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In the nearly three years I’ve lived in Atlanta, I’ve continually been impressed by the many offerings for cultural, social, business, recreational and culinary experiences available just a short distance from Georgia State University. Atlanta has long been known for its quality restaurants, and we’re proud of our GSU alumni at the forefront. In this issue, we meet local food entrepreneurs and GSU alumni who share their stories of success and talk about the thriving Atlanta food landscape: Nick Carse of King of Pops, Rene Diaz of Diaz Foods, Matt Hinton of Bull Street Burritos, Tad and Nancy Mitchell of Six Feet Under and Tom Murphy of Murphy’s in the Virginia Highland area (cover story, see page 24).

This fall GSU’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies is delighted to host a cohort of more than a dozen students from Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Sponsored by a $3 million USAID grant, the program aims to prepare young professionals to take on higher levels of responsibility in the Indonesian Ministry of Finance when they return to their homeland, as their nation grapples with a rapidly growing economy and the myriad policy issues associated therewith. You’ll get to know some of these remarkable students as they dive into new experiences academically and otherwise, including a change of seasons and the prospect of experiencing snow (page 30)!

Finally in this issue, you’ll follow the personal journey of a true shining star at Georgia State. Sarah Higinbotham, an English doctoral candidate and instructor, has been teaching literature at a Georgia prison for nearly two years. This semester, University Housing is funding a grant for a program in which GSU will provide books and supplies for prisoners in the program. In exchange, Higinbotham will participate in service learning projects with students who live in University Housing. These students will be learning about mass incarceration and will actively engage prisoner students through peer review of one another’s essays, as well as through field trips to participate in a GSU and prison student workshop (page 34).

This issue celebrates the many faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends throughout our campus, our community — indeed our world — who are pushing back the bounds of common understanding to make a better world for us all, and I could not be more proud of them.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Becker
President
JESSICA DIAZ

Jessica Diaz is a senior majoring in journalism with a concentration in public relations and a minor in Spanish. Diaz recently gained an internship at Coca-Cola in Istanbul, Turkey, after completing a GSU study abroad trip there called “Media, Journalism and Business in a Global World.”

What made you want to study abroad?

My parents are Colombian, but I was born and raised in Atlanta. I grew up here, but I can also go to Colombia and listen to Spanish music and speak another language. Having that background made me want to learn more about different cultures. The basis of my study abroad program was to show journalism students how the media is portrayed and used in an emerging market and in a country that is completely different from the U.S. in terms of regulations. It also encompassed a business aspect to show how business and communications are tied together.

How did your study abroad trip help you secure your internship?

My study abroad experience is the sole reason why I got my internship. I applied for the internship before we came to Turkey, but it wasn’t until I was there that I found out Coca-Cola had already completed their selection process. Despite this news I was eager to meet with the employees and express my interest in working at Coca-Cola in Istanbul. The face-to-face interaction I was able to have with the employees is the main reason why everything worked out.

What were your duties during your internship?

I was interning in the Eurasia and Africa Group Public Affairs and Communications department, but for the first two weeks I joined the Career Express Zip program. I was there during a huge business plan meeting time. I was able to learn how to engage with outside audiences and make sure they are aware of everything that Coke does. I also got to work with employees internally on how to better prepare them with knowledge about Coca-Cola, such as why you would work for Coke or how to answer people when they ask health-related questions.

What was the most unique part of your experience in Turkey?

The biggest thing in the beginning was the language barrier. Here in the States I speak English and Spanish so I can pretty much understand everyone. There we had to learn and speak Turkish, and the people there appreciated that. The most unique aspect of the experience is becoming more globally aware of economics, corporations and people.

COE welcomes largest group of Teach For America students to date

This fall, the College of Education welcomed 174 Teach For America (TFA) members to campus, the largest group the college has enrolled in its three years working with TFA.

Teach For America is a national organization that places committed teachers in urban and rural public schools to help minimize the nationwide achievement gap. Following a rigorous application and interview process, those accepted into TFA are given the unique opportunity to start teaching while attending classes at a university to earn their teaching degree.

For the past two years, the College of Education has worked with TFA to prepare corps members in math, science, English, social studies, early childhood education and special education. This year, the college will be training its largest number of TFA members thus far, including more than 90 early childhood education majors. In addition, the college has added TFA-specific cohorts in math and science to accommodate the increasing number of members who want to teach those high-need subjects.

“In the past, we haven’t had enough TFA students enrolled in math and science to create their own cohorts, so they were integrated in with our regular teacher prep students,” said Joyce Many, associate dean for academic programs. “But this year, we have more than 20 students in these subjects, which is a really exciting development for us.”

Georgia State is close to home for Emma Thomas, a Henry County, Ga., native who has tailored her TFA degree program to fit her academic interests — language arts and history.

“I heard great things about GSU and the College of Education and I feel lucky to have the opportunity to obtain my master’s degree here while having this incredible impact on children,” she said. “Many of my friends are either trying to find a job or looking into master’s programs, and I get to do a combination of both.”

EMMA THOMAS, A TEACH FOR AMERICA STUDENT IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ASSISTS FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ADRIANA WRIGHT AND AMANUELL GEBREMARIAM.
NEW YORK – On a balmy September morn- ing in Manhattan, a handful of smartly dressed Georgia State University business students navigates a 10-block commute at a break New Yorker pace. The group arrives at the Bloomberg Tower and departs with the check-in lines. A few of the young women — the practical ones — retreat to a corner of the lobby, where they discreetly swap their flats for heels they had stored in their large purses. Past security and six floors above in the building’s central atrium, the group marvels at the slick design of Bloomberg’s headquar- ters. Headlines and market numbers crawl across an outsized array of long screens in the break area, while all the snacks are free, splashes of bold color punch up the mostly glass interior. “Could this place be any cool- er?” one student muses.

While Bloomberg might seem an impos- sibly glamorous, unattainable ideal, all of these students are one step closer to get- ting a foot in the door here or at another big-name New York firm because of this trip. “It’s a pretty special group of people,” says Jonathan Aldrich, director of GSU’s Economic Forecasting Center. “The students are part of a program that attracts ongoing opportunities, and position- them with not only the compa- nies that alumni there,” says Jacob Aldrich, executive director of the Robinson College of Business Career Management Center, which leads the program. “[We want] to build a network of contacts in New York who can help the students.”

The alumni reception is a good indicator of how to look for, but you must be tenacious and continually find the story behind the headlines. Furthermore, the forecaster must look to supplement the predictive power of economic modeling by meeting and discussing data with people in the “trenches.”

**FORECASTING’S ‘SECRET SAUCE’**

GSU’s expert economic analyst reveals the tricks of his trade

BY RAJEEV DHAWAN

Often I am asked to talk about the subject of forecasting, what I do, and what’s the “secret sauce” used in making my economic forecasts. Before going into that I think it might be worthwhile to tell you about Georgia State University’s Economic Forecasting Center. As part of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, our center is one of only two of its kind in the nation — and the only in the Southeast — that compiles quarterly national and regional forecasts. The business community, elected officials and the media come to the center for reli- able and independent economic predictions on both national and local economic issues. “It’s the only in the Southeast that compiles quarterly national and regional forecasts. The business community, elected officials and the media come to the center for reliable and independent economic predictions on both national and local economic issues.”

As director of the center, I have just begun my second decade. We just held the 42nd conference under my direction, and I am happy to report that the conference remains very well-received. We average between 250-300 attendees ranging from executives and entrepreneurs to GSU faculty, staff and students who consider this an educational opportunity. One reason for this success is that we have been able to attract marquee speakers, including CEOs from AirTran, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Zoo Atlanta and CFOs from Porsche, the Atlanta Falcons and others. We also invite renowned experts from prestigious universities such as the University of Michigan and UCLA, as well as our in-house faculty.

To that infamous secret sauce.... First, you need to have an education that provides you with good technical skills and a solid research base you can call upon throughout the course of your career. Also vitally important is the ability to commu- nicate. This means you must be able to write well, have an engaging style and speak effectively before groups and on a one-to-one basis. On any given day you could be talking with the media, speaking to a group of community leaders or soliciting spon- sors — all involving communication, but all requiring very distinct communications skills. Another characteristic of a good forecaster is being well-versed on the economic and political news of the day. Your background and years of study will help you know what to look for, but you must be tenacious and continually find the story behind the headlines. Consequently, forecasting is a lifelong learning process. The more you do it, the more you understand and the better you become — hopefully. Keeping a good sense of humor is vital, especially in times like this when the economic news is less than cheery. As one forecaster said about today’s economy, “The future isn’t always what it used to be.”

**WEB EXCLUSIVE**

Visit gsu.edu/magazine for a slideshow from the trip.

**Faculty OP-ED**

Full Professor at GSU’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

The forecaster must look to supplement the predictive power of economic modeling by meeting and discussing data with people in the “trenches.” This is how you obtain that “gut feel,” aka, the secret sauce for predicting where the economy is headed.
BETA ALPHA PSI is an honorary organization for accounting students in universities across America and abroad. Now in its 50th year on GSU’s campus, the Beta Mu chapter, more than 120 students strong, has taken its name to another continent through its Global Impact Project.

