

THE SIGNAL

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FORE!

Brothers use their bond to dominate the green

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TOP FORM

With a solid 3 - 1 start, the Panthers earn their stripes as they go

Full story on p. 14



GRAHAM ROBSON | THE SIGNAL

Losing HOPE

SGA and lobbyists 'call to action'

TERAH BOYD
Associate News Editor

Student Government president James Dutton and Janice Barrocas held a 'town-hall' style meeting last Monday to discuss the potential for students to sway their congressmen's upcoming vote on the HOPE scholarship.



BARROCAS

The proposal seemed like a simple enough solution: talk to them. But according to Dutton and Barrocas, few or no students have done it.

Barrocas, a lobbyist and law graduate, advocates "HOPE for Georgia," an organization that strives to keep students informed about the changes regarding the HOPE scholarship and aids them in contacting their elected representatives.



DUTTON

Last March, the Georgia General Assembly voted to drastically alter the funding structure of the HOPE scholarship and fix payouts to lottery revenues in a cost-cutting maneuver. The scholarship was then divided into a program that paid

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SGA considers resolutions condemning "lawful presence," HOPE cuts

CHRIS SHATTUCK
News Editor

The Student Government Association considered two resolutions condemning legislation proposed by the Georgia General Assembly that would ban undocumented students and further cut HOPE funds.

Citing a recent resolution by the University of Georgia's SGA, the Executive Board informed the SGA Senate that they bring forward a bill to challenge the Georgia H.B. 59, which would ban all undocumented students from attending public universities in the state of Georgia.

Last fall, the University Board of Regents voted to ban undocumented students from the top five research universities in the state. Georgia State was forced to turn down five applicants last semester due to the policy.

"We all have opinions and we all have beliefs

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

- ▲ Women's basketball continues losing streak
- ▲ Feed your senses at the Rialto--with a side of Jazz
- ▲ Student Veterans Associations offer support to Georgia State veterans

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▲ Occupy comes to campus, huddled under Courtland Bridge



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ARTS & LIVING



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SPORTS

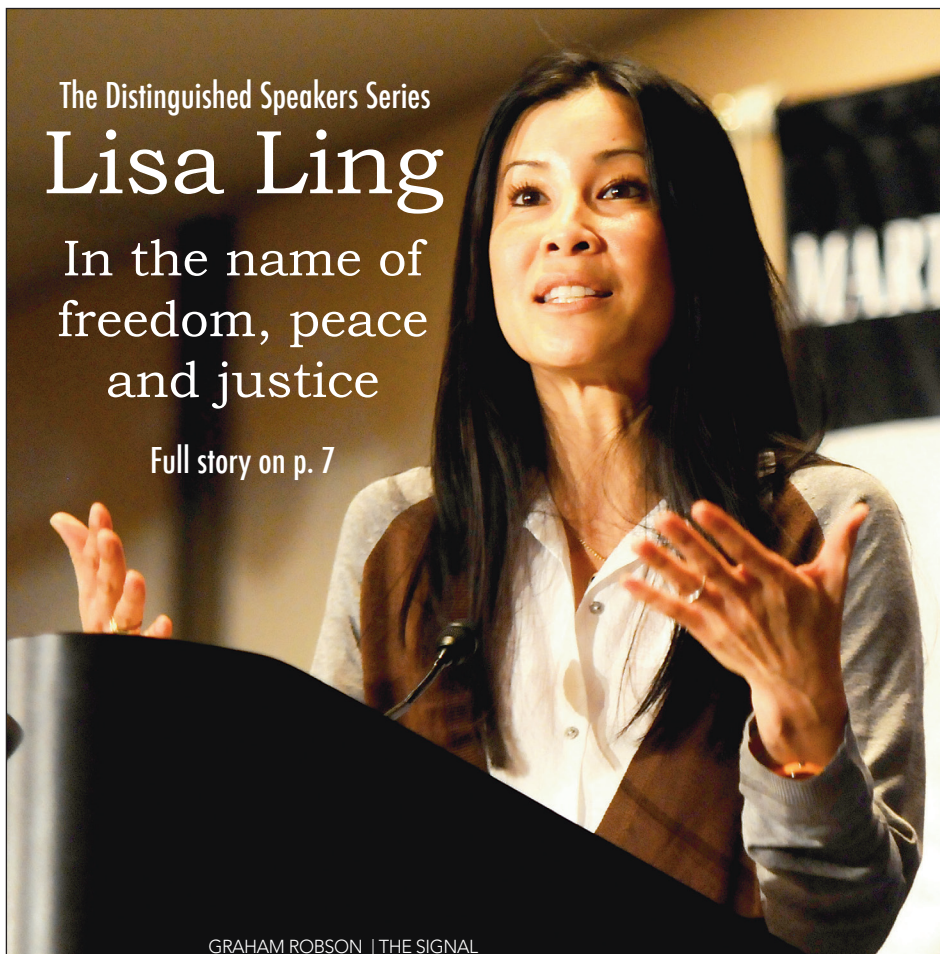
▲ Baseball and softball 2012 season preview



