Welcome.
The College of Arts & Sciences at Georgia State University

The College of Arts & Sciences is at the heart of the transformation of Georgia State University from a commuter school to a leading research university with a vibrant urban campus. Arts & Sciences is big, broad, and serves many critical missions.

• We serve roughly 15,000 students majoring in our undergraduate and graduate degree programs—more students than Emory University as a whole!

• The college produces much of the educational foundation for all of GSU’s more than 24,000 undergraduates through its core curriculum.

• We offer nearly 80 degree programs, plus 25 dual bachelor’s/master’s degree programs.

• Arts and Sciences faculty and instructors teach nearly 60% of the university’s credit hours.
Faculty Growth

- We have over 650 regular, full-time faculty in Arts & Sciences
- The graph shows regular full-time instructional faculty broken down by rank (no long-term data on limited term faculty)
- 9% increase over last 5 years since FY11; Net gain of 64 faculty
- Over this period of time, the university has supported faculty hiring aimed at accommodating our growing undergraduate student body.
- This year, the college welcomes 6 faculty hired through the university’s Second Century Initiative (2CI), which aims to “build nationally recognized scholarly strength and critical mass around common research themes in order to enhance Georgia State University's overall excellence, interdisciplinary richness, and competitiveness.” We are at the tail end of 2CI, and you may see a flurry of activity this fall semester when the call for proposals for the successor to 2CI is announced, tentatively being called the “Next Generation” faculty hiring initiative.
- We are also hiring faculty into Arts & Sciences as part of hiring for university research centers, the Center for Diagnostics & Therapeutics, the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, the Center for Obesity Reversal, and the Center for NanoOptics.
SECTION HEADING: AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

Slide: Fine Arts Area

Scope
- Over 70 regular full-time instructional faculty;
- 14 degree programs enrolling nearly 1,400 students

Collaborative Programs
- Center for Collaborative and International Arts (CENCIA)
- The Arts at GSU
- Creative Industries

Community Activities
- GSU Arts Fair downtown
- Center for Educational Partnerships in Music
  - Drew Charter School music program
- Annual Holiday Iron Pour
- Annual Holiday Gala Concert
- Harrower Opera Workshop
- Film Festivals (Recent Italian & Chinese Film Festivals)
- Welch School Art Gallery
- Many events free and open to the public
Humanities Area

Scope
- 170 faculty
- 24 degree programs enrolling more than 3,000 students

Ranked Programs
- Ph.D. in Creative Writing and M.A. in Philosophy consistently highly ranked

New Programs
- New Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (B.I.S.) degree programs:
  - Media Entrepreneurship
  - Game Design & Development
- Religious Studies M.A. concentration in Non-Profit Management

Community Activities
- Industry Partnerships
  - Georgia Public Broadcasting
  - Microsoft Innovation Center
  - Jacoby Group/future Atlanta Media Campus
- National Debate Project
- Translation Internship Program at Grady Hospital
- Five Points (and other journals)
- Ethics Center
- Religion and Public Life Fellow
- Public Lectures and events
Natural & Computational Sciences Area

Scope

- Nearly 220 faculty;
- 23 degree programs enrolling more than 5,000 students
- Area of heavy growth in undergraduate majors and graduate programs

Ranked Programs

- Ph.D. in Computer Science highly ranked; Neuroscience programs receiving attention...

Community Programs

- NSF-funded summer Geography Research Experience for Undergraduates
- Bio-Bus program sends out mobile instructional laboratories, staffed by students, to schools throughout the state
- Atlanta Science Festival
Social & Behavioral Sciences Area

Scope
- Over 170 faculty
- 24 degree programs enrolling more than 4,000 students

Ranked Programs
- 3 graduate programs in U.S. News & World Report top-100: Psychology, Political Science, and Sociology.

Community Programs
- State Legislative Internship Programs
- Community service outreach:
  - African American Studies
  - Community Psychology
  - Gerontology
- Language & Literacy programs
Five Pillars of the Strategic Plan

Now that I’ve talked a little bit about how we’re organized and some of our programmatic areas, I want to give you a sense of the main pillars of the college’s strategic mission that we share with the university...
Georgia State Students

The first pillar of our strategic plan is our commitment to enhancing undergraduate learning and giving students from all backgrounds the tools they need to succeed.

