



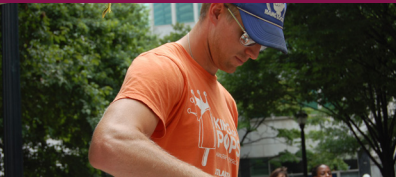
Georgia State researchers studying Gulf oil microbes.



The *Signal* spends 10 minutes with Craig Robinson.



Women's soccer scores late in double overtime triumph.



The King of Pops makes his way to Woodruff Park.



What's wrong with twenty-somethings these days?

the SIGNAL

VOL. 78 • ISSUE 2 • AUGUST 31, 2010

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THE WAIT IS OVER



Meg Buscema • University Relations

By D.J. KUNOVAC
Staff Writer

A countdown that started 863 days ago will finally reach zero on Thursday, Sep. 2nd, and Georgia State University will do something that it has never done in its 97-year history: play football.

For over two years, those two words have been on the minds of hundreds of people charged with the task of introducing Georgia State to the world of college gridiron, especially the players.

"The good news is that we have a football team that loves to play football," head coach Bill Curry said.

"And the sport of football, if you don't love to play it, will destroy you. It's just that simple."

The love for the sport of football might have been bittersweet for those players who have been practicing since August 2009 without getting to showcase the result of their grueling preparation.

"It's been so hard to practice and not play any games," linebacker Jake Muasau said. "We

just want to get on that field and make a statement."

Muasau and his teammates will finally get a chance to make that statement when they open the inaugural season against Shorter College, and Georgia State as a university will never be the same.

The significance of this event may not be fully grasped or appreciated for years to come, but there is little doubt that at this point no other undertaking in the school's history has impacted Georgia State quite like joining the world of college football.

In a country where football is the undisputed king on all levels of sport, Georgia State has made a splash like no other college start-up. The eight-part video series on ESPN.com, which chronicled the building of the Panther football program, culminated in Georgia State making the cover of the 2010 *ESPN the Magazine* College Football Preview edition.

"The expectations are going to go through the roof," Curry said to his players as they posed for the photo shoot.

Curry understands the magnitude of the moment, even if some of the players may not.

To put it in perspective, the last school from Georgia to make the cover of *ESPN the Magazine* was the University of Georgia in 2008, when their football team was ranked No. 1 in the country to start that season.

But for Georgia State, the media publicity did not stop with *ESPN*. The Panthers graced the cover of *Atlanta Magazine*, the Atlanta *Intown* newspaper and even the front page of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* sports section alongside the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech, the trio dubbed "The Big Three."

Then there are the Atlanta radio stations. From 680 the Fan to 790 the Zone, the Panthers have been local media darlings throughout the summer.

But perhaps the most notable publicity for the young program came from the Q100 radio station, when Bert Weiss from the popular morning program, "The Bert Show" endorsed the Georgia State

Panthers as his new college football team. Two days later, Curry made a guest appearance on the Bert Show and just as he has done many times before, Curry won the hearts and minds of both cast members and listeners.

While all this media attention may appear to have happened overnight, it has in fact been a calculated product of long months of work by many people in the administration, led by Georgia State University President Mark Becker, Director of Athletics Cheryl Levick and of course, Curry.

"[Becker] is a very competitive guy," Curry said during his interview with the Bert Show. "He loves football."

Becker's competitiveness was evident during his tenure at the University of South Carolina, where he fulfilled a request to make the Gamecocks marching band the loudest in the Southeastern Conference.

His most notable move for Georgia State athletics came with the hiring of Levick in March of 2009.

In her 17-month tenure at Georgia State, Levick has already transformed the athletic department like no other athletic director in school's history.

"She's demanding," Curry said about Levick in a recent interview with the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*. "I've never known a great leader that wasn't."

During the school's largest athletic undertaking, Levick's leadership was essential, as she oversaw every aspect of the process from marketing to academic compliance to ticket sales, and the results speak for themselves.

"When I got here, our annual [athletic] fund for the previous year was thirty three thousand dollars in unrestricted money, and this past fiscal year we closed at three hundred and three thousand," said Kevin Miller, the Assistant Athletic Director for Development.

The near thousand percent increase in annual funds is a testament to the long hours logged by numerous people in the athletic

Volleyball comes back to win Invitational

By JUDY KIM
Staff Writer

The Georgia State volleyball team starts the season strong (3-0), after coming back to defeat Wright State (3-2) to win the Georgia State Invitational Saturday, August 28th.

