Georgia State University

Long live this Peach!

Georgia State Scientists have discovered a perfectly natural way to delay the ripening process of fruits and vegetables. The breakthrough could revolutionize our food system and improve public health.

Peach!

p.16
MEET
JOHNNY

MAJORING IN Chemistry

PROUDEST MOMENTS Being named a Netzel Scholar; spending a summer interning at Great Lakes Solutions-Chemtura and contributing to research into new flame-retardant materials; getting accepted to the University of California, Berkeley for grad school

CAMPUS CONTRIBUTION Chartering the Undergraduate STEM Research Society, giving undergrads in scientific fields a forum to discuss current issues and prepare themselves for the next steps in their careers

LIFELONG GOAL Earn a Ph.D. and become a professor, with an emphasis on mentoring minorities and students from disadvantaged backgrounds in the sciences

Because of a generous planned gift to the Netzel Scholarship Fund, Johnny Truong is on track to join his brother, also a Georgia State student, and sister as the first generation in their family to earn college degrees.

Have you considered including GSU in your estate plans? As little as 2 percent of an IRA can create a future for students who otherwise may not be able to afford a four-year research university.

CONTACT LAURA M. SILLINS, J.D., AT 404-413-3425 OR LSILLINS@GSU.EDU TO DISCUSS A PLANNED GIFT TODAY.

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION / P.O. BOX 3984 / ATLANTA, GA 30302-3984 / GIVING.GSU.EDU

CONTENTS

10 Frozen Foodie Nick Carse (J.D. ’08) and his brothers run King of Pops, a gourmet ice pop operation and an Atlanta institution.
11 Swimming with the Sharks Aaron Simpkins (B.A. ’99) is the underwater photographer at the Georgia Aquarium.
14 Shine On Katherine Lucey (MBA ’84) and her nonprofit, Solar Sister, are empowering women one solar lamp at a time.
16 The Future of Food Georgia State scientists have discovered a natural way to keep fruits and vegetables fresh for longer.
22 The Dean of His Trade Honors College Dean Larry Berman has penned biographies of two intriguing figures from the Vietnam War.
28 Rail Redux The streetcar, once the preferred mode of transit in the city, returns to Georgia State’s backyard.

“Simply put, this [discovery] can affect every person who walks into a supermarket.”
AS A MEMBER of the Metro Atlanta Chamber’s Business Higher Education Council, I’m often asked about what universities are doing to help Atlanta grow. What are we doing to jump-start our region’s economy, build collaborative relationships with the business community and go beyond classroom learning to make the city and region a more vibrant hub for innovation?

Here at Georgia State, we’re sending more of our bright students out into the job market than ever before, awarding 10,000 degrees annually, a 30 percent increase over numbers just five years ago. We’ve set records for sponsored research funding, surpassing $714 million in 2013. We are helping to transform downtown Atlanta by expanding our real estate footprint. And our economic impact? More than $3.6 billion annually with more than 13,000 jobs.

We’re focused on working with our university partners such as Georgia Tech and Emory to build the talent pipeline for the business community and go beyond classroom learning to make the city and region a more vibrant hub for innovation.

When we say Georgia State is a campus where taking risks and pushing boundaries — something you, our alumni, know is written into our DNA — are rewarded.

We’re expanding our partnerships with the business community, including our relationships with Emory University and Atlanta’s college of arts and sciences.

We’re expanding our relationships with business and industry and continuing to look for ways to take our research out of our DNA — are rewarded.

We recently appointed our first chief innovation officer, Phi Ventimiglia, to help us define new strategies using technology to advance the university. Ventimiglia, formerly vice president for innovation and new product development at NCR Corporation, will look for creative new ways to help us grow.

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IN THE CITY

CAMPUS

CAMPUS SOUTH
Georgia State hopes to redevelop Turner Field and surrounding property.

Georgia State wants to redevelop the property around Turner Field for multiple uses, including athletics, retail and student housing. The university and Carter, one of the country’s leading real estate, development and advisory firms, have plans to transform the stadium site and surrounding parking lots, a 77-acre area just south of Georgia State’s campus that has become available because of the Atlanta Braves’ pending departure to Cobb County.

The $300 million redevelopment would be funded by public and private sources. Carter’s preliminary proposal includes a 30,000-seat football, soccer and track and field stadium on the Turner Field site and a Georgia State baseball stadium that would incorporate the wall from Atlanta Fulton County Stadium over which Hank Aaron’s 715th home run ball flew in 1974.

In addition, residential and student housing, retail businesses, green space and plazas would be added, making it a walkable, downtown neighborhood.

“We are excited about being partners in the proposed plan,” said President Mark Becker. “I believe it holds great promise for the neighborhoods near our campus, and it’s important to Georgia State that we are contributors to the growing vitality of downtown.”

EDUCATION INNOVATION

Phil Ventimiglia, former vice president of applied innovation at NCR Corporation, is Georgia State’s new chief innovation officer. The newly created position will oversee Information Systems and Technology and work across divisions to assist them with innovative problem-solving solutions that use technology.

Ventimiglia will lead the

HIGHER ED HARDWARE

THE SYMBOLS, TRADITIONS AND ARTISTRY OF CEREMONIAL GRADUATION GEAR

HEAVY MEDAL: The President’s Medallion symbolizes the responsibilities of the university’s highest office. The starting point of the Mace, the ceremonial baton bearing the university seal it passed from president to president upon inauguration and is an integral part of ceremonial regalia.

Julia Woodman (M.F.A. ’90) designed the medallion. She studied with third- and fourth-generation Fabergé masters while on a Fulbright grant in Finland and is the first American certified as a Master Silversmith there. Her work is in the permanent collections of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

MACE: The Mace is a traditional symbol of sovereignty that dates back to antiquity. It’s carried in front of the procession during commencement and other significant university events.