We have a vibrant, unique student body with many high achieving students. Many indicators point to Georgia State students being particularly vulnerable to the national trends that are contributing to declining college graduation rates on campuses across the country, however. 87% of our students are on financial aid. 30% or nearly a third of our students are the first in their family to attend college. We enroll high numbers of traditionally underrepresented minorities. In fact, we have no majority ethnic or racial population.
To illustrate, the national gap in graduation rates between students from families in the top income quartile and those from the bottom quartile is a staggering 49 percentage points among students with mid-range SAT scores (between 1000-1199). Just 17% of students from the bottom income quartile with average SAT scores graduate college.

We close the gap. Even though many of our students fall into this socio-economic category, Georgia State students graduate at a rate of 53%. Even more impressive, our African-American students graduate at a higher rate than the overall GSU number at 55%, and our Hispanic students graduate at a rate of 66%, completely closing the gap with the population from the highest income quartile.
A National Model

Georgia State has received considerable national attention as a model for higher education that combines excellence with inclusion. Through teaching innovations, technologically enhanced advising, and targeted financial support to students, we demonstrate that students from all backgrounds can succeed and graduate at high rates. We are regularly featured in high profile publications and media outlets, and Georgia State has served as a consultant to higher education institutions and systems around the country, including UNC-Chapel Hill and the SUNY System.
Educating a New Generation of Leaders (video)

Before video:
I want to show you a short video feature on Biology student and first-generation student Joshua Spear, which serves as just one example that underscores the significance of our mission and its impact on students’ lives.

[click play]

After video:
There are not just hundreds but literally thousands of stories like Joshua’s here, with nearly a third of our students being first generation college students, as I mentioned.
2 Attracting the Best Graduate Students

Our second focus is to attract and retain the very best graduate students.

- Crucial to driving our research mission
- Our graduate students are the problem solvers of tomorrow
- Enhanced recruiting efforts
- Creating new graduate programs and revamping existing ones to address market needs
  - 18 new 4+1 dual bachelor/masters degree programs
  - Non-profit management (Religious Studies M.A. concentration)
  - Neuroethics (Psychology Ph.D. concentration)
  - TESOL certificate
  - Applied Philosophy certificate
  - Forthcoming Master’s in Data Science
  - Forthcoming M.A. in Political Science with concentration in Professional Politics (fully online)
Advancing our Research Profile

- Arts & Sciences faculty and students work together through research and creative discovery to solve crucial social, cultural and scientific issues.
- Upward trajectory of success in obtaining external funding for research: 78% increase over last 5 years
- Colleagues in the arts and humanities are also finding more success in winning prestigious fellowships and awards.
Advancing our Research Profile: NIH funding (example)

• Growth of sponsored funding is remarkable given federal funding trends
• Example:
  o The overall success rate of applications for NIH (National Institutes of Health) funding declined from 25% all the way down to 18% over the last 10 years [top left graph].
  o Over the same period, Georgia State’s more than doubled its NIH funding from $11.6 million in FY 2004 to up to $25.5 million in FY 2014 [bottom right graph]. The majority of this funding was brought in by Arts & Sciences faculty.
  o Georgia State is in top 10 nationally among institutions with major gains in NIH funding over last 10 years
Discovering New Knowledge
(“Research with a purpose”)

Our research reflects our personality as an institution. We emphasize urban problems, like air quality and equitable housing; cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary research into topics like immigration and diplomacy; and basic research into questions like obesity and cancer detection that affect everyone’s life.

- As an example, faculty in Computer Science and Physics & Astronomy are developing software that will predict solar cycles and solar flares, potentially up to 10 years in advance, which could help plan for/prevent catastrophic effects:
  - Flares can be hazardous to Earth and cause disastrous disruptions to power grids, oil pipelines, air transportation, etc.
  - Flares can pose health hazards to astronauts and people onboard flights near the Earth’s poles
- $2.8 million in funding from NASA and NSF
Ritu Aneja: Working to Find a Cure for Cancer

We also have teams of eminent scholars in Chemistry, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, and Diagnostics & Therapeutics working to find a cure for cancer. One such researcher, Professor Ritu Aneja, is working to uncover and test the anti-cancer properties of certain herb extracts and plants, such as the greens of a sweet potato plant, to hopefully develop a natural and gentler alternative to chemotherapy to treat different forms of cancer. Here she is in one of our “Minute with a GSU Professor” video shorts.

