FEATURED ACHIEVEMENTS

• Biology and Chemistry were awarded a four-year grant from the Undergraduate Science Education Division of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to support a new program in biotechnology. This program provides funding for 20 undergraduate “Biotechnology Scholars,” who have access to special research opportunities, as well as academic, curriculum, and career advisement. Scholars are paired with graduate student mentors who work with them on their individual research projects, and upon completion of their BS degrees have the option of continuing at Georgia State University for an additional year to obtain a MS degree in biotechnology. The grant will also fund the Department of Biology’s Bio-Bus program, which sends mobile science education laboratories to elementary, middle, and high schools around the state. The Bio-Bus program, which won this year’s President’s Award for Outstanding University Program, is also supported by the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the Office of the Provost and the University System of Georgia.

• An international team of scientists working at Georgia State University’s Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA) telescope array in California’s San Gabriel Mountains captured a picture of Altair, one of the brightest stars visible from Earth and one of the closest at 15 light years away. The image is the first detailed picture of a hydrogen-burning star other than our own Sun, and allowed scientists to map the star’s surface temperature in unprecedented detail. CHARA is also providing extraordinary research opportunities to Georgia State graduate students, who can control the array from campus through the Cleon Arrington Remote Operations Center located on the fifth floor of the Science Annex building.

• The Language Research Center celebrated its 25th anniversary at the forefront of research into primate cognition and communication with a year-long series of events. The LRC Anniversary Lecture, given by Founding Director Duane M. Rumbaugh, was the highlight of a series of colloquia led by visiting scientists. A Language Research Center anniversary symposium was part of the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, and a book titled Primate Perspectives on Behavior and Cognition celebrated Rumbaugh and the center’s accomplishments with a survey of the latest research data and methods. The Center also moved in a permanent colony of capuchin monkeys, the first New World monkeys ever housed at the center. Research with these animals has already resulted in several publications and new grant support.

• The Center for Research on Atypical Development and Learning (CRADL), a collaborative center of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education, received a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Educational Sciences to establish a post-doctoral training program in Language and Literacy Interventions. The first post-doctoral scholar joined the center in fall 2007.

ASTRONOMY PROFESSOR WINS PRIZE FOR INNOVATIVE ARRAY

Earlier this year, Harold A. McAlister, Regent’s Professor of Astronomy at Georgia State, was awarded the Astronomical Society of the Pacific’s 2007 prize for innovation in research instruments and techniques.

McAlister and the CHARA Array Project Team – which he led – won the award for developing and building the most powerful interferoptic telescope array in the world. The Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA), as the array is called, is a group of six 1-meter telescopes that provides the resolving power of a telescope a fifth of a mile in diameter. It is located at the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California.

The array has produced some astonishing and unprecedented images. This spring, an international team of scientists working at CHARA published a picture of Altair, one of the brightest stars visible from Earth and one of the closest at 15 light years away. The image is the first detailed picture of a hydrogen-burning star other than our own Sun, and allowed scientists to map the star’s surface temperature in unprecedented detail. CHARA is also providing extraordinary research opportunities to Georgia State graduate students, who can control the array from campus through the Arrington Remote Operations Center.
The Center for Neighborhood and Metropolitan Studies has begun a four-year Atlanta Metropolitan Growth Project, funded by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Project workers have recorded digital interviews with civic and political leaders in Gwinnett County who have played important roles in shaping Atlanta’s metropolitan growth over the past 50 years. These interviews are being edited and prepared for online access from the center’s website. Interviews in other counties of the metropolitan region will take place in the coming year.

The Honors Program, long based in the College of Arts and Sciences, is making a transition to a University Honors Program. After significant growth in the eligible student population in recent years, and strong development in the Honors Program curriculum, the college supported and the provost authorized this change in order to better recruit and meet the needs of the university’s high-ability undergraduates. During FY07, the Honors Program developed a new seminar for incoming freshmen, designed to acquaint new students with advanced research being conducted by some of Georgia State’s leading scholars. The Honors program also offered its first Maymester study-abroad and fieldwork programs: a science program in Venice, Italy; a humanities program in Florence, Italy; and a course closer to home exploring the history and culture of the Georgia coast.

FEDERAL GRANT HELPS FUND NEW CRADL POST-DOC PROGRAM

The Center for Research on Atypical Development and Learning has started its first-ever postdoctoral program, thanks to a prestigious grant from the federal government. CRADL aims to launch the careers of language and literacy researchers, providing them both with research training and with advice in professional matters like grant-writing.

“It’s already been helpful,” said Endia Lindo, who arrived on campus this fall as the program’s first postdoc. Lindo started her career as a teacher in the DeKalb county schools, then went on to Vanderbilt University for a Ph.D. in special education.