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The Distinguished Speakers Series
Lisa Ling
In the name of freedom, peace and justice

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GRAHAM ROBSON | THE SIGNAL

SPOTLIGHTS

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Gamer's Revolution creates reality from scratch; Computer Science major bridges the gap between English and computer languages

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Lisa Ling

Open Heart, Open Mind

JUDY KIM
Photography Editor

On Tuesday Jan. 24, Georgia State held its 29th Annual Martin Luther King Convocation, and in conjunction with the ceremonies, the university invited world-renowned journalist Lisa Ling to speak about her career and how she learned to open her heart and mind in the name of freedom, peace and justice.

Ling started her career at the age of 18 when she worked as a young international correspondent for Channel One News alongside local Atlanta journalist Anderson Cooper.

From 1999 to 2002, Ling worked as a co-host of ABC's "The View," then decided to work abroad and became a host for National Geographic Explorer. She has her own show called "Our America with Lisa Ling" on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The show consists of a variety of stories, all told by different Americans with various backgrounds that seem taboo or mysterious to the majority.

Ling's extensive 20-year career has taken her around the world and she has covered issues such as bride burning in India, gang rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda and child trafficking in Ghana.

Within the first 10 minutes of being on stage, Ling established three things immediately. "First of all, Oprah is very cool. Everybody wants to know what is Oprah really like and she is very cool, and she's actually better in person than she is on television because her commitment to try and elevate humanity is unparalleled, at least in my industry."

Ling then confirmed her sister's well-being and happiness since her capture and release by North Korean officials back in 2009. Then, she established that she has indeed never done a Charlie's Angel movie.

She recalled her experiences when reporting in Afghanistan while still in college, and she explained her dilemma of dealing with unreal, shocking situations abroad then coming back to America where people seem to live in this bubble of oblivion. Upon her return, Ling felt that many journalists these days do not seem to conduct substantive reporting about the world on news networks or forums.

"I find it interesting that the people who sit in the news seats on our news channel, they are rarely hanging out with the masses," Ling said. "They assume that they feel everyone's pain and I think that's re-

ally just ingenuous, and I think that the best journalists are the journalists who actually spend time in the field."

"The highest rated shows on our news network consists of these guys who are yelling at you and telling you what to think," Ling said. "The most right wing arch conservative against the most arch liberal and they allow each other to just fight it out, and that's what they call news. I find that to be incredibly dangerous, that these are the people from who we are getting our news and information."

Ling, an avid storyteller, reflected on her time spent in China. She opened up about her new show that she hosts on OWN and how blessed she feels that she had received such an opportunity.

"When Oprah started this network, quite honestly, their budget was pretty limited so they said, 'can you do what you do overseas, but can you direct it more toward a domestic canvas?' and I jumped in head first," Ling said.

"Our America with Lisa Ling" has covered topics such as polygamy, extreme parenting and the life of parents with a transgender child, veterans and, most recently, she has covered the lives of convicted felons.