[click play]
Addressing the Challenges of Cities

Our fourth strategic focus is in engaging our Atlanta community—as well as urban universities around the world—in efforts to address the complex concerns of cities by encouraging sustainable and environmentally sound economic development, the enhancement of social services, and investigating the creative, social, and informational potential of the media and the arts.

GSU will host international conference on urban research, with visitors from Hong Kong and South Africa, March 28-30, 2016.

Georgia State is Atlanta’s university. Our programs are designed to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural life of the city. The college works with local communities on research, service, and teaching projects of mutual benefit, and we are collaborating with universities in other global cities to study urban challenges on a worldwide scale.
Preparing Students to be Globally Competitive

Our fifth pillar of our strategic plan is to globalize the college and university. We are preparing the future workforce of Georgia and beyond to be competitive in today’s global economy by:

- Globalizing the curriculum
- Increasing language offerings
- Finding new ways to send students abroad (e.g., spring break study abroad programs)
- Expanding our global network of partner institutions worldwide
- Creating new specialized degree programs in international studies.

Just by attending classes and participating in campus activities, our students are exposed to the wealth of diversity that a student body originating from over 150 countries around the world brings.
Solving Transnational Problems

- Researchers in our Transcultural Conflict and Violence research cluster are studying underlying motivations for terrorism and digital communication strategies that terrorist and extremist groups use to influence others to action. A research project led by Tony Lemieux entitled “Mobilizing Media: A Deep and Comparative Analysis of Magazines, Music, and Videos in the Context of Terrorism,” was recently funded at $1.3 million through the Minerva Initiative of the Department of Defense.

- Through our new Global Studies Institute (GSI), we are assembling a team of scholars under the new Global Studies Institute that bring expertise in politics of urban violence, psychology of terrorist behavior, terrorism and media, post-conflict peacebuilding and state-building, democratization, and migration.
SECTION HEADING: CAMPUS LIFE

Slide: Expanding Campus

- Taking over downtown Atlanta
- Top-notch facilities
  - New home for Arts & Sciences in 25 Park Place along Woodruff Park corridor, which now includes new College of Law complex and future home for Robinson College of Business and Andrew Young School of Policy Studies in 55 Park Place (Microsoft Innovation Center across the park in Flatiron Building)
  - 2nd Science Park building on Decatur Street under construction
  - New GSU administration building (Centennial Hall)
  - More on-campus housing for our students
Campus Events

Special events are a daily occurrence here on campus. Some examples:

- Multiple Speakers Series that bring prominent academics, officials, and popular icons to campus (pictured top right: US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey)
- Faculty expert panels on major current events
- Concerts at the Rialto Center for the Arts or in Kopleff Recital Hall
- Operas, Dance & Theatre performances at the Rialto, Kopleff or Dahlberg Hall University Theatre
- Visual art exhibitions at the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery
- International arts and cultural events (CENCIA)
- Film festivals including Chinese Film Festival, Italian Film Festival, and activities of Atlanta Film Festival 365, hosted here at GSU
- Football games at the Dome, basketball games in the Sports Arena, and other athletic events
Faculty Involvement

Faculty Involvement

- Faculty Governance
  - College bylaws emphasize shared faculty governance
  - Full faculty of college meets four times per academic year; 10 standing committees, including Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Promotion & Tenure Advisory Committees, etc.
  - University Senate

- Faculty Recognition
  - College faculty awards program that recognizes faculty in 8 categories annually
  - Annual university-level faculty awards
  - Dean’s Early Career Award recognizes our most outstanding junior scholars
In addition to our newly revamped externally-facing website, we have developed an internally-focused website for college services and resources. Many of you visited one of the pages on this site when you RSVP’d for today’s orientation. The site houses policies and forms that will be of interest to you, such as our guidelines on promotion & tenure and other faculty reviews, as well as a full listing of our administrative offices and services, a staff directory, and plenty more.
Questions?

Open the floor. After questions, turn it over to Laura Carruth, Director of the Center for Instructional Effectiveness and Associate Professor of Neuroscience, who will give a brief presentation on teaching effectiveness and the services of the Institute for Instructional Effectiveness and the Institute for Instructional Innovation.