The Policy

Andrew Young

Atlanta icon lends his legacy to GSU
FEAT URES

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On the occasion of his 80th birthday, a look back at the legacy of Andrew Young and his involvement with Gsu and his eponymous school. By Kathleen Poe Ross

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The Student Alumni Association, now the largest student organization on campus, builds lasting ties to Gsu and connects current students and alumni. By William Inman

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Associate professor of biology Ritu Anjea has discovered the humble sweet potato plant may lead to kinder, gentler ways to fight cancer. By Jeremy Craig

TO A DEAFENING Ovation, the nearly 4,000 spring and summer graduates stand and are instructed to move their tassels FROM left to right to SYMBOLIZE their successful transition FROM candidate TO graduate. the May 6 commencement ceremony was Gsu’s largest ever. photo by meg Buscema.
Former GSU provost RONALD J. HENRY and wife JANET S. HENRY’s careers in higher education hinged on receiving financial aid as undergraduates. Their planned gift will help students who could not otherwise afford college — a legacy reflecting the Henrys’ personal values and experiences. 

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John Clark
Associate Vice President for Development
Georgia State University
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Phone: 404/413-5057
Fax: 404/413-3417
WELCOME FRIENDS & ALUMNI

HONORED AND ENGAGED, NATURALLY

As Georgia State University prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2013, there are countless people working harder than ever to increase the value of a GSU degree. We invite you to meet some of them in this issue.

First, follow the amazing life and career of Andrew Young, civil rights icon, former mayor, congressman, U.N. Ambassador and namesake of Georgia State’s acclaimed school of policy studies. You’ll get an inside look at his involvement with GSU and his eponymous school, the important role of policy and civic engagement in effecting positive change and his legacy (cover story, see page 24).

You’ll also learn how a handful of undergraduates formed the largest and among the most influential student groups on campus — in less than a year. See how the Student Alumni Association — at more than 1,400 members strong — works to broaden the college experience, strengthen tradition and help build a loyalty to GSU (page 30).

Finally, go inside associate professor of biology Ritu Aneja’s lab, which takes a holistic approach to investigate molecules in plants with promising anti-cancer properties. You’ll see how Aneja’s team is using natural, non-toxic initiatives to uncover the anti-cancer properties of sweet potato greens and how their work could have far-reaching results in the future (page 34).

This is an exciting time at Georgia State University, and this issue is a salute to the people who make that a reality in everything they do.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Becker
President
Kelcie Evenson is a 21-year-old junior majoring in international economics and modern languages. Evenson is a member of the GSU Study Abroad Squad, a team of students who share their study abroad experiences across campus. How many times have you studied abroad? I am currently in my fourth study abroad program. My first was a January term in China, summer in Mexico in 2010. My second was an exchange in Italy, and my third was during summer last year in Granada, Spain. And, now, my fourth is a semester in Málaga, Spain. What’s been your favorite study abroad experience? All have been wonderful and unique in their own way. So far, I would have to say my favorite trip has been the summer I spent in Granada. There was just something about the way everyone in the group got along. It was as if we were one big family, with everyone always looking out for each other. Also, Granada is such a picturesque and beautiful city filled with some of the most welcoming citizens I’ve encountered in my travels. Describe your current study abroad experience. I’m currently living just outside the center of the city of Málaga, Spain, about a five-minute walk from both the beach and my university. I live in an apartment with a host family and another student from Georgia State. Living with a host family is always one of the highlights of my study abroad trips. As a student of a foreign language, there’s simply no substitute for being immersed in the language and culture the way you are while living with a family from your host country. Aside from improving your language skills, travel is another amazing aspect of studying abroad. For example, I recently visited Barcelona for the first time, and the entire trip including airfare and accommodation was around $200; you just can’t beat that. I also got to visit friends in Italy, tour the French Riviera and see Paris during my spring break, and visit Portugal during one of my long weekends, as well as traveling locally around Spain. How did you get involved in the Study Abroad Squad and why? Studying abroad became a passion of mine immediately after returning from my first trip to Mexico. I applied to be a member of the Study Abroad Squad so I could learn more about which trips I may be able to go on, which ones applied to my major and to get other students involved with something that has had such a positive impact on my life. Studying abroad has literally shaped my college experience. It is how many of my closest friendships began, how I’ve been able to practice multiple languages that I otherwise never would have had the opportunity to, and it has given me the ability to see the world through the eyes of someone standing in a very different place than myself. It’s the most physically, economically or culturally. The experiences I’ve gained from my travels are truly invaluable. 

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Rec Center lauded for efficiency

The Student Recreation Center at GSU received three Green Globes from the Green Building Initiative for its efforts to use less energy, conserve natural resources and emit fewer pollutants into the air. Green Globes is a building assessment program that offers ways to advance the overall environmental performance and sustainability of commercial buildings. Scott Levin, director of recreational services at GSU, says that the four-story, 161,000-square-foot building is the first existing student recreation center in the country to be Green Globes certified.

“We are also the first Green Globes-certified facility in higher education in the state of Georgia, and one of only five certified facilities in the entire state,” Levin said.

GSU’s Student Recreation Center houses office and administration spaces, meeting rooms, weight rooms, training rooms, a gymnasium, a fitness center, a pool and support areas. Some of the systems that the SRC has in place to ensure a healthy environment include the use of high efficiency air filters and environmentally preferred cleaning products, meeting guidelines for lighting levels, and monitoring air exhaust streams and CO2 levels, Levin said.

Michael O’Brien, a senior engineer at Energy Ace and a Green Globes assessor, pointed out that the the SRC Center and GSU as a whole have initiated several programs to drive down the use of energy, water and other resources.

“The Student Recreation Center] was able to qualify for the Green Globes certification without really having to make any modifications to the building,” he said.

GSU went through months of self-assessment before O’Brien conducted an energy audit of the 10-year-old facility, followed by a feasibility study comparing green building certification options.

“The two areas where we received the highest marks were indoor environment and economic or cultural. The third Green Globes distinction was also based on the SRC’s use of high efficiency boilers, monitoring building refrigerants, the type of building fire system, and the method of storm water runoff.

Global Gateway

GSU targets five international markets for growth

Georgia State’s Office of International Initiatives (OII) has identified five emerging markets — Brazil, China, South Africa, South Korea and Turkey — as strategic countries with which to develop student and faculty exchanges, study abroad programs, research collaborations, executive training initiatives, government and private sector networks and dual degree programs.

To further implement the international component of Georgia State’s Strategic Plan, the OII sought nominations from the International Advisory Board and deans, while a general call went out for faculty volunteers. More than 90 faculty members agreed to serve on the task forces. They represent each of the seven academic units at GSU.

GSU faculty involvement in each of the five countries is substantial already, and there are study abroad programs and exchanges existing in each.

Task force committee members will work to identify potential areas for growth, including study abroad participation, international student and scholar recruitment, improved graduation rates and faculty support for new initiatives.

S. Tamer Cavusgil, executive director of the Center for International Business Education and Research and Turkey task force member, said he is encouraged by the range of experience, expertise and high-level contacts among the participants.

“We have a solid foundation to build an effective task force that will position Georgia State as a major player in Turkey,” he said.

gsu.edu/magazine
HUNGER AND OBESITY…
A STRANGE PARADOX
Addressing food insecurity during uncertain times

BY DEBRA L. KIBBE

In 2006, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations reported on hunger and obesity in developing countries. Today it is clear these concerns are not only found in developing societies but also in industrialized countries. Stated simply: many women and children in the United States who are obese are also undernourished because of limited access to healthy food, lack of food variety and poor quality nutrient intake. The phrase to describe this scenario is inadequacy, access, variety and nutrients is “food insecurity.”

How did this hunger and obesity paradox come to exist? More research is needed as some studies show that there is a positive association between food insecurity and obesity, others do not. Several reasons for the paradox have been suggested. Factors such as a divorce, job loss and impacts of family events may affect a household’s food security status. One long-term suggested contributor is growing up poor with periods of food surplus and deprivation. This scenario results in an individual often associating eating with both stress and comfort, resulting in “yo-yo consumption,” which continues into adulthood and may contribute to weight gain.

Of late, much attention has been given to the topics of obesity and hunger in the United States. Millions of dollars are being invested in examining policies, programs, marketing and environmental changes that can impact the prevalence of obesity, particularly among youth. Investment and exploration is also occurring on the hunger side, particularly with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA). The act is the most recent iteration of the Child Nutrition Act, which governs federal meals programs, including National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Share Our Strength and Feeding America are also investing considerable resources to address hunger. Why? Prior to 2008, food insecurity for all U.S. households ranged between 10-12 percent. As a result of the economic downturn, the prevalence of food insecurity increased sharply to almost 15 percent in 2008 and has remained at that level.