CRADL is able to offer some unusual advantages for postdoctoral researchers, which is why its program was chosen for funding by the federal Institute of Education Sciences. First, the center places a high priority on sharing its research with schools and policy-makers – that is, on making the latest science available to the students who need it.

Second, the center pulls together scholars from a wide variety of disciplines – psychology, education, speech-language pathology, even law.

“That’s how the real world works,” said Rose Sevcik, professor of psychology and co-director of the program. Hospitals, schools and community organizations all employ people from a variety of specialties, she explained, and researchers are able to work more effectively when they can speak across disciplinary lines.

RESEARCH AND EXTERNAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

In FY07, Arts and Sciences faculty continued to attract external funding from wide variety of federal, state, and private sources, with an 11 percent increase over the previous fiscal year:

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Significant research grants and findings included the following:

- Two faculty earned grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Andrew Altman (Philosophy) was awarded a grant to give a Summer Seminar for College Teachers entitled “Philosophical Perspectives on Law, Democracy and Human Rights.” Timothy Crimmins (History) received funding to hold a series of teacher workshops on civil rights history. The one-week course uses Atlanta buildings including the Capitol, the Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Fox Theater to teach about segregation and civil rights.
• Timothy Renick (Religious Studies) received a grant to head up a study of his field over the next year and a half. The award comes from the Teagle Foundation, a private foundation based in New York whose mission is to increase student engagement in the liberal arts and sciences. Renick’s project is part of a larger effort by the foundation to study specific disciplines and how they can better prepare students for a fast-changing world.

• Allison Calhoun-Brown (Political Science) won a grant to study the effects of suburbanization on black churches, both in Atlanta and elsewhere. The money comes from the Louisville Institute, a nonprofit program that supports research and leadership education on American religion.

• Emeritus faculty member David Boykin (Chemistry) developed a drug to treat an often fatal lung infection that develops in AIDS patients. The compound, pafuramidine, is in the early stages of phase III clinical trials and was recently licensed to New Jersey-based Par Pharmaceuticals, which hopes to manufacture the drug if federal regulators approve the medication. Par paid $3 million this spring for the rights to make pafuramidine and has agreed to pay an additional $29 million as the compound advances through its final clinical trials.

• A research collaboration between Tim Bartness (Biology) and Kim Huhman (Psychology) developed a potential animal model for human stress-induced obesity. Their study published in the American Journal of Physiology, showed that, unlike most rodents that decrease food intake and weight in response to a variety of stressors, Syrian hamsters actually increase food intake and weight in the abdominal area, like many humans.
• The laboratory of Elliott Albers (Biology and Psychology) aided in the successful insemination of a female giant panda at Zoo Atlanta that resulted in birth of the first giant panda cub in Atlanta, Georgia, only the third in the United States, in the fall of 2006. Dr. Albers' lab collaborated with the Zoo and conducted all the hormonal assays needed to pinpoint the best time within a brief 3-day window for the insemination.

FACULTY HONORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• College faculty published books with a variety of respected presses during 2006-07. In addition, their output of research articles, book chapters, abstracts, reviews, electronic publications, and presentations at professional conferences numbers in the thousands. Faculty in the fine arts and theater programs also used their talents to enrich the cultural life of Atlanta and beyond through musical and theatrical performances and art and design exhibitions.

• Recipients of the college’s annual faculty awards were announced at the Arts and Sciences Honors Day in the spring: Outstanding Faculty Scholarship, Binghe Wang, Chemistry; Outstanding Teaching, W. Dwight Coleman, Music; Outstanding Junior Faculty, Kyle Frantz, Biology. In addition, Jeffrey Young, Honors Program was given the Distinguished Honors Professor award at the event.

• Harold McAlister (Physics and Astronomy) was selected as the winner of the Muhlmann prize given by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific for innovative technical advances in astronomy. McAlister and the CHARA Array Project Team – which he led – won the award for developing and building the most powerful interferoptic telescope array in the world. The Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy (CHARA), as the array is called, is a group of six one-meter telescopes that provides the resolving power of a telescope a fifth of a mile in diameter. It is located at the Mt. Wilson Observatory in California.

• Sheri Joseph (English) won the first annual Grub Street Book Prize in fiction for her novel Stray, published by MacAdam/Cage. The prize is awarded to a writer outside New England publishing his or her second (or beyond) book.

• George Pierce (Biology) was elected as the next president of the Society for Industrial Microbiology. The society brings together scientists who work in industry and the academy for discussion and collaboration on a wide variety of topics including antibiotics, fermentation, food microbiology and safety, and environmental microbiology, which is Pierce’s own specialty.

• Giovanni Gadda (Chemistry) won an NSF CAREER award. The award is the most prestigious offered by the NSF to scholars early in their career, and recognizes outstanding achievements in research, education and leadership.