The Global Impact Project launched in fall 2010 as a community service effort with the initial goal of raising enough money to send one Kenyan girl to college. Just a year later, Beta Alpha Psi has met and exceeded its mark, collecting nearly $27,000 — enough to fund degrees for nine women.

Beta Alpha Psi identified deserving scholarship candidates through a partnership with Alpharetta-based Imbako Public Health. Fittingly, these first scholars are studying education, business management and accounting. Fundraising for the 2011-12 Global Impact Project is already underway.

“It’s amazing to me that one person’s education could have such a hugely positive effect on a village of people,” says Ricky Bartlett, the project’s committee chair. “It makes that village so much more self-sustaining, by one education.”

BY KATHLEEN POE ROSS

AUBREY DANIELS says that Concrete Jungle, the organization he co-founded to harvest fresh fruit from untended trees and distribute it to the needy, grew out of a party.

“We decided to collect a few apples from the side of the road and have a big party where we pressed them into cider,” said Daniels, who is slated to graduate in the spring with a master’s in economics.

“Ciderfest was a hit, and it became an annual event.”

Over time, Daniels said, “a few of us started to develop ‘the eye’ and realized that there are fruit trees absolutely everywhere in Atlanta.”

In 2009, Daniels and friends began weekend expeditions to collect all those pears, apples, plums, figs — even pomegranates and serviceberries — from trees and bushes all around Atlanta, and donated their harvests to local shelters.

Since its founding, Concrete Jungle has donated more than 5,000 pounds of fresh fruit. This year, despite it being a rough year for apples and pears, Daniels figures to add another 2,000 pounds to that total.

WEB EXCLUSIVE VIDEO
Visit gsu.edu/magazine and follow Daniels on a fruit picking excursion.
A SECOND ACT IN THE STARS

At the ripe age of 79, Bob Loewenthal is chasing his interstellar dreams

During World War II, a young Bob Loewenthal stood on the rooftop of his apartment building in New York City on the lookout for the silhouettes of German war planes. Amid the broomwoods and blackouts to practice for air raids, he used the momentary darkness above his home in Queens to pursue his love of astronomy.

He would grow up and take a different path — majoring in American history at Cornell University and law at the University of Miami, eventually practicing law for decades — but the 79-year-old, sixth-generation New Yorker, who resides in Atlanta, is now pursuing his lifelong passion for the stars as a master’s student in astronomy.

“Whenever there was something I wanted to do, I simply would do it,” Loewenthal said. Even in law school, his telescope was at his side. “I never really lost my interest,” he remembers. “I always had a telescope and was a member of the astronomy club.”

He even taught a class in observational astronomy as a graduate assistant, despite having had no formal training.

In 1979, he moved to Atlanta and started a successful law practice. Shortly thereafter, he discovered Georgia State’s physics and astronomy program.

“I asked what I would have to take to get a Ph.D. in astronomy, and I was given some books right before I took the Georgia bar exam,” Loewenthal said. “I went through the books and realized that I would have to spend several years of study. So I took the bar and became a lawyer in Georgia.”

After retiring, he took several undergrad courses in science at Georgia Perimeter College, where he excelled, and then came to Georgia State.

“Since I’m not going full time, I expect that in the year 2032, I’ll get my Ph.D.,” he said, laughing. “It’s just like that saying: it’s the journey that’s important, not the final destination.”

Loewenthal is studying extragalactic astronomy — the study of space outside of our own galaxy. Specifically, he’s interested in what causes the acceleration of the universe. He also loves to tell others about astronomy and the vastness of space. He spends time out at GSU’s Hard Labor Creek observatory near Rutledge, Ga., talking with visitors as they wait to use the telescope.

Besides a passion for space — and also having learned how to fly — he enjoys running and completed the ING Georgia Marathon last year. But running for running’s sake is not his thing — Loewenthal gets more out of it when he’s up against someone else, or the clock.

“When he competed at the ING Georgia Marathon in 2010, he came in at 6 hours, 20 minutes and 19 seconds. ‘That’s not bad for age 77,’ Loewenthal said.”

BY JEREMY CRAIG

CITYSCAPES

Remember When?

We asked the more than 2,900 Facebook friends of GSU’s Alumni Association to reflect back to their days at GSU and tell us their favorite class and who was the instructor. Here are a few highlights:

“Any of the journalism classes with Andree Grogan and Dr. [Doug] Barthlow” — Erica J. Myers (B.A. ’10)

“Southern literature with Dr. Virginia Spencer Carr” — Aimee Thomas Bowman (B.A. ’06)

“My internship in the political science department. Also, any class with Professor Bill Thomas” — Shameka Reed

“Model Arab League with Dr. [Rashid] Naim” — Kyle Proctor (B.B.A. ’08)

“Pharmacology with Lisa Cornwall-Bruce” — K. Niles Jarrett (B.S. ’08)

“BUSINESS LAW WITH [EDWIN] PALMER” — Logan Allen (B.B.A. ’09)

Become friends with GSU Magazine and the GSU Alumni Association Facebook pages at facebook.com/gsumagazine and facebook.com/gsuas.
**SPORTS PROFILE**

**THE REBOUND**

After a devastating injury, Chan Harris returns to top form

Chan Harris doesn’t really remember when it happened — just that it hurt. “Honestly, I don’t know,” she says, struggling to recall when, early in the 2009 season, she developed a stress fracture in the navicular bone of her right foot. “I just kept playing on it, and it just broke. What I do remember was that it was very painful.”

The season, Harris was emerging into dominant post player for the Panthers. In the first game of the season, the 6-foot-2-inch forward scored 22 points and had 11 rebounds in a 77-52 demolition of Kennesaw State. “It was very painful,” she says, struggling to describe not just the pain, but the isolation. “You feel like you’re alone.”

But, as Baldwin-Tener can attest, Harris is expecting more from her senior leader than just big numbers in the box scores. “Chan brings a lot to this team, and she’s been a leader by example,” Baldwin-Tener says. “She has worked very hard during the summer and it’s showing. She gives the younger players someone to look up to as far as work ethic and what it takes to get every day better.”

Harris says she got that fire to always get better when she was playing with the neighborhood boys growing up. Harris comes from a basketball family; her father, Charles, played for Iowa State, and her brother, Marvin, is a sophomore forward for Campbell University. “I used to beat my brother a lot growing up, but now it’s kind of shifted,” she says. “The last time we played, he beat me, and that was it. No more.”

Harris also holds the distinction of being the only GSU athlete to be named All-CAA for both basketball and blocks. “I used to beat my brother a lot growing up, but now it’s kind of shifted,” she says. “The last time we played, he beat me, and that was it. No more.”

In her first game back against Georgia Tech, Harris scored 12 points and had 15 rebounds and three blocks. It was the first of 13 double-doubles she would post during her bounce back season — one in which she earned All-CAA honors after ranking third in the conference in both rebounds and blocks.

As she gears up for her last basketball season, Harris is well into her first semester working toward a master’s degree in sports administration.

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As she gears up for her last basketball season, Harris is well into her first semester working toward a master’s degree in sports administration.

W H E R E  A R E  T H E Y  N O W?

Sundays are big days for former GSU cross-country runner Scott Brooks (B.A. ’00). As director of game entertainment for the NFL’s St. Louis Rams, it’s his job to make sure the more than 65,000 fans who pack the Edward Jones Dome have a good time.

“I can’t guarantee wins, but I can guarantee fans will be entertained,” Brooks said.

Now in his third year with the Rams, Brooks is responsible for the creative direction, concept and approach for the team’s game day experience.

“Running at Georgia State and spending those hours in practice, you create lifelong friendships and really get to know your fellow students,” he said.

In June of 2009, he found his next opportunity with the NFL and the Rams. He moved on to head the Washington Capitals’ game entertainment area.

Under Levick’s leadership, Georgia State student-athletes have excelled in the classroom, posting a grade-point average over 3.0 the last two years while completing more than 5,000 hours of community service in 2010-11.

GSU adds sand volleyball

When it begins play in the spring of 2013, sand volleyball will become GSU’s 10th women’s sport and 19th varsity program. The team will be led by current Panthers indoor volleyball coach Tami Audia.

Named an emerging sport by the NCAA, sand volleyball will be played for the first time at the varsity level in the spring of 2012 by around 20 schools. An estimated 30 to 40 more are in the decision-making process to join the Panthers for the 2013 season.

GSU will compete in a state-of-the-art sand court that will be built behind the Sports Arena. The venue will feature three full sand courts and seating for 1,250 fans.

Audia and staff have begun recruiting and will welcome the team’s first student-athletes in the fall of 2012.

“We are certain that with great support from our athletic department we will be making GSU a top destination for the sport,” Audia said.