ABIGAIL TERE-APISAH

First tennis All-American at Georgia State history
Highest national ranking in singles (No. 8), doubles (No. 16) in program history
Most wins in women’s tennis history (85) and still going
First women’s tennis player to be invited to the NCAA Singles Championship and NCAA Doubles Championship
2013 Georgia State Student-Athlete of the Year
2013 All-Sun Belt First Team in singles and doubles

LEAVING A LEGACY
While All-American tennis player Abigail Tere-Apisah preps for the pros, her little sister, Marcia, is ready to make her mark.

Illustration by Jordan Cheung

CONT’D ON P.09
LEAVING A LEGACY

Bigal Tere-Apisah, Georgia State’s first All-American tennis player and by far the most decorated female athlete in school history, hasn’t quite settled to her new life as aspiring professional tennis player. “I love competing with the team, and I will miss that,” she says.

Tere-Apisah was raised in New York, just 10 miles from Atlanta—where the women on the Georgia State tennis team are like family. She enjoyed her experience here so much she encouraged her little sister, Marcia, to become a Panther. Marcia just wrapped up her first season on the team.

Since finishing her career with an appearance in the NCAA Tournament to compete in singles and doubles competition, the elder Tere-Apisah has been training in preparation for the leap into the professional ranks. She’ll have to play some smaller tournaments to get points to get into larger, college tournaments. She’s still a young player, a former collegiate tennis player, and Tere-Apisah is a former collegiate All-American.

“She’s going from being Top 10 in the country to starting from scratch,” Stephens said. “But she’s got what it takes, that’s for sure.”

At age 10, Tere-Apisah left home for the Oceania Tennis Development Centre in Fiji where she lived, studied and practiced tennis. A few years later, she moved to the tiny town of Albury in New South Wales, Australia. There, she quickly established herself as a top junior player and American college coaches took notice. Despite being recruited by powerhouse tennis programs, Tere-Apisah picked Georgia State.

“It didn’t really matter to me if the school was my size or it was a small country team in Austria—I wanted to be in a bigger city,” she said.

Marcia is Tere-Apisah’s older sister, and the two are very close. “She’s already a professional at her age,” Stephens said.

“We’re excited about where your game can go,” Stephens added. “I’ve been excited to be on the same team in Albany, Marcia said. “She’s been the number one player on the team, so it makes you want to do better. But I want to be better than her,” she said, drawing a laugh from big sister.

STUDY ABROAD INDIA

For the first time, Georgia State students will experience academic life there

Georgia State will send students to study in India this fall and will create a new study abroad model. The semester will be split into two “mini-terms” and will allow students to take a full course load. The study abroad program, sponsored by the Center for Pedagogical Locomotion Sciences, which students will really enjoy.”

“First the part of the semester will be spent in Atlanta, where students will study the history, politics and religion of India. Then they will spend six weeks traveling in India.

While abroad, students will spend time at three universities (higher education in India is taught in English) and will get to visit some of the country’s best-known landmarks.

“We’re visiting monuments like the Taj Mahal and Mother Teresa’s mission, we’ll be going into national forests and to tiger and bird sanctuaries,” said Naim.

“We’ll be visiting city landmarks, to Tiger and bird sanctuaries,” said Naim. “We’ll also be in Trang in October and November, which has the best beaches in India.”

As an added incentive, Georgia State’s study abroad office is offering scholarships to the first 10 qualifying students who sign up for the program.

MISSION FOR HEALTH

There are states to provide care to underserved Nicaraguan communities

Set up on the porch of a rural home outside Leon, Nicaragua, 19 senior nursing students got their first taste of medical mission work. This makeshift clinic, complete with wandering barnyard animals, provides the community of El Pozo Quensalguaque with its only opportunity for healthcare. Under the supervision of nursing and respiratory faculty, three local physicians and two nurse practitioners treated 385 patients during the four-day clinical practice and gained valuable experiences in healthcare.

“The students demonstrated what can be the hardest teach, true compassion and caring for those in need,” said Kristen Lindley, assistant professor of nursing and team leader. “They were compassionate, well prepared and hardworking, working long hours in difficult circumstances with nothing but gratitude for the opportunity to help others.”

The students earned 60 community clinical hours for their work.

“I think the most rewarding part of our experience was being able to provide aid to groups of people who receive little medical attention,” said nursing student Jennifer Miles. “Everyone welcomed us with such gratitude and remained so grateful for the opportunity to help others.”

The students earned 60 community clinical hours for their work.

“Establishing this center will bring researchers and clinicians together to work on projects with a huge impact on the quality of life for children with movement disabilities,” Wu said. “We’re looking forward to conducting more groundbreaking research and finding new treatment options and services we can provide to children with disabilities.”

For more information contact the Center for Pedagogical Locomotion Sciences and director of the program. “It’s an opportunity to explore life, to imagine, to create a journey,” Frid said. Gell and Wu study different aspects of children’s movement. Gell examines perineal thicken in children while Wu tackles the effects of physical interventions with people with disabilities. The two are the principal investigators at the new Center for Pedagogical Locomotion Sciences, which focuses on improving the lives of children and adolescents with movement disorders.

“The center will bring children with movement disorders and their families to the heart of the college’s location in downtown Atlanta and its emphasis on interdisciplin ary research make it an ideal setting for the Urban Child Study Center, which promotes the overall development and school success of children and youth in urban contexts through innovative research that informs policy and practice.”

Leveraging the college’s and university’s talent and resources, the center focuses on a number of issues, including achievement gaps and associated risk factors, learning and health disparities, language and literacy development, and teacher knowledge. The center will also serve as a model for educators in other major U.S. cities, Patton Terry said.
HOW DID KING OF POPS GET STARTED?