Food insecurity and weight are being addressed in Georgia at the highest level with Gov. Nathan Deal committing to addressing both concerns. In May 2011, Governor Deal established the Georgia Student Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) partnership. This public-private partnership is designed to promote childhood fitness and focus on wellness among youth.

Schools play a key role in addressing hunger in Georgia’s children, and all Georgia schools receiving Title I funding are required to adhere to the requirements of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. Implementation began in 2011, addressing topics such as sodium and fat in foods, availability of whole grain and low fat dairy items and provision of fresh vegetables and fruit on a daily basis.

Leadership at the state, regional and local level will be critical to address hunger and obesity. The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) is playing a role at the state level through strategic planning, advisement and committee participation. GHPC is also serving as the facilitator for the Georgia Food Policy Council funded via a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The council is exploring Georgia’s food production, distribution, barriers to access and opportunities to improve the food system that will result in a statewide plan for action. Efforts at the regional and local level particularly may have a tremendous impact on the populations disproportionately suffering from food insecurity and excess weight. The situation calls for a strategic, collaborative and targeted approach that addresses hunger, food access and obesity.

Debra L. Kibbe is a senior research associate for the Georgia Health Policy Center at GSU’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

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OLYMPIC HOSPITALITY

Students visit London to study event prep for the summer games

More than a dozen Robinson College of Business students, pictured beneath the Bridge to Atlanta’s Olympic Flame cauldron, studied Both the city’s 1996 Summer Olympic Games and the 2012 London Games. The class then flew to London for a behind-the-scenes look at the upcoming Summer Games, which begin July 27. There, students toured many of the new Olympic facilities both temporary and permanent, such as the Velodrome, the RiverBank Arena and the Aquatics Centre, as well as storied venues like Wembley and Lord’s Cricket Grounds. The group met with London & Partners and VisitEngland, the tourism boards for London and Great Britain, respectively, to talk about event management and destination marketing, and learned about Olympic security challenges and risk management from a representative from the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. Students also conducted interviews with London locals as part of a research component of the course.

After two weeks under the tutelage of seasoned hospitality leaders in Atlanta and London, the students returned to campus to finish out the term with discussion and analysis of what makes a successful Olympic Games and individual research papers.

Marketing and Hospitality Administration senior Heather Denny signed up for the Olympic Games Preview because it brought together several of her interests in one course: athletics, event management and traveling abroad. She says learning the ins and outs of executing a mega-event like an Olympic Games would give her the confidence to plan any event in her future career.

“This is a meso of athletes and a unity of several counties,” Denny said before the trip. “To be a part of the Olympics is probably on every person’s bucket list, and to be chosen is a humbling experience that I will never forget.”

By KATHLEEN POE ROSS

“Atlanta is the perfect place to teach hospitality, because all of these international headquarters are here and they’re very supportive of us,” Robbe said. “We’re four blocks from the World Congress Center and Centennial Olympic Park, and we have all these great companies. It’s a local phone call, and then you get international executives into your classroom.”

The class then flew to London for a behind-the-scenes look at the upcoming Summer Games, which begin July 27. There, students toured many of the new Olympic facilities both temporary and permanent, such as the Velodrome, the RiverBank Arena and the Aquatics Centre, as well as storied venues like Wembley and Lord’s Cricket Grounds. The group met with London & Partners and VisitEngland, the tourism boards for London and Great Britain, respectively, to talk about event management and destination marketing, and learned about Olympic security challenges and risk management from a representative from the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. Students also conducted interviews with London locals as part of a research component of the course. After two weeks under the tutelage of seasoned hospitality leaders in Atlanta and London, the students returned to campus to finish out the term with discussion and analysis of what makes a successful Olympic Games and individual research papers.

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By KATHLEEN POE ROSS
GAYLE NELSON and ERIC FRIGINAL, professors in the Department of Applied Linguistics, and MAY KHADIM AL-KHAZRAJI from the University of Baghdad, are teaming up as part of a three-year, $1 million collaboration to help improve the Iraqi school’s English language and literature programs.

“They’re still using textbooks from the 1970s because they’ve been so cut off,” says Nelson, who is also coordinator of international programs for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Friginal, the lead investigator for the project, says it will have several strands. For one, there are those antiquated textbooks. There will also be teacher-training workshops, both at GSU and in Erbil, in the Kurdish area of Iraq.

But at heart, the project is about building daily connections between scholars. So Friginal and Nelson are creating what amounts to an online mentoring program in which GSU faculty members will advise Iraqi faculty. The groups will have their own website through uLearn, the same system used to create sites for GSU classes.

“Online social networking and academic discussions between GSU and UIB students will produce meaningful cross-cultural experiences,” Friginal said.

BY ANN CLAYCOMBE

The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRIBE (SET) at GSU works to promote the greater use of clean, renewable energy on campus and in the surrounding community. Since 2006, the organization has spearheaded recycling initiatives, volunteered in nearby community gardens, led Earth Week festivities and donated resources to local Atlanta shelters, among other projects. Their environmental efforts garnered the attention of Porsche Cars North America and resulted in a donation to further their efforts, said Michael Black, a lecturer in the Neuroscience Institute and SET advisor.

On campus, SET has begun working with the Commons Dining Hall, Piedmont North Dining Hall and GSU’s new recycling specialist, Tracy Hambrick, to help reduce waste and aid in recycling and composting efforts. Black added that SET works in the community to weatherize low-income homes in collaboration with Southwest Energy Assistance and GSU’s Office of Civic Engagement.

“We’re doing everything from caulking to weather stripping to adding insulation in the attics,” he said. Al Jones, SET president and a junior nursing major, said the group’s main objective is to educate fellow students about environmentally friendly practices.

“If more students were educated about how sustainable practices are better financially and environmentally long-term, more minds would start to change,” Jones said.

For more information on GSU’s green initiatives, visit http://gogreen.gsu.edu.

BY WILLIAM INMAN

THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRIBE DIG IN AT THE TRULY LIVING WELL CENTER FOR NATURAL URBAN AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY GARDEN IN THE SWEET AUBURN NEIGHBORHOOD.

Highlighting the good works of GSU in Georgia and in the community
This summer, GSU will launch a new Success Academy designed to help incoming GSU freshmen get an early taste of college life.

The three-semester program, which will start in conjunction with the summer semester, will give a cohort of new Panthers an early start on taking core classes, living on campus and making new friends.

Nia Haydel, assistant director for first-year programs, says that the academy will help the many students who quit or fail because they don’t get off to a strong start.

“We’re excited to create an opportunity for students to enter Georgia State early and begin to learn how to successfully navigate through this new environment and the new expectations associated with college life,” she said.

While taking part in the Success Academy, students will be taught to build their academic and study skills as they take six or seven credit hours this summer before taking a full load in the fall and spring semesters.

Haydel said the Success Academy consists of programs, activities and services that work together to help students better handle the adjustment to college coursework, independent living and handling the cost of tuition and fees. Beyond getting tutoring and mentoring, students will receive individualized guidance and support from the Financial Aid Office, the Student Advisement Center and the Scholarship Resource Center. They will also be assisted in developing individualized study plans.

Way before cows spelled poorly on billboards and other ads, Chick-fil-A sold almost exclusively through mall locations. To find out why sales were mixed, the Atlanta-based company turned to marketing expertise at Georgia State University.

Professor Ken Bernhardt, the marketing expert who answered that call 30 years ago, is now giving back to Chick-fil-A. In April, he awarded the first Chick-fil-A Outstanding Marketing Student Scholarship to rising GSU senior Emily Kimbell.

“How do you thank a company whose president, Truett Cathy, has given more than 25,000 scholarships?” said Bernhardt, the Taylor E. Little Jr. Professor of Marketing at GSU. “My answer was to endow one more to the number each year in perpetuity. It’s my very small part of saying thanks.”

When the company contacted him in 1980, Bernhardt said, it had 35 employees. Chick-fil-A had never done a marketing research study, and tasked Bernhardt with finding out why some mall stores were not successful.

Bernhardt found that the non-thriving stores just didn’t have enough new customers. The key was getting people to taste Chick-fil-A for the first time. The company used the findings to create the “Taste it. You’ll love it for good” campaign.

As Bernhardt continued to provide Chick-fil-A with consumer and operator research and studies of customer loyalty, advertising and new products, he used those examples in his classes at the J. Mack Robinson School of Business.