Joining Audia as assistant sand coach is former Panther volleyball standout Beth Van Fleet (B.A. ’09), who brings eight years of pro beach volleyball experience to the staff.

“I know that we have the ingredients to be successful here at GSU, and I can’t wait to develop a strong sand volleyball tradition,” Van Fleet said.

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**GSU Magazine Winter 2011**

gsu.edu/magazine
leaving an impression

Rebecca Scott, a printmaking major, pulls a monoprint from an etching press in associate professor Matthew Sugarman’s printmaking class.

Visit gsu.edu/news/54752.html for a slideshow on the visual arts at GSU.
**Second-generation professor builds on father's legacy**

Nikitas “Nick” Demos and Georgia State go way back. In fact, the coordinator of composition studies and professor of composition in the School of Music has the distinction of being GSU’s only legacy professor, his father, clarinetist John Demos, having served as a music educator here from 1961 until his passing in 1998.

“I grew up as a kid coming to Georgia State, which was a vastly different Georgia State than it is now,” Demos remembers. Although Demos — also a clarinetist — intended to follow in his father’s musical footsteps, he never expected them to lead through the very same doors.

It all happened rather serendipitously. After Demos completed his doctoral degree in composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music in ’92, his wife suggested he send out some resumes. “I said that’s not how it works in this field — you don’t just send out blind resumes,” Demos recalls. “But I did it.”

That approach didn’t get him anywhere — except at Georgia State. “The director of the school at that time sent me this long letter saying that he was certainly familiar with my name — so I drove down here to see if I could finagle me this long letter saying that he was certainly familiar with Georgia State. “The director of the school at that time sent it to me,” Demos remembers. “And although Demos — also a clarinetist — intended to follow in his father’s musical footsteps, he never expected them to lead through the very same doors. It all happened rather serendipitously.

When it comes to his own career, Demos says he’s “been there, done that.”

**Cultivating Kudzu**

Professor spins the dreaded weed into art

Here in Georgia, kudzu, that omnipresent, climbing and coiling vine that “ate the South,” is often considered an unstoppable menace. But to Junco Pollack, associate professor of art, kudzu fibers are a sustainable material for making art and producing fabric.

It turns out, Pollack says, that some of the oldest woven fibers known to humankind were extracted from the kudzu plant, and its first use by the Chinese dates back to Neolithic times. In her native Japan, there is a rich and ancient tradition of hand-weaving kudzu fibers into fabric.

“When I came to Atlanta in 1992, I saw kudzu plants taking over the landscape,” Pollack remembers, “and I thought this is a resource I must use in my research and teaching.” Pollack teaches the art of kudzu weaving in her textile classes. Her students begin by harvesting the plant, cooking it and processing the fibers. Then, from the kudzu fibers, they make baskets and weave sandals using an ancient weaving device called a backstrap loom.

Pollack says her classes also use other ancient and natural methods for making textiles, including using bark from the Mulberry tree to weave into fabric.

“My students learn the ancient technology of a bygone era, and the new development and interpretation of the technology in the modern life,” Pollack says. Pollack also works with kudzu in her studio in Lakemont, Ga., where she has an abundant supply nearby. She holds workshops with other artisans, demonstrating how to extract the fine fibers from vines to weave into clothing, tablecloths, purses and more. Recently, some of her creations were added to the Materia Collection of the Francis Loeb Library in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard.

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“People just don’t think anything good can come from it,” she says. In China and Japan, Pollack says, kudzu is not only made into fabric, it is eaten, used to treat alcoholism and used as a remedy for hangovers and colds.

**Window Watching**

The Digital Arts Entertainment Laboratory has long been a center for teaching and researching digital video production and research. Now, the DAEL is adding a new twist to its offerings: display space for video art.

The Window Project is open now, and the new space is called, consists of six high-definition projectors synchronized to create a screen that stands more than six feet tall and stretches more than 80 feet. The screen faces the southern end of Woodruff Park, and the projects on display are visible to all passersby.

The Window Project opened this spring with “Past, Perfect, Continuous” by Micah Stansell (M.F.A. ’09). Next came two short films by poet and artist Shabnam Piryaeei, one on the aftermath of war and one on the resilience of children, each featuring original poetry and music.

The current exhibition is by Laura Zaylea, a lecturer in the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design. Zaylea makes experimental 8mm and 16mm short films and hand-processes the negatives by drying, bleaching and staining them.

The Window Project will be posting new exhibits quarterly.
World War II had earth-shaking effects on the fabric of American society, and the culture and practice of fatherhood was no exception. Now, a Georgia State sociologist has dug through history to explore how the role of fathers was shaped by the war and its aftermath.

Ralph LaRossa, professor of sociology, offers this view of fatherhood in "Of War and Men: World War II in the Lives of Fathers and Their Families" (University of Chicago Press, 2011). In it, he examines the role of fathers in their children’s lives from the start of the war and on until the presidential election of John F. Kennedy in 1960.

In exploring the portrayal of fathers during World War II and thereafter — usually as distant and patriarchal — he discovered a more complex reality. "Very often, when scholars talk about the 1950s, they’ll just assume that fathers were not involved," LaRossa notes. "Not uncommonly, they will rely on data from the late 1950s, which was a uniquely traditional moment in American history."

LaRossa says that if the myriad effects of the war — including the aftereffects of combat and the fears associated with the Cold War — and of the entire postwar era are taken into consideration, it shows that yesterday’s dads were more involved than conventional wisdom would have us believe.

The book explores fatherhood in the wake of certain events that some historians of fatherhood have ignored, such as the internment of Japanese fathers during the war, the Civil Rights Movement and the politics of the era.

The portrayal of John F. Kennedy as a father may have played a role in his election, for example. Kennedy’s campaign plane bore his daughter Caroline’s name, and he got the endorsement of Dr. Benjamin Spock, whose guide to raising children was a go-to book for mid-century parents.

"Among middle-aged women, JFK and Nixon were pretty equal in votes. But among young women voters, many of whom were mothers of small children, Kennedy beat Nixon by 10 percent," LaRossa says. Fatherhood also played another role toward the end of the campaign, through the intervention of John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, in securing the release of Martin Luther King Jr. from jail. King’s father, Martin Luther King Sr., was so moved by what the Kennedys had done that he promised to help to deliver African-American votes for Kennedy.

“So you have the act of a grateful father making a difference in a very close election,” LaRossa says. 

By Jeremy Craig

FIGHTING FATHERS
Sociologist examines fatherhood from World War II through the ’50s
PAIN RELIEF
Professor aims to uncover more about migraine headaches

Migraine headaches can be downright debilitating and leave those stricken in agony. To make matters worse, many medical providers don’t fully understand migraines — how to properly diagnose them or how to treat them. And scientists who study these headaches are often at a loss in pinpointing exactly what triggers them or what might be helpful to prevent or treat them. What they do know is that roughly 75 percent of migraine sufferers are women.

In hopes of providing scientists a better window into this serious malady, Peggy Moloney, associate professor of nursing in the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions, is going to the sufferers themselves. In her work, she is developing online methods for women to track their migraines, what might have occurred and what seems to provide relief.

“Migraines are one of the top 20 health care problems identified by the World Health Organization,” Moloney said. “And yet about half of all people never get diagnosed accurately or treated appropriately.”

Moloney can relate — she’s experienced the horrible headaches herself.

“I’ve noticed that the first and last weeks of school were always weeks that I had them, and they were the worst ones I’ve had,” Moloney said. “I try to do all the things I can do, like keeping my stress level down, keeping to a schedule and avoiding wine in order to prevent them.”

Still, she and an estimated 16 to 18 percent of all women suffer from migraines, while 6 percent of men do. Common times of headache onset are during adolescence or menopause, when hormonal changes can trigger migraines.

Migraine symptoms include extreme sensitivity to light and sound, nausea, fatigue, irritability, depression and a general feeling that the sufferer cannot focus on the tasks at hand.

Often, Moloney said, women who undergo the ordeal of migraines have to fight the prejudice of others who believe that sufferers are simply malingering — although many continue to work or perform other normal activities even while enduring a migraine’s effects.

When the media reported that 2012 presidential candidate Michele Bachmann suffered from migraines, Moloney pointed out, some people questioned whether her headaches might affect her ability to carry out presidential duties.

“Since the news came out, there’s been a lot of discussion in migraine circles about stigma,” Moloney said. “So a lot of what happens with these headaches is that sufferers don’t tell other people. And sometimes, women have suggested that sometimes the only way the issue becomes legitimate in their workplace is when there is a man there who has experienced them.”

Moloney, a member of the American Headache Society, is not only helping to fight past the stigma, but also working through advocacy with lawmakers to get more research funding to study migraines.

“We, along with other groups, have been really concerned over the past few years over the relative lack of funding for migraines,” she said.

“We’re trying to increase understanding about the problem as a whole.”