• Kay Beck (Communication) received the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from IMAGE, or Independent Media Artists of Georgia, an organization that among other things organizes the Atlanta Film Festival. Beck has served on the IMAGE board for 30 years.

• Raheem Beyah (Computer Science) was featured in Georgia Trend magazine’s October 2006 cover story, “40 Under 40: The Best and Brightest.” The feature described individuals under 40 years of age “who will lead our state’s commercial, cultural, academic...
and governmental institutions into the future.” Beyah was honored for his professional accomplishments, industry relationships, and community involvement. The article noted that Dr. Beyah “has made it his mission to bridge the digital divide, the gap between the community technology haves and have-nots.”

**Thomas McHaney (English)** won the Governor’s Award for the Humanities in 2007. McHaney was honored for his scholarship on William Faulkner, as well as his service on the boards of the Georgia Center for the Book and the Wren’s Nest, the Atlanta home of author Joel Chandler Harris.

**COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS**

- Faculty members serve on the boards of a wide variety of community organizations, including schools, museums, libraries, historical societies, press clubs, film festivals, literary festivals, and public health initiatives. Faculty also gave interviews and provided expert opinions to a wide variety of news organizations, including *al-Qabas* (newspaper, Kuwait), *Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *CNN*, *Cox Newspapers*, *Gainesville Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Indian National Satellite News Channel*, *Miami Herald*, *New York Times*, *PBS*, *Reuters*, *Venevision* (television, Venezuela), and *Voice of America*.

- Many departments and units offer workshops and other forms of ongoing education for K-12 teachers. These units include: African-American Studies, Biology, Computer Science, English, History, Middle East Studies, Music, Neighborhood and Metropolitan Studies, and Physics.

- Now completing its eighth year of operation, the Bio-Bus continued to be a popular out-reach science program, reaching K-12 students at public and private schools and community groups year round. Assured of extra-mural funding as part of a $1.5 million Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant, the Bio-Bus Program was able to make more trips in fiscal 2007: 167, as opposed to 147 the previous year. These trips included a two-day visit to a Savannah high school, as part of a partnership with Savannah State University. The Bio-Bus Program won

**BIOLOGY FACULTY HONORED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Laura Carruth, an assistant professor of biology at Georgia State, has been recognized by the Society for Neuroscience for her work developing a summer “Brain Camp” for local schoolkids.

Carruth won the “Neuroscientist-Teacher Partnership Award” along with Sally Murphy, a teacher at Riverwood High School in Fulton County. Carruth and Murphy created the week-long summer science camp for rising fifth-through eighth-graders.

“From what Sally and I can tell the camp is unique because of its focus on the nervous system,” Carruth said. Campers experiment and explore their way through a wide variety of activities: dissecting sheep brains and cow eyes, conducting sensory system experiments, building paper mache brains and neuron-shaped key chains, and more. Last year, the camp had 30 students in attendance, with 60 more on the waiting list.

The camp is housed at Renfroe Middle School in Decatur, and is co-sponsored by the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience and the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives.
two GSU awards in FY 2007: Dr. Baumstark accepted the 2007 President’s Award for Community Service and Social Action, and Program Manager Genevieve Edwards was given the College of Arts & Sciences 2007 Outstanding Junior Staff Award. Bio-Bus staff attended the second annual Mobile Lab Coalition meeting, and participated in two of its Peer Evaluation Cluster groups, which meant that staff visited other mobile lab programs in Philadelphia and Maryland, and hosted site visits to Georgia State from other programs.

- Laura Carruth (Biology) continues to combine teacher education with pedagogical research through an annual teacher professional development workshop at Zoo Atlanta. The workshop was attended by teachers from across the state, who later brought Carruth to their home schools to collect data on lesson plans and student achievement as well as to conduct hands-on activities with students.

- The Center for Latin American and Latino/a Studies and Psychology collaborated in two programs targeting the Latino community in metro Atlanta: Caminar Latino, headed by Julia Perilla (Psychology), which deals with domestic violence, and Proyecto Juventud, headed by Gabriel Kuperminc (Psychology), which addresses child development.

- Carol Semonski (Modern and Classical Languages), an expert in pedagogy and curriculum design for teaching foreign languages, gave a three-week workshop at the Georgia Department of Education.

- The urban debate initiative coordinated by Carol Winkler and Joe Bellon (Communication) provides weekly mentorship in critical thinking, rhetorical skills and public speaking. Every Wednesday as many as 200 metro-area high school students attend training sessions hosted in the Urban Life Building.

EVENTS AND OUTREACH

- As always, the college and its units sponsored a wide array of lectures, seminars, performances, exhibitions, and special events during the year: These activities expand the domain of instruction, research, and creative activity from the classroom, laboratory, or studio into the public sphere and provide the university and local communities with regular opportunities for intellectual and cultural enrichment. The college produces and distributes a monthly calendar of college events to make sure that the public is aware of all that is offered in Arts and Sciences. All events are reported on the college website, www.cas.gsu.edu, as well.