“Part of Chick-fil-A’s corporate purpose is to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with their restaurants,” Bernhardt said. “This scholarship fits into that purpose.”
When you’re inside the pitcher’s circle, every second matters. You have to be tough and react fast. Obstacles are expected and the pressure is always on. For Alana Thomas, life inside the circle is all about a state of mind.

“It’s all about mentality,” Thomas says. “Focusing on every pitch and visualizing how I want the play to end. When I do that, the situation usually ends up the way I want it to.”

With that attitude, it’s no surprise that the senior political science major has earned the role of ace on the Panthers’ softball team.

Thomas says she’s been playing softball for as long as she can remember, and found her love for pitching at a young age. “I had to have my dad and older sister play softball together. He had taught her to pitch and that was the moment. As I got older, I began taking pitching seriously.”

In 2011, her league low .60 ERA in conference games helped the Panthers end up the CAA championship. She was named the tournament’s best player and Pitcher of the Tournament.

“Alana is the most focused and determined athlete I know,” Kincaid said. “She’s embraced our philosophy of a pitching staff and has always cared more about the team results over personal stats.”

In high school, Thomas was diagnosed with scoliosis after she experienced prolonged back pain. It detected at an earlier stage it could’ve been brace and corrected, she said, but for now she manages the condition with medication.

“I’m not going to let it get in my way,” she says. “I don’t think of it as a hindrance, it’s something I have to deal with, so I just assume that it’s normal. There’s no pitying myself, I just think of how I can make this situation the best that it can be with what I’ve been given.”

Overcoming the complications from scoliosis to be successful in softball has changed her perspective on challenges in life, including the classroom. Academically, she’s been named to the Dean’s List four semesters and the Dean’s List four times, and named to the Academic Regional Honor Roll for two seasons.

“Alana is one of a kind, and the type of player and person that can never be replaced,” said Kincaid. “She is destined for greatness and will do well in life after softball. It has been an honor for me to be her coach.”

BY MARCUS KEY

Ali, Lorentzen named GSU Student-Athletes of the Year
Men’s basketball player Shad Ali and women’s golfer Charlotte Lorentzen were honored as the Georgia State Student-Athletes of the Year at the Blue Carpet Awards, the athletic department’s 57th annual recognition banquet.

Ali, a senior, was a captain on the 22-12 basketball team and an all-conference honoree — on the court and in the classroom. He received the Colonial Athletic Association’s most prestigious honor, the Dean Ehlers Leadership Award.

Lorentzen, the two-time CAA Golfer of the Year, Scholar-Athlete of the Year and CAA Tournament individual medalist, won three tournaments during her senior season and has been ranked among the top 50 NCAA golfers by Golfweek magazine.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Darryl Harris picked Georgia State for the numbers. He was good in math, and driven to lower the single digits that represented achievement in his favorite sport: the par, birdies and bogeys on the golf course.

After a successful 34 years as an actuary, Harris (B.B.A. ’73) remains immersed in his sport and sharing that with others as executive director of the Georgia Senior Golfers Association and at GSU through an endowed men’s golf scholarship.

To achieve in academic courses and on the golf course, Harris needed stubbornness. After barely passing his early actuarial sciences course, “I was given a frank talk about considering I.T. or something else,” he recalled. “I thought, ‘I’ll show them.’”

Harris — who lived at home in Roswell — sequestered himself in his room and asked his mother to deliver meals while he studied. He aced the next exam in his major and was on his way.

Panthers golf coach Richard “Dick” Wehr looked to Harris as a scrappy straight man — the player who is last picked for the travel team. “If one more good player showed up, I would have been cut out of everything,” said Harris, who competed as the player who is last picked for the travel team. “If one more good player showed up, I would have been cut out of everything,” said Harris, who competed for a chance to play competitively; Darryl Harris succeeded him as the association’s executive director in 2007.

“Golf was always part of his close relationship to his father, Lyndon A. Harris (B.B.A. ’57). The two started playing the Christmas that father bought his 10-year-old son a set of golf clubs and watched his natural swing. Golf became their shared passion, along with business and GSU.

After retirement, Lyndon Harris joined the Georgia Senior Golfers Association and at GSU through an endowed men’s golf scholarship. To achieve in academic courses and on the golf course, Harris needed stubbornness. After barely passing his early actuarial sciences course, “I was given a frank talk about considering I.T. or something else,” he recalled. “I thought, ‘I’ll show them.’”

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BY MICHELLE MISKEY

GSU MAGAZINE Summer 2012

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THE ARTS

The Maestro does Mozart
Michael Palmer, the Charles Thomas Wurm Distinguished Professor of Orchestral Studies, conducts the GSU Symphony Orchestra during the GSU Opera Theater’s presentation of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s beloved opera “Le nozze di Figaro” at the Rialto Center for the Arts.
Michael Palmer conducts Atlanta’s classical music legacy

In Atlanta’s musical timeline, Michael Palmer has appeared at key moments in history — first as a protégé conductor with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and now as the maestro for the Georgia State University School of Music’s Orchestra.

The very title of his GSU position — the Charles Thomas Wurm Distinguished Professor of Orchestral Studies — harkens back to the city’s renaissance after the Civil War. Wurm was the youngest son and musical heir of Ferdinand Wurm, who in 1872 established Wurm’s Orchestra, which entertained every U.S. president from Harrison to Taft and “also played for Jefferson Davis, ex-president of the Confederacy,” noted a newspaper report of a century ago. Cataloguing the orchestra’s fame “would be as futile as the numbering of the sands of the sea.”

Fast forward to the late 1960s. Fresh out of music school himself, Palmer joined Robert Shaw in building the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and promoted high-quality performing opportunities for young musicians. Palmer founded the ASO’s Youth Orchestra — not his first. As a teenager in Indianapolis, he had recruited an all-star youth orchestra and given his first downbeat at age 14. While performing throughout the United States, Europe and China, Palmer stayed in touch with his Atlanta contacts. A decade ago, a call came from famed concert singer and ASO’s Y outh Orchestra — not his first. As a teenager in Indianapolis, he had recruited an all-star youth orchestra and gave his first downbeat at age 14. While performing throughout the United States, Europe and China, Palmer stayed in touch with his Atlanta contacts. A decade ago, a call came from famed concert singer and ASO’s music director and a significant arts donor to the university: “Come back; we need you.” He did in 2004, with the Wurm Professorship becoming official in 2006 through a gift by Wurm’s grandson, Atlanta developer Thomas G. Cousins.

Today, like his mentors before him, Palmer stokes the inspiration inside young musicians. “A constant pillar of support,” said Hao-An “Henry” Cheng (M.Mu.’10), an aspiring conductor. “He is committed to help students achieve something greater than they think they can.”

Palmer, 67, hopes his GSU legacy will be even stronger as ties between the music school and the ASO continue to grow. Principal cellist Christopher Rex is GSU’s new professor of cello, and former GSU student Brice Andrus is the ASO’s principal French horn.

“All great orchestras exist in cities where there are great schools of music,” said Palmer, mentioning Cleveland, Boston and Philadelphia. “It’s a very exciting time to be here.”

INDIGENOUS ANIMATION
Professor’s project featured at Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian

When most people think of recording Native American traditions, they think of photographs or documentary films. But Melanie Davenport, associate professor of art education, helped a group of students in Mexico document their way of life through stop-motion animation. One of the resulting shorts, “The Drum Celebration,” was featured at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian in two film festivals this spring.

“The Drum Celebration” shows a village of Huichoritari — otherwise known as Huicholes, a native group from west central Mexico — preparing for and conducting a ritual annual celebration. The villagers set a date, gather flowers and corn, and then gather to make music and share food and drink.

“The kids made everything,” Davenport said. “They developed the storyboard and script, made all of the sets and props and scenery — and all of the creative decisions.”

“The kids” in this case were students at the Centro Rural de Educación Superior in Estipac, Jalisco, Mexico. Almost all of the students — 98 percent — are Native American, and a large majority of those students are Huichoritari.

Davenport and collaborator Karin Gunt traveled to the school each year between 2007 and 2009 to teach the students how to create their own animations. They brought supplies with them: a computer, a video camera, a still camera and a wide range of art materials.

The Estipac project fits into two larger movements, Davenport said. One aims to teach media literacy to youth, and another teaches media skills to indigenous communities so they can express and share their cultures.

“The students were learning about the power of the media,” she said, “becoming critical consumers by becoming producers themselves.”

The students can’t afford to travel abroad to watch their own premieres, and GSU is involved on a number of levels: faculty members are on the jury, and our students are interning and volunteering.”

Davenport said that the festival recently added “365” to its title — Atlanta Film Festival 365 — to indicate that it’s not just a 10-day film festival, which ran from March 23 to April 1, but a year-round organization offering a slate of diverse offerings for established filmmakers and industry professionals as well as for students.

