a staff attorney with Atlanta Legal Aid.

Chris Vasinbinder
(M.B.A. ’01) recently joined Freed, Kruger, Harris, a full-service corporate real estate company, as vice president of Retail Brokerage.

Melissa Bull Wheeler
(M.P.A. ’06) recently earned Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) certification. Wheeler also was recently promoted to senior staff accountant at the Atlanta accounting and advisory firm of Gifford, Hillgren & Ingwersen.

Trey Wright
(M.Mu. ’02) has been named a lecturer of jazz studies and jazz guitar at Kennesaw State University and instructor at Atlanta Institute of Music.

### IN MEMORIAM

**1940s**

Charles Mabry
(B.C.S. ’49), Winter Park, Fla., Jan. 9, 2010

Rex Pruitt
(B.C.S. ’41), Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23, 2009

Gloria Richardson
(B.A. ’49), Lawrenceville, Ga., Jan. 3, 2010

Dudley Segars
(B.C.S. ’48), Roswell, Ga., Dec. 23, 2009

**1950s**

James David Lamming
(B.S. ’72), Stockbridge, Ga., Dec. 5, 2009

**1960s**

Helen Clarke
(B.A. ’66), Decatur, Ga., Jan. 12, 2010

Kenneth House
(B.B.A. ’61), Roswell, Ga., Jan. 1, 2010

**1970s**

Gloria Baker
(M.Mu. ’75), Marietta, Ga., Dec. 31, 2009

Vernay Bentley III
(B.S. ’71), Atlanta, Dec. 14, 2009

Louise Collinge
(B.A. ’73), Atlanta, Jan. 8, 2010

**1980s**

Minnie Banton
(M.Ed. ’81), Decatur, Ga., March 19, 2010

Elaine Dowis
(M.Ed. ’77), Roswell, Ga., Jan. 9, 2010

Anne Marie Eaton
(M.A. ’77), Atlanta, March 27, 2010

Sally Holland
(B.A. ’76), Atlanta, Jan. 10, 2010

Gordon Kitchens
(Taylor Price ’77), Atlanta, Jan. 11, 2010

Paul Moss Jr.
(B.B.A. ’71), Roswell, Ga., Feb. 1, 2010

Fred Pitman
(B.A. ’76), Oakland, Va., Dec. 25, 2009

**1990s**

Reverend Joseph Roberson
(B.S. ’76), Columbus, Ga., Nov. 21, 2009

Caroline Sawtell
(M.B.A. ’80), Marietta, Ga., Dec. 23, 2009

Charles Vickers
(B.B.A. ’86), Decatur, Ga., Feb. 1, 2010

Thomasene Willingham
(M.Ed. ’86), Atlanta, Nov. 29, 2009

Edward Trabue
(B.B.A. ’81), Kennesaw, Ga., Dec. 28, 2009

Marian Harrison
(Sp.Ed. ’87), Tyrone, N.C., Jan. 3, 2010

Steven Johnson
(M.B.A. ’80), Marietta, Ga., Dec. 25, 2009

Philip J. Duffy
(B.A. ’91), Norcross, Ga., Jan. 12, 2010

Harold J. Mulkey
(M.Act. ’81), Marietta, Ga., March 17, 2010

Richard Schmid
(M.H.P. ’91), Kennesaw, Ga., Dec. 31, 2009

### A LIFE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Diane Caves (M.P.A. ’70) epitomized what the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies wants in a student and an alumna—a person dedicated to service and committed to making things better.

Katherine Withington, professor of public management and policy, remembers how well Caves expressed her dedication when she gave a speech at Honors Day.

“I remember that she said, ‘It’s wonderful to live in a country that will pay you to help others,’” Withington said. “We have opportunities to be employed in careers that can impact people’s lives, and she really honed in on that.”

Caves, a worker for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, died in the massive Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti while she was working to improve Haitian HIV/AIDS programs.

Her death reverberated through the Georgia State community—especially with those involved at the university’s Institute of Public Health, where she was working on her master’s degree in public health.

*By Jeremy Craig*
Helen Davis (M.Ed. ’80) and her husband, Ren, authors of two hiking guidebooks, share their top 10 urban walking areas in Atlanta.

1. **Atlanta Heritage Trail and Sweet Auburn-Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic District**
   One walk traces the growth of Atlanta from a railroad construction camp to the seat of state government and an international city, and a second path reveals the childhood home and final resting place of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

2. **Inman Park**
   Atlanta’s first planned residential community boasts excellent examples of Victorian architecture.

3. **Historic Oakland Cemetery**
   Historic Oakland is a Victorian treasure. Among the many notable Atlantans interred here are author Margaret Mitchell and golfer Bobby Jones.

4. **Piedmont Park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden**
   Often called the city’s “common ground,” Piedmont Park has been a gathering place for Atlantans since 1895. Adjoining the park, the Atlanta Botanical Garden features rare, exotic and native plants.

5. **Ansley Park**
   Ansley is noted for its beautiful pocket parks and elegant homes.

6. **Fernbank Forest**
   A woodland path meanders through an old-growth forest only a few miles from downtown. A great destination for families.

7. **Druid Hills**
   Developed in the early 20th century, this park-like neighborhood of elegant homes reflects the garden-like designs of Frederick Law Olmsted.

8. **Virginia-Highland and Morningside**
   These two residential areas preserve vintage World War I era Craftsman-style architecture and notable examples of the works of Atlanta’s finest early and mid-20th century architects.

9. **Peachtree Battle Avenue and Atlanta Memorial Park**
   Elegant pre-World War II estates face tree-lined Peachtree Battle, while more modern homes border Atlanta Memorial Park.

10. **Atlanta History Center and Buckhead’s Beautiful Homes**
    Atlanta’s most prestigious neighborhoods surround the Atlanta History Center.

Helen and Ren Davis are the authors of “Georgia Walks: Discovering Hikes Through the Peach State’s Natural and Human History” and “Best Hikes Near Atlanta.”
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We’re at 133 Alumni Hall Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Call us at 800/GSU-ALUM or e-mail us at ALUMNI@GSU.EDU.

CLASS OF 2010
The Ken Burns Effect:
Documentary filmmaker and Academy Award nominee Ken Burns visited Georgia State March 25 and presented a lecture titled “No Ordinary Lives” that focused on his epic account of World War II, “The War.”