FORMER PRESIDENT, FILMMAKING LEGEND SPEAK ON CAMPUS

Georgia State students got the chance to exchange ideas with two world-famous visitors this spring, both brought to campus by the College of Arts and Sciences. In April, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter came to campus to speak and answer questions about his latest book, *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid*. In May, the guest was film-maker Frances Ford Coppola, who screened a documentary on his career and held an hour-long Q&A afterward.

Carter, the 39th president and former Georgia governor and state senator, was awarded the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. He has been deeply involved in Middle East policies for the past three decades. As president he negotiated the Camp David Accords, which secured a lasting peace between Israel and Egypt. Since 1982, he has worked for peace, human rights and international development through the Carter Center, his Atlanta-based nonprofit organization.

After his lecture, the former president answered questions from the capacity crowd about both the book and the controversy.

Carter’s visit was sponsored by the Middle East Institute and the College of Arts and Sciences. Francis Ford Coppola, the celebrated director of films such as *Apocalypse Now* and *The Godfather* trilogy, screened an hour-long documentary titled *CODA: Thirty Years Later*.

The documentary shares Coppola’s thoughts about filmmaking, creativity and the nature of consciousness, and also takes viewers behind the scenes of his latest film, *Youth Without Youth*, which will be released this fall.
Melissa Fay Greene delivered the college’s 2007 Helen Ingram Plummer Lecture, speaking on her latest book, *There is No Me Without You*. The book is the story of a middle-class Ethiopian widow whose home became a refuge for hundreds of AIDS orphans. Greene is a regular contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, *Good Housekeeping*, and many other prominent publications. The event was coordinated by the Center for Collaborative Scholarship in the Humanities.

The Center for International Media Studies hosted 13 CNN correspondents from 12 countries, who joined students in discussing immigration and other issues at World Media Forum 64 in November. The center hosted the event in cooperation with the CNN International Professional Program, and the event was co-sponsored by the Department of Communication, the Office of Student and Scholar Services, and the Journalism History Society.

Former Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo spoke on poverty and the future of democracy in Latin America in October. Rising from a humble campesino background to earn a PhD at Stanford University, Toledo became a business school professor in Peru, consulted with the UN and World Bank, and entered politics in Peru. The event was organized by the Department of Political Science and the Center for Latin American and Latino/a Studies.

The Center for Behavioral Neurosciences seventh annual Atlanta Brains Rule! Neuroscience Exposition was held in April 2007 with more than 4,000. The event, which is designed to promote neuroscience literacy, was held at Zoo Atlanta and featured 30 interactive booths on a variety of neuroscience topics led by Georgia State faculty and students, among others. In conjunction with the exposition, Kyle Frantz of the Georgia State biology department organized a daylong series of educational activities on the brain for 100 seventh-grade students.

The Eudora Welty Project and the Welch School for Art and Design Art Galleries honored the late Southern author Eudora Welty and observed the 10th anniversary of Georgia State’s *Five Points*: *A Journal of Literature and Art* with two simultaneous exhibitions. *Petrified Man* displayed Welch School faculty members’ artistic responses to one of Welty’s short stories. *One Writer’s Art* presented the author’s photography and writing. The exhibition included books and artifacts from the Georgia State Library Rare Book Collection and Welty photographs from local private collections. Related programming involved the English and Communications departments as well as *Five Points* in a student project, a gallery talk, a Readers Theater, Southern writers reading Welty, and a podcast.

The College of Arts and Sciences reaches out to all corners of the globe with programs including research collaborations, professional training, student exchanges, study abroad, and foreign language study. Students and faculty engage in these activities in nations including England, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Italy, China, Korea, Israel, Turkey, Egypt, and South Africa. Our international programs provide unique research, teaching and service opportunities to our faculty and students. In the process, they contribute to regional development and the quality of life for people in many parts of the world, not to mention building cross-cultural ties across the globe.

Georgia State University representatives met with representatives from institutions in locations throughout the world to strengthen or develop collaborative exchange programs for students and faculty. Administrators and faculty traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico, in October; Cordoba, Argentina, in May; and Beijing, Jinan, and Chengdu, China, in June as part of the university International Strategic Initiative program to expand scientific and technical collaboration.
• Several faculty were awarded Fulbright Fellowships to conduct research abroad during the year: Denise Z. Davidson (History) in France; Michael Herb (Political Science) in Kuwait, and Chip Carey (Political Science) in Nicaragua. In addition, Lindsey Stephenson, a senior with a double major in Political Science and Middle East Studies, won a Fulbright Award to study at the American University of Kuwait next year.