David Chesher, associate professor of communication and department chair, said that besides housing the Atlanta Film Festival at GSU, partnering with the organization creates myriad opportunities for the GSU film program and expands GSU’s profile in the region’s arts scene.

“We are actively exploring ways to do more, such as student signature experiences, screenings and director talks, and mentorship and career counseling experiences that we think will better prepare our film and media industries students for careers in film,” he said.

ATL Film Festival moves to GSU

In many ways, Georgia State has long been a vital supporter for the Atlanta Film Festival, one of the oldest and longest-running film festivals in the country. Now, the 36-year-old organization has moved its headquarters to campus.

“It’s a natural fit,” says Chris Escobar (B.A. ’98), a student in GSU’s graduate film program and the festival’s executive director. “The Atlanta Film Festival has been screening at the Rialto and Cinefest for decades, and GSU is involved on a number of levels: faculty members are on the jury, and our students are interning and volunteering.”

Escobar said that the festival recently added “365” to its title — Atlanta Film Festival 365 — to indicate that it’s not just a 10-day film festival, which ran from March 23 to April 1, but a year-round organization offering a slate of diverse offerings for established filmmakers and industry professionals as well as for students.

David Chesher, associate professor of communication and department chair, said that besides housing the Atlanta Film Festival at GSU, partnering with the organization creates myriad opportunities for the GSU film program and expands GSU’s profile in the region’s arts scene.

“We are actively exploring ways to do more, such as student signature experiences, screenings and director talks, and mentorship and career counseling experiences that we think will better prepare our film and media industries students for careers in film,” he said.
THE ARTS

THE POLICE AND THE PEASANTRY

Historian explores misunderstood relationship during post-revolutionary Russia

The history of the former Soviet Union is marred with stories about the brutality of secret police forces against the country’s peasants. During the late 1920s and early 1930s, brutality against the peasantry was particularly high.

However, for a brief period, the local secret police in the countryside stood not as persecutors for the Soviet state, but as advocates for bridging differences between the peasantry and the government.


“The most interesting thing that I discovered was that the organization pushing the hardest for compromise with the peasantry and for finding a means to meet peasant demand within the needs for government was the secret police,” Hudson says. “It wasn’t exactly the mythology of the secret police that dominates the literature.”

Reports of the local secret police during the period between the death of Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin’s takeover showed an effort to tell the central, urban government that the peasants were not looking to overthrow it, but had legitimate grievances that could be dealt with without the need for harsh measures, Hudson says.

“They reported that there was a basis for creating some sort of positive relationship between the country and the city — between peasant society and the communists,” he says, “and that the communists could, in fact, carry out these reforms and not do anything to harm the existence of the Soviet regime.”

The local secret police found that their pleas would be ignored, Hudson says. Around 1927, there were failures to requisition grain from European Russia that led to hunger and, in some cases, famine in the cities. Stalin was sent by the government to Siberia and found a way to mobilize the poorest peasants along with local radicals and communists to force wealthier peasants to give up their grain.

The brutal “Siberian Method,” as it came to be known, would yield grain once, but it failed in the long run.

“All you’re doing is creating greater antagonism between the countryside and the city.”

It would take 50 years for the Soviet government to create better relations with the peasantry, Hudson says. Pensions began to be offered in the 1970s, television was brought to the rural areas and internal passports — allowing some freedom of movement within the country — were returned to the people.

“All of the sudden, life looked pretty good,” he says. “Meeting those peasant needs and addressing their economic wants was really the argument being made in the 1920s. It just took the central government 50 years to figure it out again.”

BY JEREMY CRAIG

THE ARTS

Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition

By Marni Davis
New York University Press, 272 pages

Marni Davis is assistant professor of history.

Privatizing the Democratic Peace: Policy Dilemmas of NGO Peacebuilding

By Henry “Chip” Carey
Palgrave Macmillan, 304 pages

Henry Carey is associate professor of political science.

Supreme Myths: Why the Supreme Court is Not a Court and Its Justices Are Not Judges

By Eric Segall
Prager, 219 pages

Eric Segall is professor of law.

FACULTY BOOKS

Swimming with Sea Slugs

Neuroscience professor Paul Katz studies various sea slugs and their movements in order to learn more about the circuitry of the brain. The sea slug here is the giant nudibranch, Dendronotus iris, which lives in the Pacific Northwest.

ADVANCES

RESEARCH & INNOVATION
Professor researches the role of Vitamin D

Vitamin D is naturally produced in the body when ultraviolet light from the sun strikes the skin. These days, however, people get outdoors less, and the high SPF sunblock commonly used prevents some of the needed rays for Vitamin D production from being absorbed by the skin.

Associate professor of nutrition Vijay Ganji is researching how Americans can get more of this vital nutrient into their bodies. “Mother Nature did not create many natural Vitamin D sources because, during the course of evolution, humans didn’t need those sources because people would go out into the sun,” Ganji says.

Ganji studies vitamin deficiency, as well as a key tool in combating deficiencies — the fortification of foods.

Fortifying foods is not new. Iodine was added to salt in order to prevent goiter earlier in the 20th century, and in 1998, folic acid — which prevents birth defects — was added to flour. “Historically, fortification has done a lot of good things not only in this country, but also globally,” Ganji says. “Many diseases related to vitamins and mineral deficiencies are completely gone from the United States and other developed countries because of fortification.”

Vitamin D regulates calcium in the bloodstream and is, thus, vital to bone health. Ganji is researching how Americans can get the needed rays for Vitamin D production from the sun, he says. “We have no option but to go outside,” Ganji says.

Fighting Deficiency

The fortification of folic acid in foods in the United States has drastically cut down on the number of birth defects, but Ganji says there’s also concern that if someone consumes a lot of folic acid, there may be problems with a deficiency of Vitamin B-12.

A lack of this nutrient is linked to a higher prevalence of anemia. “What we’re advocating, and I’m on the same boat, is that low light might be detrimental to the mother, interrupting her sleep cycle, disrupting circadian rhythms and even causing depressive symptoms — on top of all of the stress that she experiences after birth.”

Shih-Yu Sylvia Lee, assistant professor of nursing, has devised a way to help mothers feel better. She’s worked on light therapy to help moms get back on track to restoring normal sleep cycles.

When mom feels better, Lee says, the baby is more likely to experience better care — or parental efficacy, in researchers’ terms.

“Our ultimate goal is to create a good environment for a preterm baby so that they have a better development outcome physically and mentally,” she said. “If we can decrease a mom’s sleep problems, fatigue and depressive symptoms, the mom may be able to provide much better care for the baby.”

Lee is also working on two other projects to help mothers of preterm babies, with one focusing on biological responses of women experiencing stress, and the other, with a University of Georgia researcher, looking at how genetics and the environment play a role in efficacious parenting.

Shine a light

When a baby is born prematurely and admitted into a neonatal intensive care unit, the lights are kept low and quietness abounds in order to help the baby during its care. But that low light might be detrimental to the mother, interrupting her sleep cycle, disrupting circadian rhythms and even causing depressive symptoms — on top of all of the stress that she experiences after birth.

LIFE IN THE LAB

LaURA ZAUNBRECHER is a Ph.D. student in the lab of W. Crawford Elliott, chair of the department of geosciences. Officially studying for a doctorate in chemistry, her research has a geophysics component, as she is participating in Elliott’s investigation into a type of soil that absorbs the radioactive isotope cesium-137.

As TOLD TO JEREMY CRAIG

My project investigates how stable cesium is naturally enriched in sediments at the Savannah River Site (SRS), as well as at other contaminated sites across the country. A lot of these places are contaminated mainly by uranium, but at the SRS, radioactive cesium, a fission product of uranium, is the major contaminant. The soil at SRS contains a clay mineral that is able to adsorb and contain the radioactive waste product, radioactive cesium. We’re looking at how the soils are adsorbing cesium and preventing the spread of radioactive waste; this is important because cesium can be taken up by biological systems and become part of the food chain.

The particular clay we’re studying is called hydroxy interlayered vermiculite. This clay has been concentrating cesium in the soils at SRS while other alkali metals are washed away by weathering. Investigating the behavior of stable cesium in these soils allows us to study the weathering of soils on a time scale that cannot be investigated in the laboratory, as these natural enrichments of cesium occur on a time scale of thousands of years. We can then hypothesize about the long-term behavior of radioactive cesium contamination in the environment.

After graduation, I’d like to continue with remediation work. I want to make a difference in cleaning up the environment to help make our world a better place and a better place for future generations. That’s always been my goal since I started my graduate research work, and I hope to find a job that will lead me down that path.