With first year Head Coach Tami Audia directing the team, the Panthers came to compete, as all three games were very exciting.

There were several great rallies in the first match against Morehead State.

Senior Audrey Cantrell played with incredible athleticism as she had 10 digs in the first round of the game against Morehead State, with the Panthers winning the round 25 to 23.

In the second round the away team started hitting several short balls. At one point, the Panthers were behind 10 points, with the score at 1-11.

Few easy points were lost due to failed attacks or the ball having gone under the net, leaving the Panthers down 15-25 in the second round.

Georgia State lost the third round as well 19 to 25.

With determination and vigor, the Panthers mounted a comeback with absolute tenacity.

Junior Vineece Verdun was leading the way with the highest percentage of attacks at .368. Senior Ashley Jones was also assisting the

team with ferocious attacks, contributing to the scoring. Senior Rachel Boryc was also making great plays by having impeccable timing when it came to blocking, even managing to get down fast enough for a dropped ball at the net.

The Panthers went up against some tough defense with Morehead State, who would also successfully block balls while making impressive digs against the powerful Panther offense. But it wasn't enough for Morehead State, as Georgia State won the fourth round by two points.

Just as Morehead State reached the 14th point in the fifth round, the Panthers sided out and ended the night with an impressive kill. Georgia State won 16-14, finalizing the first match of the season against Morehead State.

At the game against the University of North Florida, the Panthers won an easy match with three wins to one loss. The ending scores were, in order, 25-21, 25-11, and 19-25 and 25-23, according to www.georgiastatesports.com.

Things began to look grim for the Panthers when they played the Wright State Raiders Saturday. Georgia State had lost the momentum from the last two wins, falling behind quickly with the loss of the first two rounds.

The Panthers were not to be denied, however, and rallied to win the next three matches in a row,

claiming the Georgia State Invitational.

The scores were 22-25, 19-25, 26-24, 25-19 and 15-10, according to www.georgiastatesports.com.

"We know now that we can fight back, Junior Chelsea Perry told www.georgiastatesports.com.

"We know that we're fighters, and we know that no matter what the score is, we're not gonna give up."

The top three players to note throughout the tournament had to have been middle hitter Vineece Verdun, defensive specialist and team captain Audrey Cantrell, and freshman Emily Averbeck, who made her debut as a Panther.

Verdun is known for earning all-tournament honors, and throughout the Georgia State Invitational, no one can question that fact as her skills and athleticism were showcased in every play.

For her efforts, Verdun was awarded MVP for the Georgia State Invitational.

Cantrell currently holds six Georgia State records as fourth in all-time digs with 1173, first (531) and seventh (417) with most digs per season, first in all-time digs per set and first and fourth in digs per set in a season.

Cantrell led the team's defense in the Georgia State Invitational with the most digs in each game.

Averbeck did extremely well in her matches at Georgia State.



Judy Kim

Vineece Verdun (left) and Chelsea Perry await a serve.

The five-foot-three-inch player was very noticeable when standing amongst her teammates, and she was even more noticeable on the court with her digs and serving power.

The Georgia State Volleyball team will now travel to Fullerton, Ca. this coming weekend on Sept. 3rd and 4th at the Titan Classic. They will face off against Colorado, Cal State-Fullerton and Montana.



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Judy Kim

Steven Carse, pictured above, is finding success as the King of Pops.

King of tasty treats pops up in Woodruff Park

By JUDY KIM
Staff Writer

If you walk through Woodruff Park to class, you might've noticed it already—an umbrella bearing every color under the sun shading an ice cream cart with orange wheels. On the cart's side, there's an image of an orange popsicle wearing a crown. The guy standing beside it selling tasty, handmade popsicles is Steven Carse.

The youngest out of three brothers, Carse started the King of Pops around mid-March of this year. The idea came while traveling around Mexico and Central America during a three-year brainstorming session,

"I used to be at AIG working as a product analyst until I got laid off last December," Carse said. "So the timing worked out perfectly."

Almost immediately after losing his job, Carse's work was well underway. He bought materials to construct his business from scratch, and began to experiment with different flavors.

Now, a normal day for Carse begins at 7 a.m. with ingredients-shopping, then pops-making, then he freezes the pops until 3 p.m. For the remainder, he sells his handcrafted fare somewhere (it depends on the day) until around 8 p.m. Despite his long days, the University of Georgia graduate still claims that he is much happier

doing what he is doing now.