It’s a pretty cool story, actually. It started as a dreamday on a beach at-night in Mexico dream, but wasn’t realized for years later. In 2005, Steven, my younger brother and business partner, and I traveled from Panama up through Mexico eating all kinds of delicious frozen treats along the way — it’s hot! In Mexico we discovered the paleta, a frozen version of ice cream. We decided that we had to bring that to Atlanta.

When did you know that you could quit your day job and make popsicles?

I was helping Steven nights and weekends but still had a full-time job. I quit my job only about two months in and haven’t looked back. It was tough. I quit when we couldn’t keep up with demand. We didn’t get paid the first year but survived off of pop mistakes.

What are some of your best, and worst, recipes?

Crowd favorites are chocolate sea salt, raspberry lime, and Mexican chocolate — cinnamon, cayenne, and vanilla. All of the recipes are good for someone, just not everyone. We did a really horrible corn-on-crust puppy and a really bad fudg-pop and graham cheese. Those never saw the light of day.

How many pops have you sold to date? And in what cities can we find a King of Pops cart?

We’ve sold over a million all in King of Pops operates carts in Atlanta, Charleston, S.C., Richmond, Va., Charlotte, N.C., Chattanooga, Tenn., Athens, Ga., and Palm Beach in Greenville, S.C. and Savannah. Go this year. You never know where we’ll pop-up.

What are some flavors we can look forward to this summer?

It’s always changing, but we just came up with a box of ‘pretty fab’ Girl Scout cookie pops with Thin Mint, Samoa, Do-si-do and Trefoil. We also just had our semi-annual kitchen summit and got to play with a lot of great stuff — black sesame, orange blossom and honey, vegan chocolate-coconut-lemon poppy, at other.

Interview by Lauren Montgomery (B.A. ’16)

YOUNG EXPLORERS

Research at Georgia State isn’t just for Ph.Ds. Undergrads are also making valuable discoveries.

The eighth annual Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference this April was a perfect place for ideas, discoveries and creativity to come alive.

“Research or creative work as an undergraduate enriches students’ educational experience, promotes critical thinking and writing, and provides students with the opportunity to present scholarly thought in public,” says Sarah Cook, associate dean of Georgia State’s Honors College.

Besides the hard sciences like biology, there were artistic displays, and even a critical look at a famous musical, “Oklahoma!” and marriage right after World War II.

“I wondered what was there in our culture that led women to get married so young,” sophomore Allison Dees said. “It’s all written into it. It’s rhythmically written so you want to fall in love.”

Wading through the Georgia Aquarium, you might not realize how much of the experience is created by the design of the building itself or the visual pieces on the walls. You may never consider how the use of placements of the art and images on an infographic shapes the way you learn about the animals or about the ecological issues facing the globe today.

For Aaron Simpkins these thoughts rear through his head all day. As the manager of exhibits and graphics, Simpkins manages a team of artists, designers and photographers. He signed on as a graphic designer seven years ago and quickly rose to a leadership position on his team. Simpkins produce work that touches each corner of the operation.

“Thank God for the woman on the end of my call at 2 a.m. on a Monday night,” said Luke Floyd. “I awoke to the sound of a gunshot, bolting up in my bed. I grabbed the pistol I keep loaded by my pillow to check the door, I noticed my dog was still asleep. Was it all in my head? Was I going crazy?”

“In the first speech of the final round of the Southeast Cross-Examination Debates Association Championship Tournament, Floyd, a veteran of the Iraq War, was making a very passionate case for including the experience of war veterans in public policy decisions. Less than half an hour after he spoke, Floyd and his partner, John Finch, were declared the champions of the Southeast Cross-Examination Debates Association Championship Tournament.

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“The growth of a King of Pops cart?”

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CREATIVITY

COMPELLING ARGUMENT

Georgia State debaters tap into personal experience, take home title

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Interview by Lauren Montgomery (B.A. ’16)
THE REAL MONUMENTS MAN

Professor’s new book chronicles the life of the scholar who stood up against Napoleon’s Big Art Heist

Long before Hitler began stealing great works of art, another famous leader was pilfering paintings. Napoleon. During his conquests of Europe, Napoleon stole hundreds of pieces of art and took them back to Paris to display as the spoils of war. But one famous art scholar, Antoine Chrysostome Quatremère de Quincy, had the courage to oppose him.

“He was jailed for six months, he was sentenced to death, he was forced to flee the country, but he was still the most famous art historian in Europe,” said Louise Ruepfert, the William M. Sutcliffe Chair of Religious Studies. In his new book, “Classics at the Dawn of the Modern Era: The Life and Times of Antoine Chrysostome Quatremère de Quincy,” Ruepfert takes a closer look at Quatremère’s life. His relationship with the French government was often strained, and he frequently spoke out against the regime’s attitude toward art.

In the late 18th century, Ruepfert said, “the Vatican had a huge collection of art.” Then, in 1796, Napoleon took 100 works. “They were listed out in the peace treaty he forced the pope to sign,” Ruepfert said.

Ruepfert’s book follows Quatremère’s life, work throughout Europe, and takes a detailed look at each of his published pieces. The book’s publication also coincides with the release of “The Monuments Men,” a film that follows a team of soldiers in World War II as they attempt to recover art being stolen by the Nazis. Ruepfert wanted his book role as the film because both works cover artistic imperialism in times of political upheaval.

By Sarah Gilbreath

February, four players and head coach Ron Hunter have earned postseason awards. The most prestigious being R.J. Hunter’s selection as Associated Press honorable-mention All-American. It was the third All-American honor for a Panther in program history.