BY JEREMY CRAIG

MIGRAINES IN ART
Writers and painters have put what it’s like to suffer migraines onto paper and canvas. For example, Moloney said, some think that Lewis Carroll, author of “Alice in Wonderland” tried to describe the feeling through the moment in the story where Alice’s head grew too large for the room. In Vincent Van Gogh’s “Starry Night,” the bright specks of light are analogous to the “aura” of flashing lights seen by some sufferers.

LIFE IN THE LAB
HANJING PENG is a doctoral student in the lab of Binghe Wang, chair of the Department of Chemistry and director of Georgia State’s Center for Diagnostics and Therapeutics. The center focuses on finding new therapeutic drugs to treat disease and new ways to detect disease.

AS TOLD TO JEREMY CRAIG
“...I’m studying medicinal chemistry. Our lab has several kinds of projects going on, such as drug discovery, drug delivery and new diagnostics. My project is focused on diagnostic methods. For example, there are a lot of factors and biomarkers in the human body. Concentrations of these biomarkers indicate physiological and pathological conditions. I discovered that there’s a reagent that becomes fluorescent when sulfide is added in. So we explored this and found that this could be a very good method for the detection of sulfide. People previously thought that sulfide was just a toxic agent, but research has revealed that sulfide is a very interesting molecule. It exists in the human body, and it’s related to a lot of diseases and plays a regulatory role in some biological systems, like the central nervous system, the cardiovascular system and the endocrine system.

The concentration of sulfide is very important. But sulfide detection is not very easy because it is unstable. Our method is very good because it can detect sulfide quickly. The intensity of the fluorescence is proportional to the sulfide concentration, and we can use it to accurately determine concentrations.

Blood pressure is controlled by sulfide, and sulfide concentration is also related to hyperhomocysteinemia [a condition associated with cardiovascular disease]. Scientists are also trying to use sulfide as a therapeutic agent for treatment of diseases and are trying to find drugs that can release sulfide slowly.”

Viral mysteries
Assistant professor of biology Charlie Barnett Benson is a detective on the hunt. She’s out to discover if a certain type of virus may play a role in childhood leukemia.

“There’s a huge mystery there, and we’re hoping to figure out what’s going on,” she said. “It’s very exciting.”

For years, researchers have speculated that an infectious agent such as adenovirus might be involved in the development of the disease. But proving that has been difficult, as viruses can evade easy detection.

“It may be there to initiate the process and send the cell toward the leukemic pathway, but by the time you look for it, it’s already been kicked out of the cell,” Benson said.

Beyond vaccination against adenovirus for the entire population, any possible treatment or prevention method addressing adenovirus and leukemia is a long way off, Benson said. Because scientists believe that infection may occur while the child is still in the womb, it would be difficult to attack the infection itself during pregnancy. There may be triggers that promote the disease that could allow for prevention, however.

“We’re really starting at the beginning of it, asking can the virus cause those genetic changes that are associated with leukemia,” she said.

“Once we get to that, there are all sorts of things we could think about proposing for prevention.”
Looking back at Tom Murphy’s
early work experience, a theme
quickly emerges. He was
slinging hot dogs from a street cart at
age 11, rolling cheese balls at a gourmet
food store during high school and run-
ning a deli and cheese shop downtown at
Atlanta’s Municipal Market while attend-
ing Georgia State. Whenever he was going
to do, it had to be delicious.

“I always wanted to be in the food busi-
ness,” Murphy says. “But I never wanted
to be in the restaurant business.”

Yet the restaurant business is where
Murphy has happily made his career.
This year, he celebrates 31 years as own-
er of Murphy’s, his eponymous and much
lauded restaurant in Atlanta’s Virginia
Highland neighborhood.

Murphy’s customers may not realize
they have Georgia State to thank, at
least in part. In his management class
junior year, Murphy had to complete a
feasibility study for opening a business.
Inspired by the neighborhood delicat-
essens in his hometown of New York City,
he came up with a concept and business
plan that so impressed his professor she
gave him to the bank to obtain financ-
ing for it. Murphy’s Round the Corner, as
it was first called, was doing brisk business
before Murphy even graduated.

“When I first opened Murphy’s, we
wanted to be part of the fabric of this
neighborhood,” Murphy says, “which is
what great delicatessens of great cities
have always been.”

Murphy’s has since evolved
from its early identity as a
gourmet deli — today it’s a cozy, upscale
restaurant specializing in American com-
fort food — but it remains a cornerstone
of its community. Situated at the intersec-
tion of Virginia and North Highland ave-
nues since 1993, Murphy’s is a landmark.
Everybody knows Murphy’s.

Over the years, the restaurant has built
a reputation as a training ground for ris-
ing culinary stars. Alon Balshah of Alon’s
Bakery, Shaun Doty of Yeah! Burger and
Hector Santiago of Pura Vida (and “Top
Chef” season 6) are just a few of the chefs
whose careers have taken off after stints at
Murphy’s. It’s a point of pride for Murphy,
who joined the Concentrics Restaurants
group to provide his staff with greater op-
portunities for development and growth.

Murphy has branched out as well.
When his late mother was battling cancer,
he saw the need for a healthy meal
delivery service in Atlanta. Good Measure
Meals, which he founded in 2003, pro-
vides nutritious gourmet meals to sub-
scribers. Murphy soon donated the
business to Atlanta nonprofit Open Hand;
today all proceeds from Good Measure
Meals go to fund Open Hand’s own meal
delivery and nutrition education program.

Despite more than 30 years in the in-
dustry, Murphy says, he won’t let himself
become complacent. Instead, he tries to
emulate one of his generation’s greatest
entertainers. “They said Michael Jackson
came to every session as if it was his first,”
Murphy says. “And that type of commit-
tment to wanting to be better, that you
never had arrived — I feel the same.”
Diaz was born in Pacula, Cuba, in 1961. Three generations of his family fled the country in the mid-1960s and landed in Atlanta, where an uncle already lived. Many family members, including Diaz’s parents, found work at a factory making women’s apparel. Diaz’s father worked two additional jobs. By 1969, his grandfather had saved enough money to open a grocery store, Diaz Market, at the corner of Sixth and Peachtree streets. Diaz began working in the family store at 9 years old, first sweeping floors and stocking shelves, then managing the cash register. As soon as he could drive, Diaz was responsible for picking up produce for the free stores his father and grandfather then owned. With multiple locations to stock, the family saw the need for a distribution center, and Diaz Foods was created in 1980. Diaz had just enrolled at GSU, drawn in by top-ranked business programs, but his family also wanted his help in the warehouse, which he soon took over. He managed to do both by working during the day and taking classes at night.

“I chose [GSU] because of the education experience I could get for the value,” Diaz says. GSU’s flexible schedule, affordable tuition, proximity to home and work were key factors in his decision. Diaz never allowed himself to take time off during his studies, even though his degree stretched out over seven years; he didn’t want to lose momentum. Most days, he drove the delivery truck to school. Juggling work and college at the same time would turn out to be the most important part of his business education.

“What I learned at school I brought into the workplace; I was able to see what worked and didn’t work,” Diaz says. “And what I learned at work in real life, I brought back into the classroom.”

These days, Diaz makes sure to keep business separate from everything else. He still logs long days for Diaz Foods, but as soon as he leaves the office, he doesn’t want to be bothered with work. At the end of the day, Diaz says, he sleeps well knowing that, in his heart, he always does what’s right. “Only four hours,” he says, “but I sleep very well.”

Today the company generates more than $200 million in sales, supplying stores and restaurants in 25 states.

In 2007, Diaz got to know the other side of the distribution business when he opened a restaurant, along with Diaz Foods CFO Eric Newberg and other investors. Village Taqueria and Tequila Bar (formerly Lume Taqueria and Tequila Bar) is a chef-driven showcase for upscale Mexican food and artisanal tequilas. Although Diaz considers it a side project, the restaurant is a complement to his primary business and provides a venue for company and community events. Naturally, Diaz Foods supplies many of the ingredients Village uses.

The last thing he thought he would do was stay in the family business. “To me it was, you graduate and then you find a job. This was just helping the family,” Diaz says. “And then one thing led to another.”

Before he knew it, he was buying the company his father and grandfather founded. Under his leadership as chairman and CEO, Atlanta-based Diaz Foods has grown from a handful of small grocery markets to be one of the largest distributors of Hispanic products in the country.

Rene Diaz (B.B.A.’87) Diaz Foods and Village Taqueria & Tequila Bar

TAD (B.B.A.’89) & NANCY (B.B.A.’90) MITCHELL

Six Feet Under Pub and Fish House

These days, it’s hard to imagine Atlanta’s Grant Park neighborhood without the Six Feet Under Pub and Fish House. For nearly 10 years, it has been a future on Memorial Drive across the street from the historic landmark that inspired its name, the Oakland Cemetery. When the low-key seafood joint with the tombstone-shaped bar and the killer rooftop patio first opened, Grant Park wasn’t exactly a dining destination. Since then, Six Feet Under has anchored the neighborhood’s restaurant renaissance.