Originally, Carse started selling at the corner of North and North Highland avenues in the Buddy's gas station lot. Though both he and his brother Nick Carse, who also works with Steven, like the idea of having ice cream carts, they hope to establish a store sometime next year.

Lucky for us Georgia State students. In the meantime, the Carse brothers have opened up a new cart location near Aderhold. Many have already caught onto the hype—a steady stream of excited customers at the new spot is already commonplace.

Though the menu changes every single day, flavors like Banana Puddin', Blackberry Mojito and Chocolate Sea Salt tend to be the most popular flavors with King of Pops fans.

"We always make sure to have chocolate though," Carse assured. "If people come by and ask for chocolate, they usually don't want anything else."

But there's much more to choose from than just chocolate—the King of Pops' rotating menu includes more than 150 unique, signature flavors. And though the price may be a bit higher compared to manufactured pops (\$2.50 each), your extra buck guarantees you the freshest ingredients from local farmers markets. Carse makes all of his fruit popsicles with organic

fruits, and the cream-based popsicles contain organic whole milk from a local organic dairy where cows are grass-fed.

The King of Pops operates in

Woodruff Park between 11:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. throughout the week. For more chances to try the King of Pops, see <http://www.kingofpops.net>.

Review of August 26th's Menu

Banana Puddin': It's as sweet as it sounds, with real banana chunks thrown in the mix. And do I taste graham crackers? I believe I do! Yum. I would totally recommend this to those who love pastries and have that sugary kind of sweet tooth.

Arnold Palmer: Have you ever had the drink itself? It's sweet tea and lemonade shaken together, and would this popsicle have been melted down into a cup, it would've tasted just as delightful with your afternoon turkey sandwich meal. It tastes just like the Southern beverage with a kick of tart. Great for a hot summer afternoon.

Pear Honey: Don't let its brown color fool you—it's quite delicious. The taste is definitely something you can't find in Publix or Kroger. It tastes like a pear, but with a strange twist at the end—hints of honey dispersed all about. Fancy.

Strawberry Banana: Like its smoothie brother, this pop tastes exactly like its name but looks tastier, with a bright red color and banana bits all over. Definitely a safe but delicious choice for the folks who don't like exotic flavors like Mango Habanero or Grapefruit Hibiscus.

Chocolate Sea Salt: I was weary with this particular flavor. One—I don't like chocolate. And two—sea salt? Yikes. But I had to give it a try; all the chocolate-flavor-loving people have been raving about it. And with good reason, too. It turns out that this thing is pretty tasty. The context is extremely soft, velvety and teeth-friendly, and the added salt reminds one of, as Carse puts it, "a chocolate-covered pretzel."

Annual book festival unites readers and authors

By ANNABELLA JEAN-LAURENT
Staff Writer

Since its birth in 2006, the Decatur Book Festival has grown from just an idea into to the largest independent book festival in the nation. The literary pilgrimage for book lovers and the people who write them is held every year over Labor Day weekend in downtown Decatur.

Jack Riggs, a creative writing professor at Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia Author of the Year recipient for his novel *When the Finch Rises*, said the festival is an important event for people to be a part of.

"You have upward of 70,000 readers coming to Decatur," he said. "All the authors there are worthy of the time spent with them. It's just the place to be."

In 2006 alone, around 50,000 people took part in the Decatur Book Festival. This year, more than 300 authors are scheduled to attend, and all events, including a book market, street fair, food, live music, writing classes and special activities for children and teens, are offered free of charge.

With a plethora of attractions and more than 20 different genres of books to choose from, it's no tall tale to say that the Decatur Book Festival will have something for everyone.

Amanda C. Gable, author of *The Confederate General Rides North*, is a graduate student at Georgia State. While she's finishing up the Creative Writing MFA Program, in addition to her debut novel, Gable's short stories have appeared in *The North American Review*, *The Crescent Review*, *Quarry West*, *Other Voices* and other literary publications. She'll host a panel discussion with fellow southern fiction writer Olivia deBelle Byrd called "The Sweetness (and Sassiness) of Southern Fiction" at the stage at First Baptist Carreker Hall on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

"This will be my second year doing the festival," she said. "I'm very excited."

Gable's first novel, which *Atlanta Magazine* called an "extraordinary debut," is about Katherine McConnell, a young war buff who charts famous Civil War sites and monuments during a road trip north with her mother. In the end, McConnell has to make a life-changing decision.

Gable looks forward to talking