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From the window of his 44th floor office on the northern end of downtown Atlanta, Andrew Young has a panoramic view of the city. With Freedom Parkway to the east and Centennial Olympic Park to the west, he can look down Peachtree Street, out over Georgia State University, the State Capitol’s Gold Dome and the neo-Gothic tower of Atlanta City Hall, to the Atlanta airport and beyond. For most business people, this vista would create an impressive conference room backdrop; for Young, who turned 80 this spring, it’s a career retrospective. These and other landmarks recall moments in Young’s storied career: his civil rights work with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; his service as a U.S. congressman and then ambassador to the United Nations; his two terms as mayor of Atlanta; his championing of Atlanta as an Olympic host city; and his dedicated civic leadership. Monuments to Young’s accomplishments are found throughout the city, but none carries his legacy into the future like GSU’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

GSU was in Young’s orbit long before the policy school bore his name — or even existed. In the 1970s, his congressional campaign office sat across the street from campus, and he recruited students to pass out handbills and drum up support. The university was much smaller in those days; conventional wisdom among the administration held that GSU would never be a residential university. “It was essentially a night school for businesspeople,” Young says. “Period. Full stop.”
More than a decade later, Mayor Young was riding high on a wave of growth in Atlanta, hoping to cement its status as the next great international city. With GSU at the heart of downtown, it was natural that Young should be invested in the school’s welfare; increased prestige for GSU meant increased prestige for Atlanta, and vice versa. Michael Mescon, then dean of the College of Business Administration at GSU (later named for J. Mack Robinson), recognizing the need to study and understand the dynamism of that time, enlisted Young’s help in recruiting to GSU an economist and public finance expert from Syracuse University named Roy Bahl. “I said, ‘Why don’t you come on down to the sunshine?’” Young says. He had found his pitch in the discovery that Bahl was originally from Florida. Georgia State needed a public policy department, he said, to track the extraordinary developments unfolding in Atlanta. “What we’re doing is working for Atlanta, and there’s nothing in any other city in the world that’s working as well as Atlanta’s working. We need to figure out how and why.”

Bahl joined GSU in 1988, and former president Carl Patton — “one of the true downtown visionaries,” Young calls him — followed soon after. In 1996, under their leadership, the College of Public and Urban Affairs was dissolved and replaced with a new School of Policy Studies, with Bahl at the helm as dean. His was the idea to name the school after Andrew Young, which was made official three years after the school was founded. “To me it was quite obvious who the name [on the school] ought to be,” says Bahl, whose tenure as dean lasted until 2007. “We were interested in international [policy], and we were interested in governance, and we were interested in analysis of social policy, and we were going to have a not-for-profit program — you know, all of the things that Andrew Young was fit for what we wanted to do.” In the traditional model, a school or building is named for or by a donor following a significant personal financial gift or to an institution; in this case, Coca-Cola established a million-dollar scholarship fund for the school, and Young’s gift was the con- ferral of his name and reputation.

The editorial board of The Atlanta Constitution endorsed the deal, writing that the Board of Regents should support the “naming [of] an institu- tion for a person whose contributions have been social and political rather than financial.” They continued, “… Although imperfectly at times, Young has always sought to blend his belief in economic and social equality with his staunch support for the sometimes harsh machinery of capitalism. … Exploring that theme seems a fitting mission, as well, for a school of policy studies named for Young.”

Now in its 16th year, the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies has carved out a niche of influence and excellence, as well as a few plum spots in the U.S. News and World Report national rankings. This year, the school broke into the top 25, the nonprofit management program was ranked no. 12, and the public finance program was rated no. 4 — a remarkable feat for a school that didn’t exist two decades ago.

“We have taken his life and work as the touchstone for our mission as a school,” says Harvey Newman, professor and chair of the department of public management and policy. “He’s much more than just ‘name over door’ — he’s been very active in help- ing to shape the school.”

Leading convocations, present- ing panel discussions and giving guest lectures are just a few of the ways in which Young guides his namesake school. He’s been known to come up with an idea for a program and hand it off so someone else can take credit for it, and he is not shy about using his considerable influence to benefit AYSPS. Ten years ago, what might have otherwise been a low-key 70th birthday celebration became a star- studded, see-and-be-seen event to raise money for student scholarships. Former President Bill Clinton caught wind of it and called up to say that he wanted to come, although he couldn’t raise money for student scholarships. Former President Bill Clinton caught wind of it and called up to say that he wanted to come, although he couldn’t make it. “He’s much more than just ‘name over door’ — he’s been very active in help- ing to shape the school.”

Economics has been a topic of par- ticular interest to Young, as it figures heavily into the so-called “public- purpose capitalism.” He champions — the notion that private profits can be leveraged for public good in the fight against poverty. He takes issue with the many economists who were born into privilege and never had to work for a living. Future economists, he says, should be people who understand job creation and have a vision of how
profits affect humanity. Young ascribes to a traditional Native American belief that was shared with him during his ambassadorship: that decisions must not be made for short-term or personal gain, but “for seven generations yet unborn.”

“If we’re going to deal with poverty, if we’re going to generate jobs, we have to have economic policies that produce jobs,” Young says. A preacher by training, he explains that his take on public policy is rooted in the Bible. “The reason I think of economics as important, the reason I think of Wall Street as important, is not because I want to be rich, but because I learned in Sun-tant, the reason I think of Wall Street as a school. That Jesus said, to get into heaven you have to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick and set at liberty those who are oppressed.

“Dr. King used to say, ‘I admire the Good Samaritan, but I don’t want to be one. I don’t want to pick up people on the Jericho road after they’ve been beaten up and robbed. I want to change the Jericho road so that they don’t get beaten up and robbed,’” Young says. “That’s public policy.”

Young continues to spread his gospel of good policy both here and abroad through the Andrew Young Foundation, established in 2001, and GoodWorks International, his consulting group focused on connecting U.S. businesses to the emerging markets of Africa and the Caribbean. With these organizations and the Andrew Young School as his pulpit, Young hopes that the lesson that both individuals and communities can do well by doing good will take root across the globe.

In educating the next generation of policymakers at the Andrew Young School, Young says, we are not just training people to work in the United States; we’re training the world. He and his wife, Carolyn McClain Young, set up a fellowship in her name so that they don’t get beaten up and robbed.”

“That’s public policy.”

– Andrew Young

Atlanta’s transformation from southern capital city to international metropolis didn’t happen overnight, and it couldn’t have happened without Young’s visionary leadership. His memoir, “An Easy Burden,” is a firsthand account from the epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement that concludes with his election to Congress in 1972. There is no written record of Young’s subsequent years as a politician, ambassador and civic leader. To fill that gap, the Andrew Young School has partnered with the Andrew Young Foundation on a project with a working title of “The Making of Modern Atlanta” that will document Young’s impact on the city.

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– Andrew Young

No matter where they come from, Young believes students can learn from what he calls Atlanta’s fairness formula: “That we could go forward if we all went forward together,” Young says. “Other cities were trying to take this group forward or that group forward, and they weren’t getting anywhere. We’ve always been able to package ideas to include everyone, and I think that’s the key to the city’s success.”

Many AYSPS graduates will leave Atlanta after their studies for other cities, perhaps even other countries or continents, but Young believes they will have learned something about the way cities run just by having lived here for a while. “Hopefully the world will see some of the things that we’ve made work here and they will go back to their countries and help make good things happen there,” Young says.
Brad Ferrer (B.B.A. ’81) was like just about every other student on the GSU campus in the late 1970s and the early 80s—he held a full-time job and drove downtown every morning for classes.

Ferrer, the executive vice president of finance and administration for CNN and Alumni Association Board President, says that during his days at GSU he was busily entrenched in the real world. “It was very difficult for me to participate in clubs or organizations or to generate that kind of college life,” he says.

Thirty years later, Brittany Hood, a senior from Ellenwood, Ga., working toward a dual degree in computer information systems and managerial sciences, tells a similar story. “I came here, went to class, did my work and went home,” she says. “I was a true commuter student.”

In the time since Ferrer’s graduation, GSU has made huge strides in creating a rich and vibrant experience for its ever-growing student body. Through myriad academic, social, athletic and cultural opportunities, and by providing a sense of place by building extensive undergraduate housing, it has worked hard to shed the label of “commuter school.”

But for many of GSU’s busy students, like Hood and Ferrer before them, making a lasting connection to the university can be difficult. When Alumni Association Assistant Vice President Christina Million (M.B.A. ’00) came to GSU in early 2010, she set out to build a service organization for students that would help them forge a lasting bond with the university, create new traditions and build relationships with alumni.