“There was so much need at the time,” remembers Tad Mitchell. “Everyone wanted us to succeed. There wasn’t a neighborhood pub and casual restaurant. And then we got right in with the community, and it started to snowball.”

Creating a symbiosis with the neighborhood was a must for the Mitchells. After all, they are Grant Park and leg supporters of the Grant Park Conservancy, the Oakland Cemetery, the Grant Park Pool and other community organizations.

Interestingly, at the time they opened the Memorial Drive location, the couple lived on the west side of Atlanta — now home to the Grant Park, Six Feet Under Westside on 11th Street, which opened in 2007.

Mitchell admits they weren’t scientific when it came to picking out their locations.

“I didn’t get out any density graphs,” he says. “It was just familiarity with home turf.”

When they opened shop in 2002, both Tad and Nancy were well acquainted with the struggles involved with operating a restaurant. After “working just about every job in the indus- try” Mitchell says, he had worked his way up to general manager of a Chip’s, while Nancy was running a Honey-Baked Ham franchise.

“So we took what we learned over the years and mashed them together,” he says.

The two-pronged formula that the pair came up with for their new establishment was simple: good food and good times.

“We knew we wanted our place to have simple, good food and a come-as-you-are environment,” says Nancy, who developed the menu. “We wanted Six Feet Under to be a fun place where everyone could enjoy great food and service.”

It wasn’t long before the couple knew they were on to something.

“We kept hearing from friends, neighbors and acquaintances that they loved eating and hanging out at Six Feet Under,” Nancy says. “And sales were climbing.”

Tad says, both locations are having their best year. Success for the Mitchells isn’t just about sales, however. It’s also about sus- tainability, and they have taken big steps to reduce their carbon footprint. They have installed energy-efficient equipment at both locations and use only biodegrad-
A raspberry-red popsicle sporting a jaunty crown rises from a multicolored throne and a purple banner above declares: King of Pops. This scene, painted on the side of a laundromat at the corner of North and North Highland avenues in Atlanta, went up in early 2010 without fanfare, but word of its arrival set local foodies abuzz.

Nick Carse and his brother, Steven, were responsible for the mural, painted to advertise their venture selling handmade popsicles — they had encountered while traveling through Mexico and Central America. But the timing wasn’t right. Nick had just enrolled in GSU’s College of Law and Steven was starting his senior year of college.

Four years later, when Steven was laid off from his job at AG, he revisited the opportunity, turning lemons into Lemon Ricotta popsicles.

By that time, Nick was an assistant solicitor prosecuting misdemeanors for Gwinnett County, but he devoted his hours and weekends to research and recipe testing. Only two months after their cart hit the streets, business was strong enough that Nick could quit his day job and join Steven full-time in the business.

“It was 2005 when the brothers first talked about launching a popsicle business in their hometown. Their inspiration came from the paletas — real-fruit ice pops — they had encountered while traveling through Mexico and Central America. But the timing wasn’t right. Nick had just enrolled in GSU’s College of Law and Steven was starting his senior year of college. Four years later, when Steven was laid off from his job at AG, he revisited the opportunity, turning lemons into Lemon Ricotta popsicles. By that time, Nick was an assistant solicitor prosecuting misdemeanors for Gwinnett County, but he devoted his hours and weekends to research and recipe testing. Only two months after their cart hit the streets, business was strong enough that Nick could quit his day job and join Steven full-time in the business.”

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The community really reacted quickly and gave us a lot of love and support,” Nick says. “It’s a pretty good feeling to be doing what we’re doing.”

A typical day now finds Nick sourcing fresh, local produce at Georgia State Farmers Market in Forest Park or making pops at King of Pops’ Inman Park headquarters — he estimates they make 5,000 a week — before setting out with one of their 10 carts. King of Pops has three set Atlanta locations and regular gigs at nearly a dozen area farmers’ markets. Festivals, events and private catering fill out their calendar. Earlier this year, they added outposts in Athens, Ga., Ashevile, N.C., and Charleston, S.C.

The menu varies daily and from cart to cart, with flavors like Pineapple Habanero, Blueberry Lemongrass and even Cereal Milk. Chocolate Sea Salt is the popular favorite. The biggest flavor flop so far is Nick’s own Avocados and Creams pop.

Nick allows that gourmet popsicles might be a food fad, but he hopes that King of Pops and what it stands for have staying power. “I think we live in a community and in a time that being local, being natural and being fun and interesting and innovative is kind of important,” Nick says. “Hopefully that trend lasts, if nothing else. If not, the popsicles, at least people can support local business.”

Matt Hinton’s leap into the restaurant business wasn’t exactly one of faith — it was one of necessity.

Hinton was just beginning his career in academia as an adjunct professor of religious studies at Morehouse College when, as the economy waned and enrollment went down, he began to see his hours dwindle. The father of two young children desperately needed to supplement his income.

“In that situation, you go find a job in a hurry or you make up a job,” Hinton says. “So that’s what I did. I made up a job.”

On a wing and a prayer, the theologian set up a Facebook page for his new business, West End Burritos, and sent an e-mail to everyone he knew announcing that, on Mondays, he’d be making burritos, and if they bought them, he’d deliver to their homes.

“I never really considered what all that would entail,” he now says.

What he did know was that each and every person on his mailing list was a hardcore fan of the defunct but legendary Tortillas — a Ponce de Leon Avenue establishment with a cult-like following that specialized in giant San Francisco-style burritos.

“It’s almost become a cliché now when people come up and say, ‘You don’t understand, I used to go to Tortilla’s three times a week!’” Hinton says. “But we all did.”

So, in the spirit of Tortillas, Hinton set out on his new business venture.

“I got lots of orders,” Hinton remembers. “I’d had no idea how I’m going to pull this off… The first week was a disaster, and I gave away a lot of burritos.”

His entire operation was run out of his home kitchen — a move he describes as “idiotic, with a wife and two kids, but he managed to keep a consistent customer base, and the little delivery business grew.

In the meantime, in his spare time, Hinton also was promoting a documentary film that he and his wife, Erica (B.A. ‘99), produced in 2007 called ‘Awake My Soul: The Story of the Sacred Harp.’ The film, born out of a project-gone-wild from Erica’s documentary class, tells the story of shape note style singing and The Sacred Harp, a shape note hymnal published in Georgia in 1844 that is still used at some rural Southern churches.

While in Portland, Ore., for a screening of the film, Hinton had something of a religious experience, he says.

“I saw all the food trucks there and said, ‘Oh, that’s it!’”

Upon his return, Hinton contacted the Atlanta Street Food Coalition, which was organizing monthly picnics at the Sweet Auburn Curb Market. Hinton attended a few of the gatherings, burritos in tow, and before long, was approached about opening a food stall in the market.

“Even though I didn’t want to start a restaurant, it seemed like a good idea,” he says.
Indonesian students will spend 18 months at GSU training to become their country’s future policy makers

Story by Andrea Jones
Photography by Carolyn Richardson

His past summer, more than a dozen eager students gathered in a crowded classroom at Gadjah Mada University in central Java with some very specific questions about the destination for which they would soon depart.

“So how cold does it get?” one student asked.

“What kind of jackets should we buy? Where do we get them?” asked another.

The inquiries, made to GSU President Mark Becker, Provost Risa Palm and Dean Mary Beth Walker, who leads the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, were completely sincere.

In Indonesia, seasons simply do not exist. They are accustomed to batik shirts, not bulky sweaters. Tropical, humid temperatures are the norm year round, and the group — who would soon travel to Atlanta as part of an ongoing partnership between Georgia State and Gadjah Mada universities — wanted to know how to prepare.

Fast forward six months to a blustery afternoon in downtown Atlanta. The group of graduate students, now clad in jeans and hooded sweatshirts and laden with backpacks and messenger bags, clearly have figured out the lay of the land.

“We came to Atlanta in the summer, so the weather was similar to Jakarta,” says Doly Sunaryo, one of the master’s students. “Now we will experience our first winter here and we are excited.”

The students’ learning, however, goes far beyond whether or not to dress in layers.

They will become their country’s newest cadre of fiscal policy experts, trained at both their home university and Georgia State, where they are earning dual advanced degrees to help guide Indonesia’s financial future as part of a $3 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
“We want to go back and make our country better,” says Dedy Sunaryo, pictured at top with Dewi Wanti Bangun, pictured from top are Aditya N. Hakim (left) and Muhammad S. Faturrahman, Nutta P. Simorangkir, and Putu Fatulwiy.

Connecting theory and application

HERE FOR 18 MONTHS, the students are studying toward becoming their country’s next generation of policy experts. At the end of the program, they’ll have earned two advanced degrees in applied economics — a M.A. from GSU and an M.S. from Gadjah Mada.

“Programs like these are so important for building professionalism in developing countries,” Walker says. “It is great to have your tax professionals truly understand modern budgeting and how to use the appropriate tools.”