• As a result of the linkage between Georgia State and Tsinghua University in Beijing, graduate and undergraduate students from the Department of Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language taught in a special English summer camp for incoming freshmen at Tsinghua University.

• The Middle East Institute established a new relationship with the Yemen College for Middle East Studies. In summer 2007, five Georgia State students undertook Arabic Language study there.

• The Department of English and the Women’s Studies Institute co-sponsored Fulbright Scholar Desiree Lewis’ stay on campus in Spring 2007. Lewis gave a series of public lectures and taught a master’s seminar in Women’s Studies.

The college sponsored the following study abroad programs in 2007:

Environmental Immunology in Venice - Italy
Betwixt & Between: Turkey’s Political, Historical, and Cultural Structure on the Eve of the Twenty-First Century - Turkey
Dante and Machiavelli Together in Florence - Italy
Racial Discourse in Latin America - Guatemala
Film Studies - Italy
La Musica Linica: Operah Workshop - Italy
Egypt in the Age of the Pharoahs
Art, Culture, and Education in Ghana, West Africa
Issues of the Landscape in Northeast Scotland
Studies Abroad in Visual Arts in Florence, Italy
Italian Studies in Perugia - Italy
Spanish Studies in Guadalajara - Mexico
Spanish Studies in Granada - Spain
Spanish Studies in Madrid - Spain
French Study Abroad in Tours - France
Landscapes in Memory: History, Culture, and Historic Preservation in Venice, Italy
USG: Summer Study in China
Field Studies in El Salvador

BUILDING SUPPORT FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

The College of Arts and Sciences Office of Development made great strides in reaching out to alumni and the community in order to build financial support of the college. Several inaugural events, including a reunion for all Emeriti Faculty, and a private reception and performance at the Rialto for all donors at the $500 level or more, were successful not only in increasing awareness of the college’s accomplishments, but also in cultivating support. Faculty are becoming more involved in the development process which has augmented the momentum of fund raising by identifying potential donors, while the Board of Visitors was largely responsible for spurring the increase in cultivation and stewardship opportunities through acknowledgement letters and calls to significant donors. In addition, a bi-annual Development Newsletter was begun and an on-line E-News publication is in development. Major gift endowments to the college continue to increase.
Among the most significant this past year, were:

- The Georgia State University Research Foundation created the Endowment for Faculty Support for the Department of Biology with a $600,000 initial gift. Annual payout from this fund will be used to provide research funding including but not limited to faculty salaries, education, training, travel, travel to conferences, and other expenses to support the research activities of the Department of Biology.

- The Mary Kathleen Berry Scholarship Endowment for the College of Arts and Sciences and the R. Mack Robinson College of Business in the amount of $250,000 to provide scholarship funds for the integrated five-year program leading to joint degrees of a Bachelor of Arts in a Modern Language and a Master’s degree in International Business.

- The Margaret Ewing Endowment for the Enrichment of Research in Family Oral Histories in the Department of History was created by William C. Pate in the amount of $100,000. This endowment will provide a fellowship to a graduate student interested in pursuing research on Family Histories.

- Charles and Katherine Rice pledged $300,000 to establish the Rice Scholarship in support of Gerontology which will annually award three exceptional students from Early County, Georgia to study at the University.

- The Ellen L. Evans History Faculty Enrichment Endowment was established with $50,000 to provide further incentive to retain and attract high quality faculty in the history department.

In addition, the college’s annual fund campaign surpassed its goal, allowing the dean to further enrich the experience for all faculty, students, and staff through innovative programs such as the enhancement of the Major Matters workshops, which help undergraduates decide on a major.

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND HONORS

- Georgia State students excelled at the National Model United Nations conference, winning the Outstanding Delegation Award. The group, which represented Nigeria, was one of five to win the award out of 270 member delegations. Six delegates from Georgia State won individual Outstanding Delegate awards: Adam Garvey, Charles Keller, Bhavi Patel, Keta Patel, Christine Simpson and Carrie Starnes.

- A Georgia State group won an Outstanding Delegation Award at the Southeast Regional Model Arab League, where they represented Syria. It was the fifth year in a row that the Georgia State team earned the honor. Also, six members of the team were recognized as Outstanding Delegates: Laura Halig, Hayat Jomaa, Mira Jabr; Emily Acton, Ashley Gholamhosseini and Lee Boswell.

- Five Georgia State Computer Science students are currently competing in the Imagine Cup, an international computing contest sponsored by Microsoft Corporation. A team of four students (David Tomaschik, Michael Igbinigie, Kyle Proctor, and Fred Hudson) is participating in the Embedded Development competition. Dr. Michael Weeks is the team’s advisor. The Georgia State team’s project, which is titled “The Oui Language Learning Lab,” involves creating a prototype system for an interactive environment that helps the user rapidly learn new words in a foreign language. The team was one of 200 to advance to the second round. Minh Nguyen is competing in the Software Design competition, and has qualified for the regional semi-finals. His faculty advisor is Dr. Xiaolin Hu.