The younger Hunter also was the league’s player of the year while his father was the coach of the year. R.J. Hunter and Ryan Harrow, who returns in 2014-15, were each first-team all-league selections, while graduating seniors Maury Atkins (second team) and Devonta White (third team) also were honored.

FLYING AND FACING

Floyd and Finch had teams of great old-fashioned evidence as well, in the form of academic and policy research. But Floyd’s ability to bring experience into the argument was seemingly a key part of the team’s victory over top-seeded teams from Emory University and Wake Forest University.

Floyd and Finch are the first team from Georgia State to win the championship.

VILLAGE LIVING

Photography class documents life in New Orleans community

Serenbe may be only 15 miles south of Atlanta, but it’s a world away from life in the big city. The planned community advocates regionalism, environmentalism and a pedestrian lifestyle. Encompassing 1,000 acres, more than 70 percent of the land is unbuildable and forested with bike paths and hiking trails. The buildings were designed with sustainability in mind, and the farm-to-table restaurants use primarily local ingredients grown within the community.

Serenbe recently asked Georgia State to collaborate on a photographic project to document life there.

“This is a signature experience,” said photography professor Nancy Floyd. “It’s the kind of thing that students would never get to experience in the classroom.”

Floyd’s students are each working on a separate photography series, with topics covering everything from female lead- ers in the community to comparative architecture.

“It’s been an amazing experience,” said student Conaela Byer. “I’ve absolutely loved working in this community.”

By Sarah Gilbreath

It’s no coincidence that Georgia State’s new student tracking system is called GPS for short. In the same way your car’s navigation system pulls huge amounts of data to map your way, Georgia State’s Graduate Progression Success advising system is sifting through 2.5 million grades — to find pathways to graduation for thousands of students. Using predictive analytics for each student’s success in individual majors and courses, the system uses the decade of data to identify 700 alerts for risk factors for students who wander off course. The university has drastically reduced the number of students each adviser sees — from 700 to one to 300 to 50 — leading to pathways to graduation for thousands of students. With senior Nic Wilson saving 12 home runs, good for third in the country, the Panther baseball team ranked in the top five nationally in home runs through April 15. Chase Raffield was also in the nation’s top 50 in hitting (47th, .43). Taylor Anderson was the softball team’s power provider with 11 home runs.

The top honors this spring have gone to Maria Palacios (women) and J.J. Grey (men), who swept the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Month awards for March, while Georgia State student-athletes won the first three weekly female track awards of the outdoor season.

Overall, 15 weekly or monthly Sun Belt honors and two conference championships — women’s tennis and men’s golf — have been collected by Panthers competing this spring.

BIG DATA

The honors have continued to stream in for the Panther men’s basketball team following a record-setting 25-9 campaign that ended with Georgia State’s fifth postsea- son berth, and second in three years.

Since the Panthers clinched the Sun Belt Conference regular-season title in 2013, the program has had a stretch of consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including a trip to the Sweet 16 last season.

**STATISTICALLY SPEAKING**

**ATHLETICS**

**COURTESY OWEN GATLEY**

**Bowl-Win 10 The Student Alumni Association Dinner with UGA President Jere Morehead offers students a chance to break bread and converse with successful alumni and industry leaders. Visit magazine.gsu.edu for more.**

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Katherine Lucey (MBA ‘84) is empowering women one solar lamp at a time.

Shine On

Katherine Lucey (MBA ‘84) is offering women a tool to help themselves. “It is their own ingenuity and teaches children to read and write, and also how to farm. Extra income to buy seeds, and eventually, a goat, pigs and a cow. Lucey says engaging women to distribute clean energy is effective change and a solid investment. “Involving women is not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do,” she said. “Women are primarily responsible for energy usage at the household level. Clean-energy technology will not be adopted on a widespread basis if women are not part of the solution.” Solar Sister has changed the lives of women and families in remarkable ways. One woman, Rebecca, a rural farmer in Uganda, put a solar light in her chicken coop. By increasing the hours of light, the chickens are more and are healthier. They lay more eggs, which improved the economics of her operation and provided extra income to buy seeds, and eventually, a goat, pigs and a cow. Rebecca built a school where she teaches children to read and write, and also how to farm. The strength of our enterprise solution comes from the women themselves,” Lucey said. “It is their own ingenuity and commitment that builds their business. We are just offering them the opportunity to help themselves.”

30 percent reduction in household expenses when customers use solar lamps to replace expensive kerosene.

Three hours more study time for children every day when their families replace kerosene with solar light.

84,379 people are benefiting from solar light through Solar Sister.

260 million women and children breathe kerosene fumes, inhaling the equivalent of smoke from two packs of cigarettes a day.

16 billion people live in energy poverty. That’s 25 percent of the world’s population.

More than 15 billion people lack access to electricity. For the most part, they rely on kerosene lanterns and candles for light, and spend up to 40 percent of their family income on energy that is inefficient and hazardous. When Katherine Lucey took notice of this, she got to work.

Lucey is the founder of Solar Sister, a non-profit company dedicated to changing the lives of women and girls living in energy poverty. Solar Sister trains, recruits and supports female entrepreneurs in East Africa to sell affordable solar lighting and other green products such as solar lamps and mobile phone chargers. The women use their community networks of family and neighbors to build their own businesses, earning a commission on each sale. Lucey says engaging women to distribute clean energy is effective change and a solid investment. “Involving women is not just the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do,” she said. “Women are primarily responsible for energy usage at the household level. Clean-energy technology will not be adopted on a widespread basis if women are not part of the solution.” Solar Sister has changed the lives of women and families in remarkable ways. One woman, Rebecca, a rural farmer in Uganda, put a solar light in her chicken coop. By increasing the hours of light, the chickens are more and are healthier. They lay more eggs, which improved the economics of her operation and provided extra income to buy seeds, and eventually, a goat, pigs and a cow. Rebecca built a school where she teaches children to read and write, and also how to farm. The strength of our enterprise solution comes from the women themselves,” Lucey said. “It is their own ingenuity and commitment that builds their business. We are just offering them the opportunity to help themselves.”

fragrances for everything from air fresheners to cologne to household cleaners. The company has also branched out into competing flavors for sauces, beverages and beauty products. Tanner’s business acumen helped grow the company from only 14 employees when he joined in 1986 to more than 100 today, supplying fragrances to more than 1,000 companies around the world.