“We want to help current students build an affinity for GSU—we don’t want to see them wearing any other school’s colors,” she says. “And then we want to make sure they don’t lose that excitement once they graduate.”

Prior to coming to GSU, Million directed the alumni association at the University of Texas at Arlington. Under Million’s watch, the school’s student alumni association became the largest student organization on campus. It was led by Jasmine Stewart, who joined the UTA student alumni association when she was a freshman.

In October 2010, Million brought Stewart to Atlanta to create and lead GSU’s Student Alumni Association. Their goal: Get students familiar with the Alumni Association from the moment they step onto campus.

Story by William Inman | Photography by Carolyn Richardson

“it was very difficult for me to participate in clubs or organizations or to generate that kind of college life,” says Brad Ferrer (above), executive vice president of finance and administration for CNN and Alumni Association Board President.
This summer, the SAA hopes to publish a book that will encourage its readers to become GSU’s tradition keepers. The new book will list a handful of GSU’s offerings, such as catching a flick at Cinefest or taking a class at the Rec Center, and provide a space where students can add their personal photos after completing a tradition. Here are a few more:

- ATTEND PANTHER PROWL
- GO TO A TAILGATE AT A FOOTBALL GAME
- TAKE A PICTURE WITH THE POUNCE STATUE
- CHECK OUT SOMETHING FROM THE DIGITAL AQUARIUM
- GO TO A BASKETBALL GAME
- PARTICIPATE IN RELAY FOR LIFE
- GO TO A GREEK STEP SHOW
- SEE A PERFORMANCE AT THE PALTO

Got a tradition? Send it to saa@gsu.edu

“Putting us around professionals like Mr. Ferrer is so beneficial. We get a firsthand look at leaders in their respective industries,” Hood says. “GSU has changed so much since they were here, but it’s great to see that what they’ve learned here has helped in their careers.”

For Ferrer, the commuter who reconnected with his alma mater just six years ago when he was asked to join the Alumni Association Board of Directors, the SAA offers the chance for the university to engage GSU students the moment they walk on campus and maintain that bond after they graduate. Moreover, he says, it’s setting the groundwork for new generations to share their experiences and insight with future Panthers.

“I expect that one or more of my successors as Alumni Board President will be having dinner with me on those nights.”

WEB EXCLUSIVE: Visit gsu.edu/magazine for a video interview with Brad Ferrer, Jasmine Stewart and members of the SAA.
Ritu Aneja is a scientist who lives off the beaten research path. While Aneja’s focus has been and continues to be research in mitosis — the process of cell division — the fight against cancer is her endgame. “There has been a lot of progress in our understanding of how cells behave and the pathogenesis of cancer, but we really don’t know how to find the magic bullet,” says Aneja, an associate professor of biology, whose lab in the Petit Science Center explores natural ways to find a “kinder chemotherapy.”
Since scientists first discovered decades ago that certain chemicals administered in combination can cure some cancers, there have been numerous advances that have improved the effectiveness of chemotherapy. However, most drugs that kill the unruly cancerous cells are often indiscriminate and also kill healthy tissues. Many are often so toxic that they also place the health care professionals handling them at risk, too. Finally, the drugs often can’t completely stop cancer cells from proliferating.

Indeed, there may be no magic bullet — no single chemical compound that will be the sole answer to successfully treating cancer. But Aneja and her lab are on the hunt for something more to the humble green. What is the nature of the compounds? How do these compounds work together to kill cancer cells in test tubes — known as “in vitro” research. Prostate cancer cells are ideal for evaluating a prospective cancer treatment because they are relatively slow-growing — giving Aneja’s lab a better window to examine the greens’ anti-cancer properties.

Aneja didn’t believe the results. They applied the extract to prostate cancer cells in petri dishes to see if the extract could kill the cells and inhibit their growth. In total, the sweet potato greens showed a 69 percent efficacy in inhibiting prostate tumor growth as compared to controls in the experiments. "I asked Sushma to [repeat the experiment] several times to make sure," she says. The whole extract proved to be effective against the prostate cancer cells, and Aneja wanted to publish the results. But out in the world might just provide the answer: the leafy greens of the sweet potato plant.

As a treatment that is much safer to patients and their caregivers, Aneja has discovered through an unlikely source that a plant eaten for centuries by different cultures around the world just might provide the answer: the leafy greens of the sweet potato plant.

Two of the most effective anti-cancer drugs come from plants. Vinblastine from Vinca rosea, a type of periwinkle, is used to treat Hodgkin’s lymphoma, lung cancer, breast cancer and testicular cancer. Paclitaxel, derived from the bark of the Pacific yew tree, is used to treat patients with lung, ovarian and breast cancer.

“For thousands of years, we’ve treated ourselves with folklore medicine, and even today, everything is based on that. There’s a lot of strength and wealth in nature,” Aneja says.

In discovering the anti-cancer properties of sweet potato greens, Aneja turned to traditional Japanese literature. From there, she learned about the health benefits of the plant. High in polyphenols, Vitamin B, beta carotene, iron, calcium and zinc, the greens’ nutritional richness make them a prime candidate for study.

Commonly eaten in the West Africa and in Asia — specifically in Taiwan and mainland China — the greens have been called a “poor man’s food.” Here, they are typically cut back before the sweet potatoes are dug up and harvested. Aneja had a hunch that there was something more to the humble green. Consulting with colleagues at Tuskegee University in south Alabama who research the cardiovascular benefits of sweet potatoes, Aneja began to learn more about the crop.

At that time, Aneja started research with not only the leafy greens of the sweet potato, but also the peel. While the peel didn’t show superior cancer-fighting properties, the greens would prove to host a bounty of the right compounds to kill cancer.

Aneja’s search for new cancer research led her to sweet potato greens often found in local farmer’s markets.

"There has been a lot of progress in our understanding of how cells behave and the pathogenesis of cancer, but we really don’t know how to find the magic bullet.”

The Critical Fraction

Aneja and research scientist Prasanthi Kara, formerly at Georgia State, immediately started work with sweet potato green extract on prostate cancer cells grown in test tubes — known as “in vitro” research. Prostate cancer cells are ideal for evaluating a prospective cancer treatment because they are relatively slow-growing — giving Aneja’s lab a better window to examine the greens’ anti-cancer properties.

Aneja couldn’t believe the results. The lab has identified at least two candidates for study. The fraction called "Fraction 5." The fraction contained caffeine and chlorogenic acid — but none of the subfractions were as active as Fraction 5 as a whole.

Her lab separated Fraction 5 further into subfractions to see if they could isolate other components responsible for Fraction 5’s total anti-cancer activity, but none of the subfractions were as active as Fraction 5 as a whole.

“One of the most anti-cancer activity is what Aneja and her lab call “Fraction 5.” The fraction is very powerful and is effective in very tiny amounts — nanograms per milliliter — unlike the other fractions. The lab has identified at least two specific compounds within Fraction 5 — caffeic acid and chlorogenic acid — but the others remain a mystery. The most meaningful finding to Aneja’s lab is that all of the compounds work together to fight cancer.

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The whole extract proved to be effective against the prostate cancer cells, and Aneja wanted to publish the new knowledge. But journal editors demanded more information about what was in sweet potato greens that caused their effectiveness.

“What do the labs do to us all the time is ‘Tell us something — what’s in there? What is the extract and what is the nature of the compounds?’” Aneja says. The lab divided into breaking down the extract. Sushma Gundala is now the main researcher in Aneja’s lab investigating the greens and continuing the work started by Kara.

Gundala broke down the extract using a separation process called “fractionation,” where mixtures of solids, liquids or suspensions are divided into smaller parts. Using a further separation process called chromatography, the lab separated the whole extract into 17 fractions of compounds and investigated the traits of each.

“Reduce the burden of working with 17, we brought down the number to seven,” Gundala said. “Nevertheless, it has been a daunting task to fractionate sweet potato green extract due to processing difficulties as our approach was to not just look at the parts, but to link them to activity.”

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"There has been a lot of progress in our understanding of how cells behave and the pathogenesis of cancer, but we really don’t know how to find the magic bullet.”
Toward a Kinder, Healthier Future

There are many directions Aneja’s lab can take, including research on a different, deadlier and faster-growing cancer — pancreatic cancer, which has one of the lowest five-year survival rates and spreads very quickly.

“It’s a very deadly cancer, and there are not many people working on it,” Aneja says. “There are not many drugs available either. If the greens grow even a little bit of protection, it will be a great leap.”

To continue her work, she was awarded a $720,000 grant from the American Cancer Society — the third such grant for the GSU Department of Biology.