Georgia State, through the international-studies program, is now in its second iteration of a dual-degree partnership with Gadjah Mada, a top-ranked institution in Yogyakarta on the island of Java. GSU’s long ties to Indonesia through the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies are thanks in large part to the work of Regents’ Professor of Economics Jorge Martinez-Vazquez. Over the past two decades, Martinez-Vazquez, an expert in fiscal decentralization, and several other professors in the school have done extensive work there.

In 2002-03, more than 50 Indonesian economists earned advanced degrees from GSU with funding from USAID. Graduates of that program, including Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the Indonesia’s graduates of that program, including from GSU with funding from USAID.

Indonesia’s geography alone presents challenges. The nation’s vast network of islands — more than 17,000 — and 33 provinces have created a mix of distinct cultures and traditions. From the picturesque beaches of Bali to the urban density and traffic jams of Jakarta, the archipelago encompasses a vastness similar to that of the United States.

The country decentralized in 2001, granting regional autonomy to provinces and giving local governments more power. Consequently, training experts in a range of fields has become even more important, Benson said.

U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Ted Osin, who spoke to the Indonesian students at a send-off reception in Jakarta in May, recognizes that higher education is key for the country.

“Without educated citizens, it becomes even more difficult for a country to achieve prosperity and well-being,” he says.

Developing an economy

AIDING INDONESIA’s EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM has become a priority for the current U.S. presidential administration. President Barack Obama, who lived in Indonesia as a child, visited the country in 2010.

That same year, he and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono signed the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, which broadens relations between the two countries. In it, the U.S. pledged $165 million in higher education support to expand exchange programs and scholarship opportunities. While Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation in the world, just 8,000 Indonesians hold graduate degrees.

Before coming to Atlanta, the students attended an intensive one-year English program at Gadjah Mada run by Andrew Young School alumna Artidiatun Adji.

Adji, an energetic economist, earned her master’s degree in economics from GSU in 2004, and her Ph.D. in 2006. As director of the graduate program in economics and business at Gadjah Mada, she made sure the students were ready for their Atlanta adventure.

Walker says Adji’s impact has been immense.

“Arti saw the value of the program and got her colleagues onboard,” Walker says. “She’s been an extraordinary asset as an alumna and truly set this program up for success.”

As part of their training at the Andrew Young School, the students are meeting with public officials from all over the metro area, including the Department of Revenue and the Fulton County tax assessor’s office.

They’ve also managed to have a bit of fun — visiting Stone Mountain, the Georgia Aquarium and even Amicalola Falls in north Georgia.

Sunaryo said he and his fellow students deal with a bit of homesickness, but know that in the end, their education will be worth the trip.

“We want to go back and make our country better,” he said. “That is why we are all here.”

“Given ongoing changes in the Indonesia economy, the need is growing. These students will guide the country’s policy dialogue and further improve its governance.”

— REGENTS’ PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS JORGE MARTINEZ-VAZQUEZ

Jorge Martinez-Vazquez

gsu.edu/magazine
It’s a Wednesday morning in September and Sarah Higinbotham makes her way through the iron gates topped with razor-wire that surround Phillips State Prison in Buford, Ga. Passing security detectors and armed guards, she reaches a small room where 13 men, convicted of crimes ranging from drug offenses to murder, are waiting for her.

Clad in white uniforms, the inmates sit in the prison’s career center and listen as Higinbotham, a GSU English instructor and doctoral candidate, begins her lesson on John Milton’s “Paradise Lost,” an epic poem on the foundation of hell and the fall of man.

One inmate asks, “How is sin related to the disfiguration of the characters?”

“Why did Milton make the female characters the most powerful?” asks another.

The students had been instructed to read three chapters, but on this day, the discussion moves well past the requirement. Higinbotham isn’t surprised. In fact, she likens her classes here to graduate seminars.

“I learned very quickly that I need to keep the pace rigorous and aggressive in order to challenge them,” she says. “The level of preparation is more demanding. They have read the footnotes, read the scholarly introduction, discussed it and taken notes on the reading.”

Though the students sit intently with their books open, the words “DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS” emblazoned on their backs serve as a reminder that this is a very different classroom setting.
Still, Higinbotham says, she has never been scared or frightened. "There’s no guard, but I’m under constant supervision," she says. "But even if I weren’t I would not hesitate to meet with these guys. They are, at times, the most human people that I meet all week."

"The ALLEGORY of the CAVE"
HIGINBOTHAM HAS BEEN COMING TO THIS MEDIUM SECURITY PRISON SINCE JANUARY 2009. That was when the university allowed her to teach a semester of world literature to the prisoners and document her experiences for course credit toward her Ph.D. She earned two semesters of credit, but since then, she has been coming back voluntarily.

"The first semester was such a remarkable experience and their academic achievements were so stunning," Higinbotham remembers. "After I taught the first class and was ready to teach the second, it filled in 10 minutes and there were 90 men on the waiting list."

That first semester Higinbotham didn’t even have a classroom. She taught Plato’s “The Allegory of the Cave” in the prison’s visitation area.

Higinbotham’s choice of material often relates to her pupils’ condition. In the “Allegory of the Cave,” for instance, humans are depicted as being imprisoned by their lack of knowledge and education. This semester, Higinbotham says, the inmates have requested literature that deals with living in exile. Besides “Paradise Lost,” the class will also read “Dante’s Inferno” and Machiavelli’s “The Prince.”

“When they lose their relationships with others, in many ways they lose their identities as human beings — they sort of become their mistakes,” Higinbotham says. "Reading the humanities, great books like ‘Paradise Lost,’ Mary Shelley’s ‘Frankenstein,’ Camus’s ‘The Stranger,’ etcetera, helps the students reclaim and reground their humanity."

To be eligible to take Higinbotham’s course, an inmate must have passed the GRE and maintain specific behavioral mandates.

"Because there is such a gulf in their mind between the educated and them, to all of a sudden read Plato and think, ‘Oh, I understand that and I am completely capable of doing this,’ it means so much to them,” she says.

Her students say that the class is more than just a chance to escape the monotony of prison. Moreover, they see altruism in their instructor.

"Professor Higinbotham is not coming for the money, prestige or self-glorification — if there’s any to be gained from teaching in prisons,” says one inmate. “She believes in changing society by coming to the heart of the problem, recognizing that many men made bad decisions because of their lack of education.”

Says another: “Since Sarah’s arrival at this institution, she has given many of us a chance to express our newfound gifts with others.”

And although Higinbotham boasts about the scholarly achievements of her imprisoned students, she also admits that, on some days, teaching inmates can be challenging as well as rewarding.

"It’s sometimes really tragic. There are guys who are suddenly transferred and guys who go into solitary confinement. So I come prepared to teach and four of my guys are in the hole,” she says.

“They live a lot of regret, and that comes up in the discussions. But despite the burden, I feel for them and the way they have suffered for what they have done, and the way they suffer for what they have done to their families. Despite that pain, the experience itself is just so enriching … to feel like people aren’t just trying to get a grade.”

Higinbotham figures that around 50 inmates have completed her courses since she began the program. Ultimately, she would like it if her course was part of a degree program, but as it is, her class is one of only a few offered at Phillips.

"There really haven’t been college courses in prisons since the 1990s, because most of them folded when they lost Pell grant eligibility," Higinbotham says. “The warden at Phillips has been very supportive.” she adds.
Higinbotham notes that post-secondary education, while expensive, is statistically proven to be one of the most effective ways to change lives and reduce crime, whether it's teaching university freshmen to keep them out of trouble or teaching the incarcerated to reduce recidivism.

"[Teaching at Phillips] has been so valuable in my teaching and my outlook on education," Higinbotham says. "So many students are jaded and still covet this experience and are so motivated. I don't believe that. My students at the prison will probably never get the degree, and they still covet this experience and are so motivated and appreciative."

"I think the inmates can help the Georgia State students understand the value of education, and I think the Georgia State students are good for the inmates because most of them are very isolated. Most don't have contact with their families, and this is a chance to be heard," Higinbotham says.

The initiative has several other goals, including refining writing skills, extending understanding of social justice to real-life situations, and fostering personal convictions about the causes of crime, the problems with prison and the challenges of re-entry into society.

"With Georgia State being an urban campus, sometimes students are not necessarily aware of things occurring within their local community," says Tasha Coppett, GSU's freshman residence hall director and a co-teacher with the initiative. "This is an urban issue that I wanted to bring to the students' awareness; how the prison rate, incarceration rate and parolee rate affects us here within Fulton County."

The two student populations will interact through exchanged papers and an optional prison visit. The students' final work will be submitted to the GSU Undergraduate Research Project Conference held on campus in March.

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Higinbotham was an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University, where she was an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University, where she taught English courses in GSU's Freshmen Learning Communities, says her inspiration for teaching stems from growing up in a family with strong beliefs about education and service. She grew up in Morgantown, W. Va., where her father was a statistics professor at West Virginia University.

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The initiative has several other goals, including refining writing skills, extending understanding of social justice to real-life situations, and fostering personal convictions about the causes of crime, the problems with prison and the challenges of re-entry into society.