But he began his career in business, Tanner served five years in the Army. “That’s what inspired him to endorse the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program at Georgia State.” “I have a lot of respect both for the people who serve and for those who provide opportunities for our former service personnel,” he said.

In addition to the ROTC Endowment, Tanner has also made significant contributions to Georgia State’s Fund for Business and the Herman J. Russell Center for Entrepreneurship. But his support isn’t limited to dollars: He educates and mentors business students in the classroom and at his own company.

“We have programs going with the Interton International Business,” he said, “and since we’re looking at international markets for expansion, why not have some of these MBA’s come in and help us, and we’ll help them at the same time?”

**In the City**

50

U.S. Olympian who Dan Benardot, professor of nutrition and director of the Laboratory for Elite Athlete Performance at Georgia State, has worked with since 1996.

“Contrary to what you often hear in the media,” he said, “the efforts that went into building this fragile democracy have not been in vain. The efforts behind our work and the growing success story are proof of that.”


“A new addition to the family? Go ahead, brag a little. Visit magazine.gsu.edu for news from your classmates and fellow Georgia State alumni.

“Imagine what we could do if we all had solar lights instead of kerosene lanterns all over the world,” Lucey said.

“Contrary to what you often hear in the media, the efforts that went into building this fragile democracy have not been in vain. The efforts behind our work and the growing success story are proof of that. "
Georgia State scientists have discovered a safe and natural way to delay the ripening process in fruits and vegetables.

But the invention doesn’t stop there. The same science has been found to prevent Colony Collapse Disorder in bees and stave off a fungus found to be a killer of bats.

BY WILLIAM INMAN AND LATINA EMBERSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN HAYSLIP
FOOD STYLING BY TAMI HARDENAN
Chris Cornelison (M.S. ’11, Ph.D. ’13), a postdoctoral researcher in Crou’s lab, is using the same science to inhibit the growth of fungi responsible for the deadly Chalkbrood disease in honeybees and White-Nose Syndrome that’s ravaging North American bats. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says one out of every three bars of food in America rely on the diligent work of bees. Bars play a crucial role in pest control. A single brown bat will eat the equivalent of its body weight in insects in one summer night, Cornelison says.

By preventing waste, improving the consumption of healthy fruits and vegetables, allowing companies to ship produce longer distances and keeping our natural pollinators and pest-eaters healthy, this discovery has the potential to completely change our entire food system, and public health, for the better.

“Simply put, this can affect every person who walks into a supermarket,” says Chester Bisbee, director of technology commercialization and industry relations at Georgia State.

LIKE TOMATOES IN A PAPER BAG

As ripening begins, many fruits and vegetables produce ethylene, a naturally occurring gas responsible for changes in texture, softening and color during the ripening process. So, when you want to ripen tomatoes, you take five or six and put them in a paper bag.

“This keeps all the gas close,” Pierce says, “and what you find is they all respond in an even, and quicker, way.”

Based on earlier studies, Pierce reckoned that by conditioning Rhodococcus rhodochrous it would produce certain enzymes that would stem the release of ethylene and other gases that signal the ripening process. A few years ago before the winter break, he set up a handful of experiments placing the enzyme-induced Rhodococcus rhodochrous near different types of fruit to test his theory.

“It worked,” he says. “It worked the first time. And, in scientific experiments, that almost never happens.”

Pierce says the bacteria are part of the beneficial micro-flora that make a healthy and robust plant. In addition to the ability to delay ripening, beneficial microorganisms such as Rhodococcus are capable of inhibiting undesirable molds and plant pathogens.

“At all we’ve done is trick it so it reproduces certain enzymes that heighten its ability,” he says.

The bacteria aren’t being nice. It’s to their benefit, says Pierce. If they can preserve the peach, they can take advantage of this beneficial relationship.

“We’re causing them to work out their own physiology,” he says. “They’re being conditioned to respond.”

Unlike genetically modified organisms, which have had their DNA altered in a way that cannot occur in nature, this process reveals how the wild organisms grow to encourage them to express certain enzymes. In other words, in the lab, they’ve created the perfect condition for the bacteria to thrive.

“They’re happy, not stressed. It’s like a spa for bacteria,” Pierce says, laughing. “It really is like conditioning an Olympic athlete,” adds Crou.

FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

The Rhodococcus rhodochrous “spa” is on the fourth floor of the Natural Science Center annex. Inside three stainless steel, computer-controlled fermentation tanks are, perhaps, some of the happiest bacteria in the world. They’re fed a steady diet of sugars, proteins and pure oxygen, and in about three days a suspension of café au lait-colored sparaff Rhodococcus rhodochrous is harvested. Fusing the suspension into bricklike material makes the bacteria.

The final application is a catalyst based on those enzymes. Pierce explains the safest way to apply the catalyst is by killing the bacterial cell so it’s not capable of growing or replicating. Killing the bacteria doesn’t affect the activity of the all-important enzymes.

“So now all we’re dealing with is the gases,” Pierce says. “Thus, the catalyst does not have to touch the fruit to work.”

On the wall in Pierce’s office are side-by-side photos of two wax-lined cardboard shipping boxes, each holding about 20 peaches. The photo on the left shows the fruit in various shades of purple, brown and covered in mold. The peaches on the right look ready for a Fourth of July picnic table.