Persistence on the research path may yield tangible results, going from the lab bench into the public sphere, and one tangible result of the sweet potato green research might be a dietary supplement for cancer prevention, Aneja says. Results could also lead to better cancer treatments in a clinical setting.

That day may come sooner rather than later. Aneja is constantly striving for the next discovery, as well as seeking other projects along the same lines that investigate natural ways to kill and prevent cancer. One promising project has examined the cancer-fighting abilities of an extract from whole ginger root, which has also shown efficacy against cancer.

“If only I had 48 hours in a day instead of 24,” Aneja says with a smile. “If only I had 48 hours in a day...”

And I have a lot of help from my grad students. They work very hard and have matured so much along the way,” Gundala says. “And Aneja, who is passionate about seeking new opportunities to expand knowledge that can lead to better treatments, is happy to set their motivations alight.

“I have to infuse a passion,” she says. “When they work with me, they have to be fired up. I have to show them the direction and the path, but then I give them a lot of freedom. Sometimes they have one crazy idea and it turns into a new direction for discovery.”

The process of testing the leaf’s anti-cancer activity is not just a single step; rather, it is an intense, multi-step process. The lab prepares an extract by soaking the leaves in methanol, followed by concentrating the methanol and removing residual moisture to make a powdered extract, which is then used to treat the cancer cells in order to determine its efficacy to kill cancer cells and inhibit their proliferation.

Other Georgia State professors are working on natural ways to detect and fight disease. They include:

**PENG GEORGE WANG**, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and professor in chemical glycobiology, who is investigating carbohydrate-based natural products to develop new ways to diagnose and treat diseases. One research focus looks at carbohydrates called human milk oligosaccharides, found in human breast milk. The oligosaccharides have been shown to counter bacterial infections, and Wang wants to learn more about how to produce these compounds on a larger scale in order to create better drugs against infection.

**SURI IYER**, associate professor of chemistry, who is also using carbohydrates to counter disease. His lab is looking to understand how toxins and pathogens recognize certain types of carbohydrates to bind and infect cells.

**JIAN-DONG LI**, director of the Center for Inflammation, Immunity and Infection (CIII) and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar, who examines a drug called Vepsolinine, which is based on chemicals found in the periwinkle plant, and its anti-inflammatory effects. The drug has been used in Europe, Japan and China for neurological conditions, and is non-toxic. Since the drug has already been proven to be non-toxic, it can be more quickly “repositioned” for use against inflammation.

**NICOLE LOPANIK**, an assistant professor of biology, who is interested in the production of natural compounds — including one called brystatin — produced by marine organisms. The chemicals may have anti-cancer and neurological impacts.

**NATURE’S WORKERS**

Other Georgia State professors are working on natural ways to detect and fight disease. They include:

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Connections

Scattered, Smothered and ... And Recruited

To the unmistakable combination of black and bright yellow of Waffle House, add bright blue booths and a checkerboard of blue wall tiles. Welcome to the GSU Waffle House, the best advertisement that Tom Mallory (B.B.A. ‘81) has ever given.

Mallory is a senior recruiter for Waffle House at Georgia State, and if a prospective employee needs extra persuasion to join the family-like company, Mallory sits them down at the GSU Waffle House and orders the chicken melt.

The chicken, not the waffles, persuaded Mallory, who had worked his way up the restaurant food chain Applebee’s, Brookwood Grill, Stoney River — before joining Norcross-based Waffle House in 2000. “That was a dead ditcher,” he recalled. “I didn’t know their food was that good. I was wrong. It’s awesome.”

Mallory, married to Taweesha Mallory (B.B.A. ‘03), first came to GSU as an information systems freshman. The pouring rain had sent his family to the west Waffle House at that time was a car ride away on Northside Drive. When he switched to the Cecil B. Day School of Hospitality, Mallory felt he had placed the perfect order.

Moving in hotel, restaurant and travel administration formalized and leveraged a résumé that Mallory had been building since age 15, when he learned to cook at an upscale restaurant in River — before joining Norcross-based Waffle House.

“One of the restaurant operations faculty at GSU taught me that this line of work requires resiliency because there will be times the business does not go well,” Mallory said.

“The chicken, not the waffles, persuaded me,” he added. “I didn’t know their food was that good. It’s awesome!”

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A CONDUIT FOR CREATIVITY

To be a pioneer you must first have a vision. For Erica Jamison (B.A. ’08), her vision involves art and cultivating a stronger creative community in Atlanta.

“Art is an integral part of any city,” said Jamison. “Therefore supporting and encouraging creativity throughout the state.

“Once I became more involved, I felt there was a need for a space for people like myself and people who were interested in the arts but felt a little intimidated or overwhelmed by traditional art galleries and other institutions,” she said.

In 2007, Jamison founded the MINT art gallery. MINT is not your typical art gallery; it’s a nonprofit organization that provides exhibition space, curatorial opportunities and other resources to aspiring artists. MINT organizes exhibits in which anyone, regardless of experience level, can hang work on their walls.

“Most of our programming is based on how many artists we can support and the quality of the work itself,” she said.

MINT, located in the historic Old Fourth Ward neighborhood of Atlanta, has hosted veterans, who have worked with more than 200 artists. Last fall, Jamison created the Leap year program. Leap year is a yearlong mentorship program that allows three emerging artists the opportunity to develop their creative voices by providing them with supplies, studio and mentorship.

“There haven’t been many comprehensive programs in Atlanta designed for emerging artists,” Jamison said. “Leap year is like our version of grad school.”

Jamison knew MINT had big plans in the future as it continues to reach out to underserved areas in hopes of enriching the creative communities in Atlanta and throughout the state.

“Help cross the transcend barriers imposed by race, economic class, gender and orientation,” said Jamison. “Therefore supporting and encouraging creativity is absolutely necessary for any city to thrive and grow.”

1990s

Jeff Irvine (M.B.A. ’98) has joined Grinder & Ellis as an associate specializing in leasing and brokerage of retail investment commercial real estate near Charleston, S.C.

Bryan Tucker (B.A. ’98) has been appointed as Georgia’s state archaeologist. Tucker joined the Historic Preservation Division as the deputy state archaeologist and Archeology section chief in March 2010.


Ann White (Ph.D. ’98) interim dean of the University of Southern Indiana College of Business and Health Professions, has accepted the position on a permanent basis. White will be the only second dean in the school’s history.

2000s

Michael Craft (M.Ed. ’02) named a Dickey-Kellogg Teacher of the Year and named by Farmingdale as a library coordinator.

Tom Bailey (M.B.A. ’08), a Robinson Council of Young Leaders board member, has been employed by AGCO Corporation, a global manufacturer and distributor of industrial farm equipment for the last 15 years. He was recently promoted to senior enterprise architect supporting the sales, marketing and service functions globally.

Chris Currie (M.P.A. ’02) assistant director for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he specializes in homeland security and justice-related issues, managing auditors and evaluations of federal government programs and spending. Currie has received the GAO Meritorious Service Award in 2009 and the Institutional Stewardship Award in 2010.

Samantha Ellison (B.A. ’05) recently joined Carolina One Real Estate as a sales associate. Ellison was previously employed with Advance Food Company and Coca-Cola.

Lary Rigdon’s (M.Ed. ’07) memoir, “The Storms of Deliverance,” has been published by the Zeighmon Homestead in Conyers, Ga. Lary’s five-year-old daughter, William Jones (B.S. ’04) recently became a principal transportation planner for the City of Atlanta.

John Michael Lee Jr. (M.P.A. ’05) is the president and CEO of North Star Educational Consulting, LLC and Philadelphia and policy director for the Advocacy and Policy Center for Civilian, Government Relations and Development at the College Board.

Robert Marburn (M.A. ’02), a graduate of the International Center for Public Policy’s first Indonesian Master’s Program in the Office of Government Affairs (OGA), where he specializes in homeland security and justice-related issues, managing auditors and evaluations of federal government programs and spending. Currie has received the GAO Meritorious Service Award in 2009 and the Institutional Stewardship Award in 2010.

Kathleen Mims (M.Ed. ’98), an eighth grade physical science teacher at Snellville Middle School in Gwinnett County, received the Marvelous Miss Teacher Award at Dunwoody Springs Elementary.

Jessica Sevin (M.Ed. ’09) was recently appointed a teaching assistant for the University of New York.

Brandon White (B.S. ’05), a planner for the County of Charleston, S.C., was recently awarded membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners.

2010s

Matthew Blasca (M.S. ’11) won the Sport Marketing Association Best Student Paper Award at the 9th Annual Sport Marketing Association Conference in Houston, Texas.