"With Georgia State being an urban campus, sometimes students are not necessarily aware of things occurring within their local community," says Tasha Coppett, GSU's freshman residence hall director and a co-teacher with the initiative. "This is an urban issue that I wanted to bring to the students' awareness; how the prison rate, incarceration rate and parolee rate affects us here within Fulton County."

The two student populations will interact through exchanged papers and an optional prison visit. The students' final work will be submitted to the GSU Undergraduate Research Project Conference held on campus in March.

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Higinbotham was an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University, where she was an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University, where she taught English courses in GSU's Freshmen Learning Communities, says her inspiration for teaching stems from growing up in a family with strong beliefs about education and service. She grew up in Morgantown, W. Va., where her father was a statistics professor at West Virginia University.

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The Georgia State University Alumni Association invites you to submit nominations for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The award will honor Alumni who have become acknowledged leaders in their respective industries, outstanding contributors to the improvement of their communities and have shown a committed record of service to Georgia State University.

Please call 1-800-GSU-ALUM to request a nomination form or download a copy online at gsu.edu/alumni. Now is your chance to honor exceptional graduates who are making a difference!

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 us hear about it!

The GSUAA is looking for individuals whose personal attributes, networks, professional skills and expertise will advance the Association’s mission. Elected directors are expected to serve a three-year term beginning July 1 and must fulfill the following responsibilities:

- **Support** the programs and activities of the Alumni Association and University
- **Represent** the Alumni Association and the University at institutional and alumni events whenever appropriate and required
- **Attend** all regular meetings of the board
- **Serve** actively on at least one board committee
- **Become** a life member of the Association within the first year of serving on the board

Nominees must be Georgia State graduates.

Applications will be accepted through MARCH 31 and should be mailed to:

**Board of Director Nominations**
Georgia State University Alumni Association
P.O. Box 3999, Atlanta, GA 30302-3999

or download an application at GSU.EDU/ALUMNI.

Looking to serve on the ALUMNI BOARD?

The Georgia State University Alumni Association is currently accepting applications for representatives to its board of directors.

Send in your nominations now!

Distinguished Alumni 2012 Awards

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Connections

Active Impact

Cathy Henson (J.D. ’89) admits she was skeptical when Georgia State first announced the addition of a football program in early 2008. Now, with nearly two seasons of Panther football on the books, any doubts she had as to the merits of adding the sport have been erased.

“Football has value to the university in terms of raising the profile of the university and [attracting] a broader diversity of students,” Henson says. “It’s one of the important ways that GSU is building an infrastructure to be in the top tier of public universities.”

This past spring, GSU President Mark Becker tapped Henson — an alumna, adjunct faculty member in the College of Law and proud parent of a GSU master’s student — to serve as vice chair of the board for the rechristened Georgia State University Athletic Association.

While most of Henson’s career has played out in the realm of education, she’s no stranger to collegiate athletics; she was a gymnast in college and State University of New York at Cortland Henson moved from Atlanta to her native upstate New York in the early 1980s, and in 1985, she enrolled part-time in GSU’s College of Law, six months after her son was born.

Her son, Patrick, holds a B.A. in political science, sociology and business from Georgia State University, and she’s earned her J.D. in public interest law from American University’s Washington College of Law.

In 2000, she founded the Georgia School Council Institute, a nonprofit created to improve student achievement in Georgia and beyond.

Upon graduation, Henson took a position at Atlanta firm Aldridge & Norman, a fast-growing law firm. She also began volunteering at her son’s school, first as “Clifden Elementary’s most athletic mom,” then as a “Football Spirit Squad Mom.”

In 2006, Henson was elected as the chair of the GSU College of Law board of visitors.

Her involvement progressed from local to regional to statewide, and in 1997 she became president of the GSU PTA. Ten years later, she was appointed to the State Board of Education and became the first woman selected to the post.

“I got involved in education from the personal perspective, trying to teach parents how their kids could be successful children in public schools as opposed to selling wrapping paper and paying for cupcakes,” Henson says. “I joke that my volunteer work got in the way of my paid work, so I had to give up the paid work.”

In 2000, she founded the Georgia School Council Institute, a nonprofit created to engage parents, educators and members of the business community in a collaborative effort to improve education in the state. The organization’s website, georgiaeducation.org, displays the last 10 years of testing, demographic and other data side by side for every public school and school system in Georgia.

In 2009, Henson co-wrote The Art of Education and public policy. Henson has taught education law at GSU since 2007. With positions on the College of Law’s board of visitors and the GSU Foundation board as well as on the GSU Athletic Association, Henson is active in her alma mater as anyone could be.

“What I have really appreciated about Georgia State is, you can have a lot of impact as an alum,” Henson says. “It’s very gratifying to be involved in an institution that is so well-stocked with alumni and accomplished people.”

Joy L. Rogers (M.B.A. ’72) recently returned to Atlanta after completing a 15-month assignment in Istanbul, Turkey, in business development for IBM Outsourcing Services.

Ron Cooper (B.B.A. ’77) has been promoted to director of security and compliance at BlueCross BlueShield in Tennessee.

John E. Thompson (B.A. ’75), a partner in the Atlanta office of Fisher & Phillips LLP, has been selected by peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2012.

Michelle Arrington has been an executive pharmaceutical sales representative with GlaxoSmithKline in Atlanta since 2004. She has received numerous accolades for outstanding sales performance at both the regional and national level. Arrington has also put her strong marketing and customer service skills to work at BellSouth and the Georgia Power Company.

Arrington has been a strong advocate for community tenure and involvement with The Summit at Cascade Home Owners Association. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Chautauqua Circle, the National Parenting Partnership, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the College of Arts and Sciences board of visitors at Georgia State University.

Arrington earned a B.S. in management from the Georgia Institute of Technology (’87) and an M.B.A. in marketing from Georgia State University (’92).

Krisztina Dulaney is director of marketing and public relations for Atlanta’s historic Fox Theatre.

Delania has played a pivotal role in marketing the Fox by overseeing the redesign of the theater’s logo and helping to create a cognitive brand identity.

Early on, she championed the use of social media at the Fox, developing an online community that now engages more fans across multiple channels than many Fortune 100 brands. Prior to joining the Fox, Delania was manager of marketing and product planning at American Honda Motor Co., Inc., where many of her products achieved No. 1 rankings from leading consumer publications and reached record sales.

Delania received her B.A. in political science and theatre from Benedictine University (SUNX), and earned her M.B.A. in marketing (’09) from Georgia State University.

Brad Douglas (M.B.A. ’87) recently accepted a senior executive role with SunTrust Bank as senior vice president, Strategic Sourcing. Douglas previously served in former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue’s administration as commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services where he transformed various back-office functions for the state.

Winjamin Southerton (M.S. ’10, M.B.A. ’15) was recently successfully completed the examination for Certified Valuation Analyst professionals designation and certification. Southerton was an associate chief accountant in the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C., and is on the adjacent accounting faculty at George Washington University.

Joe Wells (B.B.A. ’88), director of intelligence andسساني and communication for the U.S. Army National Guard Bureau and commercial aviation pilot for United Continental Airlines, has been promoted to major general.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The 2011 Georgia State University Alumni Association Hall of Fame inductees are:

WILLIE MAE CATHCART SCHOLARSHIP
Delicia M. Brewer
Emeka Mozley
Charlotte N. Cole
MAX M. CUBA SCHOLARSHIP
Morgan K. Bigger
Kelsey A. Vayenas
Joan Cohen Jones
WINSTON R. FOSTER SCHOLARSHIP
Shelby Diane Sheldon Dusser
Samuel W. Freeman

GSU Alumni Association introduces new 2011-2012 board members

Gsu magazine Winter 2011

gsu.edu/magazine
connectionS

THE ANGLER’S ANECDOTE

Here is the story for a story never seems to sleep," he says. "I always have my eye open for new material that can somehow be turned into newspaper columns, travel articles or even book ideas."

When he was a student at GSU, Jacobs was filling up another kind of net — the one on a basketball goal. During his career with the men’s basketball team, the crafty guard scored a total of 1,078 career points, then the most in school history.

In 2007, the Colonial Athletic Conference selected Jacobs as a CAA Basketball Outstanding Player. Since then, he has been hooked.

"That’s why it’s so important for me to give back to the community and feel very passionate about that because there are a lot of underrepresented groups who would make great scientists and engineers," she added.

One of the biggest obstacles keeping minority students out of science, she said, is not seeing other people like themselves.

"STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] education is very near and dear to my heart," Agnew-Heard said. "I think that a lot of students have the aptitude but may not have the resources or encouragement.

"That’s why it’s so important for me to give back and show that minorities are in science and are doing well in science," Agnew-Heard said. "There are more than you think.

While working with Boston Scientific in Minneapolis, she worked in numerous ways with K-12 students in the area. She has helped to organize children’s activities at a science museum and in schools, paired high school students with Boston Scientific mentors and worked with a junior high school principal to start a STEM magnet program.