Smiling, Pierce says, “Guess which one has the catalytic reaction?”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates about 40 percent of harvested produce never makes it to the dinner table because of spoilage, contamination or damage during transport. All along the supply
“Food grown for people to eat that isn’t consumed is a dead loss. We are working on a safe, efficacious way to prolong the life of fruits and vegetables so that people have better nutrition cheaper.”

Pierce’s team has even bigger goals. By finding a way to grow and transport food without refrigeration, the team hopes to significantly reduce the cost of food. “This has far-reaching applications and could have tremendous impact in industries,” Bisbee says. Pierce and Crow see Cornelison’s work as just one bootstrap from their potentially world-changing invention, and they’re taking steps to pass along that knowledge, one generation of scientists at a time.

Cornelison says his research is ready to go to trial with live, wild bats. He’s found the bacteria allowed fungal growth and permanently eliminated spores from the bats. Like with fruit, it works to prevent the spread of fungi on bat skin without ever touching the animal. This fall, Cornelison will work with the Tennessee Nature Conservancy to treat bats in abandoned military bunkers and mine shafts.

In addition, he’s learned that Rhodococcus rhodochrous is effective in fighting chalkbrood disease, a fungal disease that infects bees in the larval or juvenile stage. Chalkbrood disease in bees has contributed to the number of managed honeybee colonies in the U.S. being cut in half, a phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder. Cornelison is seeking a benign alternative to anti-fungal drugs, which are expensive and can make honey inedible. So far, he has achieved positive results in cell studies, and no negative effects were found in toxicity trials exposing bees to the bacteria in the air or in their honey. Pierce and Crow see Cornelison’s work as just one bootstrap from their potentially world-changing invention, and they’re taking steps to pass along that knowledge, one generation of scientists at a time. “We’re training a whole new group we hope will inherit this, run with it and popularize this industry,” says Pierce.

Visit magazine.gsu.edu for a video on Cornelison’s work fighting Colony Collapse Disorder in bees.
HONORS COLLEGE FOUNDING DEAN LARRY BERMAN UNCOVERS
THE POLITICAL SECRETS OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND TELLS THE STORIES OF TWO
OF THE WAR’S MOST FASCINATING FIGURES

BY
CHARLES
MCNAIR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JOSH
MEISTER

THE
DEAN
OF
INTRIGUE
CROSS-OVER SCHOLAR

B ERMAN STARTED COLLEGE in turbocharged style, winning his University of Washington, D.C. The Vietnam War dominated American discourse then, and society seemed to be.Find out more on the Vietnam War.Two of the most important dates in Vietnam’s history were May 7, 1975, when the last American combat operations ended, and November 20, 1969, when American journalist, Berman heard the exclusive, exhaustive, “book TV” segment on the process. He could not stop talking for four hours.”


PHAM XUAN AN

N A VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA in summer 2000, Berman found himself at dinner on his last night in Saigon in a crowded seafood restaurant. Only one seat remained empty, directly across from the table turned out to be Pham Xuan An, a legendary figure among American journalists of the day. The two men corresponded, and Berman eventually wrote a writing of his life story.

He faced a choice. If he followed his plan, Berman would be on a flight to Cambodia the next morning to sight-see at the famous ruins at Siem Reap and Angkor Wat. He would either be on that flight or sipping coffee with the most important spy of the Vietnam War and its howling side-effects.

During Berman’s work, cable TV channel “Book TV” covered the story of the war, and Berman was invited to join a panel on Vietnam. He was able to gain access to the classified wartime briefs of President Lyndon Johnson, Berman brought the CIA into his research. He had access to the John Johnson papers and the National Archives, another who served with policies, personalities and decisions. His efforts were rewarded. He received a high and one low, one who served in secretive shadows, another who served under the brightest spotlights.

Berman began writing “No Peace, No Honor” as a 1998-99 fellow-in-residence at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. His year there brought him into contact with Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, a charismatic former chief of naval operations during the Vietnam War and the man dubbed Father of the Modern Navy. Berman faced a choice. He could have written a history of the war, or a biography of Admiral Zumwalt. He decided to focus on the story of Pham Xuan An.

In 2007, “Perfect Spy: The Incredible Life of an American Spy” was published. The book was a critical and commercial success. It was a New York Times bestseller and was optioned for a film. Berman was able to travel to Vietnam and meet with many of the people he had written about. He visited the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. His year there brought him into contact with Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, a charismatic former chief of naval operations during the Vietnam War and the man dubbed Father of the Modern Navy.

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Vietnam’s Newspaperman: Pham Xuan An, a Tragedy,Berman’s research into the Vietnamese perspective. His search required years of research, cross-referencing interviews with political, military and cultural figures, and more than a little self-discovery.

In 1978, Berman wrote his first book on Vietnam — still in print and in classrooms — based on previously classified documents. Berman’s research took him to the John F. Kennedy Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the National Archives in Washington, D.C. His year there brought him into contact with Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, a charismatic former chief of naval operations during the Vietnam War and the man dubbed Father of the Modern Navy.

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berman Envisions Every Student in the Honors College Undertaking a Global Experience. He has now focused his energies on raising scholarship dollars to make the dream a reality.

Zumwalt himself, after asking all the right questions and hearing the assurances of the prevaricators, approved the use of Agent Orange over areas of Vietnam to disrupt hiding places for unfriendly Viet-namese soldiers and civilians.

Zumwalt spent his final years finding out the truth about Agent Orange and using his reputation, influence and many powerful connections to bring retribution, medical treatments and settlements to those af-fected by the deadly chemical.