Troyer Boylan (B.B.A. ’10) recently promoted to the Hyatt Regency Atlanta as sales manager.

Jason Delaney (M.A. ’10, Ph.D. ’11) was recently named an assistant professor of GaSouthern University’s Office of the College of Business at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Eileen Hudson (M.P.A. ’10) was recently named manager of marketing and programs for Leadership Atlanta, where she oversees event planning, marketing, communications and media relations.

Stephen Newhouse (M.P.A. ’10) was recently named to a transportation planner for AC Transit in Oakland, Calif. He moved to San Francisco upon earning his degree to intern with the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and Oakland Public Works Department.

Kiva Rabinsky (M.P.A. ’10) is programs director in the Department of Service Learning and Experiential Education at Yeshiva University.

COMING HOME

As tens of thousands of troops make their way home from war, John Hanson (B.A. ’08) thinks he knows some of what they are going through. He’s been in their boots, and now he’s helping lead efforts to marshal civilian support — while relying on basic training from Geor-
gia State’s journalism classes and the halls of the state Capitol.

As senior vice president for the USA — probably best known for entertaining troops overseas — Hanson has escorted celebrities like Stephen Colbert, Robin Williams, Al Franken, Drew Carey, Lance Armstrong and the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders when they toured Iraq and Afghanistan. The low-key Hanson worked behind the scenes, taking away more memories than photographs.

“The celebrities who give their time to visit troops around the world — espe-
cially in war zones — are the best,” Hanson said. “It’s not easy duty, but none of them complain about a thing . . . ever.

“Our mission is to lift the spirits of troops and military families. Sometimes it’s easy to forget that there are thousands of troops doing difficult jobs under extreme conditions. They often feel isolated, and we do all we can to make them know that it re-
ally does matter what an Air Force technician turned a wrench today or why they say ing ‘thank you.’ When you see the impact, it makes you want to do more.”

Hanson was that mechanic during the Vietnam War — servicing B-52 bombers in Guam and Thailand. “I was trusted to maintain a million dollar piece of equipment,” he said. “I didn’t think twice, you did what your military you really learn what you can do.”

His father, a World War II veteran, told him to check out the USO. In Thailand, Hanson did just that. There were old magazines, snacks, a pool table and, most important of all, smiling Americans. “It was home,” he said. “It was like going to a movie matinee and being surprised it was still daytime outside. When I left the USA, I was surprised it was Thursday outside. The USO kept me centered.”

While earning his diploma in journalism and political science, Hanson learned how to stimuli. It’s not like criticism personally and how to present it. He had his political work as a scheduler for Gov. George Busbee, which eventually led to a senior position at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and, in 2002, to the USO.

“Georgia State prepared me for everything that was to follow,” he said.

Today, Hanson, 61, is helping to galvanize support for returning veterans. The USO is raising $100 million to build centers at military hospitals in the Washington, D.C. area.

“As more veterans come to the university, Georgia State will discover, again, that returning veterans will be great students,” Hanson said.

“They have a clear mission and will see us. We must help them re-enter life and move on.”

BY MICHELLE HISKEY

BY MARCUS KEY (B.A. ’12)

gsu.edu/magazine
AMBASSADOR TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM

A meteorite whizzing across the night sky is one of the first memories Ginny Mauldin-Kinney (B.S. ’02) tells about how she fell in love with astronomy.

“I was sitting in my driveway and I saw a meteor streak the entire length of the sky from the west to the east and I just was in awe,” Mauldin-Kinney said. “It opened up my world.”

Mauldin-Kinney, who is back at GSU as a graduate student studying geology, has been volunteering as a NASA Solar System Ambassador for a decade. The Solar System Ambassadors Program is a public outreach program designed for volunteers to share their excitement with local communities about space exploration missions and information about recent discoveries with their local communities.

“I’m very passionate about space. To me, it really is the final frontier,” Mauldin-Kinney said. It’s no surprise Mauldin-Kinney is interested in all things space-related. She was influenced by an uncle who worked as a NASA engineer with the Marshall Space Flight Center.

“I was fortunate enough to see Apollo 17 leave the earth when I was probably 5 or 6,” she said. “I remember it being a night launch and I was sitting on top of my parents’ Cribstone and watching because it kept being delayed, but when it finally went off it lit up the night sky like a sunrise.”

Mauldin-Kinney began delving deeper into astronomy and space exploration in 1989 when she took a continuing education astronomy course at Emory University. Afterward, she began volunteering her time as an observational assistant at the Fernbank Science Center and serving as an officer with the Atlanta Astronomy Club from 1996 to 1998.

Those experiences led her to pursue a bachelor’s at GSU, where she was able to devise an interdisciplinary studies curriculum in planetary science and communication. Her emphasis of study is “paleo-discharge estimates in former Martian communications.”

As she studies, Mauldin-Kinney is constantly training through the ambassador program.

Mauldin-Kinney said her favorite events involve speaking to children. Her group of 50 then we’re doing our jobs,” she said. “One thing I tell them is that they should really focus on science and math early on because you can do science and math you can do anything in the world.”

Virginia Spencer Carr

Professor Emeritus of English

Virginia Spencer Carr, biographer of Carson McCullers, John Dos Passos and Paul Bowles, died April 10 at her home in Lynn, Mass., after a brief illness. She was 82 years old.

“The Lonely Hunter: A Biography of Carson McCullers,” first published by Doubleday in 1975, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and established Carr as a major literary biographer. The biography’s title is a clever allusion to McCullers’s first novel. “The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter” (1940), generally regarded as one of the most important American novels of the 20th century.


Carr was a professor of English, department chair and avid fundraiser for GSU. At the time of her retirement in 2003, having been on the faculty for 30 years, she held the John B. and Elena Díaz-Veronos Distinguished Chair in English Letters.

In addition to the biographies of McCullers, Dos Passos and Bowles, she was the editor of a book dedicated to the fiction of Katherine Anne Porter (“Flowering Judas: Katherine Anne Porter,” Rutgers University Press, 1993) and wrote the introduction to “The Collected Stories of Carson McCullers” (Houghton Mifflin, 1987). She was also the author of “Understanding Carson McCullers” (University of South Carolina Press, 1990), a highly condensed overview of McCullers’ life and work. Over the course of her career as an academic and biographer, she wrote many scholarly articles and lectured widely.

Survivors include her partner, Mary E. Robbins, whom Carr married in 2006; three daughters, Karen Carr, Sally Carr and Lila Carr; and seven grandchildren.

BY ROGER HARRIS
Copyright law can be arcane and confusing, but it affects our lives every day as students, teachers, creators and consumers. Alex Sayf Cummings, assistant professor of history and co-editor of the site Tropics of Meta (http://tropicsofmeta.wordpress.com), offers 10 interesting facts about copyright.

1. The first copyright law in the United States only provided protection for 14 years, and only covered “maps, charts and books.”

2. In 1909, Congress chose not to grant record companies a copyright for their recordings, as they viewed copyright as a monopoly and feared that a “phonograph trust” would emerge to control all music.

3. As a result, sound recordings were not eligible for federal copyright in the U.S. until 1972.

4. The oldest known sound recording was made by French printer Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville in 1860, but recent changes in U.S. copyright law mean that even this 152-year-old record is not yet in the public domain — and won’t be until 2067.

5. The longest copyright could last was 56 years until 1976, when Congress extended the length of protection to the life of the author plus 50 years.

6. A 1998 law added 20 years to all copyrights. Critics alleged that Congress acted because Mickey Mouse and numerous other valuable properties were about to go into the public domain at the time.

7. The same year, Congress passed legislation making it illegal to tamper with anti-piracy mechanisms on media like CDs and software, or to disseminate technologies that aim to subvert those mechanisms.

8. Thanks to a little-known feature of copyright law called “termination,” many authors and musicians will be able to regain rights to their work from publishers and record labels starting in 2013. Artists such as Bob Dylan and the Village People have already declared their intention to do so.

9. A new movement has emerged in the last 10 years to counter the idea that more copyright is better copyright. Operating under the banners of Copyleft and Creative Commons, it has argued that copyright is too restrictive and should be relaxed to promote greater creativity.

10. A recent eruption of protest over the proposed Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) led to copyright critics winning their first real victory in years, and suggested that a movement against the continued expansion of copyright may be winning wider public support.
Clouds of Color
As part of the International Spring Festival, the International Student Associations Council and Indian Cultural Exchange at GSU hosted the Holi celebration April 2 in Hurt Park. In Indian culture, Holi, also known as Festival of Colors, is celebrated by dousing fellow participants in dyes and colored water. Students of all backgrounds joined in the fun and came away with a rainbow of new friends.