- Four graduate students in the Creative Writing program published books or had them accepted for publication in FY 2007:

  - Mike Dockins’ (PhD/Poetry) “Dead Critics Society” has been selected by Heather McHugh to appear in The Best American Poetry 2007. The poem first appeared in Atlanta Review, and is included in his collection Slouching in the Path of a Comet, which was published by Sage Hill Press in February 2007.

  - Man Martin (PhD/Fiction) published his first novel, Days of the Endless Corvette, with Carroll and Graf in July 2007. The book is “a humorous tall-tale about true love and car repair set in Deepstep, Georgia in the ‘70s.”
Calaya Reid (PhD/Fiction), writing as Grace Octavia, received a glowing review in ESSENCE Magazine for her just-published novel Take Her Man. Take Her Man has also been given Four Stars by Romantic Times Magazine, and selected for Overbooked’s 2007 Hot List. A second Grace Octavia novel is forthcoming from Kensington Books in May 2008.

Pyres, a novel by Derek Nikitas, will be published by St. Martin’s Minotaur in the fall. The book chronicles the story of three women brought together in the wake of a folklore professor’s murder.

- Cole Taratoot (Ph.D., Political Science) received a prestigious National Science Foundation dissertation grant from the NSF’s Law and Social Science program in support of his project on “Administrative Law Judge Decision Making in a Political Environment: 1991-2006.”

- Jennifer Cotton (B.A., Religious Studies) and Michael Low (M.A., History) were each awarded the National Security Education Program’s David L. Boren Fellowship for study abroad. Both Cotton and Low used their fellowship to study Arabic abroad. Cotton in Egypt and Low in Yemen. Only 20 such fellowships are awarded nationally.

- Katherine Milby (M.A., Religious Studies) won a fellowship from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers to study Arabic in Tunis, Tunisia. Out of over 2,200 applicants, only 84 were accepted nationwide.

- Matthew Hinton (B.A., Religious Studies alumnus) wrote, produced and directed a PBS documentary, Awake, My Soul, on sacred harp music in the rural south. The documentary aired across the country in Fall 2006.

ARTS AND SCIENCES STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT NEW MAJOR

A new major in Applied Linguistics has been approved by the Board of Regents, much to the delight of those who plan to enroll in it.

“When I announced it to the undergraduate students in our methods course, they applauded,” said Gayle Nelson, the department chair.

The creation of the major was, at least in part, a response to strong demand. About 80 students are enrolled in the Bachelor of Independent Studies program in Language Arts. The creation of a B.A. degree will standardize their degree paths and make it easier for the department to advise them.

Applied Linguistics includes the study of foreign languages, but it is perhaps best understood as the study of language in general, Nelson said. Majors explore real-world problems like teaching and testing languages, communication across cultures, and how people use language to construct their identities and relationships. Graduates have gone on to teach in America and overseas, to work in textbook writing and test development, and in business as intercultural communication experts.

The new major will include one requirement that earlier B.I.S. students did not have to meet. Every major will have to complete at least a semester of a “less-commonly-taught” language – that is, a language that students are unlikely to have already taken in high school or college.

“A non-western language is so different from a western language,” Nelson said. “It really opens up their idea of what a language is.” The new requirement is possible because of the large number of languages taught in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and the Middle East Institute – sixteen in all, including Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Turkish, among others.

Several students asked to change from the B.I.S. program into the new major in the first week after it was announced, said Sara C. Weigle, the department’s director of undergraduate studies.

“A lot of people have wanted this degree for a long time,” Weigle said. “I’m glad we can offer it to them.”
• Kevin Keller (B.A., Religious Studies alumnus) was awarded the “Building Bridges” Award by the Islamic Speakers Bureau for a radio series he produced for WABE on religious communities in Atlanta, 2006.

• Brandy Morrison (M.A., Heritage Preservation), was recognized by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission as the city’s Outstanding Preservation Professional for 2006. Brandy Herlinger Morrison was officially presented with the Jenny Thurston Memorial Award, as it is formally called, on June 20. It is extremely unusual for a student to receive the award, which generally goes to working preservation professionals. Morrison was chosen for her work heading up a team of Georgia State students who created an inventory of historic buildings lining the city’s planned Beltway project.

• Damira Rasheed (B.A., Political Science) and Salamatu Barrie (B.S., Psychology) have each won a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The scholarships, which are federally funded, help students with limited financial resources to study abroad. Rasheed will spend spring 2007 in Cyprus on an intercultural learning program, while Barrie will spend a semester studying at Macquarie University in Australia. The pair was among 400 students accepted into the Gilman program out of 1,189 applicants.