Agnew-Heard’s love for science started in high school, where she became interested in chemistry. She went on to study chemistry at the undergraduate level at GSU and became a scholar under the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Education aimed at increasing the number of Ph.D. holders among minority and low income students. Agnew-Heard was among the earliest of more than 400 GSU scholars to participate since the program’s inception in 1989.

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Welcome to our newest Alumni Association Life Members!

IN MEMORIAM
1950s
Betty O. Gibbs (B.S. ’52) Ponce Inlet, Fla., Aug. 10, 2011

1960s
Joseph D. Toole (B.S. ’60) Covington, Ga.

1970s
Barbara Futch (B.S. ’74) Brookhaven, Ga.

1980s
Diane V. Walls (B.S. ’80) Stone Mountain, Ga.

David A. Dodd (B.S. ’71, M.S. ’77), Achievement
David Dodd has more than 10 years of executive experience in the healthcare/life sciences industry and has successfully led the growth and development of several life science companies, establishing leadership within targeted markets and achieving significant shareholder value. In May 2011, Dodd co-founded VanyGen Holdings and currently serves as CEO of VanyGen’s subsidiary, VanyGen Manufacturing Services and VanyGen Vaccines. In 2009, Dodd founded RiverEdge BioVentures, and in 2007, he was president, CEO, chairman and co-founder of BioReliance Corp. He also has held top executive leadership positions at Stunt Cell Sciences Plc., SeroLogic Corp., and Solvay Pharmaceuticals. He is a board member of PNP Therapeutics, GeoVax Labs, Inc., and Aera Biomedical, Inc. In addition, Dodd has been an active member in numerous civic, business and economic growth organizations, both within the U.S. and internationally. Dodd earned both a B.S. and an M.S. degree from Georgia State University, and he successfully completed the advanced management program at Harvard Business School.

Dr. Rhonda Scott (Ph.D. ’97), Achievement
Rhonda A. Scott is chief nursing officer and senior vice president of Patient Care Services at Grady Health System. During Scott’s 27-year career, she has served in roles including critical care nurse, educator, entrepreneur, author, researcher and administrator. Hospitals where she has served include University of Alabama, University of Chicago, St. Joseph’s Hospital of Atlanta and South Fulton Medical Center. Scott has held board-level roles in several professional nursing associations and serves on the community advisory board of the Ophardt W. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State. Scott was appointed during the George W. Bush administration to serve on the National Advisory Council on Nursing Education and Practice. She has received numerous awards, including the Time Healthcare Corporation Outstanding Chief Nursing Officer Award — the highest recognition for nursing leadership and administration. Scott received a B.S. in nursing from the University of Mississippi, a B.S.N. in nursing from University of Alabama, and a Ph.D. in nursing from Georgia State. Scott is also a graduate of the United Way Fellow Program for executive nurses.

Kathy Berry (B.A. ’71, M.B.A. ’86), Service
Kathy Berry has opened her business acumen to a variety of organizations, most notably serving 20 years with the Georgia Press Association (GPA), student media association for daily and weekly newspapers. As executive director of the GPA from 1978-1995, Berry’s responsibilities included strategic planning, government relations, fundraising, market research, sales and marketing management, financial management and staff development. Berry is also dedicated to community service, working with organizations such as the Piedmont Park Conservancy, Achievement Awards for College Scientists, the Olmstead Linear Park Alliance, the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Georgia State University board of trustees. Berry also spent any years on United Way of Atlanta’s Fulton County Investment Committee. Berry’s professional affiliations include the American Society of Association Executives, Newspaper Association Managers, Georgia Society of Association Executives and Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Berry earned a B.A. in journalism and marketing from Georgia State University and continued her education in GUS’s management-executive MBA program.

Carolyn Curry (B.A. ’79, Ph.D. ’87), Community Service
Carolyn Curry is founder and director of Women Alone Together®, a nonprofit foundation that addresses the special needs of women in our culture. Founded in Atlanta in 2002, the group is dedicated to building confidence and community for the growing number of women who are alone because of divorce or death, single by choice or alone in a marriage. In Kentucky, Curry served on the board of directors of the American Heart Association and Cardinal Hill Hospital, and she was also appointed by the governor to the Kentucky Heritage Council. In 1995, she received the South-Brecher-Preussky Award for Women’s Achievement Award in Kentucky. Curry currently sits on councils and boards serving the United Methodist Church and Georgia State University’s College of Arts and Sciences and Library. She has taught at the University of Kentucky and Westminster Schools in Atlanta. Curry also writes papers and speaks around the country on women’s issues. Curry has a B.A. in English from Agnes Scott College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Georgia State.

Scott Slade (B.A. ’89), Community Service
Scott Slade is a rare two-time winner of the prestigious National Association of Broadcasters “Marconi Award,” named Best Local Market Radio Personality in America in 2004 and Best Major Market Radio Personality for 2006. Since its inception in 1991, “Atlanta’s Morning News with Scott Slade” has grown in audience and has at times been the No. 1 rated news-talk program in the nation. The show has won many awards, including the national Edward R. Murrow Award as Best Radio Newscast in the nation. Slade has been with WSB Radio since 1984 as a producer, show host and helicopter traffic reporter. He began his career in 1975 in the insurance industry, and has won numerous awards, including numerous advertising and awards. In 2001, Slade initiated the WSB Radio Care-a-thon to benefit the APLAC-Cancer Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, raising millions of dollars to combat children’s cancers and blood disorders. Slade has a B.A. from Georgia State University, where he has served on the Alumni Association board of directors.
1. **Feed Your Senses** (3rd Wednesday of every month, noon – 1 p.m.)
   This free lunchtime performing arts series features a casual atmosphere and a fun and insightful insider’s look into the craft of artists, cultures and speakers of all walks of life.

2. **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE: A Dance Company** (Nov. 19)
   The New York Times hailed Ronald K. Brown as “one of the most profound choreographers of his modern dance generation,” and for good reason. With “On Earth Together,” Brown weaves his inimitable storytelling movements through the music of Stevie Wonder.

3. **GSU School of Music Gala Holiday Concert** (Dec. 3 - 4)
   More than 200 student and faculty musicians in the GSU School of Music will take part in the 14th annual Gala Holiday Concert.

4. **The Music of Johnny Mercer and Friends** (Feb. 11)
   This tribute, led by renowned trumpeter Joe Gransden and Maria Howell of “The Color Purple” will have you singing along to many songs you may never have realized were written by the Georgia native.

5. **Trey McIntyre Project** (March 10)
   Their work is creative, cutting-edge, high-energy and most importantly, fun. Even people who don’t think they enjoy ballet leave the theater dazzled.

6. **Spanish Harlem Orchestra** (March 17)
   Led by world-renowned composer and producer Oscar Hernández, this 13-member all-star ensemble brings the classic New York City salsa sound, and they bring it big time.

7. **“Born in India, Raised in Spain: Flamenco’s Journey”** (March 24)
   Anoushka Shankar, sitar player and daughter of the legendary Ravi Shankar, delivers a spellbinding fusion of Indian and flamenco sounds. Her performance promises equal parts enlightenment and entertainment.

8. **“Back to the Bayou: New Voices in Zydeco and Cajun”** (March 31)
   Grammy-nominated Cedric Watson embodies the richness of Creole culture. He and his band, Bijou Creole, along with guests, will have the theater feeling like a Louisiana back porch party!

9. **“Two Cultures, One Voice: Israel Meets Mali” featuring The Idan Raichel and Vieux Farka Touré Quartet** (April 21)
   This sort of show is the cornerstone of the Rialto experience. On this night, we bring together Israeli pianist/composer Idan Raichel and Malian blues guitarist Vieux Farka Touré, two virtuosic artists representing two vastly different cultures and musical approaches.

10. **Poncho Sanchez and Terence Blanchard** (April 28)
    We close our series with another thrilling collaboration. Poncho Sanchez and Terence Blanchard in “Cubano B! Cubano Bop!,” a tribute to jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie and the Original Congo King Chano Pozo.

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**Leslie Gordon**

Leslie Gordon, director of the Rialto Center for the Arts, shares the 10 Rialto events she is most looking forward to enjoying with the GSU community this year. The Rialto is celebrating 95 years in downtown Atlanta and 15 years as GSU’s home for the arts.

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**FROM ONE PANTHER TO ANOTHER**

Too often in our busy schedules we forget to thank those who make a difference in the lives of others. The Board of Directors and the staff of the GSU Alumni Association want to take this time to thank you for giving back to the university through your Alumni Association membership. Because of you, the university is stronger and more valuable than ever – to today’s graduates as well as tomorrow’s.
Crowning Moment
GSU's 2011 Homecoming royalty prepare to take a bow. L-R: Danielle Daoust, Homecoming Princess; Marcus Riggs, Homecoming Prince; Grace Lee, Homecoming Queen; and Neftali Hernandez, Homecoming King.