That honorable work earned Zumwalt the Presidential Medal of Freedom, award-ed by President Bill Clinton, for tireless efforts on behalf of his sailors and their families. Zumwalt never stopped caring for those under his command. It was a lifetime commitment.

Berman’s 2012 biography, “Zumwalt: The Life and Times of Admiral Elmo Russel Zumwalt Jr.,” arrived as the first major biography of a man with a single word on his gravestone: Reformer.

A high point of Berman’s scholarly ca-reer came in April of this year. He attend-ed the christening ceremony for a new ul-tramodern Navy guided-missile destroyer, USS Zumwalt, in Bath, Maine. Zumwalt’s surviving son, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Zumwalt, spoke at the christening. He singled out Berman, of 6,000 people in at-tendance, for the biographer’s portrayal of his father.

“He said he felt I’d really captured the soul of the man, I really felt like I’d written a book that mattered,” Berman says.


Stanley Karnow made Berman part of “Vietnam: A Telescoped History.”

There’s more. Berman appears on C-SPAN and The History Channel, lectures internationally and does high-level advis-or-y work with veterans’ groups, most nota-ble the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foun-dation’s new Education Center at the Wall.

The work has brought Berman distinc-tions.

A Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, an American Council for Learned Societies fellowship, the Faculty Research Lecturer Award, the highest recognition bestowed on a faculty member at UC Davis. He earned a teaching award — the Outstand-ing Mentor of Women in Political Science Award — from the Women’s Caucus for Po-litical Science. He received the Navy’s Vice Admiral Edwin B. Hooper award. Berman

held the position as a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and another as scholar-in-resi-dence at the Rockefeller Foun-dation’s Center in Bellagio, Italy.

All the accolades and achieve-ments merely whetted Berman’s appetite for something more. A career capstone: A legacy. A role as founding dean of an Honors College.

blueprint for tomorrow

The blueprint for what’s possible at the Honors College spawls far into the future. Berman has a recruitment plan in place to cherry-pick high school stars. (Students can also “walk on,” as he puts it, joining the program once they’re enrolled, already into their studies.) A new, energetic alumni outreach keeps the program alive for students already in their careers, already making a difference in the world. Berman envisions every student in the Honors College un-dergining a global experience. He has now focused his energies on raising scholarship dollars to make the dream a reality.

“We are dedicated to creating an environ-ment where students can imagine a future they once thought unattainable,” Berman says. “As students engage with the Honors ex-perience, they gain essential credentials and tools to achieve their career goals and leave a positive mark on the future.”

Pending partnerships with other schools at Georgia State promise even more — and more fascinating — interdisciplinary class-es. The Honors College offers a new track on leadership studies, Beautifully designed Centennial Hall houses the Honors College and Berman’s offices. The complex bursts with youthful energy.

Berman seems everywhere at once — Asia today, London or D.C. tomorrow. He somehow remains accessible, mentoring familiar to students.

The door to his office stays wide open. Berman’s open-door policy evokes a line from the writings of William Blake.

“In the universe, there are things that are known, and things that are unknown, and in between, there are doors.”

Berman’s lasting legacy, Georgia State’s Honors College, will open many doors, to many souls and many good works.

Charles W. Berman is the author of the novels ‘Pickett’s Charge’ and the Pulitzer Prize-nominated ‘Land’ and ‘G. O. Goughnour,’ and he has been books editor at Paste Maga-zine since 2005.
RAIL REDUX

The Atlanta Streetcar, once the preferred mode of transit in the city, is resurrected in Georgia state’s backyard.

Atlanta Streetcar Close-Up

- Length of track: 2.7 miles
- Expected schedule: Every 15 minutes, every day
- Total cost: $98.9 million

| Cost of cars | $3.6 million each |
| Cost of ride | $1.00 |
| Capacity per car | 60 seated, 200 standing |
| Number of cars | 0004 |
| Total cost | $98.9 million |

*Proposed one-way fare to be decided by the Atlanta City Council.
torn-up roads, blocked sidewalks and the incessant drone of drills that have been part of the Georgia State campus for the last year are finally coming to an end.

The streetcar will give Georgia State incredible visibility, as well as access," says President Mark P. Becker. "It will run through the heart of campus along both Auburn and Edgewood avenues, with five of its 13 stops within Georgia State’s downtown footprint."

City officials expect that the almost three-mile streetcar loop will spawn a number of transit connections along the BeltLine, the city’s ongoing transportation and redevelopment project along a historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown. Projections estimate each streetcar will take 177 auto users off the road, lessen the congestion on the city’s crowded surface streets. For the Georgia State community, the line could mean a steady stream of visitors, office workers and downtown residents passing daily through the campus.

"They began as a major way of getting people to and from events," says Tim Crimmins, professor of sociology and the director of Georgia State’s Center for Neighborhood and Metropolitan Studies. "But by the 1880s, the trolleys were substituted by the sale of suburban land. Investors who were developing land on the periphery provided access to the property they owned. That was a driving force for growth, not just in Atlanta, but around the U.S."

The present-day streetcar marks another quirk in Atlanta’s history: The debut of the new routes will come close to coinciding with the 125th anniversary of the city’s first electric streetcar line. It rolled out on Aug. 23, 1889, when real estate developer Joel Hurt unveiled a power-driven trolley to transport Atlantans to his new neighborhood, Inman Park. The community on the eastern end of Edgewood Avenue was a suburb in progress, and getting residents back and forth to the city center was a key concern. Hurt’s cars are long gone, but their home, the aptly named Trolley Barn at 953 Edgewood Ave., still stands as a reminder of those early transit options.