• Joel Lemuel and Chris Pozzi, have recently become the highest-ranked debate team in Georgia State history. This year, the partners finished 26th in the national power rankings compiled by Dr. Jon Bruschke at California State University – Fullerton. In addition, Lemuel is the highest-ranked African-American debater in the country.

IMPROVING UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION

As part of a Board of Regents initiative, the university funded college and department projects to improve undergraduate retention, progression, and graduates rates in FY07.

• The college-wide Major Matters program helps students choose a major, chart a course toward graduation, and make plans for their post-college careers. Regular workshops allow students to investigate clusters of related majors and ask questions of department representatives.

The college has also produced visual “maps” of each major in the college, which include information about prerequisites, course sequences, advisement, academic extracurricular activities, and professional preparation. Major Matters brings together administrative, advisement, and department

• Biology instituted voluntary tutorials for three introductory and gateway courses in the major. Students attending the sessions not only achieved higher grades (an average of 2.95 vs. 2.60 for non-attendees), but had a much lower DWF rate (11.7 percent vs. 24.3 percent). Later, the department added tutorials for Anatomy and Physiology, a course designed for health sciences students. The average grade for attendees was 2.95, as opposed to 1.77 for non-attendees. Finally, a new Sophomore Connections at State course in biotechnology has created for undergraduates to explore research topics and techniques.

• Chemistry now requires students to take a placement course before enrolling in General Chemistry I. Those who score below random were encouraged to take a preparation course before moving on to General Chemistry I. As a result, the DWF rate has fallen from 33 percent to a projected 15 percent for Spring 2007. In the preparatory course, 82 percent are on target to get grades of A or B, indicating they are now ready to move on to General Chemistry I.

• Communication has strengthened the services available to its students in several ways. First, it has hired two graduate assistants to support the Undergraduate Director, improving advising for undergraduates and creating a “Survival Guide” detailing university, career, and extracurricular resources for students. The department has completely overhauled its internship program and increased the number of students placed in internships from 22 in Fall 2006 to 47 in Fall 2007.

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• Geosciences has created a Geosciences Learning Community (GLC) for undergraduates. Members of the GLC are put into groups that work on problem-based research projects that carry over from semester to semester. These groups meet with faculty advisors once a week, and also meet once a month for field trips, guest speakers, and research updates. The results of the first year’s research projects are being assembled into an on-line atlas, to be published on the department’s web site.

• Mathematics has added two additional graduate assistants to work with students in the introductory core courses Math 1070, 1111, and 1113, and purchased three extra computers for its Mathematics Assistance Complex, an open-access lab where students can walk in at any time and ask for tutoring. As a result, DWF rates have decreased slightly: from 27.02 to 26.91 percent in Math 1070; from 27.62 to 26.36 percent in Math 1111, and from 42.36 to 29.92 in Math 1113.

• Philosophy added supplemental instructors to some sections of its Philosophy 1010 class and added peer mentors for some sections of Philosophy 2010. DFW rates for those classes stayed stable for the first semester, but the department adjusted its system and saw a considerable jump in grades for students receiving supplemental instruction in the Spring 2007 semester.

• Political Science hired undergraduate and graduate students to lead Supplemental Instruction sections for its large introductory courses, POLS 1101 and 2401. Students who took advantage of the extra sessions had a much lower DFW rate than those who did not (8.9 percent vs. 21 percent). There was a similar difference in grades (an average 3.09 for attendees, vs. 2.59 for others). The department also overhauled its advising system, and early anecdotal evidence shows strong support from students.

• Psychology developed a series of group-advising sessions for its majors on topics including Honors Program opportunities, possible career paths, and applying to graduate school. The department is also beginning work on a peer-advising system modeled on successful programs at James Madison University and University of Minnesota-Duluth.

The Geosciences Learning Community on an outing at Stone Mountain.

• The College of Arts and Sciences is proceeding well on its plan for systematic growth. The number of students graduating with bachelor’s degrees in Arts and Sciences majors has grown by 72 percent in the last five years, going from 1,116 in fiscal 2002 to 1,925 in fiscal 2007. Over the same period, the number of master’s degrees granted by the college has grown by over 49 percent (from 261 to 390), and the number of PhDs by 90 percent (from 44 to 84). In relation to enhancing institutional effectiveness, the college has focused on developing new undergraduate and graduate degree programs; the recruitment of new faculty; academic and administrative unit program review, and the improvement of facilities for instruction, research, student support, and administration.

PROGRESS IN ASSESSING INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
Development of New Degree Programs and Courses of Study

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved three new degree programs in Arts and Sciences during the year. Other programs continued to develop in notable ways.

• The new PhD program in Mathematics and Statistics includes concentrations in mathematics, bioinformatics, and biostatistics. The mathematics concentration will graduate mathematicians with a broad knowledge of the core areas of pure and applied mathematics. The concentrations in bioinformatics and biostatistics will graduate strong leaders in applied areas related to business, industry, governmental institutions, and research universities.