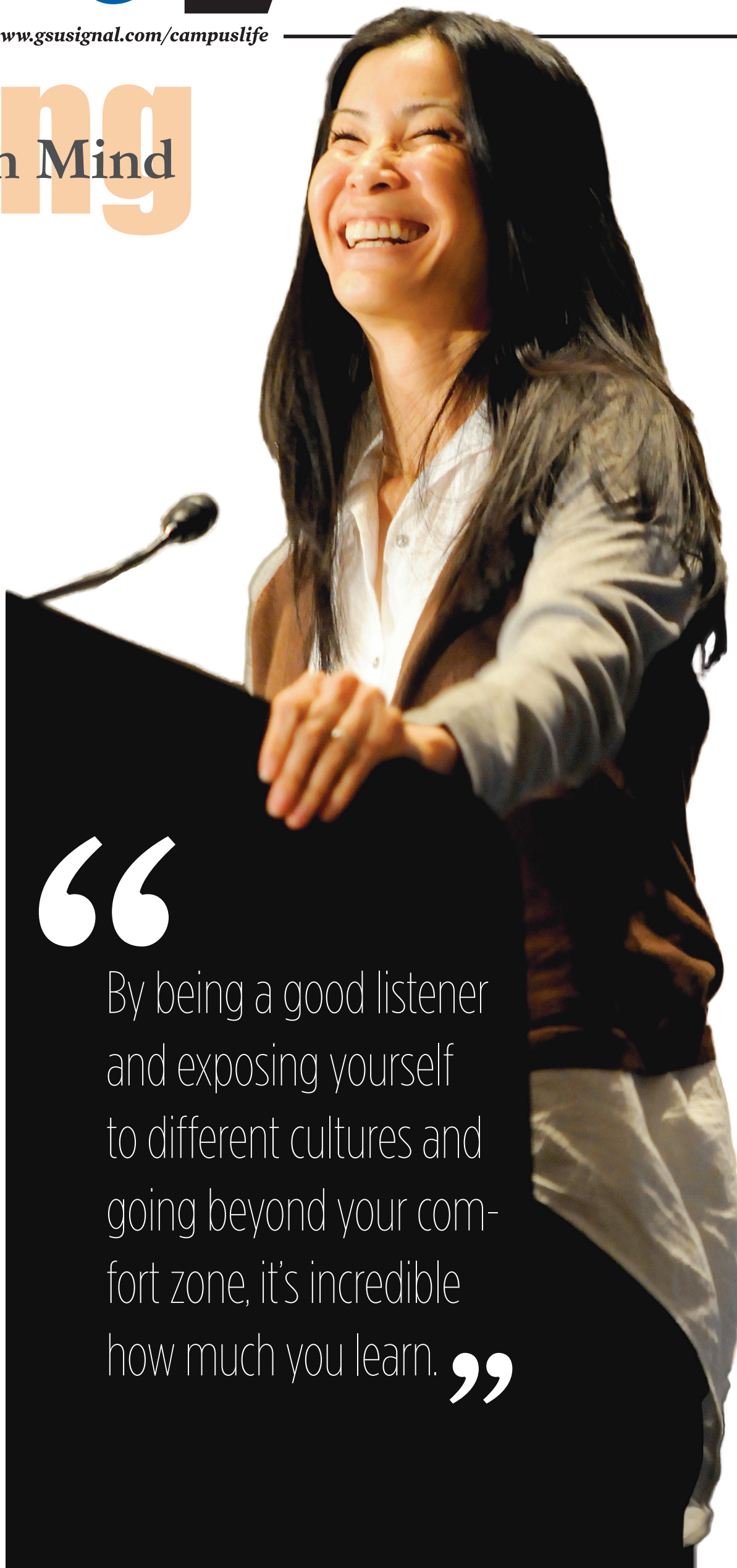
One of her most touching encounters was with a man named Royal Holmes, a convicted felon who served 10 years for auto theft.

Holmes served his time but was unable to find employment because of his status as a convict. Yet with incredible strength, determination and ambition, he earned two fitness certifications, rented a studio in Stone Mountain, Ga., and built all the furniture and equipment from scratch in seven months.

"In so many of these communities, in our own backyard, I actually feel like I'm in another country because there are so little that we actually know about each other. We sort of go through our day and we interact with the same people," Ling said. "There are so much diversity and complexity that exists in America, and so for me this has been one of the greatest opportunities of my life."

Ling hopes to inspire the future journalists of the world.

"My advice to young journalism students is try and read as much as you can," Ling said. "By being a good listener and exposing yourself to different cultures and going beyond your comfort zone, it's incredible how much you learn. If you're hungry enough, and if you love it enough, then you will create those opportunities."



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Lisa Ling laughs for a moment during her speech at the Martin Luther King Convocation.