Hurt wasn’t the only entrepreneur to kick-start a transit company back then. The Metropolitan line, a trolley pulled by a small steam engine, was the quickest way to get from downtown to new communities south and east of town as far as Decatur. The principal investor was Lemuel Grant, whose mansion still anchors the Atlanta neighborhood (and park) that bears his name. But it wasn’t long before the engine gave way to electric lines, and by the turn of the 20th century, the trolleys were the biggest consumers of electrical power. It quickly became clear someone was going to have to oversee the new industry.

A struggle erupted over who would consolidate the various lines, provide the power and establish the infrastructure to handle both. The winner: the Georgia Power and Electric Trolley Company, the forerunner of the modern company that lights up the city. "Georgia Power won because it had the best capacity to generate electricity," says Crimmins. "It had developed lakes in north Georgia to create hydroelectric power that was transmitted to Atlanta. It was also the point when electric power was introduced into residences, even though the trolleys remained the major users."

Atlanta wasn’t alone in developing an intricate web of trolley lines, and by the beginning of the 20th century almost every major American city had such a network. At home, the streetcars meant an easier commute to the Georgia Institute of Technology Evening School of Commerce, the forerunner of present-day Georgia State. "One of the advantages of the school was that it was accessible by the trolley," says Crimmins. "But the trolley’s primary rid- er

ship was main coming into town to work."

In the era of Jim Crow, the system was as segregated as the rest of Atlanta. "There was a serving class who rode the trolley from African-American neighborhoods to middle- and upper-class white neighborhoods for jobs," says Crimmins. "It was common practice for employ- ers to pay a daily wage, plus car fare. But a bill from 1914 that segregated railroad cars was extended to the trolleys, even though Hurt testified at a hearing that it would be too expensive for the companies to have two cars or a perma- nent division between a white and black section. So it fell to the conductors to enforce the separation of the races, with the whites in the front and the African-Americans in the back, whether or not they could be ordered to give up their seats to white riders."

It wasn’t long before the trolley systems were threatened by the popularity of the automobile. New infrastructure that catered to cars was built, and by the time World War II ended, trolleys were well on their way to becoming impractical modes of transportation. The creation of the interstate highway system caused a decline in ridership, says Crimmins. "Georgia Power remained in control, but after the war, it converted the system to buses. There were buses with electric motors still tied to the trolley lines, which were more flexible because they could pull right up to a curb. But by the 1990s, Georgia Power divested itself of the transit lines, and the system went to regular buses."

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site, Centennial Olympic Park, the World of Coca-Cola and the Georgia Aquarium.

“I think there’s a sort of nostalgia for the trolley, but that isn’t going to bring people from Marietta to downtown,” says Crimmins. “What you can argue is the business plan. It’s something that connects a major convention facility at the World Congress Center with hotels and various sites and offers relatively easy access through the downtown district. The city hopes it will disperse some of the concentration of convention business along the route and create enough of a market for shops at street level. It’s a reverse of the development the trolleys supported in the 1880s.”

The trolley also holds some appeal for curious students, says Joseph Hacker, who teaches transportation planning and economic development in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. “They’re very interested in it,” he says. “One of the big assumptions is that students will use it, and as the university expands eastward, I think there’s an opportunity that they will. There are also a lot of apartments being built not far from the line, and if more students live in them it might be a nice way to get to and from campus.”

The trolley does have the potential of revitalizing the areas adjacent to campus, Hacker adds. “I think it could make the Fairlie-Poplar area come alive in the evenings,” he says, “but there also needs to be events and reasons to draw people downtown. Until there is that connection, there may be problems getting people to come to where people aren’t. But it is quaint.”

Part of the charm is the nostalgia trolleys create in a generation who, like Atlantans 125 years ago, never saw or rode one. “There is that historical tradition of having street cars as part of urban life,” says Cathy Liu, associate professor of public policy and a specialist in planning issues. “Now they’re part of that general idea of making our downtown more livable and pleasant for visitors and residents. We have been having suburban development for a long time. Now people have realized the importance of downtown areas as centers of cities, and more development and investment are going on. I see the streetcar as one piece of that overall shift.”

For its part, the city is jump-starting the economic revival by creating a program of pop-up shops and offering incentives such as a few months’ free rent to business owners and entrepreneurs who locate along the trolley line. Those shops and restaurants will give riders options along the route. “The trolley is definitely appealing for workers who can hop on and off and stop at different places and for tourists who want to see the downtown area,” says Liu. “It can certainly help downtown’s image. It’s appealing, and it’s a part of history.”

That history hasn’t escaped Mayor Kasim Reed, one of the project’s leading supporters. “The streetcars are an integral part of the story of Atlanta,” he said. “It’s about re-visiting our ‘routes,’ as it were. These days, streetcar systems are being used to help revitalize cities in the U.S. and throughout the world. And these are not experiments. They are proven to work.

“Building the Atlanta Streetcar now is not about nostalgia. It’s about accommodating growth and planning for the future.”

H.M. CAULEY is an Atlanta-based freelancer and author of three travel books about the region. Along with being a regular contributor to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Atlanta Business Chronicle and other local publications, she is working toward a Ph.D. in Georgia State’s English Department.

These days, streetcar systems are being used to help revitalize cities in the U.S. and throughout the world. And these are not experiments. They are proven to work.

ATLANTA MAYOR KASIM REED

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

H.M. CAULEY is an Atlanta-based freelancer and author of three travel books about the region. Along with being a regular contributor to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Atlanta Business Chronicle and other local publications, she is working toward a Ph.D. in Georgia State’s English Department.
A mosaic overlay of 124 stitched-together aerial photographs from 1949 depict Atlanta as it was transitioning to an automobile-centered city. The project, created by University Librarian Joe Hurley, can be viewed in Google Maps and Google Earth, and here, on the large-scale, high-resolution visualization wall in the Pettit Science Center. Visit magazine.gsu.edu to see more.
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