• The new Master of Arts degree in African-American Studies will provide students with knowledge of the history and scope of African-American Studies, theoretical orientations of African-American Studies, methodological approaches used within the discipline, and strategies used to develop community institutions.

• The new Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics was developed in part as a response to the popularity of the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program in Language Studies, which has approximately 80 majors. Most are expected to change over to the new major. The BA will require that majors take a “less-commonly-taught” language such as Arabic, Chinese, or Turkish.

• Georgia State created a new BA degree in International Economics and Modern Languages (IEML), housed partly in Modern and Classical Languages. The degree program will allow students to pursue studies in international economics as well as French, German, or Spanish (concentrations in Japanese and Italian are presently being considered). In its first year alone, 27 students declared their major in IEML. Among new students coming in the fall the number is already close to 80 declared majors.

Building Instructional, Research, and Service Capacity through Faculty Hiring

Between FY98 and FY07, the number of regular faculty (tenure-eligible and lecturer positions) grew from 374 to 501, a 34 percent expansion. The college’s hiring rate jumped significantly in FY07, with a net increase of 41 new faculty members, an 8.4 percent increase. The expansion of our faculty in FY07 is related to a variety of initiatives.

• Faculty were hired in Anthropology, Art and Design, Communication, History, Modern and Classical Languages, Music, Philosophy, and Sociology in accord with the strategic priorities identified in departmental action plans.

• Faculty positions were hired in Gerontology, Geology, Mathematics and Statistics, and Psychology as part of the Urban Health area of focus initiative. New faculty in Mathematics and Statistics, Physics & Astronomy, and Psychology were hired for the Brains & Behavior areas of focus program.

• The projected growth of the university by 300 new freshmen in Fall 07 and more again in 08 is expected to be experienced initially in Arts and Sciences since the college has primary responsibility for the core curriculum. The college developed a model to predict the instructional demand created by increased enrollment, and the university provided support for hiring regular faculty positions to accommodate for the expected growth in Biology, Chemistry, Communication, English, History, Mathematics and Statistics, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

• Faculty members were also hired to better enable each major to offer two upper-level Critical Thinking through Writing courses. In April 2007, the University Senate approved this requirement for all students as the university’s SACS reaccreditation Quality Enhancement Plan. Arts and Sciences devoted many discussions during the year to developing a systemic plan to introduce CTW across each of its majors. CTW courses, which will have a limit of 25 students and will be taught by CTW-trained faculty, will focus the students’ attention on building the critical skills necessary to analyze and evaluate arguments. One of the two courses will be a capstone course designed to improve the assessment protocols related to student learning.

Academic and Administrative Program Reviews

• Four departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, Chemistry, Gerontology, Mathematics and Statistics, and Psychology, completed self-studies and
action plans during FY07 as part of the university academic program review process. The reviews show some common themes that echo the concerns and commitments of the college as a whole – the growth both in research production and credit-hours taught, the need for more regular faculty, increased support for graduate students, and the necessity of finding more classroom, laboratory, and office space. Another four units, Biology, Computer Science, Middle East Institute, and Political Science, were at various stages of the process at the close of the fiscal year.

- Two college offices, College Scheduling and Academic Assistance, completed the Administrative Support Unit Review process during FY07. There have been notable developments relating to both units this year:
  - During the program review process, the college merged the scheduling unit with the graduate admissions and advisement office (which went through review in FY06). Many commonalities exist between these units, including heavy reliance on Banner, overlapping reporting needs and expertise, curriculum revision and compliance duties, and considerable recordkeeping challenges. As the course scheduling, graduate admissions, and other functions have a direct impact on the academic experience of a large number of Georgia State students, creating a highly effective unit charged with these duties should contribute to the university’s effort to improve student enrollment, retention, progression, and graduation.

Developing and Enhancing Facilities for Research, Instruction, Student Support, and Administration

- Designs were finalized for the combined Parker H. Petit Science Teaching and Research Laboratory Building in Spring 07. The official groundbreaking ceremony took place in October, with the governor and chancellor in attendance. Actual construction is expected to begin in Fall 07. The building will provide facilities for nearly science 6,000 students, many of them Arts and Sciences majors and state-of-the-art research facilities for biotechnology and neurosciences programs.

Since completing the review process, the Academic Assistance has moved into new offices with more space for staff and for students and a floor plan that protects the privacy and efficient processing of students seeking advisement assistance. Academic Advisement also added a full-time CAPP degree requirements system position, enabling other advisors to have more time to spend working with students. Finally, Academic Advisement integrated its web page with that of the college as part of the migration to the RedDot content management system.

New offices of Arts and Sciences Academic Assistance.